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# SUSTAINER

*Minute*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND



Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

3rd COSCOM Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, and Command Sgt. Maj. David D. Wood uncase the unit's colors during Thursday's Transfer of Authority ceremony on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.

## 3rd COSCOM uncases colors during TOA

By Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

3rd Corps Support Command uncased its colors during Thursday's Transfer of Authority ceremony on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, signifying the acceptance of command responsibility from the 1st Corps Support Command.

After 1st COSCOM cased its colors representing the end of its yearlong com-

mand, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd COSCOM Commanding General joined the unit's command sergeant major, David D. Wood, in uncasing their unit's colors, marking the official transfer of authority.

The 3rd COSCOM colors were cased during the unit's September 15 deployment ceremony on the Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

In addition to sustaining coalition forc-

es, 3rd COSCOM will continue in the endeavor to provide oppressed people the opportunities to achieve their own destinies, said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander, and the ceremony's reviewing officer.

This will be the second tour of duty with 3rd COSCOM for many Soldiers who deployed with the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.



Photo By Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

**Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead takes notes during her October 20 tour of the Logistical Support Area Anaconda water bottling plant.**

## ***Water bottling plant reduces combat logistics patrols***

*By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster*

Drinking water is a life-sustaining element, which normally had to be trucked into Logistical Support Area Anaconda from the outside area.

Now, Soldiers and contractors are working to open a water bottling plant on LSA Anaconda to sustain the post inhabitants while keeping convoy logistics patrols to a minimum.

“This plant will serve all of Anaconda’s needs as well as neighboring [forward operating bases] FOBs,” said Ken Hatfield, with Al Morrell Development, the company overseeing the project.

Opening a water bottling plant on LSA Anaconda offers Soldiers and civilians one less reason to be on the road. Decreasing the necessity for combat logistics patrols keeps people from being victims of improvised explosive devices or ambushes.

“If we can make water here why are we going to bring hundreds of trucks in?” asked Maj. Kevin McKelvy, a contracting officer representative and the base engineer.

The question of water transportation can be solved with the bottling plant. The fully automated bottling plant can produce 12,000 bottles of water an hour. The bottling plant houses multiple machines doing a variety of jobs.

A blow molder, takes a small preform or plastic tube that will eventually become the bottle for the water. It goes through a process of ultra-violet light and heat, which starts a chemical and heat reaction. These reactions allow the plastic to stretch into the bottle form.

From the blow molder, the bottles travel down the line where they are rinsed and filled with drinkable water. The water is pulled from a local canal and sent through a thorough cleansing process to make the water drinkable.

Water is pushed through a huge carbon filter that works much like a filter on an ordinary home faucet. The filtering system separates solids through a group of pipes while the tubing helps

make the water as clean as it can before passing through the carbon filter. The carbon filter’s role is to take out tastes and chlorine that may be harmful in the water. The system is equipped with ultra-violet and ozone, two back up cleansing elements that will kill anything that might have passed through the system. Now the water is ready to drink.

The final process is to cap the bottles and put them on pallets to be delivered to the Soldiers. A cap is put on the water bottle by a machine, which sends the newly capped bottles down the conveyer belt. Once the bottles are sent down the conveyer, they are put in 12-pack groups. They are heat shrunk and palletized.

“These machines can produce 300 pallets a day,” Hatfield said.

“There have been a lot of challenges because some of this stuff doesn’t fall neatly into somebody’s sphere of responsibility,” said McKelvy. “A lot of people have a piece of it.”

“I haven’t had to convince anyone that this project is important. The goal is to be self sustainable, but the super objective is to reduce vulnerability of being out on the main supply routes,” McKelvy said.

Most of the equipment needed to do this job has been flown or trucked in. With attacks on combat logistics patrols, some items have taken longer to get, but the team with Al Morrell

Development has had a back up plan every step of the way.

“When you think of the number of things that could have gone wrong, these guys have done a remarkable job,” McKelvy said.

Drinking water is a necessity. Making water on LSA Anaconda is a major resource for its inhabitants, which gives Soldiers and civilians who drive the main supply routes a chance to lower the risks that associated with being on the roads of Iraq.

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***“The goal is to be self sustainable, but the super objective is to reduce vulnerability of being out on the main supply routes.”***

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- Maj. Kevin McKelvy-  
LSA, Anaconda base engineer

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Photo By Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

**3rd COSCOM Soldiers from chalks four and five await their October 16 departure for Iraq. Upon completion of their training in Kuwait, COSCOM chalks traveled on several C-130 flights to reach thier final deployment destinations.**

# Final Live Fire Training: 'Eye Opener'

*3rd COSCOM Soldiers accomplish mission; perform well on simulated convoy exercise*

By Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

Sand dunes marked vast desert terrain. The air was dry. On the horizon, camels marched a dusty trail. Nearby, squinting Soldiers stood in a horseshoe formation to listen as retired military instructors offered guidance for a final training event.

3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers in chalk five received realistic convoy live fire training as an integrated unit October 12 at Camp Beurhing, Kuwait.

"It [the training] was an eye opener," said Pfc. Chris J. Mizzel, a 3rd Corps Support Command SAW gunner with chalk five. "Training really comes to life in the desert."

"I thought this course was an accurate representation of the reality we are facing," said Lt. Col. James A. Finkle, chalk five's convoy commander. "We had vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. We also had an interesting mix of civilian and insurgent targets here that really tested our adherence to the Rules of Engagement."

"Training was realistic because we didn't know where exactly the threat would come from," said Staff Sgt. Jessie D. Sutton, chalk five's convoy noncommissioned officer in charge. "I asked the instructor if they [troops] put convoys together hastily like we did here today. He said 'no.'"

"We received extreme cases in our training here," said Sutton. "Here we went

one time down the live fire lane and one time back. There was no practice run."

This training also made troops aware of their achievements and areas in need of improvement.

"Everybody including myself learned from this exercise," said Finkle. "We accomplished the mission successfully."

Two Soldiers stood out in their



Photo By Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

**Lt. Col. James A. Finkle, chalk five convoy commander, radios commands to vehicles.**

performance on the convoy live fire training, said Finkle.

"Pfc. Hardy helped to set up the radios and I felt he was really a good pitch-in, hands-on Soldier," said Finkle.

"I don't have much experience with radios," said Pfc. John W. Hardy, a

driver for the chalk five convoy live fire. "But I made sure that everyone could communicate with each other."

"Staff Sgt. Pettigrew also did an excellent job handling her responsibilities as a vehicle driver," said Finkle.

"I was the driver for the first vehicle and the recovery vehicle," said Staff Sgt. Jalaneia T. Pettigrew. "I liked driving the five ton. It takes a level of skill to maneuver it."

"Our guys did well," said Finkle. "However, Soldiers' driving and weapons firing skills could improve."

Some of our folks needed the practice of driving up-armored humvees, said Finkle.

"Also, shooting at a target while on the move is far more difficult than it appears. Soldiers could always use more practice," he added.

"Overall, it was interesting to work with people from the different backgrounds of the CONUS and Germany augmentation," said Finkle.

"If you look right now," he added, pointing to troops as they dismounted vehicles to move toward shade, "you can't tell the difference between who comes from where."

"We pulled together under a lot of stress and worked together as a team. I was impressed," said Finkle.

With training complete, 3rd COSCOM Soldiers are ready for the mission ahead.



Photo By Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

3rd COSCOM Soldiers convoy down a live fire range as a herd of camels approaches in the distance at Camp Beurhing, Kuwait October 12.

# The “Heel and Toe” Alternative

By Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

On a Logistical Support Area spanning 15 square miles, transportation is a necessity. At LSA Anaconda there are convenient modes of transportation to accommodate Soldiers, civilians and local nationals.

Transportation for those stationed at LSA Anaconda is available through a bus system contracted by Kellogg, Brown & Root Services Inc.

What began as seven transportation motor pool vehicles for the entire area in 2003, has turned into an effective bus system with more than 60 vehicles, said Amy M. Marcantel, acting supervisor and transportation foreman for KBR.

“Buses run 24 hours a day and all bus stops are up and running,” said Sgt. 1st Class Brett A. Edwards, the liaison officer and noncommissioned officer in charge of the TMP with the 35th Area Support Group out of Lexington, Mo.

“The standard is one bus every 30 minutes per route. Because of the increased volume of personnel on the LSA, we are trying to decrease that wait time to 15 minutes in between buses per route,” he added.

Currently, there are eight routes with several buses to travel the routes outlined

on new maps, which have been posted in bus shelters, said Edwards. The Blue route, recently changed to ‘E’, is the most popular route stopping at the Post Exchange and dining facility #3.

The names of routes were recently changed to letters so additional bus routes can be added in the future as the LSA population increases, said Edwards.

Bus routes are constantly improving, said Edwards. As new housing areas open, the TMP station adjusts routes to include not only Soldiers but local nationals and KBR personnel as well.

Transportation is also available for visiting Soldiers.

“I have seven 11-passenger vans for Soldiers coming from other forward operating bases who need transportation to receive supplies but aren’t attached to units here,” said Edwards.

Transportation is also available in demanding circumstances such as during a Transfer of Authority, said Edwards. Additional transportation is needed to complete the TOA. In order to obtain this transportation, an individual unit needs a letter of justification sent to the director of logistics here, said Edwards.

“Though we don’t have the assets to help everyone, we are doing everything we

## LSA Anaconda Bus Routes

- A** travels to the Dental Clinic and connects with B and F routes
- B** (previously Brown) travels to DFAC #4
- C** (previously Red) travels to the hospital
- D** (previously Green) travels to the TMP and the Provider Chapel
- E** the most popular route, stopping at the Post Exchange and DFAC #3
- F** (previously Purple) travels DFAC #4 and the new Westside PX
- G** (previously Orange) travels to the Provost Marshall’s Office

**COSCOM** travels to housing complex 3/5

can to further the mission,” said Edwards. Another shipment of Government Services Administration vehicles is expected to arrive soon, at which time we will have the capability to assign more vehicles.

“We all need rides to accomplish our mission,” said Edwards. “If a Soldier has any transportation requests or suggestions for improving the system, those comments should be directed to the LSA’s TMP Station, Bldg. 4196.



Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

COSCOM Soldiers take a moment to assist their battle buddies in properly adjusting their Interceptor Body Armor before beginning a long day of close-quarter combat training in Kuwait October 11. If worn incorrectly, an IBA can interfere with a Soldier’s ability to fight.

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