

# 1st ID Band

F I R S T I N F A N T R Y D I V I S I O N

## GUNPOWDER & LEAD / THREE CHORD TRIO

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Gunpowder and Lead and The Three Chord Trio have already been busy since their triumphant return from EML in the beginning of May. The last show before the group's leave at ECHOS was the most exciting and energetic performance the country band had put out... until now. The day after the remaining members of the band were scheduled to be back from leave, Gunpowder and Lead supported a Navy RIVRON BBQ, and SGT Ryan Couvillion's favorite statement had become the truth: "Rehearsal is a crutch." The

band came together on the day of that job and without a full run-through of the set planned for the evening, went to the Navy compound and rocked out G&L style.

The most recent gig at ECHOS put that pre-leave show to shame. Happy to be back and making music together, the G&L crew was back to their normal on-stage antics and every last tune was much enjoyed by the crowded restaurant. The Three Chord Trio had not had many gigs that featured just this acoustic country and classic rock group. Recently, the Trio was scheduled to fly out with CSM Champagne and his entourage on two consecutive days. Unfortunately, both of those trips were can-



celled due to dust storms in the area. However, one of the trips had been rescheduled to a later day that same week, and the Trio was once again ready to fly. And that time, things went off without a hitch. The members of the Trio were flown by Blackhawk to the nearby JSS Garry Owen, and played somewhat of a "grand opening" for their six-day old DFAC. While the music had to be cut short because of time constraints, there was no doubt the Trio was well received at this small facility. SGT Tiana Navarro



## BIG RED GRUNGE

Big Red Grunge had a busy month learning new tunes, performing both on and off the cob for a boxing match at Camp Bucca, and also The Oasis and Echos.

We learned new songs by Alice in Chains, The Foo Fighters, and SoundGarden this month and really appreciated the opportunity to perform them for others. One song that was very popular in the 90's, "Rooster" by Alice in Chains, was on our initial master list of songs to learn. A few of our fans who faithfully come to our shows asked us when we were going to cover this particular song. That was all it took for Big Red Grunge to learn this song and share one man's story that could reach so many others. It is a good feeling when you can relate an experience to the audience and tell a story, maybe even their story, through music.

Performing off the COB is never as easy as it

seems. Actually for us it's the delayed flights and crummy weather that are difficult, not the performing! The weather in the desert: sunny, mostly windy, and too many sand storms too often. We eventually made it to Camp Bucca and performed for the soldiers and civilians participating in the annual Bucca Boxing Championship. The whole thing kicked off by honoring the man who threw together, funded and directed this boxing extravaganza for the past 5 years. They had some incredible raffle ticket prizes such as:



laptops, DVD's, and running shoes. Meanwhile, Big Red Grunge was living it up; performing for the largest crowd we've ever played for. Military from all branches and civilians combined for an audience of about 500 people. The energy of our band was big, the crowd was awesome, and the hospitality at Camp Bucca was the best. Did I mention that we performed on an 18-wheeler tractor trailer? We had to put plywood down to cover some of the holes so I that wouldn't fall through or stumble off the trailer! For doing such a good job performing, the band was given a beautiful pink boxing gym bag with a (just my size) pair of New Balance running shoes! Fortunately for me, the guys are not crazy about the color pink.

To change things

up a bit we opened our show at Echos with Xbox Rock Band. At one time or another during the rocking out to XBOX, our drummer was the singer, our bassist was the drummer and I was the guitarist. After an hour or so of rock band we performed an hour set of grungy music. Our performance at the Oasis went well, also. While it's usually a smaller crowd, it's a nice area to shop, taste the local food, and relax with some smokin' hooka. At the end of our show we had a couple of drummers come up and bang away at Sgt Brenmark's Drum set.

All in all, Big Red Grunge is having a blast entertaining the troops!

SPC Elizabeth Peterson

**BASRA BRASS**

Greetings one and all! You are tuned in to the TOA Channel. Yes, 24 hours all day everyday all TOA all the time. The Basra Brass spent the end of April and the first days of May providing musical support for the TOA Ceremonies (that's Transfer of Authority) for several of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division units that are taking over from the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored

Division on COB Adder. In addition, we were fortunate enough to see the area commanders from US Division South our very own DCG's (Deputy Commanding General) General Dragon and Gibbs throughout the week. Unfortunately bad weather kept all three of our generals from being at the final TOA on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. As always, they are

very proud to see 1<sup>st</sup> ID band groups performing out and about everywhere and tell us that our presence does make a difference for our soldiers deployed to the area. That in turn, makes us proud about being here and, hopefully, makes you all proud to know we ARE contributing to the overall mission of troops in Iraq.



In the picture from left to right SSG McCaskill, SGT Eleazer, SPC Calabrese, BG Dragon, SFC Freeman and SGT Johnston.

Two other gigs popped up on our radar while we were there. We did a mini concert for the USACE-GRD command group who were having an award / hail and farewell ceremony for their soldiers and the general protestant service at the Adder Chapel on COB Adder (they have two chapels). I know some of you are burning to know the answer to last month's pop quiz about how

many soldiers you can sleep in a CHU, the answer is six...at least as far as the Basra Brass are concerned. The Basra Brass were invited to perform for the combined chaplain's ministry for a May Prayer Luncheon on the 6th. We concluded the month by providing music support for the general protestant services at Chapel Basrah, the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ob-

servance sponsored by the Division Equal Opportunity Program and the division's Memorial Day Observance at the Basrah Chapel. So that about raps it up for the Basra Brass hoping all your music is good music and all your days are getting shorter for you and us all here in Basra.

SSG Frank McCaskill