

# Anaconda Times

*Proudly Serving LSA Anaconda*

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April 5, 2004

## Service members strike note with rock group

Story by Spc. James Truitt  
*13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM Public Affairs*

The modern rock group PRC-77 left their families and homes in Central Florida to put on a series of concerts for service members, March 15.

The band, formally known as "M-Pulse", is on their Southwest Asia Tour and is sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment.

The name PRC-77 came from a military radio that came into use around 1972. The band's lead singer, Matt Carver, said he was all too familiar with the Army/ Navy Portable Radio Communications model number 77.

"I carried that radio for a few years while I was in the Army," he said.

Carver spent a total of ten years on active duty with a break in service after his first enlistment and says that if it weren't for the band's success he'd consider rejoining.

Bassist Brian "Low-B" Mackie was also in the military. He served five years with the 269<sup>th</sup> Army Band at Camp Zama, Japan.

Of the four members Bryan "B-Dog" Dickson, drums, was the only one to have some experience with the military on the civilian side.

"My father is retired Navy and I've had uncles and other family members in the Air Force and Army, so the military has always been in my life in one way or another."

Because of the band's strong military ties, the members recognized the sacrifice service members were making and wanted to do something.

"We were sitting at Mc Donald's one morning before a radio interview and we got the idea maybe we could play for the soldiers," said Carver. "Having been deployed I knew how the monotony could get to you and what a tremendous relief it was when a band came to play."

"The military is basically policing the world right now keeping every one safe," said Dickson. "If anyone deserves a break right now it's [service members]."

Since the start of their tour in Kurdistan the band has played in Qatar, Kuwait, Pakistan, and at various installations in Iraq.

For the members of PRC-77, the impact of their tour struck deeper than expected.

"I knew this tour was going to be gratifying, but it's getting to be so that words can even describe it," said Serge Ventura, sound engineer for PRC-77. "I see people coming in before the show with looks of war on their faces. When they hear the music playing, they start to jump around and start to smile. It's a



Photo by Spc. James Truitt  
**PRC-77, a rock band from Central Florida, plays to full house of service members and civilians at LSA Anaconda's Sustainer Indoor Theater.**

good feeling to know that we are bringing [service members] a sense of home."

"In Kirkuk, a youngster in his early twenties came up to me after the show and said it was the first live concert he had ever been to in his life. It was really something," Ventura added.

"[Service members] say thank you for coming here and in their joy is our joy," said Mackie. "If [service members] didn't do what they did, then we wouldn't have the ability to play here, at home, or anywhere."

"Everybody out here has been great," He added. "We've been treated like celebrities, but in reality we are here for [service members]. It's kind of a give and take relationship in the sense that they are allowing us the opportunity to do what we came out here for."

"I've been out here for two weeks and I got an e-mail from my kids today," said Mark Graeff, lead/ rhythm guitarist. "It was just a simple little e-mail but it made me miss them and miss being home. I am totally blown away by every American that is out here because if one e-mail can break me down after two weeks, I can only imagine what they are going through."

"Because of their sacrifice my kids can go to school," Graeff added. "I wish [service members] could know that I love them for it."

"Every single American owes [service members] gratitude, because through out time they have keep us in the position we are in the world," said Carver.

PRC-77 will remain on tour until April 14, then return to Central Florida.

# NEWS

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## Going postal over war trophies

Story by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez  
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

As many units prepare to redeploy back to the United States and others begin to arrive to the area of operations, the Army postal service here at Anaconda is becoming concerned with the overwhelming amount of contraband that soldiers attempt to send out regularly.

The 175th Postal Unit, deployed out of Ft. Lewis, Wash., has seen many examples of this in the past. As the unit overseeing postal operations here at LSA Anaconda, they have worked hard to get mail in-and-out of the country, while trying to prevent the mailing of war trophies and other non-mailable items such as sand, knives and pistols.

"We ask the soldiers to bring their boxes to us unopened so that we can look through the items" said Sgt. Travis Young the current non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the day shift. "Many soldiers are not aware of what items they cannot send out. Many times they make the mistake of packing it."

The 175th Postal Unit conducts package inspections in accordance with Department of the Army pamphlet 25-5 and theater messages in order to prevent prohibited items from entering the U.S. Postal system.

They generally give the customers the benefit of doubt if there is contraband in their packages, the box is open and the contraband is clearly not hidden, said Young.

"Initially concealing non-mailable items is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Young.



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez

**Sgt. Travis Young displays a piece of combat debris that has been confiscated from a Soldier attempting to send it through the postal system.**

"The most that I have heard of anything happening was to two soldiers that were prosecuted and then sent down to Kuwait to be incarcerated," said Young. "What we normally do is take their identification card, information of their First Sergeant and Company Commander and then refer it to the Mayor's Cell, where they decide whether to prosecute the soldier or not."

Items that are considered contraband by the postal service include; but are not limited to: sand, rocks, gravel, marble, plaster, sheetrock, tobacco products, bayonets, artificial pistols, lighters with lighter fluid and military issued equipment.

For more information concerning the mailing of items please contact Sgt. Wright with the postal service at DNV 580-9000.

## Central Florida band rocks LSA Anaconda

Story by Spc. James Truitt  
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The Central Florida rock group PRC-77 blew away Sustainer Theater with an electrifying blend of old, new, and original music here, April 1.

The band, now in Iraq after bouncing around the Middle East for the last two weeks, is on their Southwest Asia Tour sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment.

People started gathering en mass outside Sustainer Theater one hour prior to show time. To those that went early or not, the concert was well worth attending.

PRC-77 kicked off their first of two explosive sets with songs by 7 Doors Down followed by Bush.

Not too long after the second song ended Col. (P) James E. Chambers, Commander of the 13th COSCOM and LSA Anaconda, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, the Command Sgt. Maj. of the 13th COSCOM and LSA Anaconda, presented



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

**PRC-77's lead singer, Matt Carver, and bassist, Brian "Low-B" Mackie, rockin' out during Thursday's at LSA Anaconda's Sustainer Indoor Theater.**

the rock group with coins and a certificate of appreciation.

*See Band, continued on page 3*

# NEWS

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## Local kids find Nemo at Sustainer theater

Story by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez  
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Popcorn, candy and more brought out the smiles of some guests invited by the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM Commander to watch a movie at the Sustainer Theater here on March 29.

The doors opened to greet over 50 children for the screening of the Disney-Pixar academy award winning film "Finding Nemo".

In addition to the show, AAFES donated treats.

"We wanted to show the kids that we have a great love for them," said Col (P) James Chambers, Commander of the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Command. "Most importantly, engaging with the children showed the local community that there was a positive side to America."

As the children returned to the bus you could hear the laughter and see the smiles.

Shadd Khaled, a local child said, "It was a good feeling-I am very happy today...this was the first time I saw a movie like this."

"If the Command Group decides to do this again, AAFES will support it," said A.J. Kirkland, General Manager of AAFES Balad, "I hope that the Sustainer theater becomes an example for others to follow. After today, I believe it will."

Along with all of the goodies that were handed out, the children also received school supplies from members of the Command Group after the show.

"We have helped rebuild schools and clinics. We have donated school supplies for children of various villages," said Lt. Col. Nicholas Zoeller, a civil affairs officer for the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM.

"By bringing the children into our theater we are promoting the benefits of democracy and showing them the freedoms that they can enjoy through it," added Zoeller.



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez

**Col. (P) James E. Chambers; commander of the 13<sup>th</sup> Coscom and LSA Anaconda, A.J. Kirkland; General Manager AAFES Balad, and children from a local village take a photograph outside Sustainer Theater before a screening of "Finding Nemo"**

The 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM G5 has made many improvements in the local communities possible.

As the children all gathered outside the theater and prepared to leave, the feeling of accomplishment was clearly seen through the eyes of soldiers standing near.

"This is an intense experience," said Sgt. Carlos Gonzalez a member of the 350<sup>th</sup> CACOM from Mountain View, CA. "If we can continue to do this in the future, we will."

Through the efforts of units like the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM, companies like AAFES and the selfless acts of Soldiers that serve here, anything is possible. This event is one example of the humanitarian mission that the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM is deeply committed to.

As the mission here continues to expand so do the hearts of the 13<sup>th</sup> COSCOM Soldiers and all those involved.

### **Band, continued from page 2**

As if to say 'thanks for the awards' the band knocked it up a few notches blasting out some Incubus, Creed, and even an original song from their first CD, Sick of Self, titled Leverage.

After a brief break between sets, PRC-77 threw the show into overdrive with some Disturbed and Tool.

"They are really great!" said Spc. Wendy Western from HHC, 172<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Group, during the concert. "I was expecting a regular cover band but I wasn't expecting this. They are the real deal!"

Both service members and civilians alike rushed the foot of the stage forming a small mosh pit. There the mob banged and thrusted themselves against each other as they relished in the vibrant and stimulating sounds of musical excellence.

"You rock!" shouted a female voice in the crowd.

"No you rock!" shouted back Matt Carver, singer for PRC-77, into the microphone. "You all kick serious.... A."

"With all this rank around I don't want to get in trouble for cussing!" he added jokingly.

Also played within the second set was a rock version of Garth Brooks' The Thunder Rolls and the title track to their CD, Sick of Self.

The PRC-77 concert was an explosive show complimented by Carver's wild dance steps on stage and the talents of lead/rhythm guitar player Mark Graeff. The foundation of the group however lies in hands of Bryan "B-Dog" Dickson, drummer, and Brian "Low-B" Mackie, bass.

While this event was a one-time opportunity, if you happen to come across the band stateside, bottom line if you love to rock, you'll love this band.

# COMMENTARY

## April 15: The tax man cometh

Story by Cpt. Sarah Goodson  
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The tax man cometh but most deployed soldiers need not fear the day dreaded by many of their fellow citizens.

April 15 is the Internal Revenue Services deadline for filing your 2003 income tax returns but depending on their individual circumstances soldiers and civilians serving in Iraq have choices.

"Service members have three options, they can take advantage of an extension, they can file electronically, there is a link through the IRS website to do it for free or they can authorize someone to file for them with a power of attorney," said Capt. Sally R. MacDonald, the legal assistance attorney for Camp Anaconda.

Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi freedom are provided a 180-day extension after departing the combat zone for filing, paying, and performing certain

other tax related acts according to an information paper from the legal assistance office.

"The people who are going to do itemized deductions instead of taking the standard deduction will probably want to wait to file because they will need all the necessary documents," said MacDonald.

The information paper also states that the deadline is extended for an additional day for every day the soldier is in a Combat Zone during tax season from Jan. 1 to Apr. 15. This extension also applies to spouses of service members. No penalties or fees are assessed during this extension.

These provisions also apply to certain civilians in the combat zone in support of the U.S. Armed Forces, such as Red Cross personnel, accredited correspondents, and civilian personnel acting under the direction of the U.S. Armed Forces, according to the information paper.

The IRS working with the Department

of Defense, identifies taxpayers serving in a combat zone that qualify for the extension, however, taxpayers qualifying for combat zone relief may directly notify the IRS of their status through the website: [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov), according to the information paper.

MacDonald adds that many single soldiers or other taxpayers with fairly simple taxes may file their taxes for free on line through the [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) website.

The best resource available to deployed soldiers to answer questions about taxes is the Internal Revenue Service website according to MacDonald.

"Don't file unless you have the necessary supporting documents," said MacDonald.

Legal assistance, located in the Camp Anaconda's Mayor Cell, can provide powers of attorney as well as some guidelines for filing. Contact legal assistance directly for more information at DSN 318-829-1114 or DNV 550-0747.

### Internal Revenue Service Questions and answers for military service members:

**Q-1: I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces performing services in a combat zone. Is any part of my military pay for serving in this area excluded from gross income?**

A-1: Yes, if you serve in a combat zone as an enlisted person or as a warrant officer (including commissioned warrant officers) for any part of a month, all your military pay received for military service that month is excluded from gross income. For commissioned officers, the monthly exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile fire or imminent danger pay received.

**Q-2: My husband and I are both enlisted personnel serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in the combat zone. Are we each entitled to the income tax exclusion for military pay?**

A-2: Yes, each of you qualifies for the income tax exclusion for your respective military pay.

**Q-3: If I am injured and hospitalized while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in a combat zone, is any of my military pay excluded from gross income?**

A-3: Yes. Military pay received by enlisted personnel who are hospitalized as a result of injuries sustained while serving in a combat zone is excluded from gross income for the period of hospitalization, subject to the 2-year limitation provided be-

low. Commissioned officers have a similar exclusion, limited to the maximum enlisted pay amount per month. (See Q&A-2 above.) These exclusions from gross income for hospitalized enlisted personnel and commissioned officers end 2 years after the date of termination of the combat zone.

**Q-4: My wife is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in a combat zone and will be eligible for discharge when she returns home. If she is discharged upon her return, will the payment for the annual leave that she accrued during her service in the combat zone be excluded from gross income?**

A-4: Yes. Annual leave payments to enlisted members of the U.S. Armed Forces upon discharge from service are excluded from gross income to the extent the annual leave was accrued during any month in any part of which the member served in a combat zone. If your wife is a commissioned officer, a portion of the annual leave payment she receives for leave accrued during any month in any part of which she served in a combat zone may be excluded. The annual leave payment is not excludable to the extent it exceeds the maximum enlisted pay amount (see Q&A-2 above) for the month of service to which it relates less the amount of military pay already excluded for that month.

**Q-5: I am an enlisted person serving in a combat zone. If I reenlist early while I am in the combat zone and receive my reenlistment bonus several months later when I am stationed outside the combat zone, is any part of my reenlistment bo-**

**nus excluded from gross income?**

A-5: Yes. The reenlistment bonus is excluded from gross income although received in a month that you were outside the combat zone, because you completed the necessary action for entitlement to the reenlistment bonus in a month during which you served in the combat zone.

**Q-6: My husband is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces performing services related to a combat operation but he is not in the combat zone and he is not receiving hostile fire/imminent danger pay. Is he entitled to the military pay exclusion?**

A-6: No. U.S. Armed Forces personnel serving outside the combat zone are not entitled to the military pay exclusion unless they are serving in direct support of military operations in the combat zone for which they receive hostile fire/imminent danger pay. The Department of Defense certifies areas that meet these requirements.

**Q-7: How do I certify my entitlement to the military pay exclusion?**

A-7: Your service branch must certify your entitlement on the Form W-2 it provides you. If you believe you are entitled to the exclusion, but it is not reflected on your Form W-2, ask your service branch to issue a corrected Form W-2.

# LIFESTYLES

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**What band would you like to see come to LSA Anaconda?**



**Pfc. Vernon Saunders**  
B Company, 1-35th Armor

*"I'd like for Edgewater to come here because they are a pretty awesome band and I think many people would like them."*



**Senior Airman Sharon Carle**

*"I'd like to see Dave Matthews because his music is mellow and I want to see his facial expressions."*



**Sgt. Reggie Vereen**  
1052<sup>nd</sup> Trans. Co.

*"I like Clint Brown because his music is motivational and he is a gospel singer. His music gets me thinking about my source."*



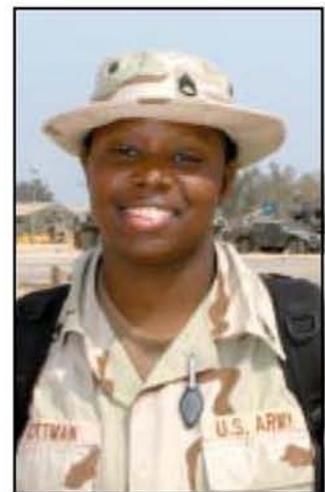
**Sgt. Trever Small**  
744<sup>th</sup> Trans. Co.

*"I'd love to see Alabama again because it was the first concert I ever went to and I haven't been to a better one since."*



**Spc. Michael Gruis**  
528<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co.

*"Tool because their music always gets me going."*



**Staff Sgt. Devona Cottman**  
67<sup>th</sup> CASH

*"I think a lot of Soldiers would enjoy OutKast."*

# LIFESTYLES

## Billboard Top 20 Albums



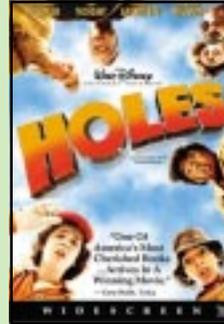
1. Usher, **Confessions**
2. Various Artists, **Now 15**
3. Guns N' Roses, **Greatest Hits**
4. Carl Thomas, **Let's Talk About It**
5. Norah Jones, **Feels Like Home**
6. N\*E\*R\*D\*, **Fly Or Die**
7. Evanescence, **Fallen**
8. Kanye West, **The College Dropout**
9. Jessica Simpson, **In The Skin**
10. Kenny Chesney, **When The Sun Goes Down**
11. Master P, **Good Side Bad Side**
12. Maroon5, **Songs About Jane**
13. Josh Groban, **Closer**
14. Cassidy, **Split Personality**
15. Various Artists, **Bad Boy's 10th Anniversary**
16. Sheryl Crow, **The Very Best Of Sheryl Crow**
17. Outkast, **Speakerboxxx/The Love Below**
18. Twista, **Kamikaze**
19. Jay-Z, **The Black Album**
20. Alicia Keys, **The Diary Of Alicia Keys**



## MOVIE REVIEW

By Spc. James Truitt  
*(films found at AAFES)*

### Holes



“Holes” is about a kid named Stanley Yelnats (Shia LaBeouf) who has the worst bad luck stemming from an ancient family curse. He’s sent to Camp Green Lake, a boot camp of sorts that’s not green and doesn’t have a lake. There, he and his new friends must dig a hole a day to keep the warden at bay. But why?

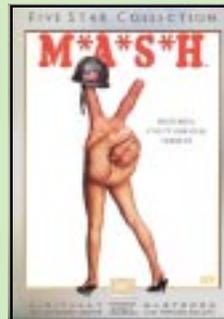
In short it’s a kiddy movie plain and simple. Entertaining only if you really board.

### Rat Race

In “Rat Race”, seven randomly selected contestants race from Las Vegas to New Mexico with one goal: the first one there can win a cash prize of two million dollars. For those of you who have seen “Cannonball Run”, consider this a remake jazzed up for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some of the film stars include Whoopie Goldberg, Brekin Meyer, Jon Lovitz, Seth Green and John Cleese. The film has it’s moments, but not enough for me to recomend the film.



### M\*A\*S\*H



“M\*A\*S\*H” is a satire of war and the military, packed with outrageous characters and disrespectful attitudes toward rules and authority. Who could ask for anything more in a movie? The film feels raw and improvised... almost disorganized, but it leads to the success of a very funny film. Be mindful though that much of the humor is subtle and hidden in the situations and the underlying subtext. It’s not your average comedy but I highly recommend it.

# SPORTS

## HHC team spikes the competition

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato  
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

There was some camel raising excitement March 28 as a team from the HHC, Special Troops Battalion claimed the STB, 13th COSCOM Anaconda Volleyball championship along with the championship camel trophy at a volleyball court here.

Five teams from the 13th COSCOM participated in the best of three volleyball tournament to see who would move on to the next round.

Each team was made up of six players, with the matches lasting until one of the teams reached 21 points.

HHC players kept racking up the points while their opponents were kicking up sand.

Point after point, the HHC players kept finding holes in their opponent's defense.

It would have been nice if there had been a few more teams playing in the tournament, said Spc. Togamua Tuia, a Soldier with the HHC.

In the first playoff of the tournament, a team from the 424 Quartermaster Company beat a team from the 302nd Air Departure Arrival Control Group by winning two straight matches, 21-17 and 21-7.

In the first match of the first playoff, the 424 Quartermaster Company came from behind to take the match while the 302nd ADAC team was enjoying the time eating sand as they tried several times to get the ball over the net.

In the second playoff, a team from the HHC, 13th COSCOM beat a team from the 316 Quartermaster Company by winning two straight matches, 21-14 and 21-16.

Tuia had some excellent spikes during both matches, and Cpt. Deann Aparicio lead off the second match with nine great serves before the 316th Quartermaster Company team put any points on the board.

In the third playoff, a team from the 813th Replacement Company eliminated the team from the 424 Quartermaster Company in two straight matches, 21-14 and 21-14.

Players on both teams were kicking up sand on the court as they volleyed back and forth for the lead.

The championship came down to the team from the HHC, 13th COSCOM taking on the team from the 813th Replacement Company.

The HHC team had annihilation on their mind as they won two matches in a row to claim the first place trophy. The score was 21-6 in the first match and 21-7 in the second match.

Aparicio kept up her great serving and Tuia continued to find a weak spot on the defense by spiking just out of reach for the 813th Replacement Company team.

"We had a really good team," said Tuia. "It was a pretty good game."

"We didn't get a chance to practice together before the tournament, but we knew who played well from back in the rear," said Sgt. Christopher Mcfarland, a player on the HHC, 13th COSCOM team.

The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation is trying to give Soldiers additional outlets to relieve stress from being deployed, said Master Sgt. Alan Bridgewater, the 13th COSCOM MWR NCOIC.

"We anticipate more tournaments in the future," said Bridgewater

"I had a lot of fun," said Sgt. Marcus Mcmillan, a Soldier from the 813th Replacement Company.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato  
**Cpt. Deann Aparicio gets set to spike the ball across the net to score another point in the championship game of the STB, 13th COSCOM volleyball tournament on the morning of March 28.**



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

**The HHC, 13th COSCOM volleyball team poses with their championship trophy, which was a stuffed camel, at the Special Troops Battalion, 13th COSCOM volleyball tournament on the morning of March 28.**

# PHOTOS



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Col. James Chambers, the 13th COSCOM Commander, and Brig. Gen. Richard Formica, the Third Corps Artillery Commander, dine here at dining facility #3 on April 3. Formica was here to visit with troops on LSA Anaconda.

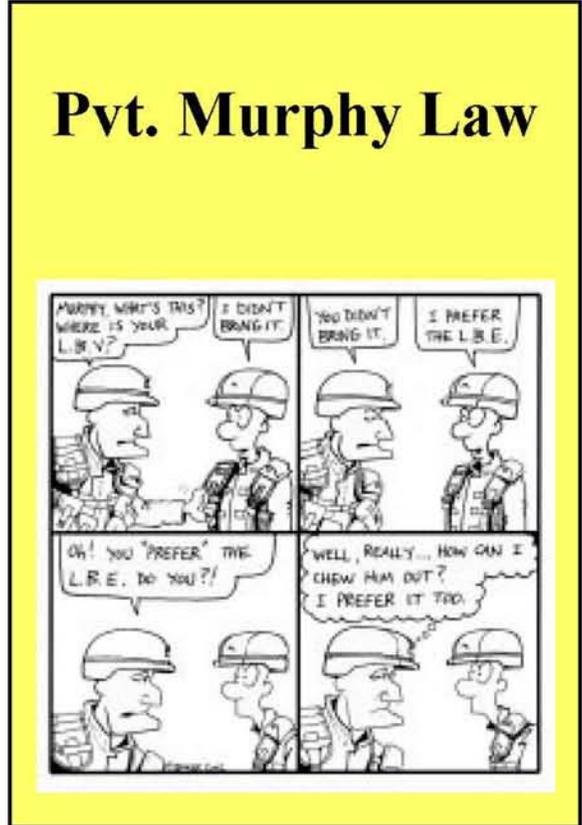


Photo by Spc. James Truitt

PRC-77's lead/rhythm guitarist, Mark Graeff tearing it up at Sustainer Theater April 1.



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

Local Iraqi school children wave hello after LSA Anaconda soldiers deliver backpacks and school supplies to their school April 1. Over 500 backpacks stuffed with goodies based on the World Vision recommended supply list for grammar and middle schoolers was collected in a program started by a student in Pepperdine University in California.

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