



# Tallil Times

Vol 1. Issue 18

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Tallil Air Base, Iraq

Friday Sept. 12, 2003

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tent City Rules

Tallil Tent City residents are required to read and adhere to the tent city rules while deployed to Tallil Air Base. The latest copy of the tent city rules are posted on the wing's intranet home page, or available by contacting any unit first sergeant.

### Promotion Letters

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing members who expect to be promoted during their deployment to Tallil Air Base must have a valid promotion letter on file with their unit before their effective promotion date. If you, or a member of your unit, need guidelines or information on acquiring a valid promotion letter, contact your unit's orderly room or first sergeant's office.

### Seat Belt Use

Seat belt use is mandatory for all vehicles equipped with them on Tallil Air Base. Don't risk your life or the lives of others – ensure everyone is using these restraints properly. Violators will be reported to their units for disciplinary action.

### Morale Calls

Tallil Tent City residents are reminded that individuals are allowed two morale calls each week, not to exceed 15 minutes each. Calls are logged and violators may be forwarded to their unit first sergeant for repeated violations.

### American Forces Network

The American Forces Network provides two radio frequencies on the air at Tallil on FM 100.1 and FM 107.3. Tune in for the latest music from American radio play lists and command information you can use.



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

**▲ LEVELING FLOORS:** Work crews level out freshly poured cement for a tent floor in Tallil Air Base's tent city compound. Crews from Army and Air Force units are working together to construct floors for more than 100 tents in the compound. The project is expected to be completed by early November, before the rainy season arrives.

## Tent City floor project begins

by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

332nd AEW Public Affairs

The sight of cement trucks moving through Tallil Air Base's Tent City will be a common sight for the next few months, as the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing begins a project to install cement floors in the compound's residential tents.

Working primarily during the evening hours, crews from local Army units are teaming with volunteers from the wing's squadrons to complete the project before the local rainy season begins in November.

According to Tallil Tent City Mayor, Capt. Debbie Horne, the project will make the area a better place to live and work for its more than 1,200 residents.

"Getting our tents elevated higher will keep most of the ground water from flooding the tents when the rains come," she said. "Plus it will help us keep our rodent problem down, including the pesky mice which like to hide in the tent flooring and seams."

The construction is scheduled in three-day phases for a block of 10 tents at a time. Schedules have been coordinated through the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, Lodging and unit first sergeants. Updated schedules will be distributed through tent chiefs and command channels as work on the project progresses.

Led by the project's supervisor, Tech. Sgt. Craig Brown of the 332nd ECES, work on the project began last week with the transient tents. This allowed the work crews, civil engineers and contractors involved to streamline their processes while minimizing impact on the deployed residents of tent city. The importance of the trial run became important, as the project's supervisors realized they would be unable to meet the project's originally planned two-day turnaround time, and would have to add a third day to each phase.

"Due to the lack of equipment, we can only do half a tent floor per day," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Safonovs, 332nd ECES operations

chief. "The third day is used to remove the cement forms, clean up the site and spray the tent liners and window sections with a general use insecticide for battling the war on sand flies."

Mayor Horne says the ambitious project isn't the last such Tent City project scheduled for the AEF Blue rotation.

"We are always looking to improve Tallil Air Base and need the help of everyone living in Tent City," she said. "One of the next projects we hope to accomplish very soon is adding a hallway out from the entrance to the dining hall. This will help the folks waiting in the long lines by getting them out of the sun and wind."

According to Sergeant Safonovs, in addition to improving living conditions, these projects build pride and esprit de corps for the deployed units.

"People need to take pride and ownership in their living and work areas," he said. "We should all try to clean and fix up our areas, making Tallil better for the next person."



# Not getting mail? Check the address ...

## Post office offers tips on sending and receiving mail

by Airman 1st Class Kara Philp

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Just like in the states, your address is the most important thing when it comes to mail.

Whether it's coming to, or going from, Tallil Air Base — an

incorrect address could cause delays and confusion.

Personnel must ensure folks back at home are using the correct mailing address in order to have their mail arrive quickly.

"We here at the Post office see every variation of the correct mailing address on a daily basis with at least 50

percent addressed incorrectly," said Tech. Sgt. Steven Wise, 332nd Expeditionary Communications

Squadron Post Office deputy postmaster. "Often times 'deployed specialist', 'K-9', 'B-Flight', etc. are used — this simply leads to misrouted mail throughout the theater and obvious delays in its receipt. Additionally, do not use Tallil AB, Iraq, or names of operations in the address. If your unit is not identified correctly, we have to track you down to determine where to send it, which will delay your letter or package."

According to the 332nd ECS

Post Office, the biggest problem is people using the wrong APO number, which causes mail to wander around the AOR until it finds the right place.

"Unfortunately, what usually ends up happening is the item is returned to sender," Sergeant Wise said. "Due to the large amount of mail we process daily, problems with addresses are common and we do our best to track

you down and get you your mail in a timely manner. Sometimes that just isn't possible with what we

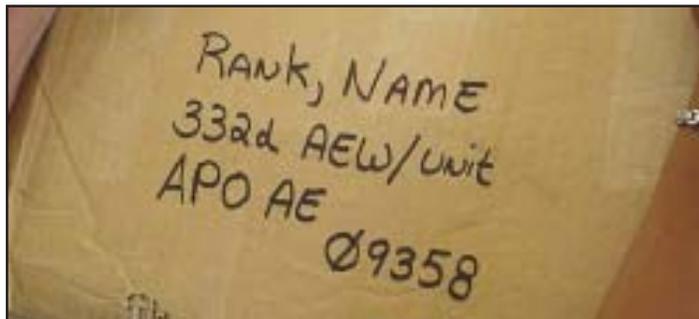


Photo by Airman 1st Class Kara Philp

**▲ DEMONSTRATION:** 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron Post Office personnel remind Tallilians of the proper way to address incoming and out going mail.

have to work with."

To ensure fast trouble free delivery, post office personnel remind Tallilians to address letters and packages with Rank/Name, 332 AEW/E (squadron), APO AE 09358.

"The biggest tip I can give people is to simply use the three line address, anything extra simply slows down the process we have in place to sort mail," Sergeant Wise said. "Also, let people back at home know when they are using incorrect information, otherwise it will continue to slow down receipt of your mail.

The post office staff asks patrons to have patience when sending packages from Tallil.

"For the last 30 days we have been the lone post office at Tallil and have been processing mail for several thousand Army personnel and coalition forces, so expect a line if mailing a package," Sergeant Wise said.

The 332nd ECS Post Office also offers free mail.

To qualify for free mail, items must weigh 13 ounces or less and contain correspondence of a

personal nature, such as a letter, post card or audio/video tape. However, cameras, film, and bills/business correspondence do not qualify for free mail and must have postage paid on them.

On qualifying items, deployed members can simply write "FREE" in the upper right hand corner where the stamp would go and it will get delivered.

"As an extension of the United States Postal Service, the Tallil Military Post Office's basic function is to bind the service member to their family, friends, and business associates through a prompt, reliable and efficient service in any area and under any circumstance," said Maj. Maurizio Mazza, 332nd ECS commander.

"Even in a combat zone, personnel should be able to send and receive mail, not just for morale purposes, although that is the main reason our customer feedback tells us, but because it is one of the few ways we have to communicate to the world outside of the AOR. Phones and computers can be limited at times in their use, but the mail will always travel."

### Mail-sending tips

▶ Keep personal messages and notes to a minimum on the outside of mail.

▶ Pack items as though you are going to 'kick it off a cliff' to prevent damage to contents.

▶ Liquids, flammables and anything that can melt should not be sent.

▶ Mail is based on "space available" — if four smaller packages can fit on a plane versus one large one, the four are going first.

▶ The optimum size package is the size of a shoebox; anything larger might start adding days to delivery time.

▶ An estimated eight out of 10 packages will arrive at their destination. Do not send items that cannot be replaced.

▶ Do NOT seal packages until the post office has a chance to inspect the contents.

#### EDITORIAL STAFF



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**Col. Marke F. Gibson, USAF**  
332nd AEW Commander

**1st Lt. Daniel DuBois**  
Chief of Public Affairs

**Master Sgt. Don Perrien**  
Editor

**Airman 1st Class Kara Philp**  
Staff Writer

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## IN BRIEF

All times are local.

### AF Worship Services

Worship is at 332nd AEW Chapel, unless otherwise noted.

#### Catholic

Daily Mass: Monday through Friday, 6 p.m.

Vigil Mass: Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

POC: Ch. Eugene Theisen at 459-0038

#### Protestant

Noon Prayer/Praise

Monday through Friday, 11 to 11:15 a.m.

Contemporary Liturgical

Communion

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Traditional

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Liturgical Communion

Sunday, 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.

Contemporary, Nondenominational Sun, 7 p.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

POC: Ch. Rodger Ericson, 459-0038

#### Latter Day Saints

Lay-Led Service

Sunday, 2 p.m.

POC: Staff Sgt. Hager, 573-1107

#### Jewish

Lay-Led Service

Friday, 8 p.m.

POC: Ch. Ericson, 459-0038

#### Muslim

(LSA Adder Chapel)

Prayer

12:30 p.m. and sunset daily

### Bible Studies

Women's

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. (chapel)

Men's

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. (Chapel annex)

Catholic (RCIA)

Thurs, 6:30 p.m. (chapel)

Catholic

"Our Fathers Plan" Part 1 —

Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (Chapel annex)

"The Gospel According To John" Part II — Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

(Chapel annex)

Bible Overview

Men and Women — Thursday

7:30 p.m. (dining room)

LDS Study

Thursday, 7 p.m. (Chapel annex)

### AF and Army Notices

#### Morale Calls

Do not use workplace phones for morale call purposes.

#### Driving on Base

Speed limits on base are 20 mph. Helmets are required in all tactical All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) and "Gators."

#### Run Routes

Running in groups of two or larger is authorized in two locations: from the BX/PX parking lot and off the main gate road toward the burn pit. The required uniform is T-shirt and shorts or pants. Running is not authorized on any other road.

#### Ammunition Storage

The 38th Ordnance Group provides ammunition storage for units on Tallil Air Base. Contact Mr. Matheson at 573-1258 for more information.

#### Ziggurat of Ur

Visits to the Ziggurat require a pass. For information, U.S. Army personnel may call 573-1107.

Air Force Services has expanded its tour schedule to include two afternoon visits to the Ziggurat. For more information, call the Air Force Rec. Center at 459-0121.

The schedule is as follows:

*Saturdays, Tuesdays, Thursdays:* 10 a.m. (show time of 9:30 a.m. at the Rec. Center).

*Sundays and Wednesdays:* 2 p.m. (show time of 1:30 p.m. at the Rec. Center).

For more information on trips to the ziggurat, see pages 4 and 5.

#### AF Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for 5K Fun Runs. For more information, call A1C Bret Lockerbie at 459-0118.

Volunteer drivers are needed for Ziggurat Tours. For more information, call Bernard Ashlock at 459-0117.

### 332nd ESVS News

#### "The Hot Spot" Rec. Center

Bingo is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at the outdoor theater.

Dominos games are scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday.

Spades games are scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday.

8-Ball games are scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Combat Dining-In is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the outdoor theater.

#### What's playing?

**Tonight:**

*Hannibal* (indoor at 10 p.m.)

**Saturday:**

*The Brothers* (indoor at 8 p.m.)

*Country Music* (outdoor at 8 p.m.)

**Sunday:**

*NASCAR* (indoor at 8:30 p.m.)

*NFL* (outdoor at 8 p.m.)

The 332nd ESVS is no offering 'free ice cream before Wednesday movies.' Check movie schedule what's playing.

#### "Muscle Beach" Fitness Center

A Tug-of-war competition is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight.

A 3-point shootout is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday.

A Bench Press competition is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday.

A 5K run/2-mile walk is scheduled for Sept. 18. Participants should meet at 5:45 in front of the finance building.

A Sports Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Tallil Tavern.

A 2-ball basket ball contest is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 20.

2-on-2 volleyball games are scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 20.

## 332nd AEW Warrior of the Week

### Staff Sgt. Rutorrestt Larsen

**Unit and duty title:** 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing NCO in charge, wing admin.

**Home unit:** Charleston Air Force Base, N.C.

**Why other warriors say he's**

**a warrior:** "Sergeant Larsen has the warrior spirit and the 'never say die' attitude every NCO should have," said Master Sgt. Ish Mohammed, 332nd AEW first sergeant. "He puts his heart and soul in every given task, whether its processing over 600 decorations for our deserving troops, serving meals at the dining facility or leading a detail to provide custodial services to our Harvest Falcon latrines and showers — saving the Air Force thousands of dollars. He is truly a team player in every sense of the word."

**Most memorable Air Force experience:** Receiving my first promotion. It demonstrated my growth and experience and was the true test of my ability to succeed in the Air Force.





# You've gotta have **ART**

## Air Force Art Program sends painters to Tallil Air Base



by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

332nd AEW Public Affairs

Someday images of Tallil Air Base will hang in museums across the globe, as the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing played host to members of the Air Force Art Program this week.

Five painters, led by the program's deputy director, Nicholas Mosura, spent the week meeting and photographing the people, environment and mission of Tallil Air Base.

"What really drew us to visiting Tallil was the combat support mission, especially the A-10s," Mosura said. "This was one of the first forward operation locations inside Iraq, and the Air Force Art Program is interested in documenting the many roles of the men and women deployed here."

The artists, who specialize in various forms of painting from watercolors to oil, are all unpaid volunteers for the trip. The only reward they receive is a chance to meet with the men and women stationed at Tallil, and a receptive audience for their finished work.

"I've met the greatest people in the Air Force here at Tallil," said Mel Brown, an oil painter from Austin, Texas. "Everyone has gone out of their way to make me feel at home."

"I've been really impressed by the A-10 crews, especially the Flying Tigers," Brown said. "I'm a history buff, and the history of the unit and its current mission really intrigue me."

According to Brown, the difficult part of portraying the

mission of Tallil Air Base is that there's not one single facet that can capture the people and their efforts.

"I'm still not sure about how I can put these folks on canvas," Brown said. "There's just so much going on here, I'm not sure how I can do it justice. I think I'll have to just take a large canvas and break it down in to several points of interest – like little photographs, each one telling a different story here."

The purpose of the Air Force art program is to document the story of the Air Force through the universal language of art. Sending artists into locations like Tallil preserve the actions and deeds of Air Force men and women in a way words alone could never tell. These paintings are both historical and educational, exposing the military and the public to the role and diverse capabilities of the United States Air Force.

"We work with five illustrator societies: The New York Society of Illustrators, the Mid-West Air Force Artists, The Southwest Air Force Artists, The San Francisco Society of Illustrators, The Los Angeles Society of Illustrators and independent artists throughout the United States," Mosura said. "These are the 'cream of the crop' artists working today."

When the artists finish their work, the art is accessioned into the Air Force Art Collection, which currently consists of over 9,000 pieces. According to Mosura, more than 95 percent of the collection is on loan to various military installations and other public exhibition sites.

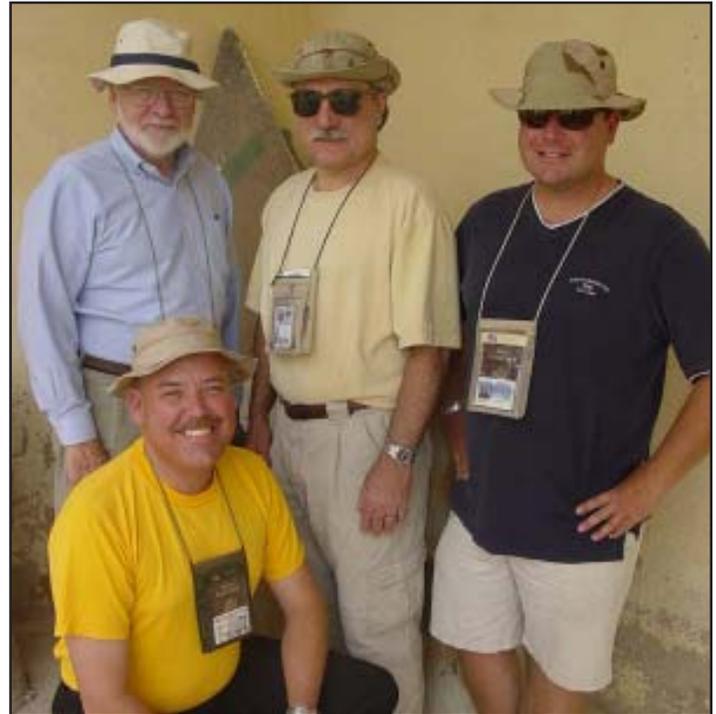


Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

▲ **GATHER AROUND:** Painters from the Air Force Art Program visited Tallil Air Base this week to visit deployed members so they can capture the mission of the base on canvas when they return home. From left to right; Paul Rendel, Gerry Asher, Nick Mosura and Michael Kane.

"The most important thing about the collection is for people to see the finished work," he said. "We hope people get a sense of the commitment and professionalism our military members have in

their work through looking at the art."

For more information on the Air Force art program, people may visit their website online at <http://www.afapo.hq.af.mil>.

► **AIRSHOW:** This piece of art by Mike Kane, depicts a Lockheed Constellation, probably the zenith of propeller aircraft design. Kane is one of the artists visiting Tallil Air Base this week.



Courtesy Art



Courtesy Art

▲ **LAST ONE HOME:** This painting of U.S. Navy aircraft by Paul Rendel, depicts activity on the Correy Field, Pensacola flightline in the WWII era.



# Safety First

by Master Sgt. Ricky Smith

332nd AEW Weapons Safety Manager

## The Danger is still out there

During the Gulf War, Tallil Air Base was considered a priority target for U.S. and coalition war planners, and today it's considered a prime forward operating location for military logistical support within the Iraqi theater.

Although it may not seem like it, Tallil AB is still in Force Protection Delta. The legacy of war is all around us on Tallil, members need only to look around at the destroyed aircraft in the bone yard, or at the aprons in front of the hardened aircraft shelters, where the concrete is speckled with indentations made by cluster bomb units such as the CBU-87s and 89s.

These weapons are very dangerous when deployed — as they are designed to kill and disable ground troops, armored personnel carriers and armored vehicles. Some bombs can contain up to 202 bomblets, and when these submunitions fail to explode as intended — they become indiscriminate killers, waiting to claim an innocent victim.

That almost happened here at Tallil Sept. 3 when an Army engineering team was clearing an area near the air passenger terminal. Early that morning, one of the team's bulldozers came in contact with a BLU-97 submunition that functioned as designed. The blast from the explosion shook all of Tallil Air Base.

Our Command Post was notified, the base's Security Forces responded and they immediately cordoned off the area until the on-scene Explosives Ordinance Disposal supervisor determined the area was safe. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, but the blade on the bulldozer was missing a large piece of heavy-gauge tempered steel.

Afterwards, the EOD team found and destroyed another BLU-97 bomblet close by. Later that same day, another EOD team destroyed two more UXOs found by Security Forces personnel while patrolling the perimeter of the base.

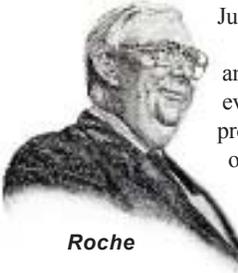
There are UXOs still out there — Everyone must remain vigilantly aware that UXOs could possibly be in close proximity to their work places and that personnel are always at risk while walking or driving off an unapproved surface.

Don't take short cuts through the desert to get to work, short cuts can lead to bad things around here. If you come in contact with an UXO, it may cripple you — or even take your life. Remember the Civil Engineering Squadron's EOD flight has enough work to do without someone walking off into an uncharted UXO minefield.

Play it smart and make a personal risk management assessment before you decide to walk through the desert. The bottom line is the commander doesn't want to send a mortuary affairs team to your home informing your family of your demise.

# Leaders issue Patriot Day message

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The following is a Patriot Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:



Roche

"The second anniversary of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, provides us all an opportunity to remember those murdered in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania,

as well as those patriots who have sacrificed their lives in the war on terror.

"Through tragedy, our nation renewed its unending resolve to fight terrorism, to defend our way of life and to give hope to others suffering under repressive regimes that support terror. Patriot Day reaffirms the airman's obligation to fight for what's right — obliterating terrorism on every front to ensure a safe tomorrow for future generations of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world.

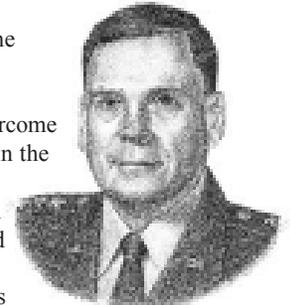
"You — America's finest men and women who comprise our Air Force — are doing absolutely remarkable work around the globe. From our own skies to the front lines in Iraq,

Afghanistan and other locations around the world, our superior Total Force of active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen continues to respond brilliantly as the world's greatest air and space force. Rest assured, you're making it more difficult every day for terrorists to have their way.

"On this Patriot Day, let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way. Just as important, let's renew our commitment to the families of those who are deployed. The unwavering commitment to their loved ones far from home is phenomenal; the cause for which their loved ones serve is noble and just.

"As we've seen, winning the war on terrorism is a long and deliberate journey — we're confident you are up to the task. Be patient and stay the course — we will continue to face challenges and overcome obstacles as we win the war on terrorism. Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force.

"May God bless you, and may God bless America."



Jumper



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

▲ **LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE:** Master Sgt. Mike Carroll, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Readiness Flight superintendent, assembles an off gassing rack for the flight's Chemical Air Processing System. The CAPS is the newest version of personnel decontamination for chemical/biological agents installed as part of a Contamination Control Area. The Readiness Flight held a training exercise Sept. 5 on one of the mobile CAPS they assembled.



# Border Patrol



## 1st Netherland Helicopter Detachment covers Iraq

by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

332nd AEW Public Affairs

The Royal Netherlands Air Force's big, green Chinook helicopters sitting on the Tallil flightline don't look that intimidating to the coalition forces here — but to the people trying to smuggle contraband in southern Iraq, those helicopters look like big green monsters from another planet.

Patrolling the vast area southern Iraq helping stop the flow of illegal items into and out of the country, is one of the most important facets of the mission undertaken by the 1st Netherlands Helicopter Detachment here at Tallil Air Base.

“Our main effort at the moment is stopping the flow of illegal goods through southern Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Rob Gouders, 1st NL Helidet commander. “There are people moving livestock, weapons, money and people into and out of the country illegally. The money and weapons created by this activity can fund individuals and groups seeking to cause trouble for the coalition forces here, and the provisional government of Iraq.”

According to Colonel Gouders, the specially-built ICH 47-D Chinook helicopters deployed here are an effective deterrent to potential smugglers. Working with a unit of marines also deployed from their country, the 1st Helidet's ability to move personnel quickly with the range and firepower of their Chinooks and the marines can make life difficult for would-be criminals.

“We take a group of marines out to the desert, and when we see a group of suspicious cars, we land in front of them and investigate,” Colonel Gouders said. “If the car tries to run off, we can use the Chinooks to build a big dust cloud and stop them. Either way, our marines will get to inspect the cars. Since we've been here, we've stopped shipments from sheep to AK-47 machine guns from crossing the border.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

▲ **OPS CHECK:** Capt. Marco (last name withheld), a pilot with the 1st Netherlands Helicopter Detachment checks out one of his unit's CH 47-D helicopters here at Tallil Air Base. The 1st Helidet provides support for marine units deployed in southern Iraq, patrolling the desert looking for illegal activity.

While the Chinooks enjoy being the hunters above the desert dunes, they know their effectiveness in stopping illegal activity makes them an attractive target for the criminal element.

“We change routes, we change times,” Colonel Gouders said. “If you don't, you can get killed out here.”

The 1st Helidet is responsible for patrolling a stretch of land covering more than 32,000 square miles. That area is more than 25 percent larger than their entire country's landmass. In that area, there were several locations the unit could have been based from — but Tallil Air Base has proven to be best choice for their operations.

“Tallil has been very good for us to operate from,” said Capt. Marco (last name withheld), 1st Helidet pilot and flight instructor. “It's a large air base and we can draw a lot of help from around the base. We're not that big, and we really appreciate the support we get from

the other units sent here.”

Colonel Gouders echoed the pilot's comments. “Without the support and cooperation of the Air Force and Army here, we wouldn't have been able to establish our operations so quickly. With their help, we established our operations in two to three weeks.”

In the time the 1st Helidet has been deployed to Tallil, they can see their efforts are making a difference for the men and women of Iraq.

“Making sure there's no illegal tapping of oil and electricity lines is an important job for securing the economy, and I think we're making this a better country for the people here,” Gouders said. “People are getting more friendly when they see a steady flow of petrol coming in.”

To that end, the big green helicopters of the 1st Netherlands Helicopter Detachment here at Tallil Air Base are playing their part in the multi-national coalition helping to secure a safe, prosperous future for the Iraqi people.



# First 'bionic soldier' takes one step at a time

by Michael E. Dukas

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Sept. 3, 2003)— Changes in body armor have reduced the number of American service members dying on the battlefield for about a decade — although it still happens, a majority of combat wounds military doctors treat involve the extremities.

While participating in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan last year, Staff Sgt. Michael McNaughton, took a step that would change his life forever. While walking through an area at Bagram Air Base believed to be cleared and safe, McNaughton, a 31-year-old National Guardsman from the Louisiana's 769th Engineer Battalion, stepped on a land mine.

The blast took off his right foot, tore into his right leg in several places, took a chunk out of his left calf and blew off a couple of fingers on his right hand.

With extensive damage to his right leg and significant debris in the wounds, doctors had to amputate the combat engineer's destroyed limb just above his knee.

After he spent several months in a hospital bed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington McNaughton's doctors believed it was time to take the healing process to the next level and fit him with a conventional prosthetic leg.

McNaughton worked with physical therapy specialists for several hours each day. "I pretty much had to learn how to walk again," he said. He spent most of his therapy time learning to put weight on the prosthetic and walking.

"I thought I would put the leg on and go. But there is a lot more to it" he said. He knew he needed the therapy, but at times it seemed like he

was fighting a losing battle. "The first time I tried to walk with a cane it felt like I could just walk, but unfortunately you can't do that. It's definitely frustrating. I just wanted to pick the leg up and throw it."

A few months later, Walter Reed prosthetist Joseph Miller offered McNaughton an option that would make walking and returning to a normal life much easier — a microprocessor controlled knee called a C-Leg.

Unlike a traditional prosthetic leg requiring an amputee to swing it with each step, the C-Leg has hydraulic pneumatic controls enabling amputees the closest possible approximation to their natural walk, Miller said.

The \$43,000 bionic leg, complete with microprocessor knee and force-sensing pylon — metal support rod between the knee and the prosthetic foot — reads feedback data 50 times per second and evaluates it to determine the appropriate movement for the computer aided leg.

The C-Leg takes much less energy when McNaughton walks.

"Sometimes it's hard to explain, because you



U.S. Army Photo by Michael E. Dukas

▲ **FUNCTION CHECK:** Prior to analyzing McNaughton's gait, Barri Miller, Walter Reed Orthopedic Amputee Center, raises McNaughton's C-Leg to ensure motion-sensing digital cameras can see reflectors placed on it.

have to be an amputee to know the difference. But [the C-Leg] is so much smoother. It tries to imitate exactly what the left leg is doing," McNaughton said. "I can take more natural steps. With this one you can go down ramps a lot easier. With the [conventional prosthetic] you have to go down sideways."

McNaughton feels that while it is true he faces challenges in the road ahead, he is no less of a person since the amputation. He said he has the same hopes and dreams as anybody else and he looks forward to returning to a normal life — something he believes will be much easier with the C-Leg.



Photo by MasterSgt. Kenneth Velez

◀ **CHECK IT OUT:** Army Specialists (left) Kenneth Ciszek and Stephanie Hall from the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion here at Tallil load medical supplies into a shipping crate bound for the surgical hospital in An Nasiriyah, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The medical supplies are being donated by the Army's 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion to help get the local hospitals fully operational.

## Words for Warriors

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.”

— Dwight D. Eisenhower



# Pentagon renovations continue

by K.L. Vantran

Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Reflective arrows sit at crawl-level, about a foot up from the floor, hugging the lightly colored walls. Sparkling floors lead to escalators, elevators and well-lit hallways. Renovations, completed nearly a year ago, still give the Pentagon's Wedge 1 a fresh look. Yet, for all its newness, this area will carry the scars of Sept. 11, 2001, forever.

Maj. John Beaulieu, from the Air Force history office, said he often thinks about that morning, especially when he is near the Pentagon's chapel that honors the victims.

"You can't help but think about it," he said. "There are photos of people who worked here and of children from the plane. It's a sober (reminder) of what happened."

Beaulieu and some co-workers were watching the "horrific" events unfold in New York City on a small television in their office when they felt the building shake and heard the alarms sound.

"It was like being on the side of a road when a tractor-trailer goes by," he said. "We didn't know what had happened. At first, we thought it was a bomb. We just didn't make a connection (to what had happened in New York)."

The major said it was not until later, when he ventured outside and the acrid smoke filled his lungs, that he realized how tragic the story was.

"There was black soot everywhere, and you could smell the burned wreckage," he said.

Beaulieu's office sits across the courtyard from the impact area and was in line with the path the plane took. He said that he is "very thankful" the Boeing 757 stopped when it did. He credits the "stronger construction" of the newly renovated Wedge 1 with saving his life.

A \$2.1 billion renovation of the 60-year-old Pentagon began in 1993, and Wedge 1 was nearly completed when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building that fateful morning.

The Pentagon, dedicated in 1943, is laid out in five concentric pentagonal "rings," the "E" being the outermost and "A" the innermost. The plane hit the renovated wedge as well as an adjoining section before stopping at "B" ring.

Renovations that included structural improvements such as blast-resistant windows and steel framing saved many lives, according to Brett Eaton, communications team leader for the Pentagon's renovation program.

The renovated area had a new sprinkler system that Eaton also credits with saving

lives. The fire in Wedge 1 burned out in a matter of hours, while Wedge 2, which had no sprinklers, burned for more than two days.

Work began on Wedge 1 in 1998, and the final touchups were being done, he said.

"We were five days away from completion," he said. "After 9-11, we basically had to start all over again."

What just days before had been a routine renovation became known as the Phoenix Project. Construction crews worked tirelessly to rebuild Wedge 1 by Sept. 11, 2002. In February, the last group of employees returned to work in this area. In July, part of Wedge 2 was finished, and employees have returned to offices there as well.

"Before 9-11, I think (workers) were proud to be part of the Pentagon Renovation," said Eaton. "After 9-11, it took on a whole new meaning — to make America's military headquarters safe."

After Sept. 11, Eaton said, there was a need to modify ongoing construction. Additions include reflective arrows on walls and doors that can help people reach exits.

"There was oily, thick smoke, and people couldn't see" in the aftermath of the attack, said Eaton. "The brightly-colored exit signs (above the doors) might as well have been a mile away."

Boxes containing emergency escape masks are now available in the renovated hallways.

Another addition is the creation of "half corridors." The glass causeways connect Pentagon rings, and can withstand hurricane-force winds. Renovated areas also contain backup water pipes to help ensure sprinkler systems will operate in the event of an emergency.

Today work continues, although the pace is not quite as fervent as during the Phoenix Project.

Construction workers are rebuilding the second phase of Wedge 2. As this nears completion, work will begin sequentially on



Photo by K.L. Vantran

▲ **GLASS WALLS:** After the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, modifications were made to the existing renovation project. The addition of half corridors between rings of the Pentagon will provide more escape routes in case of an emergency. The glass causeways can withstand hurricane-force winds.

Wedges 3, 4 and 5. Each area will be demolished, taken down to "bare bones," said Eaton. Work includes removal of hazardous materials, replacement of building systems, addition of elevators and escalators, and installation of new security and telecommunications systems.

In an effort to get life-saving measures in place as soon as possible, the remaining renovation has an aggressive schedule, with a completion projected in 2010. The installation of "smart walls" about every 20 feet for phone and data lines will save some time, he said.

"We have the same goal — to be on cost, on schedule," said Eaton. "It's not quite the same urgency (as with Phoenix) but it's an aggressive schedule. We'll do what we need to and overcome challenges as we meet them."

## This Week In History

September 12, 1918

Col. Billy Mitchell, the first American ever to fly over enemy lines, leads a lethal force of 1,481 Allied aircraft in a WWI offensive to regain the crucial St. Mihiel salient. Germany captured the salient four years earlier, but Colonel Mitchell's air offensive forces them to retreat in less than week.

Colonel Mitchell's success in the air helped the troops on the ground, led by Col. George C. Marshall, Col. George S. Patton, and Brig Gen Douglas MacArthur.





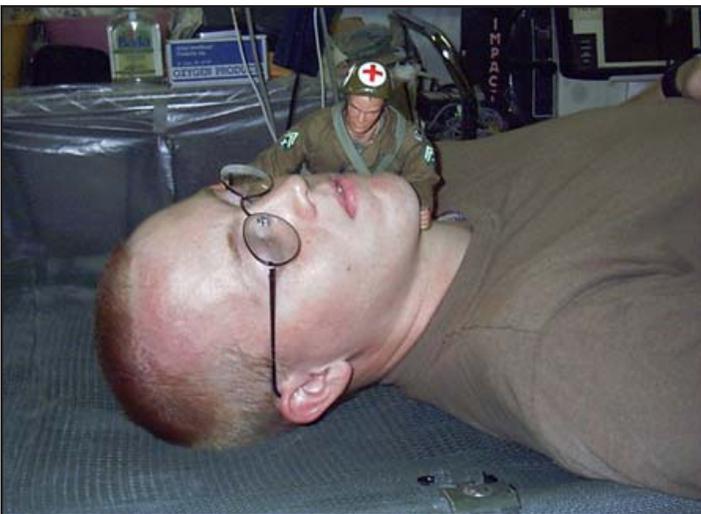
Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jude Meter, photo alteration by 2nd Steven Myers

**HANG ON:** 2nd Lt. Steven Myers, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Distribution Flight commander, gets caught in a dust storm outside of the LRS distribution building July 20.



Photo by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek

**SOMEWHERE OUT THERE:** The "gibbous phase" of the moon over Tallil as seen through a 800 mm lens, with an additional teleconverter (adapter) of 2x zoom. The "gibbous phase" occurs a few nights before the full moon.



Tech. Sgt. Gilbert Mendez

**▲ ALL AMERICAN HERO:** G.I. Joe, super medic, was recently spotted in the 332nd EMEDS Emergency Room giving Airmen tips on CPR and IV techniques. Senior Airman Thomas Dissette, ER medic, volunteered to assist Joe Medic during his training class.

### Here's How:

We want to see Tallil Air Base and the surrounding areas from the inside and out and we need your help. If you've got a digital camera, then we want to talk to you!

Send us your best digital photo for the week and we'll chose the top shots to be published in the next issue of the *Tallil Times*.

When submitting photos, make sure they are of reasonable quality and in any PC compactible format. Next, make sure you provide us with an accurate description of the event and **COMPLETE** names of all persons pictured.

Photos without complete information cannot be considered. Photos must be in good taste and not compromise safety or security in any manner.

If you have questions, contact the Public Affairs Office at DSN 459-0014 or send your questions directly to [tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil).

# BEST — Give Us Your — SHOT



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Kightlinger

**▲ GOODBYE:** Senior Master Sgt. Randal Becker, (332nd ERQS) 920th Expeditionary Rescue Maintenance Squadron superintendent, salutes a HC-130 as it taxis out for a long voyage home from Tallil Air Base Sept. 1. After two years of deploying in Kuwait and Iraq, members and aircraft of the 920th Rescue Wing, Patrick AFB, Fla., are returning home.



# Volleyball season reaches halfway point

by Airman 1st Class  
**Jessica Snow**

332nd ESVS

It is hard to believe, but we are halfway through our Intramural Volleyball Season. It has been a lot of fun watching all the teams get out and play. Many have improved and teamwork is really becoming the key to success out on the sand volleyball

court. Some teams have played more than others at this point in the season, but here is where all of the teams stand as of September 9th.

The season will be ending in the end of September and a final tournament will be played amongst the top four standing teams for the overall Intramural Volleyball Champion.

<b>ECES (Firefighters)</b>	<b>5-0</b>
<b>ECS Team 1</b>	<b>5-1</b>
<b>ESVS/EMXS</b>	<b>5-2</b>
<b>EOSS</b>	<b>4-3</b>
<b>LRS Team 2</b>	<b>4-4</b>
<b>ECES</b>	<b>3-1</b>
<b>ELRS Team 1</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>EMEDS</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>AEW Staff</b>	<b>1-3</b>
<b>Postal</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>ECS Team 2</b>	<b>0-4</b>
<b>ESFS</b>	<b>0-2</b>



Photo by Senior Airman Karolina Gmyrek

▲ **ABOVE THE NET:** Airman 1st Class Cameron Clark, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron Team #2, prepares to block a ball during a match against the Firefighters team Tuesday.

# Intramural basketball preseason underway

by Staff Sgt. Terry Jones

332nd ESVS

The Intramural Basketball season kicks off Monday, September 15 with ten teams taking their roundball skills to the court. Teams include the 332 Civil Engineering Squadron, 332 CES Fire Department, 332 Air Expeditionary Wing, 332 Communications Squadron, 332 Medical Group, 332 Operations Support Squadron, 332 Security Forces Squadron, 332 Maintenance Squadron, 439 Quartermaster Company, and the 332 Services Squadron.

Preseason play began September 10 with three games. In the opener, the 439 QM overcame a slow start to down 332 EMXS 40-29. After taking a 17-12 halftime lead, 439 QM turned up the offense in the second half, establishing their fast break while stepping up the intensity on defense.

In the second game, 332 ESVS

used a swarming pressing defense and a patented fast break offense in defeating 332 AEW 57-22. ESVS was able to take advantage of their size, either getting the ball inside for easy scores or getting the ball out on the fast break. As a result, ESVS cruised to a 26-12 halftime lead and pulled steadily away in the second half.

The nightcap was a battle of ECES, with the Fire Department ending up on the short end of a 36-23 score. The first half was a nip-and-tuck affair with the Fire Department up by two at halftime, 13-11. CES went to a full court press in the second half, forcing turnovers which helped change the complexion of the game. CES' athleticism was too much for the Fire Department to overcome.

The preseason continues tonight with two games. At 8:30 p.m., 332 ECS takes on EOSS, followed by a 9:30 p.m. tilt between 332 EMDG and ESFS.

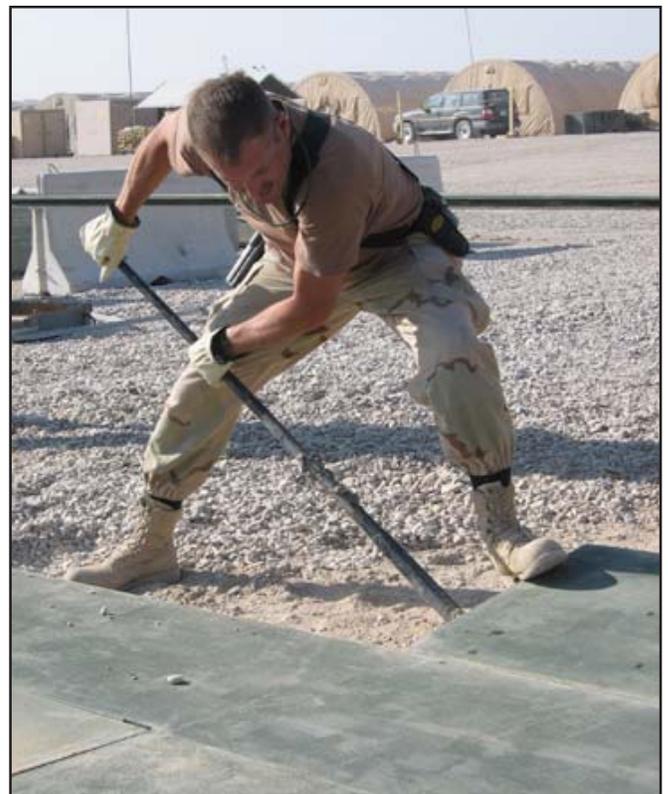


Photo by Master Sgt. Kenneth Velez

▲ **ON THE COURT:** Tech. Sgt. Blake Holliday and other members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, construct a basketball court in Tent City just in time for the intramural season.