



# The WRANGLER

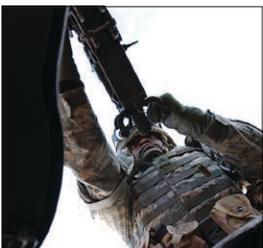
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Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom IV

August 9, 2006



## 4th Sustainment Brigade OIF IV "Year in Review" Page 6



## A Chaplain's Prayer

# Pajimula, spiders, and the art of losing

*Don't let streaks of difficulties damage positive life outlook; continue to grow*

As I read each "Proud American Newsletter," I always seek out the sports section first, i.e., the flickerball updates.

It has come to my attention that Team Pajimula is on a record-book-setting losing streak. The losing streak now stands at an unprecedented five games! It brings comparison to several other losing streaks.

In 1899, the Cleveland Spiders needed grief counseling after ending the season with a record of 20-134. They lost 40 of their last 41 games and their best pitcher, Jim Hughey, had a record of four wins and 30 losses!

The 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers lost 73 times. They started the season losing 15 in a row and ended by losing 13 in a row. During the season they also managed to have a 20 and a 14 game losing streak.

The 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers went an embarrassing 0-14. When they finally won a game (the following season) over 8,000 fans showed up at the airport to congratulate them when they returned home.

In 2003, the Detroit Tigers lost a MLB record 118 games! Should Team Pajimula continue to loose, I fear they will forever be mentioned in the same breath as the Cleveland Spiders.

All kidding and jest aside, have you ever felt like you were in a situation where you couldn't get a break? When it seemed that problems sought you out or that you were on an unending losing streak? Perhaps you are currently in such a situation.

It's important to remember that everyone goes through difficult times—when life gives you the "short end of the stick." The Scriptures give us wisdom in approaching such trials.

Step one is to pray. We are reminded that when the going

gets rough God is willing to work to our benefit if we seek his help. He doesn't promise to deliver us from all of our problems, but he does want to work on our behalf within the circumstances. Trials are not pleasant, but we are comforted by the fact that God is at work in our lives, and he is able to retrieve good from all things. Romans

8:28 reminds us, "for those who love God all things are working together for good."

Step two is to keep your head up and maintain a positive attitude. In fact, the Scriptures teach that we are to give thanks in all circumstances (I Thessalonians 5:18). That means no wallowing in self-pity. Rather, we are to put our trust in God and walk through difficult situations with his presence and peace.

A final step is to look for opportunities to overcome evil with good. God allows us to go through times of trial so that we might help others when they face similar circumstances.

When our trials have passed we will become more attuned to reaching out to others when they encounter similar difficulties. These principles allow us to endure any adversity that might come our way.

*"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."* (Matthew 11:28-30, The Message)



**Capt. Loren Hutsell**  
ASSISTANT BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

## The WRANGLER

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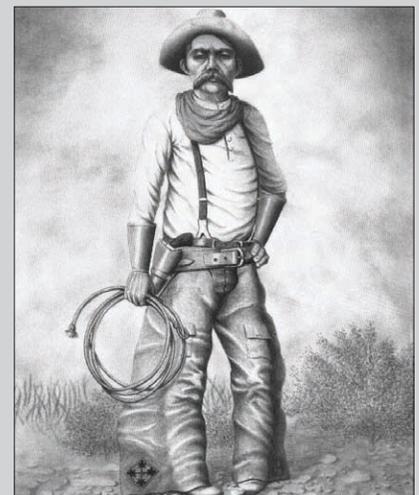
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# 18th CSB switches sides

*Unit moves from west to east VBC; acquires missions*

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—The 18th Corps Support Battalion finished the majority of its “in-stride move” to East Liberty July 29, officially turning on the lights and beginning operations from the new Victory Base Complex area.

Formally the sole proprietors of Logistical Base Seitz, a small base on west VBC, the Germany-based battalion will now join a much larger community of personnel as part of the Army’s continued consolidation and realignment of units throughout the Baghdad area.

“We’re going from small town to the big city,” said Maj. Horace Bowden, 18th CSB executive officer. “We’re going from being masters of our own destiny to the larger picture.”

Along with new living, work and supply support activity (SSA) areas, the 18th has also received some new responsibilities with the move: managing an additional entry-control point (ECP) and one of the VBC’s Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor Systems (JLENS)—those camera-equipped aerostats seen on camps, used to monitor activity outside of the wire.

“Everything about the move should be transparent to the customer units,” said Maj. Wayne Bondy, the 18th support operations officer. “We’ve continued operations and moved at the same time.”

The move wasn’t without challenges, requiring intense levels of coordination and planning, explained Bondy. The first phases included moving the SSAs to provide uninterrupted services to customers and operations, followed



Pfc. Necroy Smith cuts shelves from old furniture to fit some of the new office spaces on East Liberty, Victory Base Complex, Iraq, July 27. Smith is an administrative specialist with the 18th Corps Support Battalion. **Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons**

by additional waves of furniture, equipment and vehicles to the respective new offices and yards on East Liberty.

“I think they did it to test us—to see if we could handle it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Greg Brewer, a platoon sergeant with Battery C of the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Field Artillery Regiment, one of the transportation assets assigned to the 18th.

He laughed as he remarked about the work the move required from his troops through the day before they headed out each night on regular missions. “It seems like it all just came down at once—missions, moving, everything.”

Most of the moving was handled by

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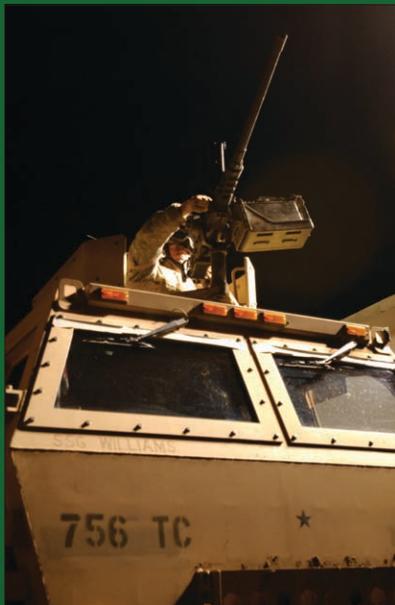
Sgt. Larry Sines examines the differential on a broken humvee while at the Special Troops Battalion motor pool on Camp Taji, Iraq, Mar. 23. The humvee is one of dozens that was repaired and given to the Polish army as a part of a joint operation. Sines is a mechanic assigned to the STB.



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 a food service specialist assigned to the Special Troops Battalion.



Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion fire their M-16s at a weapons range on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Sept. 29. The Battalion spent several days in Kuwait learning new tactics an procedures before moving north to Camp Taji.



Sgt. Stephen Knoedler checks the head space and timing on his .50 caliber machine gun before leaving Camp Taji on a fuel-delivery mission Jan. 29. Knoedler is a gunner with the California National Guard's 756th Transportation Company.



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.



Capt. Cheun Yoo prays with the 756th personnel about to leave on a fuel-delivery convoy from Camp Taji Jan. 29. Yoo is the 189th Corps Support Battalion Chaplain. The 756th is an Army Reserve unit based out of Van Nuys, Calif.



A Chinook crew chief gives visual directions to a forklift operator while loading the helicopter with pallets using a new roller-tines system. The roller tines system makes the pallets roll into the aircraft easier and keeps the tail ramp from being damaged during load operations whereas in the past, it would have made contact with the ground. *Photo by Spc. Creighton Holub*

## Cargo chopper efforts save wear on road troops

By Spc. Creighton Holub  
COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE, 4ID

Although the Combat Aviation Brigade's Chinook helicopters fly every night, perhaps one of the key benefits of their mission is fewer convoys rolling off the forward operating bases throughout Multi-National Division—Baghdad's area of operation.

The nightly flights have kept an estimated 3,000 trucks and more than 7,000 Soldiers off the roads of Baghdad.

"We're preserving democracy one pallet at a time," said Chief Warrant Officer Philip Lopez, a Chinook pilot from Patterson, La., assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, MND-B. "Once we started doing this mission, they started seeing the numbers of folks on the road dwindle. As a

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A crew chief assigned to the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, guides a Sustainment Brigade forklift operator toward a Chinook during pallet loading operations here July 14. The missions flown by the Chinook teams help lower the number of convoys needed to move equipment and personnel in and around the Baghdad area. *Photo by Spc. Creighton Holub*

# FOB deliveries streamline supply, support processes

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

Back in the states, having a UPS truck pull up to deliver an expected package is a special treat; on Taji, the closest thing units have to that is the 432nd Transportation Company.

The Army Reserve unit, based out of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, is charged with carrying out the last step for any piece of cargo traveling through the 4th Sustainment Brigade's tasked routes and camps across the Baghdad: delivering items to unit customers.

While the items transported have a more military flair—repair parts and water versus birthday presents and store purchases from delivery persons in the states—customers here still appreciate the deliveries.

"They're glad to see us," said Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perez, the company truck master. "They know that we get them their parts faster. Parts don't just sit in a yard somewhere, lost."

The unit moves containers and pallets from the CRSP (Consolidated Receiving Shipping Point) to customers on camp. The brigade's utilization of the CRSP concept allows everything from damaged vehicles to water and parts to be easily tracked, palletized and shipped with minimal fuss. Both items sent out and those bound for Taji itself arrive at the centralized point, and the 432nd takes it the final step.

"The old system made [the customer] come to us," said Capt. Jakara Cruz-Osorio, 432nd commander. "Now we do that. It's easier for them."

The CRSP concept also allows for more efficient supply movement, Perez said. Exercising total control over cargo from start to finish allows personnel to keep supply yards empty and customer stocks full.

The 432nd is relatively new, formed from other units back in October. Before deploying in April, Cruz and the 12 Soldiers from her prior command had to assess the

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Sgt. Jose Maldonado (right) signs for containers to be delivered to on-post customers from the Consolidated Receiving and Shipping Point on Camp Taji July 18. Maldonado is a truck commander with the 432nd Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit based out of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico. *Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons*



Spc. Ernesto Vargas welds plates that will be used in an Iraqi up-armor kit Nov. 1. The kits are used to protect soldiers in the new Iraqi army from roadside blasts and small-arms fire. Guevara is a welder with the Dallas-based Army Reserve 223rd Maintenance Company.



Soldiers keep watch from an armored security vehicle and humvee during a mission to Abu Ghraib June 1. The personnel from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment provided security to civilian trucks assisting with the relocation of Abu Ghraib.



Pfc. Joseph Smith checks the signal readings on a Ku-band satellite trailer during a switch exercise for the 4th Sustainment Brigade on Camp Taji, Oct. 15. Smith is a satellite communication system maintainer/operator with Company A, Special Troops Battalion.

**The 4th Sustainment Brigade, one of the Army's first modular sustainment units of action, flexed its know-how during OIF IV to deliver supplies and parts to maneuver units throughout the Iraqi capital's myriad of bases and camps, proving to all that they are...**

(Below) Sgt. Dwayne White fastens chains to an M1A2 Abrams loaded on a Heavy Equipment Transport Dec. 18 on Camp Taji. White and other personnel from the 155th Cargo Transfer Company took part in HET training that included loading and unloading an Abrams. The 155th is assigned to the 189th Corps Support Battalion. *Photos by Sgt. Joshua Salmons*



Sgt. Danion Ferreira ties down concrete barriers to the back of his palletized load system on Logistical Base Seitz Feb. 24. Ferreria is a truck driver with Charlie 2-5 Field Artillery, 18th Corps Support Battalion.



# THE MASTERS OF LOGISTICS

By Sgt. Joshua Salmons  
4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

"I know you all are doing great—none of my camps ever say they're running out of anything!"

In an April visit to the 4th Sustainment Brigade's headquarters at Camp Taji, Iraq, Maj. Gen. James Thurman, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, noted how brigade efforts throughout Baghdad had helped supply and enable his and other coalition units fulfill their missions.

The visit was one of many from generals and commanders from units throughout theater over the past year, touring the battalions and personnel of the "Wranglers"—the brigade tasked to provide service support to Multi-National Corps—Iraq in the Multi-National Division—Baghdad area of responsibility.

Few Wranglers could have envisioned the challenges that would come those months ago when first arriving on the forward

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operating base to be their Operation Iraqi Freedom IV home, a scant few miles north of the Iraqi capital. But in that time, brigade Soldiers would provide a myriad of invaluable services to the Baghdad area—from the normal battery of tasks like camp security, convoy operations and logistical support to spearheading new, more efficient systems of supply; equipping warfighters with the latest humvee enhancements; and training and equipping the first independent Iraqi logistical unit of the new Iraqi army.

What began as just a few hundred active-duty Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, grew to a full brigade of over 3,000 troops spread over three different camps once the subordinate battalions were in

place in theater. Units from Alaska to Puerto Rico; active duty, Reserve and National Guard, all donned the Wrangler patch and joined the mission.

In a situation common to many Army units under the new modular system, the various components that now made up the 4th Sustainment Brigade had to overcome the stigmas and preconceived notions that were associated with active duty, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers.

“It’s pretty smooth operating with different components,” said 1st Lt. Landon Mills, Company G executive officer, Special Troops Battalion. Company G is a brigade asset made up of personnel from units throughout Taji, charged with providing camp security for Taji and operating the quick reaction force (QRF).

“I don’t feel like we’re treated any different,” said Spc. Annet Mack, an administrative clerk with Company G, originally with the California National Guard’s 756th Transportation Company. “We’re all one Army, regardless.... We all want to make sure we all go home safe.”

Once convoys began to pour out of brigade yards at Camp Taji and the Victory Base Complex (VBC), the Wranglers started to look at developing better ways to move supplies throughout their area of operation. The answer: to turn yards on Taji and the VBC into Consolidated Receiving Shipping Points (CRSPs).

The CRSP concept was a new method of Army logistical thinking. The idea focused around the “hub” system, used by commercial parcel delivery

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Sgt. Ricardo Smith checks his weld after cutting holes in a plate that will be used in a new humvee gunner’s harness on Forward Operating Base Falcon Feb. 22. Smith is a welder with the 503rd Maintenance Company, serving on a fly-away team from Logistical Base Seitz.

Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Smith instructs an Iraqi soldier in the proper way to fire his rifle at an AK-47 range on Camp Taji April 6. Smith is an American advisor with the military transition team assigned to the Taji-based Iraqi 6th Motorized Truck Regiment.  
*Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons*

## MASTERS FROM Page 7

services like UPS and FedEx stateside; where packages are sent to regional centers and then distributed to destinations through regularly-traveled routes.

Whereas with the old system, a request to move a piece of cargo from Camp Taji to Camp Victory on the VBC would require a unique convoy be requested, formed, and sent from Taji to Victory, and then return empty, explained Maj. Michael Melendez, the brigade transportation integration officer. With the CRSP concept, regularly scheduled runs to camps allowed cargo requests to just “jump on the next run” and be delivered to the customer faster, since convoys were already formed and running.

Moreover, convoys could carry loads

to and from destinations due to the regular planning of cargo movement, instead of just accomplishing one movement request per mission, leading to more efficient use of resources. A unit that needed cargo moved or delivered with the old system could expect to wait two weeks; the brigade has trimmed that down to six days, Melendez said.

“Trucks come in, make a drop off and then pick up another load before heading back,” he said. “It decreases the number of convoys on the roads.”

Another advantage of the CRSP yard is that a piece of cargo can be tracked from arrival to theater to delivery to the customer. This total control minimizes lost items and keeps it moving quickly, explained Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perez, truck master with the Army Reserve’s

432nd Transportation Company from Puerto Rico.

Since pieces don’t stay in yards too long, it “keeps people from pilfering through it,” said Staff Sgt. Capaul James, load master with the 432nd. “Customers are happy and it doesn’t take too long to get where it needs to go.”

According to unit records, the Wranglers have tracked nearly 28,000 pieces of cargo delivered through its Taji and VBC CRSP yards since starting the new system in May. They have also retrograded 10,600 pieces out of theater—that is shipped unusable, unneeded, or damaged vehicles and parts to Kuwait to be repaired, sent back to the states, or put back in the supply system.

Ensuring Soldiers are safe within

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their humvees was another priority for the Wranglers.

Procuring and installing humvee enhancements like additional armor, combat locks for easier door operation, and gunner restraints to keep Soldiers strapped in to vehicles during roll-overs became a major mission for the fabrication and automotive shops across the brigade motor pools.

As additional enhancements like the turret ballistic "Pope" glass and internal vehicle crew voice communication systems became available, the brigade moved to install those as well.

While the larger shops on Taji and VBC could handle customers from hundreds of units as they came in, fly-away teams were formed and sent out to additional camps.

"The benefit of fly-away teams is that the customer doesn't have to go into harm's way to get safety upgrades," said Staff Sgt. John Mickens, the team NCOIC for the Forward Operating Base Falcon fly-away team, detached from the 503rd Maintenance Company, based out of Logistical Base Seitz. Locating maintenance personnel near the customers also meant customers wouldn't have to take vehicles off of missions to wait for upgrades.

Over 11,200 enhancements have been installed by the brigade's battalions to date, including 1,100 by the small fly-away teams on four camps outside of the normal brigade AO.

"Installing these kits provides better protection for the Soldiers," said Maj. Stacy Townsend, the brigade support operations officer. "We owe it to them to protect them as much as possible as they execute their mission and support the Iraqi government."

Endeavoring to go beyond coalition logistics, the brigade

also took on the responsibility of assisting the military transition team (MiTT) serving as advisors to the Iraqi 6th Motorized Truck Regiment (MTR) on the Iraqi side of Camp Taji.

By incorporating the fledgling Iraqi logistical unit's operations into their own, the Wranglers were able to assist the MiTT in teaching the Iraqis the value of military intelligence, proper maintenance and the role of the NCO (something the Iraqi army historically has lacked), said Maj. Earl Mack, team chief for the 6th MTR MiTT, assigned to the brigade.

On August 3rd, the 1st MTR was officially assigned to the 6th Iraqi army division—marking the end of the brigade's involvement in their development.

Having achieved level one status—that is, certification to conduct operations outside of coalition-military assistance, the new Iraqi logisticians are a legacy for the Wranglers to have left behind, having passed their knowledge and expertise to a new generation, and a new ally.

"I am really proud of about my unit's progress and, at the same time, I feel happy," said Col. Ea'ad, commander of the 6th MTR, speaking through an interpreter about his unit's first independent missions in March. "With the two teams I work(ed) with, we (had) been working as one team. We feel like we are brothers and forget that we are Iraqi or American."

While continuing their assigned mission in the closing months of their deployment—delivering 85 million gallons of fuel, running 5,000 combat logistical patrols and driving 3.5 million miles; the brigade also did its best to leave a legacy, through new systems of supply, safer equipment and future logisticians.

Wranglers "Just Get It Done!" as the premiere logistical unit of the new Army.



A 377th Transportation Company heavy equipment transport pauses for traffic on a road to Tillil, Iraq, Dec. 2, 2005. The 377th is based out of Mannheim, Germany. Photo by Sgt. Joshua Salmons



The sun rises over a convoy of 377th Transportation Company heavy equipment transports bound for Tillil, Iraq, Dec. 2, 2005. The 377th is based out of Mannheim, Germany.



Pfc. Danielle Navaugh and Staff Sgt. Jason Ludlam inspect a .50-caliber machine gun on a humvee before a mission to the International Zone from Seitz Annex June 29. Navaugh is a gunner with the 98th Maintenance Company, 393rd Corps Support Battalion; Ludlam is a truck commander with the Special Troops Battalion.



Navy Lt. Keith Littrel gives a class on proper CREW device operation and IED detection to 189th Corps Support Battalion Soldiers on Camp Taji June 20. Littrel is an electronic warfare officer assigned to the Joint Crew Composite Squadron 1, attached to the 189th.

## A Few Legal Pointers

# Landlord laws vary; financial penalties do not

As we get closer to the end of our deployment, many of us will have to find a place to live upon returning to our home station. Soldiers often seek legal assistance with respect to leases, often because they wish to terminate them, or they have violated a provision of the lease and now owe money. There are some basic facts you should know before you rent. This article will shed some light on basic landlord tenant issues and how to protect yourself so you can break your lease without suffering significant financial consequences.

A Lease is a legally-binding document.

When you sign your name, you are agreeing to all of the terms of the contract. If you do something in violation of the lease, you can be penalized by the landlord because you have breached a contract. Penalties can be monetary, you may be evicted, and you may be on the other end of a civil suit in courts. The Service members' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) generally protects Soldiers from eviction unless the landlord has a court order, however, if you have clearly breached the lease, the landlord will easily obtain a court order. Before signing a lease you should read it carefully, fully understand the contents, and agree with the contents.

### Duties of the Tenant

Remember that you signed the lease voluntarily and you must comply – here are some basic responsibilities you have as a tenant:

You must comply with all obligations in the rental agreement, including paying the rent on time. You should never withhold rent without consulting an attorney. There are certain steps you must take before you can withhold

rent from the landlord, otherwise you are now in breach of the lease and can be evicted.

You must keep the dwelling clean and remove all trash. You must also get permission before allowing someone else to live with you, before you keep a pet in your dwelling, and also before you sublet the property to another person.

You must give proper notice before moving out. Your lease will tell you how many days are required (often 60 days) and you should always give notice in writing.

### State Landlord/Tenant Laws

Landlord tenant laws vary from one state to another. What you may have been permitted to do in another state may not apply to your current duty station. In addition, practices vary from one landlord to another. Therefore it is crucial to actually read your lease thoroughly and understand the expectations on either side. If your landlord promises you something that is not in your lease or contrary to your lease's provisions,

make sure you get it in writing.

We'll use Texas as an example for the contents of a lease and the severe penalties for breaching it. The Texas Apartment Association (TAA) has created a lease used by many landlords in Texas. The lease is one year lease and does NOT contain a provision for Soldiers to terminate a lease whenever they want after giving 30 days notice. In fact, if a tenant breaches a lease the landlord is allowed to make all future rent due immediately. If for example a Soldier terminates the lease and six months are remaining (assuming rent is \$700/



Capt. Melissa Van Buhler  
JUDGE ADVOCATE

# PLS troops work to get Soldiers needed supplies

By Spc. Henry Bull  
282 QUARTERMASTER COMPANY, 393RD CSB

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq—The 282nd Quartermaster (QM) Company from Montgomery, Ala., employ different services to provide logistical support to the units in the greater Baghdad area. One of those services included developing a palletized loading system (PLS) team that would be able to deliver essential items within the Victory Base Complex.

This particular task allows units or businesses to receive supplies without having to provide the equipment to haul it.

Seven soldiers from the 282 QM make up the PLS team. Cpl. Charles Denny, the team leader, receives the mission from the 393rd Corps Support Battalion.

Denny coordinates and resources the movement then passes the information to the six PLS operators: Cpl. Joseph Thomas, Spc. Baily Rosario, Spc. Christopher Garner, Pfc. Robert Henderson, Pfc. Allen Jimerson, and Private Gregory Mingledorff for the execution portion.

The PLS team starts their daily duties at 8 a.m., beginning with maintenance checks on the vehicles and other equipment used for

the mission.

“One of the first things our team members do is check our tie-down straps for wear or tear,” said Thomas.

“This is very important because each load needs to be secured on the trailer to prevent any loss or damages.”

There are a variety of items or materials that are hauled by the PLS team. The items range from the 20-foot containers from the central receiving shipping point (CRSP) yard to communication equipment for different units. They also pick up food and water from the class-one yard for units that have special operations.

On an average day, the PLS team makes between five to six deliveries from Camp Striker to any military installation on Victory Base Complex.

Each team member realizes the significance of this particular operation because all of the items that are being hauled are vital to a unit’s mission.

“We understand the importance of completing our mission in a timely manner because so many units are depending on us to deliver their supplies so that they can complete their mission,” said Thomas.

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internal battalion assets utilizing their own palletized load systems (PLSs), forklifts and other vehicles—that part of the problem of relocation could depend on the 18th’s self reliance.

While many soldiers chaffed at the normal pains any move causes, Bowden saw the move as a good opportunity.

“This was a chance to look at how our systems operate,” he said. “The nine-month mark is a typical time to get complacent. By ripping the Band-Aid off the old way, we can see holes in how things work. It’ll give us a fresh look at our processes.”

Efforts will continue to improve the areas of the 18th’s new home. Two large maintenance buildings are planned to provide enclosed facilities for mechanics and fabricators, along with other projects that the 18th hopes to have completed in time for their replacement units in a few month’s time.

“The soldiers deserve the real credit for all of this,” Bondy said. “It was their hard work that moved us and kept us going. This is just one more step for getting both [the unit] and [the Army] home.”



Maj. Jay Bucci (photo taken prior to promotion) treats a local Iraqi boy who was injured by small-arms fire in an incident outside of Taji Oct. 29. Bucci is assigned to the Special Troops Battalion.



A .50-caliber machine gun sits ready in a guard tower on the perimeter of Camp Taji Nov. 16. The camp towers are manned by troops from Company G, Special Troops Battalion, who are responsible for the camp’s quick-reaction and guard forces.



Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Motorized Transportation Regiment wave to onlookers as their unit returns to Camp Taji from a supply mission March 23. The mission was the unit’s first operation executed independently from coalition forces.

**LANDLORD** FROM Page 10

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Jimenez (background) talks with his wife, Lorraine, and daughter, Jessica, via Video Teleconference (VTC) before his daughter's graduation ceremony at Shoemaker High School in Killeen, Texas, May 27. Jimenez is a network operations NCO with Company A, Special Troops Battalion.



Sgt. Zebedee Brockel tightens a humvee fan belt by adjusting the alternator bracket on Seitz Annex, Iraq, June 9. Brockel is the senior mechanic for the automotive section of the 98th Maintenance Company, assigned to the 393rd Corps Support Battalion.



Spc. Robert Onthank begins disassembling an old combat lock off of a humvee door on Forward Operating Base Falcon Feb. 22. Onthank is a welder with the 503rd Maintenance Company, serving on a fly-away team from Logistical Base Seitz.

month), the Soldier now owes the landlord a legally enforceable debt of \$4,200. There is also a reletting charge, often 85 percent of one month's rent, and the landlord may also charge the tenant reasonable fees for damage to the property. All of these are legal; remember you acknowledged these penalties for breach of the lease when you signed it, and you can bet your landlord will enforce them, especially if you are not on friendly terms with your landlord or you have been delinquent in paying your rent in the past.

**Joint and Several Liability**

All parties who sign the lease are joint and severally liable for the lease and damages. That means the landlord can sue all parties or just one party for the entire amount—the landlord is not required to pro-rate it among tenants. Soldiers who are roommates must understand this concept. If one Soldier PCS's, the remaining Soldier(s) is responsible for the entire lease. The fact that one Soldier could legally terminate the lease does not automatically entitle the other tenant to terminate early. A finalized divorce decree does not provide justification to terminate a lease, either.

In addition, Soldiers that do not give proper notice at the end of the lease term will then become month-to-month tenants. The rent is usually higher, and the tenant will still have to give 30-days notice. Therefore Soldiers must give written notice of intent to vacate at the end of their lease – they cannot assume the lease will terminate automatically at the end of one year.

**On-Post Housing Becomes Available**

A Soldier cannot legally terminate a lease just because on-post housing becomes available. The Soldier is bound for the entire term of the lease (unless the lease specifically allows termination for availability of on-post housing), and the Soldier will be responsible for all penalties. This same concept applies if a Soldier is having financial difficulties and the command wants to move the Soldier back into the barracks. Termination of a lease without legal justification could worsen financial problems.

**Soldier Gets PCS Orders**

If a Soldier gets PCS orders, the Service members' Civil Relief Act allows the Soldier and dependents to legally terminate a residential lease without penalty. You must give proper notice and you must not waive these rights in order to avoid penalties for early termination.

Federal law provides that once written notice and a copy of the orders are given to the landlord, termination is effective 30 days after the date the next rental payment is due. If a Soldier provides notice on June 30 and the next rent is due July 1, the termination is effective on July 31. If the Soldier waits until July 2, the termination will not be effective until 30 days after the next rent due date. Remember it's not a simple 30-day notice, it becomes effective 30 days after your next rent is due. Make sure you give proper notice at the right time so you are not stuck with an extra month's rent.

As mentioned above, you can legally waive your SCRA rights. Never, never waive your rights. You may think you are not supposed to PCS or deploy during the next year, but you should protect yourself just in case. A landlord may try to force you to waive your SCRA rights—do not do this, find another place to live instead.

**Bottom Line**

A lease is a legally binding document—if you violate it you could face a lawsuit in civil court, not to mention sizeable monetary fees in the form of penalties and court costs. You could damage your credit and make it difficult to rent another property since your prospective landlord will contact your previous landlord for information. The lease is all-inclusive and defines your responsibilities and your landlord's. Do not assume you can modify the agreement on your own without your landlord's consent. Put yourself in your landlord's shoes—do you want someone damaging something you own? And if someone agrees to pay you money for a year but then changes plans, shouldn't you have a reasonable amount of notice so you can replace that income? Be responsible for your actions – take care of your rental property as if you owned it, and pay your rent on time. If you don't, you could find yourself on the other end of three-days notice to vacate your home. Did I mention pay your rent on time?

**CHINOOK** FROM Page 4

unit, we can move them faster than they can on the ground—and it saves lives without having civilians and military folks on the ground. In a night, we can move several trucks-worth of pallets back and forth.”

The Chinooks move an average of 40 pallets every night around the MND-B area. The brigade has transported more than 7,679 tons of equipment.

The Chinook crews work closely with Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade in getting equipment and supplies to where they are needed within the MND-B area of operations. Soldiers who would normally drive trucks to de-

on convoy missions, Hargrave said his job now consists of driving forklifts and humvees on Camp Taji. “I don’t have to worry about improvised-explosive devices or anything like that. As long as we’re not on the road we’re good. I think there’s a lot less people getting injured and killed.”

Although the helicopters are immune to the dangers of roadside bombs, they battle a different type of threat in the air.

“There is still risk involved,” Lopez added. “The advantage of flying is that we’re not out there on the road and not seeing the implanted IEDs. We have more maneuverability; we’re not fixed on a road; we can alter our path to whatever you need to do in the air. It makes us a lot

The advantage of flying is that we’re not out there on the road and not seeing the implanted IEDs. It makes us a harder target than a convoy.

**Chief Warrant Officer Phillip Lopez**  
PILOT, 2ND BATTALION, 4TH AVIATION REGIMENT

liver the valued equipment said they are pleased with the efforts of the Chinook crews.

“I feel a whole lot safer,” said Sgt. Marcus Hargrave, a motor transport operator who is on his second deployment to Iraq and is assigned to the 155th Cargo Transport Company. Instead of driving humvees and “deuce-and-halves”

harder target than a convoy.”

Not only does the Iron Eagle Brigade keep fewer convoys from having to roll, it also moves the equipment and personnel faster and safer due to the Chinook’s speed and countermeasures emplaced to protect the crews and passengers.

**DELIVERIES** FROM Page 5

skills and capabilities of the available talent.

Luckily, the unit had been called up to fulfill its intended purpose in Iraq, so the unit could use Soldiers with a transportation background to help train the new arrivals.

“We made sure to send people to school before we left,” Cruz said, explaining how she worked to bring everybody up to speed on how to operate in a transportation company. “We take Soldiers with experience and put them with Soldiers without experience.”

For Soldiers like Spc. David Porter, that civilian experience has helped a lot. He drives trucks for a living outside and inside the military.

“Being a truck driver on the outside gives you an edge because you know what freight is about,” Porter said. He’s been able to relay his learned ins and outs of delivering supplies—small but important issues for truck drivers like how yards are typically set up, how to interact with the yard operators and how to get a truck in and out of spaces quickly.

The 432nd performs missions both on and off post, typically averaging 16,000 miles on Iraq roads every month with 2,000 tons of cargo delivered. They are currently assigned to the 189th Corps Support Battalion.



Cpl. Jermiah Wilson keeps watch over nearby civilian traffic during the morning hours of a patrol on main-supply route Tampa Mar. 24. Wilson is a gunner with the Company G Quick Reaction Force, Special Troops Battalion.



Spc. Beatrice Griffin tightens the straps on a pallet of vehicle repair parts at Baghdad International Airport Jan. 11. Griffin is a water treatment specialist assigned to the 155th Cargo Transfer Company personnel conducting Arrival Departure Airfield Control Group operations.



Spc. Kristi Sullivan fires her rifle at a weapons-qualification range on Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, Sept. 29. Sullivan is assigned to Company A, Special Troops Battalion.