

the **DEFUSE**

IN THIS ISSUE: The NEW Face of
TECHNICAL ESCORT

Task Force Troy Remembers Fallen Heroes:

EOD MEMORIAL

Special Report by PFC Christopher Gaylord, Staff Sergeant of Multi-National Corps -Iraq Public Affairs

Task Force Troy visits the range to brush up on skills with the M4, M9 and M249, see it on p.19 in...



Bringing the
HEAT
a pictorial

Doing **GOD's** Work:

Brigadier General Daniel B. Allyn and Chaplain David Trogdon lead the Service Members of Task Force Troy in a spiritual discussion on Good Friday.

NEWSLETTER OF TASK FORCE TROY



Life of Tags

The things we carry with us –ordinary objects of little significance otherwise –become pieces of reverence when we carry them to the moment of death. The iPod in the cargo pocket, the wallet in the back

pocket and the sweetheart photo in the breast pocket –these things become the last tangible link to existence. They become relics. The clothes a person wears at the moment of death catch the last living particles and hold them close between the fibers. That is why the loved one left behind is so conscious to keep from shaking the fabric before placing it neatly folded in a keepsake box. Inside the fabric, there's a bit of someone they've

loved and ultimately lost. It's not an easy sentiment to dismiss. More so than any moment in life, death is the instant in which a person's identity is most entwined with the fabrics worn and the trinkets carried.

Everyone knows the standard military identification tag. All services issue ID tags to personnel. Over the last half-century they have become a piece of the American lexicon, a universal symbol representing individuals who are in the profession of saving and taking lives. While popular culture might have rappers and rock stars wearing gold plated dog tags, I think that most people would agree with me when I say that the ID tag is synonymous with those souls who serve in the military.

There is an immediate, singular notion that comes to the human psyche at the image of a set of military identification tags that are missing the service member who should be wearing them. Identification tags aren't displayed for any other reason other than to signify a combat death. Tags are too personal to hang on the wall as a trophy or as a signal of service. Tags spend too much time in proximity to the heart in times of courage and trial to share with the world.

Tags hold a service member's name and religious preference. It's proof of identity and faith. A living person would no more display his identification tags than he would his own soul. That is why, when we look at the tags of a service member who has made the ultimate sacrifice, we are so moved emotionally. It is as if we're seeing a piece of their soul.

The proof is in the care. The night of the Task Force Troy EOD Memorial, as I watched the senior enlisted leadership place the tags of those fifteen individuals on the memorial piece, I couldn't help

but be impressed by the obvious care each of them took when handling the tags. Their movements slowed more than a step. Intent and concentrated, those honored men each made every effort to respect the square pieces of tin that they held in their hands. They showed such great reverence because they knew that they were handling a thing very personal –a link to one of their own whom had full and willingly paid the ultimate price in the name of service and country. They showed such great reverence because hidden beneath every service uniform is a set of tags dangling from the neck so very close to a beating heart.

-SGT LUKE BALDWIN

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the DEFUSE

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for our
EOD WARRIORS

//BY COLONEL KEVIN D. LUTZ//

First, let me thank each and every member of the CJTF Troy team; military, DoD civilians and contractors for what you do everyday! Without your contributions and team work, TF Troy could not do what it does – save America’s greatest assets; the men and women that protect our freedoms from those that desire to take them away. I am in awe of each of you for your selfless commitment to Duty, Honor and Country. Being away from your loved ones, in harms way, is no easy endeavor and it takes a very special human to step up and answer our Nation’s request for your service. Thank You!

In four months, TF Troy has accomplished much. We have integrated our Specialized Counter Forces into the Multi-National Corps Iraq from the Corps to the Brigade Combat Teams to the

highest and most effective level ever. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are recognized daily by the Forces we protect and support. Successes span the spectrum of our specialized Counter-IED operations, support, and staff functions. We continue to enhance force protection by providing greater fidelity of the IED threat across the Iraq Theater of Operations and have significantly aided in the defeat of several IED networks through our exploitation efforts. Conclusively, the TF Troy team of operators and support personnel has saved countless Coalition Force lives.

‘ We continue to enhance force protection by providing greater fidelity of the IED threat across the Iraq Theater of Operations ’

However, our accomplishments and successes have not been without a cost! Since our last newsletter we have lost two TF Troy team members, TSgt Anthony “Tony” Capra, 332 ECES EOD, Balad AFB, Iraq and SFC Lawrence Ezell, 62nd EOD Company, Taji, Iraq, and a third member was severely injured, TSgt Christopher Frost, WIT 1, 732nd ECES, Brassfield-Mora. These EOD Warriors freely made the ultimate sacrifice for us – those serving in Iraq. No words can express the admiration and gratefulness of their service and contributions. TSgt Capra and SFC Ezell

will be keenly missed by their families, fellow unit members, friends, the Joint EOD Community and the TF Troy team. I ask each of you to keep them and their families in your prayers.

Further, we humbly honored 15 EOD Warriors that made the ultimate sacrifice last year while conducting combat operations in Iraq. On April 21, 2008, in conjunction with the CONUS Annual EOD Memorial Service, Eglin AFB on May 2, 2008, TF Troy held the fifth Iraq Annual EOD Memorial Service in the Al Faw Palace, Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, where nearly 250 members and friends of TF Troy assembled and acknowledged the contribution and sacrifice of these brave Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. MG(P) Lynch, CG, 3ID/MND-N, was the guest speaker and with the utmost dignity bestowed the greatest honor possible on those that made the ultimate sacrifice and to TF Troy, writ large, for its efforts in protecting the Force. Additionally, the TF Troy team collected \$16,500 in donations that CSM Udelhofen and I presented at the CONUS EOD Memorial Ball, split between the EOD Memorial Fund and EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation. To all that gave generously it was much appreciated and received a standing ovation from the 1200 plus that attended the event. Further, the \$16,500 donation has been matched twice by two separate corporations. Unbelievable compassion for our EOD Warriors...

Finally, for the families and friends of our deployed Service Members; thank you for the continuous support and love. You are the inspiration that keeps us going while deployed to Iraq. You are an essential part of the TF Troy team and without your care packages, letters, and emails we couldn’t do what we do everyday in protecting the forces deployed here in Iraq as well as keeping this threat as an away game. You have my utmost reverence and appreciation for standing by us and giving us the strength and courage to successfully execute our missions.

Sincerely,

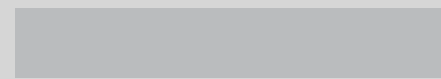
Troy 6
DEFUSING DANGER



The Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation is a non profit 501(c) 3 organization that provides funds and support to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) military families caring for their loved ones at military medical facilities. The resources provided to the families are above and beyond the budgetary constraints of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. The support provided can include plane fare, accommodations, food vouchers or other associated travel expenses. Eligible families can also use benefits for other necessities such as childcare, mortgage and rent relief while visiting service members. The foundation depends on fundraisers and the generosity of donations. It is the generosity of others that allows us to offer “compassionate solutions” to our Wounded EOD Warriors and their families during the most difficult times. Families are an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

Go online to learn more about the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation at:

www.woundedeodwarrior.org



SALUTE TO SACRIFICE

The great success of

Task Force Troy hasn't

come without a price.

The Defuse honors our

EOD Warriors who

have sacrificed much

By
LTC Michael 'Greg' Hicks
CMSgt Jeffrey Schley
and
CMSgt Robert Wyman

TSgt Christopher J. Frost

// by CMSgt Robert Wyman //

TSgt Christopher J. Frost entered the United States Air Force on 13 March 1996.

Upon completion of Basic Military Training School, he was selected to attend Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School, and graduated in January 1997. Sergeant Frost is presently assigned as an EOD NCOIC at the 48th EOD Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, England, from which he deployed to the 732 ECES/Det 5 Weapons Intelligence Flight (WIT), Forward Operating Base Brassfield Mora, Iraq.

As a WIT Team Leader, Sergeant Frost was responsible for providing responsive Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) intelligence, collection and analysis, as well as tactical exploitation capability in support of Multi-National Corps Iraq. Sergeant Frost flawlessly directed 145 "outside-the-wire" combat missions, to include 43 missions that he personally led during his 5-month reign.

On 18 May 2008, on route to an IED Post Blast, Sergeant Frost's vehicle was struck by an IED resulting in one KIA and three WIA, including Sergeant Frost. His right leg was amputated below the knee due to severe injury, but the doctors were able to save his badly damaged left leg. Sergeant Frost is currently at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to undergo physical therapy and a speedy recovery.

TSgt Frost's previous assignments include Hill AFB, Utah; Osan Air Base, South Korea; and Beale AFB, Sacramento, CA. His Medals include a Joint Service Commendation Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, an Air Force Achievement Medal, a Purple Heart, and an Air Force Combat Action Medal. Sergeant Frost is the son of Mrs. Shirley A. Burwick who currently resides in San Jose, CA.

'Frost
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directed 145
outside-the-wire
combat missions,
to include 43
missions that he
personally led
during his
5-month reign'

TSgt Anthony Capra

// by CMSgt Jeffrey Schley //

The CJTF Troy suffered the loss of an Airman, TSgt Anthony Capra, on 9 Apr 08 while supporting combat operations at FOB Paliwoda. He was on his 107th combat mission, and assigned as an EOD team leader to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, was conducting post-blast analysis of a roadside bomb crater. During his investigation, he discovered a second improvised explosive device only a few meters away; while attempting to render the second device safe, it detonated. Sergeant Capra entered the Air Force in June 1997; his most recent assignment was with Detachment 63 at Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station, Md. The sergeant had volunteered for his six-month deployment to Balad, his fourth since November 2001. Sergeant Capra was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star, first Oak Leaf Cluster, for his heroic actions during his deployment. The whole CJTF Troy family is deeply saddened by this loss and are keeping his family and friends in our prayers as they deal with this significant tragedy.

'heroic actions'

SFC Lawrence David Ezell

// by LTC Michael 'Greg' Hicks //

Sergeant First Class Lawrence David Ezell was born on June 10, 1977 in Texas. He enlisted in the United States Army on October 31, 1994. He attended Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Advanced Individual Training at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. Upon completion of his training, he was awarded the 55B MOS, Ammunition Specialist, and assigned to Fort Carson, Colorado. On March 18, 2000 he attended Explosive Ordnance Disposal School at Eglin Air Force Base and was awarded the 89D MOS. His previous duty assignments include Ft Stewart, Georgia and Grafenwoher, Germany. In March of 2007, he was assigned to 62nd OD CO (EOD) at Fort Carson, Colorado where he served as a Platoon Sergeant. SFC Ezell's service included tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003) and Operation Enduring Freedom (2005). On November 1, 2007 he once again deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SFC Ezell's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal (3d Award), the National Defense Service Medal (2d Award), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), the Iraqi Campaign Medal (with 3 Bronze Service Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, The Overseas Service Ribbon (3d Award), the Combat Action Badge, the Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Badge, and the Drivers Badge. Dave was the epitome of a Soldier, always placing the needs of others above his own. He was extremely dedicated to the mission, his Soldiers, and most of all, his family. He always maintained a positive attitude and could be counted on by others in times of need. He led from the front, guiding his EOD team members in their quest to become more proficient in their jobs as EOD technicians. His good nature was contagious and will be remembered as a Soldier who embodied the Army Values in every aspect of his life.

Sergeant First Class Ezell is survived by his wife Christy and his son Tristan, who reside in Fountain, Colorado and by his parents Lawrence Ezell and Rebecca Ballew.

'He was extremely dedicated to the mission, his Soldiers, and most of all, his family . . . He led from the front, guiding his EOD team members in their quest to become more proficient in their jobs as EOD technicians'



RUN TIMES ARE AT 1830 OUTSIDE OF BLDG 85 EVERY OTHER DAY. PLEASE CONTACT CMSGT SCHLEY OR MAJ BOWIE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RUN DAYS.



the **NEW** faces of

TECH ESCORT

One of the most high-stakes missions in the Iraq Theater falls upon the able shoulders of the 14 members of the Task Force Troy Technical Escort Team. This is thier story

// story and photos by SGT LUKE BALDWIN //

The fourteen Soldiers of Task Force Troy’s Technical Escort Detachment may be the most highly trained group of individuals in theater today. At least, that’s the first impression they give. Spend any amount of time with the group and the sentiment won’t fade in the least bit.

Comprised of both CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive) specialists as well as EOD operators, the Tech Escort Detachment is the ITOs expert at characterization, mitigation, assessment, and elimination of CBRN threats.

“We at Tech Escort provide theater-level support to all combatant commanders for WMD elimination,” explains detachment commander, Captain Joseph Monette.

Characterization and analysis of hazardous materials is the focus of the Tech Escort team. When units conducting operations in the combat zone detect or otherwise come into suspicion of an area that might pose a CBRNE threat, the team at Tech Escort is the first response to characterize and assess that threat. Armed with an array of top-line detection equipment and dressed in specialized protective suits and masks, the team works in groups of two as a site-sweep is conducted to locate, mark, and eventually extract any and all hazardous material from the site. Over watch is essential to operating procedures. If any one member of the team is exposed or becomes a casualty, there are always team members on close stand-by for casualty extraction and treatment.

With the threat assessed and samples extracted, the next step in the high-stakes Tech Escort mission is to evacuate the collected material to a laboratory for final testing and analysis.

“Tech Escort is the only highly specialized unit that I know of that combines the CBRNE and EOD assets,” said Task Force Troy Chief of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Chadwick Bauld, a chemical officer himself. “Tech Escort is the model for future CBRNE forces.”

One would assume that, with the dangers involved with a job such as neutralization of WMDs, the Soldiers of Tech Escort would be one of the most high-strung group of Soldiers one could encounter. This simply isn’t the case. There’s an air of confidence that surrounds the specialized unit. It’s the kind of confidence that can only be attributed to the thorough and rigorous training each member on the team must undergo and complete to gain the fidelity of a command in charge of defeating potentially the most dangerous weapon in the enemy’s arsenal.

“Last summer we did live agent training in Canada. We also went through a Theater Mission Readiness Exercise in Utah which was set up and facilitated by the nation’s top scientists” said Master Sergeant Samuel Lewis, the Detachment First Sergeant and team member.

“Also, as part of our train-up, we completed the Chemical Energetics Course which has been very fruitful in training our EOD techs,” CPT Monette added. The chemical energetics course gives special insight into the laboratory production of Home Made Explosives (HME). “We completed what is called

confined space training. That exercise actually took place in an abandoned nuclear power plant in Washington.”

“We also train on a daily basis to sustain and ad-

Every case that they respond to has the potential to present new dangers. Every scenario could be a different challenge or threat

vance our capabilities,” said MSG Lewis. “Crew level sampling, analytical training, confined space training, decon training, convoy training, weapons qualification and Blue Force Tracker training are just a few key

pieces of training that we’ve done since we arrived in theater.”

“They have a very detailed training schedule,” said LTC Bauld, “and they challenge each other. They have to challenge each other. Every case that they respond to has the potential to present new dangers. Every scenario could be a different challenge or threat. They have to be able to think on the spot and react.”

In addition to all of the CBRNE focused training, the members of Tech Escort are all trained in close quarters engagements, combatives, and every member is combat lifesaver qualified. The team even has one Soldier, Staff Sergeant Maria Vazquez, who is a qualified emergency medical technician.

To better disseminate the knowledge they have acquired through all of this training, many of the Soldiers of Tech Escort play the dual role of technician and instructor. Fully qualified, they share their training with other Soldiers, especially in the EOD field, on subjects such as confined space operations.

“The certification process is continual. The nature of the mission makes recertification a requirement,” CPT Monette added.

Undaunted, the Soldiers of Tech Escort continually rise above the shifting dangers of their field of work to provide support to combatant commanders.

“The team’s performance has been nothing short of phenomenal,” said LTC Bauld.

Given the ever-changing challenges of CBRNE and the unremitting efforts of Chemical and EOD operators to meet those shifting challenges, it seems that there will always be a new face to Tech Escort.



Hazard Control Tech Escort performs decon and radioactive detection exercises

REMEMBER
REMEMBER
REMEMBER
REMEMBER
REMEMBER
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REMEMBER
REMEMBER

[WE REMEMBER]

The ultimate sacrifice. It is a reality that is ever ominous for the EOD Technician and his team. In a field of work which requires an individual to approach the very dangers that every other Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine is trained to avoid, the Service Members of the EOD field are one of the most poignant examples of a stalwart devotion to the ultimate sacrifice in a time of war.

// STORY BY PFC CHRISTOPHER GAYLORD PHOTOS BY SGT LUKE BALDWIN //



Service members and civilians gathered to remember the sacrifices that Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have made for their country during the fifth annual EOD memorial ceremony held by Task Force Troy at Al Faw Palace on Sunday, the 20th of April. The names of 15 fallen service members from the Iraq theater of operations will be added this year to the EOD memorial wall at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., along with two others whose names will be added next year, in remembrance of their service.

“We were able to acknowledge those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation,” said Col. Kevin Lutz, commander, TF Troy and host of the ceremony. “It gives those operators in theater the ability to reflect. I wouldn’t be anywhere else.”

Identification tags were placed on the TF Troy EOD memorial by senior enlisted EOD leaders from each respective service.

“The entire EOD community came together,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Todd, NCOIC, Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell. “EOD is truly a family.”

Guest speaker Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Commanding

General, 3rd Infantry Division, offered heartfelt words about the job EOD has done in theater and the sacrifices the 15 service members honored made for their country.

“These fallen heroes gave their lives in defense of our freedoms, and it was indeed worth it,” Lynch said. “We’re ensuring our children and their children enjoy the same freedoms we do. I am humbled to be in your presence.”

“Attendees from all services as well as anyone who works with EOD were welcome to attend and remember the fallen troops,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Udelhofen, Command Sergeant Major, TF Troy.

It was made absolutely clear that night that no one will ever forget the fallen EOD heroes who fought by their comrades’ sides and gave their lives in the line of duty.

“They gave their lives for the freedoms everyone enjoys while doing a job they enjoyed,” Udelhofen said.

“They will not be forgotten,” Lutz said.

PFC Christopher Gaylord writes for the MNC-1 Corps publication, VICTORY TIMES.



A NIGHT OF HONORS (from top to bottom) The senior enlisted members from each service branch of Task Force Troy place the identification tags of each fallen EOD tech on the task force EOD memorial piece. The ballroom of Al Faw palace was filled with members and friends of the EOD community in attendance to recognize the sacrifices of their fallen comrades. A moment of silence is observed before the benediction and close of the night’s ceremony. (opposite page) Command Sergeant Major Timothy Udelhofen of Task Force Troy raises his glass in a toast to the fallen EOD techs recognized during the memorial.



a pat on the Back... and a pie in the Face

// BY CPT NALONIE TYRRELL //

There are times during long deployments when gratitude for your hard work and dedication can be overlooked. The TF Troy J2 wanted to make sure that his servicemen didn't have this issue. To highlight the great work of his staff, he created the "J2 Outstanding Performer of the Month" award.

The award is open to all enlisted servicemen in multi-serviced section. The awardees are judged on eight stringent criteria: duty performance, knowledge, military bearing, leadership, initiative, attitude, camaraderie, and self improvement.

"I wanted to make this something to strive for," said LtCol Price.

Each month the OICs select a deserving person from their section. The Senior NCOIC make the determination of the winner. The names are then turned over to LtCol Price who presents the award. In addition to the recognition, the prizes for the award are an added bonus. The recipient each month receives a certificate, TF Troy sweatshirt, a J2 coin, a half day off, and special recognition by the TF Troy

Commander, COL Kevin Lutz. Since March, there have been two recipients. The first performer of the month was Micheal Scmidley from Louisiana. He is an analyst on the MND-B team in J2.

"He did great work on some of the major RFIs that came into J2, and he also did a few working aids. He's an all around great Airman," said MSgt Bonfigli.

April saw Ssgt Kenneth Rath win the award. SSgt Rath is from Arkansas and is a Arabic Linguist. His specialty in J2 is vehicle borne IEDs. He was recognized for his outstanding work with home made explosives.

In April, the Airforce House sponsored a Spring Fling. It was an event to promote fun and camaraderie with all of the servicemen on the Camp Victory Complex. The event was filled with food, music and fun.

"I enjoyed the band the most. It was excellent," said Susan Guido.

The highlight of the event, however, was the fundraising Pie-in-the Face contest. Units were able to

nominate candidates to receive the tasty desert. Units had to donate money toward the candidate the wanted to see "pied" the most. Of course, candidate could also offer money to not receive the "prize". From TF Troy J2, LtCol Price was the candidate of choice. The J2 section raised more than \$200 to ensure it happened. When all of the money was counted, and the J2 properly cloaked in plastic to protect his clothing. SPC James Hockenberry was given the honor of presenting the J2 with the pie.

"This was definitely a once in a life tme opportunity. I know I'll never get this chance again in my career," said Hockenberry. TSgt Susan Guido received the honor of smearing Major General David Clary, the Air Force House Commader. "I really had a good time. The General was an excellent sport and I appreciated that. Believe it or not I actually bid on the pie to save the General from getting pied," she laughed.

in FOCUS



The In Focus sevice member for this edition of the Defuse is every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Civilian in the Combined Joint Task Force who, through a collective effort, raised over \$16,500.00 toward the EOD Memorial and EOD Wounded Warrior Foundation through cake/pie-in-the-face contests, feed-the-fish dime drives and generous donations.

TAKING THE CAKE LTC Michael 'Greg' Hicks, the Task Force Troy J3, presents MAJ Patrick Stamm, the Troy J8, with a cake he earned as part of a fund-rasing project sponsored by the personnel of Task Force Troy

BRINGING THE

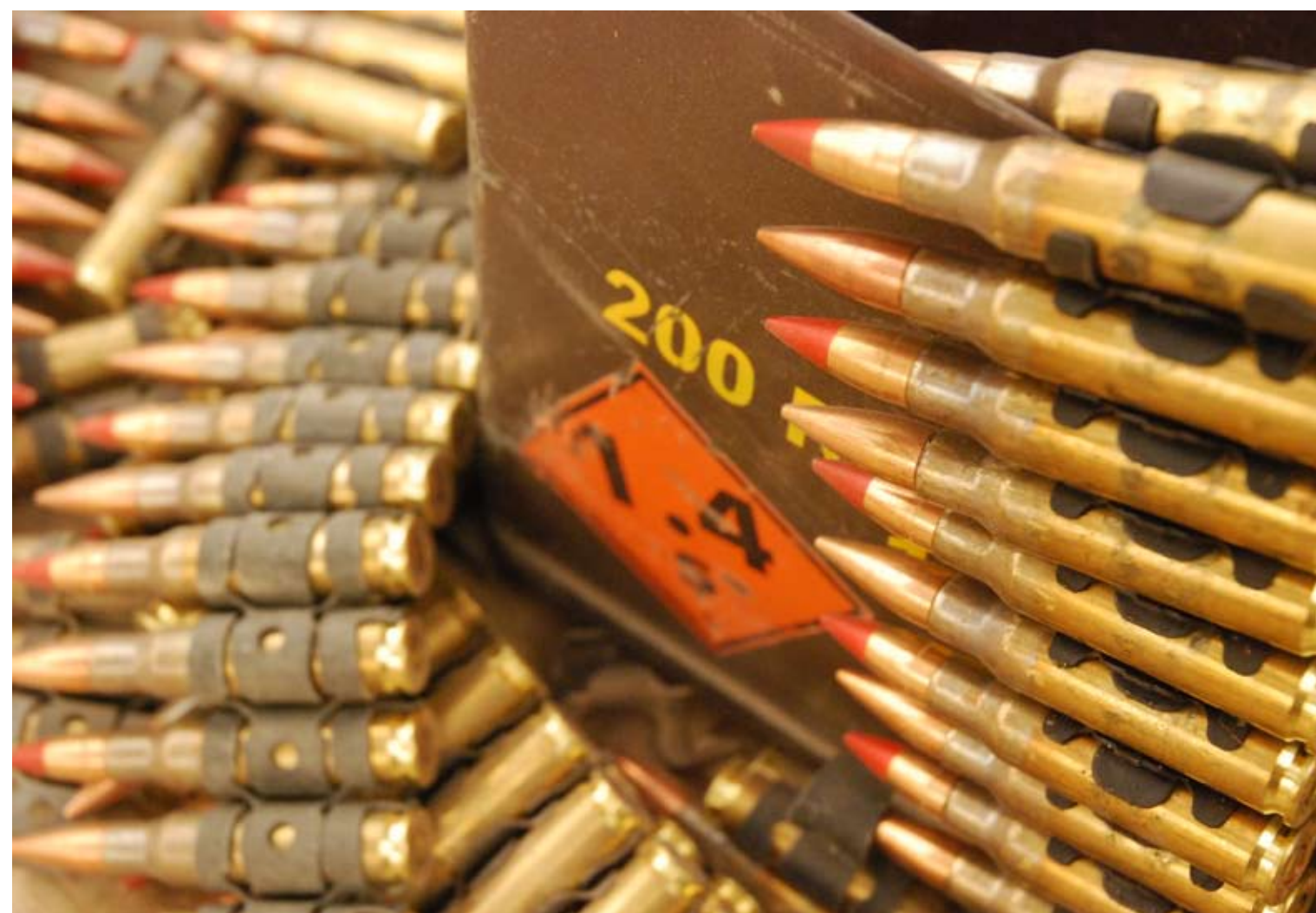
HEAT

Summer-esque temperatures arrived in March and reached triple-digits in April. The rise in temperature did not, however, deter the service members of Task Force Troy from bringing thier own brand of heat to the firing range.

// photos by SGT LUKE BALDWIN //







ON GOOD
FRIDAY, TASK
FORCE TROY
CHAPLAIN
DAVID TROGDON
HOSTED A PRAYER
BREAKFAST TO
FELLOWSHIP
WITH THE
SOLDIERS ABOUT
THE ROLE THEY
PLAY IN . . .

God is doing His work



ABOVE Col Kevin Lutz looks on as BG Daniel Allyn speaks to members of Task Force Troy

BELOW SGT DeOnte Sanders and SGT Nichole Hodges sing a hymn



**“HE DOESN’T OFFER A
DESCENT LIFE.
HE DOESN’T OFFER AN
ORDINARY LIFE.
HE OFFERS A FULL,
ETERNAL LIFE
THROUGH HIM .**

So when we talk about loosing our fellow Soldiers, there’s a good side of it because they are experiencing that full life through Christ.”

Those words of hope and good faith highlighted Brigadier General David Allyn’s address to the assembled members of Task Force Troy during a prayer breakfast hosted by Chaplain David Trogdon on the morning of March 21, which happened to be Good Friday. The event was held at the Victory Base Sports Oasis dining facility. Various members of Task Force Troy attended the early morning fellowship. As the congregation began to take thier seats they were treated to a spiritual song by Major Angela Bowie and Sergeants DeOnte Sanders and Nichole Hodges of Task Force Troy.

After an invocation by Chaplain Trogdon, Colonel Kevin Lutz, Task Force Troy Commander, introduced General Allyn, the event’s guest speaker. “He is a true warfighter,” Lutz said of Allyn. “He’s a warfighter who understands the importance of enablers like us (Task Force Troy).”

“What we’re really celebrating today, on Good Friday, is the sacrifice of Christ. If you’re ever having trouble finding the good in life, just think of that,” Allyn pointed out to the group. “It’s a brotherhood that not many people can say they’re a part of, to see people like our Soldiers who, like Christ, have made the ultimate sacrifice for us all.”

Brigadier General Daniel B. Allyn is the current Multi-National Corps - Iraq Chief of Staff.

At the event’s close, Lutz built upon Allyn’s words by thanking the members of Task Force Troy for “doing God’s work” of saving the lives of countless Service Members through the Counter-IED effort. “The number of lives you save through your efforts will never be accounted for. It’s just impossible. But let me say that it is in the thousands and thousands . . . you’re truely doing God’s work when you defeat these devices used against the troops on the front.”

Serving as a spring-board for a month of remembrance, the prayer breakfast kicked off a month-long series of events aimed at recognizing and rendering honors to the EOD branch and community that culminated in the Task Force Troy EOD Memorial on the night of April 20th.

//BY SGT LUKE BALDWIN//

// BY **CMSgt JEFFREY SCHLEY** //

Working on a Combined Joint Task Force can have its challenges.

You have military forces from all four services, foreign military service members from two services, federal governmental agencies and contractors all working together to accomplish a common goal--reduce the threat of improvised explosive devices (IED) and their lethality to cause harm to coalition and the Iraqi people. Trying to accomplish this common goal using the varied services and federal agencies requires significant leadership--joint service leadership.

Now many of you may already be thinking that the commander of the Task Force fills this role. Although he is the Commander, all of us have a responsibility and a role in the "joint service leadership" of the Task Force.

Webster defines a leader as one who has commanding authority or influence--let's key on the word influence. Webster further defines joint as a place where two things or parts come together, and defines service as the act of serving or a helpful act. Therefore, joint service leadership can be defined as people coming together that have some influence and are willing to serve or help. This means all of us have a role in joint service leadership and all of us should be encouraging and helpful to one another to carry out the goals of the Task Force.

All staff sections within this Task Force work extremely hard to accomplish the mission and fulfill the common goal of reducing the threat of IEDs to our forces and the Iraqi's. This effort sometimes causes people to work beyond their limits and creates tension within the staff section and within the Task Force. All of us need to be good joint service leaders and recognize this within our sections and ensure our people are getting the time necessary to relieve stress and recharge their batteries so we can continue to achieve success. No one can work effectively when they are tired and staff section leaders must make every effort to allow their people time to unwind. As we all strive to become better joint service leaders let's work hard at building each other up and encouraging one another



'Trying to accomplish this common goal using the varied services and federal agencies requires significant leadership'

throughout the Task Force. Staff leads should encourage all their subordinates to take time out of every day to get the physical fitness necessary to reduce stress. Make sure they leave the office to eat and enjoy the surroundings of Camp Victory. I'm sure you will get the time out of them you need eventually.

The different services and civilian cultures can also create stress. Use this time on the Task Force as an opportunity to learn the culture of another service, impart your own culture and over time adapt the good from all of them. Exposure to the different cultures will actually make you a better leader when you return home.

Joint service leadership takes work, hard work, but over time and with each of us helping to achieve the goals of the Task Force your tours here will be rewarding. Recognize those people on your staffs that are making a difference. Encourage and mentor others to achieve their full potential. Counsel those who need it and in the end always pick them back up and encourage them to do better. CJTF Troy needs all of its staff to be hitting on all cylinders, we can only do this if we're fit, lack stress, understand the different cultures and are encouraged to do our best.

CMSgt Jeffrey Schley is a member of the Task Force Troy J3/J5 Force Generation



The Big Power Of A Little Prayer

When it comes to answering prayers, God's performance capacity is far greater than a gigabyte. In fact, He is limitless. And you're always on His playlist

// by MAJ David Trogdon //

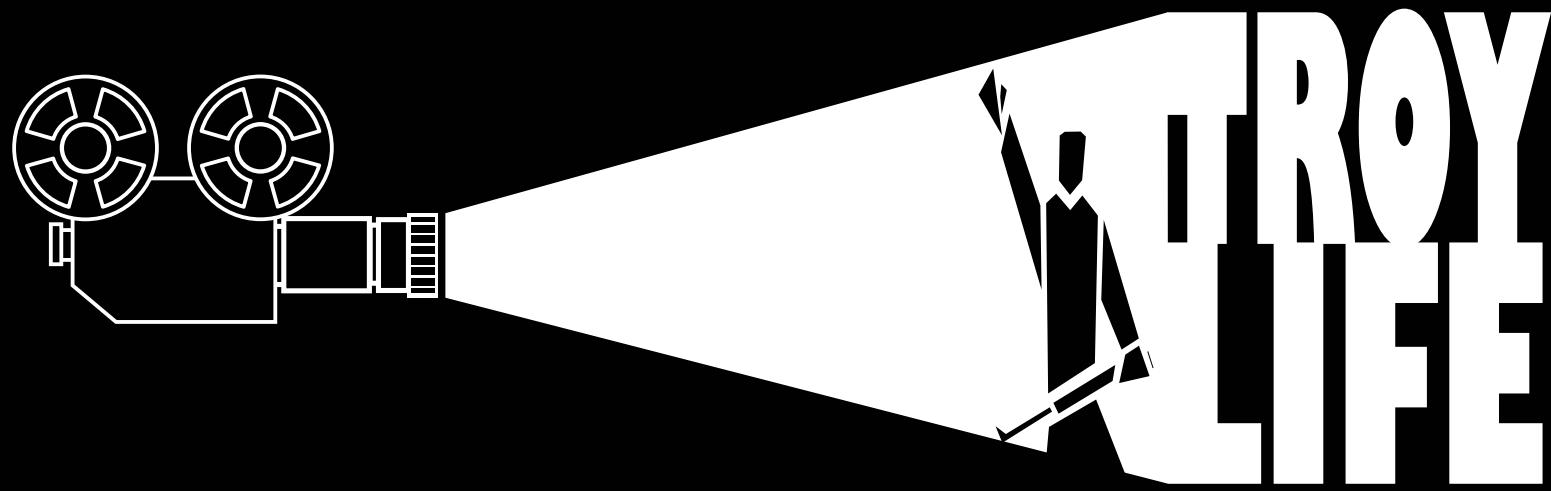
A few days ago, I finally broke down and bought myself a new toy: an iPod. It is so cool! This little IPOD, about the size of a postage stamp, can play about 200 songs with crystal clear music that sounds like you are right there at the concert. It's amazing. I have come a long way from records, 8 tracks, cassettes, CDs, and now to my little iPod with the big sound. I love good Christian music and my little iPod has already been a big blessing. I am even more amazed at the little things God uses to bless us in big ways, especially the amazing big power of a little prayer. Do you realize that when you pray that the God who rules over the universe and who loves you enough to die for you hears every little word and answers in a big way? While God will not give us everything we want, He will do much better by giving us far more than we could ever need. Sadly too often we don't have because we don't ask. God is waiting and wanting to save, help, heal, encourage, forgive, use, and bless us in a really big way if we will just say a little prayer. Even though the need or the problem you are facing may seem as big as a mountain, don't panic, but pray because God loves to move mountains for His children. Your prayer may seem so little, but that is okay because God is so big!

THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

JAMES 5:16



Chaplain Trogdon holds a weekly worship service every Sunday from 1400 to 1430 in the Conference Room of Building 86. Every Thursday, Chaplain Trogdon holds a Bible Study in the Task Force Troy MWR Theater from 1000 to 1100.



SEND A VIDEO MESSAGE HOME

The Task Force Troy Graphics/Public Affairs Shop will be producing a film this summer. Family and the home front will be the target audience. Video messages, skits, music videos and photo montages will be the vehicle for this project. It's all about you! Let your family and friends back home see you in your TROY LIFE. As a group or individually, express yourself to those you care about. Email your ideas to:

lucas.baldwin@iraq.centcom.mil

**... or just stop by the office.
Filming begins second week of June.**

final WORD

WITH 1SG RICKY HENSLEY



Summer is upon us. With the heat already into the triple digits, all NCOs must be cognizant of the health of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen under their leadership. Do not allow yourself or your fellow service members to become a casualty to the heat. Continue to monitor the physical fitness of your Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen. The coming months will, for many of us, be one of the most physical-

ly challenging times in our military careers. The summer temperatures in Iraq can be very intense. A healthy diet, adequate exercise and mitigated exposure will help to curb the threat of the heat and sun. And, as always, drink plenty of water during the course of the day. Utilize sunscreen and seek shade when ever possible. With all the capricious dangers associated with a combat zone, we cannot afford to loose a service member to negligence and lack of discipline. NCOs –you are the backbone and the enforcers of standards and discipline.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the service members and civilians of Task Force Troy for all the hard work and professionalism each of you have displayed in the continuing effort to train Task Force Troy for the challenges on the horizon. Since

52nd assumed command of the Troy company command in January, we have successfully held two M4/M9 qualification and familiarization firing ranges as well as one M249 qualification range. I would like to thank the 192nd Ordnance Battalion, Technical Escort, and Mobile Unit 6 for their invaluable support during those ranges.

To the Soldiers of 52nd Ordnance Group, you are now more than 25% finished with your fifteen-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Your efforts are unparalleled. Keep up the amazing work. In the coming months we will continue to hone our weapons skills with two scheduled firing ranges for the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol. I encourage all of you to continue to improve your foxhole for the challenges that lie ahead.

Counter IED



Task Force Troy