



MAY 2011

# IRAQI KIDS

*Commander.*  
*Col. Stephen Falcone*

*Chief of Staff*  
*Lt. Col. Billy Cook*

*Public Affairs*  
*NCOIC*  
*Master Sgt.*  
*Chester Marcus*

*Public Affairs*  
*Editor*  
*Sgt. Allyson Parla*

*Layout and*  
*Design*  
*Sgt. Carlos Meza*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --Soldiers with the 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command participate in Iraqi Kids Day April 30, during an event sponsored by service members from the Army and Air Force stationed here. Approximately 100 children arrived from Hatamia, a local village outside of the base to participate in the program, a monthly occurring event.





# COMMANDER'S CORNER



APRIL 2011



COL. STEPHEN FALCONE

Commander  
77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade

19 May 2011

To the Soldiers and Families of the Liberty Brigade,

Hello again from Joint Base Balad (JBB), Iraq. We have been on our own providing logistical operations in Northern Iraq for over a month. Let me update you on life in Iraq.

The weather is getting hot. The temperature is in the 90s during the day now and dropping to the low to mid 70s at night. We have frequent sand storms due to high winds. The sand storms look like a foggy day all day and block the sun. We have had some thunder and lightning with periods of downpours that last only minutes but most of the time it is dry. The dining facilities are continuing with great food and all of the facilities are still operating.

As we move into summer, we will be increasing our Operational Tempo (OPTEMO). June through August we will be working long hours but we will be ever vigilant in watching out for the health and welfare of your loved ones; our Soldiers. Since we are concerned with the weather, we will be looking to make sure soldiers hydrate, eat well and get enough sleep.

As you see in the newsletter, we have also embraced fun times. We had a great time at the Asian-Pacific American

Cultural Awareness Day. We had Iraqi kids from the local community come on base for fun and games and we will continue this once a month. Believe me kids are kids the world around. They like to run around, play and dance like all kids do. We also took time to remember the Holocaust victims on the Days of Remembrance Observance and had a sunrise service for Easter.

We have started our Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Program so soldiers will start to plan vacations or go home for a much needed rest. This is non chargeable leave and the Government pays the bill for all travel.

Across the Brigade I see excellence, pride, dedication and respect. Soldiers in the 352<sup>nd</sup> CSSBN are busy with the supply, service, transportation and maintenance activities at JBB and in Baghdad. The 275<sup>th</sup> CSSBN is busy with the same activities at COS Speicher and other locations north. The 3/116<sup>th</sup> CAV REGT is securing convoys all across northern Iraq and Baghdad. The STB is performing postal, finance, medical support and security missions as well as manning the site at Harbur Gate. Your soldiers are doing a remarkable job and I am getting a lot of compliments from the Generals in the Divisions and at the United States Forces – Iraq Headquarters. I couldn't be more pleased with their performance. You should be proud! Enjoy the Newsletter.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers and we will do the same.

Liberty 6

Liberty Warriors – Sustain the Victory



## EVENTS



# Freedom fighters take famous FDNY flag

By Master Sgt Chet. Marcus

CAMPARIFJAN, Kuwait --Soldiers with the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade took responsibility for two New York City Fire Department flags March 20 here, brought into theatre after the attacks on 9-11. The flags, which have been in Iraq and Kuwait since 2003, were originally brought to theatre by now Ret. Lt. Col. Neil Skow, who served as a Lieutenant in the FDNY for Ladder Company 12 during the terrorist attack that resulted in the demise of the World Trade Center.

Skow's company responded to the World Trade Center attacks after the North Tower was hit. Ten of his fellow firefighters lost their lives that morning. In March 2003, Skow, then the commander of the 413<sup>th</sup> Supply and Services battalion based in Schenectady, NY, deployed to Iraq. Since then, each departing unit transferred the flags to incoming NY based Units serving in theatre to support the Global War on Terrorism and the Iraqi Campaign. In addition to managing all logistical operations in Northern and Central Iraq in support of Operation New

Dawn, the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade will be the last NY unit to be passed historical ownership responsibility of the FDNY flags, which were transferred from the 462nd Movement Control Battalion, who served from approximately May, 2010 until March, 2011 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Soldiers with the Brigade will carry these flags back to New York City upon redeployment.

The flag was famously depicted in a photo taken by a reporter with the Bergen Record Newspaper. Several days after the 9-11 attack, the north tower flagpole was discovered sitting on top of the rubble of Ground Zero. The photo shows a group of firefighters raising the colors in the midst of the wreckage after the violent attack.



NEW YORK --New York Firefighters mount the flag, currently possessed by members of the 77th Sustainment Brigade here approximately two days after the attack on the World Trade Center. The photo, taken by a photographer from the Bergen Record newspaper, bears similar remembrance to the photo taken by Marines during WWII at Iwo Gima. The flag symbolizes the U.S. commitment to the war against terror.



# EVENTS



## Featured News

# Hatamia Kids Connect With Troops

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA



JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --(R) A child from the village of Hatamia holds a photo April 30 of Sgt. \_\_\_\_\_ Grant a \_\_\_\_\_ for the 77th Sustainment Brigade. The event is a monthly occurring event sponsored by service members stationed here. (L). Staff Sgt. Shane Hoover, a paralegal specialist for the 77th Sustainment Brigade poses April 30 for a photo with a child he mentored for the day. Hoover, a \_\_\_\_\_ is studying law at the University of \_\_\_\_\_ and is deploying for the first time here.



JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Col. Stephen Falcone, the commander of the 77th Sustainment Brigade and Amanda Kayales an automated logistical specialist with the 77th sustainment Brigade pose for a photo April 30 with children from the village of Hatamia. Approximately 100 children arrived to play games, dance, sing and eat with service members for the day.

(R) Master Sgt. \_\_\_\_\_ Gerena, a \_\_\_\_\_ for the 77th Sustainment Brigade and a native of \_\_\_\_\_ poses for a photo with a child from Hatamia. Gerena volunteered to mentor a child during the day for Iraqi Kid's Day.







# ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS



**BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA  
77TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS**





# SAFETY



safety first

## Tools for a safe shop

BY CAPT. RYAN PACE  
352ND CSSB

Joint Base Balad Iraq - Soldiers with the 8th Ordnance Company, 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion provide Class V support to units here and in Afghanistan in support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom, embarked recently on a safety-mission to address a very real problem in a wartime environment. In addition to running the largest Ammunition Supply Point in Iraq, Soldiers face a risk not closely associated with being in a combat zone: hand and arm injuries from shop carpentry equipment.

The Ammunition Supply Point Soldiers work frequently with wood-saws in order to cut necessary pieces of lumber to block and brace ammunition pallets for shipments to ensure the munitions travel safely and arrive unshifted and serviceable. While the task of cutting wood may seem insignificant, the overall mission of providing ammunition to troops has a long and notable history – one that remains a critical and essential part of the overall mission of force protection and combat operations. When Soldiers are injured, and supplies do not make scheduled times of arrival – an entire mission can severely be affected.

In addition, when Soldiers are cut or lose limbs from daily operations – a

unit's readiness and sustainment can be severely degraded, and minor problems become a major part of an overall failure. Suffice it to say, the 8th Ordnance Soldiers reacted quickly and resourcefully by addressing a saw identified to be a high risk and envisioned the installation of a safety guard to mitigate future risk, while preventing injuries.



JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --Sgt. Nicholas Calvillo, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the weld shop for the 238th Maintenance Co., 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command inspects a saw after welding and installing a guard for the 8th Ordnance Company. Calvillo is assisted by Mark Frisk, a contractor for the company Keller, Brown and Root.

Photo illustration by Sgt. Carlos Meza

ries. The task of building such a guard, however, proved to be a challenge. The obvious answer, it seemed, was to call upon the help of a fellow unit within their own command, the 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, that possessed the skills and resources to build a device to manage the risk. The 8th Ordnance Company's 1st Lt. Gregory Thomas, Company Safety Officer decided to make a call to the Soldiers and civilians of the 238th Support Maintenance Company (SMC) to

ask for help. The result was the team immediately went to work, building and installing a safety guard within their welding and wood shops to prevent future injuries on the piece of equipment, while supporting a fellow unit in the process.

"It took 3-days labor to create, but we collectively made the guard – a template from a previous project," said Mark Frisk, a civilian contractor with Keller Brown & Root (KBR) – a company currently contracted to support the 238th SMC during their tour in support of Operation New Dawn. The 238th SMC's Safety Officer, 1st Lt. Wayne Welander, was also an integral part of planning and managing the project, with the help of Sgt. Nicholas Calvillo – a Soldier working in the welding shop

with the KBR contracting team. The 10" blade on the saw was welded by another KBR Contractor, Mr. Marty Miles, who was unavailable for comment. Thanks to the collaboration of the team and the cohesiveness of both units, Soldiers working in the ASP are safer from electrical saw injuries – and the units have heightened awareness to the risks of working with power tools, complacency and preventable hazards.



# CHAPLAIN



The Chaplain's Corner

## Liberty Warriors Observe Jewish tradition, history

SGT. ISAAC JACK  
77TH SB CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT

Jewish Passover Service is a celebration held in remembrance of a 3000-year-old tradition. It began in the depths of history. Jews around the world gather for remembrance of this significant event. According to tradition, the Hebrew nation had been slaves in the land of Egypt for nearly 400 years. The burden placed upon them grew until they cried out to *HASHEM*, the Name, meaning God, for salvation and respite from their labor. God answered that plea and brought them to the “promised land.”

On Monday April 18, a group of Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers gathered at the Tuskegee room of DFAC2 on JBB to celebrate Passover. Included with the Jews were several people of other faith backgrounds who simply wished to learn. Members of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Unit Ministry Team also took part.

The experience began with a brief history of Passover and the reason behind the celebration. Each part of the service is an object lesson. The purpose according to our host, Air Force Chaplain, Rabbi S. Schechter, was not only to have a meal, but also to teach and remember what *HASHEM*, the Lord, had done. We were encouraged to ask questions throughout the service.

There is a very specific format for Passover. This format includes 15 steps. The Rabbi also instructed us that many details were flexible so that the children or others unfamiliar with Judaism could understand the symbolism presented. To assist with the process each participant had a *Haggadah*, a book of “the telling.” This book gave systematic instructions of each step. The first ten steps were for remembrance. Traditionally they are used to teach the children of the home the meaning of Passover and the history of the People of Israel. Bitter herbs symbolize bondage. Salt water symbolizes the tears of the people as they cried out to God. Ceremonial washing of the hands symbolized the purity of God and His cleansing. Many

Other symbols teach various aspects of Jewish faith, culture, and history.

Once the first ten steps are complete the *Shulchan Orech*, the holiday meal, is consumed with joy and festivity. The participants realize that God has saved his people and are therefore free to worship Him. The remaining steps are in anticipation of celebrating the Passover with the *Messiah*. The Jews also look forward to when all God's people will rejoice together. For someone from a different background, this opportunity was truly eye opening. I learned about both my own faith and Judaism. It was an experience like none other. I experienced new traditions and new foods. I had the opportunity to learn about a different culture and ritual.

“For someone from a different background, this opportunity was truly eye-opening. I learned about my own faith and Judaism.”



# SOLDIER OF THE MONTH



MAY

By Staff Sgt. Charles Gaglio

Spc. Jayson Hennelly, a native of Forked river , N.J. exercised initiative in researching the Unit's lost cargo after receiving information that the Unit's conex had experienced numerous problems in delivery, missing the suspense in shipping, mis-labeled packing list and later received an invalid Transportation Movement Request, (TMR).

Hennelley networked between all parties involved; tracking down shipment from the Fort Dix Installation Transportation Officer and the Port of Debarkation in Charleston, South Carolina, onto Camp Arifjan, Camp Buerhing, Camp Adder, and Kalsu and onto Joint Base Balad Spc. Hennelly sought through the entire mission; making coordination's with the CRSP Yard at Joint Base Balad and the MCT to provide a Wretch Operator in loading the Cargo onto 3 flat-bed trucks.

SPC Hennelly prepared the local TMR to move the Unit's Cargo from The CRSP Yard to the 77th's Supply Sergeant, as he escorted the small convoy to its final destination. This Soldier's dedication and commitment to the mission has been invaluable to the 77th Sustainment Brigade. His relentless pursuits of excellence and attention to detail were directly responsible for the successful delivery of our Unit's property.





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JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Col. Stephen Falcone, the commander of the 77th Sustainment Brigade and Amanda Kayales an automated logistical specialist with the 77th sustainment Brigade pose for a photo April 30 with children from the village of Hatamia. Approximately 100 children arrived to play games, dance, sing and eat with service members for the day.

(R) Master Sgt. Anna Gerena, the noncommissioned officer in charge of operations for the 77th Sustainment Brigade poses for a photo with a child from Hatamia. Gerena volunteered to mentor a child during the day





# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



**BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA  
77TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**  
— Approximately 15 service members from the Army, Air Force and Navy gathered at the Distinguished Visitor Quarters here to participate in a week-long course that advocates equal opportunity among members in the Armed Forces.

The Equal Opportunity Leader course is designed to prepare service members for duties as an Equal Opportunity leader at the company or battalion level, said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tracy Angell, the Equal Opportunity Advisor for the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 310<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command and one of the instructors for the course.

Other instructors included Master Sgt. Pamela Johnson, the Equal Opportunity Advisor for the 310<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric Krone, the Equal Opportunity Advisor the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade here.

Service members were expected to devote the

time they were excused from working during the week to perform the tasks required of an equal opportunity student.

Course material was structured in four phases with the initial phase outlining the Army's EO program, prevention of sexual assault program and small group facilitation and instruction designed to describe the role of an equal opportunity leader and equal opportunity advisor.

The second phase highlights individual and group behavior, communication processes including effective and active listening, conflict management, concepts of culture, knowledge and skills for interviews and assessments, understanding self values, attitudes, and behavior and self awareness. Subsequent discussions focused on how these issues relate to the duties



**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** --Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Angell, the equal Opportunity Advisor for the 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command instructs an equal opportunity leader course here May 9.



# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



**BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA  
77TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

and responsibilities of an EOL.

Thirdly, aspects of discrimination and power, racism, sexism, prevention of sexual harassment, extremism, and religious accommodations were discussed.

Lastly, phase four highlighted EO skills and information. Command climate assessments, complaint procedures, ethnic observances and EO action plans were also emphasized.

Throughout the course students were expected to take 4 quizzes and maintain an above 70 average as well as passing a final exam.

The nature of the course is likely to endorse discussions amongst service members with diverse views and promote communication of sensitive topics. "Keep an open mind. Listen to each other. Listen for understanding, not for agreement," said Angell, encouraging students to avoid letting defense mechanisms get in the way of consideration for other's views and beliefs.

Try to help others in their understanding process, he said.

Although the EO program is commander-led, leaders are not always subject matter experts and must rely on junior

service members to ensure the program is run effectively.

"This is a tool," said Col. Stephen Falcone, the commander of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 310<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command. You're going to have to educate your commanders on Equal Opportunity Policy," he said pointing out Army Regulation 600-20 that outlines command policy.

Students and instructors who have taken the course previously noted differences between course material and instruction here compared to courses taken at home.

"I think they actually received better course instruction compared to the EO class given in the garrison environment," said Angell who instructed the class here for the first time since becoming an Equal Opportunity Advisor.

"Even though the same literature is used, deployed service members are able to see first-hand the issues that are prone to surface given the high stress environment," he said, adding that the training service members gain here is more relevant due to the active-duty operational environment.

"The class was really good, and was more informative than previous courses," said Capt. Karin Schieve, the assistant officer in charge of human resources operations for the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 310<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command who



took a two-week long EO course in 2002 while stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

The instructors made the class more lively, said Schieve, a native of Doylestown, N.J. with Thai and German roots who also has taken the course as a civilian.

Soldiers taking the class here represented various states, ethnicity, religious preference, gender and social status.

Many Reserve Soldiers and haven't had the opportunity to function in an active duty status and therefore haven't been exposed to diversity, said Angell.

Overall, the course delved into the five areas that encompass the military's EO program.

In order to maintain good order and discipline you must treat all Soldiers with respect and dignity regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs and color. There is zero tolerance for discrimination, said Falcone.



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STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA  
77TH SB





# MWR



## BY SGT. ALLYSON PARLA, 77TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Soldiers with the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade gathered at the Brigade Headquarters here May 7 to discuss implementation of a new morale boosting event, dubbed “Liberty Knights,” organized by a committee of members from the brigade. The morale, welfare and recreation committee will be key in organizing the activities. The idea was spearheaded by Command Sgt. Maj. Nadee Lunde, the command sergeant major for the Brigade. THE MWR event proved to be a huge success, as evident by the turnout of Soldiers and amount of participation during the gathering.

Often Soldiers fall into the humdrum routine of working and going straight to the containerized housing, or designated living quarters for Soldiers stationed here, said Lunde.

“Liberty Nights,” aims to counteract



the cycle of repetition and conundrum of boredom. Birthday celebrations, promotions and Soldier accomplishments are slated to be recognized each month at the events, as well as music, games, cookouts and other activities. MWR committee members work hard to organize these events, and each individual was assigned a task to complete. Tasks that the members have in addition to their regular day jobs include music set-up and equipment, lighting, food and activity organization.

“The first LIBERTY NIGHT we had was a success,” said Sgt. Sandra Seixeiro, the knowledge management non-commissioned officer in charge for the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 310<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

“The word was out. Soldiers that we had not seen due to mission requirements attended. We socialized, ate some hot-wings, cake and played all types of

games such as Dominoes, Bean-Bag Toss, Volleyball, and board-games. I watched Soldiers get promoted to their next rank. Mothers were recognized and told Happy Mother’s Day. It was awesome. A lot of us had come together just like what us LIBERTY WARRIORS are all about,” she said.

The next event will be on May 21, 2011. Come and join us for some fun, smiles and laughter. Anyone who will like to find out more info. or become a member with the MWR Committee at the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade please contact Staff Sgt. Arion Sullivan, the human resources noncommissioned officer for the Brigade S-1 at 483-3363.





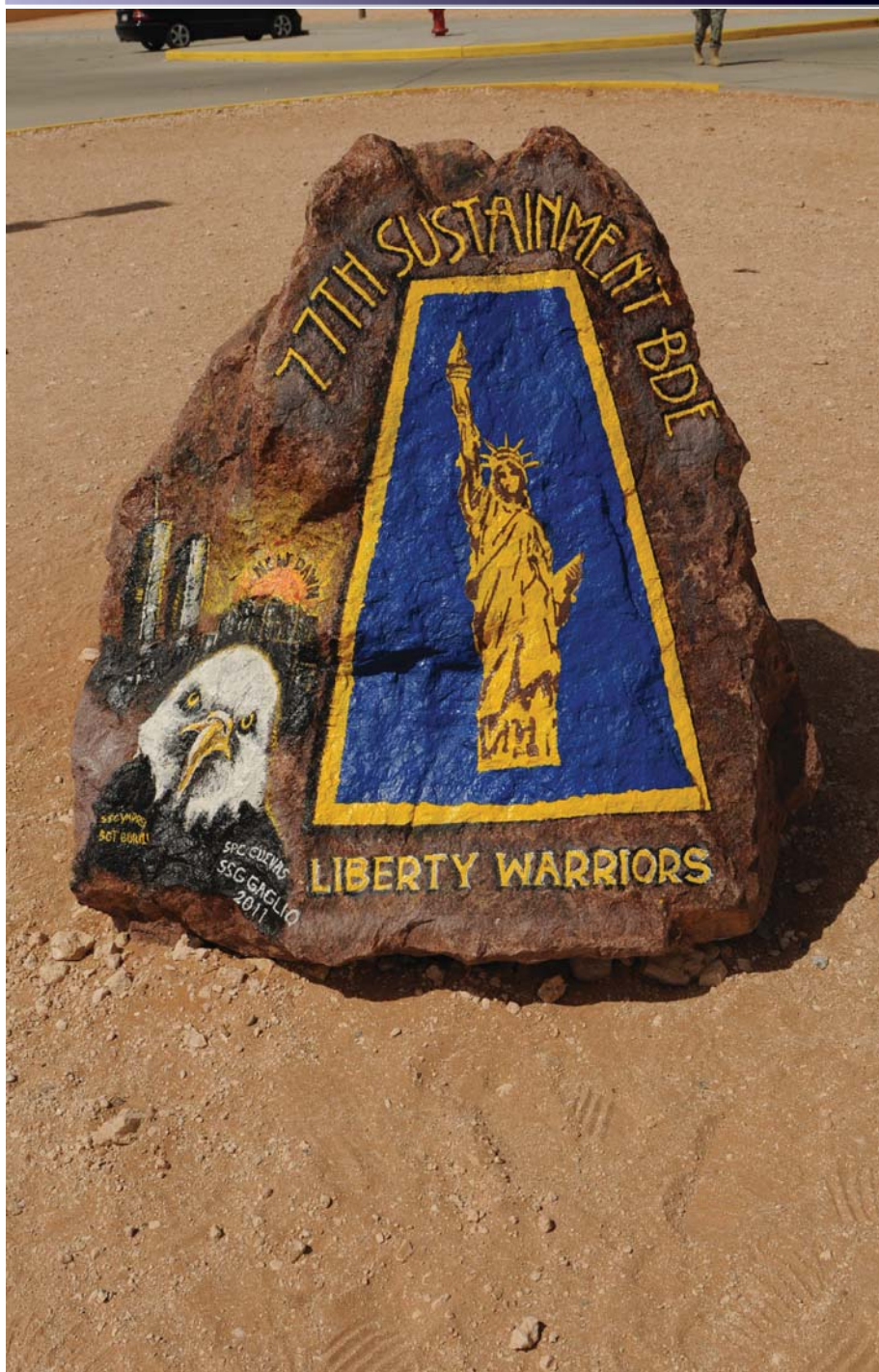
**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Soldiers with the 77th Sustainment Brigade's Plans sections display cards sent by children who attend a child care program, called the Midlothian family YMCA located in Midlothian, Virginia.**

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Col. Ernst C. (Max) von Arnswaldt holds up a card illustrated by a child from a kindergarten class sent to members of the 77th Brigade's S-5 Plans section here May 7. The children who sent the artwork attend various schools in the Midlothian area, but all of them attend a child care program at the Midlothian YMCA.**





# SOCIAL MEDIA



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