



Spc. Moises Mari maneuvers his rough terrain cargo handler to load a 40-foot container onto a waiting flatbed truck at the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Jan. 10. Mari is a cargo handler assigned to 4th Platoon, 155th Cargo Transfer Company, currently conducting Arrival Departure Airfield Control Group (ADACG) operations on BIAP. *Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons*

Got supplies? Thank an ADACG troop

Airport Soldiers organize, pack supplies bound for various theater FOBs

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – Loading or unloading cargo from a plane is a little different than piling sundries in the back of a humvee.

Palletes require careful packing or unpacking, and the Soldiers of the 4th Platoon, 155th Cargo Transfer Company, who run Arrival Departure Airfield Control Group (ADACG) operations at Baghdad International Airport do just that.

Working with the Air Force and various civilian airport agencies, ADACG Soldiers act as a sort of large-scale post office – packing cargo bound stateside for its trans-oceanic flight and sorting through arrived

repair parts to get them on track to their destination in theater.

“We give everyone their supplies,” said 1st Lt. Michael Hallinan, platoon leader. “Once the Air Force loads the cargo off the plane, my platoon will take it and put it into customer lanes – with each lane representing a different [forward operating base].”

Using heavy forklifts and other mover heavy equipment (MHE) to arrange the palletes, the ADACG essentially is a staging ground for Army supplies.

If the customer is on the Victory Base Complex, the unit can come to the ADACG directly and the cargo will be loaded onto trucks with the MHEs, said Staff Sgt. Randall Welch, section sergeant.

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Our Colonel's Word

I look at each day as an opportunity. It is a day we can make our situation better to complete the mission and save lives.

We must always remain vigilant and not become complacent in our duties.

However, it is human nature to establish routines to ensure things get done.

Patterns can easily be made out of our combat logistical patrols (CLP), our reaction to small-arms fire (SAF) and our reaction to improvised explosive devices (IED). The enemy is always watching us and they will figure out how to counter our reactions.

Leaders at all levels emplace tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to ensure that we are not establishing patterns that the enemy can recognize.

Once TTPs are emplaced, leaders must always reassess, enforce and make changes to standards as required.



Col. Gustave Perna
BRIGADE COMMANDER

You have the responsibility to ensure that the Soldiers are always prepared.

It is important for leaders to participate in CLPs to demonstrate to subordinates that we are willing to join them on dangerous Main Supply Routes (MSR).

Through self experiences, leaders can instill disciplines for preparing and during CLP operations. They also must ensure they are being followed.

Whether you are on your second or 200th CLP, you must always be vigilant of the enemy and not take short cuts.

Complacency is one of our biggest vulnerabilities, leader involvement is key to address and correct it.

Leaders give Soldiers the freedom of maneuver by mitigating vulnerabilities.

You continue to get things done and prevent troops from getting hurt.

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"Two days is our target time," he said. "We want everything that we get to be delivered within two days."

For deliveries outside the complex, the cargo is put into containers and sent to the nearby Consolidated Shipping Receiving Point (CRSP), where it's sorted further and placed onto convoys, Hallinan said.

The other half of ADACG operations is getting cargo on air-worthy palletes.

"We do the weighing and marking of the palletes," Welch said. "We'll get the center of

balance and stuff like that."

Palletes for aircraft must meet certain size and weight requirements, Hallinan said. The weight must be distributed a certain way throughout the load. It must be a certain width and height.

All told some 3,300 palletes are processed by the 39-person platoon every month, and that number is expected to grow.

"The more the air operation grows, the more we'll move," Hallinan said.

"Moving to more air movement is a good deal since it will reduce the vehicles on the road and keep our Soldiers safer."

**Don't shoot ...
call EOD.**



STAY ALIVE

The WRANGLER

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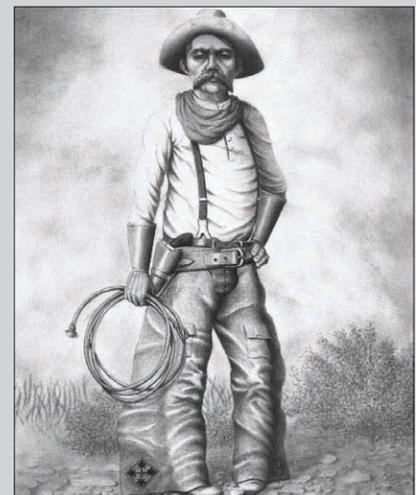
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Camp cooks teach culinary tips to Iraqis

Classes that teach correct food-preparation methods held for host soldiers

By Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

Soldiers in the Iraqi army completed the first Supervisory Cook train-the-trainer program at the Iraqi army Service and Support Institute (IASSI) in Taji, Iraq on Jan. 24.

Two Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade assisted with the 19-day course that was designed to teach students to prepare daily meals in a field location.

"The idea is to teach as many people as we can in order to eliminate the cost of feeding our army," said IASSI Chief Officer Assistant Kazal. Kazal is an equivalent to a command sergeant major.

Classes dealt with choosing a good spot for the field kitchen, safety, sanitation and potential fire hazards. Students erected the field kitchen and created meals the last three days as their final exam.

"We produced the same traditional meals," said Raad with the Iraqi army's 8th Division. "We prepare the food the same way civilian people prepare their meals."



Sgt. 1st Class Wendell Mitchell watches how one Iraqi student prepares rice in a Polish field kitchen here Jan 23. Mitchell is a food service sergeant with the 542nd Maintenance Company.

Photo Illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

He added, "The food we cook will help the quality of the food and the morale, especially those coming from different backgrounds."

Societies in Iraq are divided into two classes: very high and very low class.

The majority are at the bottom of society and are deprived from this type of good cooking, explained Raad.

The final meal prepared was lamb, rice

and corn with hot tea.

Students grasped course material and showed enthusiasm throughout the instruction process.

"I am proud and thankful for having the opportunity to learn something like this," said Sgt. Samon with the Iraqi army's 4th Division.

"I am thankful for those allowing us to

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Personal Finance Planning

Watching small details will keep money woes at bay

Saving Deposit Program

If you are a member of the Saving Deposit Program, please review your leave and earnings statement (LES) to ensure the correct amount is showing on your LES. If it is incorrect please see your Finance NCO.

Counterfeit Currency

Camp Taji has encountered several counterfeit bills in the past month.

These bills seem to be



Master Sgt. Robin Krieger
BRIGADE FINANCE NCOIC

coming from the vendors on post. Be aware when receiving currency from vendors to look closely at the currency and do not accept suspicious-looking bills.

Counterfeit bills are usually in the denominations of \$20, \$50 or \$100.

If you think you might have a counterfeit bill in your possession do not try to use it. Bring it to your local finance office and they will test the bill.

W-2s

Please check your W-2s. If your W-2 is incorrect you will need to get a corrected W-2 through your Finance NCO.

Once Finance submits the correction through DFAS, your corrected W-2 will be available on MYPAY.

If you were taxed for December 2005, you will need a corrected W-2. Your taxes will be refunded when you file your income tax return.

Pay Raise

Currently there is no pay raise for Hazardous Duty Pay or Save Pay.



Generally wet

4th Infantry Division Assistant Division Commander Brig. Gen. David Halverson tests the Combat Convoy Fire Fighting System near 4th Sustainment Brigade headquarters here Jan 21. The system was developed by civilian fire fighters and adapted for military use in convoys.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

Some Medical Advice

Warmer months bring sandfly increases

Soldiers cautioned to limit skin exposure to minimize leishmaniasis risk

As the warm weather rapidly approaches our area I wanted to remind everyone of a risk that comes with the elevated temperatures, that being sandflies.

Sandflies are common throughout Iraq from March through November and love to feast on exposed skin.

Although the bite of a sandfly is rarely more lethal than a mosquito bite, occasionally, the sandfly can be infected with a parasite that causes leishmaniasis.

Leishmaniasis, locally known as the "Baghdad boil" due to its appearance, occurs as a skin infection called cutaneous leishmaniasis.

Occasionally, the infection can attack the internal organs and is called

visceral leishmaniasis.

Leishmaniasis is an "endemic disease" meaning it is constantly present in certain geographical areas.

The visceral form of the illness is much more serious than the cutaneous version and occasionally results in death.

Fortunately, of the 846 Soldiers who have contracted leishmaniasis during deployment to Afghanistan or Iraq recently, only four have contracted visceral leishmaniasis.

In Iraq, the greatest risk area is west Mosul and Talafar (both north of our area).

Sandflies are very small (about the size of the head of a pen). Their bite is generally not felt and leaves a small round, reddish

bump that starts itching hours, days, or even months later.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is not life threatening and usually heals spontaneously, but can cause permanent scarring.

The more serious form, visceral leishmaniasis, infects the liver, spleen, and bone marrow. The visceral form is very difficult to diagnose because symptoms can be delayed several years after the original sandfly bite.

Due to the potential for long delays before symptoms develop, Soldiers should seek care if unexplained skin lesions occur following re-deployment.

There are no vaccinations or medicines that can stop the development of leishmaniasis following bite from an infected sandfly. As with many diseases, prevention is the best medicine.

Leishmaniasis is best prevented by using
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Maj. Mark Higdon
BRIGADE SURGEON

A Few Legal Pointers

To each their own: *Tax requirements vary depending on individuals' filing status*

Service members must determine their filing status before they can determine their filing requirements. There are five filing statuses: 1) Single, 2) Married Filing Jointly, 3) Married Filing Separately, 4) Head of Household, and 5) Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child.

Single

A taxpayer's filing status is single if on the last day of the year he/she is unmarried or legally separated from his/her spouse under a divorce or separate maintenance decree, and the taxpayer does not qualify for another filing status.

Married Filing Jointly

The service member and spouse must agree to file a joint return.

On a joint return they will report their combined income and deduct their combined allowable expenses.

They must include all of their income, exemptions, and deductions on their joint return and use the same accounting period. Either spouse may be held responsible for all the taxes due, even if all of the income was earned by the other spouse.

If a couple is divorced under a final divorce decree by the last day of the year, they are each considered unmarried for the whole

year and cannot choose married filing jointly as a filing status.

If one spouse passes away during the year, the other spouse is considered married for the whole year and can file married filing jointly as a filing status.

Married Filing Separately

Married couples can also choose married filing separately if they cannot agree to file jointly.

One spouse may be able to file as head of household, but the other spouse will have to file married filing separately.

Married filing separately is usually disadvantageous to at least one party, and individuals filing separately are not able to claim certain credits, such as earned income credit and education credits.

Head of Household

To file as head of household, the following requirements must be met: 1) the taxpayer must be unmarried on the last day of the year, 2) paid more than half the cost of keeping up a home for a year, and 3) a "qualifying person" must have lived in the home for more than half the year (except for temporary absences, such as school).

If the "qualifying person" is the taxpayer's dependent parent, he/she does not have to live with the service member. However, the taxpayer must have paid more than half the

support for the dependent.

Under this status, the tax rate is generally lower than filing single or married filing separately, but the taxpayer must meet all the necessary requirements.

Qualifying Widow(er) With Dependent Child

If a spouse passed away in 2005, the taxpayer can file married filing jointly for that year.

The year of death is the last year for which filing jointly with the deceased spouse can be used.

A spouse may be eligible to use the qualifying widow(er) with dependent child as a filing status for two years following the year his/her spouse passed away.

For example, if the spouse passed away in 2004 and has not remarried, the surviving spouse may be able to use this filing status for 2005 and 2006.

This filing status entitles the surviving spouse to use the larger tax deduction (for married filing jointly, if the spouse does not itemize deductions).

The surviving spouse must be unmarried with a qualifying child or stepchild in order to use this filing status.

If more than one filing status applies, the service member should choose the one that will provide the lowest amount of tax.

For further information on filing status, refer to IRS Publication 17.



Sgt. Dwayne Meyers
PARALEGAL NCO

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barriers or repellents.

At Camp Taji, we have the best preventive measures available to stop the bite of sandflies; DEET-containing lotions and permethrin products are readily available.

Use of repellent lotions, treating uniforms with the "shake and bake" permethrin bags (which will be available at the PX in the coming months) and sleeping under bed nets can significantly decrease the risk

of experiencing a bite from an infected sandfly.

Use of bed-nets is enhanced by treating the netting with permethrin spray.

In addition to the above measures, simply decreasing the amount of exposed skin reduces the risk; any exposed skin is subject to become the meal of a sandfly.

Certainly, our environmental science officer will be using pesticide sprays and tablets to decrease the overall population of sandflies in our area, but some will persist despite our best efforts.

The new standard in shipping

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Taking a cue from modern commercial parcel carriers, the Consolidated Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP) here, started in May 2005, mirrors the “hub” concept in its cargo handling.

Personnel from the Army Reserve 1011th Quartermaster Company, based out of Farmington, Mo., run the yard and are responsible for working in tandem with the sister CRSP at Camp Taji to push parts and vehicles throughout the 4th Sustainment Brigade area of operation.

Before CRSPs, cargo bound – say, from Camp Taji to Forward Operating Base Falcon, would require a special convoy.

A unit on Taji would choose vehicles and personnel, form the convoy and drive the cargo to Falcon. Meanwhile, if cargo on Falcon needed to go to Taji, a completely separate convoy would be needed.

The “hub” concept allows the brigade to form a steady flow of cargo into the CRSP from FOBs and camps throughout theater, and then utilize trucks already traveling to or near a cargo’s final destination for delivery.

“Because we’re doing regular runs...we don’t have to create a convoy for each load of cargo,” said Maj. Michael Melendez, brigade

While the shortest distance between two points is one straight line, by using well-travelled routes, brigade supplies can actually be moved faster through several steps

transportation integration officer. “Trucks come in, make a drop off and then pick up another load before heading back.

“It decreases the number of convoys on the roads.”

While the idea of a centralized yard for cargo is not new, the aspect of delivering cargo to the customer is.

“In times past the customers had to physically come to this central point to receive their cargo,” said 2nd Lt. Herbert Reid, Victory Complex CRSP OIC. “With this new CRSP concept, we send out the cargo...to the customers.”

Pushing out about 100 containers of cargo a week and receiving about the same, the 19 personnel from the CRSP section of the 1011th Supply Support Activity Platoon run the yard 24 hours a day, Reid said.

The CRSP yard on Victory Complex uses a “first-in-first-out” system to minimize the amount of time cargo sits in the yard, he explained.

The containers or palletes are put into lanes based off of what FOB they are to be sent to.

The CRSPs yard system increases the efficiency of cargo movement in efforts to get product to the customer more easily, Reid said.

Whereas a unit that needed cargo moved or delivered could expect to wait two weeks, brigade efforts hope to trim that time frame down to six days, Melendez said.



Spc. Shannon Klemme inventories container contents at the Victory Base Complex Consolidated Shipping and Receiving Point (CRSP) Jan. 12. Klemme is assigned to the 1011th Quartermaster Company, a Reserve unit based out of Farmington, Mo. **Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons**

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cook for ourselves.”

He added, “I enjoyed the warm relationship with our American partners.”

“They learn very fast and are resourceful,” said Sgt. 1st Class Wendell Mitchell, instructor/advisor and food service sergeant, 542nd Maintenance Company, 189th Corps Support Battalion. “They do a lot with very little. The overall experience was good,”

he added.

“I was honored to get this opportunity and it was a challenge to take on,” said Sgt. Michael Jackson, trainer/instructor and food service sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion.

“The Soldiers were very quick to respond to suggestion and keep implementing the suggestion throughout the course. Some are cooks and some are not cooks, but this is their

first time cooking in a field environment.”

Once completed with the class students will become the trainers themselves.

“The overall goal is to go back to our units and we will be tasked to form a small team to operate a kitchen like this,” said Raad. “When they send these Soldiers back they become the seed to train others.”

Every division in the Iraqi army is sending Soldiers to the class, said Kazal.

A total of 10 more classes are planned.

A Chaplain's Prayer

Problems: huge now, will fade in time

Do you remember “the thing” you were dreadfully worried about on January 25, 2003? – Probably not. Even if you do, I am sure that it is now nothing more than a distant memory.

I returned from R&R the other day relaxed and upbeat. As soon as I walked into my office I faced a problem I thought had already been resolved. Well, it threw me into a tail spin and I started “reacting” instead of thinking.

A wise friend said to me, “Gary, take a deep breath before you do anything,” which was great counsel.

I began to recognize that my problem was miniscule in comparison to what many others were facing. In the big picture and in time, my problem would be insignificant.

Having a future perspective doesn't mean that our problems aren't important now and don't need to be properly dealt with. There are important steps we undertake in dealing with our problems.

First, when we face problems, large or small, we must keep in mind that no problem is so great that it can't be solved. Even if you have situations that seem incredibly difficult or overwhelming, we must maintain a hopeful perspective.

Someone once pointed out that there are no hopeless situations only hopeless people. Winston Churchill the great leader of England during WWII once advised, “never, never, never give up.” Under no circumstances let yourself become exceedingly discouraged and negative as to give in to the feeling that you cannot see your way through a problem.

Second, when we face problems we ask God to help us in our situations. In doing this, we have peace knowing that he is able to bring us through the difficulty.

The Christian faith teaches: “Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the one who makes me who I am” Philippians 4:13 (The

Message).

We find peace when we pause in the day and listen to God's voice and obey his word.

One of the great spiritual disciplines missing in our lives today is biblical meditation. This is simply being quiet before the Lord; orienting your mind to hear from God.

This is quite opposite of the secular idea of meditation which encourages the emptying of the mind and detachment from the world.

Biblical meditation is the filling of the mind with wisdom received as you become

silent before the Lord. I encourage you to enthusiastically face your problems knowing that God will give you what you need to find the right solution and mature you through the process.

Here are seven helpful, practical actions to take when you face a problem:

- Pray. Consult your Heavenly Father for answers to your situation.
- Accept that your problem is a challenge not a hopeless situation.
- Change your attitude about your problem—replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts.
- Meditate. Present yourself silent before the Lord. Listen to God.
- Write down your problem in detail. Externalize it and don't allow it to bog down in your mind as a constant worry.
- Do all that you can and then leave the results to God.
- Never, never, never give up!

If problems seem too much for you ask your Heavenly Father for help. He will guide you in overcoming any problem.

Firmly fix in your mind the great fact that God is with you—always with you. And by the way, he really does love you.

“Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own” Jeremiah 33:3 (The Message).



Maj. Gary Bragg
BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

Foreman key ingredient in shop successes

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

LOGISTICAL BASE SEITZ, Iraq – With all the clanking metal, showers of sparks and buzzing grinders in a metal shop, a shop foreman has to organize and make sense of the all the activity.

In the case of the 503rd Maintenance Company's Services and Evacuation Section, that responsibility falls on Sgt. Jemon Todman, a welder with the Fort Bragg based unit.

"As a shop foreman my main thing is that when I project a number to chief that we meet that number every day," said Todman, a 28-year-old native of Batesburg, S.C., speaking of the numbers of fabricated parts his boss expects the shop personnel to complete daily.

As customers arrive from various units on the Victory Base Complex, the shop foreman takes their order; when they return, he ensures the complete products are delivered.

The shop's recent focus has been on humvee-mounted IED sensors and is able to produce four to five completed sets per day.

"I don't just supervise," Todman explained, "I go throughout the shop and assist in fabricating...and I help keep track of the materials we have in the shop."

"[The shop foreman] is there to make sure all customers are satisfied," said Staff Sgt. Michael Murphey, the S&E shop NCOIC. "It's important to have a good foreman in case I have to step out for any reason."

Coordinating with both civilian and military workers, the foreman also ensures that proper and quality work is completed.

The civilians have the same focus as the military – to support the Soldiers going out on the road, making the parts that will keep them safer, Todman said.

As foreman, Todman has his hands in every aspect of his shop's operation. He works with the other shop members to successfully complete unit orders and ensures quality work.

"When I'm out of the shop, I know things will keep going," said Murphey. "When Todman's there, I have no issues whatsoever."



Sgt. Jemon Todman points out the correct dimensions for a part of an IED sensor to JB Stone Jan 22 on Logistical Base Seitz. Todman is a welder with the 503rd Maintenance Company and Stone is a civilian worker, both working for the 18th Corps Support Battalion. **Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons**