

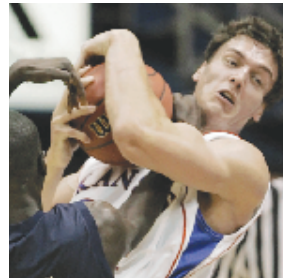
SPORTS

UA hoops: 'Brutal' challenge ahead at Kansas **1C**

UA football: Bowls interested in Cats? **1C**

NCAA football: Arkansas stuns No. 1 LSU **1C**

NBA: Suns move to 11-2 with win over Clippers **7C**



THE WAR AT HOME

Surgeon fulfilled by Iraq work

'Most rewarding thing I've done professionally,' Tucsonan says

Editor's note: This story is part of a continuing series on the impact of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on Tucson and its residents. For all the stories in the series, go to www.tucsoncitizen.com/warathome

SHERYL KORNMAN
skornman@tucsoncitizen.com

Tucson surgeon James Balsarak trained for a second tour of duty in Iraq by handling trauma calls for five months at University Medical Center.

Seeing the messy result of gang violence and drunken driving helped prepare him for four months in Iraq from May 1 to Sept. 9, he said.

In 2004, he spent 65 days in Iraq as chief trauma surgeon at a medical facility in Baghdad.

This time, the associate clinical professor of surgery at the University of Arizona College of Medicine was the commander of the Air National Guard's Air Expeditionary Forces 447th Medical Squadron at the state-of-the-art hospital built by the U.S. Army at Sather Air Base in Baghdad.

He served with a 23-member team of doctors, nurses, dentists, medical technicians and public health and bioenvironmental engineers, all with civilian jobs in Tucson.

They are members of the 162nd Medical Group of the 162nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, the largest Guard wing in the nation. It trains F-16 pilots at its base at Tucson International Airport.

Balsarak's job was to coordinate medical and surgical care with the Multinational Coalition Iraq Surgeons Directorate for both U.S. and coalition forces.

"It's the most rewarding thing I've ever done professionally," he said.

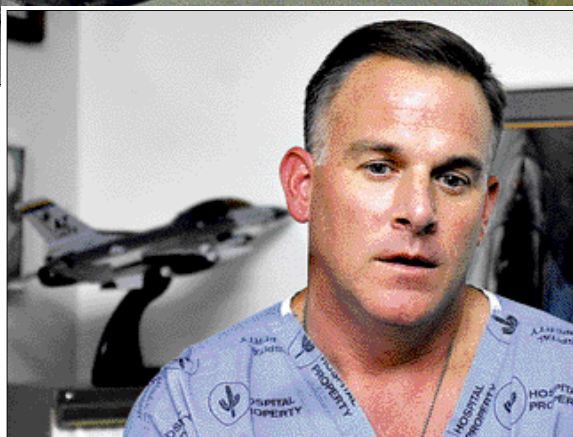
The deployment was more danger-



Photo courtesy of James Balsarak

ABOVE: Surgeons, nurses and other medical workers care for the wounded after an insurgent rocket attack June 20.

RIGHT: Col. James Balsarak, a senior partner at Southwest Surgery Associates, is the commander of the 162nd Medical Group of the 162nd Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, headquartered at Tucson International Airport. He has a model of an F-16 in his East Side office.



RENEE BRACAMONTE/Tucson Citizen

> To read more in our series "The War at Home" or to read more about the war in Iraq on the Department of Defense Web site, see this story at www.tucsoncitizen.com.

ous than his 2004 service in Iraq, he said.

"There was much more evidence that we weren't alone this time," Balsarak said.

"There were a lot more insurgents active in our proximity this time, very well trained by other Mideast factions. They have more structure, and they're better at what they do."

Balsarak also did some surgery, working on "local nationals" - children and adults.

"I wasn't in fear of my well-being every day," he said. "We were well-protected."

Balsarak, 43, said the unit's doctors not only saved lives but also "processed" troops killed in action. It was "pretty horrific," Balsarak said. Many of the dead were 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds.

"When you see death from trauma in Tucson, it's often avoidable," he said. "It's gang violence or mixing alcohol and driving. In a war zone, when you see the young Americans who put their lives on the line to protect you (die), it's hard."

The doctors examined each body before placing the remains in a casket. Each casket is draped with an

American flag.

An honor guard performs a "Patriot Detail" as troops stand by and witness the daily shipment of the dead.

"We did that every day. We sent 100 home every month I was there," Balsarak said.

One soldier's father was working in Iraq as a civilian contractor when his son was killed. He watched as soldiers carried his son's casket onto the aircraft.

In his grief, he draped himself over the flag-draped coffin, Balsarak said.

"It really makes you think about your own family and the different, brutal ways" the troops are dying, he said.

Especially tough were the suicides. Six American servicemen killed themselves during his four months at

GUARD, continued/Page 4A



Photo courtesy of James Balsarak

Col. James Balsarak (left) with his chief flight surgeon, **Lt. Col. Eric Kendle**, on the flight line after loading a patient onto a medevac UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Baghdad.

INDEX

Top stories inside

Citizen voices

> EDITORIAL: After years of delay, border fences are being thrown up at a rapid clip - far too quickly to protect wildlife, waterways and fragile lands. **1B**

> MICHAEL A. CHIHAK: Recollections of how a shoeshine boy broke Michael's heart in an Indian village 6,000 feet up in the Himalayan foothills. **1B**

Nation + World

> FLU DRUGS: FDA experts are recommending new label warnings about possible side effects of influenza drugs Tamiflu and Relenza. **3B**

> MISHAP AT SEA: A Canadian cruise ship is evacuated after hitting submerged ice near Antarctica. All passengers and crew members make it to safety. **3B**

Classified	Inside	Lottery	4A
Comics	4B	Obituaries	11A
Citizen voices	1B-2B	Movie times	6B
Crossword	Classified 2	Television	5B
Dilbert	4B	tucsoncitizen.com	11A
Astrology	5B		

35 cents

Since 1870, Arizona's Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper

Firefighter training sparks worry

New role - looking for terrorists - raises privacy concerns

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Firefighters in major cities are being trained to take on a new role as lookouts for terrorism, raising concerns of eroding their standing as American icons and infringing on people's privacy.

Unlike police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel don't need warrants to access hundreds of thousands of homes and buildings each year, putting them in a position to spot behavior that could indicate terrorist activity or planning.

But there are fears that they could lose the faith of a skeptical public by becoming the eyes of the government, looking for suspicious items such as building blueprints or bomb-making manuals or materials.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Americans have given up some of their privacy rights in an effort to prevent future strikes. The government monitors phone calls and e-mails, more limits have been put on carry-on luggage for fliers, and some people have trouble traveling because their names



ONLINE POLL

Vote at www.tucsoncitizen.com.

Should firefighters double as tipsters on the lookout for possible terrorism?

are similar to those on terrorist watch lists.

The American Civil Liberties Union says using firefighters to gather intelligence is another step in that direction.

Mike German, a former FBI agent who is now national security policy counsel to the ACLU, said the concept is dangerously close to the Bush administration's 2002 proposal to have workers with access to private homes - such as postal carriers and telephone repairmen - report suspicious behavior to the FBI. "Americans universally abhorred that idea," German said.

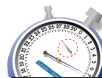
The Homeland Security Department is testing a program with the New York City Fire Department to share intelligence information so firefighters are better prepared when they respond to emergency calls. Homeland Security also trains the New York City fire service in how to identify material or behavior that may indicate terrorist activities. If it's successful, the government intends to expand the program to other major metropolitan areas.

As part of the program, which started last December, Homeland Security gave secret clearances to nine New York fire chiefs, according to reports obtained by The Associated Press.

"They're really doing technical inspections, and if perchance they find something like, you know, a bunch of RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) rounds in somebody's basement, I think it's a no-brainer," said Jack Tomarchio, a senior official in Homeland Security's intelligence division. "The police ought to know about that, the fire service ought to know about that, and potentially maybe somebody in the intelligence community should know about that."

Even before the federal program began, New York firefighters and inspectors had been training to recognize materials and behavior the government identifies as "signs of planning and support for terrorism."

When going to private residences, for example, they are told to be alert for a person who is hostile, uncooperative or expressing hate or discontent with the United States; unusual chemicals or other materials that seem out of place; ammunition, firearms or weapons boxes; surveillance equipment; still and video cameras; night-vision goggles; maps, photos, blueprints; police manuals, training manuals, flight manuals; and little or no furniture other than a bed or mattress.



RealFAST
LOCAL NEWS

A horseback unit?

Police chief to present plan to help secure downtown

Tucson police Chief Richard Miranda will present a security plan for the downtown area to the City Council on Tuesday.

The plan includes security cameras, more police officers patrolling the area on foot and bike, and a horseback unit. Miranda also wants to add a radio and e-mail alert system that would connect police with business owners in the area.

Story, 4A

Religious beliefs cited

Court: Mom without custody can stop immunization

Even after a child has been removed from her mother by Child Protective Services, the mother can keep the child from being immunized, the state Court of Appeals has ruled.

The split decision by the Tucson-based division of the court came in a Pima County case involving a girl who was placed in temporary state custody and put in a foster home.

According to the mother's religious beliefs, immunization pollutes a person's blood, her lawyer had argued.

Story, 8A

FBI statistics

Sex offenses have fallen 10 percent over last decade

FBI statistics show that arrests for sex offenses have fallen by almost 10 percent in the past decade.

The decline in both reported rapes and arrests for sex offenses nationwide began in the early 1990s, before many of today's get-tough measures were implemented.

As of September, an Arizona law prohibits higher-risk offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a school or day-care facility.

But most child molesters are family members, friends or neighbors. Teens or children who are poor, neglected, loners or runaways are most likely to be victims.

Story, 11A

Hurting small agencies

Cops appeal to Arpaio to reopen booking sites

Cost-cutting by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio means 26 police agencies in the Phoenix area will have to take suspects downtown to be booked into jail.

That could be a two-hour round trip in the case of Surprise, its police chief says. That doesn't count time for the booking process.

The closures of satellite booking stations last week hurt small agencies, said El Mirage Police Chief Michael Frazier, who needs at least four to six officers on the street.

Chiefs from six cities have appealed to Arpaio to reconsider. If that fails, they may set up a rotating system of their own or use Glendale facilities.

The Associated Press

Weather

No freeze predicted, but it will be close

Tucson begins its annual flirtation with winter Saturday, when clouds will move in, bringing a 30 percent chance of showers.

Snow at 5,500 feet is possible, with slightly more at higher elevations.

The afternoon should be comfortable, with a high of 60 to 65. The overnight low will be 33 to 39.

On Sunday it will warm up a bit, with a high of 62 to 67 and a low of 33 to 39. Both day and nighttime temperatures will rise after the weekend, so there's little need to worry about prolonged freezes zapping your bougainvillea - yet.

Friday's high, 69.

Full weather, 8B

FROM OUR BLOGS



POLITICS: McCain ignores Arizona.
MOMS: Sometimes, the little things mean ... a little.

> For more blogs, go to www.tucsoncitizen.com/blogs.

CITY EDITOR
Diane Luber, 573-4561,
dluber@tucsoncitizen.com

IN BRIEF

'Greatest' Hanukkah event set for Dec. 9

Temple Emanu-El will host what it calls "The Greatest Hanukkah on Earth IX" on Dec. 9. The celebration starts at 4:30 p.m. at the temple, 225 N. Country Club Road, with the lighting of a big, street-side menorah.

Entertainment follows with a rock band, drama skits and dancing.

The celebration will be followed by a kosher feast of brisket, latkes, chocolate gelt and dessert for those with pre-paid reservations. Call 327-4501 for more information.

The show is free.

Citizen Staff Report
news@tucsoncitizen.com

Town hall in Sahuarita about Heritage Area

The Farm Bureau will host a town hall on the pending designation of 3,300 square miles of federal land as the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area.

U.S. Reps. Raul Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords sponsored legislation that the House of Representatives approved and is before the Senate. The bill would help promote and preserve the cultural and natural resources in the Santa Cruz Valley, including Tucson, Nogales, Sahuarita, Oro Valley and Marana.

The Farm Bureau's panel discussion about the designation will be held at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 at Sahuarita High School's auditorium, 350 W. Sahuarita Road.

Farm Bureau representatives and members of the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Alliance will join the discussion.

Citizen Staff Report
news@tucsoncitizen.com

Class to help disabled, elderly ride Sun Tran

Sun Tran is offering classes for the elderly and disabled to help them ride the bus.

Classes will cover understanding road maps and schedules, trip planning, how to pay a fare and other transit-related information.

The next class is from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Handi-Dogs, 75 S. Montego Drive.

Participants are encouraged to make reservations because space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 206-8881.

Citizen Staff Report
news@tucsoncitizen.com

ON THIS DATE

IN 1914, Sidney R. DeLong, the first mayor of Tucson, died.

IN 1915, Louis C. Hughes, former territorial governor of Arizona and founder of the Arizona Daily Star, died.

IN 1927, seven miners died when flames destroyed one shaft of the Magma Mine at Superior. The damage was reported at \$500,000.



Council to hear plans on surveillance cameras

ERIC SAGARA
esagara@tucsoncitizen.com

A new security plan for the downtown area that includes surveillance cameras will be unveiled to the City Council on Tuesday.

The controversial security cameras are one aspect of the plan, which includes increasing the number of police officers patrolling the area on foot and bike, as well as adding a horseback unit.

Tucson police Chief Richard Miranda will present the plan to the council during the study session of Tuesday's meeting,

IF YOU GO:

What: City Council meeting
Where: Council chambers in City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St.
When: Study session begins at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and regular session starts at 5:30 p.m.

but the governing body is not expected to take action on the issue.

Miranda also wants to expand the Downtown Alliance's security ambassadors and add a radio and e-mail alert sys-

tem that would connect the police with business owners in the area.

There are currently 81 sworn officers in the downtown division of the Tucson Police Department, spokesman Sgt. Decio Hopper said.

Hopper said the department has used mounted patrol units in the past, but they proved not to be cost-effective. Bringing back horses would help increase police visibility in the area and can assist with crowd control at times.

It would also help with public relations, Hopper said. "There's something about a horse that's kind of hard to explain. You

see one and you want to get a little closer." Miranda's presentation will not be the first time the notion of security cameras downtown has appeared before the council.

TPD had proposed installing 14 cameras in the downtown area, using \$100,000 in seed money from the Target Corp. last year, but the council killed the proposal amid privacy concerns.

Hopper said there are many cameras already operational downtown at private businesses and public facilities. There are cameras in Presidio Park and atop the Public Works Building, he said.

Guard doctor grateful to be back home

Continued from 1A

Central Command's AOR - Area of Responsibility - in Iraq; two were 19.

"That's hard. They're young, away from home. Who knows the hopelessness they must feel?"

The doctors also cared for Iraqi civilians. One case stood out in particular. An Iraqi boy, Omar, 5, was shot in the leg by an insurgent with an AK-47 during a firefight.

A team of surgeons repaired his shattered femur and saved his leg.

"He did great. His family was very appreciative."

Back in Tucson at his surgery practice, Balsarak is grateful for the work. His surgery partners supported his military service, he said.

"I had patients waiting for me in the waiting room the day I came back to work," he said.

He'd like to thank his partners and the entire medical community here, who he said also supported his service in Iraq.

"(Doctors) continued to refer patients so I'd have work when I got back," he said.

Balsarak went back to work just two days after returning from Iraq.

"Maybe that was a few days too soon," he said.

Some of what he heard and saw stays with him.

Doing yardwork, the sound of a C-130 from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base overhead "takes me right back. We heard those all the time," he said.

During his four months in Iraq, Balsarak traveled by air to "all quadrants" of the embattled country and saw medical facilities throughout Iraq.

As a chief flight surgeon, he accompanied "high-value" visitors to the war zone, including U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker, Arizona Sen. John McCain, then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Vice



Members of Air National Guard Col. James Balsarak's team help transport an injured man outside a medical facility in Baghdad. Photo courtesy of James Balsarak

Suicides among veterans

Rep. Harry Mitchell, R-Ariz., and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs will examine suicide rates among returning veterans. A date for a hearing has not been set. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, 24 veterans committed suicide in 2006, an increase of 39 percent since 2003. About one-quarter of Arizona suicides are veterans.

Source: Office of Arizona congressman Harry E. Mitchell

President Dick Cheney and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey on VIP tours.

He had daily e-mail contact with his family, but he had just 15 minutes of phone time each week and didn't tell his wife, Kristi, or his parents, retired Army Col. Robert Balsarak and his wife, Janet, of Oro Valley

what he was doing so they wouldn't worry.

A commitment to perilous duty runs in the family.

Balsarak's brother, Lt. Col. Robert "Elvis" Balsarak, is an F-16 pilot with the Indiana Air National Guard.

He returned home from Iraq unharmed Nov. 7.



Col. James Balsarak, in a souvenir photo taken in Baghdad on an Iraqi tank that is no longer in service. Photo courtesy of James Balsarak

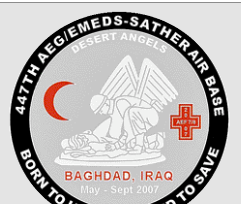
Training for war

Between deployments, Col. James Balsarak added to his skills as a warrior and as a surgeon.

He completed the USAF Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base and then was assigned to the Arizona Joint Force Headquarters in Phoenix as Arizona state air surgeon, directing policy for medical services in Homeland Security and in support of American Expeditionary Forces.

He also helped coordinate trauma training at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital for members of the Arizona Air National Guard medical group.

Balsarak is senior partner of Southwest Surgery Associates Ltd., a multispecialty practice. He is also the former department chairman and section chief of general surgery at Tucson Medical Center. He is associate clinical professor of surgery at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.



The Desert Angels patch, worn by all the Air National Guard medical workers from Tucson, commemorates their four-month tour to Iraq from May to September 2007.



The 44th EMEDS - Expeditionary Medical Squadron - an Air National Guard group from Tucson, poses in "battle rattle" in front of its medical facility in Baghdad. The unit provides lifesaving surgery to troops wounded in battle. Photo courtesy of James Balsarak

Squeeze Florida for spring training teams

Editor's note: Assistant City Editor Judy Carlock reviews the week - with attitude.

I always know. Late in February something tells me that scores of major league contenders are stretching their hamstrings on Ajo Way.

Tucson's teetering trio of major league spring training teams could vanish if the Rockies abscond to "the Valley." The White Sox are outta here. Ozzie's crew must find a replacement team.

There's no such requirement for the Rockies. If we're down to two teams, all bets are off, contractually speaking.

The obvious answer is to raid Florida. Squeeze juice out of the Grapefruit League till our cups runneth over. Swing for the fences. Or play small ball: Heck, ain't nuthin' to do in Tucson but train.

All three teams that train here have made the World Series in the past six years. Two have won championships.

Memories: Ex-Rockies catcher Dante Bichette returning the favor to a heckler through the chain link at Hi Corbett Field. Four major leaguers, terrified of injury, watching an infield fly land fair - then languidly roll foul. Sammy Sosa hitting a



Judy Carlock
Assistant City Editor

home run against a backdrop of snow-capped Catalinas.

If the state wants to play its ace: Arizona has Ted Williams' head.

ENGLISH SPEAK WE: There is something elegantly ambiguous in the headline the Citizen put on an AP story: "Lawyers: Hundreds in jobs illegally fired."

Were they working illegally, or fired illegally? It's like those weird font manipulations that change "life" to "death" if you look at it upside down. In any event, down with illegality.

Which reminds me of a recent e-mail about "a rally to support enforcement of illegal immigration laws."

The laws are illegal?

THE HIGH ROAD: The only thing surprising about Arizona's status as a marijuana mainline is that anyone bothers to smuggle marijuana. The 1,000-pound loads are so fast and frequent some of them must be decoys. What are we missing?

Getting accurate figures on seizures, though, turned out to be harder than we expected. A mind-numbing array of agencies seizes pot on the highways, at ports of entry, in stash houses, on rural roads and in the open desert. The federal fiscal year differs from the state fiscal year. Local agencies trumpet their achievements, but also feed feds' databanks.

Arizonans voted twice to legalize medical marijuana, meaningless because its federal classification makes it impossible to prescribe.

What if you could just grow it? Does anyone try to smuggle zucchini?

GRIDLOCK: People from back East say Tucson doesn't know anything about

traffic. You call this traffic?

That's changing. Tucson has added lots of new residents in the past decade, and roadway capacity hasn't increased. Interstate 10 construction doesn't help. And the influx of winter visitors is well under way.

A fender-bender on I-10 may send you scurrying to surface streets, only to discover that you're stuck there, too.

Enough with this "Hurry up! Have a holiday!" Chill out. Leave lots of time to get where you're going. And hit the head while you can.

JUST SAY THANKS: We who were born in the United States might do well to remember that to many of the world's 6 billion people, we've already won the lottery.

Too much to eat. Too much to buy. What problems?

So, as cliched as it sounds, count your blessings - each and every one.

When you add them up, they multiply.

Contact Judy Carlock at 573-4608 or jcarlock@tucsoncitizen.com. To read more of these stories, click on this column at www.tucsoncitizen.com.

TUCSON FUEL PRICES

For one gallon of regular

Friday	\$2.92
A month ago	\$2.68
A year ago	\$2.21

Source: fuelgaugeport.com

> Get more traffic information, including the latest incidents, webcams and the lowest gas prices in town, at www.tucsoncitizen.com.

LOTTERY

For Nov. 23

- Pick 5**
3-12-14-21-26
- Pick 3**
8-8-1

Lottery hot line: 325-9141
Arizona Problem Gambling Helpline: 800-639-8783
Arizona Lottery: www.arizona.com
lottery.com