

Anaconda Times

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DFAC #1 opens at new location

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato
13th COSCOM PAO

After a ribbon cutting ceremony, dining facility 1 reopened at its new location on the left side of Pennsylvania Avenue by Sustainer Circle April 17.

Dining facility 1 served dinner at the old dining facility on the evening before closing the doors at 8:30 p.m. after the last meal, and then they started the move of the massive transit of equipment to the new facility, said Master Sgt. Leroy R. Gartrell, Sr., from the 172nd CSG and the NCOIC for the new dining facility manager.

Spc. Dustin Ruyle, a Soldier from the 233rd Military Police Company, cut the ribbon to officially open the facility.

Greg Byers, the KBR project manager for LSA Anaconda; Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st Brigade Combat Team commander and Col. Darrell Roll, deputy commander for the 13th COSCOM, stood alongside Ruyle to mark the significant event.

"We hope that the opening of this dining facility will help take some of the load off dining facility 4," Gartrell. "We plan to model all the rest of the dining facilities like this one."

After the ceremony, Soldiers rushed

past the doors to enjoy a good meal.

Metal sinks with hot and cold water, hand soap and paper towels mark the entrance way before Soldiers went into the main dining hall where rows of eight person tables with chairs are spread out to provide a comfortable environment.

"It looks good," said Sgt. Antonio Hernandez, a Soldier from the 341st Military Police Company, "It is cool and a lot more spacious."

A menu for the meal was posted for Soldiers to see as they picked up their plate and plastic serving utensils.

Soldiers headed to one of the main lines or for fast food. Where they were treated to steak, lobster tails and other food items to commemorate the event.

"The food looks good," said Staff Sgt. Ricky Wade, an instructor from Fort Eustis, as he made his way to enjoy his lunch.

The hardened dining facility is similar in design to dining facility 4.

Besides a spacious facility, a large parking lot offers Soldiers plenty of parking room for tactical vehicles.

"I'm going to enjoy the improvements," said Ruyle.

"The dining facility has the capacity to feed approximately 1200 people a day," said Gartrell.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Spc. Dustin Ruyle, a Soldier from the 233rd Military Police Company, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new dining facility #1. Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st Brigade Combat Team commander ; Greg Byers, the KBR project manager for LSA Anaconda and Col. Darrell Roll, deputy commander for the 13th COSCOM help with the cutting.

Convoys continue to deliver supplies

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato
13th COSCOM PAO

Soldiers are sure to notice that the salad bar at the dining facilities once again features lettuce as well as fresh fruit like grapes, melon and bananas.

In the last couple of weeks, the dining facilities have had fewer items on their menus for Soldiers to choose from, and the serving portions for each Soldier had been reduced. This all has been due to the delay in convoys due to operational tempo.

"There was plenty of food," said Lt. Col. Randall O'Brien, the internal logistics officer for the 13th COSCOM, "The issue was fresh fruits, vegetables and luxury items, which were in limited supply because of the delays in convoys."

"We were not at risk at going hungry," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder, the 13th COSCOM command sergeant major, "We might have had to revert to heat and serve rations and MRE's, but there would have been plenty of food to eat."

Supply, Continued on Page 3

NEWS

Blue Devils pass authority to 81st BCT

Story by Spc. Kathryn Spurrell
81st BCT PAO

On April 18, the 81st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) accepted authority for the defense of Anaconda from the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division during a Transfer of Authority ceremony here.

In the weeks since their arrival at LSA Anaconda, the 81st BCT has been conducting a Relief in Place with the 82nd Airborne Division. The Transfer of Authority marked the successful completion of the relief.

The 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, has supported Operation Iraqi Freedom II since January.

Comprised mostly of the 3rd Battalion "Blue Devils", 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the Devils spent their time at Anaconda performing base defense operations, which included conducting thousands of patrols, and manning guard towers and entry control points.

In addition, the Devils carried out numerous raids which resulted in the seizure of weapons now no longer available for use against coalition forces.

The 82nd soldiers are currently in the process of redeploying back to North Carolina.

Soldiers representing the 81st BCT, the 82nd Airborne, and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) stood in formation as Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st BCT commander, accepted the task of security from Col. Patrick Donahue II, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade.

Part of the ceremony included, Hilman and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Barr uncasing the 81st BCT's colors as a symbol of acceptance of the transferred authority.

"I am proud of the spirit of cooperation between the 82nd Airborne and the 81st BCT," said Col. (P) James Chambers, commander of the 13th Corps Support Command.



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st BCT commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Barr, the 81st BCT command sergeant major, proudly unfurl the 81st BCT colors during the turnover of authority ceremony here on April 18.

"I know I am leaving this area of responsibility in good hands," Donahue said as he praised the 81st BCT's motivation and enthusiasm.

Donahue reiterated the 81st BCT's motto, "First in War, First in Peace," and stated that the 81st BCT's civilian background would aid them in their training and interactions with the citizen-soldiers of the ICDC.

"Our mission remains the same as the 82nd Airborne's," said Hilman as he accepted the transfer with praise. "We will maintain the same high standards of excellence."

"The 82nd Devil Brigade is truly a great organization. Their assertiveness, dedication to duty, and selfless service has contributed immensely to the security of LSA Anaconda," Hilman said. "We will continue the great efforts and initiatives set by the 82nd with training, supporting, and integrating the ICDC in all of our operations."

LSA Anaconda was not the only area where military command was transferred to 81st BCT elements.

In similar ceremonies near Baghdad on April 17, both the 1-303rd Armor Battalion, 1-185th Armor Battalion, and the 1-161 Infantry Battalion, accepted authority from out-going units.

With attached elements from California and Minnesota, the Brigade's movement to Iraq constitutes the largest deployment of the Washington State National Guard soldiers since World War II.

The 81st BCT has reported duty-ready to take on its mission of security and support operations.

Armed with outstanding morale and motivation, 81st soldiers continue working toward the goal of a safe and democratic Iraq in fulfillment of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Set against its background of blue and red, the Raven on the 81st Brigade Combat Team's flag now flies proudly over the Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

As he summed up the Transfer of Authority, Chambers said, "The transition is complete. Beyond a difference in the patch on the shoulders, it will be business as usual."

Left Shoulder Diary



81st Armor Brigade (Separate)

Compiled from Unit History

The 81st Armor Brigade (Separate) Washington Army National Guard was formed on January 1, 1968 as a "straight-leg" infantry unit but traces its heritage back to the World War I era 41st Division.

Pfc. Michael L. Burns, HHC, 81st Brigade designed the distinctive patch worn by today's 81st Brigade Combat Team.

The current patch was approved for wear on May 27, 1970. The patch is the symbol of a raven against a white square with rounded corners and black and red boarders.

The Raven is an emblem from Pacific Northwest Indian Tribes (Haida, Kwakiuti, Nootka). The raven combines the three tribal designs and represents the fact that all the units in the brigade derive their history and background from Washington State.

Traditionally, Washington State unit's insignia incorporate George Washington's family crest, the raven on a gold comet. The raven is considered particularly powerful in the legends of the Northwest Indian Tribes.

The modern 81st Armor Brigade converted to mechanized infantry in 1971 and after a series of affiliation changes is now normally assigned to I Corps.

Prior to their activation for Operation Iraqi Freedom, 81st Brigade soldiers provided post 9-11 security, security for the 2002 Winter Olympics and helped flood victims even with federal service looming on the horizon.

Now part of CJTF-7 for OIF II, the brigade has task organized into the 81st BCT with missions in various locations throughout the theater.

This is the first in a continuing Anaconda Times series highlighting our unique unit insignia and histories.

Supply, Continued from Page 1

"The concern about food moving acrossed the MSR's and ASR's is probably in better shape than it may have been a week ago," said Elder.

"In the event the trucks had stopped running up here, the dining facilities would have went to serving two hot meals a day with an MRE for lunch to Soldiers," said Master Sgt. Leroy R. Gartrell, the NCOIC for dining facility 1.

Soldiers don't need to worry for now because the trucks with food supplies have been arriving here.

"We had 16 trucks come in at the end of the week," said Gartrell, "and we are expecting more trucks to come in on Sunday and Monday."

"We have four trucks that arrived this morning [April 22] and we are expecting about 10 more trucks to come in some time this afternoon," said Teuta Bilalli, the KBR manager for dining facility 3.

We order the food from our suppliers and the food is scheduled for delivery three days later, said Bilalli.

"My goal is to keep everyone well fed and to keep the Soldiers healthy," said Gartrell. "If it's not up to par, we aren't going to accept it."

There are many types of rations such as meals ready to eat, heat and serve rations, and fresh food rations,

which is the most preferred.

"Anaconda has a unique mission. We are the source of those types of rations for the rest of the force. We not only have to feed ourselves through rations, but we also have to stop and issue those types of rations to coalition forces throughout Iraq," said Elder.

The feeding mission for coalition forces in Iraq is done by many different partners and food supplies are

shipped by other means besides convoys, said Elder.

Soldiers can look forward to being well fed at any of the dining facilities on post.

According to Gartrell, fresh eggs, sausage, pancakes, French toast as well as oatmeal were served at breakfast on April 17.

Dining facility

3 has been getting eggs, which have been used for such things as scrambled eggs, but soon the

Soldiers can expect to enjoy the luxury of eggs to order again, said Bilalli.

Gartrell said the wide variety in the menu that Soldiers are use to should be back up to standard by April 20.

"We are going to have more than enough," said Bilalli, "We are going to have enough food."

Soldiers need to be prepared that delays in supplies can happen again during their rotation here, said Elder.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Staff Sgt. Rudy Ramirez from the 341st Military Police Company takes his plate from the server at dining facility #1 on April 17 while Sgt. Antonio Hernandez, another Soldier from the 341st Military Police Company waits his turn in line.

COMMENTARY

Uniform standards key to safety

By **Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder**
13th COSCOM Command Sergeant Major

A big Texas “howdy” to all the military members, civilians, and contractors who live and work on Life Support Area (LSA) Anaconda.

As the LSA Command Sergeant Major and senior enlisted advisor, I try to share my thoughts and concerns monthly with the enlisted soldiers on our camp.

The month of April has been a difficult and challenging one for the members of this camp.

With an increase in anti-coalition activities the dangers outside the camp require a well-disciplined and ready force.

No matter the patch on your sleeve or your service component, each member must understand the risks and leaders must take active measures to mitigate these risks to protect those in our charge.

Also, life on the camp has its own dangers. With incoming indirect fire consisting of rockets and mortars, the simple act of moving across the base camp has its own challenges.

Based on that threat, the LSA Com-

mander, Col. (P) James E. Chambers, has directed that the uniform on the LSA will consist of the complete DCU uniform, with interceptor body armor and SAPI plates and the kevlar helmet.

This uniform will remain in place until the threat has diminished to an appropriate level.

Too often I see our service members change their uniform based on their own needs.

Removing body armor, DCU blouses, or removing helmets while outdoors is not only disobeying an order, but also is downright unsafe.

The protective equipment is just that, worn for safety. The DCU top protects soldiers against the elements, improves cooling, and reduces exposed skin that mosquitoes can feed on.

Yes, it is malaria season and have you taken your Chloroquine this week?

Body armor and helmets protect against fragments, proved when during a recent mortar attack when a soldier was struck in the back and was saved by his interceptor body armor.

So protect yourself and stay in the appropriate uniform.

Additionally, civilian employees, contractors and others who wear the desert-camouflaged uniform are required by CJTF-7 Uniform Policy CSM001 to wear them in accordance with Army Regulation 670-1.

Which means all buttons buttoned, snaps snapped and Velcro fastened. That includes fastening the chinstrap on a helmet.

There is nothing more unprofessional looking than someone wearing a helmet with the chin strap dangling, tucked inside and worn behind the neck.

This also applies to all military members, and leaders need to quickly correct those not in compliance.

By continuously being in an in-



Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder
Provider 7
13th Corps Support Command

creased posture requires applying new techniques to your routine, especially when it comes to securing your personal gear.

Right now there is a high number of thefts of personal items and gear when soldiers remove their body armor, especially while in the shower units, and more than one sensitive item has been taken from soldiers.

Remember, your weapon should always be within arms reach and you should always have eyes on. You should always travel with a “battle buddy,” so work out a system that allows watching each other’s weapon. Or, while traveling to and from the ablution units, leave your weapon with your buddy or your squad leader so it is always in positive control.

There is nothing worse than a thief, especially one who steals from their comrades. That type of individual should not be tolerated and once found should be punished quickly and justly. So secure your gear and watch out for your buddy. Stay focused and be alert.

What is going on in your unit?

Do you have a good story to tell?

The 13th COSCOM PAO is looking for Soldiers who are interested in writing.

Send any articles or let us know about any events going on at

ann.m.venturato@us.army.mil or stop by the Public Affairs Office at BLDG# 4137 on New Jersey Avenue.

LIFESTYLES

Page 5

April 26, 2004

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your favorite thing about your hometown?



Spc. Matthew Carter
574th Supply Company

College Station, Texas

"Texas A & M"



Sgt. Chuck Bryner
HHC, 4th CMMC

Freeland, Washington

"What's not great about Washington State?"



Staff Sgt. Dave Karle
HHC, 81st BCT

Seattle, Washington

"It's not in Iraq."



Pfc. Ena Wilson
31st CSH

Gainesville, Florida

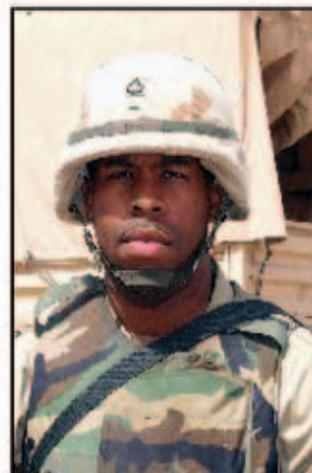
"I miss my mom's cooking."



Pfc. Thernesea Sikonia
C Company, 84th Eng. Bn.

Wausau, Wisconsin

"Skydiving and roller coasters at Wisconsin Dells"



Pfc. Charles Neal
574th Supply Company

Statesville, North Carolina

"It's not far to travel for pro football games"

LIFESTYLES

Billboard Top 20 Albums



1. Usher, **Confessions**
2. Various Artists, **Now 15**
3. Hoobastank, **The Reason**
4. Janet Jackson, **Damita Jo**
5. Guns N' Roses, **Greatest Hits**
6. Norah Jones, **Feels Like Home**
7. Jessica Simpson, **In The Skin**
8. Evanescence, **Fallen**
9. Lil' Flip, **U Gotta Feel Me**
10. Kanye West, **The College Dropout**
11. Outkast, **Speakerboxxx/The Love Below**
12. Kenny Chesney, **When The Sun Goes Down**
13. J-Kwon, **Hood Hop**
14. Eric Clapton, **Me And Mr. Johnson**
15. Maroon5, **Songs About Jane**
16. Alicia Keys, **The Diary Of Alicia Keys**
17. Twista, **Kamikaze**
18. Aerosmith, **Honkin' On Bobo**
19. Josh Groban, **Closer**
20. Modest Mouse, **Good News For People Who Love**

Bad News



MOVIE REVIEWS

By Spc. James Truitt

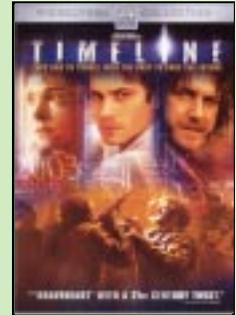
The Apostate



Of all the bad films I have seen in a long... long time.... This one takes the cake. A Jesuit artist priest who has lost his faith gets roped into investigating a series of murders by his uncle, after his kid brother is killed in Puerto Rico. Wow... what a story. Even the R-rated scenes don't make this movie worth watching. Save your time and money.

Timeline

Timeline, originally a book by novelist Michael Crichton, is a film about a Scottish Archeologist and his crew who take a trip through time and wind up at the center of their own studies. The film was somewhat entertaining, but I felt as if there should have been more to the story line. Basically it's a good movie to have on in the background if you're doing something else.



Altered States



Altered States, in short, is a movie from 1980, where a university professor trips out the entire film eventually kills a man. Well... it's fair to say the storyline goes a bit deeper than that... after seeing it twice, I'm still trying to understand it.

For that matter I'm still trying to figure out if I liked it or not. The outdated and bad special effect makes it somewhat comical and worthwhile.

SPORTS

NBA Conference Standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic	Streak	Midwest	Streak
Nets	Lost 2	Timberwolves	Won 9
Knicks	Lost 1	Spurs	Won 11
Celtics	Won 1	Mavericks	Won 2
76ers	Lost 4	Grizzlies	Lost 4
Heat	Won 2	Rockets	Lost 1
Wizards	Lost 3	Nuggets	Lost 1
Magic	Won 2	Jazz	Lost 2
Central	Streak	Pacific	Streak
Pacers	Won 5	Kings	Lost 2
Pistons	Lost 1	Lakers	Won 2
Hornets	Won 1	SuperSonics	Won 1
Bucks	Lost 3	Trail Blazers	Lost 4
Raptors	Won 2	Warriors	Won 1
Cavaliers	Won 3	Clippers	Lost 1
Hawks	Lost 1	Suns	Won 1
Bulls	Lost 2		

NHL Conference Standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic	Last 10	Central	Last 10
Flyers	4-4-2-0	Red Wings	6-3-1-0
Devils	6-3-1-0	Blues	6-3-1-0
Islanders	6-3-1-0	Predators	5-3-1-1
Rangers	2-6-0-2	Blue Jackets	5-5-0-0
Penguins	6-3-1-0	Blackhawks	1-5-2-2
Northeast	Last 10	Northwest	Last 10
Maple Leafs	7-2-1-0	Avalanche	2-5-1-2
Senators	5-3-1-1	Canucks	6-2-1-1
Bruins	6-3-1-0	Flames	6-4-0-0
Canadiens	4-4-1-1	Wild	6-3-0-1
Sabres	6-3-1-0	Oilers	7-2-0-1
Southeast	Last 10	Pacific	Last 10
Lightning	5-4-0-1	Sharks	8-2-0-0
Panthers	2-6-1-1	Stars	5-2-1-2
Thrashers	5-3-1-1	Kings	0-8-0-2
Hurricanes	4-4-1-1	Coyotes	2-5-2-1
Capitals	2-5-2-1	Mighty Ducks	4-5-1-0

NBA Playoff Scoreboard

Pacers	104	Spurs	87
Celtics	88	Grizzlies	80
Nets	107	Lakers	98
Knicks	83	Rockets	84
Spurs	98	Nets	99
Grizzlies	74	Knicks	81
Lakers	72	Pacers	103
Rockets	71	Celtics	90
Pistons	108	Kings	83
Bucks	82	Mavericks	79
Kings	116	Bucks	92
Mavericks	105	Pistons	88
Heat	81	Heat	93
Hornets	79	Hornets	63
Timberwolves	106	Timberwolves	95
Nuggets	92	Nuggets	81

NHL Playoff Scoreboard

Maple Leafs	4	Lightning	3
Senators	1	Islanders	2
Flames	3	Sharks	3
Canucks	2	Blues	1
Canadiens	2	Flyers	3
Bruins	0	Maple Leafs	1
Red Wings	2	Red Wings	1
Predators	0	Flames	2
Stars	1	Lightning	4
Avalanche	5	Canadiens	0
Flyers	3	Sharks	5
Devils	1	Avalanche	2

Notes: The playoff season is here for both the NHL and the NBA. Will your favorite NHL or NBA sports team make it to the final four? Who do you think will win the championship?

PHOTOS

Pvt. Murphy Law

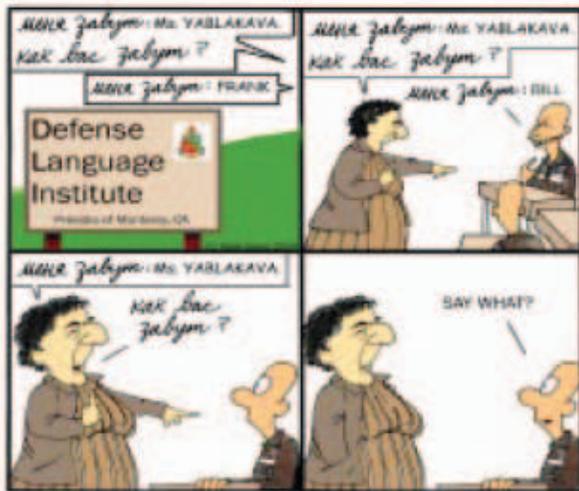


Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Staff Sgt. Ricky Wade, an instructor from Fort Eustis on temporary duty here, looks over the selection of food items in the main line at the new dining facility 1 April 17.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Staff Sgt. Tausha Anderson, HHC, 13th COSCOM knows how to get right to the point when dealing Soldiers as she demonstrates here on April 24 with Sgt. Crystal Montez, another HHC, 13th COSCOM Soldier.



Photo by Spc. James Trullit

Lt. Col. Robert Parker, Lt. Col. Kent Marquardt, Lt. Col. Emmett Schuster, 2nd Lt. Jason Crow and Capt. Jeffrey Kovatch at the Texas A&M Aggie Muster here on April 21. The Aggie Muster is held annually by Texas A & M graduates from around the world to show their Aggie spirit.