

News from the Front Line

Utilian Arthur Bush, 24, recently returned from three weeks leave from Iraq where he has been serving for seven months as a US marine. Utila East Wind spoke to him about his experiences.

How did you feel when you found out you were going to Iraq?

Nervous. They showed us videos of guys getting killed and beheaded, to let us know what we were going up against.

What kind of training were you given to prepare you?

We had desert training in California involving a lot of different ranges and obstacles. They teach you how to talk to people, deal with terrorists, how to go into houses in hostile areas, and how to get them before they get you.

We learnt about the culture, what you can and cant do like saluting or saying hi with the left hand, or showing the bottom of your feet or shoes. We have to show that we are respecting their culture too.

What kind of reception did you receive?

Some of the people were real happy to see us, kids, some females. The males are hard to get on side because they don't trust anyone, just their own people. They've been through so much with the former leader Sadam they think we're coming to do the same thing he did. But once they realize we're there for them, to give them their country back and just make sure they can handle it on their own.

What are your feelings about the war and have they changed during your service in Iraq?

I didn't really think about it

much. It's hard to answer cause we're doing what we're doing for their good, for the people that want it over there and also for the people that need it over here. It's a slow process but it's working.

What did you do in typical day?

Patrolling the streets, searching for anything out of the ordinary. We had a lot of issues with bombs on the road, people trying to shoot at us, we're basically trying to find the bad guys and stop them before they get a chance to plant bombs. Some days were better than other days.

What was your most traumatic experience?

Me and my squad, ten of us, were out on the streets looking for bombers (we have a list of suspects). They had a car bomb planted ready for us and we were heading back to our car when they set it off. Luckily nobody got killed that day, but almost everybody got some type of injury. That was traumatic, as close as I came to death. I got scars on my back, burns. I've got the video too we got on their website. You see the Iraqis record everything they do and put it on their website to brag about it.

Do you know of any other Utilians there?

I have a cousin who's a marine also, he's going back this month for his second term, I'm back in February.

How do you feel about going back?

I kind of don't want to go, but I need to go and make sure it gets done. I probably wont go back to Iraq ever again after that though.

How did you get along with your fellow soldiers and superiors?

We get along great, you know you meet these people for the first time but theres no doubt in your mind that they would be there to save your life. And they liked me because I was always fixing stuff.

How was the food?

It sucked. MRE's, ready to eat meals. That's all we ate for the first two months, later on we started to get what they call hot meals, they weren't all that great though, just a little bit better.

What did you do in your time off?

Catch up on some much needed sleep. Some of the guys had dvd players and we would watch movies, listen to music, wrestle.

Did you have much contact with your family?

Twice a month we got to call home.

What made you join the marines?

The way I see it is, the US Marines are the best fighting force in the world, so why not join the best.

Would you ever join the Honduran army?

No. I told my friends I was crazy but not that crazy.

Utileño, Arthur Bush regreso por tres semanas despues de haber servido en Iraq por siete meses como US Marine. Utila East Wind hablo con el sobre sus experiencias.

Como te sentistes cuando te enterastes que te hibas para Iraq?

Nervioso. Tivimos que ver videos de la gente que fueron asesinados para poder enterarnos de como esta la situacion alla.

Que tipo de entrenamiento les dieron para prepararse?

Tuvimnos entrenamiento de desierto en California involucrando varios niveles y obstaculos. Nos enenian como hablar con la gente, tratar los terroristas, entrar a casas en areas hostiles y como agarrar a ellos antes que nos agaren a nosotros. Aprendimos sobre la cultura; lo que se puede y no se puede hacer; como saludando con la mano izquierda, o ensañandop la parte de abajo de los pies o zapatos. Tenemos que enseñar que respetamos la cultura de ellos.

Que tipo de recepcion resivistes?

Alguna gente estaba feliz de vernos; niños y mujeres. Los homnres son mas duros porque no confian en nadie, solo ellos mismos. Has pasado tantos momentos dificiles con su ex-lider Sadam quen creen que venimos a hacer lo mismo. Espero que se den cuenta que estamos alli por ellos, para devolverles su pais cuando ellos esten listos para manejarlo solo.

Cuales son tus sentimientos sobre la guerra; han cambiado durante tu servicio en Iraq?

Realmente no lo habia pensado mucho, es dificil de contestar porque lo hacemos para el beneficio de la gente alla; para los que lo quieren alla y para los que lo necesitan aca. Es un proceso lento pero esta funcionando.

Que hacias en dias calmadas?

Patrullar las calles buscando cosas fuera de lo normal. Tivimos varios problemas con explosivos en las calles, gente tratando de dispararnos. Basicamente tratamos de encontrar los terroristas antes que planten los explosivos. Algunos dias son mejores que otros.

Cual fue la experiencia mas

traumatica para ti?

Diez compañeros incluyendome a mil, estuvimos buscando los terroristas {tenemos una lista de sospechosos}. Tuvieron un explosivo plantado para nosotros, estuvimos regresando a nuestro vehiculo cuando exploto. Por suerte nadie se murio ese dia, casi todos salimos heridos. Eso fue traumatico, leegue cerca a la muerte. Tengo las sicatrices en mi espalda y el video que publicar en su Pagina Web. Los Iraquis filman todos los actos de terrorismo lo ponen en su Pagina Web como forma de bufar.

Conoces de algun otro utileño alla?

Tengo un primo que es un Marine tambien, este mes regresa para Iraq por segunda vez; yo regreso en Febrero.

Como te sientes al saber que regresas?

No tengo muchas ganas de volver; pero tengo que hacerlo para asegurarme que todo queda bien hecho. Posiblemente nunca regresare despues de eso.

Como te llevastes con los soldados superiores?

Nos llevamos muy bien, nos

conocemos alli por primera vez pero no hay duda ninguna que estarian alli para salvarte la vida. Les cai bien porque me la pasaba arreglando las cosas.

Que tal estuvo la comida?

Horrible, LPC "listo para comer". Solo eso comimos los primeros dos meses, despues empezaron a darnos lo que llaman comida caliente; no era tan bueno pero poquito mejor.

Que hacias en tu tiempo libre?

Trataba de dormir un poco ya que lo necesitaba. Algunos muchachos tenian DVD Player y veiamos peliculas, escuchabamos musica y jugabamos lucha libre.

Que tan seguido podias contactar a tu familia?

Podiamos llamar a casa dos veces al mes.

Poque decidistes unirte a los Marines?

Desde mi punto de vista los US Marines es el mejor fuerza de combate del mundo, entonces porque no unir con el mejor.

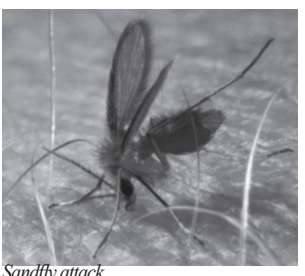
Te unarias a las fuerzas de Honduras?

No. Les deje a mis amogos que soy loco pero no tan loco. ■



Arthur Bush on duty in Iraq

Beat the Bugs



Sandfly attack

tember. So how do you beat the bugs? A thick layer of baby oil to drown the flies when they land on your skin is a safe bet, but perhaps a little gross. Deet is another fairly reliable option but it should be taken into consideration that it's a carcinogenic substance and repeated application is not advised. Camphor oil is a natural alternative, strong smelling but certainly less harmful. And if you still get bitten treat the itching with a smearing of tiger balm and easier said than done, don't scratch!

El familiar sonido de palmas en la piel en toda la isla este ultimo mes, sigue siendo lo usual ante la imparable ola de los indeseables sancudos y

jenjenes. La gran temperatura que se ha vivido en este mes de agosto, provee las condiciones ideales para que estas pequenas criaturas que planean alparecer tambien atacar en el mes de septiembre.

Podriamos hacer algo para evitar esto?.

Una gruesa capa de aceite de bebe para lograr atraparlos cuando ellos traten de llegar a su piel es una buena manera, pero un poco incomoda.

Los repelentes es otra de las usuales maneras, pero tienen que tomar en consideracion de las sustancias toxicas y la aplicacion repetida no es advertida.

El aceite de alcanfor, es una alternativa natural, con un fuerte aroma, pero menos danina que los otros metodos.

Y si todavia persisten las picadas, tratelas con el balsamo de tigre y de esa manera se aliviara la picazon, pero trate de no rascarse!!!. ■

SAND FLIES JEJENES

Distribution Almost worldwide,

Habitat Coastal lagoons, estuaries, mangrove swamps and tidal flats.

Diet Vegetable fluids and nectar. Females suck blood.

Size Adults 1.5-4.0 mm.

Description Long body with short legs, fold their wings over the abdomen at rest.

Life cycle 3 – 10 weeks.

Reproduction Lay between 30 – 100 eggs in one batch, hatching within days.

Human reaction Acute discomfort, irritation and itching. Greatest impact on tourists, local residents seem to build up immunity to biting. Sensitive people may weep serum or blister.

Additional Information Female midges may attack humans in large numbers, dawn and dusk are the worst times, try to wear long clothing.

Distribucion Casi en todo el mundo

Criaderos: En costas de lagunas, manglares, suampos y terrenos humedos.

Dieta Liquidos vegetales y nectares, por lo general son las hembras las que succionan sangre.

Tamano Adultos 1.5 - 4.0mm

Descripcion: Cuerpo largo, con extremidades cortas, alas extendidas sobre su abdomen y espalda.

Ciclo de Vida De 3 - 10 semanas.

Reproduccion Varía entre 30 a 100 huevos cada vez, tambien varia entre los dias.

Reaccion Humana Molestias, irritacion y picazon, de gran impacto en turistas, residentes locales parecen crear cierta inmunidad a las picadas, las personas de piel sensible pueden desarrollar ampollas.

Informacion Adicional Por lo general las hembras atacan a los humanos en su mayoria. En estas temporada se ha dado el mayor numero de apariciones, se recomienda estar lo mas cubierto posible.