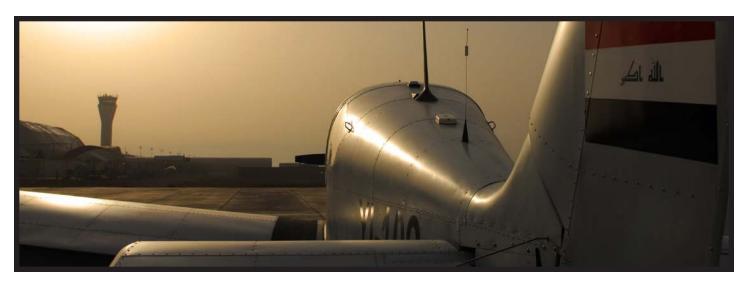
A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH MND-S

THE SANDSTORM

THE SANDSTORM WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG DECEMBER 2009







CHAPTERS

- , PHOTO ESSAY
- , DHI QAR
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BEHIND THE COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA



"Eventually, the training allows the pilots to follow multiple vehicles and individuals, monitor buildings and search main supply routes for improvised explosive devices." (Page 6)



"They have the equipment, they know how to use it, now it's just about transitioning from a training aspect to an operational environment." (Page 8)



"SAEED ALSO SEES A SUSTAINABLE TRAINING SQUADRON, AND THE CONFIDENCE IT INSTILLS, AS ONE MORE STEP TOWARD THE RECOVERY OF IRAQ." (PAGE 10)

BACK COVER PHOTO BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA



"Now, the 70th is helping with border security, conducting over-flights of cities and performing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions around oil pipelines."

THE SAN DESTRUCTION A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH MND-S

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4TH BCT, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION

367TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

28TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

55TH SIGNAL COMPANY (COMBAT CAMERA)

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

The sixth issue of The Sandstorm remains a promising outlet for the work of the best professional and amateur photographers in Multi-National Division – South. The public affairs staff of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division continues to urge all photographers throughout MND-S to continue to submit your best work and show off your talents. Every picture tells a story, and we want to tell yours.

The December issue of The Sandstorm offers its audience a glimpse of the continued progress of the Iraqi Air Force in becoming self-sufficient. The opening photo essay introduces readers to the efforts of the Iraqi AF's 70th Squadron in southern Iraq.

This month's issue also highlights the work of many talented photographers in Dhi Qar and Basra provinces.

Finally, the winner of last month's photo contest, "where you live," will

be announced, and submission rules, tips and guidelines for this month's photo contest will be released.

As always, The Sandstorm will allow slight photo manipulation, to include hue and saturation, dodging and burning, contrast, clarity and custom white balance in order to achieve the photographer's vision.

The original content of the photo will not be altered. However, liberal adjustments will be authorized. Any photo which does not accurately depict the originally captured subject will be labeled as a photo illustration.

Please enjoy The Sandstorm and make any comments or recommendations to sandstorm@ theredbulls.org. All photo submissions should also be made to sandstorm@theredbulls.org.

"I always thought good photos were like good jokes. If you have to explain them, they just aren't that good."

- Anonymous

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO THE SANDSTORM!

- Any individual in MND-S may submit photos taken within MND-S to The Sandstorm.
- Photos must be submitted in the largest file size possible.
- If photos have been edited, submit an edited and an unedited version of the photo.
- Ensure photos don't contain classified or secret information. Consult your Public Affairs section if unsure.
- Rename photos as such: rank-first name-last name-sequence# Example: Sgt-John-Smith-001, Sgt-John-Smith-002
- Submissions can be made one of two ways:

•CD or DVD brought by the PAO section in Division HQ Label CD's/DVD's as follows: ATTN: Sgt. Eric Jungels Rank, first and last name

•E-mail photos to Sandstorm@TheRedBulls.org

Advanced photographers using DSLR's are asked to take and submit photos in RAW format.

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FLYING SOLO THE IRAQI AIR FORCE'S 70TH SQUADRON PHOTO ESSAY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA

The saying goes, "Pride comes before the fall", but since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime it has been the opposite for the Iraqi Air Force's 70th Squadron.

WORKING WITH U.S. FORCES, THEY NOW INCREASED THEIR PRIDE AS PILOTS.

Now, the 70th is performing their own training from beginning to end, proving the era of independence they have worked so diligently for has arrived.

The goal has always been to create a sustainable training squadron that can effectively transition new recruits into operational missions and put the protection of Iraqis into their own hands, said Col. Sami Saeed, squadron commander for the 70th.

One important tactic was taking advantage of the "train the trainer" mentality said U.S. Air Force Maj. Al Danza, native of Boise, Idaho, director of operations in the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron.

THE SELF-SUSTAINING METHOD ALLOWS
THE SQUADRON TO PASS ON BASIC KNOWLEDGE
BUT ALSO CREATES AN ELEMENT OF LEADERSHIP
TRAINING.

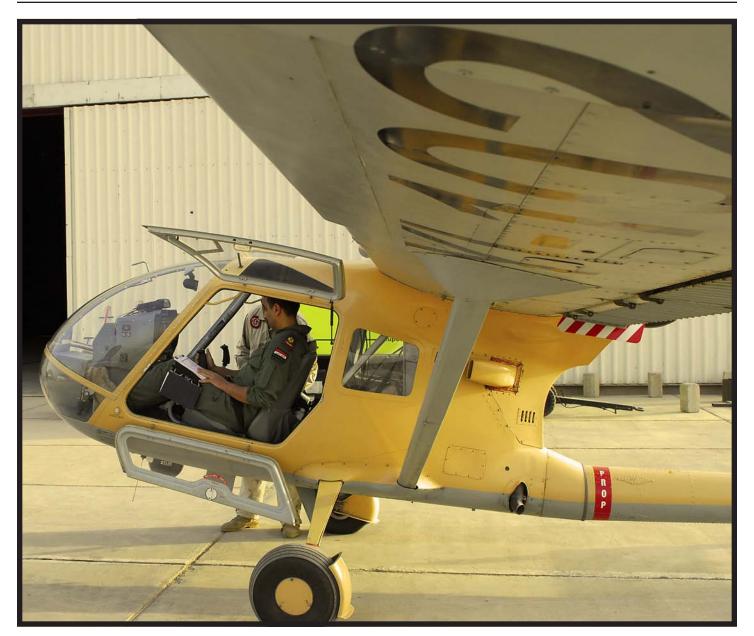
"We started off with simple airto- ground check-ins with the ground commander as the mission began," said Danza.

"IT WAS ALL BASIC INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE STUFF; TEACHING THEM TO FLY WITH THEIR [SENSOR] PODS," HE SAID.

Training begins with lectures, written exams, and courses on in-flight emergencies and limitations. The new pilots also learn the technical aspects of the surveillance cameras.

SOON AFTER, WITHOUT ANY TIME IN A SIMULATOR, THE PILOTS ARE TWO THOUSAND FEET IN THE AIR, PUTTING THEIR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION TO PRACTICAL USE.







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FLYING SOLO

THE IRAQI AIR FORCE'S 70TH SQUADRON







EVENTUALLY, THE TRAINING ALLOWS THE PILOTS TO FOLLOW MULTIPLE VEHICLES AND INDIVIDUALS, MONITOR BUILDINGS AND SEARCH MAIN SUPPLY ROUTES FOR IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

"It's become natural for them, just like anybody else, and now they are able to work on the more advanced stuff," said Danza.



In training, U.S. Airmen act as the opposing force. They drive around Contingency Operating Base Basra in a truck while the unit's Seabird Seekers and CH2000 surveillance planes identify and follow them.

During another scenario, the Airmen move on foot and enter a building while the Iraqi pilots circle overhead, keeping watch.

"They are constantly communicating with the ground commander, who is also a student, and since they are working with the Iraqi special operation forces, their surveillance will allow them to find the OpFor on the ground," Danza explained.

THE INTEGRATION OF GROUND FORCES ALLOWS MULTIPLE PERSONNEL TO EXPERIENCE MORE REALISTIC TRAINING AT THE SAME TIME.

"And that's where we are today, doing the more complex type missions as these guys have gotten used to what the missions entail," said Danza.

"They have the equipment, they know how to use it, now it's just about transitioning from a training aspect to an operational environment," he said.

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FLYING SOLO



THE IRAQI AIR FORCE'S 70TH SQUADRON





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FLYING SOLO

THE IRAQI AIR FORCE'S 70TH SQUADRON

The biggest challenge was working through civilian interpreters who were not familiar with some of the "air lingo" and concepts that did not translate easily into Arabic, Danza said.

Once the barrier was broken, there was instant solidarity among the Men.

"I've found that pilots are pilots, the world over. I mean these guys, we instantly bonded being fighter pilots," he said.

The squadron is made up of pilots who flew in the Iran-Iraq War who have hundreds of hours of combined flight time.

In fact, under Hussein's regime, Saeed was forced to fly against the Americans during the Persian Gulf War.

YEARS LATER HE MET AIR FORCE LT. COL. BILL IULIANO, AIR LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE 84TH EXPEDITIONARY AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON, WHO HAD FLOWN AGAINST HIM IN THE GULF WAR. SHORTLY INTO THEIR TIME WORKING TOGETHER, IULIANO REALIZED F-15S ESCORTING HIS F-111 BOMBER HAD ALMOST SHOT SAEED DOWN.

Instead, the two had the opportunity to rebuild the Iraqi Air Force, and a plaque from Iuliano is mounted on Saeed's wall reading, "Praise Allah for faulty maintenance."

"That was my boss," said Danza.

The Iraqi Air Force was founded in 1931 and steadily rose to be one of the largest air forces in the Middle-East until the Persian Gulf War, when it sustained heavy losses

Soon after, during the U.S. led invasion of Iraq in 2003, many fighters were ordered to be dismantled or buried in the desert.

After the invasion, it was a lengthy process to rebuild what had been lost.

THE IRAQI AIR FORCE PERFORMED ITS FIRST MEDICAL EVACUATION MARCH 4, 2007 WHEN A WOUNDED IRAQI POLICEMAN WAS TAKEN FROM THE 28TH COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL TO BAGHDAD.

In 2008, they played a major role in assisting ground troops in the heavy fighting against the Mahdi Army in the city of Basrah

Now, the 70th is helping with border security, conducting over-flights of cities and performing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions around oil pipelines.

FURTHERING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE 70TH TO TRAIN, PLAN, AND CONDUCT OPERATIONS IS A MILESTONE IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI AIR FORCE AS A WHOLE.

"I think they have strong leadership in place right now and I think their leadership is driven towards that goal," said Danza.

"Just like anybody else in the military, they love their country and want to support it as much as they can," he said, "so they are going to drive toward those operational goals and be able to perform any mission that is tasked toward them."

SAEED ALSO SEES A SUSTAINABLE TRAINING SQUADRON, AND THE CONFIDENCE IT INSTILLS, AS ONE MORE STEP TOWARD THE RECOVERY OF IRAQ.

"Before, we would get in our planes and not expect to come home," he said. "Now it is different."



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. ERNEST E. SIVIA III



U.S. Army Pvt. George Rocher and Spc. Jesse Claud, both assigned to the 4-6 Headquarters Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, relax before the start of a mortar fire training exercise on Contingency Operating Site Garyowen, Mayson, Iraq. The Solders were participating in a live-fire exercise, in conjunction with the 38th Iraqi Army Battery, designed to challenge the Iraqi soldier's skills in calculating grid coordinates and build confidence in their abilities.

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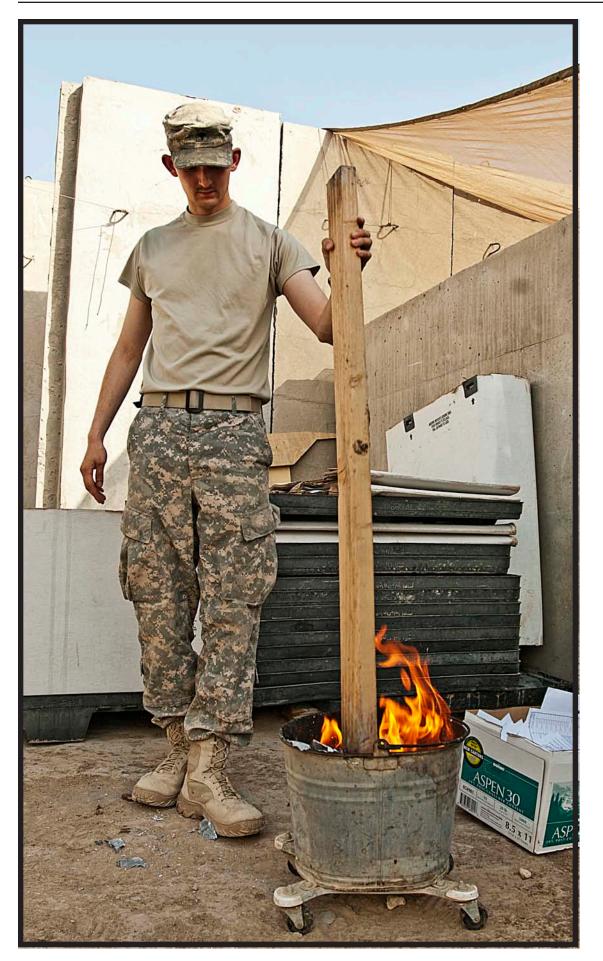


PHOTOGRAPHY BY PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

SOLDIERS BURN SECRETS



Spc. Gordon Patrick, a Cass City, Mich., native and intelligence specialist with 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, burns old documents at Contingency Operating Base Adder.



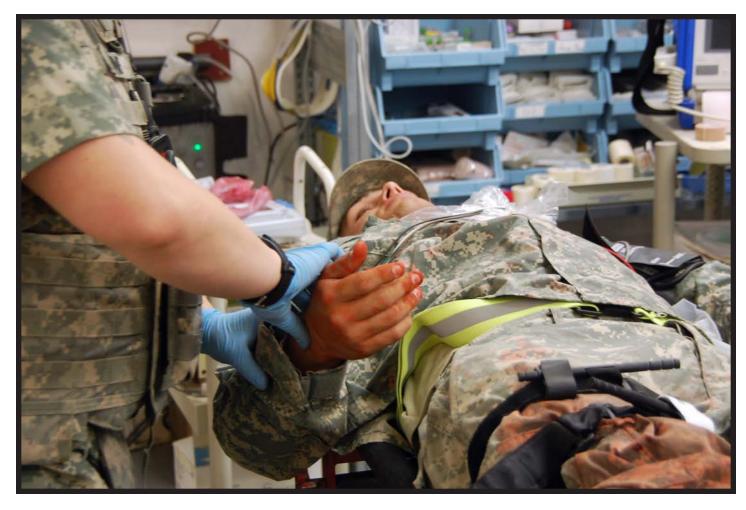
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DHIGAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. MARCOS DELVALLE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SGT. MARK MIRANDA



A MEDIC WITH 10TH COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL AT CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ, CHECKS VITAL SIGNS ON PFC. AUSTIN REECE, FROM BEATTYVILLE, KY. REECE, A MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATOR ASSIGNED TO THE 121ST BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION WAS A "WOUNDED" ROLE PLAYER IN A MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE AT COB ADDER.



FIREFIGHTERS WITH AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM NAVIGATE THROUGH
LIVING TENTS IN THE DARKNESS DURING A MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE AT
CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ. THESE FIRST RESPONDERS
ARE CHARGED WITH PUTTING OUT FIRES WHILE RECOVERING AND MOVING
CASUALTIES TO A SAFER AREA.

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DHIGAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. ERNEST E. SIVIA III



PHOTOGRAPHY BY 1ST LT. DAN MARCHIK



U.S. Army Soldiers fold the American flag after a re-enlistment ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder.





Iraqi Soldiers prepare a mortar for a live-fire exercise. The exercise was the culminating event for the Iraqi mortar men who completed their training as U.S. advisors looked on.



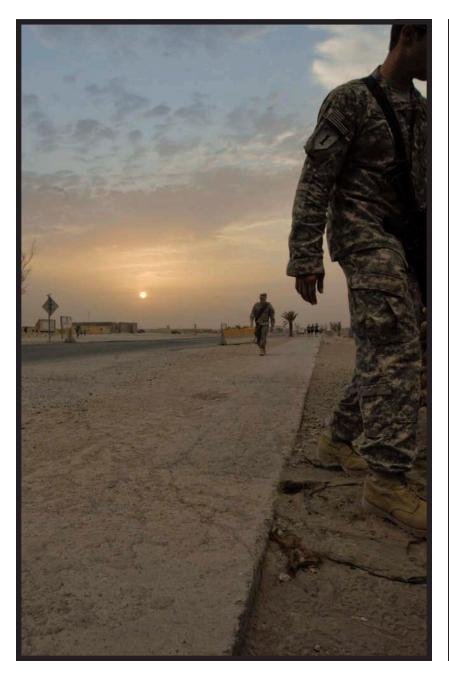
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

THE SUN SETS ON COB ADDER . . .

The sun sets on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division is deployed from Fort Bliss to COB Adder in Dhi Qar province, where they advise and assist Iraqi security forces.





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PHOTOGRAPHY BY PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

Members of the Iraqi Security Forces play soccer with Soldiers of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division on Contingency Operating Base Basra. The ISF Soldiers were playing their advisors, who had instructed 52 ISF Soldiers through a Basic Intelligence Course.













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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY AND PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

EXPLORING CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA

Two Soldiers. Four cameras. One afternoon exploring the back alleyways and gardens of Contingency Operating Base Basra. The following pictures show the many perspectives Army-trained photojournalists (and any photographer) can take of the world. Here, Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence and Spc. Darryl Montgomery find a concave mirror and see it as an opportunity to bend reality.





CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA IS HEADQUARTERS OF MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION-SOUTH, WHICH COMPRISES IRAQ'S SOUTHERN NINE PROVINCES. THE ROADS OF COB BASRA GO BOTH TO BASRAH, THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN IRAQ, AND TO SMALLER STRUCTURES MEANT FOR SOLDIERS ON BASE. HERE, PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE TAKES THE CLOSER VIEW, WHILE SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY SNAPS THE LARGER PICTURE.



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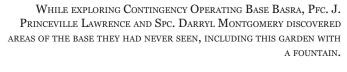
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY AND PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

EXPLORING CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA















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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY AND PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

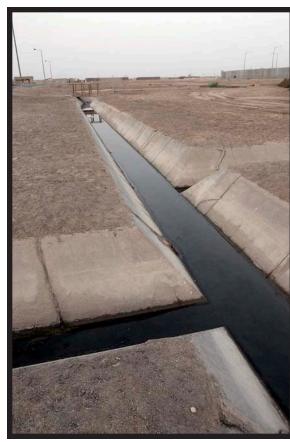
EXPLORING CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA



PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST ALWAYS SEE THEIR
TERRITORY WITH FRESH EYES. BY ACTIVELY
SEEKING NEW PERSPECTIVES, PHOTOGRAPHERS
CAN SEE THE UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THEIR
ENVIRONMENT THAT WOULD NORMALLY BLEND
DATO THE ROLLTINE









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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY AND PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

LOCK AND LOAD: U.S. AND IRAQI SOLDIERS SHARE A DAY AT THE RANGE



(ABOVE) MAJ. SCOTT VIRGIL, LEADER OF THE MILITARY TRANSITION TEAM ATTACHED TO THE IRAQI ARMY 14TH PROVISIONAL TRANSPORT REGIMENT, WATCHES AS AN IRAQI SOLDIER SHOOTS HIS M-4 DURING A DAY AT THE SHOOTING RANGE NEAR CAMP SAVAGE. (RIGHT ABOVE) A ONE-LITER WATER BOTTLE IS STUCK BY A ROUND FROM A 5.56 MILLIMETER, GAS-OPERATED, AIR-COOLED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC M-4 RIFLE. A M-4 ROUND LEAVES THE BARREL AT A RATE OF 2,970 FEET PER SECOND AND HAS A MAXIMUM RANGE OF 11,808 FEET. (RIGHT BELOW) CHIEF PETTY OFFICER EDWARD TELLES, A MEDIC WITH THE MILITARY TRANSITION TEAM ATTACHED TO THE IRAQI ARMY 14TH PROVISIONAL TRANSPORT REGIMENT, COUNTS HIS HITS AND MISSES AT THE SHOOTING RANGE WITH A BULLET FROM HIS M-4.





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PHOTOGRAPHY BY PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE



Maj. Stephen Burggraff, executive officer of the 34th Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion, gazes out the window of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter before a flight around Contingency Operating Base Basra.

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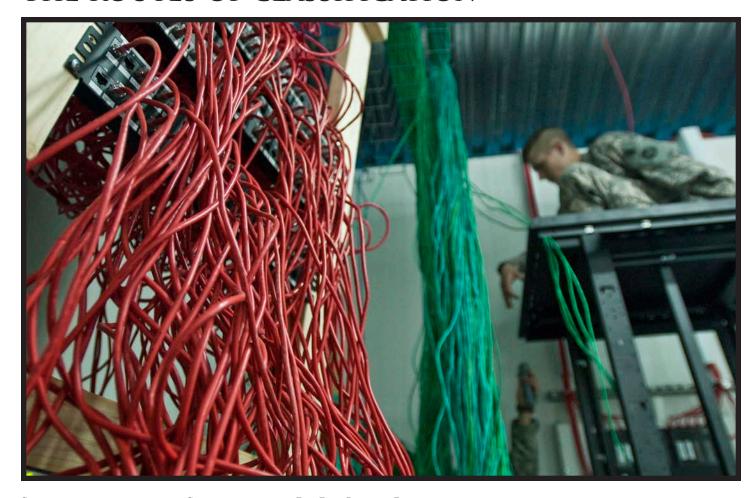


PHOTOGRAPHY BY MASTER SGT. RICH KEMP

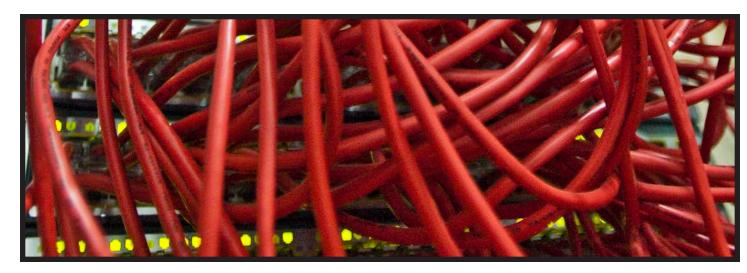


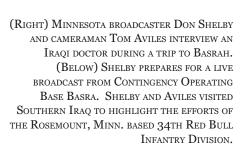
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PFC. J. PRINCEVILLE LAWRENCE

THE ROUTES OF CLASSIFICATION

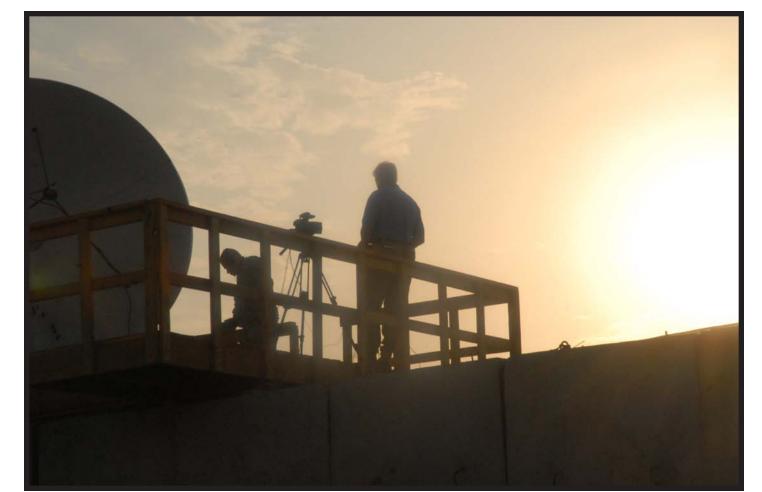


SINCE THEIR DEPLOYMENT STARTED, SOLDIERS OF THE 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING AND SORTING THE VARIOUS COMMUNICATION CABLES VITAL TO RED BULL OPERATIONS. THE RED CABLES CARRY CLASSIFIED DATA AND THE GREEN CABLES CARRY UNCLASSIFIED DATA.









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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA



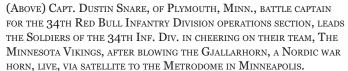
SOLDIERS SIGN THEIR "THANKS" TO A CAMOUFLAGE PATTERNED U.S. FLAG. THE FLAG IS DESTINED FOR SUPPORTERS WHO DONATED TO HAVE THE NEW UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (USO) CENTER BUILT, ON CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA. THE NEW USO CENTER IS THE LARGEST IN SOUTHWEST ASIA.







(ABOVE) STAFF SGT. JOSEPH CORLEY AND SGT. JENNIFER MACDONALD, JOIN WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION BAND TO PERFORM THE NATIONAL ANTHEM LIVE BEFORE THE MINNESOTA VIKINGS BATTLE THE DETROIT LIONS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION. (RIGHT) COMMAND SGT. MAJ. DOUG WORTHAM, 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR, AN ELKO, MINN. NATIVE, TALKS TO HIS FAMILY ON THE FIELD, LIVE, DURING HALFTIME.





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PHOTO CONTEST: BLACK AND WHITE

 \mathbf{F} or many, many years, black and white was a photographers only choice for capturing images. When color film was introduced, it allowed photographers to capture the world around them in the colors they witnessed everyday.

Despite the recent availability of color film, today's photographers will argue the importance of black and

white photography, describing the power and timeless nature of black and white photos.

They capture the tones, textures and lighting effects that can, at times, be lost in the vibrancy of color. Use black and white photography to add an air of class, timelessness, romance and mystery to otherwise ordinary photographs.

BLACK AND WHITE TIPS

- Shoot in color and do your conversion to black and white later on your computer.
- Shoot in RAW if your camera allows this setting. This will allow for more control in the post-production phase of converting your color images into black and white ones.
- Shoot with the lowest possible ISO. Avoiding 'noise' (or grain) is particularly important in black and white.
- Focus on composing your shots. Because you cannot rely on color to lead the eye into or around your shot, you should pay particular attention to shapes, tones and textures in your frame.



LAST MONTH'S WHERE YOU LIVE PHOTO-CONTEST WINNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPC. SAMUEL SOZA



Rules and submission guidelines

- Any individual in MND-S may submit photos taken within MND-S to The Sandstorm monthly
 photo-contest.
- Photos must be submitted in the largest file size possible.
- If photos have been edited, submit an edited and an unedited version of the photo.
- Ensure photos don't contain classified or secret information. Consult your Public Affairs section if unsure.
- Rename photos as such: rank-first name-last name-sequence#
 Example: Sgt-John-Smith-001, Sgt-John-Smith-002
- You may submit as many pictures as you like to each contest.
- Entries can be made one of two ways:
 - CD or DVD brought by the PAO section in Division HQ

Label CD's/DVD's as follows: ATTN: Sgt. Eric Jungels

Photo-contest: Black and white Rank, first and last name

- E-mail to Sandstorm@TheRedBulls.org
- Photographers using DSLR's are advised to take and submit photos in RAW format.
- Deadline for submissions is December 21.

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