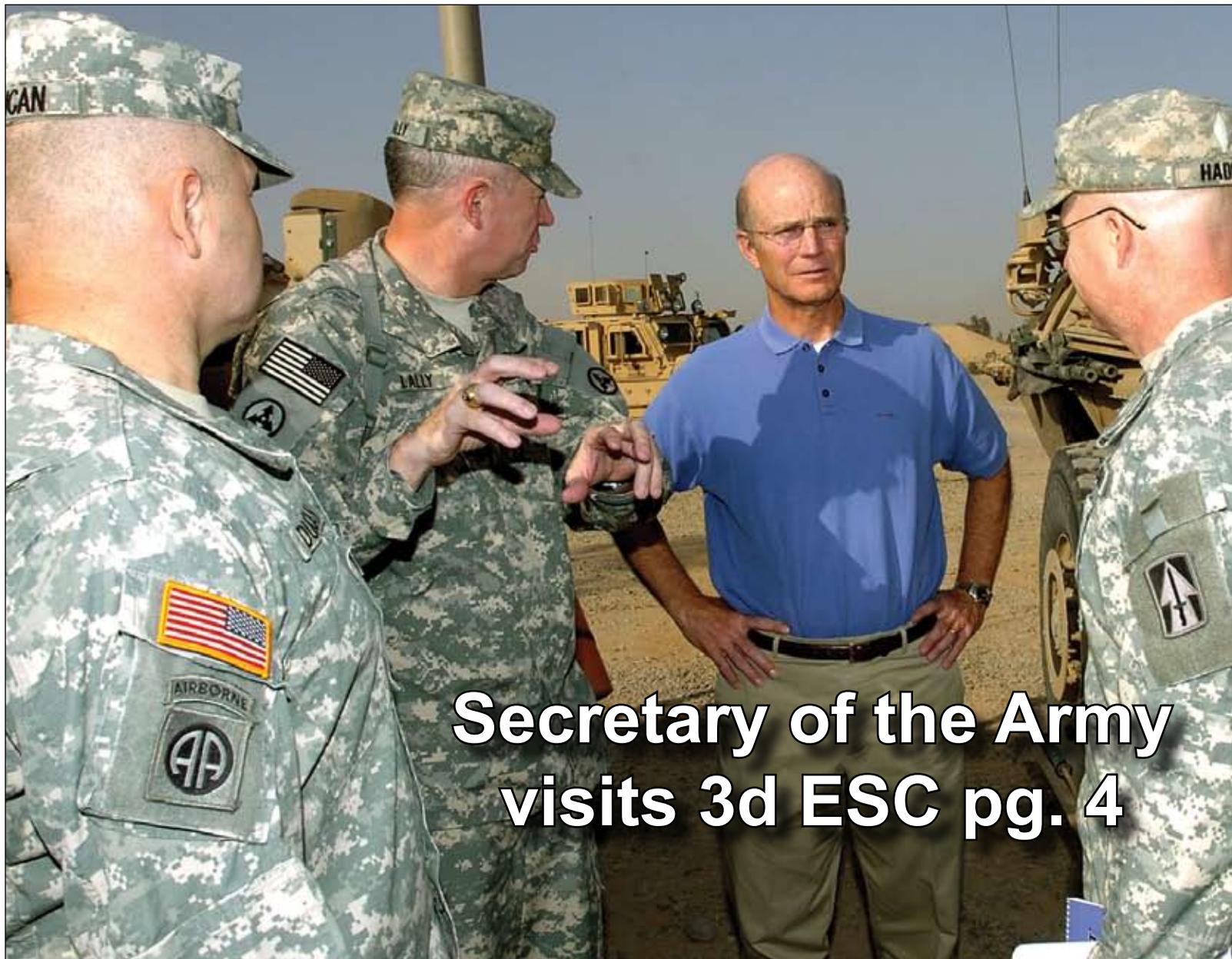


JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
 Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

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Vol. 1, Issue 14



**Secretary of the Army
 visits 3d ESC pg. 4**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, is briefed by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, and Lt. Col. Gerald Hadley, Task Force 1-293 Infantry Battalion commander, on the many different types of equipment used by Soldiers in Iraq. Geren, the 20th Secretary of the Army, visited Joint Base Balad to receive updates on current operations, visit Soldiers, meet with Army leadership, and assess future Army requirements to support combatant commanders.

**Gen. Petraeus
 bids farewell**

Gen. Petraeus provides last words of encouragement before leaving

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**Building
 strong
 relationships**

16th SB medics provide medical aid to local Iraqis

Page 4



**A Soldier is
 remembered**

824th Quartermaster Company held a dedication ceremony to rename a building in honor of a fallen Soldier

Pages 8-9

3d ESC's 76th IBCT units prepare for transition

by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—With a little more than two months left in a year-long deployment, the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is beginning to turn attention to missions beyond the convoy security, force protection and garrison command missions of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gun crews of the Indiana National Guard BCT have logged more than 4 million miles on more than 3000 missions while in theater. While looking forward to returning to Indiana, commanders are also as-

“The company level leadership has built very professional teams which have been able to adapt and overcome everything the enemy can throw at them.”

Lt. Col. Scott Sarver
 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

sessing the readiness of their units.

Capt. Gary Deckard, commander of C Co., 1-151st Infantry, sees the challenge in terms of sustaining his unit rather than rebuilding as C Co. prepares to transition to the traditional role of homeland security

in Indianapolis where C Co. is armored.

After nearly eighteen months of pre-mobilization training and deployment, Deckard doesn't mince words about C Co.'s ability to handle potential homeland security as-

signments.

“No problem... any mission,” said Deckard. “After all that we've gone through, I feel confident we could do anything.”

Deckard is not alone in his assessment. The 76th Brigade executive

officer is responsible for tracking the daily missions of brigade convoy security teams throughout theater.

“I'm very pleased with the way the units are performing their combat missions,” said Lt. Col. Scott Sarver, executive officer, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “The company level leadership has built very professional teams which have been able to adapt and overcome everything the enemy can throw at them.”

“This ability to build teamwork and adapt to changing environ-

See **Redeploy** Page 7

PMO Blotter: 11 Sept. – 18 Sept.

Steroids: A male soldier entered his supervisor's office during a unit health and welfare inspection and handed over a large quantity of medical syringes, several clear bottles of liquid (suspected to be steroids), and a large bottle of pills (suspected to be painkillers).

Major Vehicle Accident: A male soldier, recently returned from a convoy, became severely dehydrated and apparently passed out behind the wheel of the semi-tractor trailer he was operating. The vehicle swerved off the roadway, crashing into a restricted area fence line near the west-side MWR. The semi damaged more than 104 feet of fence line and sensor systems.

Unauthorized Access: A male Airman utilizing the H-6 Internet café left without signing out of his account. The following Airman accessed the account and sent the first Airman's wife several explicit emails including one alleging an affair. A PMO investigation determined the identity of the second Airman and the incident was turned over to the unit commander for disciplinary action.

Attempted Housebreaking: An unknown individual cut the Internet cable to a male Soldier's computer in H-5, G Pod. The suspect attempted to pull the victim's computer through the window using the Internet cable.

Breaking and Entering/ Assault: A female Soldier living in S-2, K Pod, awoke in the middle of the night when someone grabbed her by the wrist. The assailant then leaned down and attempted to kiss her on the lips. The victim was able to shove the assailant away from her and force him from the room. The assailant was a male Soldier in the victim's unit. **PMO Commentary: Suspects in sexual assault cases are usually acquainted with the victim.**

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:
NIPR- 443-8602
SIPR- 241-1171
Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

General Petraeus final letter to the troops

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Civilians of Multi-National Force-Iraq:

It has been the greatest of privileges to have been your commander for the past 19 months. During that time, we and our civilian and Iraqi partners have been engaged in an exceedingly complex, difficult, and important task. And in the face of numerous challenges, we and our partners have helped bring new hope to a country that was besieged by extremists and engulfed in sectarian violence.

When I took command of Multi-National Force-Iraq in February 2007, I noted that the situation in Iraq was hard but not hopeless. You have proven that assessment to be correct. Indeed, your great work, sacrifice, courage, and skill have helped to reverse a downward spiral toward civil war and to wrest the initiative from the enemies of the new Iraq.

Together, Iraqi and Coalition Forces have faced determined, adaptable, and barbaric enemies. You and your Iraqi partners have taken the fight to them, and you have taken away their sanctuaries and safe havens. You have helped secure the Iraqi people and have enabled, and capitalized on, their rejection of extremism. You have also supported the Iraqi Security Forces as they have grown in number and capability and as they have increasingly shouldered more of the responsibility for security in their country.

You have not just secured the Iraqi people, you have served them, as well. By helping establish local governance, supporting reconstruction efforts, assisting with revitalization of local businesses, fostering local reconciliation, and conducting a host of other non-kinetic activities, you have contributed significantly to the communities in which you have operated. Indeed, you have been builders and diplomats as well as guardians and warriors.

The progress achieved has been hard-earned. There have been many tough days along the way, and we have suffered tragic losses. Indeed, nothing in Iraq has been anything but hard. But you have been more than equal to every task.

Your accomplishments have, in fact, been the stuff of history. Each of you should be proud of what has been achieved and of the contributions you continue to make. Although our tasks in Iraq are far from complete and hard work and tough fights lie ahead, you have helped bring about remarkable improvements.

Your new commander is precisely the right man for the job. General Ray Odierno played a central role in the progress achieved during the surge. He brings tremendous skill, experience, and understanding as he returns to Iraq for a third tour and takes the helm of MNF-I just seven months after relinquishing command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq. I have total confidence in him, and I will do all that I can as the commander of Central Command to help him, MNF-I, and our Iraqi partners to achieve the important goals that we all share for the new Iraq.



Gen. David H. Petraeus

“Your accomplishments have, in fact, been the stuff of history. Each of you should be proud of what has been achieved and of the contributions you continue to make.”

Thank you for your magnificent work here in the “Land of the Two Rivers.” And thank you for your sacrifices—and for those of your families—during this crucial phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I am honored to have soldiered with you in this critical endeavor.

With great respect and all best wishes,

David H. Petraeus
General, United States Army
Commanding

Thank you!

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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13th CSSB transfers authority to 259th CSSB

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion assumed authority from the 13th CSSB in a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad Sept. 12.

The change marked the end of a successful 15-month deployment by the 13th CSSB, who will return to their home station at Fort Benning, Ga., and the arrival of the 259th CSSB, an Army Reserve unit stationed in Denver.

Major accomplishments during the 13th CSSB's deployment included successfully completing more than 1,400 material-handling equipment missions, purifying nearly 48 million gallons of water, and shipping or receiving more than 44,000 containers. The battalion also helped support the mobilization of logistics transition assistance teams, broke ground for a new water storage project, and opened a new mortuary affairs collection point.

Lt. Col. Tim Sullivan, the commander of the 13th CSSB, said his unit supported Soldiers in every unit in Iraq through their efforts.

"We operate probably the single-larg-

est logistics hub in Iraq," said Sullivan, a native of Huntsville, Ala. "The Soldiers out there kicking in doors and securing the safety of the Iraqi people cannot do their job without (us)."

The 259th CSSB, formerly the 259th Quartermaster Battalion, is on their first deployment since being reactivated in 2000. Lt. Col. Marci D. Toler, the 259th CSSB's battalion commander, said the duties handed to her unit are huge, but that the Soldiers of the 259th's are ready to accept the responsibility.

"The future for the 259th is to make the mission successful and easier for every one of our Soldiers," said Toler, a native of Greeley, Colo. "We're here to support the line for Soldiers, making sure they have everything they need in theater."

At the conclusion of her acceptance speech, Toler presented Sullivan with an American flag flown above unit headquarters Sept. 11, 2008. Toler said the gift was a reminder of the commitment shown by her predecessor.

"9/11 is the proudest moment to be an American," said Toler. "It's the largest tragedy, but (also) our finest hour and what better way for Servicemembers to assume the mantle of responsibility (than) by acknowledging why we are here."

'Hooah' Soldiers of the week



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Master Sgt. Juan Dominguez, a Mt. Vernon, Wash., native and counter improvised explosive device noncommissioned officer in charge for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week."



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Sgt. 1st Class Megith Kassim, a Detroit native and medical supply sergeant with the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Judge Advocate General office, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week."



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Pfc. Lili Looper, a Krum, Texas, native and operations administrator with the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Judge Advocate General office, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week."

SHOUT OUT!!!
TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d Public Affairs Office for scheduling. E-mail escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
9:30 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
10:30 A.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
11 A.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
5:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7:30 P.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
NOON	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
12:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
10:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
2 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
8 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
7 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	LUTHERAN-PROVIDER CHAPEL
3 P.M.	EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN GILBERT CHAPEL (H-6)

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
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ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN. PRIOR TO MASS)

SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL
FRIDAY-HOLY HOUR 7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

SUNDAY 1 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
3:30P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
7 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY 6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
SATURDAY 8 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
SUNDAY 4:15 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL

EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL ANNEX
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**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Keeping with Army tradition, the senior ranking member, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren follows Soldiers through the dining facility line while visiting Army Reserve and National Guard noncommissioned officers at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. While at JBB, Secretary Geren also visited the 3rd ESC joint operations center, support operations fusion cell, and attended an Iraqi Business Industrial Zone briefing.

Secretary of the Army visits 3rd ESC and Joint Base Balad

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Secretary of the United States Army, Pete Geren, visited the Fort Knox-based 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) on Joint Base Balad Sept. 18 - 19 to receive updates on current operations, visit Soldiers, meet with Army leadership, and assess future Army requirements to support combatant commanders.

Escorted by 3rd ESC commanding general, Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, Secretary Geren visited 55th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers from Fort Wayne, Indiana's 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment as well as those serving in the 3rd ESC's Joint Operations Center and Support Operations Fusion Cell.

"Today, we had the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren, visit Joint Base Balad," said Brig. Gen. Lally. "The purpose of his visit to the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was to see how Army logisticians are provid-

ing support to the U.S. Army and Coalition forces in Iraq."

Also while on JBB, Secretary Geren met with active duty company - grade officers, as well as Army Reserve and National Guard noncommissioned officers and visited wounded Soldiers and Airmen at the 332nd Air Force Theater Hospital.

"The highlights of the visit were seeing the hard working Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers that we have in this command, their enthusiasm, and their dedication to getting the job done on time and providing world class support to the war fighters in Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Lally. "Furthermore, he was very impressed with the high energy and creativity that he saw from all the Soldiers."

"Overall, Mr. Geren's visit was a big success," said Brig. Gen. Lally. "The Secretary of the Army walked away with a much better understanding of the challenges and the successes we have in providing high quality, world class support to our forces in Iraq."



courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Daniel De Luna Jr., Logistics Task Force Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, gives a local Iraq child an immunization at the Ibrahim Khaleel Health Clinic near Habur Gate Sept 10.

16th SB medics strengthen US, Iraq relationship at local clinic

by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

16th Sustainment Brigade

IBRAHIM KHALEEL, Iraq — Medics from Logistics Task Force Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, provided immunizations to local Iraqi children at the Ibrahim



Khaleel Health Clinic near Habur Gate, Iraq, Sept 10.

"It was an excellent visit," said Staff Sgt. Daniel De Luna Jr., noncommissioned officer in charge, Habur Gate aid station, 16th SB. "It strengthened our relationship with the nurses, physician assistants, and the community."

The medics treated nearly 70 Iraqi children, ranging in age from 10 days to 4 years old. They also treated 10 Iraqi mothers.

De Luna and his staff not only gave immunizations to their patients, but also handed out beanie babies, which

helped to distract the children from the needles.

"I gave an immunization to one girl who was very calm, cool, and collected – up until the shot was given – and then she started crying. We gave her a beanie baby and she put all her attention on the toy and calmed down," said De Luna.

De Luna said that initially the local Iraqis were very friendly, but curious as to why there were American Soldiers at the clinic.

"They looked at us with question when we first showed up," De Luna said. "When they found out we were there to help with immunizations and give out toys, they could not wait to get in the room."

This is the second time that De Luna and his team assisted the staff at the clinic and he hopes it won't be the last.

"The physician's assistant invited us back any time to help out any day of the week," said De Luna. "I loved the experience that I had and I am looking forward to returning and doing what we ... do best, helping people feel better so that they can live a prosperous life."

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Leaders hold monthly safety update

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Safety officers from Joint Base Balad met Sept. 10 for the monthly safety update at the Mayor Cell on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The meeting was officiated by Col. Todd Townsend, the Mayor Cell safety officer in charge. Those attending the safety update discussed safety issues of JBB, as well as possible solutions for the issues. This update covers the last 30 to 35 days worth of accidents and possible preventive measures to avoid these accidents.

“This was our monthly meeting where all the brigade level and higher safety officers, to include civilians and major commands, get together,” said Townsend. “The intent of it is to have a more intimate meeting than we do with the monthly safety meeting that we have over at the Provider Chapel Annex where we include everyone and it’s more of a presentation. This one is to get a discussion going and hear everyone’s input to find out what your concerns are.”

One of the primary topics of discussion during the update was fire safety and prevention. This topic was of particular interest because of fires on JBB this year.

The severity of the fires ranged from burned electrical outlets in buildings to fires in which combat housing units were destroyed. Issues pertaining to fire on JBB included electrical fires stemming from unapproved practices and devices, dumpster fires, and air conditioning unit malfunctions.

“The mitigation factor to fires here would be an awareness campaign telling people to turn off their lights when they’re not in their living spaces and office spaces,” said Townsend.

Other safety issues discussed during the update was the condition of certain sections of the Victory Loop and parking in unauthorized areas.

Victory Loop, in certain areas, has become an issue for



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Col. Todd Townsend, the Mayor Cell safety officer in charge, discusses Joint Base Balad safety issues with all the brigade level and higher safety officers during the monthly safety update at the Mayor Cell. This meeting discussed safety issues and possible solutions to safety issues on JBB.

JBB because of damage attributed to wear and tear caused by the high volume of large trucks ranging from Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, to heavy equipment transporters. This damage has led to drivers driving on the wrong side of the road to avoiding rough spots in the road. While nothing can be done to necessarily prevent this from happening, it is still frowned upon by higher authorities.

“Having people on post driving in the wrong lane is definitely the wrong answer,” said Charles Timms, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) safety director. “If it’s

being put out that this is okay, that’s seriously wrong.”

Timms also discussed parking situations where uploaded tactical vehicles are being parked near populated areas such as housing areas, dining facilities, and post exchanges. As a result, plans with the provost marshal’s office to help enforce rules and guidelines preventing this were discussed for the future.

Townsend acknowledged that while working within the safety field can be challenging, the cooperation of those who attended this update brief was helpful.

JBB remembers POWs, MIAs

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Prisoners of war and those missing in action have earned a respected place in history. In all wars, families have paid the ultimate price with lost husbands, wives, sisters, brothers, daughters and sons. In remembrance of those Servicemembers who never returned from war or were held as prisoner of war, Servicemembers observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day on Joint Base Balad Sept. 19.

There are only six days of the year that Congress has commanded the POW/MIA flag be flown: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day.

“I think we should never forget POWs,” said Command Sgt. Major James Hill, a Pittsburgh native and the senior ranking noncommissioned officer for the 55th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Fort Belvoir, Va. Hill is a veteran of the Vietnam war and participated in many missions to find POW camps while assigned to the Marine Corps’ 1st Force Reconnaissance Company.

According to Hill, his company would find the camps, but they were always vacated. In some circumstances the camp



Web Image

Servicemembers taking a short rest during the Bataan Death March.

fire embers would still be hot when the 1st FRC arrived.

Just one example of the harsh treatment POWs endured during World War II included the treatment of Army, Air Corps, Navy and Marine Servicemembers on the Bataan

Death March. During this tragic event in history, these heroes were made to march more than 26 miles to a POW camp after defending forts with low rations and little medical assistance. The POWs would go without food and water for days, and those

who fell out of the march were executed.

Now there is a Bataan Memorial Death March held on the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to remember this moment in history. What started out as only 100 people completing a 26.2 mile march, has grown to over 4,000 marchers from all parts of the United States and numerous foreign countries.

“I still carry my teammates names in my wallet,” said Hill, “I still got one of my former teammates that’s still MIA.”

Even though the wars of the past are over, the search for the lost is not. The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office continues to search for POWs and MIAs. Army Graves Registration teams searched Korean battlefields from 1951 to 1956. Even with the professionals combing the battlefields, there are continuing reports of possible American remains in South Korea. The United States has learned from these past wars. Out of the 49 POW/MIAs from Operation Desert Storm, 48 are accounted for.

Numerous POW/MIAs were accounted for due to the courage of the Soldiers with whom they served. Pfc. Wayne A. “Johnnie” Johnson recorded the names of 496 POWs killed during his captivity under a North Korean Army major, known as “The Tiger.” Johnson was awarded the Silver Star for his actions.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Staff Sgt. William Booker, a Chicago native and patrol explosive detector dog handler attached to the 1st Armored Division, goes through part of an obstacle course with his dog, Gypsy, on Joint Base Balad Sept. 12. Booker has worked with Gypsy since he became a dog handler.

Dogs do great things for mission, morale

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Members of the 43rd Medical Detachment, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, gave a blood transfusion to a military working dog on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Sept. 3.

“We had two cases in the last two weeks where we had to transfuse dogs,” said Lt. Col. Cheryl Sofaly, the officer in charge for the 43rd MD.

Sofaly has been working as a veterinarian for over 13 years and helps the dog handlers on base by treating hurt and sick dogs, updating vaccinations and processing the animals.

Military K-9s are trained to detect narcotics, explosives and, in some cases, they can even help to find high valued individuals on a targeting list. With their sensitive snouts, they can pick up small quantities of substances they are trained to find. Each dog is trained to be dual purpose; they can either be explosive and patrol detection or narcotic and patrol detection dogs.

“A lot of people don’t realize the capabilities of the dogs. I think it is a bad thing ... because a lot of other units could utilize us,” said Tech. Sgt. Brian Lowe, a Whitney, Texas, native and kennel master for JBB, assigned to 1st Armored Division.

According to Lowe, the animals are for anyone on base to use. Units can request the use of their capabilities when going on cache, narcotic, explosive or high value person searches. The dogs are not only valuable assets outside the wire, they can also help to keep the base clear of drugs. If a commander has suspicions of drug use in his unit, all he has to do is contact the handlers for assistance.

“Drug dogs are essential in providing commanders with the ability to deter and detect illegal substances,” said Sgt. Brandon Beene, a patrol narcotics detector dog handler for JBB, assigned to the 1st AD. The Virginia Beach, Va., native and his dog, Chay, have found illegal substances in the barracks before. “She’s very good at what she does,” said Beene about his companion.

“We have more finds in MND-North than anybody else in Iraq,” said Lowe.

Such a high rate of success could have something to do with the rigorous training the K-9s endure. Military working dogs start their training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where they undergo approximately 180 days of training.

After graduation, the dogs still have to be assigned to a handler. After the handler acquires his or her dog, even more time is spent on training to gain rapport. When the dogs and their handler are not on mission, dog handlers continue to train with explosive material such as smokeless powder, wire detonation cord, Trinitrotoluene - more commonly know as TNT - Composition 4 and narcotics.

“The longer you work with a dog, the better outcome you get,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Nicholas Ramsey, a patrol explosive detector dog handler for JBB, assigned to 1st AD.

As a result of the many hours of training, the K-9 and handler usually form a strong bond. The Servicemembers share their rooms and stay with their dog partners when they are at the veterinarian. The clinic has a cot for the handlers in circumstances when an overnight stay is required. Man’s best friend also helps to ease the pain of separation from home.

“They provide moral support (and) comfort,” said Sgt. Angela Noble, a Palmira, Maine, native and animal care noncommissioned officer for the 43rd MD. “A lot of people see a dog ... and cheer up automatically.”

With all the hard work these dogs do, it comes as no surprise there is an entire week dedicated to these four-legged friends. The 77th anniversary of National Dog Week is Sept. 18-24. William Judy started NDW in 1928 while working as the editor and publisher of Dog World magazine.

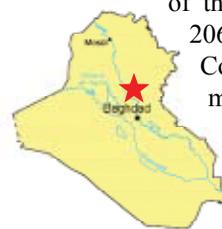
These animals serve as warfighters who can perform tasks incapable of their two legged companions, comfort in times of need, defenders for their handlers and they continuously show their importance to the mission in Iraq.

Arkansas Soldiers keeping the roads, and themselves safe

by 1st Lt. James Holifield

1st Sustainment Bdrigade.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Safety is no joking matter for the men and women of the Arkansas National Guard’s Bravo Battery, 1-206th Field Artillery, currently assigned to the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.



Deployed as a convoy security unit, their mission is to protect convoys as they escort supplies and other necessities throughout Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s area of operation. Going “outside the wire” nearly every day, these Soldiers

take pride in the mission they fulfill.

While many may consider the dangerous threat of improvised explosive devices and hostile encounters the most dangerous part of these Soldiers’ jobs, it can be easily forgotten how important more traditional safety concerns must be while not on mission.

“Our Soldiers face some of the most dangerous conditions possible when they roll out the gate,” said Capt. Joshua Webb, a Greenbrier, Ark. native. “We can’t afford to let the little things most people take for granted have an impact while they are off mission that could potentially deteriorate their performance on mission.”

Participating in a safety-emphasis program known as “Operation Zero,” the Soldiers of Bravo Battery were recognized by their higher headquarters, the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, for their superior performance and emphasis in the field of safety both on and off mission.

“The premise behind ‘Operation Zero’ was simple,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pierpaoli, of Bentonville, Ark. “It was aimed at encouraging measures that maintain the safety of the Soldiers and increase their awareness of how their actions can affect safety.”

Each unit began the “Operation Zero” safety competition with a certain number of points. As these trends continued and more steps were taken to increase Soldier awareness, the scores of each of the participating units were decreased. The lower the score, the more safety minded the unit was.

In a world where the vehicles are larger and heavier, breaking is sluggish, and padding is nearly non-existent, emphasizing the wear of safety belts at all times and the use of a partner to guide vehicles around people can have a huge impact on mission success.

The training did not stop there however; Soldiers of Bravo Battery also conducted training classes on fire extinguisher safety, electrical safety, and the hazards associated with activities as simple as going for a run.

“All of these things become critically important considering the need for every Soldier to be rested and healthy when it’s time for a mission,” said 1st Lt. Steve White, of Maumelle, Ark. “Making sure our Soldiers are safe when they are off mission helps us ensure they are ready and able to keep the convoys safe when it is time to go on a mission.”

So what did the Soldiers of Bravo Battery earn for all of their safety training and accomplishments? A good ole’ barbecue cookout, courtesy of all the senior staff at the 165th. Fortunately, no one needed to employ their Heimlich maneuver training.

Do you have a story idea?

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expeditionary.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Redeploy, from Page 1

ments will serve us well upon redeployment as we look toward to new challenges. Every Soldier has become a leader," Sarver added.

Deckard agreed, saying that he has watched his company transform in the last year into a highly disciplined team that meet or exceed Army standards, and just as importantly, understand why they need to achieve and maintain that level of readiness.

"I had Soldiers who were, honestly, marginal performers," said Deckard, adding that he believes that had more to do with not understanding the goal as compared to the unwillingness to put in the effort.

"Now, some of those Soldiers have become some of the best performers I have. They've become leaders, and they're the future of this company," said Deckard.

Deckard credits his NCOs with that transformation, most who have previous deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan or both. He also said much of C Company's future depends on their commitment to sustaining readiness post deployment.

"When they're out there on the road, I have to trust in their judgment," said Deckard. "They police themselves (to) make sure they're doing the right thing. It's easy to be a buddy, but it takes more to do the right thing."

1st Sgt. Steven Dejong said the key to unit readiness is the individual Soldier.

Dejong said the challenges of deployment reveal shortcomings, but that any weakness is an issue that Co. C can address together.

"It's a 24/7 process, day in and day out, Soldier development and counseling, opening the door for Soldiers to grow," said Dejong.

One area the leadership of C Co. has given special emphasis is education, a challenging prospect even when a unit is not deployed to a combat zone. Dejong said more than twenty Soldiers of C Co. have taken advantage of on-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Top: Soldiers assigned to C Co., 1-151st Infantry who are stationed at Forward Operating Base Q-West, Al Qayyarah, Iraq, wait for their mission brief just prior to departing for a convoy logistics patrol. Left: Spc. Thomas Weaverhabersham, Indianapolis, Ind., runs through mission prep, pre-combat checks and inspections with other Soldiers of C Co., 1-151st Infantry prior to rolling out on a convoy logistics patrol at Forward Operating Base Q-West, Al Qayyarah, Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

line courses, pursuing higher education goals.

He said that many in the unit have expressed an interest in developing through military education opportunities, specifically the Army's medic occupational specialty training program. Dejong, a South Chicago firefighter and paramedic, said the training program is roughly equal to civilian intermediate volunteer to full-time training programs.

"There's a ton of interest in (the medical military occupation

specialty) and we can make it happen," said Dejong.

Recognizing the benefit to his unit, the Soldiers and even the communities where his Soldiers will return, Dejong is supporting the effort. He points to it as yet another example of the teamwork that has become a hallmark of the unit's deployment.

Dejong also believes the focus on development through educational opportunities during deployment, both military and civilian, will carry over and in-

crease the probability of Soldiers leveraging expanded educational benefits of the GI Bill.

"It's part of retention, gaining a career path that brings that knowledge back to the fight," said Dejong.

Deckard and Dejong both admit they have a company full of Soldiers that are outstanding examples of the progress the unit has made in the last two years, but both also said there is a particular Soldier who embodies the spirit of C Co. A quick check with fellow

Soldiers confirms that the leadership is not alone in their assessment.

Spc. Matthew Bumphus is a soft-spoken, earnest and sincere young man with a direct and plain spoken belief:

"I don't think I really knew what it meant to be a Soldier until I joined C Company."

The Indianapolis native joined the Indiana National Guard for the experience, but admits that assignment to an infantry line company headed for a combat zone caused him concern.

"(My leaders) told me 'This will be good for you.' I couldn't see how going to Iraq would be good for me, but here I am," said Bumphus.

Now, Bumphus said he understands what they were telling him.

"This deployment has changed my life, I wouldn't take the experience back for anything," he said.

Reluctant to talk about himself, Bumphus takes every opportunity to steer conversation back to a favorite subject, his fellow Soldiers.

"These are people that actually care and are sincere in the things that they do," he said. "Somebody can tell right off the bat when something is wrong. They'll come and talk to you about it."

Dejong said that the whole unit has come to rely on Bumphus as a "go to guy" who works in the unit's operation center and serves as a filler for convoy security missions.

Bumphus credits any success he may have to C Co.

"I'm comfortable. I trust them; we have a shared mentality. If you're mentally ready then you can say 'I'm able to do the job, to get the job done.'"

Bumphus also said the experience of deployment has taught him about perceptions, reality and shared values.

"For me, it's been a time for soul-searching. I've learned a lot about other people as well as myself," said Bumphus.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

I've got the power

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Air Force Staff Sgt. Rocky Edwards connects electrical wires to a circuit breaker here Sept. 9. Edwards, an electrical systems craftsman assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, installed power to a new trailer that will be used by the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group as a workspace for the Air Force's assumption of Joint Base Balad's security. Edwards is deployed from Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

Rigger honored with building dedication

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 824th Quartermaster Company held a dedication ceremony Sept. 11, renaming building number 8124, the “Eric Burri Rigging Facility,” on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, honoring a fellow rigger who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Burri died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee in Baghdad, Iraq, June 7, 2005, while assigned to the 623rd Quartermaster Company, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Burri is survived by his parents, JoAnne and John and his older brother, Andrew.

Burri, a Wyoming, Mich. native, joined the Army after graduating from Kelloggsville High School to travel, learn languages and meet people from all over the world. His drive was sparked by a year spent in Uruguay as an exchange student while in high school.

From the first day he joined the Army, people seemed to see something different about him. He always had a smile on his face and was well liked by his fellow Soldiers, said Capt. Lashanda Caver, commander of the 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company, who served with Burri prior to his death.

“It is truly an honor to stand before you all and talk about the Burri that I knew and without a doubt deserves this dedication,” said Caver. “He not only knew and understood the Soldiers creed, he lived his life by it.”

Having great pride in his work and his equipment and making sure he was always ready for the next assignment are only a few examples of what made Burri an exceptional Soldier.

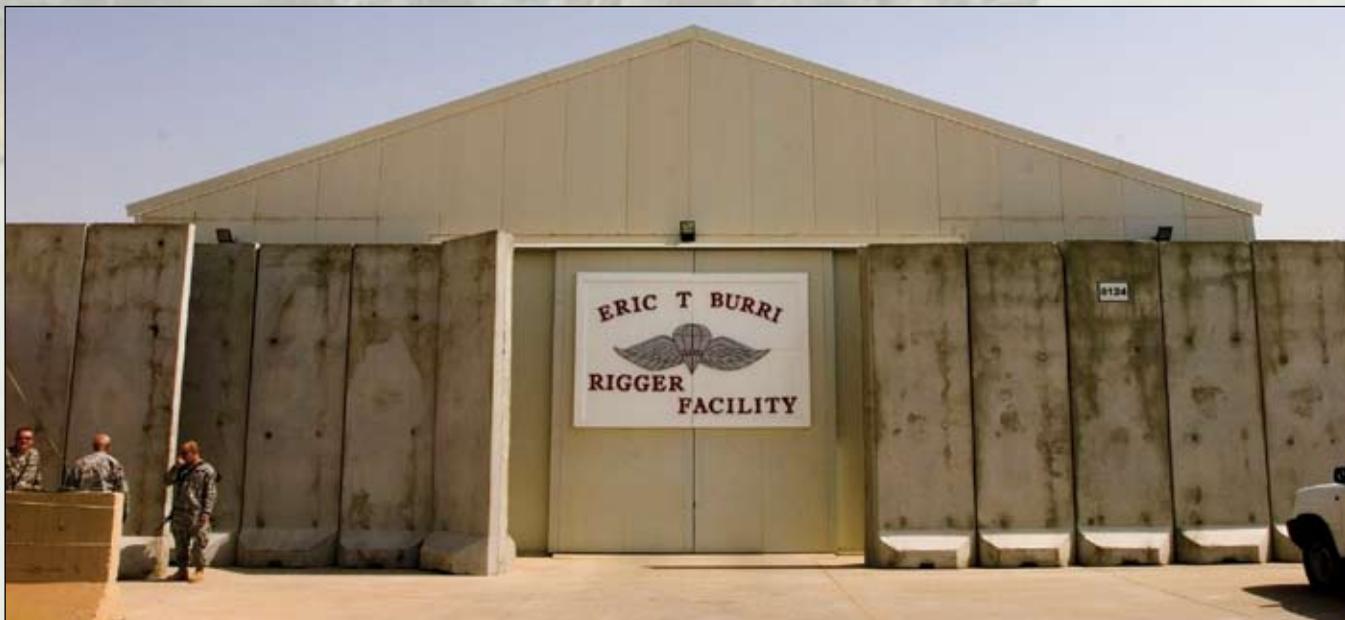
“From day one, he displayed himself as a Soldier with military bearing and a Soldier that possessed complete professionalism,” said Caver “He always had a smile on his face and no matter what happened, everyday was a great day in the Army.”



Spc. Eric Burri was killed June 7, 2005 when a improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in Baghdad, Iraq.



Chief Warrant Officer Jennings Lantz, 824th Quartermaster rigger airdrop technician stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., speaks during a dedication ceremony Sept 11, in which building number 8124, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, was renamed the "Eric Burri Rigger Facility."



Building 8124 was renamed the "Eric Burri Rigging Facility" during a dedication ceremony Sept. 11 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, honoring a fellow rigger who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Maj. Timothy Frambes, the executive officer for 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment discusses the present security issues with local sheiks in the 2-320th battle space around Balad at a dinner held in a JBB dining facility Sept. 14.

2-320th, local sheiks discuss security issues over dinner

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A security meeting between local sheiks and leaders of 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment was held Sept. 14 at the dining facility on Joint Base Balad.

Maj. Timothy Frambes, the executive officer for the 2-320th, and an Adams, Tenn., native, led the meeting to discuss the changes to take place in the near future at some of the Sons of Iraq checkpoints that are currently in place.

“We appreciate all of your flexibility in assisting us,” said Frambes to the sheiks.

Frambes discussed the changes the SoI checkpoints will be going through. He explained that some of the checkpoints will be moved to start setting up more permanent security around Joint Base Balad. He also said these changes would give new employment opportunities to the SoI that have been employed for 15 months or longer.

“We try to have a meeting every four to six weeks with the men who stood up against the insurgency and stood up with Coalition Forces,” Frambes said.

Frambes also told the sheiks that the 2-320th will start implementing permanent security around the base at some of

the checkpoints.

The Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone companies were also mentioned and the fact that they are starting to hire locals and Sons of Iraq for local construction projects.

Frambes dismissed rumors regarding the government of Iraq trying to take over the checkpoint accounts from Sons of Iraq.

Before closing the meeting, the sheiks were allowed to ask questions about the policies and the changes going to happen, but the only thing they mentioned was the fact that they are happy to work with the 2-320th and they look forward to continuing progress.

“Every day patrols are there to check on them,” Frambes said. “This is an opportunity to share a meal with all of them, which is important in their culture.”

The meal was held later in the evening to honor the daily fast Muslims have during the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

“We specifically had this meal after the daily fast to respect their customs,” Frambes said.

The 2-320th and the local sheiks will continue to build on their relationships and ensure the security of JBB and the surrounding areas.

Civil affairs enriches the lives of local citizens

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

CJSOTF – AP PAO

Editor's note: This is the first of a five-part series. Names are withheld for security purposes.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – U.S. Army Civil Affairs Team 621, located in al Kut, is helping to revitalize several local communities in southern Iraq as they take on projects that will positively impact the lives of the local population.

The team, which is from Bravo Co., 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., and operationally attached to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, strives to meet the basic needs of the Iraqi people: food, water, shelter, electricity, health care and education.

“This is the best job I’ve had in the military,” said CAT 621 team leader. “Depending on the part of the world we are in, the decisions we make can have national implications.”

The captain was referring to the relationship a CAT builds with the local population and how the team’s actions can have further strategic effects. As the team gains the village’s trust and respect, they become more

effective in accomplishing their missions and helping the Government of Iraq accomplish its goals. In addition, the relationship the team builds with the local tribal leaders can extend beyond the village as many of these leaders have influence even beyond the national boundaries.

A civil affairs team serves as a bridge between the U.S. military and the local civilian population by augmenting services and functions normally provided by a civilian government, said the 10th Special Forces Group civil affairs officer.

By helping the civilian leadership and international organizations meet the basic needs of the population, the civil affairs team minimizes the effect on civilians of military operations while simultaneously assisting in helping the civilian community to become self-sufficient.

The team must apply their expertise in the local culture to assist local leaders in developing projects or activities that meet the most immediate and important needs of the population.

“This is ideally a locally generated concept executed by local workers and partially funded by the civil affairs team to give the population a sense of ownership,” he said.

See Civil Affairs, Page 11

Gen. Boozer visits 3d ESC



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Brig. Gen. James Boozer (right), a Sullivan’s Island, S.C., native and deputy commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, based out of Wiesbaden, Germany, is greeted by Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, commanding general of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., at Joint Base Balad Sept. 10.



297th Trans. Co. delivers the goods

by Sgt. Aaron LeBlanc

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A French



general commanding troops during the dawn of the industrial age famously said that an army marches on its stomach. Nearly 200 years later, our post-industrial conflicts continue to be conducted at the speed of logistics—that is, the speed and efficiency with which supplies can be delivered to those who need it.

Enter Detachment 1 of the 297th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, which currently bears sole responsibility for the administration of the Camp Taji Central Receiving and Shipping Point, or CRSP for short.

The multi-warehouse complex known as the Taji CRSP is an operation that never sleeps. Members of the 297th load, unload, and track incoming and out-going supplies in 12-hour shifts to ensure

that the warfighters of the U.S.-led coalition have everything they need in order to accomplish their mission. Much of the work of the 297th is done “the old fashioned way,” relying on a hand-written filing system for tracking receipts and shipments, as opposed to a bar-code and scanner based system. This means that every scrap of the literally thousands of tons of materiel that is processed here must be logged—by hand—and entered into a database manually.

Sgt. Steven Gnau, a Hillsboro, Ohio, native, heads up this tracking process, making sure that everything is where it should be.

“This represents every piece of cargo we’ve handled since we’ve been here,” said Gnau, heaving open a filing cabinet filled to the brim with several pounds of well-organized folders. “We’ve been busy.”

He went on to describe the manner in which all of their records are meticulously and constantly cross-referenced against other data to make sure that the CRSP operates at maximum efficiency, a process pioneered by the 297th.

“Any convoy that comes to Taji downloads their cargo at the



Photo by Sgt. Aaron LeBlanc

A shipment of tires is loaded for departure at the Camp Taji Central Receiving and Shipping Point, or CRSP, bound for the tactical vehicles that are in need of fresh rubber.

CRSP,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Putman of Chandler, Ariz., the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Taji CRSP. “We handle pretty much everything other than class-one supply and ammo that’s headed north, east, or west.”

The Taji CRSP not only helps sustain operations based at Camp Taji, but also serves as a major hub for supplies headed to any number of locations throughout Iraq.

On average the Soldiers of the 297th handle 2,500 pallets, 300 shipping containers, and 200 vehicles per month. This volume represents a substantial improvement in efficiency since the 297th’s arrival ten months ago.

“Within the first five months, these guys moved more cargo than

the last crew did in 15 (months),” said Putman. “That’s because they don’t turn anyone down, and they understand the big logistics picture. They understand that they’re supporting the guys that go outside the wire, and they take pride in what they’re doing, and make sure that it gets done right the first time.”

Their passion for their job hasn’t gone unnoticed. In addition to being hailed as “The most efficient CRSP in theater,” by the 1st Sustainment Brigade’s mobility officer, Brig. Gen Michael Lally, the commanding general of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) also paid the group compliments.

“The Camp Taji CRSP yard is doing a fantastic job! Their superb

processes, expertise and dedication ensure world-class support to their warfighting customers,” said Lally.

Camp Taji is among the most visible representations of the close partnership between the American and Iraqi militaries; it’s a hybrid Iraqi and U.S.-run facility. As a result, most American units stationed here have well-developed partnerships with some facet of the Iraqi Army. The 297th is no exception. Every Tuesday, all of their assets are dedicated to moving cargo headed to the Iraqi side of Camp Taji, and they also offer classes to members of the Iraqi Army on operating various pieces of heavy-lift equipment, enabling them to take over a larger piece of their own logistics effort.

Civil Affairs, from Page 10

“This is not always possible, depending on the existing conditions, however, but is always the goal. The objective is to help the population become self-sufficient, not to make them more dependent on U.S. funding.”

The team assesses what projects will have the most positive impact for the community and initiates the process to begin the project. Once the proposal is approved, the team hires a contractor, who in turn hires workers from within that village to do the job. Throughout the life of the project, the team does periodic quality control assessments to make sure everything is going according to plan.

“We conduct civil affairs activities through building projects, humanitarian-assistance drops, and assessments to improve the civilian infrastructure,” said the CAT 621 team sergeant.

The team is a four-man, cohesive unit. The CAT 621 team captain believes the mission of the civil affairs team creates an environment where the team depends on each other and is knowledgeable of each other’s positions. They learn from one another’s experience and expertise while interacting with the Iraqi people.

“We all have a specific part on the team, but we are all trained to do each other’s job as well,” he said. “Anyone of us can do an assessment on an area or pull security while out on mission.”

The team leader oversees mission plan-

“Unlike a lot of people who say they are going to help but never deliver, the Americans help when they say they are going to help.”

Chief physician of the al Muffwaffaqiyah health

ning, key leader engagements and mission coordination. The team sergeant facilitates the execution of mission plans and is usually the most experienced member on the team.

“The team sergeant is pretty much the heart and soul of the team,” the team leader said.

The civil affairs noncommissioned officer is the coordinator for the group and takes care of the mission logistics and organizes the humanitarian aid drops. The NCO also does tribal engagement analysis and keeps records on the local contractor’s information.

“You get exposed to the culture more than typical units here,” said the CAT 621 team medic. “It’s a very diverse mission in that we do something different every day.” This is because the close and constant interaction with the local civilians is critical to the success of the civil affairs efforts.

The team medic takes care of all the medical needs of the team and takes the lead on medical assistance visits in the surrounding communities.

One of the most interesting experiences the team medic said he will remember about Iraq is visiting a Sheikh’s house - the leader

of a local tribe - and sitting on the floor eating a chicken dinner.

“Sometimes, it’s not always comfortable and sometimes they serve food you don’t like,” he said. “You just have to be sensitive to the customs and courtesies, and press on.”

The CAT is involved in many aspects of the community like medical assistance visits, veterinarian assistance visits, humanitarian-aid drops and infrastructure assessments. Through this interaction, they are able to get an idea of what the Iraqi people in the villages need to help them live better. They also advise commanders on the impact of military operations on the civilian population, according to the civil affairs officer, and help provide commanders with vital feedback on the needs and sentiments of the local population.

“Since the Americans showed up in the province, we have realized the difference,” said the chief physician of the al Muffwaffaqiyah health clinic during a recent medical assistance visit. “Unlike a lot of people who say they are going to help but never deliver, the Americans help when they say they are going to help.”

“All the projects we do must have the

support of the local or provincial government to continue,” the captain said. “The Iraqi ministries commit to these projects and expand on them long after our part is done.”

These civil affairs activities also provide the GoI an opportunity to reach out to the community and demonstrate their commitment through short-term and long-term projects to provide for the Iraqi people’s security and basic needs. By making these commitments, the GoI can hope to regain the support of the villages that felt abandoned by it and become less likely to embrace the influence of terrorists, criminals and outlaws.

The civil affairs team works together with the Iraqi Security Forces partners to create a legitimate and capable force to protect the Iraqi people. CAT 621 activities are focused on the overall mission of helping Iraq become a stable and safe country by making the quality of life better for its people.

“We all have a piece of the pie in the joint mission,” the team sergeant said. “Its cliché, but it’s a war for the hearts and minds.”

A civil affairs team understands that civilians are at the core of a country and cannot be overlooked. Working with the host country’s government and making sure people are taken care of is vital to mission success. When all pieces of the puzzle are in place, a partnership is born. The community sees how their government is working with Coalition Forces to help make life better - one project at a time.

News around Iraq

Iraqi Army assumes control of Combat Outpost Cleary

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq –

The Iraqi Army assumed control over a combat outpost in the Salman Pak area from Coalition Forces during a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 9.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, handed over security responsibilities of Combat Outpost Cleary to the 4th Battalion, 34th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division in a ceremony at the outpost.

Leaders of the 9th IA Div., local sheiks and government leaders, along with a large crowd of Soldiers and Iraqi media attended the event.

Maj. Gen. al Qassim, commander of the 9th IA Div., addressed the IA Soldiers on the importance of the Iraqi Security Forces taking an ever greater lead in providing security for Iraq.

The transfer of COP Cleary illustrates the progress of ISF and improved security in the area, he said. Violent attacks against Coalition Forces and the ISF dropped to an average of less than one attack per day – in large part due to the actions of the ISF and Sons of Iraq.

The transition of security operations to the IA emphasizes the transformation of the area.

“The IA has proven their skills and demonstrated their ability to defend the Iraqi people, keeping the area free of extremist forces,” Qassim said.

The ceremony concluded with the Iraqi Soldiers celebrating with song and dance after raising the Iraqi flag, signifying Iraq’s authority over the outpost.

Civil Service Corps takes root in Kirkuk Province

KIRKUK, Iraq — Kirkuk Province recently celebrated the commencement of three new Civil Service Corps.

On Sept. 14, Hawijah celebrated the start of a new CSC and the next day, two started in Dibis.

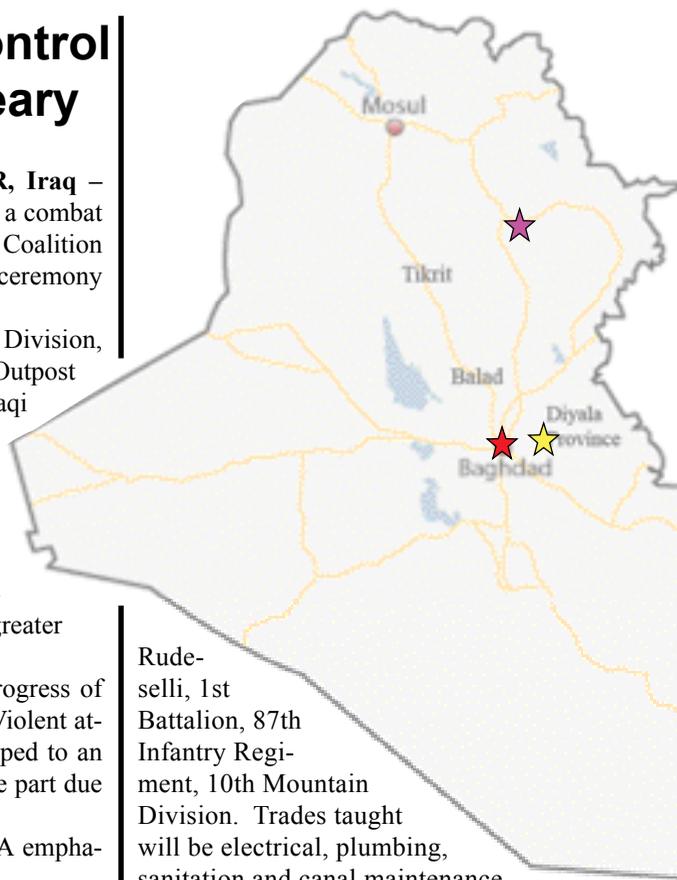
“The CSCs are intended to provide the necessary training, education and skill that will allow the graduates to seek and attain good paying jobs and to begin the hard task of rebuilding Iraq village by village, city by city,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Hudie, commander, 3rd Battalion, 6th Artillery regiment, 10th Mountain Div, at the Dibis commencement ceremony.

The CSC program is patterned after a U.S. depression-era job program, known as the Civilian Conservation Corps, designed to put young men back to work. What makes the program unique is that all of the apprentices are former Sons of Iraq members who have been credited for the significant security gains in the Kirkuk Province.

The Hawijah ceremony was held at the Hawijah Farmer’s Union building and was attended by Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek, commander, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, as well as Abu Saddam, the district council chairman. The ribbon cutting ceremony was witnessed by some of the 105 CSC apprentices who will soon be taking on the task of learning the valuable skills needed in rebuilding their communities.

“This is a very important day for us ... security and the economy is rising. This is a chance to start a new life. These men are learning for the future. We thank God for this opportunity. We are going to keep making Hawijah better, and better, and better,” said Abu Saddam.

This new contract will teach Iraqi men trades that will build infrastructure in Hawijah, according to Capt. Kurt



Rude-selli, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division. Trades taught will be electrical, plumbing, sanitation and canal maintenance.

On the heels of the Hawijah ceremony was the Dibis CSC commencement ceremony, which represented two separate contracts that will employ 215 CSC apprentices.

“The Dibis CSC were designed from many discussions with the Dibis City Council, the electrical power plant and the Northern Oil Company to meet the future construction needs of both the electrical and oil industry that are major employers with the Dibis district,” said Hudie.

The former SoI members will receive training in carpentry, masonry and electrical work under the general construction contract. Under the industrial contract, the students will receive training in electrical motor-generator repairs, welding, electrical line repairs and industrial plumbing.

“We thank the American people for their investment in Iraq and in its people,” said Hadi Mustafa, the Dibis Mayor, during his address to guests.

Soldiers, GoI work to improve quality of life for Baghdad

BAGHDAD – For citizens of a war-torn city, often the smallest things that help make life easier are the most welcome of sights.

Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers are working hand in hand with Government of Iraq officials to help the local Baghdad citizens return to a more normal way of life by improving essential services throughout the region with a program focusing on sewer, water, electricity, agriculture, trash and health.

The goal of the SWEAT-H program is to help MND-B Soldiers and Iraqi government officials identify areas in Baghdad neighborhoods that require additional support, which will help the overall quality of life, said Lt. Col. Gerry Messmer, chief, Civil Military Operations, G-9, 4th Infantry Division and MND-B.

“SWEAT-H benefits the people of Baghdad the most directly,” said Messmer. “Everything that we’re doing is focused on helping the GoI improve essential services and bringing essential services into those areas that were missing previously.”

One of the bigger benefits is the program helps coordinate and synchronize different projects between what MND-B Soldiers and GoI officials are working on.

“There are so many projects in Baghdad; we need to coordinate with the GoI to make sure that we’re not doubling any efforts or that we take on each project in the correct order,” said Messmer. “If we have a project to repair a street and the GoI is repairing a sewage system under that street, then it doesn’t make sense to repair the road when it would need to be torn up again to fix the sewage system.”

With the help of the SWEAT-H program, Baghdad’s Provincial Reconstruction Teams have been able to greatly increase the number of resources for Baghdad’s citizens, added Messmer.

Iraqi Army Soldiers lead Shulla humanitarian drop

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, partnered with Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers conducted a humanitarian assistance drop in the northwestern Baghdad neighborhood of Shulla Sept. 10.

The Iraqi Army planned and executed the drop with minimal oversight by Coalition Forces.

Staff Sgt. Perry Transue stood watching while his platoon, 1st Platoon from Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pulled security for the Iraqi Army Soldiers.

“It is crazy to think that just a few months ago this place was completely off limits to Coalition and Iraqi Forces,” he said. “If you had asked me a few months ago if I’d be standing in the streets of Shulla watching the IA conducting operations this soon after the hostilities, I would have said, ‘no.’”

The Iraqi Army has improved exponentially since the strike troops took over the area in November 2007, said Transue.

“It is great to be given the opportunity to supply all these people with food, but this is just a small sample of the things (the Iraqi Army) want to accomplish here in Shulla,” said Iraqi Army Maj. Muhammad, the operations officer of the 2nd Bn., 22nd Bde., 6th IA Div. “We still need to clean the streets of trash, repair the streets and provide better medical services to the residents of Shulla.”

Muhammad is optimistic about the future relationship between his battalion and Shulla’s citizens. He is driven and feels that he and his Soldiers will make a difference with their continued effort.

The Iraqi Army troops set the example for Iraqi Army battalions across Baghdad, said Muhammad.

“People are beginning to see the strength of the Iraqi army. The people see that we are beginning to conduct operations on our own, without the help of Coalition Forces. Residents of Shulla no longer hesitate to bring issues to us because they realize we are capable of providing security for them,” said Muhammad.

The HA drop was a well organized event. The Iraqi Army separated males and females into two different lines and alternated giving packages to each sex. They were deliberate and showed no favoritism to any person or family.

“Their organizational skills and tactical expertise has dramatically increased since we arrived in November 2007,” said Transue. “This HA drop was very well organized compared to previous operations we conducted earlier in the deployment. The Iraqi Army organized the HA drop efficiently and effectively completed the mission.”

The Iraqi Army planned and executed the vast majority of the mission. All the Coalition Forces needed to do was help provide security.

“The rest of the operation was done by the IA,” said Transue. “It is nice to see that the Iraqi Army is beginning to conduct operations the way they are supposed to be done.”

MESSAGES FROM HOME

We MISS you Julie A Nunez! We are sending you all our prayers and love for a safe journey. We thought you might enjoy a picture of the beautiful fall time Wasatch Mountains.

Hugs and Love,
The Baldassari Family



Mike,

We are all very proud of your dedicated service to our nation and the American way of life. You are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you and the "Brave Rifles" troopers safety and success in the demanding mission in Iraq. We all look forward to your safe return.
Love, Dad and Julie

Hi Mike, We are friends of your Dad and Julie. We live in Marina Towers---we totally support you as you are in the service of our country. We would love to meet you when you return and come to visit your Dad. We really appreciate him and his kind ways of sharing and caring about others.
Blessings as you serve!
Margaret

Hey Uncle Mike! Just a quick note to let you know that we are thinking of you and love you very much. Here we are at the Royals Game and our first day of school. Can't wait till you come home! Take care!!!!
Love you!
Connor, Nick, and Grayson



An Anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday & the hopes of tomorrow. Happy Anniversary SFC Anthony J Aspengren With all my love, Brandi 9-21-96

Hispanic Heritage Month
15 September - 15 October 2008

Essay Contest
12 PT Font Size, Double Space, Two Pages or Less, and Pertains to the **National theme:**
"Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation."
E-mail Essays by COB 30 September 08 to:
NIPR: tuynuykua.jackson@iraq.centcom.mil
NIPR: karvn.combs@blab.afcent.af.mil
NIPR: felix.leontorres@iraq.centcom.mil

Awards for the top three Essays will be presented At the Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Celebration: 10 Oct 2008, 1130 hrs at the OASIS DFAC (DFAC 1) Audie Murphy Room
POC: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson 3rd ESC EO Advisor at 433-2527, Warrior Support Center, JBB

POC: SSGT Cassandra Carter 443-7141
POC: YN2 Walker 443-6406

Operation Iraqi Freedom RED TAIL 56

Open to all Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard noncommissioned officers
When: Every Thursday at 1700
Where: H-6 Recreation Center Theater

USA Anaconda's East Side
Presents
Karaoke Night
Every Monday night at 2000 with your hosts:
SPC Young, Jeremiah
And
PFC Tucker, Amanda

*We have over 460 GB of karaoke music available! If you can think of a song, chances are we have it, and you can sing it!

MICHAEL KING'S
BEGINNING AUGUST 7TH

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
For More Information Contact: Michael.King@iraq.centcom.mil
TIME: 1900-2030

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Swim Lessons:
Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m.
Tue., Thu., Sat., -
6:30 p.m.
AquaTraining:
Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER

Open Court Volleyball:
Sunday- 6 p.m.
Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
5:30-6:30 a.m.
Yoga Class:
Mon., Fri.- 6-7 a.m.
Step Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
5:30 p.m.
Conditioning Training
Class:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 7:15-
8 p.m.
Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:

Mon., Wed., Fri.-
9-10 p.m.

MMA Training:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
10-11 p.m.
Abs-Aerobics:
Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m.,
5-6 p.m.

Edge Weapons & Stick
Fighting Combative
Training:
Tue., Thur., Sat., -
8-10 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER

4-ball tourney:
Sunday- 8 p.m.
8-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Karaoke:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Swing Class:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Table Tennis:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.

9-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m.
Poetry Night:
Thursday- 8 p.m.
6-ball tourney:
Thursday- 8 p.m.
Caribbean Night:
Friday- 8 p.m.
Chess & Dominoes
Tourney:
Friday- 8 p.m.
Salsa Class:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Poker:
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

H6 FITNESS CENTER

Spin:
Sunday- 9 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m.,
8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m.,
9 p.m.
Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m.,
9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.
Boxing:
Sunday- 4 p.m.
Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.
Boot Camp:
Sunday- 8:45 a.m.
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.
Power Abs:
Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.

Friday- 9 p.m.
CC Cross Fit:
Monday-Saturday-
10:30 p.m.
Cross Fit:
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45
a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.,
6 p.m.
Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m.,
3 p.m.
Sunday- 5:45 a.m.,
7 a.m., 3 p.m.

Monday- Saturday- 4:30
a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.,
12 a.m.
Soccer:
Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
Yoga:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
MCAP Level 1:

Friday- 8 p.m.
5 on 5 Basketball:
Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION CENTER

Bingo:
Sunday- 8 p.m.
Texas Hold'em:
Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.
8-ball tourney:
Tuesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.
Spades:
Wednesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Salsa:
Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.
9-ball:
Thursday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Karaoke:
Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Dominos:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Darts:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER

Green Bean Karaoke:
Sun., Wed., 7:30pm
9-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Foosball tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Jam Session:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.
8-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
Guitar Lessons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m.
Game tourney:
Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.
Enlisted Poker:
Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.
Officer Poker:
Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.
Squat Competition:
Saturday- 8 p.m.

WEST FITNESS CENTER

3 on 3 basketball
tourney:
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6 on 6 volleyball
tourney:
Friday- 7 p.m.
Aerobics:
Monday, Wednesday,
Friday- 7 p.m.
Body by Midgett Toning
Class:
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.
Dodge ball Game:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.
Furman's Martial Arts:
Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m.
Gaston's Self-Defense
Class:
Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m.
Open court basketball:
Thursday- 7 p.m.
Open court soccer:
Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m.
Zingano Brazilian Jui
Jitsu:
Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey:
Mon., Wed., Fri., -
8-10 p.m.

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, September 24
5 p.m. The Happening
8 p.m. Wanted
Thursday, September 25
5 p.m. The love Guru
8 p.m. Step Brothers
Friday, September 26
2 p.m. Tropic Thunder
5 p.m. The Sisterhood
of Traveling Pants 2
8 p.m. Lakeview Terrace
Saturday, September 27
2 p.m. The Sisterhood Of
The Traveling Pants
5 p.m. Lakeview Terrace
8:30 p.m. Tropic Thunder
Sunday, September 28
2 p.m. Lakeview Terrace
5 p.m. Tropic Thunder
8 p.m. The Sisterhood Of
The Traveling Pants 2
Monday, September 29
5 p.m. Tropic Thunder
8 p.m. Lakeview Terrace
Tuesday, September 30
5 p.m. Lakeview Terrace
8 p.m. Tropic Thunder

(Schedule is subject to change)

Movies This Week

Tropic Thunder



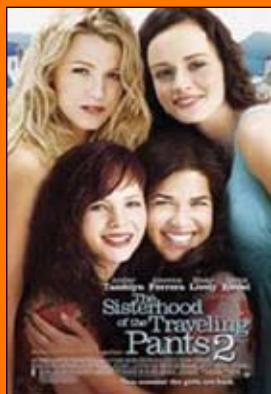
Tropic Thunder concerns the production of an epic Vietnam War film that quickly derails thanks to the giant egos of everyone involved in the production. Stiller stars as Tugg Speedman, an action hero trying to segue out of that genre. Jack Black plays Jeff Portnoy, a drug-addicted fat comic also attempting to change his image by taking on such a serious film. They star alongside Kirk Lazarus (Robert Downey Jr.), one of the world's most awarded actors, and a man who insists on immersing himself totally in a role. The film's director, Damien Cockburn (Steve Coogan) drops the actors off in the jungle, planning to film the movie guerrilla-style with hidden cameras. So after departure the crew find what is really in the jungle.

Lakeview Terrace



A young couple (Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington) has just moved into their California dream home when they become the target of their next-door neighbor, who disapproves of their interracial relationship. A stern, single father, this tightly wound LAPD officer (Samuel L. Jackson) has appointed himself the watchdog of the neighborhood. His nightly foot patrols and overly watchful eyes bring comfort to some, but he becomes increasingly harassing to the newlyweds. These persistent intrusions into their lives causes the couple to fight back.

Sisterhood of Traveling Pants 2



The 2008 sequel to the female buddy film The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants constitutes an adaptation of Ann Brashares' novel Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood. Like the premier installment, this picture explores the serio-comic events that unfold one summer in the lives of four temporarily estranged friends as an extremely special pair of jeans works its way from one girl to the next. In one subplot, Lena (Alexis Bledel) travels to Providence, RI, and

enrolls in a painting course; in another, Bridget (Blake Lively) embarks on an archaeological excavation in Greece; in a third, Carmen (America Ferrera) works on the backstage crew for a Vermont-based theater festival; and in the fourth, Tibby remains in New York and enrolls in summer courses. Sanaa Hamri, best known for her Prince and Mariah Carey music videos, directs; Elizabeth Chandler, who co-scripted the first film, adapts the Brashares book.

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Expeditionary Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

South Carolina

- By law, if a man promises to marry an unmarried woman, the marriage must take place.
- Musical instruments may not be sold on Sunday.
- A permit must be obtained to fire a missile.
- A person must be eighteen years old to play a pinball machine.
- Dance halls may not operate on Sundays.

South Dakota

- No horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they are wearing pants.
- It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep in a cheese factory.
- Movies that show police officers being struck, beaten, or treated in an offensive manner are forbidden.

South Dakota

- You can't shoot any game other than whales from a moving automobile.
- Driving is not to be done while asleep.
- It is illegal to dare a child to purchase a beer.

Sudoku

Level: Hard

	5			7			9
		8					4
			5	3			6
		4				5	
	2						1
	9			8			
3				1	6		
7						2	
5			8				4

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Upcoming sports on AFN



Wednesday 9/24/08

MLB: Teams TBD, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 MLB: Teams TBD, live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 MLB: Teams TBD, live 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Oakland Athletics @ Texas Rangers, live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 9/25/08

MLB: ESPN Wednesday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Teams TBA, live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Teams TBA, live 7 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: ESPN Wednesday Night Baseball: Teams TBD * 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, taped delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 PGA: 2008 FedEx Cup - The TOUR Championship: First Round (East Lake GC, Atlanta, GA), live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 9/26/08

MLB: Teams TBA, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: ESPN College Football Primetime: USC @ Oregon State, live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Teams TBD, live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: ESPN College Football Primetime: USC @ Oregon State * 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Teams TBA, taped delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports
 Golf: The 2008 Ryder Cup: Day One (Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, KY), live 3 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 9/27/08

MLB: ESPN Friday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 College Football: Baylor @ Connecticut, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 College Football: ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Connecticut @ Louisville, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 9/28/08

College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic

College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 PGA: 2008 FedEx Cup - The TOUR Championship: Third Round (East Lake GC, Atlanta, GA), tape delayed 10:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime pacific
 NFL: CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NASCAR: NASCAR Sprint Cup Series - Chase For The Sprint Cup: Camping World RV 400 (Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, KS), 9 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 9/29/08

NHRA: NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series: O'Reilly NHRA Mid-South Nationals (Memphis, TN), live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 4: Philadelphia Eagles @ Chicago Bears, live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 PGA: 2008 FedEx Cup - The TOUR Championship: Final Round (East Lake GC, Atlanta, GA) (JIP), tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 4: Philadelphia Eagles @ Chicago Bears, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: Week 4: Teams TBD, tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 4: Philadelphia Eagles @ Chicago Bears, taped delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 9/30/08

Motorcycle Racing: FIM World Superbike Championship: San Marino - Race 2, taped delayed 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross Lites: Lakewood, taped delayed 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 4: Baltimore Ravens @ Pittsburgh Steelers, live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross: Buchanan, taped delayed 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross Budds Creek, taped delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross Buchanan, taped delayed 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: FIM World Superbike: Czech Republic - Race 1, taped delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: FIM World Superbike: Czech Republic - Race 2, taped delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 4: Baltimore Ravens @ Pittsburgh Steelers, tape delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 4: Baltimore Ravens @ Pittsburgh Steelers, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Iraq according to Opet



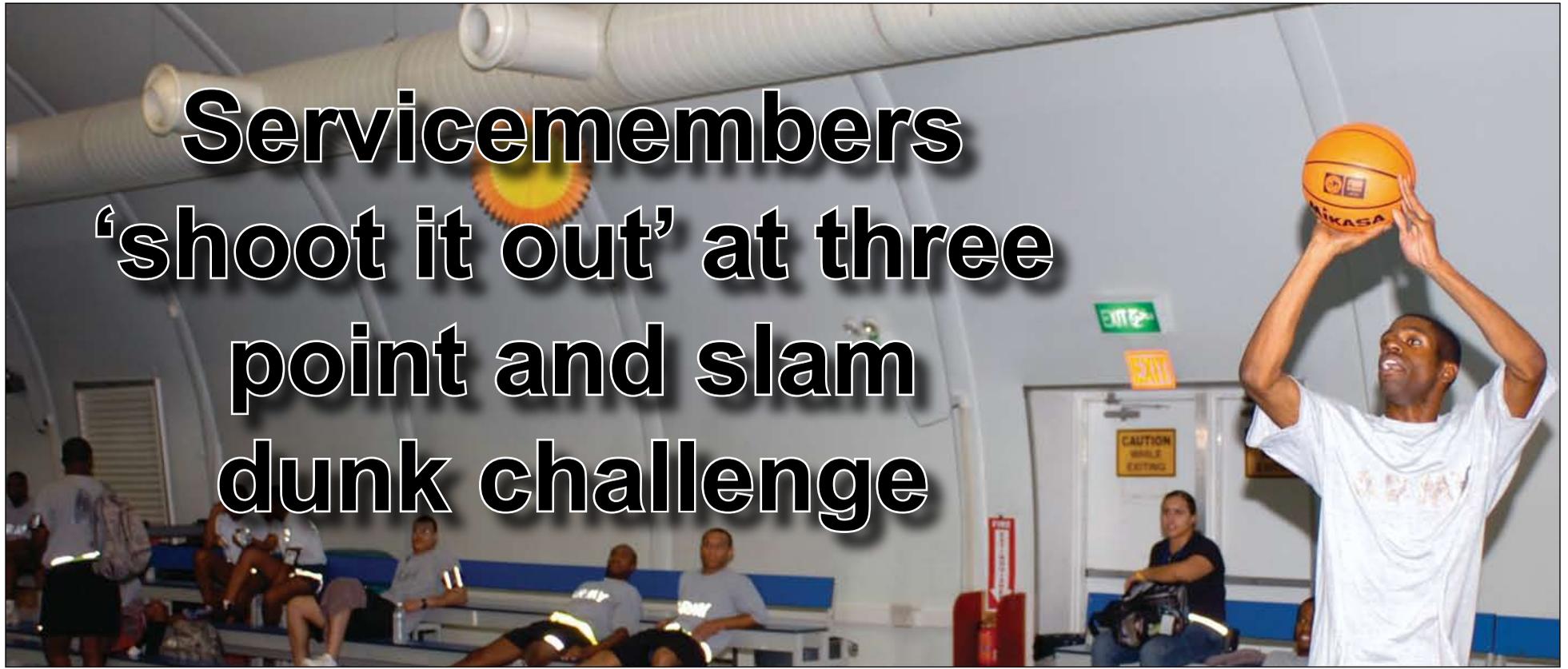


Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Spc. Richard Robinson, III, a member of the 1-293 Infantry Battalion, shoots the ball during the Three Point Shootout at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Sept. 19.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Air Force Staff Sgt. Antwane Thomas, a member of the Regional Contracting Center, practices his slam dunk before the slam dunk contest at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Sept. 19.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Dee Dortch watches his shot during the three point shootout at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Sept. 19.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Spc. Marcus Rogers, a member of the 20th Quartermaster Company, jumps over a ball rack during a slam dunk contest at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Sept. 19.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Spc. Richard Robinson, III, a member of the 1-293 Infantry Battalion, grabs a ball for his next shot during the three point shootout at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Sept. 19.