

JOINT BASE BALAD'S  
**EXPEDITIONARY TIMES**  
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Vol. 1, Issue 17

## IBIZ opens new opportunities for Iraqi citizens pg. 12



Photo by Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III

Hamad Hamood Shekti, the governor of Iraq's Salah Ad Din Province (left) other local Iraqi leaders prepare for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new asphalt production plant Oct. 7, 2008, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The plant will be operated by the Iraqi-based Alkema company and secured by U.S. Forces in a cooperative effort called the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone program. The program is run by Coalition Forces in Iraq working directly with Iraqi leaders.

### Got Water?

Civil Affairs provides town with new windmill for water

See page 4



### 2/320th provides much wanted gear

Soldiers hand out soccer gear to Iraqi children

See pages 8-9

### Getting involved

Hispanic Heritage Month essay winner talks about family and community

See page 11

# General Transportation Regiment starts their engines

by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Expeditionary Times staff

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – As more and more Iraqi Army combat units stand up, the ability to provide predictable, reliable distribution of all classes of supplies is a must. The General Transportation Regiment, headquartered at Taji, Iraq, is one giant step in the fulfillment of this objective.

On the ground since Sept. 1, 2008, the GTR is the first organi-

*“... If you look at any battle or war throughout history, the logistics – or the lack of – was the reason for winning or losing the fight.”*

Capt. Donna Johnson  
68th Transportation Company

zation of its kind and has the ability to provide assets and manpower needed to distribute all classes of supply to the location commands positioned throughout Iraq.

In a move to ensure its success, Col. Kevin O’Connell, the com-

mander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, tasked one of his companies, the 68th Transportation Company, to partner with the GTR.

“The purpose of GTR will be to push critical supplies from the ports of embarkation such as the

seaport, airport and neighboring countries and push them to the Taji National Depot on Camp Taji,” said Capt. Donna Johnson, a Columbus, Ohio, native, and the commander of the 68th Trans. Co., who now serves as the Logistics Training As-

sistance Team officer in charge for the GTR.

“From there they transport equipment to the 12 location commands all over Iraq, which means the GTR has a huge role in getting the supplies distributed throughout the Iraqi theater of operations.”

Before GTR, the Iraqi Army had many small units transporting supplies. The Ministry of Defense created the GTR to streamline and improve the efficiency of the supply chain to the Iraqi Army Soldiers.

“We will transport supplies (and) vehicle parts from the border of Jordan, Syria and Kuwait – or any

See GTR, Page 2

# Do you have a story idea? Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**Iraqi Soldiers assigned to the General Truck Regiment at Camp Taji, Iraq, wash new vehicles Sept. 21 in preparations for the grand opening next month. Training truck drivers, level I and II vehicle maintenance, and distribution of all class of supplies throughout Iraq is the job of the 68th Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade.**

## GTR, from Page 1

border – to the depot here on Taji for distribution to Iraqi Army location commands,” said Col. Muhammad, the commander of the GTR. “The mission is to improve the movement of supplies, parts and troops needed to help sustain the Soldiers of the Iraqi Army.”

The logistics role in any military could be the most misunderstood part of how a war is won or lost. Without consistent supplies, units lose the ability to effectively carry out their missions.

“The logistical role is critical to any military,” said Johnson. “I mean, if you look at any battle or war throughout history, the logistics – or the lack of – was the reason for winning or losing the fight.”

The Iraqi Army had new barracks built for the GTR on Taji that house more than 800 Soldiers. In addition to the barracks, there are new covered parking areas for the more than 300 transport trucks and humvees, storage and maintenance facilities, a state-of-the-art fuel point, and office buildings.

“New dining facilities, training schools,

and maintenance facilities (are) the result of the Iraqi Army and the U.S. forces working together,” said Staff Brig. Gen. Sabah, the Location Command commander at Taji. “Helping them to create a place where the GTR will be the greatest transportation unit in the Iraqi Army has been a great accomplishment for both IA and Coalition Forces.”

When Johnson’s team first arrived, the vehicles were spread all over the yard in an unorganized manner. Organizing vehicles along with the much needed classroom instruction became a priority.

“They were very receptive when we first hit (the) ground trying to help them organize their motor pool,” said Johnson. “While they have their ways of doing things, they seem very open to our input and they ask us how we do this or that, then went and worked it.”

A group of noncommissioned officers started teaching classes on basic soldiering, Iraqi Army values, uniform standards, and inspections. Afterwards, they moved onto specific job skills like tying down vehicles and preventative maintenance checks and services for vehicles.

The 68th Transportation Company was chosen for this important mission based on their experience. For the past six months, the Soldiers have been transporting supplies all over Iraq in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

“We have Soldiers on their 2nd and 3rd deployments here in Iraq ... It seemed only natural that we were tasked to help them do the same thing for the GTR,” said Johnson.

The next phase of training will begin Oct. 8, when the GTR’s certification exercise starts, and will run through Oct. 23. During that time the units will see different situational convoy lanes based on the missions – much like the Coalition Forces predeployment training. Once they have completed the required training, they will receive their first mission to complete.

“We will insert different scenarios into each convoy and see how they react,” said Johnson. “At the end of the training period, we will see if they are able to go out on the road and execute an actual mission.”

“They will be the best GTR in the country and they will succeed to make this logistical plan happen,” said Muhammad.

## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>d</sup> ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

# Play Ball!



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Command Sgt. Maj. Lesly McCorkle, the senior-ranking enlisted member of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, plays soccer with a young Iraqi boy Sept. 30 at Abdul Razaq, Iraq. McCorkle visited the area to celebrate the opening of a local water purification plant.

# 'Hooah' Soldier of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Spc. Beau Furlow, a Troy, N.Y., native and operations administrator 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."

## 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](mailto: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)

### PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL

### PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### 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

### PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M. EDEN CHAPEL

### BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M. EDEN CHAPEL

### 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

\*Please note, schedule is subject to change.

# Windmill provides water for rural community

by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

CJSOTF-AP PAO

*Editor's note: This is the fourth of a five-part series on U.S. Army's Civil Affairs Team 621 working on community projects in various villages in southern Iraq. Names are withheld for security purposes.*

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – A tri-blade windmill rises above the desert housing like a beacon of light that draws the residents of the village to it. What the people of al Agar were drawn to on Aug. 22 was the supply of fresh, clean water.

A sign hung on a fence that surrounds the new turbine-windmill, well-water pump that reads: "With God's help and Coalition Forces, we were able to install the windmill."

"This project took a lot of research," said the Civil Affairs Team 621 team leader. "We decided the best solution to get fresh, clean water to the people was a windmill. Based on the geographical features of the region, the town sits in a natural wind tunnel."

A 5,000-liter water tank with clean water pumped by a windmill from a 54-meter-deep well replaces a concrete cistern laced with polluted water and sediment that was once the town's source of drinking water.

The windmill is a modern design to an old concept that dates back more than 2,000 years. It relies on the wind to charge the batteries and pump water out of the ground. The windmill project comes just in time as getting water for the village of more than 200 people was becoming costly.

"The water they were getting was expensive and not clean at all," said the CAT 621 team medic. "The polluted water they were drinking was caus-

ing illnesses like dysentery."

Purchasing bottled water and water delivery was getting too expensive for them to handle. The water delivered to the village was siphoned from a nearby river and pumped into their cistern, a process the village Sheikh was eager to remedy.

"They needed a clean renewable water source that didn't have a lot of maintenance costs," the team leader said. "We visit a lot of towns that have fresh water wells, but can't afford the fuel for the generators used to pump out the water."

After determining what the village needed most to improve their quality of life, the civil affairs team started the process of finding the best possible solution to their problem. After nearly a month of work by a contractor, with citizens of the town also working on the project, the well was pulling clean water from the ground.

"We are very thankful for the windmill and the fresh water it produces," said one of the town elders during the ribbon cutting ceremonies. "The water the windmill provides is much better than the

water provided to us in the past."

"Water is a precious resource, especially in the desert," said the CAT 621 team sergeant. "These villagers went days and sometimes weeks without water, and hardly ever had fresh water that wasn't bottled."

The water pumped out of the ground passes water purity testing and is filtered before it reaches the mouths of the villagers. The town can now use the money and resources they are saving on water to continually improve other areas in their way of life.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

**A windmill stands tall over the desert village of al Agar, Iraq now supplying the residents with a continuous supply of fresh water.**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

**Tech. Sgt. Mark Day and Staff Sgt. Cassandra Baker use a vacuum to clear debris from broken sections of runway at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Oct. 2.**

## Balad's CE Airmen conduct runway repairs

by Tech. Sgt. Craig Lifton

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- With looming concern for aircraft damage, the threat of hostile action and a limited timeline, more than 120 Airmen and contractors labored to make vital repairs on the Department of Defense's busiest airfield Oct. 1.

Construction is scheduled to finish in the next 45 days with no noticeable change in the air missions.

An exceptional operations tempo and the various aircraft that fly in and out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq, give the runway a constant beating, said Tech. Sgt. Frank Griffin of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. Balad's airfield saw more than 40,000 landings and takeoffs.

Completing the runway's construction is the squadron's number one priority, said Maj. Rockie Wilson, the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, deployed from Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"Our unit's most important role is to keep the world's most lethal power projection platform running," Wilson said.

The repairs, which began in April, consist of a 1,000-foot overrun for all ends, more than \$1 million in small repairs, new arresting barriers, a relocated threshold and a repaired centerline. Coordinating the maintenance is Maj. Eric Sell, the 332nd ECES chief of operations, deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

"It's a team effort for civil engineering as a whole, to get our number one priority -- the airfield -- taken care of, making it better and safer for the aircraft," he said. If the repairs were not done, the runway would continue to deteriorate and would create a risk of damage to the aircraft using it.

Master Sgt. Bill Hight, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 332nd ECES' structural repair shop, toiled under the morning sun without complaint.

"This is the whole reason we are here; to get this airfield in operational shape, so our warfighters can use it to project air power throughout Iraq," said Hight, who is deployed from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

At the far end of the runway, Tech. Sgt. Fred Williams, a power production craftsman with the 332nd ECES' barrier shop, supervised the installation of a new textile arresting barrier strap.

"The barrier is a pilot's last chance to ... safely reduce damage to the aircraft and save lives," said Williams, who is also deployed from Kadena AB.

**25 October 2008**  
**0545**

## Tulsa Run

# IRAQ 15K

Register online: <http://einventions.afit.edu/cooper130/index.cfm>  
 Registration option: 15K Tulsa  
 Signup Deadline: 22 Oct 08  
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POC: SSgt Ronald Cooper 443-7654  
[ronald.cooper@blab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:ronald.cooper@blab.afcent.af.mil)

# 7th Sustainment Brigade, volunteers refurbish desks for Iraqi children

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

**ADDER, Iraq** – Members of the 7th Sustainment Brigade and volunteers from Contingency Operating Base Adder and Tallil Air Base joined together to restore school desks for students in the nearby Muthanna province.



The action highlighted continuing efforts by the 7th Sust. Bde., deployed from Ft. Eustis, Va., to reach local Iraqi citizens and assist in providing important support services.

One hundred-forty desks have been measured, rebuilt, painted and stored for delivery. Capt. Damon Saxton, chaplain of the 7th Sust. Bde.'s Special Troops Battalion, provided a three-man detail but also solicited for help over COB Adder's Internet home page. Saxton said the desks would not have been produced so quickly without the volunteers.

"Had we did it alone, it would have taken two months," said Saxton, an Emmett, Idaho, native. "Volunteers came out and we got it done in three weeks."

Pfc. Vai Spaulding, part of the detail, found himself working and instructing different people every night. He said it wasn't a problem, though, because of the attitude people brought.

"They made the job more lively," said Spaulding, a native of Raleigh, N.C. "We got to make new acquaintances . . . we laugh, joke and are still able to get the mission accomplish in a timely manner."

Troops from different service branches and civilian volunteers were among those who helped. Sgt. James Carr, a member of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 151st Calvary Regiment, said he was battling personal problems before joining Saxton's group and believed divine intervention put this task in front of him.

"You are able to let go of your personal problems and do some good labor while helping some people," Carr, an Arkansas native, said. "We're all out here for a common



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Sgt. Ellisia Thompson, a member of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division paints the legs of an unfinished desk Sept. 24 at the COB Adder Chapel. Thompson volunteered her time to assist the 7th Sustainment Brigade's Chaplain's office during a desk refurbishing drive for local Iraqi children.**

goal – to get the kids off of a dirt floor."

Airman 1st Class Mitchell Arne was a newcomer to the group. In Iraq for less than two weeks, Arne said it felt very good to be part of something.

"I enjoy volunteering for whatever I can," said Arne, who said it was the first time he had ever worked with the Army.

Months ago, Maj. Robert Hudson, 7th Sust. Bde. civil military officer, was brainstorming with his wife, Maj. Yvonne Hudson, the 7th Sust. Bde.'s chaplain, over how they could get the chaplain's office more involved in Iraqi civil affairs. While leaving the dining facility, the Hudsons bumped into a member of the provincial reconstruction

team. While sharing his team's latest ventures, the PRT representative brought up the need of the Muthanna school, specifically that the team needed people who could train Iraqi Soldiers to refurbish 3,000 desks.

The training program never took place, but Yvonne said the opportunity created a possibility for more projects to come to the chaplain's office. Her husband agreed and said he remains focused on identifying missions that match the chaplain's office unique set of skill.

"The chaplain's office is an asset to the brigade," said Robert. "(The CMO office) has a unique mission and unique assets that give us the opportunity to help our bat-

tle-space owners by being a force multiplier. We can take those assets and apply them to the battlespace owner's needs or our own missions."

Saxton said that a number of volunteers have told him that doing this project has made them feel like their time in Iraq was worthwhile.

"Some (Servicemembers) end up doing the same work here they did in states," Saxton said, "administrative work, crunching numbers – but away from their families so they don't really feel like it's important . . . they know this action directly helps the local populace."



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

## SES Thompson visits JBB

Left to right: Senior Executive Service Lee Thompson, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program executive officer for the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, based out of Rock Island, Ill., and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., settle in to discuss the transfer from LOGCAP three to LOGCAP four at the 3d ESC headquarters Oct. 7.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Iraqi Army leaders and sustainment partners, including Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally (right), commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Brig. Gen. Steven L. Salazar, commander of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team discuss standardizing procedures and training for vehicle repair and class IX of the Iraqi Army's supply system, in Kirkush, Iraq Oct. 8.

## IA logisticians, U.S. Sustainers participate in 5th Iraqi Army logistics conference

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

**KIRKUSH MILITARY TRAINING BASE, Iraq** – Iraqi Army logisticians and their Coalition partners gathered Oct. 8 in a first 5th Iraqi Army logistics conference here in Kirkush, Iraq.

The purpose of the conference was to standardize procedures and training for vehicle repair and class IX for the Iraqi Army's supply system, including repair parts and components.

U.S. sustainment leaders Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, commander of the Fort Knox based 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Col. Therese O'Brien, commander of Fort Belvoir's 55th Sustainment Brigade, partnered in

attendance with Iraqi Army leaders to give their advice.

In addition to allowing the Iraqi and U.S. partners a better opportunity to share ideas and sustainment lessons learned, the conference specifically addressed a number of ongoing logistical initiatives. Updates were provided on processing and supply of repair parts as well as upcoming Iraqi Army training on vehicle code-out procedures. Time was also provided for face-to-face coordination between Iraqi Army and U.S. counterparts, as well as a detailed tour of KMTB logistics facilities.

The 3rd ESC continues to build partnerships with Iraqi Army third line logistics activities. The Logistics Training Assistance Team currently partnering at Kirkush Military Training Base is one of 11 active LTATs within the command with additional slated for activation in upcoming months.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jeffery Chemasko

Sgt. William Linnabary, an Ishpeming, Mich., native, supervises Spc. Raymond Frazier, a Sanford, N.C., native, as he secures a vehicle to a Heavy Equipment Transport system during his training. Linnabary and Frazier are both members of the 377th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

## Training puts versatile mechanics in the driver's seat

by 1st Lt. Jeffery Chemasko

1st Sustainment Brigade

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Mechanics from the 377th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, 165th CSSB, 1st Sustainment Brigade, work around the clock to keep the company's fleet of Heavy Equipment Transport systems well maintained. Yet due to a recent increase in the need for vehicle drivers, some of these mechanics have been asked to step up to fill the slots.

Operating this enormous transport system is no easy task. The vehicle is designed to haul heavy equipment of all types, including the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

Before these eager drivers could jump behind the wheel, they had to go through an intense and thorough drivers training

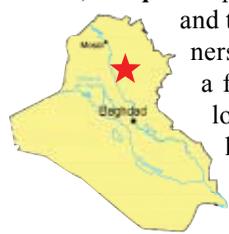
program headed by Staff Sgt. Deleston, the unit's master driver.

To turn the mechanics into capable operators, Deleston methodically led them through each phase of training. The training began with a familiarization of the bobtail tractor itself, and then combined the tractor and trailer together as a complete system.

They then honed their driving skills through serpentine in the motor pool before testing their abilities on roads within the Camp Taji walls - under the supervision of experienced HET drivers.

"These Soldiers were highly motivated and stayed focused throughout the training," said Deleston, a Lane, S.C., native. "They are now capable of going on missions and handling the HET system properly."

"Driving (the HET) was fun. I loved having this opportunity; it was a great experience," said McAllen, Texas, native, Pfc. Nancy Lopez.



## Maj. Gen. Eyre visits construction sites

Left to right: Margaret Williams, a Detroit native and project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Don Wilson, a Vicksburg, Miss., native and resident engineer for the USACE, show Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, a Sandusky, Ohio, native and commander of the USACE Gulf Region Division, the 250,000 gallon diesel storage tanks on Joint Base Balad Oct. 4.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

# 'Lions' of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion head back to Alaska

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson  
16th Sustainment Command

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq—

Soldiers from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, concluded a 15-month deployment and welcomed the 30th CSSB, a Tennessee Army National Guard unit headquartered in Humbolt, Tenn., during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq Oct. 3.

"From a small cadre of folks who moved from Hawaii to Alaska in 2006, through building a combat sustainment support battalion from scratch, to a successful 15-month deployment, I could not have asked for more dedicated leaders and Soldiers; thank you," said Lt. Col. Rodney Fogg, commander, 17th CSSB.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 17th Combat Support Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, was moved to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in July of 2006 and redesignated the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Octo-

ber 2006. The "Lions" of the 17th CSSB met many milestones during their deployment.

The 17th CSSB supported operations across Multi-National Division-North, and units including the 25th Infantry Division, the 1st Armored Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 10th Mountain Division, the 4th Infantry Division, military transition teams and special operations.

The unit encountered more than 240 improvised explosive device events and 60 complex attacks; and suffered more than 40 serious injuries, but didn't lose a single Soldier.

"We can list off a few numbers, logisticians like to do that," Fogg said. "We completed over 3,000 successful combat logistics patrols without loss of life. We logged over 5 million miles over some of the most dangerous roads in Iraq."

Soldiers from the battalion were awarded 390 combat action badges, combat infantry badges and combat medic badges, and 80 Purple Heart medals.

One honored Soldier received a Bronze Star Medal and a Combat Action Badge.

"I feel it's prestigious, and it's something that I won't take lightly," said Cpl. Kevin Kersch, HHC, 17th CSSB. "But at the same time,



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

**Lt. Col. Rodney Fogg, commander, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; and Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie Lane, the senior enlisted member of the 17th CSSB, cover the battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Lions Memorial Field here Oct. 3.**

I was just doing my job."

The 28-year-old from Pierce, Neb., taught Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division to perform logistics processes like tracking and ordering parts and equipment, and to understand and use the supply system. He also went out on explosive ordnance disposal missions with Iraqi bomb disposal companies.

"In February we went out on a mission to blow up an improvised explosive device and on the way back, got hit by another one," Kersch said, explaining how he

earned the CAB.

Spc. Christopher Piegari, intelligence analyst, HHC, 17th CSSB, said he was ready to go home, but that he was grateful for the job training and experience in Iraq.

"I thought it was going to be more like the movies," said the 23-year-old from Bethpage, N.Y. "It was long, with ups and downs, but the best part was being brought into a difficult job and getting to know the activities and situation in Multi-National Division - North."

For Staff Sgt. David Head, mo-

tor sergeant and platoon sergeant, HHC, 17th CSSB, this deployment — his fourth deployment in six years — was less dangerous and more positive.

"It was safer," said the 29-year-old from Dothan, Ala. "There wasn't as much danger and we had more protection."

Head, who is married and has four children, reenlisted during the deployment.

"I'm already 10-years deep, and this is a good job," Head said. "We're doing something that helps the world become a better place."

## Soldiers receive care packages from swimmers



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

**Spc. Chris Espitia, a Houston native and mortarman for 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, based out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, holds a care package from the Swimmers Supporting Soldiers program of Roswell, Ga, as Spc. Brady Williams, a Cheyenne, Wyo., native and scout for the 5-1 Cav., sorts through.**



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[expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil)

# 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment hands out soccer equipment to Iraqi children

Story and photos by Spc. Micheal Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

**AD DUJAYL, Iraq** – Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, handed out soccer equipment Oct. 4 to Iraqi children from Ad Dujayl and provided security while the youth participated in soccer games.

The 2-320th FAR participation in the event was to show support to an area still feeling the effects of an vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack that killed thirty-one local citizens and left twenty-one citizens wounded on Sept. 12.

The event was also an attempt to bring together the Sunni and Shi'a residents.

"I think in this area, soccer brings everyone together," said 1st Lt. Peter Semanoff, 4th Platoon leader. "What we're trying to do is mix and match to bring people together and get them to working together."

"We brought out some soccer uniforms we got from an organization in California that collects uniforms and soccer equipment to take down to Mexico," Semanoff said. "They just so happened to get our address and sent a bunch of uniforms and equipment here.

The handing out of these uniforms is a good thing for both the citizens and the town."

For the Iraqi population, many saw this day as a sign of good things to come for the area, and also a positive sign of much needed support being received by the mostly agricultural area.

"This is considered to be mostly an agricultural area and we don't have much services here to keep the kids busy and for them to have fun," Abbas Gurjy said through an interpreter. Gurjy, the town's sports activity supporter, noted that the town's "children watches the sport regularly on television and that it's important to provide the children of the area with a soccer field and equipment as a means of having fun."

Gurjy considered the event an overall attempt to build good relationships within the area and to possibly help prevent the events that happened on Sept. 12 from happening again.

"If we find ways as today that can keep our children and our citizens occupied, we may be able to get the town back to where it was and prevent attacks from happening again," said Gurjy. "With more support from Coalition Forces, I think it could happen."



Lt. Col. Douglas Macmillan, 55th Sustainment Brigade deputy commander, poses with children from the Ad Dujayl area during a 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment humanitarian aid mission Oct. 4. Macmillan gave out school supplies to children during the mission that also supplied the youth with soccer supplies.



Iraqi children from the Ad Dujayl area participate in a pickup soccer game during the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment's humanitarian aid mission on Oct. 4. The 2-320 FAR provided security while local children and adults participated in pickup soccer games to help strengthen the relationships between Coalition Forces and Iraqi citizens in the area.



Spc. Marco Verdiguél, a Racine, Wis., native and cannon crewmember with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, hands out soccer uniforms to Iraqi children Saturday in the Ad Dujayl area.

# Requisition and tracking of spare parts essential for Iraqi Army sustainment

by Sgt. Richard Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – Since 2003, there have been many changes to the face of Iraq and its Army.



One pivotal change becoming more visible each day is how the Iraqi Army sustains itself.

Since May 2008, a small team of logistics advisors from Fort Eustis's 7th Sustainment Brigade have been assisting Iraqi logisticians of the 8th Iraqi Army on Forward Operating Base Germany in building a streamlined spare parts or "Class IX" system.

"For the layperson, Class IX is a logistics subcategory that covers repair parts for vehicles and equipment maintained by the Iraqi Army," said Muncie Ind. native Capt. Daniel A. Fishback, senior logistics advisor to the 8th Iraqi Army for the 7th Sus. Bde. "Basically, without maintenance and repair parts for vehicles, you cannot perform combat operations, convoy support, or fuel support; all capabilities are lost to the military without proper maintenance and proper care of your equipment. So, with what

we are teaching right now, they can have unlimited potential."

Like training any new unit, the progress seen by the advisor has not been easy. When 7th Sus. Bde. advisors arrived, the 8th Iraqi Army logistics systems were rudimentary at best.

"When we arrived, they had parts in the warehouse, but they had no concept of organization or receiving or issuing processes; so we had to start from ground zero with that," said Fishback. "To put it into perspective, since the war began in Operation Iraqi Freedom I, the Iraqi Army hasn't performed logistics missions."

In addition to general organization, mentorship and partnership also played a part in improvements to the 8th Iraqi Army logistics mission.

"A considerable amount of the logistics training and advisement teams are specifically designated to work with maintenance facilities and Class IX warehouses," said Fishback. "In our case, we've played a huge role in (the 8th Iraqi Army's) progress. If it wasn't for our guidance in understanding the process, I am not sure that the concepts would have taken root. We've helped enable them to perform the Class IX functions with logistics. We also have offered the ability to

train them. For example, we have provided them translated training manuals at the 10, 20 and 30 levels so they can work on American issued vehicles."

This knowledge and partnership has helped the Iraqi logisticians find Iraqi solutions to logistics problems which are now paying in tangible dividends.

"As of now, we are in the beginning phases of (8th Iraqi Army) receiving supplies at the warehouse," said Fishback. "It basically entails teaching them how to properly request equipment parts and supplies. The initial phases of Class IX is monumental. It has taken five months and the Ministry of Defense has finally sent them in mass quantities like they are supposed to. In comparison to where they were, they are much more advanced now and have the capabilities of tracking, distributing, and requisitioning new parts for Class IX. They actually have a log system in place for their Class IX," said Fishback.

As logistics units begin to stand up across the Iraqi Army, the advisors of 7th Sus. Bde. are learning and sharing important lessons with their counterparts across the Sustainment Command.

"Some of the challenges we've had to overcome include developing trust with an ally who was once



Photo by Sgt R.J. Gilbert

**Staff Sgt. John Truss, a logistics advisor to the 8th Iraqi Army for the 7th Sustainment Brigade, examines newly arrived parts in the warehouse of the Motor Transportation Regiment of the 8th Iraqi Army on Forward Operating Base Germany Sept. 27.**

an enemy, teaching them our systems from the U.S. Army, and the language barriers. The language barrier makes proper use of a translator crucial in order to avoid confusion," said Fishback.

In addition to these communications, the requirement to submit parts requests by courier, and the lack of a computerized network for parts requisitions are all problems that need to be addressed to implement an optimized CL IX system added the advisors.

Ultimately, the mastery requisi-

tioning and distribution of parts will prove to be a logistical function that will help define self-sustainment for Iraqi Forces.

"By them being able to perform these functions, their (Iraqi) Army will be able to defend itself, repair its own vehicles and have its own supply lines," said Fishback. "So instead of being codependent on the US Army, they will be independent. This is very important because in order for us to leave, the Iraqi Army will need to be able to support and defend itself internally."

## Iraqi and U.S. leaders talk security



Photo by Sgt. Ronald Reeves

**Basrah Governor Mohammed Mossibh Wa'ili and Deputy U.S. Secretary of State John D. Negroponte, talk with Iraqi media Oct. 7. Key Iraqi and American leaders discussed the Security of Forces Agreement.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC Voices of Veterans Project

**Who:** Former members of all our Armed Forces on Joint Base Balad  
**What:** Participate in interviews for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC's Voices of Veterans Project  
**Where:** BLDG 7508, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC PAO  
**When:** Every Monday, 6 October thru 3 November - 1100-1300 hours  
**Why:** We appreciate your service and want to hear your story!

- \*Where did you serve?
- \*What units were you in?
- \*What lessons do you have for today's Servicemembers?
- \*Do you have a VFW or Legion Post you want to say hi to?

"We'll have a cup 'o Joe waitin' for ya!"

**Contact:** ESC PAO @ 433-2412 or 483-4608 or [escpao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escpao@iraq.centcom.mil)

# Hispanic Heritage Month

“Getting involved: our families, our community, our nation.”

by Maj. Andrew E. Montoya

3d ESC

*Editors Note: The flowing essay was selected as the winner of the Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest.*

When I am asked what race I am, I always reply “Hispanic” because I was never told my background. The definition of Hispanic means a U.S. citizen, resident of Latin-American, or Spanish descent. Spanish descent can mean from many different countries. It includes sub-groups such as Mexican American, Cuban American, Puerto Rican American, and so on.

So the question is “What kind of Hispanic am I?” Before I can discuss families, communities, or our nation as a Hispanic, I need to know what race I am. My parents and grandparents are from a small place in New Mexico called Arroyo de Agua. The nearest town is Coyote, which has 343 people 88% of who are Spanish. The nearest cities are Abiquiu, which has 2,617 people 79% of who are Spanish and Espanola, where I was born, has 9,688 people 86% of who are Spanish. The two largest cities in New Mexico are Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

After doing my research, the first thing I discovered was how the Spaniards got to America. The Spaniards began venturing outward from the Caribbean islands in search of gold. In 1513 Juan Ponce de León, sailing from Puerto Rico, encountered and named Florida. The King of Spain encouraged the exploration of new mainland territories for Spain. In 1540, he commissioned the expeditions of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado into the American Southwest and Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo along the western coast of California.

On 11 July 1598, Juan de Oñate headed north to New Mexico with 20 missionaries, 129 soldiers (some with families), and 7,000 head of cattle and founded the first Spanish settlement in New Mexico. Oñate arrived in

the Espanola Valley where the Rio Grande river joined the Chama river and declared it a capital for Spain. The Spanish established the city of Santa Fe as the capital in 1610, incidentally it is the oldest capital city in the United States. Before the 1700s, the Spanish in New Mexico were extending their explorations on both sides of the Rio Grande. In 1706, Governor Cuervo y Valdés announced to the King of Spain that he had founded a villa and named it Albuquerque, after the Duque de Albuquerque.

The Spanish went into Texas, where they founded San Antonio in 1718. Spanish soldiers and missionaries established a string of outposts on the Pacific, including San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara.

Spanish settlers from Sante Fe first began to settle the Chama River valley and by 1744 had established a village there. Twenty families resided in the Montoya village of Santa Rosa de Abiquiu. By Spanish royal decree, settler families were given an agricultural and residential allotment as well as common rights to the land along the river and the surrounding grazing lands. In the mid 1700’s, the Abiquiu Spanish ranchers and farmers made successful settlements in the area of Coyote, where my parents and grandparents are from.

Now that I know about how I got here, I call myself Spanish-American! For my family, by writing this essay will make my son, mother, brothers, and sisters knowledgeable of their Spanish background. For my community, those in the small town of Coyote who have lived there all their life I bring them experiences from around the world through my military service. And for my nation, as I embark on 20 years in the Army, I have the privilege to say I served with honor as a Spanish American.



Maj. Andrew E. Montoya



Photo by Pfc Amanda Tucker

Left to right: Sgt. Joshua Gregerson, a Terre Haute, Ind., native and a communications specialist for Bravo Company, 47th Forward Support Battalion, promoted his older brother James Gregerson, the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) support operations administrative assistant, to the rank of sergeant on Joint Base Balad Oct. 1. Col. Cheri Provancha presented Gregerson his certificate of promotion.

## Soldier promoted to NCO by brother

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – Spc. James Gregerson, a Terre Haute, Ind., native and the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) support operations administrative assistant, was promoted to the rank of sergeant by his younger brother Oct. 1.

With his colleagues surrounding him in the conference room of the 3d ESC headquarters; and his mother, father, wife and children watching through video teleconference, Sgt. Joshua Gregerson stepped from the right side of his brother to relieve him of his rank of specialist, and playfully punch the rank of sergeant in its place.

James’ promotion was the first time he was able to see his younger brother, Joshua, a communications representative for Bravo Company, 47th Forward Support Battalion, in approximately two and a half years - largely due to deployments.

James is stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., and his younger sibling is stationed at Baumholder, Germany, making it hard for the two to see each other in the states. Amazingly, the only opportunity the two brothers have had to see each other were during deployments to Iraq.

During their last deployment, Joshua was in charge of bringing electronics equipment to a depot in Balad, Iraq. James was stationed in Balad at the time, and the two were able to spend some time together.

This time around, they spent their first day together catching up on what had been going on with each other. The next day, they visited the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center to play video games.

“We’re very competitive,” said Joshua. “It doesn’t matter what it is ... I’m going to beat him.”

Joshua said his brother has always been motivated, but when the younger of the two became a noncommissioned officer first, the competition gave James a little more incentive.

Joshua joked that James was embarrassed to be put in the position of parade rest by his younger brother. Despite all of the jokes the two make about each other, it can not be disputed that they care deeply about each other and are happy to be able to spend this special moment together.

Col. Cheri Provancha, a San Diego native and assistant chief of staff for support operations for the 3d ESC, made the reunion possible by contacting the support battalion Joshua was assigned to.

“Families are a part of our organization,” said Provancha. “Any opportunity you can create to bring family together ... has a huge impact on morale. From the moment (Sgt. James) Gregerson even knew that we were trying to do this for him, he’s been on cloud nine.”

James was able to spend time alone with his brother and family via video teleconference after his promotion.

“I want(ed) them to all be a part of it, because they have felt the long deployments also,” said James.

## Maj. Gen. Hertling visits JBB



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling (right), the commanding general of the 1st Armored Division, based out of Baumholder, Germany, sits with Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally (left), the commanding general of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky. and distinguished visitors while listening to keynote speakers at the east Morale, Welfare and Recreation center Oct. 7.

# Iraqi-based Industrial Zone opens two new facilities in Balad

by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**—“There’s an excitement here... and that’s exactly what we need.”

That is the message sent to Coalition Forces, local Iraqi government and business owners, and Iraqi press representatives by Brig. Gen. Nicholas Matern, Deputy Commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, near the end of a much anticipated media day at Joint Base Balad. The Canadian flag officer thanked Soldiers and Airmen supporting local Iraqi government and business leaders forging new economic opportunities.

Matern, along with other high-ranking Coalition officials, made the trip to JBB to attend ceremonies celebrating the opening of two new facilities: an Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone asphalt plant and a business center to respond to administrative needs of local Iraqi businesses.

The I-BIZ asphalt facility will provide employment for scores of Iraqis, particularly members of the Sons of Iraq that are standing down in the wake of security gains. The manufacturing and paving crews will be able to provide profoundly needed services for local Iraqi infrastructure projects as well the installation.

Akeel Najy Marhoon, owner of the Balad Alkema Factory, was awarded the land use agreement to operate the asphalt facility on



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

**Governor of Salah ad Din Province, Hamad Hamood Shekti and other key leaders visit the IBIZ Host Nation Business Center during the official ribbon cutting ceremony held today at Joint Base Balad.**

Joint Base Balad. Hamad Hamood Shekti, Governor of Salah Ad Din Province, and many other Iraqi officials, joined Mr. Marhoon to celebrate the opening.

Gov. Shekti also joined Coalition Forces in the opening of the Host Nation Business Center. HNBC will provide a forward location to register Iraqi companies into the

joint contingency contracting system. Once registered, Iraqi businesses can begin the process of seeking contract opportunities.

The center will provide an easily accessible resource for companies to review open requests for quotes on a bid board and compete for Coalition contracts.

“Contracts is the word we need to help

them understand ... right?” said Matern to I-BIZ project managers.

Matern congratulated Marhoon and other I-BIZ contractors attending the ceremony for their commitment not only to building more economic opportunities for Iraqis, but for their patriotic sense of duty for their country.

The asphalt factory is the latest facility in a complex of I-BIZ initiatives at JBB. To date, Iraqis have launched a shipping container repair facility, automotive service center and recycling operation. A bicycle repair shop, appliance resell center, and Iraqi cuisine restaurants are in the works. Warka Bank is also opening a branch at JBB to facilitate financial transactions.

The progress, which has grown out of strategic partnerships with local Iraqis, gained attention from a more robust national and local Iraqi media contingent than previously witnessed.

“It’s clear the country has a sophisticated and increasingly significant media presence,” said Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, Joint Base Balad installation commander. “This is an Iraqi solution to an Iraqi challenge delivering important news and information to the Iraqi people.”

More than 20 photographers and reporters trained their cameras on center stage, as they celebrated Iraqi success, said Bishop. “A healthy press is a promising sign for any developing democracy.”

**OPERATION SUSTAINER STRONG 2008**  
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 Brigadier General Michael J. Lally

Veterans Day – November 11<sup>th</sup> 2008 – Joint Base Balad

Open to All  
 Active, Reserve, and National Guard  
 Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen  
 assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC  
 and Joint Base Balad

For More Information,  
 Contact your Career Counselor or Retention NCO

**MESSAGES FROM HOME**

*SFC Richard D. Tucker  
 Happy 25th Anniversary babe!! 10.15.83  
 I love you, miss you, you are my hero!!  
 Wish you were here...stay safe...hurry home  
 we have "Our Forever" ahead of us!  
 All my love,  
 Doll xoxoxoxoxo*

# News around Iraq

## Yarmouk Sol transition continues to Iraqi control

**BAGHDAD** – Sons of Iraq from the Yarmouk neighborhood in central Baghdad were given their final payday from U.S. forces at Joint Security Station Yarmouk Oct. 2.

On Oct. 1, the SoI transitioned to the Government of Iraq control. Paying the 35 members of the Yarmouk SoI was the last task to accomplish for Coalition Forces in the area to finalize the transition.

“These guys are fully transitioned to the Government of Iraq right now,” said Capt. James Spofford, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment “They’ll still get paid by the Government of Iraq.”

The SoI transition has gone smoothly due to the good working relationship between Coalition Forces and the Iraqi government, and it appears that the GoI will take the necessary steps needed to ensure SoI members are given continued employment, explained Lt. Col. Doug Kirby, commander of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Some of the SoI have already been transitioned into the Iraqi Army or the Iraqi Police, and these 35 men were the remainder from Yarmouk SoI who hadn’t been transitioned into to the IA or IP. They will continue to be SoI until the Government of Iraq helps them find a job, whether in the Iraqi Security Forces, one of the ministries of government, or in some civilian capacity.

Although the path is clear and the transition must happen, there has been concern among some SoI about the potential outcome and Iraqi government promises.

“When I first heard about the transition, I’ll have to be honest with you, I was a little scared,” said Yassin Mahmoud, SoI commander in Yarmouk. “Some are frightened for the transition.”

Despite these concerns, the Iraqi government is committed to a successful transition and Coalition commanders feel confident in its eventual success and see the transition as a necessary step for the Government of Iraq to take for the establishment of the rule of law and the reconciliation of the Iraqi people.

“They’re taking a huge step forward by supporting these guys, by paying them, and by helping to create meaningful jobs for all of the SoI,” Spofford said.

## Cornerstone for Basra Talent School laid

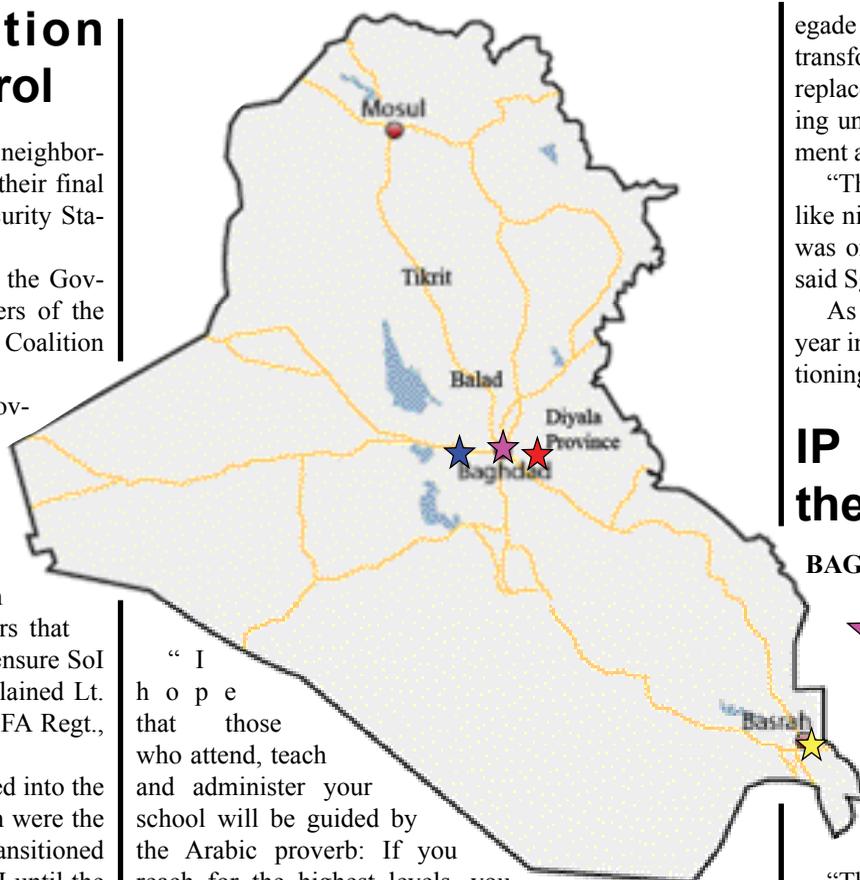
**BASRAH, Iraq** – Local Basrawi officials and the U. S. Regional Embassy Office Director, laid the cornerstone for the Basra Talent School in the Al-Jam’at area Oct. 6.

The school, funded by the Iraqi government, will cost \$3.3 million and house 200 students of both sexes from 12 to 18 years of age.

The school will have 12 classes, a laboratory wing, a lecture theater and boarding facilities. A local Basrawi company should complete the project in nine months.

Students must have a grade of 95 percent or higher and pass two exams consisting of 63 questions each to be accepted from the Barah, Mysan, Di-gar and Al-Mothana provinces. The first exam is administered at the provincial level and the second is administered by the Ministry of Education.

“The concept and construction of the Talent School is a team effort. The ideas behind it were developed by looking at some of the best schools in different parts of the world,” said Chico Negron, the REO Director. “The United States and the United Kingdom will provide the technical assistance in the design and construction of the building.”



“I hope that those who attend, teach and administer your school will be guided by the Arabic proverb: If you reach for the highest levels, you shouldn’t settle for less than the stars,” he said.

## Refurbished schools ready to open in Sadr City

**JAMILLA, Iraq** – This year, the children of Iraq will have safer, refurbished schools thanks to the work of Renegade Soldiers.

Before Company A, Task Force 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, arrived in Sadr City’s Jamilla neighborhood, the schools here were not even used for classes; militants were using the grounds as makeshift hiding places and torture cells. At the few schools that remained open, militants would kidnap children as they went to or from school and hold them for ransom.

“The schools in Jamilla were places of terror, not places of learning,” said 2nd Lt. Nicholas Boykin, Co. A, TF 1-6, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Before repairs could begin, the neighborhood needed to be secure. As Task Force 1-6 arrived in Jamilla, Soldiers immediately improved the security and began chasing the criminals and militants out. The wall built by Renegade and the other companies in the task force isolated Jamilla from the rest of Sadr City, scaring many of the militants out of the area and allowing the economy and civil society to flourish.

As Soldiers prepared projects to rebuild and refurbish the schools in the area, Renegade Soldiers saw just how bad things were at the schools of Jamilla. There are 12 schools total, ranging from kindergarten and elementary schools to all-women schools and high schools in Jamilla.

While some of these schools were in fairly good condition, others were in near shambles. Almost all of them had no electrical power and no air conditioning, which is something essential no matter what time of year in Iraq. The desks were broken, the walls were crumbling and bullet holes could be found punched through the windows and rooftops.

For the repairs to begin, MND-B Soldiers conducted a variety of escort missions to bring personnel from the Civil Affairs Team, Task Force Gold, and from the Government of Iraq’s Ministry of Education to scout out conditions on the ground.

After a complete assessment had been made, TF 1-6 initiated projects to completely overhaul the structures. Ren-

egade Soldiers watched as all of the schools underwent a transformation. Government-hired Iraqis went to work and replaced wire and electric facilities, installed air-conditioning units, desks, dry erase boards, new playground equipment and repainted the inside and outside of the schools.

“The rebuilding and transformation of the schools was like night and day. It really showed the neighborhood who was on their side, trying to make Jamilla a better place,” said Sgt. Mario Braxton, Co. A, TF 1-6.

As a result, children across Jamilla will begin the school year in freshly painted rooms, at a new desk with air conditioning and electric lights.

## IP officers qualify to train their fellow peers

**BAGHDAD** – Twenty Iraqi Police officers graduated the “Steel Trainer” program in Nasser Wa Salam, west of Baghdad, Sept. 25.

The Soldiers of Mortar Platoon “Steel,” 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, began “Steel Trainer” as a train-the-trainer program. Only the best officers from local stations are selected to attend the six-week program.

“These were the best IPs from Abu Ghraib,” said Staff Sgt. Gary Strickland, section sergeant for the Mortar Pltn. “Now that they have graduated Steel Trainer, they are even better.”

The goal of the program is to train the selected IP officers and in turn, they are able to return to their station and train fellow officers what they learned in the program. The course included training on checkpoint operations, clearing houses, making arrests, and searching for weapons and improvised explosive device materials.

At the end of the program, the students are given a final exam in which they are required to complete the tasks they have learned without the help of instructors. The exam proves their competency in the tasks and their ability to go back and train the other officers at their stations, said Strickland.

“These are some of the best Iraqi Police in Abu Ghraib,” said Brig. Gen. Kareem at the graduation ceremony. “With what they have learned over the past six weeks, it will help to improve security in Abu Ghraib.”

## Diyala leaders bring electrical power to the people

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq** – Community leaders brought additional power to the people of Diyala when they unveiled new micro-power generators in the Karadah district of eastern Baghdad during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 30.

The generators will provide power to 300 Diyala households for up to 12 hours a day.

Ali Al Abdilzahara, president of essential services for the Zafaranyah area, cut the ribbon to mark the momentous event. Sabah Alrobaiey, neighborhood council chairman of Diyala, and Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, attended the event to help Diyala residents celebrate the occasion.

“This project will help a lot of people,” said Abdilzahara. “The micro-power generators will help the people get more power and solve some problems in the area.”

The power the generators provide will be free to residents for the first three months. After that period, citizens who draw power from the generators will pay approximately \$8 for every amp of electricity, said Abdilzahara.

# 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.

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 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:

## 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.  
P90x:  
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

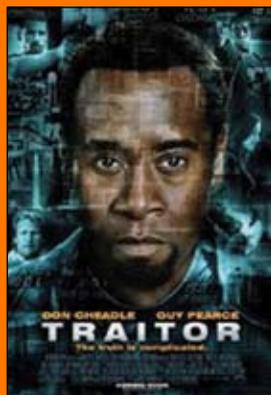
## Movie Times

**Wednesday, October 15**  
5 p.m. Beverly Hills  
Chihuahua  
8 p.m. Mirrors  
**Thursday, October 16**  
5 p.m. The Longshots  
8 p.m. The Rocker  
**Friday, October 17**  
2 p.m. Traitor  
5 p.m. Bangkok Dangerous  
8 p.m. Body Of Lies  
**Saturday, October 18**  
2 p.m. Bangkok Dangerous  
5 p.m. Body Of Lies  
8:30 p.m. Traitor  
**Sunday, October 19**  
2 p.m. Body Of Lies  
5 p.m. Traitor  
8 p.m. Bangkok Dangerous  
**Monday, October 20**  
5 p.m. Body Of Lies  
8 p.m. Disaster Movie  
**Tuesday, October 21**  
5 p.m. Disaster Movie  
8 p.m. Body Of Lies

(Schedule is subject to change)

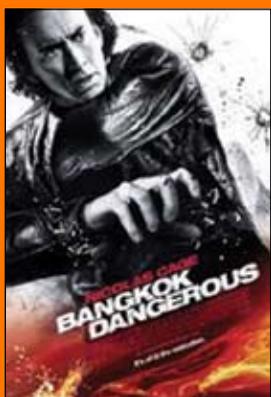
## Movies This Week

### Traitor



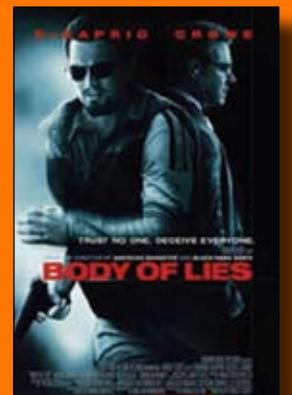
When straight-arrow agent Roy Clayton (Guy Pearce) assumes command of a special FBI task force, he becomes entangled in a web of covert operations. All the clues in Clayton's investigation point to Samir Horn (Don Cheadle), a former Special Ops soldier who now aids terrorists. But as Clayton digs deeper and contradictory evidence begins to emerge, he begins to question Horn's motives.

### Bangkok Dangerous



Remorseless assassin Joe (Nicolas Cage) is in Thailand to complete a series of contract killings for a crime boss called Surat (Nirattisai Kaljaruek). He hires a street punk named Kong (Shahkrit Yamnarm) to run errands for him, all the while planning to kill the youth at the conclusion of his assignment. Instead, Joe becomes Kong's unlikely mentor, and begins a tentative romance with a local shop girl. But, as Joe begins to let his guard down, Surat decides it is time to clean house.

### Body of Lies



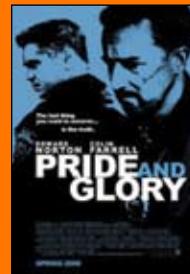
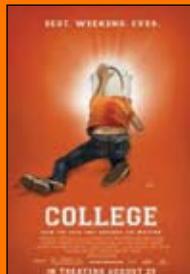
Based on Washington Post columnist David Ignatius' 2007 novel about a CIA operative, Roger Ferris (Leonardo DiCaprio), who uncovers a lead on a major terrorist leader suspected to be operating out of Jordan. When Ferris devises a plan to infiltrate his network, he must first win the backing of cunning CIA veteran Ed Hoffman (Russell Crowe) and the collegial, but perhaps suspect, head of Jordanian intelligence. Although ostensibly his allies, Ferris questions how far he can really trust these men without putting his entire operation – and his life – on the line.

### Disaster Movie



spoof sending up disaster movies in this Lionsgate production. Matt Lanter, Vanessa Minnillo, G-Thang, and Kim Kardashian head up the cast as a group of concerned citizens willing to do whatever it takes to save planet Earth from being incinerated by falling meteors or overrun by rabid chipmunks. Along the way, everything from High School Musical to Cloverfield gets the parody treatment. Carmen Electra and Tony Cox co-star.

**Movies  
Coming Soon**



**Movies  
Coming Soon**

# 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.

### Washington

- No person may walk about in public if he or she has the common cold.
- It is illegal to entice girls away from the Maple Lane School for girls.
- People may not buy a mattress on Sunday.
- It is illegal to pretend that one's parents are rich.

### West Virginia

- When a railroad passes within 1 mile of a community of 100 or more people in it, they must build a station and stop there regularly to pick up and drop off passengers.
- A person may be placed in jail for up to six months for making fun of someone who does not accept a challenge.
- It is illegal to cause a catastrophe.
- According to the state constitution, it is unlawful for anyone to own a red or a black flag.

# Sudoku

Level: Easy

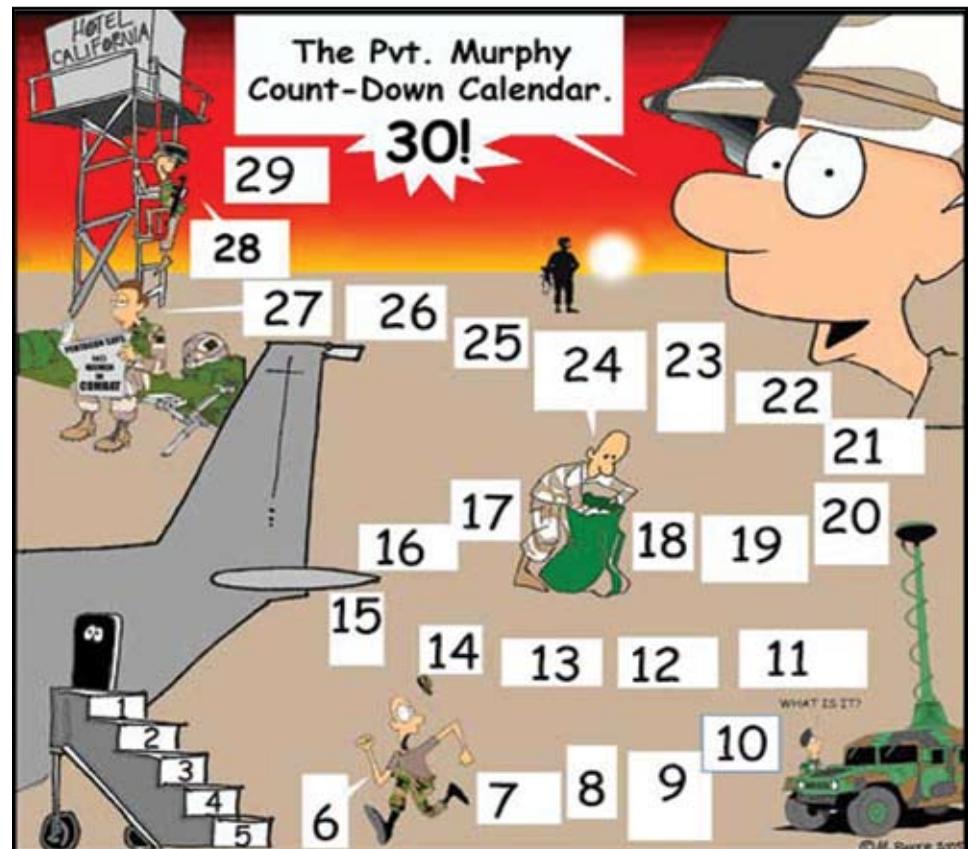
The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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

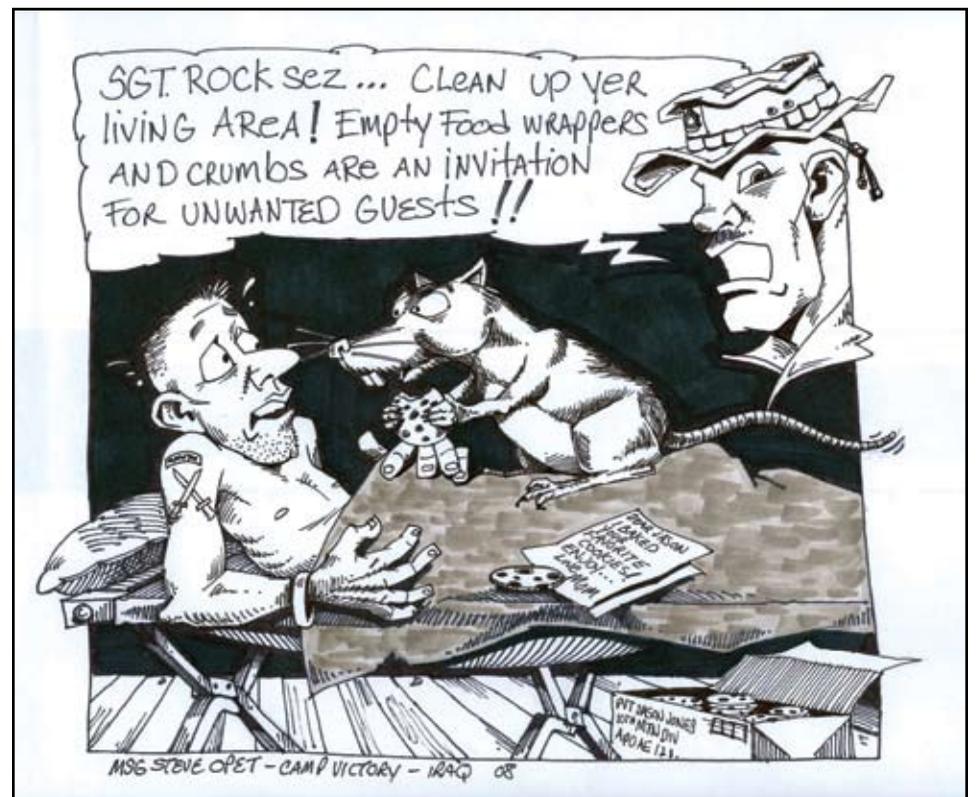
Last weeks answers

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

## PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



## Iraq according to Opet



## Upcoming sports on AFN



### Wednesday 10/15/08

NHL: Philadelphia Flyers @ Pittsburgh Penguins, live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NHL: Anaheim Ducks @ Los Angeles Kings, live 5:50 AFN/xtra  
 NBA Europe Live 2008 (Preseason): New Orleans Hornets vs Washington Wizards (O2 World, Berlin, Germany), tape delayed 10:30 AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed, 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports  
 2008 American League Championship Series - Game 4: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

State \*2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2008 National League Championship Series - Game 6: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Thursday 10/16/08

2008 National League Championship Series - Game 5: Teams TBD (If Necessary), live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 US Men's Soccer - International Qualifier: USA vs Trinidad & Tobago, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA China Games 2008 (Preseason): Milwaukee Bucks vs Golden State Warriors (Guangzhou Gymnasium, Guangzhou, China), tape delayed 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed, 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports  
 2008 National League Championship Series - Game 5: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

### Sunday 10/19/08

College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 College Football: College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 UFC 89: Bisping vs Leben (The NIA, Birmingham, England), live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NFL Week 7: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL Week 7: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Subway 500 (Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, VA), live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NFL Week 7: Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL Week 7: Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

### Friday 10/17/08

ESPN College Football Primetime: Florida State @ North Carolina State, live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 2008 American League Championship Series - Game 5: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 MLS Primetime Thursday: New England Revolution @ DC United, tape delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Florida State @ North Carolina State, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 2008 American League Championship Series - Game 5: Teams TBD, tape delayed 7 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA Europe Live 2008 (Preseason): Washington Wizards vs New Orleans Hornets (Palau Sant Jordi, Barcelona, Spain), live 10 p.m. AFN/sports

### Monday 10/20/08

2008 American League Championship Series - Game 7: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 7: Seattle Seahawks @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers, live 3:15 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 UFC 89: Bisping vs Leben (The NIA, Birmingham, England), tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 ATP Tennis Masters Series - Mutuamadrilena Masters: Men's Final (Madrid, Spain), tape delayed 10:30 AFN/sports  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 7: Seattle Seahawks @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers, tape delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
 UFC 89: Bisping vs Leben (The NIA, Birmingham, England), tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 7: Seattle Seahawks @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 10/18/08

ESPN College Football Primetime: Hawaii @ Boise State, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 2008 National League Championship Series - Game 6: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: San Jose Sharks @ Anaheim Ducks, live 5 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
 NBA China Games 2008 (Preseason): Milwaukee Bucks vs Golden State Warriors (Beijing Olympic Basketball Arena, Beijing, China), live 6:30 AFN/xtra  
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Hawaii @ Boise

### Tuesday 10/21/08

ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 7: Denver Broncos @ New England Patriots, live 3:30 AFN/sports  
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 7: Denver Broncos @ New England Patriots, tape delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 7: Denver Broncos @ New England Patriots, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

# Servicemembers boost morale with "Army 10-Miler"



Photos by Pfc Amanda Tucker

**TOP:** Sgt. Yvonne Quinn, the drivers training noncommissioned officer in charge for the 8th Ordnance Company  
**RIGHT:** Servicemembers near the end of the "Army 10-Miler" on Joint Base Balad Oct. 5.

by Pfc Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - The 20th Quartermaster Company hosted a deployed version of the "Army 10-Miler" on Joint Base Balad Oct. 5.

A large amount of effort was made to ensure that the event was available to everyone. A base-wide message was sent out with a link for on-line registration. Soldiers were also stationed at the East Side Circuit Gym until 8 p.m. the night before the race for last minute applicants.

Sgt. 1st Class Luciano Reyna, an Austin, Texas, native and a 20th Qm. Co. platoon sergeant, and 1st Lt. Mary Lou Drilling, a Milford, Ohio, native and platoon leader for the 20th Qm. Co., 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., were chosen to coordinate the event. It seems appropriate, given the fact Drilling participated in the "Army 10-Miler" run in Washington, D.C., with the Fort Lee team.

"It was an amazing experience, but the only way that we knew to build it up here was to have the volunteer water points and have the people involved," said

Drilling.

On base, participants didn't have the Pentagon, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument or our nation's capital building as motivational tools like Drilling did, but they did have the support of six units during the early morning run. Each of the units were responsible for decorating one checkpoint to motivate the runners. Reyna and Billings encouraged the units to get creative and compete for prizes.

The 8th Ordnance Company provided a high morale boost at their checkpoint with music and a fire truck showering the runners. The 8th Ord. Co. woodshop

made a large superman insignia with the number eight in the center and suspended it above the track as they made their way to checkpoint five. Soldiers from the unit stretched out their arms with cups of water for the runners as they ran.

"We wanted to do something different before we left," said Sgt. Wayne Riley, an Atlanta native and ammunition specialist for the 8th Ord. Co.

Josh Sherrod, a Rock Island, Ill., native and budget analyst for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, based out of Hawaii, took first place in the race with a final time of one hour and three seconds.

Regardless of the reason for running the "Army 10-Miler", the event was a success with more than 800 runners participating from Iraq.