



THE T-WALL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BAGHDAD'S INTERNATIONAL ZONE

VOL. 1 No. 5

CROSSING A BRIDGE, SAVING A LIFE



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser

Senior Airman Carlos Gray and A1C Micah Jamal Mustafa stand in front of the 14th of July Bridge, where they rescued an Iraqi Woman. The Airmen received Army Commendation Medals for their efforts.

By Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

The call came in. They were closest. They had only moments to save her life... Two International Zone Security Police recently saved a young Iraqi woman from committing suicide. The distressed woman was reported to have swallowed pills before positioning herself to jump from the edge of the 14th of July Bridge in Downtown Baghdad.

“We were across the river already, so when we got the call we rushed as fast as we could,” said Senior

Airman Carlos M. Gray, a Security Force Patroller with the Joint Area Support Group’s IZ Police. “We rushed in the vehicles from the far end of the bridge, then dismounted to sprint the rest of the way across the bridge and through a gathering crowd of onlookers. We went straight to the woman and pulled her back away from the edge. Then we just tried to keep crowd out of the way, until our interpreters could catch up with us.”

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COL. WILLIAM R. PHILLIPS, II



MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ
JOINT AREA SUPPORT GROUP-CENTRAL (P)
U.S. EMBASSY ANNEX, BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO, AE 09316



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

20 November 2007

Dear Families and Friends,



As the holidays are fast approaching, the Joint Area Support Group is facing major changes in its roles and responsibilities that will be both exciting and challenging. Due to the downsizing of the surge and the success that our forces are having in Iraq, the JASG has been tasked to change mission requirements. As I have mentioned in the past, we must be ready to work above our current pay grades, be flexible and ready to assume new missions. That day has come for the JASG.

Just when we thought we could relax and let our minds drift to returning home, our mission has shifted. The JASG will assume tactical control of a force protection battalion. This new mission requirement will enhance our ability to manage security for the International Zone. It will, however, disrupt our normal routine that we have become use to. We will expand our Base Defense Operations Center, intelligence gathering systems and unify our incident response responsibility in the International Zone.

The Base Defense Operations Center is being fielded with all of the latest command and control systems to enhance its capabilities. Our intelligence section will be asked to integrate into existing systems and our entire unit will shift from a *Unity of Effort*, from when we first arrived to a *Unity of Command*.

These changes will affect all of the Directorates in the JASG. Installations and Support will assume responsibility for two more Forward Operating Bases located inside the International Zone. This would bring the total number of FOBs to five. This change will significantly increase our responsibility as we assume more management tasks. We truly manage a city within a city with a total population of approximately 35,000 coalition forces, contractors and local nationals.

As always, I have no doubt that our Servicemembers will rise to the occasion and accept the challenge as our mission changes. As we celebrate the holiday season we have much to be thankful for. We will be busy adjusting our plans and duties but I assure you that each Servicemember will have time to enjoy the holidays with their comrades in arms. Of course, we all wish we could be home with our families and friends but this mission change only verifies our sacrifice of being away from our families during this season. "Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds." ~Theodore Roosevelt

Do not forget to remember safety during your travels and holiday celebrations. We can only accomplish our mission if we know that our families remain safe during this holiday season. Please take every precaution to protect what we value the most, our loved ones. To all Servicemembers and their families, thank you for the sacrifices and dedication throughout this year. Have a warm and wonderful Holiday Season. *Ever Forward!*

WILLIAM R. PHILLIPS II
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

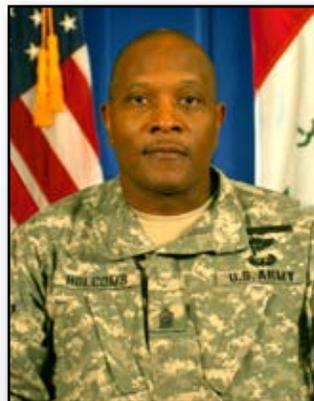
COMMAND SGT. MAJ. CARL A. HOLCOMB



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Holcomb presents Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Huffman with gifts during their day long visit to the International Zone.

With the month of November quickly coming to an end let us take time to reflect upon the things we have accomplished and what it has taken for each of us to reach this point where we are now. We must not forget we are still in a combat zone and the absence of IDF over the past month is not an assurance that the calm will last. As you should all be aware of by now everything can change and will change when you least expect it- in a moments notice. We have been extremely fortunate thus far, not so for some of our fellow brothers and sisters in arms. I caution each of you, as I have in the past, to stay alert, be safe and look out for one another. Don't let complacency and idle time disrupt your focus or cause you to deviate from all



that you have been taught. Enforce standards and hold each other accountable. Trust your instinct and always do what is right. Remember integrity and trust while hard to gain is even harder to regain once they are lost. Finally, I ask that during this period of Thanksgiving you take a moment to remember those families who have lost love ones to this conflict. I will keep you and your families close in my thoughts over the holidays and remain humbled by the out-reach of support, commitment and sacrifice each have made for you the soldiers of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. I appreciate all of our families, your service and your continued commitment to excellence. "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" and "EVER FORWARD"!!!! 

(Below) The box below indicates the Joint Area Support Group's list of promoted Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen. This list covers the month of November and is organized in alphabetical order.

PROMOTIONS...

**Senior Airman Jessica Gallaway
(USAF)**

VISITING STARS



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

(Above) Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman speaks to the Joint Area Support Group during an awards ceremony. (Below) Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman presents Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rhodes with a coin on October 15, 2007.

By Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

Virginia's Top Servicemember The Adjutant General (TAG) Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr. and the State's Senior Enlisted Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Huffman touched down on Joint Area Support Group (JASG) territory on October 15th. The TAG's day long visit to downtown Baghdad centered on seeing the men and women of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stationed there. He and CSM Huffman traveled throughout the International Zone (IZ) in order to see the various roles and responsibilities Virginia Guardsmen fulfill for the JASG. Later in the day he spoke with whole unit at an awards ceremony.

"It seems like only yesterday you guys were all back home in Virginia with your feet propped up by the fire, not a thought of deploying in your mind. Then this mission came down...and Col. Phillips said you could do it," said Newman. "I'm proud that Col. Phillips and CSM Holcomb foster a positive joint atmosphere here

on your mission. When you guys come home you'll be experts in understanding and working in joint operations. That's just the kind of cooperation we need back home in Virginia, especially since we sit so close to our nation's capital."



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

The TAG also took the opportunity to congratulate various awards recipients. The TAG pinned medals on the chests of several IZ Police Airmen. The fact that some of these Airmen received Army awards was of note to the "joint" minded General.

"I'm glad to see airmen receiving Army Commendation Medals. I would love to see some of our Soldiers wearing Air Force Commendation medals in the future."

He also expressed sorrow for the recent loss of one of his fellow Virginia National Guardsmen due to a recent roadside bomb attack.

"Please be safe, all of you. We will be waiting for all of you to return safely home, when spring is blooming back home in Virginia." 

THANKSGIVING



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

Various pictures of the Palace Dining Facility's Thanksgiving day meal. The DFAC prepared enough meals to serve 7000 Thanksgiving dinners.

By Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

Preparing the perfect Thanksgiving meal can be challenging, especially if your tasked with feeding an army, literally!

The United States Embassy Annex Dining Facility (DFAC) employees wowed their patrons with unique culinary arts and a full feast of traditional American Thanksgiving cuisine.

"It was like fine dining back home. There was crab, turkey, lobster, prime rib, all the food I wanted. A sea of food," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Thi-beault. "It was everything I hoped it would be. They did a great job."

While the room was decorated with traditional Thanksgiving themes, the first site of a six foot cornucopia bursting with fruits and vegetables for a room sized display wowed many servicemembers. The dining experience came complete with "islands" of pastry animals and fruit carvings. There were ice sculptures and fancy cakes in every direction. There was even

live music.

"I had people coming up to me all day to thank me because I here (at the Palace Dining Facility) but I had to keep telling them that it wasn't me. I have to give the credit to Mr. Lee, the DFAC Manager, and his staff," said Master Sgt Debra Mendez, a JASG food service specialist. "They did an outstanding job. They went above and beyond on the decorations. They spent two and half to three weeks on getting the things together for the meal. It was beyond what any of us expected."

It is estimated that the dining facility fed around 7000 people on Thanksgiving Day. The question now is whether or not the facility can outdo their Thanksgiving spread with their Christmas Day feast.

"They will top this for Christmas," said Mendez. "It's really going to be something for us to look forward to. Believe it or not, it is going to be even better!"



RE-BUILDING A BERM OF SAFETY

By Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

It is nothing more than a trash heap running along the banks of the Tigris River, not too different from many other junk piles found throughout Baghdad. In it, you'll see worn-out kitchen appliances, old automobile parts and even an antique Iraqi military helmet buried in the rubble. But this line of garbage, stretching almost half-a-mile, has become a geographical marker, serving as the eastern border of the International Zone. It plays its part as a shield of debris. "Remember Sanford and Son? It's a lot like that, only a thousand times bigger, with lots of concrete and rebar thrown in," said Staff Sgt. Michael J. Creed.

The structure, known as the berm to Soldiers in the IZ, has a history dating back to the reign of Saddam Hussein. "The Iraqis built the berm originally as a means of protection for the palace," said Creed, a Joint Area Support Group Department of Public Works Project Manager. "But it has not been maintained over the years," he said.

That's where the JASG comes in. Earlier this month, the Installations Directorate oversaw the renovation of the trash barrier. The 14-day project returned the bundle of garbage back to its original splendor. Constructed primarily of debris, bricks and scrap metal, the berm now stands up to 12-feet high and close to 60-feet wide in some areas. "It will serve its purpose to deter any river-born invasions of the



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

(Top and bottom) Staff Sgt. Michael Creed inspects a section of the new berm that lines the eastern border of the International Zone. The structure is designed to serve as an additional defensive obstacle against a ground invasion.



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

IZ," Creed said.

For any ground assault to take place, Creed said insurgents must first navigate their way across the river, find a way through a line of barbed wire, scale up and down the berm and finally make their way unseen to the row of t-walls. The area is under constant surveillance by IZ guards and the addition of the berm makes it easier to spot the silhouettes of any intruders.

The berm itself also poses a threat to anyone attempting to cross. With lots of holes and jagged metal poking through, Creed admits, "just walking on top of the berm can be hazardous to your health."

The Department of Public Works is still not finished fortifying the area. The next phase will be to add a row of concertina wire over the top of the berm. "It makes it much tougher for them to get to us, call it the multi-layer defense system," said Creed. "If they cross that to get to the wall, they are pretty lucky."

The berm project is considered a small-purchase contract, meaning it cost less than \$10,000 to complete. Iraqi contractors were hired to make the berm improvements. "The construction company did a very good job," said Creed.

The IZ has never been invaded by an attacking force and Creed hopes the new berm will help maintain the already high level of security. "It's basically an extra line of defense," he said.

Not too bad for a pile of trash.



MENDING THE DAMAGE

WORKCREWS GIVE PALACE NEEDED FACELIFT

By Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

The International Zone received a few rounds of Indirect Fire (IDF) over the summer. Two of those rounds were direct hits to the Embassy

Annex Palace. They shook the palace, but nobody was hurt. The back and front side of the Palace suffered some minor damage as a result of this attack. For a couple of months, the damage remained untouched and served as a silent reminder that we are in a combat zone and the potential dangers that come with it.

This month, the Joint Area Support Group (JASG) Department of Public Works (DPW) sprung into action and mended the damage. Capt. Dominick Chelli, the JASG DPW Maintenance Officer in Charge and his team utilized a small purchase repair contract to repair the damage to the palace.

The DPW small purchase repair contract utilizes three contractors to do rapid infrastructure repairs and minor construction projects throughout the International Zone. Staff Sgt. Michael Creed, DPW Project Manager provided site oversight and quality control for

the project and the entire DPW personnel took turns providing escort service throughout the duration of the project.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

(Top and bottom) Before and after shots of the exterior of the U.S. Embassy Annex in Baghdad. The palace was struck by indirect fire during the summer. The repairs were completed earlier this month. The project took 18 days and cost \$23,502.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

“The crews working on these two projects showed a lot of expertise in stone work, very risky at times, especially when they were lifting the stones to the damaged areas,” said Creed.

This contract avenue requires contractor proposals, site visits, DPW inspections and final invoices. This contract has allowed DPW to quickly respond to customer’s requests and have exceeded customer’s expectations. “DPW has

executed more than 70 projects ranging from sidewalk repair and Entry Control Point construction (ECP) to a Mosque renovation totaling over \$850,000 since June 2007,” said Maj. Jerry Sanchez, the DPW Director.

The palace repairs took 18 days at a cost of \$23,502. 

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

(Top) Cpt. Corey Stavinoha reads while on a detail during Thanksgiving Day. Many officers filled in on certain duties so enlisted Servicemembers could enjoy the holiday feast.

(Bottom Left) Col. William R. Phillips inspects the progress on the Department of Public Works Mosque Renovation Project.

(Bottom Right) A crowd prepares for the Commander's Challenge 5K run. The event was held to coincide with a run in Staunton, Virginia.

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs

(Top Page) An elderly Iraqi woman receives gifts during a JASG Humanitarian Aid Mission. **(Bottom Left)** Capt. Joe Wildman plays with a little Iraqi girl while on a JASG Humanitarian Aid Mission.



Photo by 1st Lt. Philip Hoyle

(Bottom Right) Spc. Amber Glosser meets with a very pregnant IZ resident. The JASG group donated diapers and other useful items to the woman's family.

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

(Top) JASG Servicemembers have good clean fun at a palace Halloween party. Sgt. Christopher Young, poses with his ladies.... Young won 1st place in one of the Halloween Party's categories.

(Left) Cat Woman, played by Staff Sgt. Melba Theodis, stands in the presence of the Great Wild Man who's also known as Air Force Captain Joe Wildman.

(Right) Sgt. Theresa Jolloff, left, and Spc. Amber Glosser are Mandy and Dandy.

SNIPER SHOTS...

A LIGHTEARTED LOOK AT ENTERTAINING MOMENTS IN UNIT HISTORY



NOSE ARMOR!

Sgt. Chritina Phillips practices her table manners during her Thanksgiving meal at the palace dining facility.

Photo by Col. Versalle F. Washington, MNFI STRATOPS



HOW MUCH LONGER TILL RETIRMENT??

Sgt. Maj. Ricky Kiser jokingly gives Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Holcomb a ride in a wheelchair on Holcomb's birthday.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs



MY BUDDY AND ME!!!

1st Lt. Tiage Southard finds a new way to combat deployed loneliness.

Photo Courtesy of the JASG Photobox

THE SECRET LIFE OF COMPTROLLERS...

By Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Crawford

The Comptrollers office is responsible for all Joint Area Support Group (JASG) funding issues. We assist the JASG Commander and his directorates, Installations, Support, Command, International Zone (IZ) Police, and Security in all of their funding issues. The Comptrollers office is comprised of several key positions. They are the Comptroller, Budget Officer, Budget Analyst/Accountant, the Development for Iraq (DFI) Disbursement Officer, and last, but certainly not least, is the DFI Analyst. These positions are filled with very interesting people from all walks of life and, how best to put this, personalities that makes each one of us special, not as in riding the short bus special, and unique in our own way. It is the personality aspect that makes everyday business here at the Comptrollers office not only interesting, but generally leaves the key players and innocent bystanders shaking their heads and wondering, "I can't believe this arrangement really works". Not only does this blend of thrown together humanity work well, but we have managed to hone our skills and abilities to a razors edge in the short time we have been in country in order to achieve the highest standards of customer satisfaction and service in the minimal amount of time as humanly possible. There are some staff members who will more than readily agree to this "razor" analogy after having come down and proudly presenting the Comptroller with their heavily

researched and overly exaggerated justification statements on why they really, really need to purchase the "Extremely Cool Wiley X" sunglasses and the "Bubba's Big Belly Buster Outdoor Deluxe", 500 pounds of charcoal sold separately, "Mega Grill". This brings us to our first character, uh I mean personality, the Comptroller.

The Comptroller, LtCol Philip S. Defenbach, is an affable active duty Air Force LtCol that came here from Japan, voluntarily I might add. We still wonder about that decision but he has otherwise proven himself to be most capable as Comptroller and we do allow him that one indiscretion in sound judgment. I can only assume he was unaware of General Order #1 and its implications or didn't read it carefully under the misguided notion of "I'm Air Force couldn't possibly apply to me". But rest assured he has been most creative in his vernacular mechanics when sharing his opinion on it now. He consoles himself and entertains us as well by playing his guitar and singing a few classic songs. With that aside let us take a look at the daily duties and responsibilities of this position. The weight of all JASG funding issues falls on the comptroller's shoulders. He ensures that funding is requested, approved at this level by the commander, forwarded to higher, and once approved, that the funds are committed to and for the purpose for which they were requested.

This generally runs as smooth as a well tuned engine until we receive purchase requests as in my example above. The Comptroller's typical reaction to these most urgent requests can only be described as a cat that has been frighten terribly, hair all frizzed, hanging upside down from a low hanging branch, and holding on for dear life white as a sheet. It falls to each and everyone in the office to gently but quickly herd the offending requester out the door while the rest of us are coaxing the Comptroller down from the ceiling. After a few minutes of blood sweats and murmuring, "roll up your requests and don't they issue this" he comes back to us ready to take on another PR&C with the same vim and vigor of a true champion in the epic struggle of funds management.

Our Budget Officer is CW4 Herman Murray VaANG. He is the perfect example of the quintessential southern gentleman. We sincerely believe that if COL Saunders had been half as genteel and proper as our good Chief Murray he might have been a General. It is these qualities that serve him and us most admirably in this demanding position. It is the Budget Officer's responsibility to meet with all the directorate heads as well as other commands that the JASG supports to aid and assist them to ensure they properly prepare and present their funding request packets for the various levels of approval that they must go through.

(Continued with Money on pg. 22.)

JOINING FORCES



Photo by courtesy of JASG Security Directorate

Staff Sgt. Julius Stokes of Lackland AFB TX (right) and Senior Airman Michael Duran of Grand Forks AFB ND (left) demonstrate a high risk traffic stop on a pre-identified subject.

by Tech. Sgt. Jorge Ledee & Sgt. Darek Dabbs

In the past, the law enforcement and intelligence communities worked in two independent worlds combating separate enemies. Law enforcement focused on the criminal element while the intelligence communities focused on the assessments of threats to the International Zone, the Coalition, and Iraq.

The JASG-C Commander recognized the potential partnership between these two communities and implemented a law enforcement-intelligence fusion cell by assigning one US Army Intel analyst to the USAF IZ Police. SGT Darek Dabbs joined the IZ Police team in August 2007 garnering positive results immediately.

One of the successes since the inception of this team is the exploitation and implementation of the Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment (HIIDE). This equipment provides on the spot detection of pre-identified coalition threats to the patrolman in the field. The process allows a patrolman to spot potential enemies and associates accompanying a pre-identified suspect.

The data derived from the HIIDE directly assists in the building of a better sight picture for criminal and intelligence analysis. Additionally, current threat information obtained by the IZ Police via the embedded S2 NCO links them with the entire intelligence community and provides the "beat cop" with a history of an individual. This capability was not available without the HI-



Photo by courtesy of JASG Security Directorate

Sgt. Darek Dabbs of the VA National Guard retrieves biometric data from a subject while on patrol with the IZ Police recently.

IDE. Now, the patrolmen have near real time situational awareness of the individuals they confront. When asked his opinion of the alliance between these entities, CPT Sean Hoover, the JASG-C's S-2, stated, "We created a direct linkage between intelligence analysis and law enforcement operations in the IZ. From collection to execution, there is an intelligence analyst involved."

Another success is the improved ability of law enforcement and intelligence to identify and detain individuals deemed hostile to Iraqi and Coalition Forces. Intelligence analysts extract valuable data from field reports to identify potential threats and enemies to the International Zone.

Once the refined information is validated, law enforcement develops an operational plan to bring these individuals to justice. In less than 60 days, this relationship resulted in the capture and detention of numerous elements hostile to the IZ, Coalition Forces and Iraq.

This collaborative union of law enforcement and intelligence created a new standard for future operations in the International Zone. Lt Col Leon Yonce, the JASG-C's Director of Law and Order and the IZ Police Commander, summed up the impact: "I could not imagine this tour of duty without the outstanding fusion of law enforcement and intelligence in our daily duties." 

IZ SCOUTING KICKS OFF

By Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

Day Camp, at last.

D On the morning of November 4, 2007 the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from the International Zone gathered at the old Saddam Hussein's hunting grounds to celebrate their first Day Camp. The grounds have been reconditioned for scouting activities by members of the Joint Area Support Group, Department of State employees, civilians and Coalition Forces who volunteered their time to help this noble cause.

After months of preparation and coordination by the members of the Green Zone Council and other volunteers, the Day Camp was finally a reality. The Green Zone Council has been assisting Iraqi Scout Leaders with the training of new leaders, first with a classroom conference type event and then a field hands-on training in which they practiced the skills learned in the classroom.

"This activity was the third day of the first phase of Scout Leaders training in the IZ," said 1st. Lt. Amy Staub, an IZ Transition Team Planner and Green Zone Council Co-Chair.

This was the phase in which the new Scout Leaders taught the Scouts and Guides skills such as setting up tents, knot tying, team building exercises and singing scout songs.

There were four Scout Leaders from the Red Zone, with more than 15 years of experience, each overseeing the activities and providing feedback to the Scout Leaders in training so they can better their skills.

It was the first time the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

Scout Leaders teach a group of Scouts team-building skills at the new Scout Camp in the International Zone, Baghdad.

used the camp. They were running around playing and looking for things to learn. "One 14-year old told me that she wanted to learn different things and to be a leader," said Capt. Jennifer Martin, the JASG Human Resource Management Director and Green Zone Council Treasurer.

There were 120 children from the IZ and 12 teachers training as Scout Leaders, all of them new to the Iraqi scouting program. The objective was to provide training so a scout program can be established here in the IZ.

"This was accomplished as we exposed the teachers, children of the IZ to the ways of Iraqi scouting and helped build connections to the rest of Iraq," said Staub.

Iraqi scouting is working towards re-gaining its status in the world of Arab scouting. "The Green Zone Council is assisting Iraqi scouting in being welcomed back into the World Organization of Scouting Movement (WOSM), which banned Iraq during the tenure of Saddam Hussein," said Staff Sgt. Amy Wenger, a JASG Paralegal.

Saddam Hussein had changed the character of Iraqi scouting to resemble a para-military organization. "The Iraqi scouting is thriving despite the security situation, the scouts from the whole of Iraq will be having a 10-day camp in southern Iraq within the next month," Staub said. The day camp brings the Iraqi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides one step closer to their WOSM affiliation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Amy Wenger talks with a group of Girl Guides at a recent scouting event.

116TH 5K RUN



The runners take off to begin the 116th Regimental 5k Run in the International Zone. 214 runners participated in the race. *Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, JASG Public Affairs*

By Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera, JASG Public Affairs

On November 10, 2007 at 5:00 pm, the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team currently deployed in the International Zone Baghdad, Iraq was having the 116th Regimental 5k Shadow Run as part of the celebrations of the 116th Regimental Muster. The run was open to everyone who wanted to participate and in total 214 runners took part. The race was a shadow of the 5k that was taking part in Staunton, Virginia as part of the 116th Infantry Regimental Muster. After the race there was a picnic for the Joint Area Support Group servicemembers hosted by the JASG Commander Col. William R. Phillips II. On the same day, with A Tribute to the Military Family theme, the annual 116th Infantry Regimental Muster was celebrated at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia, marking the 40th anniversary of

the Musters. Since the last Muster the Brigade has organized and deployed 15 units making up to two battalions and three separate companies from across the state.

This year's muster was a celebration to the family members and friends left behind by all those deployed soldiers and that have been supporting them throughout their deployments. The Muster tradition started 265 years ago when the able-bodied men of the Shenandoah Valley met to organize what has become one of the most recognized and historical units in the United States Army.

Over the years, the Muster has continued to grow and approximately 500 people attended this year, including 15 D-Day veterans. "I started attending the Muster 15 years ago, it was held in the armory with about 150 to 200 in attendance," said Maj. Allan W. Carter,

Joint Area Support Group Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel.

This year's Muster included various activities; there was a parade at downtown Staunton, a 5k race, book signing and a social dinner and entertainment. 116th Infantry Regiment authors Bob Slaughter and Joe Balkowski were present and signing their recent released books *Omaha Beach* and *Beyond the Beachhead* respectively.

"There are usually people who attend from as far away as Texas and Ohio, and sometimes other countries. We had the mayor of a city in France attend four years ago," said Carter.

Each year, the Muster is attended by former Division, Brigade and Company Commanders, Sergeant Majors, retirees, retired dignitaries and at least 10 General Officers. 

WALKIN' WITH THE DANES

By Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

It's not a race but that doesn't mean it's not strenuous. After all, the annual Danish Contingency March, held November 2nd, is still 20 kilometers, or 12.4 miles. Under the rules of the march, all military participants are required to wear duty uniforms with work boots while carrying their assigned weapon.

"The combat boots were tough, I had a few blisters," said Maj. Matthew W. Smith, the Joint Area Support Group Deputy Command Judge Advocate.

Smith finished the course in two hours 48 minutes. "I was in the top 10 or 20 people I'd say."

Running is not permitted in the DANCON March, so Smith, a competitive long-distance runner, chose to push himself with some high-speed walking. "I was crankin', I was trying to walk as fast as I possibly could," Smith said. "I try to do every sort of endurance, athletic event they've had here."

On the other end of the spectrum, Lt. Col. Gregg C. Vanorden decided to take a nice leisurely stroll. "It gave me an opportunity to participate in an event with my Danish colleagues," said the JASG Director of Security.

The event has become an annual tradition at military installations throughout the world. Lt. Col. Per Rintza of the Royal Danish Army said it started in 1972 in Cyprus. "There was an interest to do something everybody could take part in, regardless of national origin," said Rintza, the International Zone's March Leader. "You can say it is a tool used to improve cooperation in a multilateral organization working as peacekeepers."

This year's Baghdad march had 460 participants with 10 unable to complete the course. For those who



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

Lt. Cmdr. David Pereira accepts a DANCON Medal from Michael Flagstad of the Royal Danish Army. The event had 460 participants, including several from the JASG.

did finish, they have received an official DANCON Medal, which is recognized in many countries, including U.S. Army Regulation 600-8-22 Appendix D under Foreign Badges.

"I'll probably put it in a shadow box with my other campaign medals," said Smith. Vanorden echoed the same sentiment, "I'll keep it with my other military memorabilia."

The Royal Danish Army raised \$7,500 from entry fees for the march. That money is going to help programs in a local kindergarten and provide assistance to a Christian Community of women and children who have lost their husbands and fathers.

"The DANCON March will continue because our soldiers enjoy organizing this event in the mission areas and also nowadays because of the tradition," said Rintza.

Smith and Vanorden claim they will participate again in the march again if the opportunity arises.

"It was a pretty cool thing to do," Smith said. "The best part was finishing," Vanorden said with a smile. 



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Gregg Vanorden flashes his 'lap card' to a DANCON March official. The march consisted of five 2.48 mile laps.

SHARING IN THE THANKS.... SHARING IN THE GIVING...



Photo by 1st Lt. Philip Hoyle

Sgt. John Slosser lets one of the smaller IZ residents take a few photos. The JASG held one Humanitarian Aid mission on Thanksgiving day, and a follow up mission a few days later.

We encourage you to take the time to thank the LORD for all the bountiful blessings during this season. Even in difficult times, as these may be, we can choose to be thankful for the love HE has shown us. Life is full of choices and to be grateful is one that is easily made when we look at the cross of Christ.

HARVEST HOME

The hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is often sung at Christian services of thanksgiving. Written in 1844 by Henry Alford, it begins with thanks to God for crops safely gathered in before winter. But it is more than gratefulness for the bounty of the land. The hymn ends by focusing on God's "harvest" of His people when Christ

returns:

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest-home:
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels,
come—
Raise the glorious harvest-home.
As we give thanks for material needs supplied, it's essential to remember that our plans are uncertain and our lives are a vapor that quickly disappear (James 4:14). James encourages us to be like a farmer waiting for his crops to grow and mature. "You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (5:8).
As we thank God for His faithful

provision for our needs, let's turn our thoughts to the promised return of Jesus Christ. In patient expectation, we live for Him and look for the day when He will come to gather His glorious harvest home.

—David C. McCasland <http://www.rbc.org/devotionals/our_daily_bread/writer/4559.aspx> ' You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. —James 5:8 Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ~Revelation 22:20

Respectfully,

SSG David Paulson
Chaplain Assistant/NCOIC
JASG/Chaplain's Office
Baghdad, Iraq 

THE DIRECTORATE'S

The Joint Area Support Group is divided into four Directorates; Command, Security, Support, and Installations. The following two pages give each Directorate's overall update on their mission and accomplishments for the month of September.

COMMAND

By 1st. Lt. Philip Hoyle

Seasons Greetings! This is a joyful season that brings smiles to Soldiers and goodwill and camaraderie between us all as we work together for a common goal. The season I am referring to is Redeployment Season! Redeployment is a wonderful word we have all been waiting to hear. It is hard to believe that the time has already come to start planning for our redeployment. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is returning home soon. Although a joyful time, this season requires work and support from everyone. Redeployment does not just happen automatically. Our hard working supply team led by Staff Sgt. Evans has already been very busy working in preparation of redeployment. Staff Sgt. Evans's high speed team includes Spc. Aaron Peters and Airman 1st Class Michael Coonrad. We have already begun collecting some non essential equipment and personal gear for shipping back to the United States. We are ship-

ping things back early so that it will be waiting for us when we return enabling inspections at Staunton to go smoothly. There are also a myriad of requirements and checklists that need to be completed before we re-deploy. For example, some of our equipment has to be collected and turned in before we leave theater. With deadlines and time hacks quickly approaching it is important to be considerate of scheduled appointments and requirements. Changes are the only constant in the military, so please be flexible and understanding. Some of our time hacks depend on our replacements from Oklahoma so we will have to be patient. We all are working toward the same goal of a smooth and speedy redeployment without delays or incidents. This means we all need to continue to remain vigilant and safe without succumbing to complacency. Remember the joys of this Season, and let it bring out the best in all of us. 🍎

INSTALLATIONS

By Lt. Col. Monte Harner

The International Zone Transition Team (IZTT) is a high-impact group of professionals charged with the extremely complex task of comprehensively planning the consolidation of US Forces in the International Zone (IZ). The team has recently expanded its role to also become the leading agency facilitating the future revitalization of the IZ into the vibrant government and international center for Iraq.

The IZTT developed the largest single US military construction effort ever attempted in the IZ. In just three months, the Team built a comprehensive project to relocate and consolidate HQ Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) (Forward) to reduce the US Coalition Force' footprint in the IZ by two thirds. Though not executed, this massive \$120M construction effort included renovating battle-damaged facilities into work spaces, constructing a new Life Support Area to provide essential services and housing for 2,200 personnel, and installing reliable electrical, water, wastewater, and pavement systems.

The IZTT is also developing a Joint Consolidation and Community Master Plan for the IZ. This will be the first and only comprehensive installation management and community planning document in the entire Iraq Area of

Responsibility. It fully integrates the consolidation efforts of MNF-I and US Mission-Iraq (USM-I) forces, while considering the impacts to our Coalition military and diplomatic partners, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, and the NATO Training Mission-Iraq. The plan also presents detailed recommendations for urban renewal, and utilities and infrastructure improvement projects, to vastly improve quality of life for Iraqi residents, attract private investment, and encourage self-sustaining economic development. To execute this Herculean effort, the IZTT forged previously unprecedented partnerships with MNF-I and USM-I organizations (e.g., US Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq Transition Assistance Office, Joint Operations Center for Reconstruction, Provincial Reconstruction Teams), as well as, Government of Iraq (GOI) ministries and Baghdad municipal agencies.

IZTT is facilitating revolutionary change in the IZ. As a lead organization actively planning the comprehensive consolidation of US Forces and community redevelopment in this region of Baghdad, the Team is the JASG's organization contributing to the creation of a new and economically sustainable Iraq. 🍎

SUPPORT

By Lt. Col. Michael Swanson

The JASG Director of Logistics (DOL) maintains control of three Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) within the IZ; FOB Blackhawk; FOB Freedom; and FOB Freedom Compound. These all important bases are maintained like small cities and require much work to maintain the facilities and sustain the tenants, with continued focus on quality of life for all. Our three FOBs are presided over by our appointed Governor and Deputy DOL, CPT Corey Stavinoha. As Governor, he is the military officer in charge of these locations and has overall responsibility for all personnel; millions of dollars in equipment and property; and liaison between DOD, DOS, Contractors, Security, Installations, etc. This huge undertaking is simplified with the assistance of Mayors, Deputy Mayors and staff assigned to each FOB. Through his leadership, the FOB Mayors work to provide all the necessities and some of the niceties of living in Iraq.

FOB Freedom is led by Mayor 1LT David Mummert, Deputy Mayor CW2 Fred Barger and NCO SSG Richard Emery. This FOB continues to improve under their close supervision. 1LT Mummert and his staff have drastically improved the MWR facilities and

Food Service operation on the FOB to the great satisfaction of their tenants. Living and working on FOB Freedom you will find several military units, a few contractors and even our hardworking dogs.

CW3 David Elliott and SFC Robert Reed are the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of FOB Blackhawk. To assist them in with their daily responsibilities, SPC Shandon Adkins and SPC Weldon Rankin are also part of the FOB Blackhawk team and work hard to manage the assets at this FOB and to improve the quality of life for all residing there.

FOB Blackhawk is the site of the Believers Palace, which was heavily bombed in the early days of the war. FOB Blackhawk is home to soldiers and contractors that support the MNSTC-I effort in Iraq.

Our final FOB is officially known as FOB Freedom Compound. This diverse and complicated FOB is led by Mayor CPT Tim Brooke and Deputy Mayor SSG Eric Griffin. This FOB is known for having the Freedom Towers office complex located on it. Contractors, U.S. Military, Coalition Forces and a host of representatives from the international community call the Freedom Compound home. 

SECURITY

By Lt. Col. Gregg Vanorden

The Security Directorate continues to lead the way on initiatives that focus on the safety and security within the International Zone. As in the past, all of the service members within the directorate are giving 100% effort in their current jobs, as well as, supporting other important projects. We have accomplished a lot during the last 5 months here in Iraq, and November is no different!

In last month's T-Wall, you may recall reading a story about how the IZ Badging Office uses biometrics to identify individuals during the badging process. I want you to know that we also use biometrics to make the IZ a safer place. One of the projects that we started working on last month was to find ways to reduce the number of badge related violations. A team led by Maj. Matt Delaney researched several options, of which one developed into a biometric verification of everyone entering the IZ. Considering there are between 10,000-14,000 people who travel into the IZ on any given day, this was no easy task. SGM Kiser and Lt CDR Pereira organized a 'Tiger Team' and planned the mission. We had support throughout the directorate as well as from all the other directorates with in the JASG to make this mission a success. Normally, about 20-25 service members report for duty at 0530 hours and drive to the designated Entry Control Point

(ECP) to begin setting up and getting ready for the crowds to start rolling in. At one ECP, we checked over 350 people within the first hour. By the end of each mission, we search several thousand individuals.

To perform the duty, the team received training on several pieces of equipment such as the Biometric Identification System for Access (BISA) readers and the Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment (HIIDE) device to read the IZ Badges and to scan and capture fingerprints and iris scans. We use this equipment to accomplish two things: verify that an individual has a valid IZ badge and to verify that an individual is not wanted for any crimes. To date, we haven't detained any bad guys, but we have confiscated dozens of invalid, illegal, or expired badges.

The Service members who work on this project are doing this in addition to their normal duties and we really appreciate their support and tremendous dedication!

We are now beyond the halfway point of our deployment, and now that we are in the holiday season, I wanted to say that everyone here in the Security Directorate thanks you for all your support and we want to wish everyone back home the best throughout the holidays. 

JUMPS

AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORIES...

(Continued from *Bridge* on pg. 1)

Airman 1st Class Micah Jamal Mustafa contributed to the rescue by immediately following Gray's lead in the split second situation.

"I've only been in for two years, so this was a totally different scenario for me," said Mustafa, who is also a Security Force Patroller with the Joint Area Support Group's IZ Police. "I heard stories, but this is the first time I have actually had to deal with an individual who was putting herself in a suicidal position, one where Senior Airman Gray and I actually had to safeguard her, and try and communicate with her."

Other, more experienced IZ Police were quick to note that the

Airmen did it right.

"They disregarded their own safety for the sake of another," said Senior Master Sgt Mark Hagen, the Senior Enlisted Airman for the IZ Police. "Their quick reactions probably saved a life!"

While both Airmen do not consider themselves heroes, they were presented Army Commendation Medals from Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr. the visiting Adjutant General from Virginia. The medals were presented during a ceremony in front of the entire JASG.

"It feels good to know that you saved someone's life," said Gray. "I feel it was what I was supposed to do that day. I've heard people call us heroes, but I don't feel like one."

While Mustafa admits he has less experience than Gray, he is quick to point out that he has come to rely on the lessons learned from those around him.

"At the time this took place, it seemed like nothing, it was just something I was supposed to be doing, I had Senior Airman Gray, he was the backbone of it all, I was just the muscle that helped get the job done! I just turned to him and he was right there. They say you should always learn from your superiors, because you never know when a situation will come and you will need them and I needed him that day, and he came through, together we got the job done." 

The box below indicates the Joint Area Support Group's list of award winning Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen. This list covers the month of November and is organized in alphabetical order.

AWARDS...

Joint Service Commendation Medal

PO2 Lindler McCain (USN)

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Staff Sgt. Raul Rivera (USA)

Distinguished Service Award

1st Lt. Brian Jackson (USAF)

SSgt. Cassandra Nelson (USAF)

A1C Stacy Powell (USAF)

Army Commendation Medal

Staff. Sgt. Isdoro Astran (USAF)

A1C. Christopher Bukowski (USAF)

SrA. Carlos Gray (USAF)

Tech. Sgt. Leslie White (USAF)

A1C. Micah Mustafa (USAF)

A1C. Clifton Otis (USAF)

END NOTES



Photo by Spc. Jeremy Mills, JASG Public Affairs

GETTING SHOT....

Spc. Aaron Peters gets an update on his shots. The majority of the Joint Area Support Group received vaccine boosters for the fall season.



THE T-WALL

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Command Information Officer:
Lt. Col. R. Kenneth Ryan

T-Wall Staff:
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Sgt. John Slosser
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UPCOMING B-DAYS DECEMBER:

8th	SGM Ricky Kiser
10th	PO1 Gary Barber
	SSG John Young
11th	SrA Jeffery Wright
14th	Amn Mathew Gardner
15th	LTC Gregg Vanorden
24th	SrA Erik Peterson
27th	CW3 David Elliott
28th	SPC Germaine Pannell
30th	A1C Justin Bauman
	A1C Michael Nematpour

JUMPS

AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORIES...

(Continued from *Money* on pg. 12)

CW4 Murray has not only excelled at this but has set the standards for others to follow. He has also, albeit, unwittingly become the Comptrollers Office unofficial spokesman. Chief Murray has never met a stranger and is a friend to all he meets, irregardless of the language they speak or country of origin, they just seem to nod and smile as if they've known him for years. I can't be certain, but I swear I think I saw Chief's name on a local ballot the other day as a write in candidate for mayor or something but I might be mistaken.

The Development for Iraq (DFI) team consists of LCDR Michael Tinsley, USN and SMSgt Dennis Chandler, USAF. This was a program that came about to meet the needs of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to enable them to channel revenue from Iraqi oil sales, oil for food deposits, and repatriated Iraqi assets to the relief and reconstruction of Iraq. The best I can discern is this must be similar to the game "Battleship" for when the phone rings and the LCDR hangs up it seems that someone has just sunk his. This triggers the flailing away on their computers, struggling with countless spreadsheets, having meetings by the score, and my personal favorite, making endless copies of their files. It appears that their data must expire every 30 days or thereabouts as

they go through this process on a routine basis. SMSgt Chandler has become a master of the copier machine and paper shredder. I think he will do well in the future when he receives the patent on his kick-start method of making copies. It seems that this technique leaves both his hands free so that he can rearrange their files for the umpteenth time while rotating the office stock of Poogie Bait thus doubling his productivity. Even with all the head scratching, pencil breaking, and gnashing of teeth they are doing an admirable job and are highly praised by all.

Lastly there is the Budget Analyst/Accountant position that I, SFC Joseph Crawford VaANG, fill. Other than being directed to write this narrative, retribution from the Comptroller for all the times I snickered at him for having to write a weekly report on our accomplishments for the Commander, my duties are to keep the books balanced and ensure that our funds are not only encumbered, but are obligated correctly so that "Big Army" can see clearly how funds are being utilized in the Area of Operations (AOR). I also work with the Directorates and others to help them properly prepare their funding documents in order for me to forward them up the chain so that I can place them in an obligated state. I am also the first line of defense for those bearing PR&C's for the Comp-

troller's signature. This is primarily accomplished by me giving a wink or a nod indicating that the chances are fairly good that they will be successful or the vigorous shaking of my head signifying there's not a chance in Hades that it's going to happen today. I have become quite deft at judging the atmospheric pressure of the office but occasionally even my honed skills are insufficient. The first indication of my erroneous forecast is when I see the singed edges of SGT Michael Borden's uniform and smell the whiff of smoke trailing behind him as he exits the office.

Now, dear reader, our day is ending and the time has come for this narrative to come to a close. I will take my leave from you while the Comptroller is laying down the riffs to the Rolling Stones "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction", SMSgt Chandler keeping time kick-starting the copier, CW4 Murray, as always, humming the tune "Why me Lord, what have I ever done", LCDR Tinsley puzzling with his DFI pocket cipher decoder, and I, your faithful correspondent, checking the extended weather forecast along with the latest cigar deals, and looking forward, somewhat apprehensively, to the adventures that awaits us, we noble Band of Brothers, that the morrow brings.

The End 