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Professionalization of free press is international effort

SPC. REBEKAH LAMPMAN
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – Nearly 60 journalists from southern Iraq met at Camp Dhi Qar, near Nasiriyah, to talk with Italian journalists and discuss the growth of Iraq's free press.

"I think it is very important to have the cooperation between Iraqi media and Italian and international media," said Wathick Abdul Abed, an Iraqi journalist who writes for several local newspapers as well as websites.

Anna Marie Greco, an Italian journalist who spoke at the conference, discussed important issues in journalism such as bias in reporting, the Iraqi journalists overcoming their fears of retribution and newsgathering techniques.

"The role of the journalist is very important in a free society," said Greco. "Until now, Iraqi journalists have not had the freedoms they should have, but now, they're learning what to ask and how to interview important



Photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Approximately 60 journalists from southern Iraq attended a conference at Camp Dhi Qar, near Nasiriyah, Dec. 8. The guest speaker was Italian journalist Anna Marie Greco, who spoke about issues in journalism and her experiences in reporting.

people to get good stories."

Dr. Anna Prouse, leader of the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, also contributed to the discussion. She was an international journalist for several years in such places as Morocco

and Lebanon.

Iraqi journalists are becoming increasingly comfortable with reporting news, even that which is critical of leaders, due to ongoing efforts like these.

Camp Victory cranks up power, cuts the noise

STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – Soon, streets around Victory Base Complex will start to be surprisingly quiet. The complex's biggest noise-makers, power generators, will soon be replaced by the power lines popping up around base.

The sounds of silence, or quiet at least, also represent a savings of close to \$180 million a year in fuel costs, transportation, maintenance and repairs.

Two power plants – called "generator farms" – are in place on base to run overhead power lines to satellite substations, which will replace roughly 100 generators or more.

The bigger of the two plants is already complete; the other is approximately 97 percent finished. The total project won't be complete until January 2010, as contractors continue to add substations and low-voltage, secondary distribution lines.

The west plant will pay for itself within a 14-month period, and the east plant within 12 months, said Maj. Dennis Gaw, of Nashville, the utility chief for the directorate of public works for the Victory Base Complex.

In all, 43 kilometers of power lines will run throughout the base complex to replace the generators—enough cable to

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Maj. Dennis Gaw, of Nashville, Tenn., the directorate of public works utility chief on Camp Victory, points to power lines running from the East Liberty power plant Dec. 4.

POWER

From page 1

by diesel generators. These diesel generators are very costly; they take a lot of work to maintain and keep up," said Gaw.

Several hundred fuel-run generators throughout the base produce up to a megawatt of electricity each, which is approximately how much energy is consumed by a subdivision of 30 to 40 homes back in the U.S.

During the summer months, the base can consume up to 250 megawatts a day, when hot temperatures cause service members to crank their air-conditioning units to the max. Gaw said this is the equivalent of what a town the size of Chattanooga, Tenn., might consume – with a population of 168,000.

"One of the biggest things is the cost of supporting and maintaining fuel to the spot generation that's throughout the VBC," said Master Sgt. Gerald Linendoll, of Gansevoort, N.Y., utility noncommissioned officer for the base directorate of public works.

Fuel trucks must travel to various locations causing additional damage to already poor roads to refuel the units that consume 50 percent of the power they actually produce.

"We've got a lot of advantages here. (Fewer) trucks on the

outline a marathon course.

"The new power lines will provide extra power support to new facilities that were only receiving power

road ... You're centrally locating a power plant providing power out to the facilities, rather than having to haul the fuel out to the generators.

"Consolidated generators within a power plant operate on maximum efficiency, 90 to 100 percent of their peak capacity," he continued, "allowing only the required number of generators per the required load."

A spot generator provides power to a load whether there is demand or not, burning fuel whether it is providing 100 watts of power or 1000 watts of power, said Linendoll. At the power plant, the generators automatically come on line when the load demand requires, which consumes much less fuel.

"Once those (plants) are complete, then we'll be able to fully provide power to a lot of new facilities here," Gaw said. "This has been an ongoing project which takes a while to complete, and we're on the verge of having a really good power system here at VBC."

A really good power system enables the Iraqi forces to more successfully take over the complex when they are ready.

"It will be a whole lot easier for us to transition bases this way. And plus, this is a long-range saving tool. We're using a whole lot less fuel, saving a lot of fuel dollars, and it's a lot less maintenance," said Gaw.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Medium-voltage power lines and communication cables run to and from power generators and switch gear at the East Liberty power plant on the VBC.

THE Mountain View

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Christmas celebrations planned for MND-C HQ sections

SPC. JOSH LECAPELAIN
MND-C



As the days of December fade away, sections in the Multi-National Division – Center Headquarters building are planning celebrations to make the distance away from home just a little more bearable.

Numerous sections, including G-3 Air, G-2 Terrain, the Command Group and Public Affairs, to name a few, are conducting “Secret Santa” gift exchanges, which has led Soldiers in all sections to realize they really don’t know one another all that well as they scramble for ideas on what each other will hate receiving the least.

The G-6 Help Desk is taking it one step further and playing “Bad Santa,” which involves a cruel game similar to “Secret Santa,” except people can steal one another’s gifts twice, at which time the gift is locked down, and the person who has stolen it last gets to keep it. Apparently,

the Help Desk isn’t a first-come, first-served facility.

Soldiers in the Staff Judge Advocate are beginning a “12 Days of Christmas” movie-athon; every night until Christmas, they will watch a different holiday movie together.

Cpt. Jason Coats, an officer in the SJA, received hand-decorated stockings from his sister back home and each Soldier in his section will receive one.

Most sections around the headquarters building have already decorated, with a variety of trees, presents, ornaments, Christmas paper, stockings and garland strung up all around workplaces. Surprisingly, no one has set up blinding, tacky lights all over yet...maybe the Safety Office got to them in time.

Other sections haven’t felt in the spirit yet – Sgt. Wendell Yeary of the G-1 Awards section said that their celebration will probably consist of “working on Christmas.” Apparently, he is on Santa’s naughty list this year and has given up hope of turning things around. Bah hum-

bug.

Other sections, such as the G-7, just haven’t decided what they are going to be doing yet, but likely will hold celebrations of some kind. One good idea is to buy presents for Soldiers in other sections and then hand them out. I’ll take a 42-inch flat screen television, please. Remember: it’s better to give than receive, Maj. Gabriel Downey!

G-3 Air also intends to dine together on Christmas Eve. They have also discussed having a party, but at this time, they are not sure. Go for it! You only live once!

The Public Affairs Office intends to hold a holiday party as it prepares to say farewell to the 354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, which has augmented Task Force Mountain’s PAO during this deployment. When they leave, so do Opet’s Odysseys – enjoy them while you can!

Photos from Christmas celebrations from all over MND-C are welcome to the Mountain View; we’ll do our best to run them in a later issue.

Christmas Cubicle Decorating Contest!

Celebrate the holiday season with Christmas cheer.

*Put up the trees and decorate it with lights,
Dawn it with garland and bells to jingle through
the night.*

*Sing your favorite carols and have
Christmas spirit,*


*And hope your cubicle shows the best holiday
appearance.*

Judging will be based on three categories:

- Best traditional holiday
- Best Charlie Brown
- Scrooge

Winner will be announced Dec. 24 at 8:45 a.m. after the Battle Update Brief on the Division Operation Center floor of Multi-National Division – Center headquarters.


*Sign up by contacting
Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Schmitz at
kimberly.hayward@iraq.centcom.mil
no later than Dec. 20.*




The Sergeant Major of the Army


Hope & Freedom

TOUR 2008







Craig Morgan




Keni Thomas




Mark Wills




Leeann Tweeden




Louis CK




U.S. Army Band "Downrange"



Ariana Aubert



Kayla Patterson



Lilly Robbins

Date:
Dec. 20, 2008

Time:
7:30 p.m.

Place:
Liberty Stage

www.uso.org

Staff Section Round-up

Inspector General Corner: Tattoo regulations

So -- you are going home on leave, and you want to get a new tattoo. There are a few things you need to remember. Here are the key points (covered in AR 670-1):

- Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up (paragraph 1-8b (1) (a)). Tattoos that are not extremist, indecent, sexist or racist are allowed on the hands and neck.
- Tattoos or brands that are extremist, indecent, sexist or racist are prohibited regardless of location on the body because they are prejudicial to good order and discipline within units.
- Extremist tattoos or brands are those affiliated with, depicting or symbolizing extremist philosophies, organizations or activities.
- Indecent tattoos or brands are those that are grossly offensive to modesty, decency, or propriety; shock the moral sense because of their vulgar, filthy or disgust-

ing nature or tendency to incite lustful thought; or tend reasonably to corrupt morals or incite libidinous thoughts.

- Sexist and racist tattoos are prohibited.

Commanders must ensure Soldiers understand the tattoo policy. Soldiers who are not in compliance, may not be ordered to remove a tattoo or brand. Commanders should also counsel Soldiers in writing and state on the counseling form that a Soldier's refusal to remove extremist, indecent, sexist or racist tattoos or brands anywhere on the body will result in discharge.

These are not all the requirements outlined in the regulation, but they are a good start. If you do plan on getting a tattoo while on leave, make sure you know the rules before you go...I'm told, laser removal of a tattoo is more painful than getting a tattoo in the first place.

Thanks, your IG team.

Can you find where these holiday decorations are hiding?

Have you ever noticed you can walk by something 30 times and not really notice it? These decorations are located around the MND-C headquarters building. Do you remember where you have seen them?



ANSWERS: A- PAO; B- G-6 Help Desk; C- G-3 Air; D- PMO; E- DOC entrance; F- G-2; G- G-6 OPS entrance; H- Front desk

Do you celebrate any special holiday's other than Christmas (i.e., Kwanzaa, Hanukkah)? If so contact Spc. Justin Snyder at justin.snyder4@iraq.centcom.mil.

Headline Round-up

World News:

British forces will wrap up their mission in Iraq by the end of May; Prime Minister Gordon Brown is expected to tell the House of Commons later on Thursday. Brown finalized the exit deal during a surprise visit to Iraq Dec. 17. Britain's 4,100 troops in Iraq will cease military operations in May and almost all will be out of the country by the end of July, he said during a trip to Baghdad and British forces based in the main southern port city of Basra.

U.S. News:

A jury considering the case of five New Jersey men accused of plotting an attack on the Army's Fort Dix has finished its first day of deliberations without reaching a verdict. On Wednesday afternoon, the jury asked a judge for transcripts of testimony from government informant Besnik Bakalli. Bakalli said the suspects used a trip to Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains to train for waging a holy war. The suspects face life in prison if they are convicted of the most serious charges, which include conspiracy to kill military personnel and attempted murder.

Sports News:

The Boston Celtics looked to Kevin Garnett in the fourth quarter. Garnett scored 10 of his 18 points in the final quarter, and Atlanta's Joe Johnson missed a late free throw that would have tied the game, helping the Celtics beat the Hawks 88-85 Dec. 17 for their 16th straight victory. After Johnson missed the second of two free throws with 2.7 seconds, Ray Allen made a pair of free throws with 0.7 seconds left to seal the deal for the defending NBA champion Celtics, who have a franchise and league-best 24-2 record.

If you were having problems accessing the Task Force Mountain website, the issues have been resolved and it is up and running once again.

Quote of the Day

"In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." – Thomas Jefferson

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For the answer to today's puzzle go to:



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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIE?



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder
"Miracle on 34th Street" because he was Santa Claus but nobody believed he was," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Williams, of Jacksonville, Fla., S-6 noncommissioned officer-in-charge.



Photo by Spc. Justin Snyder
"A Christmas Story" because it had a lot of safety messages like 'Don't shoot your eye out' and 'Don't put your tongue on a pole in winter,'" said Lt. Col. Michelle Ryan, of Aledo, Ill., deputy staff judge advocate.