



## Happy Birthday Army!



Photo by Marine Cpl. Frances L. Goch, Multi-National Corps - Iraq PAO

Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen gathered at Al Faw Palace June 14 to celebrate the Army's 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Cutting the cake were Master Sgt. Gerard Pantin, Command Sgt Maj. Joseph Allen and Pfc. Tara Hoban. Pantin, 62, was the oldest Soldier present, Allen is the Multi-National Corps - Iraq command sergeant major and Hoban, 19, was the youngest Soldier present. During the birthday ceremony, attendees were also treated to a motivational Army video.

## IAG puts Iraqis in lead

By Marine Cpl.  
Frances L. Goch  
MNC-I PAO

The Iraqi Assistance Group provides training to the Iraqi security force through the use of transition teams so it can operate as an independent entity providing safety and security to the people of Iraq.

IAG is in charge of coordinating all transition teams for Multi-National Corps - Iraq. Their transition teams are split into three categories: military transition teams, national police transition teams and border or port of entry transition teams. Each team is made up of 10 to 15 senior leaders, who are subject matter experts in their fields such as logistics and planning.

Each of these teams is embedded with a corresponding Iraqi security force team.

"They grow very close over time be-

cause wherever the Iraqi teams go, so does the transition team assigned to them," said Lt. Col. David Wood, future operations director, MNC - I IAG. "The Iraqis consider them [the team] their brothers."

The Iraqis and transition teams are inseparable for a year. They live, sleep and eat together while the transition team mentors, advises and trains the Iraqis.

One of the main focuses with the Iraqi Army is logistics.

"We are trying to help make their systems faster and more efficient." Wood said.

Another tool to making the Iraqi army more independent is the Warfighter Training Program. It is a three-week course with a more concentrated level of training.

Through this training, the Iraqi military personnel

See IAG, Page 2

## Comedians bring laughter to troops in Middle East

By Staff Sgt. Joy Pariante  
13th Public Affairs Detachment

The Lone Wolf Entertainment Comedy Tour visited Victory Base Complex courtesy of Morale, Welfare and Recreation during the month of June. The Victory Times sat down with comedians Jerry Wayne Longmire, Kris Shaw and Tom Tran to find out a little about their experiences on tour in Iraq.

### What brought you guys to Iraq?

**Tran:** "Credit card debt and lots of it. Oh and Father's Day is coming up and I really need to be out of the country when that happens."

**Longmire:** "I come from a military family and I'm kind of a disappointment, so I'm trying to make up for it."

**Shaw:** "You're a disappointment no matter what."

**Longmire:** "Seriously though, I've been trying to get on this tour for about two years. It's our way of doing what we can to make things better for you guys here."

**Shaw:** "I want to give back. I'm a giver. I want to entertain and do my part for the country, but I'm not a fighter."

**Longmire:** "It's amazing. Everyone back home loves you guys so much and we just want you to know."

**Tran:** "That cute little E-7 down there brought me here. Actually, I was here in '03 (as a

Soldier) and I was an NCO and I like taking care of Soldiers. NCOs are NCOs and they want to take care of their Soldiers.

### Tom, what differences do you notice from when you were here as a troop?

**Tran:** "Better accommodations. I lived on a cot with mosquito netting. I feel like an old, salty vet. They didn't give us bullets when I was here, we had to make them out of camel turds. We had to walk 20 miles in sand, up hill both ways, barefoot. But joes are still joes and they still have a good attitude about being here. Soldiers have to be doing an awesome job out here to be able to have the better living environment."

### What are your shows like out here?

**Longmire:** "It's pretty amazing. You guys

show a lot of love."

**Shaw:** "More love than he gets from his wife."

**Tran:** "I started doing something new out here for the Soldiers. I've been taking about five minutes and telling stories from my time in the Army. I normally don't do that with a civilian crowd because they don't understand."

### What are your impressions of the troops serving out here right now?

**Longmire:** "To have a sense of humor while you're going through all this is amazing. I'll come back as many times as I can until this is all over, or until everyone gets tired of my jokes."

**Shaw:** "I'm glad we have people who want to come over and fight for our country."

**Tran:** "I realize how much Soldiers appreciate us visiting them when they come up and thank us after shows. It means a lot."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, command group photographer  
Tom Tran, Kris Shaw and Jerry Wayne Longmire with the Lone Wolf Entertainment Comedy Tour visited Victory Base Complex to bring some laughs to the troops. They are pictured with Brig. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, at Al Faw Palace June 10.