

Iraqi Air Base renamed in honor of revered NCO leader

By Cpl Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

TAJI, Iraq — The memory of a 1st Armored Division senior noncommissioned officers' service and sacrifice will live on at one of the U.S. Army's enduring base camps in Iraq.

The former Iraqi air force base in Taji was officially renamed Camp Cooke March 23 during a dedication ceremony in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke, 1st Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major.

Cooke was killed Dec. 24 during a combat patrol in Baghdad when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Camp Cooke is one of several enduring forward operating bases and is located in northern outskirts of Baghdad. Most U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom will live on one of these bases.

"It is because he left such a permanent mark on those he came in contact with, that it was decided to name this permanent facility after him," said Col. Peter R. Mansoor, 1st BCT commander.

Born in Phoenix, Ariz. Sept. 23, 1960, Cooke attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Knox, Ky., after enlisting in the Army in April 1978.

"He was the type of NCO that set the example for all those around him," said Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commanding general, during the keynote address.

While known as a consummate NCO, it was Cooke's compassion and ability to mentor that endeared him to so many Soldiers, he said.

"He was the type of person that cared about all Soldiers, not just those in his brigade," said Cooke's former driver, Sgt. Dustin J. Tomecko, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st BCT. "We would go out to the Ministry of Oil just to visit Soldiers standing guard.

The guard posts were spread throughout the building, each requiring a 14-story walk up stairs to where the Soldiers were located, Tomecko said.

"He climbed each of those stairs and talked with each of the Soldiers as long as they needed him to," he said. "That was the type of person he was. He always had time for his Soldiers. Everybody loved him."

"He would be honored that this base camp will play a central role in Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Sgt. Maj. David Davenport, division operations sergeant major (G3), who served with Cooke in 1 AD's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regt. "But, he would say to you that 'I was just doing my job. I was out with my Soldiers.' He would prefer that others be recognized for their contributions."



Sgt. Robert T. Paladine, HHB, 2nd Bn., 3rd Field Artillery Regt., (left) and Spc. David P. Wright, combat engineer, HHC, 16th Engineer Bn., serve as honor guards during a ceremony held to rename Taji Air Base to Camp Cooke March 23. The camp is named in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Erik F. Cooke, 1st Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major, died Dec. 24 when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during a patrol.

Davenport said Cooke cared for all of his Soldiers, no matter their rank. Soldiers would seek out Cook just to talk. The command sergeant major would always have time to talk and would know their names, jobs and nicknames.

"Soldiers loved him and he thought the world of them. He was one of those leaders who truly loved his Soldiers and always demanded the very best for his Soldiers."

Cooke was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Cooke and his wife never had children," Mansoor said. "You would ask him why and invariably the answer was always something along the lines of 'all of my kids are right here,' referring to his Soldiers."

Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke's memory will live on at the Enduring Forward Operating Base, Camp Cooke, Iraq, Mansoor said.

"He will be deeply missed by all those whose lives he touched."

NEWS...

Insurgents Attack U.S. Convoy; Three Dead

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Insurgents attacked a U.S. military patrol west of Baghdad early Wednesday and an ensuing fight left three civilians dead and two U.S. soldiers injured. The fighting came a day after assailants shot at a van carrying police recruits south of Baghdad, killing nine, while gunmen killed two policemen in the north. On Wednesday, the police chief of a nearby district was shot and killed. The slayings are the latest to target police and other Iraqis who work with the U.S.-led occupation.

Aide: Clinton Approved Killing Bin Laden

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bill Clinton gave the CIA "every inch of authorization that it asked for" to carry out plans to kill Osama bin Laden, the former president's national security adviser testified Wednesday, disputing claims that the spy agency lacked the authority it needed. "If there was any confusion down the ranks, it was never communicated to me nor to the president and if any additional authority had been requested I am convinced it would have been given immediately," Sandy Berger said to a panel probing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Hamas Says It Will Target Sharon, Not U.S.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - The new Hamas leader in Gaza said Wednesday the militant group had no plans to attack U.S. targets, while another top official in the organization said it has targeted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for death. The Islamic group had made veiled threats it would retaliate against the United States for Israel's assassination of Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Court Takes Up 'Under God' in Pledge

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court wrangled Wednesday over whether a California father had the right to challenge the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance on behalf of his daughter. The subject of Michael Newdow's right to bring the lawsuit dominated the beginning of arguments in the case to decide if the classroom salute in public schools violates the Constitution's ban on government-established religion.

Thought for the day...

Silver Lining

Hauling clay for a landfill, a dump truck driver backed his truck too far over the grade and the weight of the load suspended his front end several feet off the ground.

"Now what are you going to do" asked his co-worker. The driver looked at the truck, grabbed some things out of the cab, slide under the truck and said, "I guess I'll grease it, I'll never have a better chance." Anyone can spot deficiencies, criticize a process, or make a list of why something can't be done.

However, it takes a leader to see the hidden potential within each problem that contributes in some way to mission accomplishment and overall success.

In other news...

Penguin-cam snaps amazing images

By Paul Rincon, BBC News Online science staff

Scientists have obtained amazing images of penguins interacting with each other underwater by strapping miniature cameras to the flightless birds' backs.

Observing genuine underwater behaviour in marine birds and mammals is tricky because the presence of a diver nearby can make the animals act unnaturally.

By attaching cameras to the penguins, the scientists could see that the birds kept together during dives for food.

Details of the work appear in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*.

"What's quite nice about the camera is that it's small enough that it has virtually no impact on the animals themselves," co-author Dr Phil Trathan, of the British Antarctic Survey (Bas), told BBC News Online.

"If you're photographing diving penguins using a diver or a remote camera or something, you often influence their behaviour yourself."

Keeping company

The researchers, from Bas and the National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan, attached cameras to five chinstrap penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*) and five Adelie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) from colonies on Signy Island, Antarctica.

They found that the penguins swim closely with at least one other bird on about 24% of foraging dives, in which they target the tiny shrimp-like Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) for food.

The researchers propose that because the cameras only look forward, it suggests the animals may swim in a group for about half of their foraging dives.

The scientists think the co-ordinated behaviour may be a strategy for avoiding predators rather than to corral the krill.

"Everything we do with wild animals has an impact," said Dr Yves Cherel of the Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chize in Villiers en Bois, France.

"Even putting devices on the backs of penguins can change their hydrodynamic shape underwater. But about 15 years ago, we knew virtually nothing of the diving behaviour of marine mammals. It's always a trade off."

In future, the scientists hope to improve the resolution of the cameras and use the technique to observe how the penguins target the krill. This information could have conservation value for the penguins.

"We hope to look at the densities of the krill that the penguins are exploiting," Dr Trathan explained.

"That will give us information that we can then use in the management of fisheries to see where there is potential overlap in the sorts of densities that the fishermen go for compared with the densities the penguins go for."

Correction

Due to an editorial error, yesterday's "Today in History" featured the wrong date in history.

Today in History...

March 25, 1957: COMMON MARKET FOUNDED:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On March 25, 1957, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg sign a treaty in Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC), also known as the Common Market. The EEC, which came into operation in January 1958, was a major step in Europe's movement toward economic and political union.

By 1950, it was apparent that centuries of Western European world supremacy was at an end. The national markets of Europe, isolated from each other by archaic trade laws, were no match for the giant market enjoyed by the United States. And looming over Europe from the east was the Soviet Union, whose communist leaders commanded vast territory and economic resources under a single system. Many European leaders also feared the resumption of conflict between traditional European antagonists such as France and Germany, which would only diminish the European economies further.

As a means of improving Europe's economic climate and preventing war, some influential statesman and political theorists suggested economic integration. The first major step in this direction was taken in 1951, when France and West Germany formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), integrating their coal and steel industries. French leaders proposed the organization primarily as a means of monitoring German industry, and West German leaders immediately agreed, to allay fears of German militarization. To supervise the ECSC, several supranational bodies were established, including an executive authority, a council of ministers, an advisory assembly, and a court of justice to settle disputes. Italy and the three nations of the Benelux Economic Union--Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg--soon joined. The groundwork for the EEC was laid.

On March 25, 1957, representatives of six European nations signed two treaties in Rome. One created the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for the common and peaceful development of Europe's nuclear resources. The other created the EEC. In the Common Market, trade barriers between member nations were gradually eliminated, and common policies regarding transportation, agriculture, and economic relations with nonmember countries were implemented. Eventually, labor and capital were permitted to move freely within the boundaries of the community. The EEC, the ECSC, and Euratom were served by a single council of ministers, representative assembly, and court of justice. In 1967, the three organizations were fully merged as the European Community (EC).

Britain and other European nations initially declined to join the Common Market and established the weaker European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in 1960 as an alternative. By the early 1960s, however, the Common Market nations showed signs of significant economic growth, and Britain changed its mind. Because of its close ties to the United States, however, French President Charles de Gaulle twice vetoed British admission, and Britain did not join the EC until January 1973, when Ireland and Denmark also became EC members. Greece joined in 1981, Portugal and Spain in 1986, and the former East Germany as part of reunified Germany in 1990.

In early 1990s, the European Community became the basis for the European Union (EU), which was established in 1993 following ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. The treaty called for a strengthened European parliament, the creation of a central European bank and common currency, and a common defense policy. In addition to a single European common market, member states would also participate in a larger common market, called the European Economic Area. Austria, Finland, and Sweden became members of the EU in 1995.

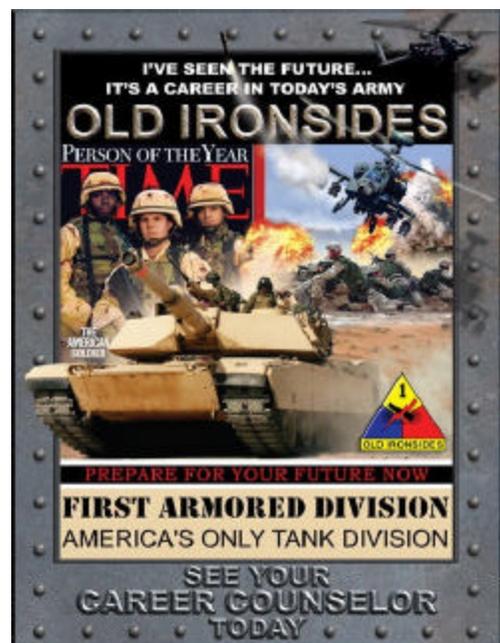
RC benefits briefings

Reserve Component Soldiers are invited to attend a weekly USAR/AGR benefits briefing with Sgt. 1st Class Goodley, USAR from the 1st Cavalry Division.

The briefing takes place Friday at the Soldier's Support Center on BIAP at 10 a.m.

All Reserve Component soldiers or Active Army Soldiers interested in what the USAR has to offer are invited.

This briefing is a joint effort between the outgoing 1st Armored Division Command Career Counselor, Sgt. Maj. Jaranowski and the incoming 1st Cavalry Division Command Career Counselor, Sgt. Maj. Henry, as a service to all of our forces in theater.



The Old Ironsides Report March 25, 2004

myafm.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2004

As of: Wednesday, March 24, 2004 8:44:35 PM

Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - NAZI GOLD	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):				00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		ENTRAPMENT		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00		FAMILY BLESSINGS	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SUMMER BREEZY/ SAMMY'S FORTUNE	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WHEN YOU'VE GOT TO GO	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30	NBA SHOOTAROUND		THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - A MILE IN MY SHOES/SUPER BIKE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00	NBA - DALLAS MAVERICKS @ INDIANA PACERS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LIKE FATHER, LIKE KLOWN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30		A FEW GOOD MEN	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THEO'S FLIGHT			04:30
05:00			DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - BOXING DHARMA	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - BREAKING UP AND BREAKING IT			05:30
06:00			THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS			JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING A BUFFALO HUNT	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				THE VIEW (TVPG):		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE 1ST 100 YEARS OF FDNY		NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - INSIDE NFL FILMS: IDOL MAKERS		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NBA FASTBREAK	SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS (TVG): - CUPID PUPS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30	TOTALLY NASCAR			HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - SID'S REVENGE/ ROLLER COASTER		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WHEN YOU'VE GOT TO GO		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - RUMBLE IN THE BIG HOUSE		10:30
11:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - THIRD ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SUMMER BREEZY/ SAMMY'S FORTUNE	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - A MILE IN MY SHOES/SUPER BIKE	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LIKE FATHER, LIKE KLOWN	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THEO'S FLIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		THE VIEW (TVPG):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - THIRD ROUND		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE LATE THANKSGIVING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:25				FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE BIRTH MOTHER		13:25
13:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - BREAKING UP AND BREAKING IT			13:30
13:50				REEL TIME		13:50
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC	EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - MICHEL ANS KENNA	CNN DAYBREAK	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	TODAY	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING A BUFFALO HUNT	E.R. (TVPG): - THE GREATER GOOD	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30			EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE 1ST 100 YEARS OF FDNY			15:30
16:00	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ LOS ANGELES LAKERS		NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - INSIDE NFL FILMS: IDOL MAKERS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		16:30
17:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS (TVG): - CUPID PUPS	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - SID'S REVENGE/ ROLLER COASTER		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	NBA FASTBREAK	POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER	JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - RUMBLE IN THE BIG HOUSE		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00		JEOPARDY! (TVG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - SUMMER BREEZY/ SAMMY'S FORTUNE	THE GODFATHER		19:00
19:30	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - A MILE IN MY SHOES/SUPER BIKE			19:30
20:00	PGA TOUR - THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP: FIRST ROUND	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LIKE FATHER, LIKE KLOWN		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - THEO'S FLIGHT			20:30
21:00		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE LATE THANKSGIVING	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		FOX NEWS LIVE	21:00
21:25		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE BIRTH MOTHER				21:25
21:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - BREAKING UP AND BREAKING IT			21:30
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00		EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - MICHEL ANS KENNA	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:15				CINEMA SECRETS (TVPG): - RACING THROUGH TIME		22:15
22:45				HEADLINE NEWS		22:45
23:00		E.R. (TVPG): - THE GREATER GOOD	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING A BUFFALO HUNT	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30			EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTRY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE 1ST 100 YEARS OF FDNY	HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30