



# SUSTAINER

*Minute*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND



Photo by Sgt. Rachel A. Brune

Sgt. Elsira Wedderburn, 317th Maintenance Company retrograde NCOIC, directs a forklift to move a complete pallet of tires to the "ready line."

## GS Hub helps keep Soldiers off Iraq's roads

By Sgt. Rachel A. Brune,  
101st Sustainment Brigade

### Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq --

Troops from the 317th Maintenance Company, an active-duty unit from Bamberg, Germany, and contractors from Kellogg, Brown and Root work alongside Soldiers from 551st Cargo Transfer Company, an active-duty unit from Fort Eustis, Va., and 305th Quartermaster Company, an active-duty unit stationed in Korea to conduct logistics operations for transport by aircraft at the General Support

Hub here.

"We're the only hub that is actually flying out [materiel in Iraq] to keep Soldiers off the road," said Sgt. Elsira Wedderburn, the retrograde materiel noncommissioned officer in charge with the 317th Maintenance Co., 71st Corps Support Battalion.

Retrograde materiel consists of any used turn-in items such as tires, tank parts, tracks or gun truck equipment, said Wedderburn.

"I can tell you that every four pallets

mean one trailer and two Soldiers off the road," said 1st Lt. Ryan Wolfe, the GS Hub officer in charge with the 305th Quartermaster Co., 71st CSB.

The units follow a set procedure to build about 20 pallets per day.

When cargo arrives, the Hub workers download the pallets from the trailers and determine whether each pallet contains equipment going to a single destination.

If a pallet contains equipment destined for multiple locations, the Soldiers sort

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- GS Hub cont.

the equipment and rebuild the pallets, a process known as “transloading,” according to Wedderburn.

Each metal Air Force pallet, known as a 463L pallet, must fulfill Air Force height and weight standards and inspection to make sure there is no damage to the pallet or the cargo netting, said Wedderburn.

Once the equipment arrives at the cargo yard, Soldiers use a forklift to move pallets from waiting trailers to the air pallet construction area.

“I like working out here because of the different jobs you can do,” said Spc. Isaac P. Managan, a 317th Maintenance Co. automated logistics supply specialist. He estimated he drives at least 15 miles each day moving pallets.

Once the trailers of pallets arrive at the air pallet construction area troops inspect them to make sure each trailer is “pure,” or going to the same destination, said Spc. Daniel Coleman, the 305th Quartermaster Co. multi-class NCOIC. Each mission might bring in 12 to 15 trailers of materiel of all kinds.

“Everything ordered from south to north – it’s coming to me,” said Coleman.

Before the pallets leave the yard, they undergo a final inspection for quality assurance and control, said Staff Sgt.



Photo by Sgt. Rachel A. Brune

**551st Soldiers Pfc. Christopher Field, Pfc. General Walkers, Pfc. Andrew Geesaman, put the finishing touches on a pallet of tires.**



Photo by Sgt. Rachel A. Brune

**Sgt. Elsira Wedderburn, 317th Maintenance Company retrograde NCOIC, reports equipment specification over the radio while directing a forklift to move the pallet to the “ready line.”**

Kimberly Alexander, 317th Maint. Co. logistics sergeant and the yard’s quality assurance and quality control NCOIC.

Alexander inspects each pallet again for holes, dents or cracks in the pallet itself and to make sure the cargo nets are secure.

If the height and weight aren’t correct, the Air Force won’t accept the pallet, said Alexander. “They’ll kick the whole pallet back.”

Once Alexander is satisfied the pallets are built to standard, she affixes a radiofrequency tracking device or “RF tag” to the pallet. The RF tag monitors the pallet’s progress via satellite when uploaded to the Hub’s server.

“Everyone out here is pretty good about inspecting the

pallets prior to them going over [to the airfield],” said Alexander. Each Soldier or civilian involved at each step contributes to making sure the pallets meet the standard, she added.

Once a pallet passes inspection, it waits in the “ready line.” The unit then transports pallets on trailers to the Q-West airfield, said Spc. Ariel Arroyo, 305th Quartermaster Co. logistics specialist.

When the Soldiers notify the Air Force 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron that a load has arrived, they set up the scales to weigh and inspect the pallets. Arroyo ensures the Air Force inspects each pallet, the paperwork is properly filled out with the correct address and that all the items are accepted.

Four flights spread out over two days per week are dedicated to flying cargo from the GS Hub, according to Arroyo.

“We try to get as many pallets done as we can,” said Arroyo. “It’s a lot of hard work.”

“We have increased production of air cargo pallets by approximately 66 percent since September, when we took over the mission from the 814th Quartermaster

Company,” said Wolfe. He said the unit contracts about 140 air cargo pallets per week.

Behind the scenes, these dedicated servicemembers and contract workers contribute to Soldier safety by reducing the number of Soldiers required to travel on the roads in Iraq. Their dedication to detail ensures that retrograde materiel is properly received and disbursed.

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**“We’re the only hub that is actually flying out [materiel in Iraq] to keep Soldiers off the road.”**

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*Sgt. Elsira Wedderburn  
317th Maint. Co. retrograde materiel NCOIC*

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# Carpentry skills found amidst mechanics

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons, 4th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – It’s normal to find grease stains on the hands of mechanics, but sawdust too?



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
Pfc. Jayme Hestermann in a gazebo, Camp Taji, Iraq.

Practicing a beloved hobby, Pfc. Jayme Hestermann has lent his skilled hands to his work and home here, designing and building several wooden structures at the 4th ID Sustainment Brigade’s Special Troops Battalion motor pool and barracks.

Seeing the gazebos, shelters and shelves throughout his work and living areas, it’s obvious the 20-year-old Wichita, Kan., native has worked with wood for a while.

“My grandpa had me work with wood in his shop... when I was little,” Hestermann said. “When I got

to high school, I took wood class all those years. I took a drafting class, so that helped with building stuff too.”

A light-wheel vehicle mechanic by trade, Hestermann’s stint

as the unit carpenter came after the normally quiet Soldier gave his input as work began on a porch for the motor pool.

“I saw someone working and I told him he was doing it wrong,” Hestermann explained. “So my sergeants found out I knew about woodworking.”

“We didn’t know he was this untapped source of woodworking skills,” said Staff Sgt. Brandon Mendoza, Hestermann’s shop supervisor. “He doesn’t brag about it. I didn’t know he worked with wood until I saw him building the porch.”

Mendoza described Hestermann as a quiet, motivated Soldier, and used the finished projects to show his Soldier’s skill.

With several “apprentices” from the motor pool, Hestermann “built that stuff with a saw, hammer and nails,” Mendoza noted. “He knows what he’s doing.”

The main allure of his hobby, Hestermann said, was that it’s not just something for one person, but is something that a lot of people can enjoy.

While his after-military plans include opening up a vehicle after-market business, playing off of his military occupation, Hestermann will continue his woodworking on the side.

While in the Army, Hestermann hopes to pursue a degree in business.

## 29th BCT bids 48th BCT, Iraq ‘Aloha’

### Unit remembers 17 Soldiers lost, accomplishments during tour in theater

By Spc. Andrew Orillion

The 29th Brigade Combat Team cased its colors and welcomed its replacement, the 48th Brigade Combat Team, an element of the Georgia National Guard in a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 12 here.

Soldiers and special guests from the 29th BCT, 48th BCT and 3rd Corps Support Command attended the ceremony.

Following the national anthem and invocation, 29<sup>th</sup> BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Inouye and 29<sup>th</sup> BCT Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Joseph Chaves, cased the unit’s colors.

Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd COSCOM Commanding General also gave her remarks, followed by Chaves who reflected on the 29th BCT’s time spent in Iraq.

“Today I stand before you very proud of the many accomplishments of the 29th BCT,” Chaves said. “Since assuming the security forces mission in theater the brigade has conducted over 11,000 combat patrols - nearly 1,000 with the aid of Iraq’s Security Forces.”



Photo by Spc. Andrew Orillion  
Brig. Gen. Joseph Chaves address Soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team during ceremony.

Beyond combat operations, Chaves spoke about the humanitarian accomplishments of the 29th BCT.

“Our Lava Medical Clinic treated 17,339 patients,” Chaves said. “While our combat medics have treated 1,304 Iraqis who came to the entry control points to request medical assistance.”

Chaves then paid homage to the fallen

members of the 29th BCT.

“During our deployment, 17 Soldiers from units within the brigade have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq,” Chaves said. “I struggle to find the right words to say to the family members of Soldiers who have died. All I can say with certainty is that the Soldiers of the Lava Brigade will always remember their fallen brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for a grateful nation.”

In his closing remarks, Chaves alluded to the 29th BCT’s Hawaiian origin. He explained that the word ‘aloha’ has many different meanings, including ‘hello’, a heart felt ‘thank you’ and a fond ‘farewell’.

“I’d like to extend our warmest ‘aloha’ to the 48th BCT, the 2nd Battalion of the 44<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery and the 29th Field Artillery,” Chaves said. “As we say ‘hello’, ‘thank you’ for relieving us and we bid you “farewell”, as we return to our loved ones.”

The 29th BCT is heading back to the Schofield Barracks, Hawaii after spending a year deployed to Iraq.

# Latest safety technology available to Soldiers

*Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman*

LOGISTICAL BASE SEITZ—The 503<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company Ground Support and Equipment Platoon's Engineering Section leads the way for the theater in the installation of safety initiative equipment by processing 80 percent of the theater's installation of vehicle enhancements.

"We ensure that all of the latest in safety technology is made available for the warfighters," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Michael Quigley, 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Battalion support operations officer for transportation.

The newest equipment includes the fire suppression system, gunner restraints, a high-speed digital audio and data communication distribution system known as the VIC-3 and the single movement combat lock.

"We also install the ballistic windshield and red dot air conditioner system for greater protection and comfort," said Quigley. "All of these systems combined increase the battle readiness and safety of every vehicle that comes out of our shop doors."

The total time to install a complete safety initiative system is 16 hours by the book; however, the 503<sup>rd</sup> completes the installments within 6 hours.

To accomplish this great feat, the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

**Robert Smith, a civilian contractor, installs a single movement combat lock on an up-armored humvee on Log Base Seitz Dec. 20.**

unit uses both contracted civilians and Soldiers.

"In one day we can install 14 complete systems. Our shop is capable of handling 420 system installations a month," said Quigley.

The VIC-3 System allows communication within the vehicle for the driver, gunner, TC, and others, said Staff Sgt. Andre Simmons, vehicle enhancement initiative shop NCOIC, with the 503<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company.

He added, the system consists of mounting hardware, one control box, two speaker boxes, and three head sets.

"This allows for the three major players within any vehicle to cut through the noise and communicate effectively during combat," said Simmons.

The Fire Suppression system detects and eliminates any fires within the vehicle, said Simmons. The sensors detect smoke and extreme heat within the vehicle setting off the foam system, which extinguishes the flames.

"The system is an automatic system and requires the Soldiers to take no actions during an emergency to activate," said Simmons. "This is the most complex system that we install in the shop requiring the most hands on work and parts."

The gunner restraint ensures that in a roll over the gunner stays in their vehicle, said Simmons.

The harness is worn around the waist secured by a strap to the seat base of the vehicle, said Simmons. By attaching the strap into the harness, the system keeps the gunner from being ejected.

"This system gives turret gunners an increased chance of walking away from rollovers," said Simmons.

The single movement combat lock replaces the current locking system in up-armored doors.

"With the current system it often takes two hands to open the door as use wears it down," said Simmons. "Sometimes the door system becomes so worn that it refuses to latch properly despite repeated attempts."

Simmons added, "the new combat lock eliminates the problems of the old system allowing the door to close on the first attempt rather than the fourth or fifth. It allows you to open the door with one hand rather than waste time freeing it with both hands."

The ballistic windshield increases protection of the Soldier by stopping small arms fire and shrapnel.

"This new windshield takes two hours to replace, said Simmons. "All vehicles we service already have this new windshield installed. Our focus is on replacing unserviceable windshields."

Simmons added, "If a vehicle rolls through our doors needing a replacement we ensure they leave with the highest level of safety we can provide."



Photo by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

**Country singer and recording artist Carly Goodwin entertained troops here Jan. 12.**

# 3rd COSCOM Supports OiC

## Army aids Iraq's children: provides supplies needed to attend school

By Spc. David Chapman

Children who want to attend schools here are at a distinct disadvantage because of the interruptive climate of bombs and bad guys; however, the biggest obstacle hindering their education is the lack of



Photo by Spc. David Chapman  
Spc. Carl V. Heerdof, B-Co. 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, loads boxes on truck for transport to a nearby forward operating base.

much needed school supplies.

Logistical Support Area Anaconda and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command have greatly influenced Operation Iraqi Children in the combat region.

OiC is a program developed by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand to provide a means for Americans to give children in Iraq the opportunity to attend schools with needed supplies.

"We assist with the logistics to identify the needs of our Multi-National Division," said Maj. Patrick Howard, 3<sup>rd</sup> COSCOM Deputy G-5. "We do the leg work."

"Once LSA Anaconda gets all the supplies here from Kansas City we start shipping them out to different areas in our area of operation," added Howard. "We get the supplies out by land and air to the units around the LSA."

A large portion of what is given to the units consists of kits assembled and donated by Americans. The kits contain simple items like scissors, rulers, pencils, erasers, composition books and packages of notebook paper.

This mission started after Soldiers visited schools that had been neglected under the Saddam regime. Students had none of the basic necessities for a school to be run well.



<http://www.operationiraqchildren.org>

Two children featured on the OiC website.

"No books, no pencils, no paper, no blackboards," Hillenbrand says on the OiC website.

American Soldiers from all over the world have called on family, friends and churches to gain donations.

Fortunately, the response has been tremendous. The kind and generous hearts of Americans abroad have made the operation a success with the donation of several supplies.

Soldiers stationed nearby then deliver the donations to the children in their free time.

"It's time for them [children] to have a chance," said Sinise on the website.

For more information visit: [www.operationiraqchildren.org](http://www.operationiraqchildren.org).



3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers from the firing line salute to honor the memory of 3rd COSCOM Army Reservist Maj. Stuart Anderson at his memorial service Jan. 12. Anderson was a passenger on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed near Tal Afar Jan. 7.

Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

# TFW Soldier wears heart with honor, distinction

By Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

Pfc. Ryan D. Coulson, a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command Task Force Warrior convoy, was awarded a Purple Heart by Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3<sup>rd</sup> COSCOM commander at the 3<sup>rd</sup> COSCOM Headquarters Jan. 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Coulson, a 19-year-old Soldier having served in the military one year at the time of the incident, was injured due to hostile enemy actions taken during TFW's first convoy mission Nov. 9.

On the day of the ceremony, five gun trucks, manned by Coulson's current TFW convoy team, were staged inside the wire. Members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Support Center and 3<sup>rd</sup> COSCOM Headquarters and Headquarters Company stood in formation on either side of the vehicles to honor Coulson.

"The reality is that this medal is harder to wear than to earn," said Halstead. People will ask you your story – share your story," she said to Coulson.

"Soldiering is a matter of the heart," continued Halstead. "The enemy doesn't distinguish. They are out to kill any of us. But this heart represents that they lost and we won because this Soldier is still alive."

Halstead said she was humbled and honored to participate in the ceremony and in addition to a Purple Heart Halstead gave Coulson a unique coin in the shape of a dog tag.

"I gave Coulson a "steadfast dog tag," said Halstead – with this I am saying that I am a Soldier like all of you. Coulson represents all of us [Soldiers] here today."

The ceremony was important to Coulson and the awards presented to him were representative of his and his team member's determination to survive while participating in the war on terrorism.



Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command's Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead presents Pfc. Ryan D. Coulson with a Purple Heart.

"This Purple Heart shows that I am still alive and rolling," said Coulson. It shows that we [TFW] went out to complete a mission and we are still going to get it done.

Once a majority of participants in the ceremony had departed, Coulson received a group hug from his team members and together they shouted their motto in unison: "Mount Up!"

With that being said, the crew moved into their vehicles to continue on in their mission for that day.

Currently, Coulson has changed positions from driver to gunner on the TFW convoy team; however, the unit is attempting to compassionately reassign him to Arizona, his home state, due to the ailing condition of his parents, said Master Sgt. Scott L. Shank, the 3<sup>rd</sup> COSCOM TFW convoy noncommissioned officer in charge.

## New unified 911 services available

By Spc. Andrew Orillion

Getting emergency services on Logistical Support Area Anaconda just got easier with the addition of unified 911 services. One call is now all it takes for police and fire services to respond to an emergency.

Having unified 911 services here was the idea of Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Raymond, 332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Chief and Maj. Stephen D. Williams, 35<sup>th</sup> Area Support group officer in charge in of S6.

"The basic idea was mine," said Raymond. "But it was Maj. Williams and the communications department that put the system in place."

The system was installed in less than three days - shortly before New Years,

said Raymond. He said the new system has shaved two to three minutes off the response time.

The new 911 system replaced an older and more cumbersome emergency dialing

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**"The system is basic. [A] caller still has to know where they are calling from."**

*Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Raymond  
332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary  
Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Chief.*

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system that was based on the area code of the caller. Anyone dialing from an 829 area code could reach both the Provost

Marshall's Office and fire department emergency services by dialing 911, said Raymond. Anyone dialing from a 443 area code could only reach the fire department, which would then have to dispatch the Provost Marshall's Office. This often resulted in misinformation said.

Although an improvement over the old system, the new unified 911 system is still not perfect.

"The system is basic," said Raymond. "[A] caller still has to know where they are calling from."

He said improvements may be possible through an enhanced system that will enable the operator to trace phone calls.

"It is in the works and should be on base within the next several months," said Raymond.



# Task Force Warriors

## *Soldiers Mount Up!*

*Photos by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson  
Story by Spc. David Chapman*

Here are some of the faces that remain hidden behind heavy machinery or the barrel of a locked and loaded .50 Cal. daily.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command is fortunate to have the protection of the Task Force Warriors at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

“We provide ground transportation and security for the command group, command sergeant major, and VIPs,” said Master Sgt. Scott L. Shank, the

noncommissioned officer in charge of TFW.

The team consists of six vehicles including an armored security vehicle and a group of men that have been a team since November.

With the exception of their first convoy in Iraq, there have been no injuries. Two TFW members have received a Purple Heart for their combat related injuries.

Despite the danger, the team remains positive.

“We will continue to improve and train until we redeploy back home,” said Shank.



# Tips on becoming a “high-quality” leader

## Subordinates appreciate standards

By Chaplain (Capt.) Raymond E. Folsom,  
27th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control)

A first-rate leader exudes a “lifestyle” of strength, confidence, personal convictions and purpose. Whether they are actively involved in their leadership development or focused on their character, I could not say, but they are invaluable to the structure of the noncommissioned and officer corps. Here is a brief overview of those qualities.

First, a good leader is a good subordinate. Is it surprising that a high-quality leader makes a good subordinate? Several leadership/management books address this. Being a good subordinate is foundational for becoming a good leader.

Second, effective leaders have a clear understanding of the concept of teamwork.

A high-quality leader understands and knows each team member. They skillfully optimize their subordinates strengths and reduce their weakness. This can be achieved through team building. Team building requires a high level of personal skills including the ability to communicate

clearly and to be understood. Simple?

Third, good leaders create an enjoyable work environment for their subordinates.

A high-quality leader is one who has the trust of their subordinates. I understand the heartache about the topic because this falls in the realm of the “touchy-feely” or the soft skills of leadership. A high quality leader understands the benefit of taking the time to work his soft skills because once the leader has “happy” subordinates, the results will be trust, loyalty, equitable treatment, and individual creativity.

It might seem strange and may be difficult to understand but subordinates find solace in their leader’s ability to uphold the military standard and candidness. A comment that is often shared about high-quality leaders is that he or she is “hard but fair”. In fact, I will go out on a limb and bet (figuratively) that your favorite teacher or leader fits this description. Have you ever wondered why?

Fourth, exemplary leaders get the job done. Completing the mission with little

## A GOOD LEADER:

1. *Is a good subordinate*
2. *Understands the need for teamwork*
3. *Creates an enjoyable work atmosphere*
4. *Gets the job done*

or no supervision is a valued quality much sought after. A leader gets the job done and done well.

In conclusion, the high-quality leader asks the right questions to understand their mission. Then they use their team’s skills and expertise to complete the mission. A good leader’s collaborative efforts encourages their team to eagerly meet challenges. When all is said and done at the end of the day, everybody did their part in completing the mission and the bonus is they all take ownership.

If you have any questions, please direct comments to Chaplain Folsom at [raymond.folsom@us.army.mil](mailto:raymond.folsom@us.army.mil).



Photo by Sgt. Rachel A. Brune

Local leaders from the Tigris River Valley listen to a speaker during the Regional Security Council Meeting Dec. 26, 2005 in Q-West. Council members met to discuss quality-of-life issues such as maintaining security measures implemented during recent elections.

**3rd COSCOM Commanding General**  
Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead

**3rd COSCOM CSM**  
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