



## Welders help up-armor Iraq army



Spc. Ernesto Vargas welds plates that will be used in an Iraqi up-armor kit. The kits are used to protect Soldiers in the new Iraqi army from roadside blasts and small-arms fire. Vargas is a welder with the Dallas-based Army Reserve 223rd Maintenance Company. **Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons**

*“We’re enabling them to take on the mission that our people are currently doing”*

**Maj. Alfredo Garcia**, 233rd Transportation Company Commander

**By Sgt. Joshua Salmons**  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

**S**pots of blinding light flickered shadows on the walls of the dark garage. Showers of sparks hit and skipped across the ground as welders from the 223rd Maintenance Company continued their work.

The Soldiers from the Dallas-based Army Reserve unit were completing two more armored gun boxes for the Iraqi 1st Motor

Truck Regiment here on Taji.

The gun boxes are a part of the 223rd’s mission to provide up-armored protection to the vehicles used by the Iraqi army unit.

“The boxes are placed in the back of some of the old [Army] 5-ton trucks we’ve given them,” said Lt. Col. William Schiek, Special Troops Battalion commander, 4th Sustainment Brigade. “It protects personnel while riding in the back.”

While the gun boxes are just one element

of the up-arming process, the 223rd also fabricates plates to fit over the cabs of the civilian Mercedes trucks used by the Iraqis.

“It takes four days to make a box and three days for the plates,” explained Staff Sgt. Robert Gray, a welder with the 223rd. “That’s with two or three [Soldiers] on each one. It goes pretty fast.”

“We’ve put out about 50 up-armored kits so far,” said Chief Warrant Officer Clark Keeler, the 223rd Allied Trades Technician.

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## Our Colonel's Word

We are making history.

Our role in the Referendum in October and the elections in December was providing area logistical support for Iraqi and U.S. military units to accomplish their missions. At the same time we are redefining transportation in accordance with transformation. We decreased the amount of time it takes for movement of supplies within our area of responsibility through the expansion of our Consolidated Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP) yard. Operations that normally took nine days to complete are done in only one day.

We reduced the amount of personnel on the road with the use of



**Col. Gustave Perna**  
BRIGADE COMMANDER

air movement. More than 253 flatbeds were kept off the roads due to air movement since our arrival in October. We provided assistance with retrograde operations as the Army prepares for the closure of military bases in Iraq. And that is just the transportation side of the house. We established and continue to improve our partnership with Iraqi forces.

We have made the next leap in our add-on-armor program. In addition to conducting jobs for Iraqi 7.5-ton, 5-ton, and 2.5-ton and Mercedes trucks, we started an in-shop partnership training and are working side-by-side with Iraqi soldiers as they cut, weld and install the armor on their own trucks. This program benefits us two-fold: adding much needed manpower to our Allied Trades shop and allowing the Iraqi soldiers to sharpen their welding skills while waiting on their own shop equipment.

Our Soldiers are part of history and can be proud of their contributions.

## The CSM Moment

As we head into this New Year, I would like for all of you to take a look throughout your formations and conduct a systems check...

OK Sergeant Major, what exactly is a systems check? I'm so glad you asked.

All of the things that you do in preparation for your mission fall within the system check process. In other words, how we conduct our business.

I'd like for everyone, Soldiers and leaders, to look at the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) we have been using and see if they still apply. Doing this will not only help us stay focused, it



**Command Sgt. Maj. Trent Ellis**  
BRIGADE SERGEANT MAJOR

will also keep us from becoming complacent in our daily routines.

The enemy looks to take advantage of our routines...don't let this happen. Forward your recommendations through your first line leaders.

Now, our next order of business...communicating with your family and loved ones back home. Regardless of what you hear in the news, the American people are extremely proud of what we are accomplishing here.

This means that your family and friends are proud. Make an effort to communicate with them on a regular basis...they deserve it. Let us not forget, they, too, are making sacrifices. If you are already doing this, do it more often. And most importantly, remind your battle buddies to make contact at home.

Remember, standards, discipline and self-motivation is vital to our success.

## The WRANGLER

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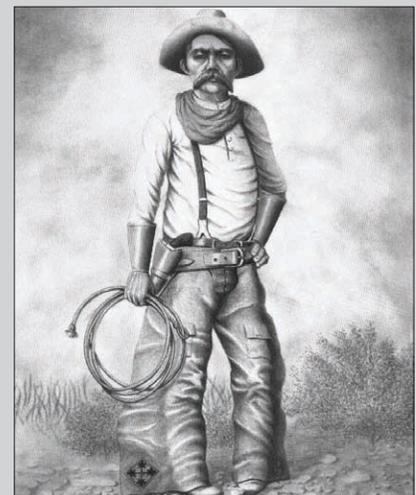
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# Bragg Soldiers transition to gun truckers

*Parachute riggers keep high standards while preparing for road missions*

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Parachute riggers are renowned for their meticulous attention to detail. When checking equipment that Soldiers' lives rely on, there is zero room for error.

That attitude has helped the Fort Bragg-based 612th Parachute Rigger Company successfully transition from rigger to gun-truck company while deployed to the Baghdad area.

"They're one of the best gun truck companies out there," said Capt. Nicholas Macsata, the 612th's battalion S1 at Logistical Task Force 530. "You see the cohesion they have. They're excellent at what they do."

The reputation is remarkable in part because the Soldiers performing the various



Sgt. Armando Amado checks the configuration of Pfc. Donald Burris' body armor.  
Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons



Spc. David Sullivan checks the mount on his 240B machine gun shortly before leaving on a gun-truck mission Nov. 22 near the Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. Sullivan is an automated logistical specialist with the 612th Rigger Company, part of Logistical Task Force 530. Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons

escort missions had little convoy experience upon arrival to theater, and in fact didn't know what their actual mission was going to be until getting here.

"These guys are self taught," said Sgt. Brian Brigman, a truck commander and mission commander with the 612th. "When we got here...we went straight out on the roads. We had to learn the routes right away."

"We knew we were going to do force protection, but wasn't sure what," said 1st Lt.

"We have our guys lay out all their gear before missions," said Sgt. Armando Amado, squad leader and mission commander. "It's to make sure everyone's on the same page."

After finishing, the unit commander often comes through, picks a Soldier at random and asks to see a specific piece of equipment as a sort of test.

"He might say, 'Let me see his NBC gear,'" Amado explained. "It's just like in the rear when we pack parachutes – you never know

They're one of the best gun truck companies out there. You see the cohesion they have. They're excellent at what they do.

Capt. Nicholas Macsata  
S1, LOGISTICAL TASK FORCE 530

Je Lee, the 612th's executive officer. "It was a bit of a surprise."

Soldiers used to checking parachute lines were asked to check vehicle fluids; instead of testing equipment loads, they were asked to test weapons.

But the rigger mentality of strict attention to detail remained, as is evident with things like the 612th's system of pre-combat checks.

which one he's going to [inspect,] so we pack each one like we're going to jump it ourselves."

For Sgt. William Patterson, convoy commander, the checks and double checks are just standard fare.

"We live by one standard [back home]," he said. "We have to always be sure things are good. This is what we do."

"On the roads here, we're always sure."

## A Few Legal Pointers

# Identity theft still a problem while deployed

The last thing you want to find out while you were deployed was that someone stole your name and decided to buy a brand new car. Identity theft is a problem that affects everyone at all ranks. As Soldiers, we prepare to live and survive under the toughest conditions. But are you prepared if someone steals your identity?

### How does my identity get stolen?

Stealing someone's identity is easier than you think. It is usually somebody that you know. People that are the closest to you have better access to your credit card number, bank account information, and social security number. There are people that may con information from your fellow Soldiers and friends.

### What can someone do with my information?

They can open new credit card accounts, wireless phone services, and bank accounts in your name. They may buy a new car by taking out an auto loan from the "new" bank account that was opened in your name.

### How do I minimize my risk of being a victim?

The first thing you need to do is get a copy of your credit report. Everyone is

entitled to one free copy of their credit report once every twelve months. To order a free copy of your credit report, visit <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>, or call toll-free (877)322-8228. If you ask, only the last four digits of your social security number will appear on your credit report.

While deployed, you can place an "active duty alert" on your credit report. When a business sees the alert on your credit report, it must verify your identity before issuing you credit. Active duty alerts on your report are effective for one year. If you are deployed for over a year, you can place another alert on your report. To place an "active duty alert" or to have it removed, call the toll-free number of one of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies:

- Equifax: (800)525-6285; <http://www.equifax.com>
- Experian: (888)EXPERIAN (397-3742); <http://www.experian.com>
- Trans Union: (800)680-7289; <http://www.transunion.com>

[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

Most importantly, be careful with who receives a power of attorney (POA) from you.

A misused POA can have the same disastrous effect as identity theft. Rather than having a \$25,000 car loan to pay back, your bank account can be cleaned out to a zero balance. Again, the person mostly likely to steal your identity is someone who has access to your personal and financial information. The person named on that POA has that access.

### What do I do if I am a victim of identity theft?

The first thing you need to do is place a fraud alert on your credit report. Contact one of the above mentioned companies to place that alert. Second, close the accounts that you know, or believe, that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Third, file a police report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft occurred.

Lastly, visit the JAG office for further assistance and information. Remember, don't be a victim and protect yourself.



**Capt. Eric Lee**  
JUDGE ADVOCATE

## Some Medical Advice

# RFI-issued gloves vital for protecting Soldiers' hands in vehicles

A recent notice from DA reported an alarming increase in severe burns to their Soldier's hands during OEF/OIF combat operations. Up to 80% of Soldiers in a vehicle at the time of an explosion (IED, VBIED, RPG, or mines) are presenting for care with severe burns to their hands. Burns to the hand represent a serious injury. This type burn often leads to contractures (or shrinking) of the skin resulting in life-long severe disabilities. Many of the hand burns Soldiers are experiencing are preventable with proper wear of the issued fire-

resistant (Nomex) gloves. Most locally purchased gloves, not issued during the Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI), offer no fire protection.

Make sure to wear your issued Fire-Resistant gloves at all times during high-risk activities such as Combat Logistic Patrols, vehicle operations, burning waste, or handling munitions. Let's keep all Sustainment Brigade Soldiers from suffering preventable injuries.

Many of the hand burns Soldiers are experiencing are preventable with proper wear of the issued fire-resistant (Nomex) gloves.



**Maj. Mark Higdon**  
BRIGADE SURGEON

# Mechanic finds way to bring hobby to motor pool

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

It's normal to find grease stains on the hands of mechanics, but sawdust too?

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 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," Hesterman 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."



Pfc. Jayme Hestermann stands by one of his wooden creations at the Special Troops Battalion motor pool Dec. 28. Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons

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.

"It's just fun," he said.

Hestermann wants to pursue a degree in business.

## LTF 530 troops prove no snow needed for sleigh rides

By 1st Lt. Andy Lawrence  
LOGISTICAL TASK FORCE 530

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – The Logistics Task Force 530, currently deployed near Baghdad on the Victory Base Complex set out to spreading holiday cheer in an unusual way: a sleigh race.

On Dec. 15, Soldiers from the four companies in the task force enjoyed some time away from their mission by competing in the race, held at Seitz Annex.

The four companies that took part in the race were: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) and 612th Gun Truck Company from Fort Bragg, N.C., 77th Maintenance Company from Babenhausen, Germany, and 227th Quartermaster Company from Fort Campbell, Ky.

Each company fabricated its own sleigh for the competition. The company's commander and youngest Soldier piloted

the sleighs, pulled by six Soldiers from within the company.

The requirements were simple: complete four laps around the Warrior Annex quadrangle on Seitz Annex.

The race started out tight, with all sleighs in competition for first place.

Before the end of the first lap, however, mechanical difficulties disabled the HHD and 612th sleighs. HHD dropped to third, while 612th fell into last place.

The 77th led the entire race until the last turn of the fourth lap. A miraculous spurt from 227th enabled them to take the lead just in the nick of time to win the



The participants for the 2005 Logistical Task Force 530 Sleigh Race lurch from the starting line Dec. 15 at Seitz Annex. Each sleigh was built and manned by companies from the battalion. Photo by LTF 530

race in a photo finish

The LTF 530 Sleigh Race, through hard work and friendly competition, inspired the deployed Soldiers with some Christmas spirit.



### *A new day dawns*

Personnel from six units newly arrived on Camp Taji prepare to test their .50 caliber machine guns during a weapons range Dec. 7 run by Company C of the 1st of the 377th Field Artillery Regiment. The range will be held on a monthly basis to allow units to fire their crew-served weapons from their vehicle turrets. *Courtesy photo illustration*

## Personal Finance Planning

# Combat zone duty brings special tax challenges

There are items that offer guidance on the tax relief provided for U.S. military and support personnel involved in military operations in a combat zone.

Taxpayers covered by the relief provisions described here should put the words "combat zone" and their deployment date in red at the top of their tax returns.

Covered taxpayers who receive a notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding a collection or examination matter should return the notice to the IRS with the words "combat zone" and the deployment date in red at the top of the notice and put "combat zone" on the envelope so the IRS can suspend the action.

Taxpayers may prevent issuance of such notices by notifying the IRS [<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101261,00.html>] that they are serving in a combat zone.

See these links for more information:

- Combat Zones; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=108331,00.html> (Q&A 1)

- Military Pay Exclusion; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101262,00.html> (Qs & As 2-10)

- Extension of Deadlines; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101265,00.html> (Qs & As 11-31)

- Miscellaneous Provisions; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=101266,00.html> (Qs & As 32-37)

- Employers with Employees in a Combat Zone; <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=129833,00.html> (Qs & As 38-51)

For more information:  
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=107467,00.html>

Please notify the IRS by e-mail about your Combat Zone Service.

Working with the Department of Defense, the IRS identifies taxpayers who are serving in a combat zone so that we may suspend compliance actions, such as audits or enforced collections, until 180 days after the taxpayer has left the zone.

Taxpayers qualifying for such combat zone relief may also notify the IRS directly of their status through a special e-mail address:

[combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov).



**Master Sgt. Robin Krieger**  
BRIGADE FINANCE NCOIC

They should provide name, stateside address, date of birth and date of deployment to the combat zone. They should not include any social security numbers in an e-mail. This notification may be made by the taxpayer, spouse, or authorized agent or representative.

The IRS cannot provide tax account information by e-mail. Therefore, we will send responses to any questions about

the taxpayer's account by regular mail to the address we have on record for the person, within two business days. We may provide general answers to questions regarding the status of individual combat zone updates via e-mail.

For help with tax questions, please check the resources on this site: <http://www.irs.gov/help/page/0,,id=120294,00.html>

The new Pay Charts and BAH Rates for 2006 may be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.dod.mil/dfas/money/milpay/>

# Christmas win clinches Wrangler perfect season

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

The 4th Sustainment Brigade Wranglers became holiday champions Dec. 25 by putting down the Kellogg Brown and Root team 21-18 for the second time in two nights during the Taji Christmas Basketball Tournament at the MWR indoor gym here.

The undefeated Wranglers first defended their perfect season against KBR during a Christmas Eve match up, securing their place in the final game.

After winning their subsequent games, KBR earned the right to face the Wranglers again on Christmas for the title.

KBR, however, couldn't step up against the Army team even once, let alone for the two wins needed to force the Wranglers out of the double-elimination tournament.

"We're an older team, so we have a lot of confidence," said Sgt. Charles Harvey, Wrangler team member. "We're smart and have a cohesive unit, we don't do as much stupid [stuff]."

Whereas in the Christmas Eve game, KBR led initially, playing a relaxed and casual game; for the championship go, the Wranglers kept the pressure up the entire time. Pulling ahead at the start, the Wranglers didn't let go, forcing the normally nonchalant KBR team into more mistakes.

'Cutting off the oxygen' as Wrangler Head Coach Staff Sgt. Maurice Elmore often yelled at his players, was crucial to his team's success.

"We thrive on our defense," he explained. Defense brings offense, and offense brings turnovers. "We score off their turnovers."

Defense and confidence aside, KBR's rally at game's end nearly forced a second game as they pulled to within one basket of the Wranglers, but a final foul shot gave the Army team the 21 points needed for victory.



(Above) Pfc. Adrian Brown fights through a KBR defender while going for a layup during the Taji Christmas Basketball Tournament Dec. 25 at the MWR indoor gym on Camp Taji, Iraq. Brown is assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade.  
(Right) Staff Sgt. Mario Brewer [right] sticks close to a KBR player charging through the Wrangler defense during the game. **Photos by Sgt. Joshua Salmons**



**WELDING** FROM Page 1

While the number may seem low since the unit began the mission in January, Keeler explains that the 223rd still supports over 20 other units on Taji with custom fabrications and vehicle repairs.

With only eight people in the shop, things can get pretty busy, he said.

Still, the work supporting the Iraqi army helps the entire war effort.

"We're enabling them to take on the mission that our people are currently doing," said Maj. Alfredo Garcia, 223rd commander. "The more trucks we put out, the more missions they run and the less we have to do."

"I think it's a great thing to contribute to the Iraqi Army," said Keeler. "The endgame is to get them up and running.

"Anyway to protect them is a good thing."



Col. Gustavo Perna and Maj. Ricardo Lebron give Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead a tour of the "Forward Operating Base (FOB) in a box" at the class IV yard on Camp Taji. The 4th Sustainment Brigade commander and 189th Combat Support Battalion SPO OIC were able to explain to the visiting 3rd COSCOM commanding general how the FOB-in-a-box is a series of containers holding all the equipment necessary for a unit to set up operational facilities anywhere in theater. *Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons*

*What? No gift wrap?*

## A Chaplain's Prayer

### New year a 'grand adventure'

This is one of my favorite times of the year.

New Year's reminds me of the passing of time and helps me refocus on what I really want out of life. I look forward to starting a life-enhancing activity, working anew on a failed resolution, or setting a goal for a great adventure. In the busyness of life, New Year's reconnects us to a "starting line," a place to check our bearings, progress and personal goals. Even as we find ourselves deployed with mounting tasks and job responsibilities, we can still make opportunity to enrich our lives. The best advice that I have received about deployment is the quote, "do not count the days, make each day count."

Have you thought about enhancing or reshaping your life for the better in the coming year? Whatever plans or resolutions you might make, I encourage you to place energy and focus into life's most important purpose. The Scriptures teach that our primary purpose in life is to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind; and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27). It means that we are to follow God's commandments, engage in activities that connect us with Him, and live with selfless-service toward others. In sum, we are to live our lives in friendship with and devotion to God. This purpose is not an easy one to fulfill and requires our constant focus and attention. Jesus spoke of this goal in terms of a journey. He said that in life, there is a wide gate and an easy road that leads to destruction, but the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life. The awesome thing about God is that once we commit to take the "road less traveled," he travels with us, guides us, and watches over us. When we make mistakes or have failures he forgives us. When we encounter the worst in life, he carries us through.

One aspect that defines Americans is that we love to travel, have an adventure, or get out on the open road. Probably not unlike yourself, one of these aspects always figures into one of my New Year's resolutions. Yet we are reminded that there is the greatest journey of all, the road less traveled of living in devotion to God. Only by setting out on that adventure do we find real purpose, contentment, and success in life.

**Commitment to the Journey:**

Regularly set aside time for spiritual reflection.

Connect with God - commit oneself to prayer; read and study the Scriptures.

Enrich life by reading and watching those things that are uplifting or challenging.

Give aid to others in need.



**Capt. Loren Hutsell**  
BRIGADE OPERATIONS CHAPLAIN

# 503rd refits vehicles with latest safety tech

Special to The Wrangler  
18TH COMBAT SUPPORT BATTALION

LOGISTICAL BASE SEITZ, Iraq  
– The 503rd 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 war fighters," said 2nd Lt. Michael Quigley, 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.

The total time to install a complete safety initiative system is 16 hours by the book; however, the 503rd completes the installments within six hours. To accomplish this great feat, the 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," Quigley said.

The VIC-3 System allows communication within the vehicle for the driver, gunner, truck commander (TC), and others, said Staff Sgt. Andre Simmons, vehicle enhancement

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. This system suppresses any fire that takes place in the passenger and rear compartment.

"The system is an automatic system and requires the Soldiers to take no actions during an emergency to activate," he added. "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 rollover the gunner stays in his vehicle, said Simmons. The harness is worn around the waist secured by a strap to the seat base of the vehicle. 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 roll overs," he said.

The Single Movement Combat Lock replaces the current locking system in up-armored doors.

"With the current system it often takes



Robert Smith installs a single combat lock on an up-armored humvee Dec. 20 on Logistical Base Seitz. Smith is a civilian contractor working with the 18th Combat Support Battalion.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

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," Simmons said. "All vehicles we service already have this new windshield installed. Our focus is on replacing unserviceable windshields.

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

The Red Dot air-conditioning system allows the passengers of the vehicle to have access to cool air while operating in the heat of summer. Included in the Red Dot system are links for use with cooling vests.

By plugging these connectors into the vests the Soldier channels air directly to their body under the individual body armor system. They feature a hands free quick release if a Soldier must exit the vehicle.

"The majority of vehicles in theater are already equipped with this system," said Simmons. "Our focus is maintaining and repairing systems currently installed."

We ensure that all of the latest in safety technology is made available to the war fighter.

2nd Lt. Michael Quigley

BATTALION SUPPORT OPERATIONS OFFICER, 503RD MAINTENANCE COMPANY

initiative shop NCOIC with the 503rd Maintenance Company. 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,"

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

"The new combat lock eliminates the problems of the old system allowing the door to close on the first attempt rather than the