

# Victory Times



**Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story**

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The wounded warriors step into Iraq, April 25, for the first time since they were injured. The warriors participated in Operation Proper Exit IX, which assists wounded troops in getting the closure they need to help in the healing process.

## Wounded warriors return to battlefield

Story and photos by Sgt. Joseph A. Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

Eight men shared their stories as unique as their personalities; each injured in conflict during the height of the war in Iraq. All of these men were

awarded the Purple Heart and one earned the Silver Star for his actions in combat.

These eight men travelled together back to Iraq, April 24, to participate in one last mission, Operation Proper Exit IX, to get the closure and peace-

of-mind they never received the last time they were here.

The program afforded retired Army Sgt. Tom Bishop, Marine Cpl. Matt Bradford, retired Army Cpl. Steven Cornford, retired Marine Cpl. Donny  
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## Detainee ops chief gives Karkh prison good reviews

Story and photos by  
Spc. Charlene Mendiola  
USF-I Public Affairs

Waiting on the other side of a highly secured prison wall, Mohammed Majhoul, deputy director general for

internal affairs with Iraqi Correctional Services, welcomed Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general of United States Forces – Iraq, as he entered the

gates of the Karkh Prison, April 26.

Since its transfer last summer, the Karkh Prison, currently operated and manned by Iraqi officials, opened its gates as the new chief of detainee  
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**Lucky Marines**  
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## Practice, practice, and don't forget to sometimes duck!

By CH (Capt.) Charles Poore  
151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion

When I was 10 years old, I saw the movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth," and was fascinated with the juggling scenes. I then decided that I should learn to juggle. I bought three tennis balls and began practicing in my bedroom. I would bounce balls off the door, the ceiling, the lamp and the floor, and after several weeks of practice, I could make 100 throws without dropping a ball. As an adult, I met a professional clown who taught me to juggle clubs. Again, it took several weeks, but I worked up to 100 continuous throws. My friend then began to teach me to "pass juggle." This involves passing six clubs between two people. I got hit on my hands, my chest and a few times, right

in the face, but I was able to learn to pass juggle.

If we want to excel at anything in life, we have to dedicate ourselves to practice. Even when we become proficient at some skill or activity, we should look to improve ourselves even more. There is always a next step to take in becoming an expert.

It's the same in our spiritual life. In the Christian tradition, we have to consistently take steps to become more Christ-like. We must discipline ourselves in the faith. It is impossible to be a disciple without spiritual discipline. Some of the spiritual disciplines include Bible reading, prayer, service to others, and giving. As you practice the spiritual disciplines, you will find that you are drawn closer to God and understand more of his

will for your life. What part of your spiritual life needs attention today?

Once you decide on a spiritual discipline to develop, share that decision with someone. By sharing our decision, we become accountable to them to complete what we've committed. Ecclesiastes 4:12, says that, "A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." When I wanted to improve my prayer life, my pastor held me accountable by meeting to pray with me every Friday at 6 a.m. I didn't want to necessarily get up that early, but I knew it was worth the sacrifice to grow spiritually. You might have to sacrifice something to develop yourself spiritually. I'll guarantee it will be worth the sacrifice.

Make the commitment to grow today and share it with someone.

## SAPR Spotlight

### Common myths #3 and #4 regarding sexual assault:



**MYTH #3:** Only the young and attractive are assaulted.

**FACT:** Everyone, regardless of age or physical attractiveness, is a potential victim of sexual assault.

**MYTH #4:** Sexual assault happens only to people who are "asking for it" by being provocative.

**FACT:** Nobody asks to be sexually assaulted, even those who dress or act provocatively- some victims may appear vulnerable or be intoxicated, too young, or lack mental, physical, emotional ability to resist or fight back.

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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# Iraqi personnel graduate basic interrogator, instructor courses

Story and photo by Spc. Paul Holston  
USF-I Public Affairs

The Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Detachment – Iraq graduated 22 Iraqi intelligence agency students from the basic interrogator and interrogator instructor courses May 1 at Camp Victory.

The graduation ceremony highlighted the students' dedication to learning the ethics and skills of being a detainee interrogator.

"This program has been ongoing, sponsored by the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Detachment - Iraq for the past two and a half years," said Maj. Harry Hung, deputy commander of JIDD-I and operations officer with the 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 66th MI Brigade.

Hung, a native of New York, said these graduates are a part of the ninth and final basic interrogator course and third interrogator instructor course. Since the program began, they have trained 88 basic interrogator students and 21 interrogator instructor students, said Hung.

"We taught them how to teach a lot of the courses themselves and we observed while they taught. We stepped in when they left things out or made corrections when we needed to," said Staff Sgt.

Timothy Wing, an advise and assist team leader, 2nd MI Bn., and the Iraqi interrogation school commandant. "We also taught supporting classes such as Geneva Conventions and everything that we needed to do to make sure everything is legal. This is a really big deal for the Iraqis because it gives them a chance to get some recognition."

The graduation ceremony gave the students recognition for their hard work.

"The course you all have just attended and graduated from is one of the few inter-agency courses bringing together interrogators and intelligence professionals from across the Iraqi intelligence community," said guest speaker Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general for United States Forces - Iraq. "You all are the future of the Iraqi community, but you must continue to build on your base."

"I implore you all to never stop learning," said McQueen. "Your reputation will proceed you. Hone your skills so that you will always be confident, decisive, and successful."

Wing, a native of Cleveland, said his organization's contribution made an impact on the Iraqi intelligence community.

"This school is going to have such a

long reaching effect on the intelligence community in Iraq, I think what we've done here could really be big," Wing said.

The classes were very significant because they enable the students to legally and morally conduct interrogations according to the Geneva code, said Tech Sgt. Thomas Skinner, a senior human intelligence analyst for JIDD-I. "With the trainers, it allows them to continue teaching after we leave. I think it goes a long way in filling in the part of the partnership role."

With the Soldiers of 2nd MI Bn., 66th MI Bde. on their final leg of deployment, they reflected on the impact of accomplishing this mission.

"I think it's fantastic because while we have done the advising and assisting, we have now given Iraq the ability to go on their own and advise and assist, and that's a very special tool," said Hung. "Each organization now has some level of ability and if they choose to, they can take the time to train other trainers within each of their respectful organizations."

Wing said, "The professionalism that we built in this course is going to have a huge effect on the legitimacy of the Iraqi government. They'll show that they respect the world of law and hope to get the rest of the nation to respect the world of law."



Sixteen Iraqi intelligence agency students from the Basic Interrogators Course and six from the Interrogator's Train-the-Trainer Course graduated during a ceremony at the Joint Visitors Bureau Hotel, Camp Victory, Iraq, May 1. Each student received a graduation certificate from Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general for United States Forces - Iraq.



## Warriors, from Page 1

Daughenbaugh, retired Army 1st Lt. Jim Kirchner, retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Mancini, retired Marine Cpl. Isaiah Schaffer and retired Army 1st Lt. Ed Salau to step into a country to which they thought they would never be able to return.

During OPE IX, the wounded warriors were able to see the progress the Iraqi forces and government has made since they were here last. The warriors were also able to fly over the exact spots where they were injured.

“Being able to see how things have changed in Iraq since the last time I was here is amazing,” said Bishop. “Being able to see that there is truly a light at the end of the tunnel is inspiring. It shows that everything we’ve done and the blood that was left here was for a good reason.”

“I don’t have to worry about tracers flying over my head this time and I can go outside without a flak vest and Kevlar helmet,” said Schaffer. “I can go out and raise a flag on a roof without a sniper taking a shot at me.”

Operation Proper Exit gave all eight of the men a chance to let things go and release the emotional charge that has been building up inside since they were injured.

“When I left the Army, I was ashamed of myself for a long time,” said Cornford, “I felt like I left the fight. Now, I know I didn’t just abandon my fellow troops. I was able to let some things go during our trip here and put things to rest.”

“This has helped me tremendously in the healing process,” said Mancini. “It’s something I can’t find words for. There are things that happen when you get hurt. You try to piece things together and it doesn’t quite mesh; to get those answers is invaluable.”

“I was asked during my trip here if what we did was worth it and do we regret any of it,” said Bradford, who just recently reenlisted. “I would loose

my legs over and over again to come home to the support of America. Yes, I have no legs and can’t see, but every morning I wake up and put my uniform on; my legs are part of that uniform.”

The men were able to close a chapter in their lives.

“I have people ask me, ‘why do you want to go back to a place where you almost died?’” said Daughenbaugh. “For me, it’s more, why wouldn’t I want to go back? I left against my will last time, and this time, it might not be against my will, but I’m walking out of here, and that’s what it’s all about.”

“When I came back this time I needed one thing, to find evidence that my sacrifice was not in vain,” said Salau. “Also, that Iraqi soldiers and security forces stepped up to the challenge to defend and secure their homeland.”

“This trip gave me that evidence,” he said. “We changed lives and this nation.”

“I feel like I’m a better man since I was injured,” said Mancini. “God taught me things in my heart that I wasn’t receptive to before. I would encourage you to identify what those things are before you’re lying in a humvee potentially taking your last breath.”

These eight men experienced their trip with open eyes and each in their own way. They came looking for closure and answers in a land that some leave with more questions than when they arrived. They found the peace they needed to return home and feel like the true heroes they are.

“It’s something I’ve wanted since the day I left the country,” said Daughenbaugh. “I didn’t feel like I finished what I came here to do.”

► Retired Army 1st Lt. Ed Salau holds his prosthetic leg in the air and sings during a Toby Keith concert on Camp Liberty April 25. The warriors participated in Operation Proper Exit IX, which assists wounded troops in getting the closure they need in the healing process.



▲ Retired Sgt. 1st Class Brian Mancini speaks to more than 200 troops during a welcome ceremony in Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq, April 25. The warriors participated in Operation Proper Exit IX, which assists wounded troops in getting the closure they need in the healing process.

◀ Retired Army Cpl. Steven Cornford meets up with his old platoon sergeant at COB Basra, Iraq, for the first time since his injury, April 26. The warriors participated in Operation Proper Exit IX, which assists wounded troops in getting the closure they need in the healing process.



# UNSUNG HERO



Spc. Daniel Gobin is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a certificate of achievement from Brig. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, deputy chief of staff, United States Forces - Iraq, at Al Faw Palace, May 6.

Gobin received the certificate for his outstanding performance as a signal support systems specialist.

# VICTORY VOICES

As part of Mother's Day, what is the most rewarding part about being a mother?



*"Feeling needed and hearing that favorite word 'mommy' puts a smile on my face everytime."*

**Staff Sgt.  
Kamika Smith**

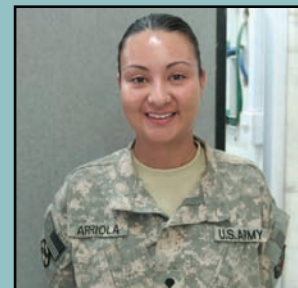
J1 Executive Admin NCO  
Co. B, XVIII Airborne Corps



*"Bringing someone into this world and supporting them in everything that they do."*

**Lt. Col.  
Donna McDermott**

J1 Programs Division Chief  
National Guard Bureau



*"Just knowing that you're raising someone to become better than you."*

**Spc.  
Janine Arriola**

J1 Casualty Clerk  
502nd Human Resource Company,  
4th Sustainment Brigade



*"Watching my children grow and develop into productive citizens who care about giving back to the community."*

**Master Sgt  
Charmaine Kelley**

Superintendent of Strength  
Management  
USF-I J1 Manpower

# Safety matters

By Jesse Martin  
USF-I Safety Office

Most of us have suffered some type of sports related injury, or know someone who has. Sports injuries are the leading cause of injuries sustained in theater. These injuries can be broadly classified as either traumatic or overuse injuries. Traumatic injuries account for most injuries in contact or semi-contact sports, such as football, basketball, soccer and boxing.

Recreational and competitive sports have an inherent risk of injury, so it's not surprising that active people suffer these types of injuries. Knee, ankle, head, shoulder, and back injuries are the most common. While many of these injuries can be treated with rest and topical treatment, the more serious injuries could require surgery.

There have been 20 reported injuries, to include sports-related injuries, since January 2011 requiring a higher level of medical care. You can minimize your risk of sports injuries in the following ways:

1. Do a total body warm-up and stretch.
2. Train for the event prior to participating, gradually increase time and intensity.
3. Remove all jewelry including rings, earrings and necklaces.
4. Listen to your body and don't overdo it.
5. Allow injuries to heal completely. Follow a physician's guidance during recovery.
6. Dress appropriately for each activity. Wear protective gear when required.
7. Cross-train to increase whole-body strength, endurance, and flexibility.
8. Get plenty of rest before and after each event.
9. Drink appropriate quantities of water before, during, and after participating in sports or PT.
10. Eat a well balanced diet and avoid taking supplements that could increase the potential of a heat injury.

In order to remain a strong and ready force we must strive to be free of unnecessary injuries that may take us out of the fight. Minimize the chance of injuries by taking heed to these counter measures.

## Ask the EO

Static displays honoring the victims of the Holocaust educated passersby in the rotunda of the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq, May 1-8.

The annual commemoration was established to combat the forgetfulness that time brings and educate those who do not know about the tragic past.

The Holocaust, called Shoah in Hebrew, was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of more than five million Jewish people, to include 1.5 million children. These deaths represented two-thirds of European Jewry and one-third of world Jewry. The Jews who died were not casualties of the fighting that ravaged Europe during World War II. They were the victims of a deliberate attempt to annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe; a plan Hitler called the "Final Solution." "Holocaust" is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

Being educated and sensitive to memorials dedicated to the people who lost their lives can teach us life lessons and prevent similar tragedies from happening in the future.

## VBC Facility Operating Hours

**Sports Oasis DFAC**  
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.  
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Sandwich bar open 24 hours  
Sunday brunch 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Education Center**  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Camp Liberty Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Camp Victory Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**SFC Paul Smith Gym**  
Open 24 Hours

**Victory Main Post Office**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**USF-I Unit Mail Room**  
Customer Services/Mail Call  
Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

**Al Faw Palace Post Office**  
Wednesday and Saturday  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Golby TMC Sick Call**  
Mon. Wed. Thur. Fri.  
8:30 - 10:30 a.m. & 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tues. and Sat. 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday - emergency only

**Mental Health Clinic**  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

**Pharmacy**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;  
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

## Websites

Check it out:

**USF-I Web pages**

[www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)

[www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq)

[www.twitter.com/USForcesIraq](http://www.twitter.com/USForcesIraq)

[www.youtube.com/USFIraq](http://www.youtube.com/USFIraq)

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United States Forces-Iraq

U.S. Army

XVIII Airborne Corps

Fort Bragg



operations made his first tour around the facility.

The objective was to conduct an assessment of the facility and operations as the U.S. prepares to hand over the remaining detainees to the government of Iraq, McQueen said.

“As we prepare to transfer detainees and transition operations to the government of Iraq, the mission of safety and control of detainees here on Camp Cropper must remain,” McQueen said.

“My goal is to ensure that we continue to comply with all the standards of the Geneva Conventions while providing care, custody and protection of the detainees,” he said.

Although the Iraqi correction system still has its gaps, McQueen says that the U.S. will continue to advise, assist and train Iraqi personnel up to the point of the transition.

“We currently have advisors from the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program who work with Warden Jalal Abbas and correction officers every day in the prison,” said Col. Jeffery Brotherton, director of detainee operations with USF-I



Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general of United States Forces – Iraq, Mohammed Majhoul, deputy director general for Internal Affairs with Iraqi Correctional Services and their staff walk through the Karkh Prison facility on Camp Cropper, April 26. McQueen toured the prison grounds to conduct an assessment of the facility and operations.

Provost Marshal Office. “They provide us a report of current conditions and training preparations for the transition.”

Months after its transfer, the prison continues to receive support and guidance from the U.S.

The National Corrections Training Center partnered with ICITAP advisors train the Iraqi correction officers to operate in a maximum security facility while building a guard force, Brotherton said.

Wardens are also being trained to gain a better understanding of their job, while adhering to the standard of care required for detainees, McQueen said.

Most of the prisoners in Iraq were turned over to the Iraqis on July 15, 2010. At the request of the Iraqi government at the time, the U.S. remained in control of over 200 prisoners.

The Cropper Theater Internment

Facility is a maximum security jail run by the 40th Military Police Battalion. The facility houses the most sensitive and dangerous prisoners - former members of Saddam Hussein’s regime, as well as Al Qaeda.

“Our mission of care, custody and control with dignity and respect for the detainees encompasses everything from food, shelter, and medical care,” said Lt. Col. Erica Nelson, commander for 40th MP Bn. “I want to keep that mission running until the day we transfer responsibility to the GoI.”

“From what I have observed, it appears that Warden Jalal Abbas has a full and complete understanding of the correctional operations,” McQueen said. “He continues to apply the standards of custody in his facility.”

The Iraqi officials are prepared to receive the remaining detainees in a safe and secure environment with well-trained and competent security guards, McQueen said. The initial observation of this prison displays the determination and professionalism the Iraqis have in managing their forces as the U.S finalizes its mission at the end of 2011.



Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen, deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general of United States Forces – Iraq walks through the gates of the Karkh prison on Camp Cropper, April 26.



Members of all branches of the U.S. armed forces participate in an M9 pistol competition on Camp Slayer, Iraq, April 14. This is just one way for troops to maintain proficiency while adding some friendly competition.

## Service members compete in pistol championship

Gen. Douglas MacArthur once said “Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields, on other days will bear the fruits of victory.”

Ninety-six Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines competed in the Task Force Dragon Commander’s Trophy Competition and Excellence in Competition Match to test their pistol marksmanship abilities at the small arms range, Camp Slayer, Iraq, April 14.

The matches were designed as both a competition and a training event, serving to train and support troops in their mission. The Combat EIC match consisted of 40 shots of combined long range slow-fire and close range rapid-fire shooting to test the speed and accuracy of Task Force Dragon competitors.



Spc. Shawn Foster participates in an M9 pistol competition on Camp Slayer, Iraq, April 14.



Pfc. Christopher Rodriguez fires his weapon during an M9 pistol competition on Camp Slayer, Iraq, April 14.



# Marine down, but not out

Story and photos by Sgt. Joseph A. Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

Some people say that lightning never strikes the same place twice. Retired Marine Cpl. Isaiah Schaffer would disagree.

Schaffer has twice been struck down by the enemy, and still considers himself to be one of the lucky ones.

The first time he was hit, he was with the Small Craft Company of 2nd Marines, near the Haditha Dam north of Al-Haditha, Iraq, April 13, 2004.

"I was a machine gunner, it was pitch black and my night vision goggles crapped out on me," said Schaffer as he scratched the red hair on top of his head. "I was just trying to follow the guys in front of me."

During their patrol, the Marines in his unit were talking to the locals.

"We had two guys and their stories weren't matching up," he said.



Retired Marine Cpl. Isaiah Schaffer fires a fully automatic MP-5 sub-machine gun at a range on Victory Base Complex during Operation Proper Exit, April 28.

The unit's lieutenant then told Schaffer's team that they were to take cover in some bushes out of sight while he distracted the two men. Once the rest of the unit pulled out of the area, they were to watch and see what the men did.

His team set up a listening post/observation post to the rear of where they were hunkered down to watch their backs.

"About five minutes after they pulled out, we heard shots ring out and our guys at the LP/OP came running back toward us," said Schaffer. "Once that happened we opened fire and they did too."

"We bounded back to shore and called for an immediate extract," he said. "The boats came flying in to get us while we were engaged"

During all the chaos Schaffer realized his leg was severely injured. He still doesn't remember how he hurt it, but he does remember it being twisted back behind his body and hobbling into the water.

"As the boat came in it hit a sand bar about 15 feet out," said Schaffer. "My leg wasn't working and I had 60 pounds on my back; the guy in front of me was about 6-foot-1, as he got in the water it came up to his neck. I hit the water and I'm 5-foot-5, I went under."

"I remember trying to move through the water and really couldn't swim," he said. "I stuck my weapon up out of the water and I was yanked into the boat."

Two surgeries and 13 months later, Schaffer was back in the fight in the city of Ramadi conducting mounted and dismounted patrols.

"I remember rolling down a road and turning around to go back down the other way," said Schaffer. "I looked at my driver and we were discussing how it was a bad idea to go back down the same road."

"Then a boom," he said.

The explosion was powerful



Schaffer chuckles after an Iraqi Special Operation Forces demonstration during Operation Proper Exit IX.

enough to knock Schaffer unconscious from inside his vehicle. He sustained additional injuries to his leg and traumatic brain injury.

The next thing he remembered was landing in the U.S. and looking up from his stretcher to see his father help carry him off the plane.

Despite his injuries, Schaffer continues to work with wounded vets to not only give back, but to cope with his personal injuries as well.

"To help myself heal, I work with the Veterans Affairs," said Schaffer. "I struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder quite a bit and being with other veterans helps. I also spend a lot of time with my kids; it helps me remember why I did what I did and what all of us do."

Schaffer has also worked at call centers for veterans who have PTSD or just need someone to talk to.

When going back home, struggling with the emotional wounds of war is something that shouldn't be done alone, said Schaffer.

"It's just like going on patrol alone; you're going to get killed," he said. "You have to combat the emotional pain with all the things we have at our disposal from the VA to Veterans of Foreign Wars programs."

"If you keep it inside then it's going to eat you alive like a poison," he said.