



THE MULESKINNER

Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09
"No Task Too Large"



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Issue 8

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35th Engineers Win High Praise from 4th Infantry Division Commander

By Lt. Col. David Lowe

Survivability, mobility, and sustainability are integral to the primary mission of the 35th Engineer Brigade as it oversees much of the military construction going on in Baghdad.

The brigade's efforts have not gone unnoticed. Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, the 4th Infantry Division commander, recently singled out the brigade for praise during a command and staff briefing. "I think the 35th Engineer Brigade is the best engineer brigade in the Army and has done a better job than anyone else before them," Hammond said. "Their quality of work is unbelievably high. They are doing a fantastic job."

Since arriving at Camp Liberty in September, the brigade has completed more than 100 con-



JSS Adhamiyah Dining Area Before Construction



JSS Adhamiyah Dining Area After Construction

struction projects in the Baghdad area. On an average day, the brigade works 10 to 15 engineer projects. These projects include construction of coalition outposts, joint security stations, drainage and water mitigation projects, building improvements, and various humanitarian projects.

The brigade has also constructed or refurbished approximately 80 coalition outposts and joint security stations. These outposts and security stations have been a key factor in reducing violence in the Iraqi capital.

Military units all over Baghdad submit engineer work requests to the 4th Infantry Division which, in turn, decides which unit will perform the work.

Each day, the brigade receives an average of two to three work requests. Before any work can be completed, the brigade's design management section processes each request and remains involved with each project until it is finished.

See Praise on page 10

Designing Baghdad's Future

By Lt. Col. David Lowe

The Muleskinners' Design Management Section (DMS) is led by Lt. Col. Bill Ward of Neosho who holds a professional engineer license and is the Chief of Engineering Design at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lt. Col. Ward is a tireless worker serving his second deployment to Iraq where he previously served as the Operations Officer for the 203rd Engineer Battalion. Under Lt. Col. Ward's vision and leadership, the DMS is organized through the use of two teams – alpha and bravo. These teams divide the construction projects within the Baghdad area of operations in order to increase the section's productivity.



Lt. Col. Bill Ward

Sgt. Maj. Bill Porter from St. Louis is serving his second deployment to Iraq where he focuses his attention on administration, logistics, personnel, and transportation issues within the section. Sgt. Maj. Porter remarked, "I have a good section to work with and am very pleased with the soldiers in the DMS as well as the headquarters company."

Sgt. 1st Class James Richards of Waynesville is serving as the Operations Sergeant for the section. "I take care of all the transportation arrangements, maintain the mission files, am responsible for all training, and am also the section historian," said Sgt. 1st Class Richards who is on his second deployment to Iraq. "This has been a lot better than my last deployment because it's more organized; we have better living conditions; better food; and we know when we are going home. One of my biggest challenges has been adapting to the latest technology in survey, design, computer, and related equipment."



Left: Sgt. 1st Class James Richards
Right: Sgt. Maj. Bill Porter



Maj. Scott Bach

Team alpha is led by Maj. Scott Bach of Quincy, Illinois, who has a professional engineer license and is a project engineer and branch office manager at an engineering firm in Hannibal. Maj. Bach is second in charge to Lt. Col. Ward and has

one prior deployment to Iraq where he served as a company commander. "I design force protection and engineering improvements," explained Maj. Bach. "I have also designed a number of wooden structures for troop housing including a couple of two-story structures in the Baghdad area of operations. I have been responsible for the force protection design of many coalition outposts (COPs)

and joint security stations (JSSs). I am the primary liaison to Forward Operating Base Taji for engineering and have designed a major drainage improvement there."

Chief Warrant Officer Three Tommy Shields of Neosho is a full-time engineer technician for the Missouri National Guard at Camp Crowder Training Site in Neosho, Missouri. He has one prior deployment to Iraq and is currently serving as a power systems technician for the DMS. He relates that his experience this time has not been significantly different than his last deployment



Chief Warrant Officer
Three
Tommy Shields

except communications with home are much easier. His duties include reviewing bills of materials, performing quality assurance inspections, and performing electrical assessments for the brigade's construction projects. "It's been a challenge doing electrical assessments with only a minimal amount of electrical experience," remarked Chief Warrant Officer Three Shields. "I have learned a lot about electrical systems in a short period of time."

1st Lt. Jesse Kohtala of Marquette, Michigan works as an electrical engineer for the section and designs electrical systems for new COPs and JSSs; designs electrical systems for re-furbishing COPs and JSSs; performs electrical assessments for existing COPs and JSSs; and performs quality assurance



1st Lt. Jesse
Kohtala

over the electrical projects. "I have learned a lot about electrical work since I have come to the brigade, especially working with 220 volt electrical systems," said 1st Lt. Kohtala. "I normally work on 110 volt electrical systems and have never done any residential work before.

I have really enjoyed being with the 35th Engineer Brigade and would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to the unit."

See Designing on page 4

Experience Key to Personnel Section Success

By Capt. Kelly Parker

The 35th Engineer Brigade S1 Section, commonly referred to as the Personnel Section, receives much satisfaction from ensuring the welfare of all 35th Engineer Brigade Soldiers. All personnel and administrative issues within the brigade are handled by the Personnel Section. These duties include accountability of personnel; processing of all personnel actions including orders, transfers, promotions, evaluations, and awards; and reporting and tracking of casualties.

"The success of the S1 Section during this deployment is due to the professionalism and technical skills

of the S1 staff I've had the pleasure of working with," said Lt. Col. Tony Adrian of Osceola who heads up the Personnel Section. A full-time Active Guard and Reserve Soldier with over 20 years of military experience, Lt. Col. Adrian, is serving his second deployment to Iraq.

According to Lt. Col. Adrian, getting used to his duties and being responsible for all personnel and administrative actions within the brigade has been "very different" from his previous "operations" duties. "Learning the job and regulations, and adjusting to the black and white nature of the administrative world," Lt. Col. Adrian said, has been the biggest challenge he has faced. Lt. Col. Adrian gives much credit to his staff for the successes of the Personnel Section. "They're the ones that do all of the administrative heavy lifting," commented Lt. Col. Adrian. "My role is simply to try to organize and facilitate their activities."

Capt. Jeff Crane from Jefferson City is the Assistant S1 and also a full-time Active Guard and Reserve Soldier with over 14 years of military experience. He is currently responsible for overseeing the execution of all future personnel actions including promotions, performance evaluations, and demobilization requirements.

In addition to these duties, Capt. Crane has been tasked with the extra duty of serving as the brigade Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Commenting on his PAO duties, Capt. Crane said, "This is an additional duty for me. It requires me to coordinate the release of internal public affairs products; answer inquiries from the media, and coordinate support for the media. Being responsible for Public Affairs Officer duties is my biggest challenge." Capt. Crane indicated that frequent communication with his wife and children by web-cam, instant message, and phone communications has made this deployment much easier.

The strength manager for the Personnel Section is Capt. Mike Woods of Scott City. Capt. Woods is also a full-time Active Guard and Reserve Soldier and has over 17 years of military experience. This current deployment is his sixth since 1988. In addition to managing the brigade's strength and accountability, some of Capt. Woods' other duties include serving as the unit historian, serving as assistant safety officer, supervising casualty operations, processing awards, and overseeing issuance of identification cards to Soldiers.

"Having so many jobs, I'm able to see a larger part of how what we do is integrated at the division level," expressed Capt. Woods. Despite the challenge of becoming proficient in the use and management of new and diverse computer systems, Capt. Woods added, "It has been a great learning experience. Working at the brigade level has given me a great opportunity to see how an active component division functions. I now feel much more confident as a battalion or brigade S1; especially as we deploy units in the future."

Master Sgt. Mary St George of Waynesville serves as the brigade Senior Human Resources noncommissioned officer and Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. Master Sgt. St George is a full-time Active Guard and Reserve Soldier with over 25 years of military experience and two prior



From Left to Right: Sgt. Reinaldo Colon-Burgos, Capt. Jeff Crane, Lt. Col. Tony Adrian, Sgt. Maria Witt, Master Sgt. Mary St George, Capt. Mike Woods, and Sgt. Steven Brill

“Experience” cont.

deployments. Master Sgt. St George stated, “This has been the best deployment I’ve been on. The S1 team is the best that I’ve had the privilege of working with.”

Initiating the Personnel Services Delivery Redesign (PSDR) conversion that increased the Personnel Section’s capacity to process identification tags, cards, and Soldiers’ records proved to be Master Sgt. St George’s greatest challenge. “It was truly a challenge to learn about this new equipment and all the new programs,” commented Master Sgt. St George. “The PSDR has improved the overall customer service we can provide. We are really good at taking care of soldiers.”

Sgt. Maria Witt of Fulton has over four years military service and serves as a Human Resource Sergeant. In her civilian occupation Sgt. Witt is a Grants and Agreements Specialist for the Missouri Army National Guard. “It has been a pleasure to serve,” remarked Sgt. Witt. However, she went on to say, “I will be looking forward to the day our lives can return to normal.”

Also serving as a Human Resource Sergeant is Sgt. Stephen Brill of Cabool who has over 15 years of military experience and is serving his second deployment. When not deployed, Sgt. Brill works as a Federal Mine Inspector. “I’m just glad to be here...I hope I can help the team,” exclaimed Sgt. Brill. However, he added reflectively, “I can’t wait to get back home.”

Sgt. Reinaldo Colon-Burgos of New Franklin serves as the Awards noncommissioned officer in charge and has served one prior deployment. Prior to being deployed, Sgt. Colon was working as a Resident Physician at Ellis Fishel Hospital working on his residency in nuclear medicine. Having moved to the United States from Puerto Rico after he finished medical school, Sgt. Colon says his biggest challenge has been “Reading, speaking, and writing in English.” Echoing Sgt. Brill’s sentiments, Sgt. Colon sighed, “I can’t wait to get home.”

The Muleskinners are thankful for the tremendous efforts of the Personnel Section. As expressed by Lt. Col. Adrian, each Soldier within the section has “worked tirelessly behind the scenes taking care of Soldiers, and they performed perfectly.” Although there is not a lot of glory or fanfare associated with the personnel business performed by the S1 Section, this experienced team can take great pride and satisfaction in knowing they have made a huge impact on the welfare of all 35th Engineer Brigade Soldiers.

“Designing” cont.

Staff Sgt. Michael Morgan of Eldon is a civil engineer technician with the Missouri National Guard-Facilities Division and is serving his second deployment to Iraq. Staff Sgt. Morgan is the team alpha noncommissioned officer in charge. He reviews plans created by the drafters, generates bills of materials from these plans, and supervises surveying missions. He has recently been assigned to work in the 4th Infantry Division’s Civil Affairs office tracking trash related issues and projects for the city of Baghdad. Staff Sgt. Morgan’s duties include generating reports and incorporating them into PowerPoint slides for the 4th Infantry Division Commanding General. According to Staff Sgt. Morgan, “This experience has given me an insight into the ‘behind the scenes’ view of how we are trying to give the Iraqi population a ‘Better Quality of Life,’ but unfortunately, this is part of the fight that sometimes goes unnoticed.”



Staff Sgt. Michael Morgan



Sgt. Micah Roth

Sgt. Micah Roth of Joplin is employed full-time performing military funeral honors for Missouri veterans. Sgt. Roth is the alpha team leader of the DMS and a draftsman who has served one prior deployment to Iraq. “One of the challenges of this deployment has been creating designs for our engineer projects to meet the diverse needs of the different customers throughout Baghdad,” noted Sgt. Roth. “It’s been a positive experience working on drafting in the DMS at a brigade headquarters. I hope I made as good of an impression on the members of the 35th Engineer Brigade as the other soldiers have made on me.”

Sgt. Sean Bonney from Waynesville is a safety engineer at the Engineer School on Fort Leonard Wood and was first deployed to Iraq in 1990-1991. As a Survey and Design non-commissioned officer with the DMS, he uses a specialized computer program called AutoCAD to draft detailed plans for the construction projects.



Sgt. Sean Bonney

Spec. Peter Wansing of Olean is an equipment operator in Missouri and a technical engineer specialist with the DMS. Spec. Wansing is skilled at carpentry, metal fabrication, and mechanical work. His hobbies include racing automobiles and he graduated from survey, drafting and soils analysis school at Fort Leonard Wood shortly before this deployment. He has concentrated his efforts in Iraq on computer aided drafting, surveying, and small construction projects for the brigade.



Spec. Peter Wansing

Spec. Matthew White of Dixon is planning on attending University of Missouri - Columbia in the fall. He is a technical engineer specialist for the DMS performing survey and design work on the AutoCAD computer software.



Spec. Matthew White

“Ensuring things are drawn to the proper standard and going ‘outside the wire’ for the first time has been a big adjustment for me,” said Spec. White. “It has been a great experience working with all the soldiers in the 35th who are all good people and easy to get along with. Serving at the brigade headquarters hasn’t been too shabby for a first deployment.”

Team bravo is led by Maj. Matthew Bacon of St. Louis who holds a professional engineer license and is a project manager for Barnes Jewish-Christian Healthcare in St. Louis. Maj. Bacon has one prior deployment to Iraq where he served as a company commander. Maj. Bacon now develops project packages for the construction battalion to utilize in building various construction projects. “Overall, we have much better living conditions than my first deployment, but I miss working on the ground completing construction projects,” stated Maj. Bacon. “It’s been a challenge adjusting to the limited availability of material, which affects our ability to design the construction projects.”



Maj. Matthew Bacon

Master Sgt. Joe Workman of Pittsburg, Kansas, is a retired product engineer with more than 30 years of engineer experience. He is a quality assurance inspector for the brigade serving his second deployment to Iraq. Master Sgt.



Master Sgt. Joe Workman

Workman performs inspections on current and on-going construction projects to ensure they conform to the designer’s intent. “I provide written notification to the customer of any specification shortfalls and what steps to take to conform to specifications,” stated Master Sgt. Workman. “The carpenters

in the 769th Engineer Battalion are excellent soldiers as they go above and beyond what is required of them in performing their jobs.”

Sgt. Clyde Smith of Waynesville is a student and Protective Services Agency Supervisor in Missouri. Sgt. Smith is the bravo team non-commissioned officer in charge and is on his second deployment to Iraq. His duties include assessing projects and producing the bills of materials for construction projects. Sgt. Smith has enjoyed the deployment and commented, “It’s been great to see the benefit of the hard work we have done in Baghdad, which has given me a broader view of the importance of our mission.”



Sgt. Clyde Smith

Sgt. Tony Testerman of Diamond works for the Missouri National Guard as a retention non-commissioned officer and has one prior deployment to Iraq. Sgt. Testerman utilizes specialized computer software to design engineering layouts for the construction projects throughout Baghdad. “We have done a lot of good work ensuring that our troops are taken care of by the force protection designs and Iraqi law enforcement by designing proper training facilities for them to use,” said Sgt. Testerman. “It has been quite different during this deployment with the 35th since my home is the 203rd Engineer Battalion. This unit has taken care of an outsider soldier and that’s appreciated.”



Sgt. Tony Testerman

Sgt. David Porter of St. Robert is a topographic surveyor for the DMS serving his second deployment. A former marine, Sgt. Porter was deployed in support of Task Force New Horizons in early 2007 before he deployed with the brigade in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. David Porter

Spec. Brandon Radford of Redford is a student at University of Missouri-Rolla and a technical engineering specialist for the DMS. Spec. Radford performs field surveys and designs COPs, JSSs, structures, roads, and goes on quality assurance and quality control missions. He also is the DMS computer technician and AutoCAD instructor. "My biggest challenge has been communicating with the customers, which are the infantrymen stationed at the JSSs and COPs," commented Spec. Radford. "Sometimes it is difficult to know what the customers want because they aren't trained in the engineering field, which sometimes requires me to draw the same project several times. This deployment has been very educational. I have had the chance to use my military occupational specialty on a day-to-day basis. The training you receive state-side is great, but it pales in comparison to actual missions."



Spec. Brandon Radford



Spec. Christopher Tilley

Spec. Christopher Tilley of Dixon is a technical engineering specialist who works on the designs and drafting for future COPs and JSSs. This design work includes the layout and placement of perimeter barriers, living quarters, command centers, fighting positions, and entry control points. "I do drafting for buildings, bridge overlays, roads, and site surveys on recons for site planning," stated Spec. Tilley. "There are new challenges everyday because each design is different. It's good because every time I learn something new I can always apply it to future missions. It feels good to say that I have been over here, and that I have put in my time for the freedom of the Americans back home."

The DMS has been instrumental in helping the 35th Engineer Brigade become what the 4th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, describes as, "The best engineer brigade in the Army."

Keeping Soldiers Safe

By Capt. Kelly Parker

Massive amounts of equipment and harsh environmental conditions are only two of the reasons safety is a paramount concern for the Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade. 1st Lt. Cyrano Brigham of Tucson,



Arizona is the Muleskinners' Environmental and Safety Officer. 1st Lt. Brigham has over 18 years of military service and, as a civilian, he is an environmental and safety engineer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, California.

Ensuring the soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade receive proper safety training; providing soldiers with a safe and clean environment; and reporting safety issues to our division headquarters are just some of 1st Lt. Brigham's many duties. "It's difficult to foster an understanding that safety is not hindering the mission and train soldiers to do the right thing even when others are not looking," stated 1st Lt. Brigham.

The Muleskinners are thankful to 1st Lt. Brigham for all of his efforts to keep us safe and healthy. Looking back upon this deployment, 1st Lt. Brigham commented, "Life is like a journey and it's been a pleasure to have the soldiers of



Top Army Guard General Visits the 1138th Engineers



Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn of Dexter, Missouri, Director of the Army National Guard, addressed 1138th Engineer Company, from Farmington, Missouri, Feb. 18 at the Task Force Iron Claw Academy. Lt. Gen. Vaughn congratulated and thanked the route clearance unit for their accomplishments and offered words of encouragement for future missions.

Before returning to Virginia, Lt. Gen. Vaughn took time to visit Guardsmen in other areas of Iraq and Kuwait.

The Five Pillars: The Foundation for Islam

By Sgt. Jake Boswell

Many of the cultural articles that have published in "The Muleskinner" about the Islamic faith have been linked to core beliefs of Islam, yet these core beliefs have not been explained. The Islamic Faith is based upon "five pillars" or five core beliefs. Those core beliefs are:

- Shahadah – The proclamation that there is no god except Allah
- Salah – Praying five times a day at fixed times
- Zakat – Providing charity to those in need
- Sawm – Ritual Fasting
- Hajj – The pilgrimage to Mecca

These "five pillars" are the foundational pieces of Islam as a religion. The first four are required for all followers of Islam to observe. The Hajj is not required due to the expensive nature of the trip. Many Muslims will not be able to acquire enough wealth to complete their Hajj. Therefore, it is optional for those who do not have the means to complete it.

These fundamental beliefs provide the foundation for Islam. By observing the "five pillars," Muslims are able to grow closer to Allah.



Muleskinner Promotions, Awards, and Accolades



Spec. Jonathan Etheridge shows off his certificate and coins from when he was "Player of the Day" on February 28, 2008. Spec. Etheridge was presented "The Player of the Day" award for his outstanding work in the 35th Engineer Brigade Tactical Operations Center.

Sgt. Jake Boswell, pictured right with Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, Commander of the 4th Infantry Division, was "The Player of the Day" on March 11, 2008. He was awarded the Player of the Day for outstanding performance as the Command Judge Advocate non-commissioned officer in charge.



Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Bryan Graham for reenlisting for another six years! Capt. Maureen Wells issues the oath to Staff Sgt. Graham during his reenlistment.

Capt. Kelly Parker displays his winning prize after the "just for fun" Texas Hold'em Tournament. Thanks again to 1st Sgt. Kyle Stephens for donating the poker sets for the winners of the Texas Hold'em Tournaments.



Muleskinner Musings



Spec. Brandon Radford entered the infamous "Qatar Rodeo" where he took first place by wrestling a camel into submission



Spec. Aaron Stout of the communications section displays his war injury incurred during an epic battle between man and computer hard drive



Lt. Col. Andy Rogers shops for a new deer rifle at a local Iraqi pawn shop. He was heard saying "I can't wait 'til the boys back home see this."



Capt. Mike Woods wearing his Kevlar helmet in his office all day. Explaining his peculiar behavior, he said, "It makes my hair grow nice and thick."



“Praise” cont.

Each day, the brigade receives an average of two to three work requests. Before any work can be completed, the brigade’s design management section processes each request and remains involved with each project until it is finished.

The section consists of three civil engineers, two surveyor/draftsmen teams and a quality assurance team who work together to accomplish the mission.

First, the civil engineers sketch the project and provide guidance to the draftsmen. The draftsmen use specialized computer software to turn the sketch into blueprints. Once the civil engineers review, revise, and approve the blueprints, they are forwarded to the quality assurance team for review.

Next, the drafting team prepares a bill of materials for the construction unit chosen for the project. The lead civil engineer also gives them a schedule detailing the scope of work to be done and the Operations section assigns the project to a construction unit.

During construction, the Design Management section conducts numerous inspections. A construction project is not complete until the scope of work has been finished and the customer is satisfied.

The Muleskinners’ Design Management section has done a great job setting the standard for engineering design and maintenance since arriving in Iraq.

Muleskinners Demonstrate Engineering Expertise

By Lt. Col. David Lowe

During their six and one-half months of steadily building structures to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and conducting route clearance missions, the 35th Engineer Brigade has earned a reputation as one of the most effective engineer brigades in Iraq.

“The efforts of the 35th Engineer Brigade soldiers have been nothing short of phenomenal,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Pace, Commander of the 35th Engineer Brigade. “The amount and level of expertise brought to this theater by the soldiers is unparalleled. The brigade’s construction efforts, as the U.S. forces move forward into new areas of Baghdad, have ensured they have the safest and best possible living conditions to accomplish their missions.”

The Muleskinners have earned a reputation as having the best engineer brigade in Iraq through its missions filling bomb craters, emplacing protective barriers, building outposts and security stations, and repairing, refurbishing and building structures on forward operating bases.

The 35th has completed about 80 construction projects involving coalition outposts and joint security stations since arriving in Iraq in September. Since 2006, these outposts and security stations have allowed U.S. and coalition forces to live and operate in Baghdad among the Iraqi people. Along with the surge and the efforts of concerned local citizens groups, now called the “Sons of Iraq,” the outposts have been instrumental in stabilizing and reducing the violence in Baghdad.

One job the 35th spearheaded was building a coalition outpost named Kafayat in Western Baghdad. Under the guidance and direction of the brigade’s Design Management section, the 769th Engineer Battalion, of Baton Rouge, La., used its teams of carpenters, electricians, plumbers, surveyors and equipment operators to construct the strategically located outpost.

The 35th Engineers spent about three weeks completing construction at Kafayat. According to the noncommissioned officer in charge of the project, Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Taylor, of Blaine, Minn., the construction work included building guard towers; emplacing hundreds of concrete barriers; and installing 90 heating and air conditioning and three shower units for the troops.



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Taylor with the portable shower his team used for 17 days before the shower units were completed at Coalition Outpost Kafayat

"It's great to be able to make the soldiers' lives a lot better and make them happier by providing them something as simple as the ability to turn on a light switch, use more appliances, or play their Xbox by installing a few more electrical outlets," said Sgt. 1st Class Taylor.

For the Guardsmen of the 35th Engineer Brigade, many of whom are on their second deployment to Iraq, designing and building coalition outposts and joint security stations is a chance not only to improve security in Baghdad, but to make life better for the soldiers in the field.

"I've gotten to see a lot of Baghdad and helped a lot of units solve problems," said Maj. Scott Bach, of Quincy, Ill. "The living conditions are much improved over my first tour, and I try to help improve the living conditions for all the soldiers in the units that we serve by designing projects."



Coalition Outpost Kafayat before construction



Coalition Outpost Kafayat during construction



Engineer Operations on Coalition Outpost Kafayat



Construction Materials Yard pole barn before completion



Construction Materials Yard pole barn completed

Muleskinner Fun



Master Sgt. Joe Workman poses with a falcon while enjoying some rest and relaxation on a four-day pass in Qatar



Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Harding looks on as Maj. Scott Zimmerman takes pot shots at the birds on "Z" lake



Capt. Jeffrey "Doc" Blue makes a "house call" on his favorite mode of transportation



The 35th Engineer Personnel Security Detail enjoy a game of soccer with Iraqi Army Soldiers in the "Green Zone"

Muleskinners Enjoy Iraqi Food and Pizza



The Muleskinners' "Goathouse Gang" pose just before enjoying a traditional Iraqi meal with local nationals with whom they work

Lt. Col. Robert "Bobby" Jones presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Lydia for her outstanding work with the 35th Engineers badging local nationals in the brigade's construction materials yard



The traditional Iraqi meal included a sumptuous feast of two kinds of grilled lamb and chicken k-bobs; a variety of grilled vegetables; a variety of condiments and homemade vegetable spreads; potatoes; and homemade flatbread. The Muleskinners contributed pizza to the feast which was enjoyed by all.

35th Engineer Brigade

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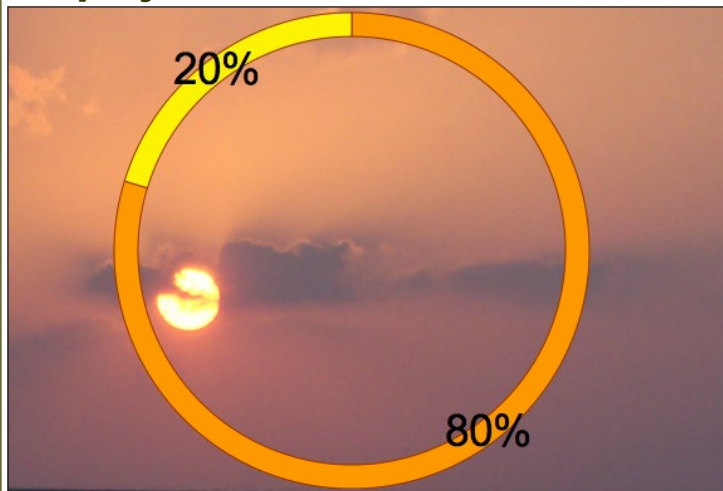
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Baghdad Weather for the Week of March 17, 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						
Hi: 80 Low: 54	Hi: 83 Low: 57	Hi: 87 Low: 58	Hi: 87 Low: 63	Hi: 92 Low: 63	Hi: 91 Low: 65	Hi: 93 Low: 64

Deployment Countdown



The Muleskinners have completed 80 percent of their deployment. The countdown is in full swing!!!

Muleskinner Correction

In the last Special Edition of the Muleskinner, it was incorrectly reported that Gen. David Petraeus was the out-going Commander of Multi National Corps—Iraq. The report should have indicated Gen. David Petraeus is the commander of Multi-National Forces—Iraq.

"THE MULESKINNER" is a publication focused on the Soldiers of the 35th Engineer Brigade (a.k.a. Muleskinners) and its engineer mission while deployed to Iraq in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The purpose of this publication is to keep our loved ones and friends at home informed about the Muleskinners in a combat environment. THE MULESKINNER will be produced exclusively by Muleskinner Soldiers to ensure accurate reporting and authentic information.

"THE MULESKINNER" is organized and edited by the Muleskinner's Command Judge Advocate, LTC David Lowe, and his cohort in crime, fellow Judge Advocate, CPT Kelly Parker. Paralegal SGT Jake Boswell provides technical assistance by overseeing the layout and design. It is our genuine desire to provide timely, insightful, and entertaining information to our readers.



"FREEDOM ISN'T FREE"