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Upcoming MGCSA Events

June 27
Vendor Appreciation Day
Heritage Links Golf Club
Host Sup't: Paul Eckholm, CGCS

August 7
MGCSA Championship
Windsong Farm Golf Club
Host Sup't: Scottie Hines, CGCS

July 17
BASF Fundraiser Tournament
Albion Ridges Golf Course
Host Sup't: Brooks Ellingson

September 18
**Harold Stodola
Research Scramble**
Rolling Green Country Club, Hamel
Host Sup't: Drew Larson

July 27
U of M TROE Center Field Day
U of M St. Paul Campus
Hosts: Dr. Brian Horgan
and Larry Vetter

October 9
MGCSA Fall Mixer
Oakdale, Golf Club, Buffalo Lake
Host Sup't: Mike Knodel

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A view from Hong Kong.
Read Randy Witt's article on Page 8
in this issue of Hole Notes.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a Nice April - Then Came May

By James Bade

What a nice April! Six to seven degrees above average with some timely rain showers. Then came May. Cool and wet almost a repeat of last year, which created a nice environment for Take-all-patch, something I don't care to have again. I will always remember a conversation I had with my green committee chair. He told me not to worry about what I can't control (like the weather) and he quoted some familiar words. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." What a fortunate person I am to have had a green chairman with that philosophy. The weather sure can make us look good and then it can give us a lot of challenges, but we can't change it. So we may have to make courageous decisions when adversity comes with the weather.

The MGA/MGCSA forum held in the spring is one way for us to meet the challenges of Mother Nature and things we can't change. We are lucky to have some leaders at the MGA, like Tom Ryan and his staff, who are willing to put this program together. What is special about the forum is seeing general managers, presidents and green committee chairs from various clubs there. For them to hear people like Dr. Horgan and Bob Vavrek is invaluable. Educating our clientele on why we do what we do is priceless.

This year's topic dealt with aerification. It is one of the hardest jobs we do and the least appreciated since it makes the greens rough for a few weeks. That is a tough combination, working very hard and yet making your members unhappy. After working hard for 12 hours, I feel like disappearing for a few days until the greens start to heal over. The quote of the day came from Bob Vavrek, when it comes to aerifying "the more it pisses you off the better it is." For example, if you can aerify with 5/8-inch tines remove cores and fill with sand, some members are going to be unhappy but you will have healthier greens. Forums like this make all of us a little wiser.

"Road Trip" What a nice day it was at the Spring Mixer in Nisswa. After a rainy few days, it was nice to see the sun. For me it was a chance to get the golf clubs out of the closet. Plus, I brought my second assistant along, my wife Stephanie. She did the town and had some peace and quiet for 24 hours while I took in a seminar and did the links. There is something about being "up north" that helps you slow down and be still for a day. It was the first time I had played the Pines. Mike Bohnenstingl and his staff had the place in great shape and I sure enjoyed my foursome. It is always a good day to see the folks you work with.

SuperNews put on a nice workshop regarding water. Craig Paskvan talked about how water affects our agronomic issues and Bob Mugaas spoke about water quality and availability. Before many of us retire water allocation could be an issue. So I would like to see the MGCSA be proactive in showing that we are educated when it comes to our irrigation practices. "Plants do not conserve water, people do" is what struck a cord in me.

As I have said before, being on the board makes you realize how important the vendors are. So while I played golf I took the time to see who the Tee Sponsors were. There were a lot of familiar faithful names and a few new ones like JRK Seed and Shemin Nurseries. Like the Twins ad used to say, "get to know these guys" who sponsor our events and thank them.

*- Let's be courageous and wise,
James*

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Proshek, Hemquist, Bade and Brown Win Spring Mixer at The Pines

The Pines at GrandView Lodge played host to the MGCSA's Spring Mixer on May 15. This event was held in conjunction with *Golfweek's SuperNews' Weeds & Water Workshop*.

Speakers

Bob Mugass, University of Minnesota Extension Service, updated attendees on pesticide and nutrient runoff research as presented at the CAST conference, along with pesticide and nutrient leaching. He also talked about University of Minnesota research relating to weeds and water.

Craig Paskvan, Paskvan Consulting, highlighted irrigation water quality and how it affects the soil and fertility.

Hosts

Host Superintendent Mike Bohnenstingl and his staff had The Pines in very nice condition. Grand View's convention services and The Pines Pro Shop helped make the outing successful.



*Host Superintendent
Mike Bohnenstingl*

was the team from Dakota Ridge GC, consisting of Riley Kieffer, Brandon Kuelbs, Dan Nelson and Nick Daak.

Sponsors

Thanks go out to our sponsors of our 2006 meetings. Sponsoring companies were: Agrotain International, BASF Corporation, Bayer Environmental Science, Dow AgroSciences, E.C. Grow, Hartman Companies, HydroLogic, JRK Seed and Turf Supply, Plaisted Companies, ProSource One, Reinders, Shemin Nurseries, Superior Turf Services, Syngenta Turf & Ornamental, Tiziani Golf Car and Turfwerks.



Spring Mixer runners-up, from left to right, Charlie Miller, The Ponds at Battle Creek, Jeff Schaefer, North Oaks Golf Club, Greg Paulus, The Ponds at Battle Creek, and Joe Schmidt, North Oaks GC, The MGCSA papparazzi was unable to catch up with the winners before they headed back to the Twin Cities.

Golf

Tom Proshek and Arki Hemquist of Brackett's Crossing Country Club teamed with James Bade, Somerset Country Club and Brian Brown, Chisago Lakes Golf Estates to take first place honors with a 16-under par 128. Winning a scorecard playoff was the team of Joe Schmidt and Jeff Schaefer, North Oaks GC, Charlie Miller and Gregg Paulus, The Ponds at Battle Creek. They fired a 130. Finishing in third place

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Use of Trimit 2SC for Suppression of Annual Bluegrass On Golf Course Fairways in Minnesota

Submitted by BRIAN HORGAN

Cooperators: Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club, Dale Caldwell, CGCS, Minneapolis Golf Club, and Jeff Ische, Golden Valley Country Club

Introduction

Recent winters in Minnesota has led to considerable annual bluegrass death on golf course putting surfaces and fairways. These harsh winters have proven to be a good control method for removal of annual bluegrass on turf surfaces that are predominately creeping bentgrass. However, a large number of golf clubs in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area are just the opposite, predominately annual bluegrass with patches of creeping bentgrass.

In addition, some of our older clubs are planning considerable renovation projects to restore golf course playing conditions to the original design specifications. Three of these courses are North Oaks Golf Club, Minneapolis Golf Club, and Golden Valley Country Club. These three astute golf course superintendents have approached the University of Minnesota requesting information on how to transition out their annual bluegrass without harming the bentgrass.

The purpose of this research project is to develop an annual bluegrass removal/transition program that golf course superintendents can use in Minnesota. Previous research has been conducted using Trimit in North Carolina (Fred Yelverton) and Illinois (Bruce Branham). Unfortunately, our winters in Minnesota are unique and provide an opportunity for research that North Carolina and Illinois can not duplicate.

Materials and Methods

This research project will evaluate the use of Trimit 2SC for suppression of annual bluegrass. Timing and rates of application in addition to the number of applications will be evaluated. The following is a list of proposed treatments following discussion with the superintendents and the Trimit label.

Treatment initiation is May for spring timing (B), July for summer timing (C), and September for fall timing (A). Treatments 19 and 20

Trt #	Name	lbs a.i. / A / application	product rate / application	Timing	lbs a.i. / yr / A	
1	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	A	Fall	0.1250
2	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	B	Spring	0.1250
3	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	C	Summer	0.1250
4	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	A,B	Fall, Spring	0.2500
5	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	A,C	Fall, Summer	0.2500
6	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	A,B,C	Fall, Spring, Summer	0.3750
7	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	A	Fall	0.2500
8	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	B	Spring	0.2500
9	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	C	Summer	0.2500
10	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	A,B	Fall, Spring	0.5000
11	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	A,C	Fall, Summer	0.5000
12	Trimit	0.2500	16 FL OZ/A	A,B,C	Fall, Spring, Summer	0.7500
13	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	A	Fall	0.5000
14	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	B	Spring	0.5000
15	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	C	Summer	0.5000
16	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	A,B	Fall, Spring	1.0000
17	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	A,C	Fall, Summer	1.0000
18	Trimit	0.5000	32 FL OZ/A	A,B,C	Fall, Spring, Summer	1.5000
19	Trimit	0.1250	8 FL OZ/A	D	Every 4 wk	0.8750
20	Trimit	0.0625	4 FL OZ/A	D	Every 4 wk	0.4375
21	Glyphosate		2 QT/A	B	Spring	
22	Untreated					

A=fall B=spring C=summer D=4 wk interval

NORTH OAKS GOLF CLUB - TEE BOX

101	18	201	20	301	1	401	12	501	10	601	6
102	8	202	11	302	2	402	13	502	8	602	3
103	14	203	17	303	3	403	14	503	9	603	19
104	6	204	12	304	4	404	15	504	18	604	15
105	7	205	21	305	5	405	16	505	21	605	14
106	4	206	3	306	6	406	17	506	5	606	12
107	19	207	5	307	7	407	18	507	16	607	17
108	10	208	1	308	8	408	19	508	2	608	11
109	13	209	22	309	9	409	20	509	22	609	4
110	9	210	16	310	10	410	21	510	1	610	20
111	15	211	2	311	11	411	22	511	7	611	13

MINNEAPOLIS GOLF CLUB - TEE BOX

101	3	201	10	301	1	401	12	501	17	601	22
102	12	202	6	302	2	402	13	502	14	602	7
103	18	203	8	303	3	403	14	503	1	603	12
104	15	204	2	304	4	404	15	504	4	604	8
105	17	205	5	305	5	405	16	505	19	605	11
106	4	206	20	306	6	406	17	506	9	606	5
107	1	207	21	307	7	407	18	507	13	607	15
108	11	208	22	308	8	408	19	508	10	608	16
109	13	209	19	309	9	409	20	509	18	609	20
110	14	210	9	310	10	410	21	510	2	610	6
111	7	211	16	311	11	411	22	511	3	611	21

GOLDEN VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB - TEE BOX

101	7	201	5	301	1	401	12	501	21	601	18
102	1	202	9	302	2	402	13	502	12	602	6
103	17	203	6	303	3	403	14	503	11	603	13
104	13	204	22	304	4	404	15	504	3	604	16
105	4	205	21	305	5	405	16	505	7	605	8
106	15	206	20	306	6	406	17	506	19	606	4
107	18	207	12	307	7	407	18	507	1	607	2
108	19	208	10	308	8	408	19	508	10	608	17
109	2	209	14	309	9	409	20	509	5	609	9
110	8	210	16	310	10	410	21	510	22	610	15
111	3	211	11	311	11	411	22	511	20	611	14

will be applied from April to October at 4 week intervals. Roundup Pro was selected to demonstrate the use of a nonselective herbicide.

For those plots that only receive one application of Trimit per season or Glyphosate, bentgrass slit seeding will occur at the recommended interval following application (2 to 4 wks).

Prior to treatment initiation, plots will be rated for percent annual bluegrass and percent creeping bentgrass. Following application of treatments, plots will be rated for turfgrass quality, phytotoxicity, percent annual bluegrass and percent creeping bentgrass.

Duration of experiment: To develop an annual bluegrass removal program, the experiment will continue through 2007.

Improving Winterhardiness in Perennial Ryegrass Through Breeding

By Brent Hulke, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics
and Eric Watkins, Department of Horticultural Science

The lack of winterhardiness of some cool season grasses limits their usefulness in northern climates. Perennial ryegrass is one species which lacks good winterhardiness in Minnesota but has desirable qualities, such as wear tolerance and rapid establishment, that are useful in sports turf applications. Since 2004, turfgrass researchers at the University of Minnesota have been testing germplasm that could be useful in improving the winterhardiness of perennial ryegrass. Studying winterhardiness can be difficult because it is dependent on tolerance to many different stresses, and these stresses vary from winter to winter. Combining data from multiple seasons and screening methods gives us the best information on this complex trait. The screening process we used involved both direct, non-repeatable field studies and indirect, repeatable laboratory freezing tolerance studies.

Data from the 2004-2005 season, which was a winter characterized by little snow cover and wide fluctuation in temperature, indicated that only seven of the 300 unimproved ryegrass lines studied had better winterhardiness than the most winterhardy check variety, NK200. A sample of 21 lines was also subjected to freezing tolerance screening, which involved freezing plants of each line to eight predetermined temperatures and checking for survival in the greenhouse. These data were then used to determine the temperature at which 50% of the plants are killed (LT50). The LT50 data agreed well with the data from the field, although a few accessions did not behave as expected. Overall, these data indicate that freezing tolerance was an important trait in the winter of 2004-2005, although not the only important trait. Freezing tolerance tests may be very useful in screening breeding materials

reliably from year to year, but cannot completely replace screening for hardiness to multiple winter stresses in the field. We conclude that better winterhardiness could be achieved by using the most winterhardy germplasm from this study in future breeding work.

We began another project this year to improve the usefulness of fungal endophytes in perennial ryegrass. The benefits of endophyte infection include better stress tolerance and plant vigor, but not all endophyte strains provide the same amount of benefit. We are developing a breeding method that will allow us to find valuable endophyte strains to include in perennial ryegrass varieties. If developed successfully, we would be able to make choices on which endophyte strains provide our varieties with the greatest benefit, increasing the value of new perennial ryegrass varieties.

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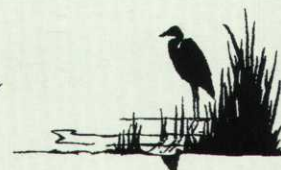
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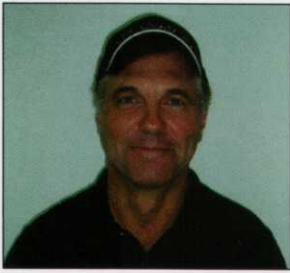
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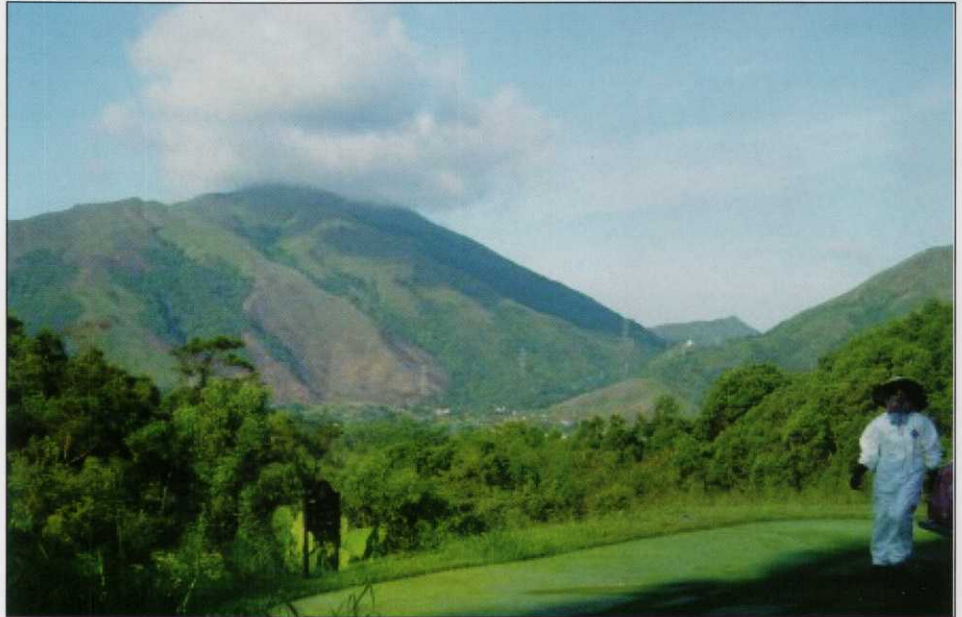
An Adventure in Life

By Randy Witt, CGCS

Senior Superintendent, Hong Kong Golf Club

For those of you who do not know me, a brief introduction is in order. A lifelong Wisconsinite, Packer fan, Penn State alum, I have been a superintendent at various clubs in Wisconsin since 1974. I have served as superintendent at Reedsburg C.C., Janesville C.C., Oneida Golf and C.C. and the Bull @ Pinehurst Farms. A desire of mine has always been to try my hand at growing grass in a foreign country. Through a long-time friend, I was able to realize this dream beginning in February of this year. My first official act was attending the GIS in Atlanta. What a way to start. Most of my friends no doubt think that I am crazy, but my belief is you only have one shot at life, so go for it and live it to the fullest. This first article will serve to provide an introduction and set the scene for upcoming articles about my experiences and observations of dealing with warm season grasses and golf in a very different culture.

So on February 18, with three suitcases and my golf clubs, I boarded a United flight in Milwaukee for Hong Kong. I left my wife, dog, home, cottage up north, and



a mail-it-in position for a country and club I was able to visit for seven days in November, 2005. My wife Mary, an elementary teacher in Green Bay, is holding down the fort. My son Ryan, on the staff at Woodhill C.C. in Wayzata, lends support to his mom.

My employer, Quality Golf of Bangkok, Thailand, holds the golf course management contract for The Hong Kong Golf Club. Quality Golf manages properties in Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore, while providing consulting services at other courses in the Asian market.

Hong Kong Golf Club consists of three courses: The New Course, The Old Course and The Eden Course. The Old Course was built in 1893; the New Course in 1939 and the Eden Course in 1970. A road created by the Japanese march into Hong Kong in World War II divides the Old Course basically in half. The HKGC has 2,500 members from within the Asian market as well as Great Britain. A unique feature within the clubhouse is a hotel for membership and guest use. The closest hotel is in Central Hong Kong, about 30 minutes away. Thus, a hotel was built many years ago for membership use. The Hong Kong Open, a stop on the Asian Tour, is held in early December. Last

year's winner was Colin Montgomery. The Hong Kong Jockey Club is located next door to the club. The Jockey Club is partnering with the HKGC to hold all the equestrian events for the 2008 Olympics on various parts of the three courses. The Equestrian route will cover parts of the three courses. Construction of ponds, jumps, etc. has already begun. I can see that this is going to be a challenge in coordination and a constant inconvenience for the golfers.

Hong Kong was ruled by Great Britain until 1997. Hong Kong now has its own government, Special Administrative Region, with influences from Red China. Hong Kong consists of Hong Kong Island and the New Territories, which is a more rural type area, comprised of many villages. These villages are not like what we refer to as villages in the states. I will speak about villages at a later time. It is within the New Territories where HKGC is located, about 30 miles north of the city of Hong Kong and about 10 miles south of the border of Red China. Zhenzhen, China, a city of about 8,000,000 people, is visible from some of the higher elevations of the courses.

(Continued on Page 9)

An Adventure in Life—

(Continued from Page 8)

As Senior Superintendent, I am responsible for the three golf courses. I have two assistants per course, an equipment manager with a staff of 11 technicians, a landscape staff of 11, an irrigation staff of three, a special projects staff of 12, an arborist staff of five, nursery staff of three, two storekeepers, two secretaries and a greenskeeping staff of 18-20 people per course plus temporary seasonal workers. The staff is all Chinese, with the management positions filled by individuals who are bilingual. These solve the language problem for dealing with all the staff members. The Eden and New Courses receive about 4,000 rounds of golf per month. Various strains of Bermuda, Zoysia, Paspalum, Carpetgrass and even some Annual Bluegrass make up the turf cover. Just about every type of warm season grass is present. The Old course is presently undergoing a renovation program with the target date of opening the course for play around September 1. A new irrigation system is being installed, bunkers redone, two greens rebuilt, fairways re-sodded to Paspalum, roughs sodded to carpetgrass and a cart path system installed.

So, after 10 weeks, I find everyday seems to fill with new and different experiences and challenges. Some old constants such as green speeds, bunkers, weather, members and staff I guess never change, even in a foreign environment. Faces may change, but personality types are constant wherever one goes. My last



few years in the states I found myself no longer really being challenged by the golf course. After 30 years of cool season experience, I found a sense of challenge lacking. Here, challenge is an everyday occurrence. Organization and education have proven to be a large part of this position. With three courses and a large number of staff, organization, communication and education are critical. A major criteria when the assistants were hired was that each assistant was bilingual. I have a second assistant hired in September that had never been on a golf course until being hired here! Put into a second assistant's position. Golf is only enjoyed by the very rich in Hong Kong, as well as most of Asia. Finding potential employees with

any type of golf experience or education is for the most part non-existent. So in essence, I have a large classroom each and every day. The quest and hunger by some of the assistants for some knowledge is amazing and refreshing. Many times at the end of the day I find myself sitting around just talking shop with these young men. A couple are enrolled in the Penn State online program as an avenue for education. There are no turf type educational programs in the Asian world. Americans are held in high regard in Asia because of the knowledge and experience they bring. Golf is booming in the Asian market. Red China is experiencing a tremendous building boom of golf courses. As the Chinese people gain more wealth, golf is becoming a very popular sport. This boom reminds me of the big golf course building boom that took place in the United States years ago.

So, with this background, here I am. Warm season grasses, turf diseases, foods, language, travel, Golf Show in Beijing, superstitions, beliefs, monkeys, everyday life. Some very humorous, some very serious, all very interesting. Over the next months I'll try to convey my thoughts, feelings, experiences and challenges of maintaining golf courses in Asia. Also, I'll attempt to convey the experiences and challenges of living, experiencing and dealing with a whole new culture. Already, those have been numerous and given me pause for a lot of thought about the American way of life and life in general. Hopefully, I can provide a little insight and interest for everyone who takes the time to read the articles.



PART IV

Letters From Iraq...

One Superintendent's View From the Front Lines

By ROB ADAMS

Superintendent, Ponds of Battle Creek

(Note: The following is part four in a series of communications that chronicles the trials and tribulations of Golf Course Superintendent / Captain Rob Adams as he serves his country in Iraq. As revealed in this segment, Rob comes home on leave to spend quality time with family and friends. He returns to Iraq and continues to share his thoughts and experiences regarding the local Iraqi people, the Iraqi Army and Police force and the insurgency. Rob is the golf course superintendent at the Ponds of Battle Creek in Maplewood, Minnesota.

(Rob is more than willing to share his military experiences with his family, friends and colleagues back home. I was fortunate to receive permission from Rob to reprint all or parts of e-mails that he sends home as I see fit. He is allowing me to edit his communications as well (primarily spelling and punctuation), due to the time constraints placed on him. I hope you appreciate and enjoy his honesty, insight and wry sense of humor as he experiences these life-changing events. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers - Paul Diegnau)

January 23, 2006

Well I better write one of these before I go on leave to let you know how things are going. I am fine and am looking forward to getting out of this place even if it is only for a short time. Unfortunately it hasn't been that quiet over here and the bad guys have not left yet. We are making progress with the people here though. We take two steps forward and then the insurgents knock things back one step. On the positive side, after the bombing at the police recruiting center in Ramadi people got back in line to be screened and hired to be policemen. There were over five hundred that showed up and they hired three hundred or more. The people are willing to stand up and take charge of their own security. I hope. They will be trained for 10 weeks as police cadets, then they will come back here to start their duties. It will be a while before they will be able to do it without us backing them but at least we have some hired. The last recruiting event we had only six people showed up.

The Iraqi army is coming around and they have been doing a good job cleaning up bad neighborhoods. You have probably heard it before, but we will clean up an area and it will be secured for a while. Then we will move to a different area and the bad guys will move right back in. We just don't have enough people to stay in every place. We use the Iraqis for this, and when the police are ready we will use them. The insurgents are definitely losing support but they are still willing to attack and run and hide. They have been doing it for a long, long



time. Things continue to move slowly forward so eventually they will fail. "That's about all I have to say about that" (Forrest Gump)

I am extremely excited to be getting out of this place. I don't care if it is fifty below and miserable every day that I am home as long as I am not here it will be great. I can't wait to see my family and friends. I leave here on the 1st of February and it takes about 4-5 days to get home. Hopefully I will get to see most of you. Well I better get some work done. Take care and see you soon.

February 28, 2006

Sorry to say I made it back but only after a two-day delay in Dallas. Apparently all you have to do to stay out of Iraq for a couple of days is have the airport lose your luggage. Well, unfortunately they found it and I was sent on the next available plane. Sixteen hours of flying and I am back. They did not cancel the war on account of me being gone so I guess I will be here for a little longer. Rumors are all over as far as when we will be getting out of here. The recent violence all over Iraq is not helping our case for getting out of here early. It is just another ploy by the insurgents to stir things up and delay the formation of the Iraqi government. The bad guys are very good at these types of things and the majority of the population being poor and uneducated; they will believe whatever they hear. So as always it was the Americans who bombed the Mosque. We have been out in the communities asking them what they think happened and the educated, wealthier people know it was the insurgents and the poorer people think it was either us or the Shia. Again, Ramadi is mostly Sunni. Well, we can't expect much. They have been battling each other for thousands of years. Hopefully cooler heads will prevail and we can move forward. I do hope

someone will smack the crap out of the Iranian president though. He is not helping the situation. I heard a funny joke the other day though. Bush has announced his exit strategy... "We are leaving through Iran". Anyway, things haven't changed much here. Ramadi is still Ramadi.

It was very nice being home and seeing so many of you guys and sorry I wasn't able to see everyone on this now pretty extensive list. I hope all is well with you guys and I will keep up the updates. Hope to see you soon. Take care.

March 18, 2006

Since there is so much stuff going on in and around Iraq I thought I would give you an update. First of all, I am fine. Nothing too far out of the ordinary happening around here. On a good note, they have announced to us that we will be leaving Iraq around the beginning of June. (Don't tell the Bad Guys). That should put me home around the end of June. I really hope to be home before the 4th of July. Subject to change of course. That would put us on par with everyone else meaning they serve about 11 months in country. Well either way, it gives us all a little light at the end of the tunnel. Getting back to Iraq... not much in this area as far as the violence. Like I have said before, it is mostly Sunni here so there isn't a lot of Shia to try and kill. A great deal of these killings are stemming from the fact that they don't like each other and haven't for thousands of years. Some of them are reprisals for the years when Saddam was in power and some are just power struggles within families, tribes and villages. They already have their own gangs set up. A lot of this has to do with the bombing of the sacred Shia temples but it might not have even been the Sunnis who did it. The insurgents are working to make sure that the newly forming government fails because then they will win. The insurgents are very smart and they know how to get others to do the work for them. In Baghdad, where there is a mix of religions and sects, they just create a little friction between the two and let them start fighting each other. The political parties will blindly stand behind their own people and point fingers at the other. Sounds familiar. They aren't looking far enough ahead to a unified Iraq. It may never happen in our lifetime because it is such a foreign concept. They have no idea what it is like to live where one set of people doesn't have absolute power over the other. Most of the people I get

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