

THE 228 FSB NEWSLETTER

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CSM Harry W. DeLorenzo, Battalion Command Sergeant Major
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"NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST" EXTENDED

Due to the fact that the 228 FSB has recently been forced to change its call sign to *Coal Miner*, we are extending the *Name the Newsletter Contest* for one more month. Please submit any new suggestions to SPC Berger in the S1 office.



SPC. Skorupa with several Iraqi Security Force (ISF) soldiers.

A Day in the Life of a Lioness

Specialist Alissa Skorupa

As Bravo Company 228th FSB continues to put down roots in Camp Al Taqaddum, female soldiers know they will be asked to leave their newly made "home" once more for the call of duty. The females of Bravo along with two females from another company make up the Lioness Team headed to the Entry Control Point (ECP) in the Ar Ramadi area to help with female search operations. The Lioness Team packs up a few weeks worth of gear and personal belongings and heads to their destination near the turbulent city of Ar Ramadi. There they will link up with Delta Company, other wise known as "The Death", whom they will work and live with for the next couple of weeks. On the first day the Lioness will walk down the dusty road, locked and loaded, to the M113 tracked vehicle that guards the entrance to the camp. Within a few seconds, they are free to walk out into the open, until you reach the ECP. It is at that time when they will realize that their training is their greatest weapon. Once they reach the ECP that seemed so far away, they can take cover inside cement barriers along with other American and Iraqi soldiers that run the ECP.

Continued on page 4...

Commander's Corner

The battalion has made great strides in our operational capability and life support. All companies are now well immersed in our mission to support the 2-28 BCT as we work to support the local government and the Iraqi people. Parts and materials are received, stored, and issued in great quality each day and our maintainers work to keep the large number of track and wheeled vehicles in "fully mission capable" status. Our medics and medical professionals are meeting our day to day medical concerns with the great skill and competence.

The Al Taqaddum area has seen some dramatic improvements since our last newsletter report. A new gym/weight room is completed and is busy with activity. There are numerous weight machine stations. Free weights, exercise cycles, and other trainers available to our soldiers. We will also open our Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) building very soon. This building will house a TV lounge, ping-pong tables, a foosball table, game tables, and a much needed social area for the soldiers. This building will likely go through many transformations as new equipment and materials arrive.

Finally, the new dining facility (DFAC) is open! Our food serving capability to offer a greater variety of meal options is fantastic. We have even had hand dipped ice cream! Our new building is a morale booster by itself; it has 2 large screen television which are connected to the American Forces Network (AFN), a bright spacious dining area and air conditioning.

The soldiers of the 228th FSB are doing great work. Thanks again for all of the support from home.



LTC GLENN T. NISSLEY

Inside this Issue

Feature Story	Pages 1, 4
Commander's Corner.....	Page 1
Chaplain's Message	Page 3
Info from the S1.....	Page 3
The Rumor Mill.....	Page 5
Chief Editors Article.....	Pages 7-8
Photo Page	Page 9
FRG Contacts	Page 10

And You Think That You Have it Bad?

By Specialist Andrea Sweetland



SPC Caicedo with SPC Sweetland at church.

Taken by: SPC Aaron Berger

We all seem to find something to complain about no matter where we are. I am guilty of this as well. Then I started to think about the first war in Iraq and wondered what it was like then.

I sat down with Specialist Arthur Caicedo who is on his second tour of Iraq. SPC Caicedo served in 1991 during Desert Storm and Desert Shield. After being out of the Army for 8 years he felt the call to serve his country once again.

“Back in ‘91 there was no air conditioning anywhere”, says SPC Caicedo. He slept in a tent with 22 other soldiers. During the evening, the tent was too warm to sleep in. He and his bunk mates would sleep under trailers, until the sun went down. No running water was available for the first two months. Eventually, they built showers outside using water buffalos. Soldiers washed their own laundry by hand in buckets. Every day there was a detail to burn human waste.

Caicedo ate C-rations and Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MRE’s) for every meal. His unit served the food outside because they did not have a dining facility. Everyone had to drink warm water because ice was not available. He never saw a Gatorade or an ice cream bar during his nine month tour.

SPC Caicedo and his fellow troops transported POW’s to a holding camp. Convoys, Quick Reaction Force (QRF), and escorts were non-existing then. Caicedo traveled in an unarmored HUMVEE wearing only a Kevlar helmet and flak vest. In 1991, they would also have SCUD missile attacks, forcing them to get into Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) Level 4, multiple times a day. MOPP level 4 is when the soldier must don the entire chemical protective suit and mask, along with gloves and rubber boots. Imagine wearing all of that in the average summer heat in southwest Asia. Caicedo remembers taking cover from a potential chemical attack and being in the full gear for over *four* hours at one time!

Caicedo was unable to call home very often because the phone calls cost nearly *7 dollars* a minute. The internet was not available then. There was not much to do for fun either, because they were attacked an average of four to five times a day. They always had to be ready to pull patrols and act as their own QRF.

When you hear yourself complaining about the living conditions on your Forward Operating Base (FOB), you really need to think about *how* the people in Desert Storm and Desert Shield lived. Consider your self lucky to have showers, a dining facility, and air conditioning. Next time the phones, which cost as low as *4 cents* per minute, or the internet café gets shut down, write a letter to your loved ones because that could very easily have been your only way to communicate with them. Wear your Kevlar helmet and vest. It may save your life one day. If you cannot live without an outlet in your room, consider what our predecessors had to live without, as you complain to your local mayor.

Make a Joyful Noise

By Specialist Aaron Berger

On Sunday, August 21, the 228 FSB choir made its debut at our church on Minersville, TQ. They do not have any musicians, so they must sing acapella. *God Has Smiled on Me* was the song that they performed in front of the congregation of about 50 soldiers. Spec. Angenika Armbrister was compelled to start a choir because of her love for singing and she was able to assemble a talented crew with unlimited ability and potential. The ensemble had 10 members for their first presentation. If you love to sing and you would be dedicated to practice, see Spec. Armbrister in the S4 office; she would love the help.



SPC Armbrister and her choir: SGT Chenevert, SPC Stout, SPC Corbin, SPC Ruth, SFC Banks, and SPC Berrocal

The Road

The road patrolled goes ever on,
When duty calls my war face on.
A nation depends upon this man,
Danger lies from where it began.
Now far ahead the road has gone,
The road that few have traveled on.
And I must follow if I can,
In gun trucks painted tan.
Though I know its hours till dawn
The road patrolled goes ever on.
When I look within this man,
God looks down and says I can.
Pursuing it with eager eyes,
Along the road a soldier could die.
My machine gun will fire if in affray
Where many friends and foe may lay.
And what then? I cannot say,
But know...My men and I will never stray!

**A Poem by: 1LT Anthony DeLia
228 FSB QRF Platoon Leader**

Chaplain's Message

Chaplain Aristides Fokas

How you doin'?

The soldiers of the 228th FSB recognize the phrase "How you doin'?" as being Command Sergeant Major, (CSM) Harry DeLorenzo's trademark greeting. The CSM hails from Philadelphia, PA and always uses the opportunity to begin a meeting with "How you doin'?" The soldiers often respond in unison, "How you doin'?" This is the CSM's way of checking in with us to see how things are with us.

On any given day, I like hundred other soldiers will say to a passerby, "How are you?" "How's it going?" or "How you doing?" The answers vary. Some common replies are "Outstanding!" "I'm doing." "It's another day in paradise" and "I can't complain..."

At a recent worship service we were visited by U.S. Navy Chaplain Rivera. Chaplain Rivera is attached to the Mortuary Affairs unit here at TQ which is run by the Marines. He doesn't have a regular Sunday service, so he gets invited to participate in worship all over the Forward Operating Base. Chaplain Rivera is musically talented and came with his guitar. It was a treat to have him play and sing for us, especially since our choir had not yet sung for us.

Chaplain Rivera briefly talked about when we greet each other and acknowledged that we don't always *feel* outstanding, OK, great and the rest. Sometimes we're dragging or a bit irritated or missing home. One song he taught us was, "I'm Blessed", and he reminded us that as people of faith, we are blessed whether things are going great or not. For the last few weeks since Chaplain Rivera's visit, when asked "How are you?" and the like, I have been replying with a faith affirming "I'm blessed!" It is a good reminder that as children of God, Americans, soldiers with families who care for them, we are blessed beyond measure.

How you doin'?

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together.

--from Psalm 34



Chaplain Fokas leads his congregation in a prayer.

Information From the S1

SGLI update - Effective 1 September 2005, SGLI will increase to \$400,000. All soldiers will be automatically increased to this amount. The good news to this is that the **government** will pay the first \$150,000 for all soldiers while they are deployed to a combat zone. What this means is that if you have \$250,000 already, you will **not** see an increase in your monthly premium while we are deployed. If you currently have less than \$250,000 and do not wish to have the increased premium you can fill out a new SGLV 8286 to keep your current amount. Stop by and see us if you have any questions or need to fill out a new form.

Passports - Interested in spending your R&R Leave OCONUS? You will need a passport in order to do so. If you do not already have one, you can apply for one over here. The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad can help you complete the process. The cost for a passport is \$97. You will also need your original birth certificate, Naturalization Certificate if naturalized U.S. citizen, or an original Consular Report of Birth Abroad if born outside the U.S. to American citizen parents. You also need another form of photo ID, military ID card will work just fine. Finally, you will need two identical color photographs that meet the passport requirements. The S1 shop has copies of the applications and instructions in the office.

Citizenship - Not a U.S. citizen? The citizenship process can be completed in 6-8 months while deployed, as opposed to up to 2 years while CONUS. If you would like to get that fixed while you are deployed, stop by the S1 shop and see SPC Berger for information.

Voting information - Just because we are deployed doesn't mean we have lost our right to vote. All you have to do is apply for an absentee ballot and mail it back to the County Registrar where you live and they will send you an absentee ballot in the mail. Stop by the S1 shop for information. Remember, Election Day is November 1st. Most counties require you to apply at least 30 days prior to the election.

Minersville Upgrades

By Specialist Aaron Berger

Over the past month, Minersville has been upgraded tremendously. The dining facility (DFAC), the MWR gym tent, and the MWR building have all been finished and are now in full operation.

LTC Glenn T. Nissley and CSM Harry DeLorenzo, were present at a small dedication to officially open the new gym tent along with the two soldiers who were responsible for the grunt work. SGT John Muskey and SPC Peter Coombs worked jointly to move the equipment from the old gym tent and set up the equipment in the new tent. They were responsible for coordinating with the MWR tent crew, composed primarily of all civilians, and communicating with them on a daily basis. SGT Muskey and SPC Coombs worked over 100 hours ensuring that the soldiers of the 228 FSB have a pleasant place to work out. The gym has a vast array of *Nautilus* weight machines, a variety of free weights, as well as a huge selection of dumbbells.

The MWR building was also opened after several weeks



LTC Nissley, CSM DeLorenzo, SGT Muskey and SPC Coombs officially open the new gym.

of working on the interior of the building. When the 228 FSB arrived, there was a shell of a building resembling a fort that a child would have built.

Continued on page 8...



The first dinner at Walker Hall.

A Day In the Life of a Lioness

....Continued from page 1

The female soldier's duty requires them to search all civilian females going into or coming out of the city of Ar Ramadi.

Most of the civilian females are easy going and do not mind what would be an inconvenience to



Camp Corregador, Iraq

Taken by: SPC Alissa Skorupa

most Americans. Of course, they will have the few who will refuse to get out of the car, and that is where it can get a little tricky. There is a huge language barrier, so the Lioness Teams must rely on hand motions and key words in hopes that they will understand. If not, a quick tap on the side of the M16 or M249 SAW seems to solve all problems. When the traffic is not flowing, the Lioness soldier will have time to talk with the Iraqi soldiers. Some of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are more than willing to teach their language but patience is a true virtue in this situation.

No matter what the Lioness is doing, there is always the unfortunate possibility of sniper fire, rockets, mortars, and RPG fire, all of which occur frequently. Nothing has the same heart stopping effect like the sound of mortars flying over your head and impacting no less than 50 meters from you, or the quick sound of a sniper rifle and seeing pieces of your cement barrier flying off. The ECP is wide open for these kinds of attacks, but staying alert and low will save your life. After a day of Lioness duty at the ECP, it is a great feeling to walk back on the other side of the M113. The explosions and gun fire still reach inside the walls of Camp Corregador, but the vulnerability and tension subsides when the Lioness soldiers reunite with their team and have the comfort of friends and tell their story of their day at the ECP. The duty of a Lioness team member is not for the faint of heart or for those who believe they are untouchable by the hands of whom we are here to guard against. To the Lioness Teams who have gone and returned, "**Welcome back**". For those going in the near future, "**Stay Safe**".

Welcome back to Bravo Lioness Teams:

SPC Alissa Skorupa PFC Mary Steppacher
SPC Kwellin Reed SGT Hila Mears

God speed and safe return to:

SPC Nikki Langs
SPC Migrid Guzman

MWR Events: Morale Boosters

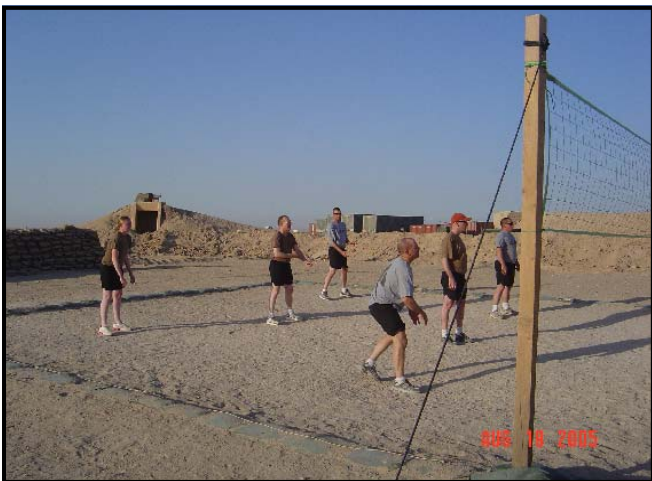
By Specialist Aaron Berger

Being thousands of miles away from your family and friends, is arguably the most difficult thing that a soldier in the National Guard has to deal with during a deployment. Keeping unit and individual morale high is often a daunting task, but is vital to keeping productivity. Morale is defined in *Dictionary.com* as, *the state of the spirits of a person or group as exhibited by confidence, cheerfulness, discipline and willingness to perform assigned tasks.* As you can see by the definition, if morale is low, it is extremely complicated for soldiers to do their job effectively. High morale cannot be forced on anyone, and often the individual soldier has made a choice to be positive as another alternative.

That being said, offering choices such as internet access, phones, a new gym, the new MWR day room, as well as new sporting equipment and organized tournaments, is an excellent way to reach all soldiers. Whether being able to talk to your family at home, through email or on the phone, or by playing volleyball in a tournament, these options are important morale boosters that we must be careful not to take for granted.

After just a few short days of the MWR Volleyball tournament on Minersville, TQ, Iraq, it is easy to see how team building and sports can do wonders for morale. Healthy competition and trash talking always seems to do the trick. If you are not a part of our volleyball tournament, come out and see the teams compete nightly around 1830, and you will see that even for just an hour or two, you can forget about who you are missing back at home, or what material items that you wish that you had here with you. If volleyball is not your bag...look for other tournament sign-ups such as 3-on-3 basketball, soccer, flag football, and wiffle ball in the near future.

For being stationed in the middle of the desert, our choices for after work activities are much more varied than when the war first started. Make an effort to boost your own morale and those around you by escaping from the "Groundhog Day" feeling by participating in an MWR activity. Sometimes the mission may impede that ability to break away, but any effort made will go a long way to a healthier mindset as well as a healthier body.



The SPO County team awaits the ball. Pic by SFC Chris Day

The Rumor Mill

****The following story is NOT TRUE in any way...but was definitely worth sharing. Please take the rumors that you hear at face value...THEY ARE FICTION!!!!!!!!!!*

Mom,

Boy, I had a hard time last night and today. I had to use the anti-aircraft gun in front of our headquarters building to shoot down 2, possibly 3, Iraqi aircraft. They have stealth weapons that no one wants to talk about in the news back home. I was injured, a flesh wound, from falling debris from the first plane that I hit. I refused to leave my post and fought on. I was the only experienced gunner that we had.

Don't tell anyone, but tomorrow night we will do a rubber boat river assault in downtown B-dad. (I do not want to write the city name due to operational security (OPSEC). The enemy forces have quite a large naval force structure that we intend to neutralize. My job will be to attach explosives to one of their first line battleships. My wounds won't prevent my meeting the mission's needs. I can still swim well on my back.

I cannot wait for our new gym to be finished, I usually lift 400-500 pounds per bench press, but I have not been able to work out on a regular basis due to construction. I have been staying in shape by lifting our Polaris ATV or "gator" 10-12 times in bench and military press styles to stay in shape.

Good news, I should have my pilot license in a couple of weeks. I have been studying on my free time through a branch campus of Penn State. Then I will be able to fly our FA-18.

Maybe you could call uncle Bob to talk to our congressman; I've only been promoted twice since I have been here. The officers are so unfair!!! I should also get 5-6 medals, but I bet they don't give those to me either. There are 2 or 3 of us that are getting cheated. Every time that I do something good, I get put on KP. I hate our Command Sergeant Major. He yelled at me for not tucking in my shirt! I shoot down 3 jets but I get yelled at about a silly shirt while going to the shower! He wears those stupid shower shoes and no one says anything to him!!!

A friend of mine, PV2 &*\$#, (remember OPSEC) has been treated poorly too! He says they won't give him the silver star for rescuing two of our soldiers during a convoy. 300-400 insurgents attacked, and he pretty much held them off by himself.

I don't know how we aren't getting more respect. Even my hero, CW2 *%^&\$##, (OPSEC again), thinks we are great! He gets us ice cream almost everyday and gets us take-out pizza a couple of times a week. We maintain our vehicles better than anyone.

Mom, this is nothing new either, but I am the best guy on our battalion football team. I scored 4 touchdowns against the Marines last weekend. I am even faster than that Signal Captain, who thinks he's so fast. He runs well to the left, but doesn't cut back to the right very well, so I run right by him!!

Well, I'll say good bye for now, I have got to finish re-building a tank. You know what I always say...**MISSION FIRST.**

Your loving son



The anti-aircraft gun that saved our lives



779 Maintenance Company Soldiers Hard at Work on Camp Ar Ramadi



SFC Melsom making sure that all of the details are covered.

By: CW2 Floyd Hyde

When the 228th FSB arrived in Ar Ramadi, the 779th Direct Support Maintenance Company assumed the maintenance mission. The 779th quickly established their company area, setup maintenance operations shop area. The 779th Maintenance Company is formed from General Support (GS) assets of five states. The Headquarters and Auto Platoons are from Tennessee. The Armament Platoon is from Illinois, Engineer Platoon from Ohio, and Track Platoon from Pennsylvania. Two soldiers from California, a Maintenance Support Team (MST) from Bravo Company and a transportation element from Alpha Company 228th FSB complete the maintenance team of the 779th. Unit soldiers are assigned to four sites in Iraq and one in Kuwait to meet the mission.

The 779th Maintenance Company is from Centerville, Tennessee. Prior to the 1996 reorganization, several of its soldiers served with Bravo and Delta Company of the 473rd Support Battalion...some for over 20 years. The units' lineage dates back to 1917 when it was a horse-drawn artillery unit. Over the years, the unit changed from armor, light machine guns and finally artillery in the 1930's. In 1941 the unit was activated for duty in World War II. 99 soldiers deployed for the duration of the war in the European Theater where they served under General Patton. The unit's headquarters is in Centerville, TN with the detachment in Parsons.

The 126th Maintenance Company was formed in 1997. Prior to its inception into the Illinois National Guard, it was the 126th S&S Company. Prior to deployment, the soldiers of the 126th served in Quincy and Beardstown, Illinois. In February 2003, the unit was activated anticipating deployment with the 4th ID during the onset of Iraqi Freedom. Their mission was changed during mobilization. For the next eight months they conducted GS level maintenance at Camp Dodge and Fort Bragg throughout the mobilization. In March of 2005, soldiers of the 126th stepped up to a request from National Guard Bureau. In May they joined the 779th Maintenance Company as the Armament Platoon.

The 372nd Maintenance Company Forward is comprised of 18 soldiers from several venues within the state of Ohio. In April 2005 they came together to form the Engineer Maintenance Support Team (MST) for deployment with the 2/28th brigade combat team. Shortly thereafter, all soldiers were transferred into the 372nd DS Maintenance Company, Cleveland Ohio then attached to the 779th for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Continued on page 10....



Always time for a smile...especially when covered in grease!



SPC Prentiss wishing that this picture was not taken.

Understanding the Theological and Political Divisions of the Region

By Captain Jason C. Guerrettaz



The expressions “Sunni” and “Shia” are frequently thrown around in the media and some within the Battalion may be wondering exactly what these two factions stand for, why they cannot seem to agree on certain issues, and why the finalization of an Iraqi constitution is so difficult. This article would require volumes to properly enlighten its readers regarding the vast history of the Islamic schism or to appropriately acknowledge all facets of Iraqi sociology; thus, it is grossly over-simplified for brevity purposes. However, what this article will provide is a brief and basic understanding of the theological and political differences of the region. The Prophet Muhammad (“Prophet”), whose name I am advised should always be followed with the words “Peace Be Upon Him” ... which you will find in many Islamic texts abbreviated as “PBUH”, is the central figure in the history of Islam. A glimpse into the 7th century shows us that when the Prophet died, there was a population of roughly 100,000 Muslims who were left without a leader. A large group of Muslims looked to and elected a close friend of the Prophet, Abu Bakr, as the next leader of Islam. This civil/religious leader is known as a *Caliph*, and is considered to be a representative of Allah on earth. Bakr was the first Caliph. The Sunni/Shia division seems to have started at this point because a smaller group of Muslims believed that being the foremost leader of the Muslims is a divine right of the family of the Prophet, thus they believed that the Prophet’s son-in-law, Ali bin Abi Talib, was the rightful heir to the office of the Caliph. This larger group, the Bakr backers, came to be known as Sunni Muslims, and those who believed that the successor should be a descendant of the Prophet came to be known as Shia Muslims. Neither Sunnis nor Shias believe that any “successor” to the Prophet is himself a prophet ... both Shias and Sunnis agree that the Prophet Muhammad was the final prophet. The most populous Shia community of Iraq is known as the “Twelvers,” the Ithna Ashariyya. They believe in the historical existence of 12 Imams, who again are regarded as the divine and infallible descendants of the Prophet, and to them, the rightful sovereign of Islam. The Twelvers identify these Imams as starting with Ali and ending with a figure who as a young boy went into what’s called occultation, or hiding, at the end of the 9th Century. The Twelvers believe that the 12th Imam still exists in a state of occultation, and will return at an appointed time and place known to Allah alone and will “fill the world with justice and equity.”

The word Shia actually means “Party”, thus Shia Muslims are known as the Party of Ali. The word Sunni means Orthodox, or one who follows the traditions, Sunnah, of the Prophet. Sunnis pray five times a day, whereas Shias can combine prayers to pray three times a day. The practice of Muttah, or temporary marriage, is permitted by Shias but Sunnis consider it forbidden as they believe the Prophet abolished it. The religious relationship between Sunni and Shia Muslims through the ages has formed their modern political setting.

Two other expressions that are often confused in the Middle East are “Arab” and “Kurd”. These are ethnic, rather than theological, factions. Many people, including the media, tend to confuse, or inadvertently muddle, the terms Arab and Muslim. I’ve found three factors which help to determine whether an individual is considered Arab: whether they live in a country that is a member of the Arab League, whether their first language is Arabic, and whether they can trace their ancestry back to the original inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula. These three criteria, you will notice, are not necessarily tied to religious preference. The name “Kurd” was a generic term established to symbolize people of nomadic tendencies, and non-Arabs in particular. Kurds represent the largest non-Arab ethnic minority of Iraq, accounting for about a quarter of the population. The Kurds, it has been argued, are a majority in the region around Kirkuk, one of Iraq’s richest oil-producing areas, and are a people of Indo-European origin speaking a Persian (Iranian) dialect. They have lived in a region of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq and Iranian Kurdistan for thousands of years. Most are settled farmers, but there are still large communities of nomads who live in tents.

About 25% of Iraqi Muslims are Kurds, who are mostly Sunni. About 75% of Iraqi Muslims are Arabs. Shias form roughly 50% of the total Iraqi Muslim population, and 70% of the Arab Muslim population. The south of Iraq is populated mainly by Shia, and the center, west and north of Iraq are mainly Sunni. This population disparity adds substantiation as to the problems inherent in the development of the Iraqi Constitution, which can be split into four primary issues: federalism, the role that Islam will play in Iraq, how Iraq’s natural resources will be developed and protected, and the treatment of women in the new Republic of Iraq.

Federalism. The transfer of power from a central government to municipalities/provinces remains a problem because Sunnis state that they will not accept a federalized Iraq. Many Sunnis disagree with an independent region in the oil-rich south. While both Sunnis and Shias accept Kurdish autonomy in the north, there is no agreement on how to define Kurdish federalism. The Kurds want defined boundaries, control over revenues, and a self-contained military.

Continued on page 8....

Role of Islam. It has been agreed that Islam should be the official religion of Iraq; however, there is significant disagreement regarding the role of clerics and the place of Islam in the Iraqi legislation process. The primary issue is whether Islam should be celebrated as the main source of law, or just one source of many. There are also differences of opinion over the role of Islamic Sharia law, with the Shia arguing for Sharia to be adopted in family and civil law.

Natural Resources. Iraq has the world's third largest oil reserves, thus there should be no confusion as to why this remains a key point of contention. Sunnis want natural resource revenues to be controlled by a federalized government assembly. As discussed previously, Kurds are seeking to seize oil-rich areas around Kirkuk that are not currently in their sovereign area and receive a share of the revenue from the oilfields. Shias, on the other hand, want a share of revenue from the southern oilfields.



Iraq leaders gather to discuss constitution

Women. Iraqi women's rights activists remain concerned about demands from some Shia Muslims for Islam to play a greater role in Iraqi law. Under Sharia law, women may not receive the same share of inheritance as men, and in court proceedings, any evidence presented by a woman counts for only half of any evidence submitted by a man.

As of the date of this article, of the four primary issues above, Federalism remains the greatest hurdle to the finalization of an Iraqi constitution. Sunni leaders steadfastly contest language in the constitution that could allow Shias to create a sovereign region in the oil-rich south. In the latest draft, the constitution provides that each province may form its own federal region and join with others. In the debate over sovereign regions, the Kurds largely stood on the sidelines; however, the Sunnis say that such an arrangement could weaken Iraq, and that a Shia-autonomous region might fall under the influence of the Shia-dominated Iran.

Also outstanding was whether the constitution should contain language banning any remnants or symbols of the Baath Party, which was dominated by Sunnis. The Sunnis are concerned that this may lead to their exclusion from government jobs and that they will be unfairly discriminated against in public life. The Iraqi and American governments have determined that construction of a new constitution is essential to establish a democratic political system and repressing an ongoing insurgency, but it has proven difficult to democratize a state where such sociological differences dominate. Let us all pray that compromise can be reached soon.

The Mayor's cell along with a daily Sergeant Major detail, worked tirelessly to improve the structure of the building as well as paint the inside. The inside of the building has several ping-pong tables, a foosball table, and a big-screen television. There is plenty of seating and tables for soldiers to just sit around and hang out, play cards, anything to escape the day to day grind.

Finally, and most importantly for most soldiers of the 228th FSB, the opening of the new DFAC. Anyone who has visited Minersville on TQ, knows going to the chow tent was an inevitable annoyance. Then tent had major power issues and its temperature was usually hotter than what it was outside...not very conducive to eating. After months of construction, the new chow hall was completed. The command of the 228 FSB dedicated the new chow hall, a project initiated by our predecessors, the 2nd FSB, to the only soldier who lost his life in their battalion, SGT Antwan Walker. SGT Walker was survived by his wife and three children.



LTC Nissley and the Mess Section dedicate the new DFAC to SGT Walker.



SGT Shady and SPC Maldonado are the first to be served dinner in the new dining facility. SGT Shady volunteered to help decorate for the opening. SGT Lopez and SGT Rutt serve the soldiers.

Pictures from August 2005



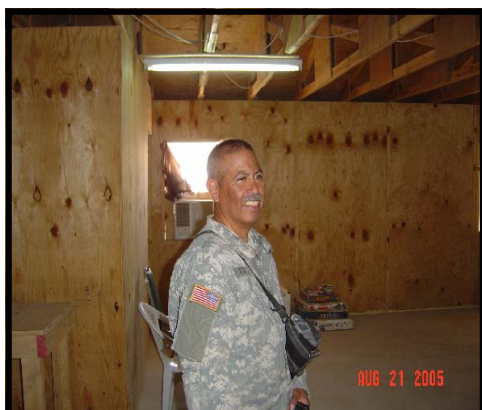
SPC Musselman performing routine maintenance on an M2, .50 caliber weapon.



SSG Rowe takes out the power to the Hacienda, while SPC Ford and SPC Maldonado "supervise".



SPC Stambaugh fixing another computer.



SFC Ortego on his way to church.



SSG Ficht painting the new MWR building and showing that she has been sniffing *way* too much paint! SPC Horchos painting in the background.



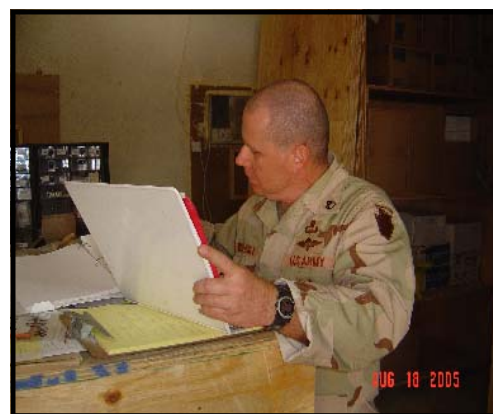
SGT Warner, SPC Ricci, SPC Ronchi, and SPC Riebson, from the Maintenance Support Team (MST) at Habbaniyah, turning wrenches.



SGT Ogureck, SSG Maggs, and SGT Shepherd get ready for some volleyball.



SPC Hildersheim operating some big time heavy equipment on Camp Habbaniyah.



SSG Weatherly trying to figure out what else he can add on to SFC Hillegas' hand receipt.

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..continued from page 6

The 3622nd Maintenance Company's Lineage dates back to the early 1900's. The Unit was established initially as a Machinegun Company, subsequently re-designated as Coastal Defense Anti-Aircraft Unit, and later designated as a General Support Maintenance Company in the late 60's in Lancaster, PA. The 3622nd served proudly in Campaigns dating back to WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. In December 2004, the 3622nd Maintenance Company was notified that the Track Vehicle Repair Platoon was being called to Federal Active Duty, and would be attached to the 779th Maintenance Company (GS), Centerville, TN.

The soldiers of the 779th represent their units and states with pride while conducting Direct Support maintenance to units of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and units of the Marine Corp and Iraqi Security Force. The team has come together and shown expertise in a variety of job skills which has proven to be a great asset to the 228th FSB in support to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

228th Newsletter Staff

Commander.....LTC Glenn Nissley
 CSM.....CSM Harry DeLorenzo
 Public Affairs Officer.....CPT Jason Guerrettaz
 HHD P.A. Representative.....SPC Aaron Berger
 A Co P.A. Representative.....SPC Andrea Sweetland
 B Co P.A. Representative.....SPC Alissa Skorupa
 C Co P.A. Representative.....SGT Michelle Lynn
 779th P.A. Representative.....CW2 Floyd Hyde

Please see the above individuals if you would like to make a submission to the newsletter. It could be an article, photo, or artwork.

