

# JOINT BASE BALAD'S EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 20

Living the  
American Dream  
See page 5



Iraqi transporters  
graduate

68th Transportation  
Company from Man-  
nheim Germany trained  
new Iraqi unit

See page 12

Base transition  
See page 10

## Supplying backpacks pg. 5



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Aaron LeBlanc

Capt. Audrey Iriberry of the 1st Sustainment Brigade Iraqi Security Forces Cell, shows two young Iraqi girls a photo she took of them wearing their new backpacks. The children received the backpacks as part of a humanitarian aid mission that provided the Somer School with supplies.

## 7th Sustainment Brigade warrant officer shows skills that build structures, confidence

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq** -- To combat insurgents and assist in the handover of Iraqi logistics to the country's citizens, logistical units under the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are occasionally required to adapt as missions change.

The 7th Sustainment Brigade, from Ft. Eustis, Va., was fortunate to find in one of their staff the abilities that have helped the 7th Sust. Bde. engage Iraqis living in the Dhi Qar province with proj-

ects promoting healthy relations.

Meet Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Gauthreaux.

Gauthreaux, a New Orleans native, was instrumental in the renovation of local schools and clinics, refurbishing reverse osmosis water purification units in a local village and providing irrigation systems for local farmers.

Since February, Gauthreaux and Major Robert Hudson, the officer in charge of civil-military operations for the 7th Sust. Bde., worked together to create ways for the brigade to meet the needs of many Iraqi citizens.

Having served for more than 24 years as a marine engineering officer, Gauthreaux was uniquely qualified to be a leader for the projects.

"A lot of people in civil affairs

don't work on ROWPUs because they do not understand the operation," Gauthreaux said. "In my job as an Army mariner we have small crews, so we have to learn more skill sets. We are taught about diesel engines, plumbing, water purification, welding . . . basically anything that can break on a boat."

Gauthreaux, who was also tasked to focus on brick and mortar projects, knew it was important to find out if the local contractors were familiar with correctly refurbishing structures.

When meeting with some of the prospective contractors, Gauthreaux understood that it was not enough to hire a person who would be agreeable; they needed to be skilled in the specific task.

"When I conducted my inter-

view for the ROWPU, I had to know how the contractors planned on preparing and cleaning the pretreatment tank," Gauthreaux said. "It must be painted with a two-part epoxy paint. It can't be a water or oil-based paint."

"When I interviewed one guy, I asked him what type of paint he would use. He said, 'Good paint.' I asked him what kind. He told me 'The really good paint.'"

Gauthreaux said this is the type of information needed before you embark on this type of project.

Gauthreaux's thoroughness won him admirers in the Dhi Qar community.

Hussein Risan, of the Al Fawaz village, said he is happy for the chief's service to his village and is proud to have friends like him.

During a recent visit to the Al

Ashyabb schoolhouse, 7th Sust. Bde. officials met with Mohammed Taleh, the Al Batha city council member who initiated contact with Gauthreaux. Taleh told Gauthreaux he would push for the school to be renamed in honor of the chief.

Gauthreaux never planned on being a pioneer for the 7th Sust. Bde.; he was originally assigned as a route sanitation officer.

"My job was to look out for trash or dead carcasses on the supply routes," said Gauthreaux. "I would take the information and pass it along to the battlespace owners."

While on duty, Gauthreaux learned of a route whose road had suffered significant erosion.

See Gauthreaux, Page 9

## 332 ESFS Blotter: 25 Oct. – 30 Oct.

### UXO Discovery:

KBR personnel contacted Security Forces to report possible UXOs at the incinerator pit. SF arrived on scene with EOD and Fire. EOD personnel determined the UXO's to be 20 and 30mm rounds which were taken under control for later disposal. SF response terminated.

### Vehicle Mishap:

An Air Force servicemember notified sea civilian contractor notified Security Forces of a vehicle mishap concerning his assigned vehicle. He further stated that approximately 0900 upon exiting his living quarters, he noticed skid marks and a paint transfer to his vehicle. digital photos were taken to document the vehicle damage and a statement was completed on-scene.

### Fire Response:

Security Forces were notified of a fire response to Bldg. 8208. SF patrols responded to assist and were briefed by the Fire Chief that the cause for alarm was an overheated power convertor. Response was terminated.

### Failure to Obey a Lawful Order or Instruction:

A Naval Customs Officer contacted Security Forces in reference to contraband discovered during customs processing. SF Patrols arrived on-scene and accomplished statements regarding the found contraband. The offender was located and transported to Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest for processing and questioning. The subject refused to make a statement and requested legal counsel. A report was accomplished and the offender was released to his chain

### Medical Emergency:

An unknown individual contacted Security Forces via 911 to report a medical emergency. SF patrols arrived on-scene and made contact with medical personnel already treating the victim. Medical stated they would be transporting the individual for further evaluation at the AFTH. SF Response was terminated.

### Found Property:

A civilian contractor contacted the Security Forces in regards to found property at her work location. SF Patrols responded and took the property into safekeeping via DA Form 4137.

### Lost Property:

An Air Force Member entered Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest to report loss of personal property. The member discovered currency missing from her wallet that was accidentally turned in with laundry. A statement was taken; however, base policy states that laundry personnel are not responsible for items left in clothing. Member was informed to notify SF if the property is recovered.

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:

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SIPR- 241-1171

Email- [PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil)

## 'HOOAH' SOLDIER OF THE WEEK



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Staff Sgt. Daniel Cruz, a Laredo, Texas, native and human resources sergeant with the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week".

## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>rd</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>rd</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.

# Mittica hosts workshop series

by Sgt. RJ Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

**CAMP MITTICA, Iraq** -- Lectures were given at Camp Mittica, Iraq Oct. 13, 16 and 19, as part of a business development workshop series spearheaded by the 7th Sustainment Brigade as well as the 217th Brigade Support Battalion, the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The workshop conducted on the first day covered topics including: Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, making a business plan, and constructing and running a trade-show booth.

The I-BIZ portion of the workshop was the topic upon which all the attendee's attention was most

pointedly fixed, and for good reason, it was all about them.

"The I-BIZ program is an initiative to help stimulate the economy in the Dhi Qar province," said Maj. Tommy L. Osborn, director of base plans for the 217th BSB and acting I-BIZ manager.

"The goal of the I-BIZ program is to develop the economic systems in the Dhi Qar province," Osborn said. "What we can do on this installation (Contingency Operating Base Adder) is to start focusing more on the Iraqi businesses. With I-BIZ we are re-energizing Iraqi First. Iraqi First awards contracts to Iraqi businesses. So, I-BIZ does what Iraqi First did and it synchronizes contracts with maneuver elements of installation command."

A major goal of I-BIZ is to turn over the COB Adder job positions that are being filled by third country nationals to Iraqis. A few of the jobs include MWR staffers, dining facility employees and laundry workers.

As Osborn said when addressing the business conference: "The end state of the I-BIZ program is

for (everyone) from Dhi Qar province to be providing these services on post."

Other topics discussed included how to make a business plan and how to run a tradeshow both.

"I liked it," said Majed Jasem, a local Iraqi contractor, "I benefited from the workshop. All of the Iraqi contractors have business experience but the plan of the contract ... how to make the project, we don't know how to plan for the project. So, we are getting this information here."

During the second day of workshops was on par with the first day regarding attendance, with approximately 20 local Iraqi business owners were present. The topic discussed was U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Gulf Region South-centric.

"We discussed the key steps in the USACE-GRS contracting process from initial scope of work to contract award, adhering to the Defense Base Act insurance requirements, evaluation factors, letters of recommendation, security plan, the need for accurate

electronic fund transfer information for payment purposes and accessing solicitation web sites such as [www.baghdadbusinesscenter.org](http://www.baghdadbusinesscenter.org)," said Karen L. Johnson, a contract specialist with USACE-GRS.

This specific workshop was the direct result of Nasiriyah businessmen's request for more in-depth training regarding the winning of USACE-GRS contracts after a more general course in the matter was given at one of the previous business workshops.

Day two of the workshop focused on USACE-GRS contracts in general.

"The information is very nice and very useful for us," said Abed A. Sharad, owner of Alahram Alalmea, a business that specializes in road work. "But it would be even better if they gave specific classes on winning contracts for us. For instance, a course on construction contracts for people who specialize specifically in construction."

Day three's subject matter dealt with how to win a USACE-GRS

contract in school construction.

The turnout of the workshop was approximately four times what was expected, prompting last-minute adaptations in order to accommodate the unexpected arrivals.

"We had a full house, and this was the largest turnout yet for the four workshops that we have done — about twice the size that we usually get," said Staff Sgt. Charles W. Robinson, the 7th Sustainment Brigade civil military operations noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We had 39 participants," Robinson said. "They were very surprised. Because this (USACE) GRS Workshop targeted school projects specifically. They thought they would have half the number of participants as usual and only expected about ten people in all."

They had to quickly photo copy more hand-outs to accommodate everyone who showed up."

## 356th Quartermaster Company keeps supplies moving in and out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- The 356th Quartermaster Company serves as the materiel depot for the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), providing the ability to identify, import and export various classes of supplies to customers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members of the 356th QM Co., deployed from Lake Wales, Fla., serve as the military representatives for the base's central issue facility, the self service supply center, and the central distribution center. The center houses a forward redistribution point and a multi-class supply and support warehouse.

Unit officials reported that the 356th QM Co. provides direct and indirect support for over 600 organizations within the U.S. Central Command. The unit provides everything from uniforms for Soldiers to parts and repair services for downed vehicles.

Capt. Michael Emma, commander of the 356th QM Co., said the unit serves as a deluxe collection point and cost-effective solution for the 3d ESC.

"All retrograde material comes to (Joint Base Balad and gets) distributed to the warfighter in

a timely manner," said Emma, a resident of St. Lucien County, Fla. "That helps limit Soldiers traveling roads frequently to obtain (those) items."

The redistribution point, also known as an FRP, receives all excess material and equipment from different units and forward operating bases that have downsized or closed down. Sgt. Sandra DeCristo, a shift supervisor and actions coordinator at the redistribution

Cristo said.

A team of Soldiers separate serviceable and non-serviceable items along with verifying their NSNs before repacking for storage or movement. The items are then either made available for customers to acquire through a walkthrough procedure or sent to Kuwait to be identified and shipped to a final destination.

"This warehouse saves money by redistributing items that have

al units, like military transition teams and logistics training and assistance teams, occasionally come through looking for items and may not have appropriate purchasing documents. Contractors don't have the authority to arbitrarily hand supplies over to a customer who may have improper identification, but Payan said his presence through E-mail or face-to-face discussion helps alleviate problems.

"Rules without interaction will lead to rebellion," said Payan. "You've got to have interaction — that's just being a good person and it's important in any business."

Payan said the unit avoids doing dedicated requests at the multiclass facility because customers have to wait on an exact item from a specific location. Through referrals and high-priority orders to other SSAs the unit can get items in a timely manner.

"The SSAs work under (the) same umbrella, nobody is selfish in theater," said Payan. "Everything in theater is not limited by budget unlike in non-combat areas."

While maintaining a large amount of materiel, unit members must be flexible as additional taskings can emerge. Three personnel were assigned to a LTAT team in eastern Iraq. Two others

were assigned as Soldier support at the Air Force Theater Hospital.

Payan said that, whether responding to a high priority repair order on a downed humvee or distributing writing materials, the 356th QM Co. will go above and beyond to solve any complications and make sure their customers remain mission capable.

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"Rules without interaction will lead to rebellion."

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1st Lt. Scott Payan  
356th Quarter Master Company

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point, said the warehouse houses over 100,000 line items that vary depending on what equipment arrives and departs.

Decristo, a Miami native, said that kind of movement means it is very important to make sure the part and the national stock number match up before being documented.

"One number off of an NSN can affect the intended delivery and status of a customer's order," said Decristo.

"Already purchased, the item, if processed improperly, will have customers requesting something they are not going to get," De-

already been purchased," said DeCristo. "We just try to make sure items get out in a timely manner."

The 356th QM Co. also manages the SSA, providing oversight for five classes of supplies to the warfighter. 1st Lt. Scott Payan, the officer in charge of the SSA, said they leave the day-to-day operations to civilian employees, but a military presence is essential to their customers.

Payan, a native of Deltona, Fla., said some customers don't know what paperwork has to be presented or completed when making a request. Non-tradition-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Spc. Antonio Delacruz, an item inspector with the 356th Quartermaster Company, documents the content of a package Oct. 17 at Joint Base Balad's Joint Distribution Center. Delacruz is a native of Bowling Green, Florida.**

# OPERATION SUSTAINER STRONG 2008

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# Soldier becomes U.S. citizen during deployment overseas

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson  
16th SB Public Affairs

**CONTIGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq --** He left Kolkata, India

to follow his wife to the United States in May 2005.

Now he is a Soldier in the U.S. Army deployed to Iraq. He is about to accomplish a long-time goal: to become a U.S. citizen.

Spc. Arvind Mishra, postal clerk, 18th Human Resources Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, will

become a full-fledged citizen when he is naturalized, along with other Soldiers, during a ceremony at Joint Base Balad in November.

“My reason to be a citizen is to be part of the great American society and culture, so I can serve more freely,” Mishra says. “Living in America, along with serving (in the) U.S. Army and not (being a) U.S. citizen, sounds (like a) mismatch in itself.”

The naturalization ceremony is a quick resolution to a life-long dream he set in motion last year.

In May 2007 Mishra’s platoon sergeant suggested he apply for citizenship. He hasn’t looked back since.

“Is working in (the) U.S. Army not a great

cause? I am fully committed to my job. India may be great country, but my only concern in India is (that) my parents live there. This is it. Now (whether or not) it’s good or bad, (the) bottom-line is (that) I am not going anywhere, till death.” Mishra says.

Mishra says the decision to become a U.S. citizen was a big one, but he doesn’t have any doubts.

“It may be a life-changing decision, but I am pretty sure I am not going to feel any changes, because I am already changed,” Mishra says.

“I am a Soldier. I am a paratrooper. I am proud of myself. I thank God for this,” he says.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Spc. Arvind Mishra, of the 18th Human Resources Company, 16th Special Troop Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade became a U.S. citizen while deployed to Iraq.

# 1st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers supply Taji youth with backpacks

by Spc. Michael Behlin  
Expeditionary Times staff

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq --** Soldiers from the 1st Sustainment Brigade gave away backpacks filled with school supplies Oct. 15 to children of the Somer School, near Taji, in an attempt to strengthen the relationship between Iraqi citizens and Coalition Forces.

Traveling with the Soldiers was 1st Sust. Bde. Chaplain, Maj. Terry Hayes, a Grants Pass, Ore., native. He described the events as important in providing help to the Iraqi citizens.

“It’s been a great experience getting our Soldiers out of the forward operating base and into the schools and classrooms to meet the children and teachers,” said Hayes. “These missions are important for getting the American people involved in producing peace. It’s a good ministry and mission for our friends, families and loved ones back home to feel like

they can personally have a part in the efforts over here.”

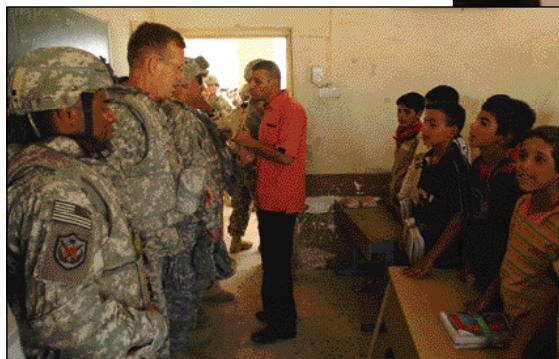
The mission allowed Coalition Forces the chance of earning the trust, support and respect of the Iraqi citizens at the youngest age.

“The humanitarian mission is a great aspect of what we are able to provide as American people in support of the local Iraqi populace,” said Cpt. Audrey Iriberry of the 1st Sust. Bde. Iraqi Security Forces Cell and New York, N.Y., native. “Humanitarian missions enable Coalition Forces to get their faces out to the Iraqi people and it helps the local populace gain support and loyalty toward the American people.”



LEFT: 1st Sustainment Brigade Chaplain, Maj. Terry Hayes, 2nd from left, speaks with students of the Somer School, near Taji, about their future endeavors as Iraqi citizens. Hayes was part of a humanitarian mission Oct. 15 that gave backpacks filled with school supplies to school children.

TOP: Cpt. Audrey Iriberry of the 1st Sustainment Brigade Iraqi Security Forces Cell, hands out backpacks to young school girls Oct. 15 at the Somer School, near Taji. Iriberry traveled to the school as part of a humanitarian aid mission that provided Iraqi youth with school supplies.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

**Do you have a story idea?**  
Contact the Expeditionary Times  
expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

# Living the American Dream

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** -- Between 1892 and 1954, more than 12 million people came to the United States through Ellis Island in pursuit of the American dream, hoping to find a better life in a land of opportunity.

Like the immigrants who passed through Ellis Island, Staff Sgt. Vincent Zokou, the items manager for the General Supply Branch of the 1st Sustainment Brigade here, came to the United States in search of the same dream.

And during his journey, he decided to serve the country that provided him a new way of life.

The 1st Sust. Bde., is currently serving a 15-month deployment in Iraq. It is a diverse organization, both in the missions it conducts and the Soldiers who carry them out.

There are Soldiers of different races and religions who come from about 20 different countries all over the world. Regardless of which country they have come from, they all swore to defend the United States of America.

In a unit, we all have different backgrounds. It's really important to get to know about people's backgrounds just to better interact with each other," Zokou stated.

Zokou was born in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), a French-speaking country located in West Africa. He grew up in a relatively large family, with of 32 siblings.

At the age of five, Zokou's parents divorced and he went to live with his father. Although his father made a living as a registered nurse, he did not make

enough money to support his children and nine wives.

At the age of 13, Zokou left the rural area of Saioua and headed to Yamoussoukro, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire, to live with his uncle.

"My uncle took me in to put me in a better school. I only went home every summer vacation to work in the wood plant from age 13 to 20," Zokou says.

After graduating from high school in 1982, Zokou had trouble finding work.

After four years of being unable to find

and told them where I was coming from and that I was just coming to the United States. One of them took me in and helped me out to get back on my feet," Zokou says.

After a few months, Zokou found a job as a dishwasher at a nursing home. While working there, he taught himself how to speak English by conversing with his co-workers.

"What I learned from people by talking at work actually helped me when I went to school for English as a second language.

2002. Two years after that I lost my father and I still couldn't go. The country just wasn't safe for me to go home," Zokou explained.

While at home, Zokou was able to see family and friends he hadn't seen in more than a decade. He also visited his old schools, including his elementary school, high school and a couple of colleges he attended when he was younger.

"I went to my elementary school where I was in first grade. I actually went and sat on the table and the table was so

small," Zokou says with a laugh. "I was with my brother and he saw the happiness on my face. To be able to come back to my roots and see where I came from — there were tremendous feelings."

Staff Sgt. Vincent Zokou  
1st Sustainment Brigade

Looking back, Zokou says he is proud of where he came from and the direction that his

*"The Ivory Coast used to be a pretty good country until the war broke out in 2002. Two years after that I lost my father and I still couldn't go. The country just wasn't safe for me to go home,"*

a satisfactory job, he made the decision to leave his country and go to the U.S.

"When I left the Ivory Coast on Oct. 7, 1988, I knew no one. I didn't even know where to spend the first night, and at that time I only had \$137 in my pocket when I left the airport," Zokou says.

Zokou landed in New York City and faced another problem:

He only spoke French.

In his situation, some people might have started to question his decision to leave home. However, Zokou was determined.

Chance also intervened that day; through the kindness of a stranger, Zokou was able to begin his new life in America.

"I was standing at a Metro Pass station when all off a sudden I heard two people speaking French. I approached them

It only took me one semester to master the college-level English," Zokou says.

After learning English, Zokou decided to continue his education and pursue a career as a registered nurse.

During his first semester in college, Zokou took a step in another direction and joined the Army at age 33.

In his 14-year career in the Army, Zokou received his citizenship and has earned a bachelor's degree in psychology.

This last August, while on leave from Iraq, Zokou went home for the first time in 13 years. His mother had died. Although his reason for going home was a sad one, he said he was still grateful to go home because he had not been able to go back when his father died in 2004.

"The Ivory Coast used to be a pretty good country until the war broke out in

life has taken. He says his family is also proud of the decision he made.

"They don't just see me as a Soldier, but they see me as someone who has been successful. Being a U.S. Soldier in the Ivory Coast is like being VIP," Zokou says.

Today, Zokou says he plans to retire as a master sergeant and then pursue a career as a high school teacher or a psychologist.

"If you want something, you can have it. Looking at my story, I came to the U.S. with no money in my pocket and today I'm a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army," Zokou says.

"Coming in at 33 years old in the Army as a Private and today I'm a staff sergeant after 14 years, I think that's pretty good," Zokou says. "I'm not quite where I need to be at, but I have come a long way."

## SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY VIDEO HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

LEFT TO RIGHT: Spc. Vanessa Herrera, Spc. Roxanne Bailey and Spc. Brittney Wilson look through care packages on Forward Operating Base Normandy in Iraq Oct. 29. The care packages were brought by convoy from Joint Base Balad.

## Knowledge management enables Servicemembers

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- Knowledge management is defined in Field Manual 6-01.1 as, "the art of creating organizing, applying, and transferring knowledge to facilitate situational understanding and decision making."

But what does that mean to Soldiers and leaders in the military?

The purposes of knowledge management is to provide commanders relevant information and knowledge for making informed, timely decisions, enable quick linking up between many organizations and Soldiers requiring knowledge and to allow quick adaptation during active operations.

"We provide the tools for the units to be able to share information across supply commands," said Sgt. First Class Michael Behrens, a Bemerton, Wash., native and the knowledge management noncommissioned officer in charge for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky.

Secret internet protocol router computers have enabled commanders to pass information without jeopardizing operations. Active fragmentary orders, convoy planning tools, mission information and command information is made available so as to maintain mission effectiveness.

Without access to SIPR, commanders would be forced to contact individuals directly, which causes lag in communication due to conflicting schedules and varied locations.

The information being passed is just as important on the way the information is shared. Subordinate brigades need information in a timely manner, so most of the information pertinent to the mission is tailored to the brigades.

The knowledge management process is broken into five steps: assess, design, develop, pilot and implement.

During an assessment, units identify what needs to be known for the mission's success out of the information given. Design is finding a way to answer questions from a particular group by managing the information for that group in a way to make it easily accessible. The information collected from assessing and designing the information is then developed into a framework. The units then pilot, or test, which solution is the most efficient in providing information. The unit implements the knowledge management into the unit's operations.

"An educated decision is better than a educated guess," said Behrens. "The more information that we can get out to the commanders and the Soldiers the more prepared they are to make ... decisions when it comes to mission success."

## Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service is the Department of Defense activity that is responsible for the disposal of scrap and hazardous property generated by DoD activities, as well as the demilitarization of equipment. Disposal of any of this property by a means other than DRMS requires approval of the combatant commander and concurrence from the Defense Logistics Agency.

DRMO Balad is here to provide the deployed warfighter with a simplified reference for turning in DEMIL required, scrap and hazardous excess property on a DD form 1348-1 (Turn in Document). It will provide answers to basic questions and should be used in conjunction with the Defense Materiel Disposition Manual (DoD 4160.21-M), the Environmental Final Governing Standards, operations plans and service specific directives and instructions.

A list of all references, publications, and manuals can be found in the back of the customer service handbook located on the Joint Base Balad mayor's cell website. This handbook contains the basic information needed for a contingency operation.

NW  
Corner  
of JBB

Victory  
Loop

DRMO

Hours of Operation:

Turn-In: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 08:00-17:00  
Reutilization: Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 08:00-17:00  
Sundays Open by Appointment Only.

Location: Building 4255 North Victory Loop,

Phone: DSN: 312-661-7444 x6010

Email address: DRMS-ME Balad Personnel (DRMS-ME@dla.mil)

Additional details and information can be obtained from the DRMS website at <http://www.dla.mil/default.aspx>.

## Sustainers host Army materiel commander

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- Gen. Benjamin Griffin, the commander of United States Army Materiel Command, based out of Ft. Belvoir, Va., visited Joint Base Balad Oct. 22 to as part of a theater-wide visit.

The purpose of Gen. Griffin's visit was to review on-going AMC operations including equipment fielding, retrograde, reset, and combat sustainment operations.

Griffin was welcomed by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commander of the Fort Knox-based 3d Sustainment Command

(Expeditionary) and received a number of briefings at multiple stops on Joint Base Balad including the Corps Distribution Center, 3d ESC's Joint Operations Center, and Fort Lewis's 555th Engineer Brigade headquarters.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness – technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment – to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations. According to AMC, "If a soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, or eats it, AMC provides it."

# 3<sup>d</sup> ESC holds quarterly safety council meeting

by Spc. Michael Behlin

ExpeditionaryTimes staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – The 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held its quarterly safety council meeting Oct. 11, to discuss safety issues within its subordinate units.

Attending the meeting through video teleconference were key leaders and safety officials from the 3d ESC and subordinate brigades, including the 7th Sustainment Brigade, 55th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 371st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and the 330th Transportation Battalion.

During the meeting, the groups discussed safety issues and solutions to issues that included vehicle rollovers, third-country national accidents, ammunition safety, mine resistant ambush protected vehicle safety and survivability, and electrical fires.

“Our large number of TCN accidents is one that is weighing heavily on our hearts and minds right now,” said Mr. Charles Timms, the 3d ESC safety director. “Due to them costing us time, money, and the necessity to the commodity issues that they are causing us, we’re looking to them being an issue, just like the electrical fires has been over the years.”

Timms referred to the 3d ESC and subordinate brigades as seeking solutions to lower the number of TCN accidents because if it’s not stopped now, it could become a growing problem throughout the

Iraqi theater.

Among the TCN accidents, a large majority have come from vehicle accidents in which drivers fall asleep during convoy logistics patrols. These accidents are from drivers not getting the proper amount of rest, and have even come from improperly maintained equipment.

“What we need to do is identify which carriers we’re having problems with and

person, go back to the contractor, and let them know that there are concerns about them and get it documented.”

Another issue addressed during the meeting was that of proper ammunition disposal and safety. On JBB, as well as other military posts throughout the Iraqi theater, ammunition is being improperly disposed of. So far, there has been ammunition found in areas such as burn pits and

that there is no punishment for Soldiers who turn in ammunition. This rule is in place to encourage the proper disposal of ammunition by Servicemembers.

The overall message throughout the meeting was accident prevention and leadership engagement. With leadership engagement, accidents are looked to be reduced through training and situational awareness among Soldiers.

“It’s absolutely essential that we come together to talk about these types of issues,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Tennant, the senior enlisted member of the 3d ESC. “It’s important that we come together at the senior level with the ESC to talk about safety because we don’t want to lose any Soldiers or civilians due to a safety issue.”

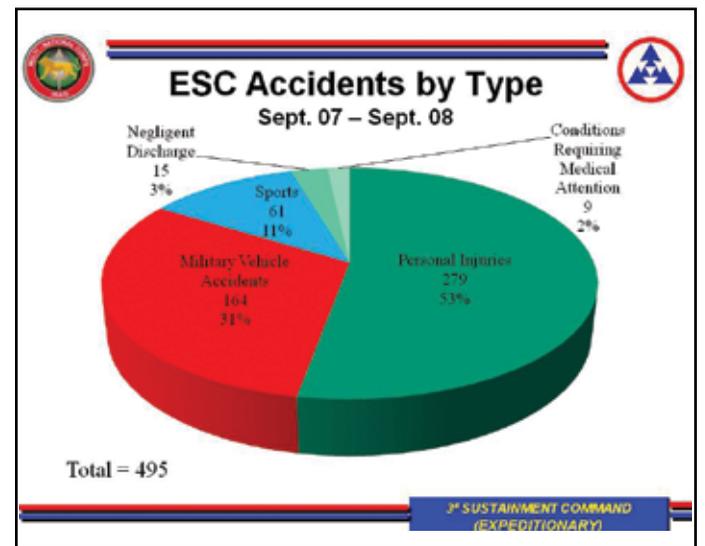
*“What we need to do is identify which carriers we’re having problems with and then we’ll engage about what needs to be done about the equipment standards.”*

Brig. Gen. Michael Lally  
3d ESC commanding general

then we’ll engage about what needs to be done about the equipment standards,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general. “If we have drivers that we have continuing concerns about, whether the concern is that they’re always falling asleep on you, using drugs and alcohol, or whatever your concern is that they’re an unsafe driver putting other people in the convoy at risk because of their behavior, we need to identify that

trash cans, which is a real concern because while it could discharge in these areas, it could also fall into the wrong hands.

A point that Lally continuously stressed was that there are amnesty boxes throughout military posts, and



## JOINT BASE BALAD

### Presents

#### NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH ESSAY CONTEST

- Open to all on JBB
- 12 point font size, Double space, 2 pages or less
- Must pertain to the National Theme: “Living in Many Worlds”**
- Please submit all essays by COB

**November 12, 2008**

**Send essays to:**  
**NIPR: marquerite.smithmcbride@iraq.centcom.mil**

Prizes for the top three essays will be presented at the National Native American Indian Heritage Month Observance Celebration Luncheon

November 25, 2008 at 1130 hours at (DFAC 1) Audie Murphy Room

POC: SSG Marquerite Smith –McBride at 483-2021

# U.S. and Iraqi sustainment warrant officers break bread, build bonds

by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Jo Bridgwater  
7th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**TALLIL, Iraq** -- A group of U.S. and Iraqi Army warrant officers gathered in the spirit of partnership at the Coalition Café on Contingency Operating Base Adder Oct. 23. The

group of approximately 35 technical experts took time out of their schedules to share lunch and their military experience as the subject matter experts in their respective fields.

The informal gathering was spearheaded by Chief Warrant Officer Gary Smith, a logistics training and assistance team officer in charge, from the Fort Eustis, Va.-based 7th Sustainment Brigade. This was the first time U.S. and Iraqi warrant officers have engaged in a social event here.

"The purpose of this meeting was for Iraqi and U.S. Army warrant officers to connect in a relaxed atmosphere to discuss common career tasks," said Smith.

"We made an initial assessment of their maintenance posture," said Smith. "As a result we found out that they needed publications and provided them the much needed Arabic translated tech manuals and some sorely needed diagnostic test codes for Ford vehicles."

While Iraqi Army logistics partnerships are growing across Iraq, U.S. and Iraqi warrant officers have combined training and instructors at COB Adder – working side by side.

"We have also been involved in tracking errant parts flow," Smith said. "Another project we have in place is a four-phase hummvee maintenance training program. This training program is unique in that we will include U.S. and Iraqi Army instructors in the same program."

After they gathered inside the dining room, each officer stood and introduced themselves providing a brief background describing their time in service and what their duties consisted of.

For Warrant Officer Alexander L. Reynolds of the Willow Grove, Pa., based 157th

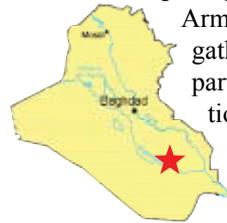
they do things versus how we do it."

Iraqi warrants found the meeting only strengthened already existing bonds.

"Before coming here we had a good relationship with the U.S. warrant officers on our camp," said Awied, a member of the Iraqi Repair and Maintenance Company for

Smith said he found the event to be a success because U.S. and Iraqi warrant officers took time out from their busy schedules to share their technical expertise in a relaxing social environment.

"What I have found working with the Iraqi Army is that their warrant officers



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Jo Bridgwater

**Chief Warrant Officer Gary Smith, (left) Logistics Training and Assistance Team, 7th Sustainment Brigade, and Warrant Officer Karim Koon Awied, Repair and Maintenance Company of Ur Location Command (right) talk during a meet and greet lunch held on COB Ad-**

Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, the chance to sit and dine with fellow technicians from the Iraqi Army was a benefit to ongoing logistics training initiatives.

"This is a good experience," said Reynolds. "It gives us an opportunity to see how

the Ur Location Command. "We have benefitted from their training and hope to learn more about their operating system which will help us with our mission in the future. It will help us to obtain much needed parts in a faster way."

provide a positive impact on their maintenance posture," Smith said. "The result of today's engagement should foster a better recognition amongst warrant officers in both armies."

## Gauthreaux, from Page 1

The local sheik complained that military vehicles were the cause of the road's condition.

In seeking a solution to the problem, Gauthreaux learned of funds allocated to each Iraq province through the Iraqi Commander's Emergency Reconstruction Program.

Realizing he could help Soldiers as well as provide benefits to the local community, Gauthreaux acquired a property purchasing license and got the road repaired. He also successfully created an

irrigation system for local farmers. The irrigation system honored a request made by the sheik once he acquired the funds for the road project.

The 7th Sust. Bde. has successfully participated in over 50 civil-military actions, both close to COB Adder and out in remote areas like Al Fawaz.

Gauthreaux said the villages in remote areas don't get a lot of attention, but they can become places where a lot of hate is fostered.

"When you start planting seeds that

far from our base, you are affecting more than their perception," Gauthreaux said. "You are bringing them out of the box of seclusion."

The 7th Sust. Bde. believes simple acts of cooperation will help win the battle against terrorism.

"There was no documentation of coalition support in Al Batha and Al Fawaz before we started our relationship with them," Gauthreaux said. "Our job is to get the Iraqis to start trusting their government."

Gauthreaux believed raising confidence through community affairs will become a lasting motivation for the groups he's worked with.

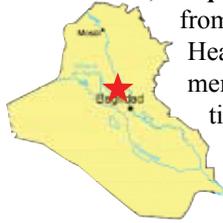
"Iraqi males will be working; making money for their Families," he said. "Schools will be used to teach future leaders, workers . . . somebody who can make a difference for this nation. The people we help are the future of Iraq and hopefully I can come back in 20 years or so and celebrate with them."

# Training puts versatile mechanics in the driver's seat

by 1st Lt. Jeffery Chemasko

165th CSSB, 1st Sust. Bde.

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** -- Mechanics from the 377th Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, 165th CSSB, 1st Sustainment Bri-



gade, work around the clock to keep the company's fleet of heavy equipment transport systems well maintained. However, 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.

For many, operating this enormous transport system is no easy task. The vehicle is designed to haul many types of heavy equip-

ment, including the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. Before these drivers could get behind the wheel, they had to attend a thorough driver's training program headed by Staff Sgt. Deleston, the unit master driver.

To turn the mechanics into capable operators, Deleston mentored them through each phase of training. The training began with a familiarization of the bobtail

tractor itself. It then combined the tractor and trailer together as a complete system.

The mechanics then honed their driving skills through serpentine in the motor pool before testing their abilities on roads within the Camp Taji walls. The training was done 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.

# Information center to ease BOS-I transition

by Senior Airman Thomas Trower

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- Base residents seeking life-support services can receive assistance from an information center at the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group here once a joint-service initiative, called Base Operating Support-Integration, takes effect Nov. 6, concluding more than six months of preparation to deliver responsibility for about 90 percent of base life-support functions to the group.

Customers can receive direction on the new unit responsible for fulfilling their particular need by calling, emailing or stopping by the Joint Base Balad Installation Information Center.

"Our mission is to provide premium assistance to anyone not familiar with how the Air Force provides service," said Lt. Col. Roman Hund, 332nd EMSG deputy commander for BOS I. "This critical part of the BOS-I transition will ensure missions across the installations continue with minimal downtime."

BOS-I is a changeover of base support functions that includes food service, lodging, vehicle operations, supply, fuel, base upkeep, construction, base defense and a variety of other services. With the implementation of BOS-I, the Joint Base Balad Mayor Cell will transfer responsibility for management of base life-support functions to the 332nd EMSG.

This can have a major effect on Soldiers assigned to the base. Airmen, on the other hand, may notice that the new organization of processes will mimic their home stations.

The first most visible sign of the BOS-I transfer came in July with the stand-up of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group and the subsequent arrival of more than 400 Air Force security forces members. At the same time, the Mayor Cell was transferred under the tactical control

of 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander Gen. Brian Bishop.

The second major phase is the transfer of the base's life-support functions from the Mayor Cell to the 332nd EMSG, said Col. Sal Nodjomian, 332nd EMSG commander.

"(Security forces) are done; they're out there," said Nodjomian. "The Air Force has been ready to take over life-support functions for some time now. We have some race horses in the starting gate, and they're just waiting for us to open the door and let them go."

According to Nodjomian, a key indicator of the success of the transition will be customers' ability to find the right office to meet their needs. The information center should be the first stop for anyone with questions about where to go.

"Administrative specialists in the center will provide a single focal point for customers," he said. "These specialists will relay customers to a functional expert who can accomplish work someone is requesting. We believe that by putting these experts in charge, we will get the most efficient use of resources and manpower."

Three Airmen manage the information center from 6 a.m. to midnight in order to accommodate work schedules across the installation. In addition, the 332nd EMSG received approximately 150 new Airmen across its squadrons to handle the increased workload.

Customers will work primarily with three of the 332nd EMSG squadrons, said Hund. The 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron will assign locations here for units to operate and provide facility maintenance. The 332nd Expeditionary Force Support Squadron will take over dining facility contracts and be responsible for housing, recreation and morale programs. The 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron will take over all vehicle operations,

fuels oversight and supply. Other squadrons and 332nd AEW staff agencies will be affected on a smaller scale.

The Army's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team operated the Mayor Cell prior to implementation of BOS-I. It is redeploying its Soldiers to their home stations, and no Army unit will take its place. Soldiers who have grown accustomed to Mayor Cell operations will be faced with new processes that may take time to learn.

"One of our top priorities is to make sure Army clientele know how things will work now," Nodjomian said.

"Our Soldiers are very adaptive," said Army Col. Kenneth Newlin, deputy commander of the 76th IBCT. "We know that the Air Force will do a terrific job taking over with BOS-I."

When servicemembers contact the information center to inquire about a work request, either through phone, e-mail or by walking in, representatives will provide them with information on whom to contact. Customers



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

**Master Sgt. Laura Cain proctors a college exam for Army Sgt. John Meyers in the Red Tail Education Center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

may fill out a request form at the information center or call the unit that will provide the work.

"One of our goals is to automate many things," Nodjomian said. "We like to use technology whenever we can streamline processes."

While the BOS-I process may encounter a few snags, Nodjomian wants customers to know that

they will not see a drop in quality of service.

"If we do our jobs right, this transition should be seamless for the customer," Nodjomian said. "Over time, I expect we'll see improvements across the spectrum of operations. The Air Force specializes in installation management. It's one of our strengths."

## Joint Base Balad

### Life-Support Functions

Questions? Call the Info Center at 443-HELP (4357)

<p><b>332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explosive Ordnance Disposal</li> <li>Design and Construction Mgmt</li> <li>Terrain Management and Dig Permits</li> <li>Readiness and Emergency Mgmt</li> <li>Heating/Air Conditioning</li> <li>Fire Department</li> <li>Self-Help Store</li> <li>Utility Systems</li> <li>Structural Systems</li> <li>Electrical Systems</li> <li>Drafting</li> <li>Geospatial Info Systems and Mapping</li> <li>Power Production (Generator &amp; Prime)</li> <li>T-Wall/Bunker/Jersey Barrier Placement</li> <li>Pavement and Equipment Operations</li> <li>Water/Ice Plant Operations</li> <li>Wastewater Operations</li> <li>Facilities Maintenance</li> <li>Custodial Services</li> <li>Waste and Refuse</li> </ul>		<p><b>332nd Expeditionary Force Support Squadron</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MWR Facilities (East, West &amp; Red Tail)</li> <li>Armed Forces Entertainment Shows</li> <li>United Services Organization Shows</li> <li>Cyber Cafés</li> <li>Indoor and Outdoor Pools</li> <li>Education Offices</li> <li>Holt Stadium</li> <li>Sustainer Theater</li> <li>Fitness Centers</li> <li>Athletic Fields and Ball Courts</li> <li>Dining Facilities</li> <li>Special Meal Requests</li> <li>Permanent Housing</li> <li>Transient Lodging</li> <li>Base Laundry Operation</li> <li>AAFES Liaison</li> <li>Red Cross Liaison</li> <li>USO Liaison</li> </ul>
<p><b>332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Transportation Motor Pool</li> <li>Vehicle Wash Rack</li> <li>Self-Service Supply Center</li> <li>Theater Property Book</li> <li>Non-Tactical Vehicle Refueling Points</li> <li>Container Management</li> </ul>		

## Road Warriors



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Rechelle

The 3rd Platoon "Road Warriors", 57th Transportation Company, attached to Company A, 39th Brigade Support Battalion, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, have proven themselves as true professionals under the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Lithkousky, transportation noncommissioned officer in charge. They continue to sustain the more than 80,000 Soldiers in Multi-National Division - Baghdad by ensuring that they receive all the necessary supplies to complete their respective missions.

# Shout Out from home

TO MY HUSBAND MSG DAVID HUDDLESTON, WITH CO-B 834TH ASB FROM OKLAHOMA. OUR ANNIVERSARY IS NOVEMBER 8TH. HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY!

SEMPER FI,

LOVE KAREN

# 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)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

GILBERT CHAPEL: 443-7703 PROVIDER CHAPEL: 433-2430 FREEDOM CHAPEL: 443-6303

### 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

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.*



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

**ABOVE:** Several Iraqi personal security detachment Soldiers stood guard during the General Transportation Regiment's graduation ceremony held here Oct. 23.



**BOTTOM:** An Iraqi Soldier pulls security while his fellow Soldiers loaded a damaged vehicle during the General Transportation Regiment's situational training exercise. Trained by the 68th Transportation Company, the GTR STX consists of three situational training exercise lanes that simulate combat operations and situations that the IA Soldiers could possibly encounter while conducting a combat logistics patrol.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin



**LEFT:** Iraqi Army Soldiers with the General Transportation Regiment demonstrate their skills as they load a T-72 tank onto a tractor trailer during the graduation ceremony held here Oct. 23. Several VIP's were in attendance, including Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kassim, the Director of Transportation and Provision for the Ministry of Defense. The 68th Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers have been training the GTR Soldiers over the past several months to conduct logistics operations.

**BOTTOM:** Iraqi Army Soldiers march off the parade field shortly after the General Transportation Regiment's ceremony concluded here Oct.23. Over 600 Iraqi Army Soldiers participated in the day's event. The 68th Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers have been training the GTR Soldiers over the past several months to conduct logistics operations.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

# Iraqi transporters hit the road: General Transportation Regiment graduates training at Taji

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

**TAJI, Iraq** – As Iraqi Army and Coalition partners looked on, approximately 600 Iraqi Army Sustainers of the General Transportation Regiment graduated from training in a ceremony here Oct. 23.

On the ground since Sept. 1, the GTR is the first unit of its kind to provide the assets and manpower

needed to distribute various classes of supplies to locations throughout Iraq.

With a number of dignitaries in attendance, the unit conducted a parade, demonstrated its skills and was inspected by Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kassim, the director of transportation and provision for the Ministry of Defense.

The GTR graduation was another step in a growing partnership between the regiment's Soldiers and their mentors from the 1st Sustainment Brigade's 68th Transportation Company from Manheim, Germany.

The 68th has spent the past two months training and mentoring the new Iraqi unit.

The training consisted of three situational training exercise lanes that simulate combat operations and situations that IA Soldiers could encounter while conducting a combat logistics patrol.

Soldiers were trained on how to: react to sniper fire, conduct hasty vehicle recoveries, evacuate casualties, upload and download equipment and conduct vehicle and supply movements.

"It's important for them to be able to go

out through the Iraqi countryside and deliver equipment safely and efficiently to the other camps where the rest of the Iraqi Army is located," said 1st Sgt. Brian Stoops, of the 68th Trans. Co.

"The biggest highlight from this training has been the interaction of my Soldiers with the Iraqi Army," Stoops said.

*1st Sustainment Brigade contributed to this story.*

# Soldiers take opportunity to succeed academically in combat zone

by Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Griffiths

Headquarters, 24th FM Co., STB, 1st Sust. Bde.

**CAMP VICTORY, Iraq** -- At first thought, one may not think that Soldiers deployed to a combat zone would have the opportunity to develop themselves in an academic environment, but that is an opportunity you will now see at Camp Victory, Baghdad.

Soldiers are now able to participate in a general technical improvement class because of a new education center and the volunteer work of several instructors.

Classes offered at the education center open up additional doors for career advancement and competitiveness within

a Soldier's career field. Many Soldiers increase their general technical score in order to attain more desirable jobs or to become commissioned officers.

Certain GT scores are required when it comes to job occupations that require higher skills. Positions of higher responsibility also require a score of at least 110.

A GT score of 130 is the highest attainable score.

The improvement class is three weeks long and covers topics such as basic math, English, vocabulary, and comprehension.

There are day and night classes provided for those who have conflicting work schedules.

The curriculum is taught in a lecture style format by volunteer instructors for six-hour blocks in both the day and evening classes.

The homework provided to Soldiers

on a daily basis may seem overwhelming at times, but all the hard work pays off in the end.

The course concludes with a final exam and a graduation ceremony. More than a dozen 24th Financial Management Company Soldiers have taken the course with an average score increase of about 15 points. Several Soldiers have performed well above that average.

Sgt. Calvin Callender, a human resources sergeant for the 24th FM Co., had a score of 99 prior to taking the course and improved his score by 25 points, attaining a 124.

"It has been a great opportunity to obtain the best out of your free time while

deployed," Callender said. "I strongly recommend this course for all those who plan to excel in their careers, and even if you had no plans ahead, you would only benefit from these classes," he said.

Education Centers in Iraq provide Soldiers a great opportunity to improve themselves and become a more competitive Soldier.

"This is a great tool for our Soldiers and I am proud of those who have made the commitment to excel and make the most of this 15-month deployment," said Cpt. Lisa Black, a Copperas Cove, Texas, native, and the 24th FM Co. executive officer.

## 'Knights' compete at first brigade quarter board in Iraq

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th SB Public Affairs

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq** -- A transportation Soldier and a maintenance noncommissioned officer won the 16th Sustainment Brigade's first Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter board at the dining facility here Oct. 20.

Four Soldiers and four NCOs from Camp Speicher, Forward Operating Base Diamondback, and Q-West, competed for the title of 'Warrior of the Quarter' or 'Warrior Leader of the Quarter' for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2009.

Spc. Matthew Horton, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, 70th Transportation Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Camp Speicher, took the title of top Soldier. Sgt. Charles Robin, a power generation and equipment repair NCO, from the 632nd Maintenance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment

Support Battalion, FOB Diamondback, earned the top spot for NCOs.

Spc. Joshua Daniel, power generation equipment repair specialist, 632nd Maint. Co., and Sgt. Jeremy Catron, shop foreman, 391st CSSB, were runner-up for WOQ and WLOQ, respectively.

The board began with a "mystery" written test on some of the Army weapons, including hand grenades and the MK-19 automatic grenade launcher. Then Soldiers had to perform other tasks also, such as disassembling and reassembling a .50-cal. machine gun and performing a function check on the weapon.

During the board, Soldiers answered questions from traditional categories such as drill and ceremony, land navigation and primary marksmanship instruction. They also answered "topic questions" about the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle program, unit escalation of force directives, and electronic countermeasure systems.

Horton, a 21-year-old from Peculiar, Mo., said his NCOs encouraged him to compete for the title.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

**Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade, pins on an Army Commendation medal on Spc. Matthew Horton, wheeled vehicle mechanic, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, after Horton won the brigade's Warrior of the Quarter board at the Q-West dining facility Oct. 20. Sgt. Charles Robin (next to Horton), power generation and equipment repair NCO, 632nd Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, earned an Army Commendation medal for winning the Warrior Leader of the Quarter board.**

"I did well on the promotion board so my NCOs pushed me to go to the quarter board," Horton said. "So I went and took it home."

Horton said he was prepared for most of the competition, except for singing the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command song, because he'd never actually heard the song.

"I didn't have any kind of tune so I just yelled it really loud," he said.

He said he was glad he competed at the board.

"It was a positive experience, and gave me an opportunity to set myself apart from my peers," he said. "It feels good. I'm ready to compete at the next level."

Horton and Robin will advance to compete at the 3d ESC's board at Joint Base Balad in November.

Robin, a 22-year-old from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, said winning the board was another step toward his goal of getting inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, a club designed to recognize exceptional noncommissioned officers.

"It's satisfying," Robin said. "It



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

**Sgt. Charles Robin, power generation and equipment repair NCO, 632nd Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Spc. Matthew Horton, wheeled vehicle mechanic, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, won the 16th Sustainment Brigade Warrior/Warrior Leader of the Quarter board for the first quarter of the fiscal year.**

gives me a sense of fulfillment. I know I achieved something I set out to achieve."

# 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.

## Florida

- A special law prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday or she shall risk arrest, fine, and/or jailing.
- Men may not be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown.
- If an elephant is left tied to a parking meter, the parking fee has to be paid just as it would for a vehicle.

## California

- No vehicle without a driver may exceed 60 miles per hour.
- Sunshine is guaranteed to the masses.
- Animals are banned from mating publicly within 1,500 feet of a tavern, school, or place of worship.
- In Baldwin Park, nobody is allowed to ride a bicycle in a swimming pool.

# Sudoku

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.

Level: Very Easy

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

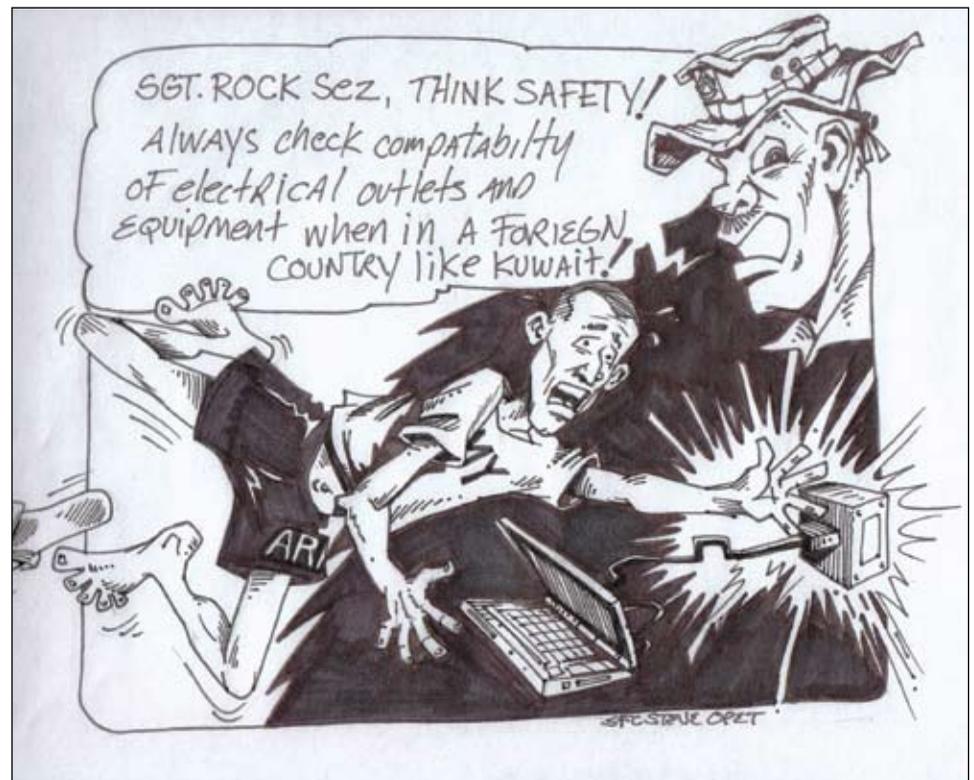
Last weeks answers

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

## PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



## Iraq according to Opet



# Upcoming sports on AFN

### Wednesday 11/05/08

AFN|xtra Rewind: 2008 World Series of Poker - Main Event, Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Dallas Mavericks @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 AFN|xtra Rewind: The Contender Muay Thai, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
 AFN|xtra Rewind: The Ultimate Fighter 8, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Boston Celtics @ Houston Rockets, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 4:30 p.m. AFN/sports

### Thursday 11/06/08

ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Northern Illinois @ Ball State, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA Wednesday: Chicago Bulls @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA Wednesday: Denver Nuggets @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA Wednesday: Denver Nuggets @ Golden State Warriors \* 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD \* 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 4:30 p.m. AFN/sports  
 Atlanta Hawks @ New Orleans Hornets, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 11/07/08

NBA on TNT: Philadelphia 76ers @ Orlando Magic, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NFL Week 10: Denver Broncos @ Cleveland Browns, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA on TNT: Houston Rockets @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLS Primetime Thursday: MLS Playoffs Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
 TCU @ Utah, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Maryland @ Virginia Tech \* 2-hour ESPN Cutdown Version, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports  
 Week 10: Denver Broncos @ Cleveland Browns, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 11/08/08

Ottawa Senators @ Carolina Hurricanes , Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA Friday: Miami Heat @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Nevada @ Fresno State, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
 Dallas Stars @ Anaheim Ducks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA Friday: Dallas Mavericks @ Denver Nuggets, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Nevada @ Fresno State, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Don King Productions presents World Championship Boxing: Andrew Golota vs Ray "The Rainman" Austin, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime

atlantic

College Football: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

### Sunday 11/09/08

College Football: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football Final, Live 8 a.m. AFN/sports  
 College Football: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
 HBO Pay-Per-View Boxing - 12 Round Light Heavyweight Bout: Joe Calzaghe vs Roy Jones Jr (Madison Square Garden, New York, NY), Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Monday 11/10/08

NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Checker Auto Parts 500 presented by Pennzoil (Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, AZ) (JIP), Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Post-Race, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Atlanta Hawks @ Oklahoma City Thunder (JIP), Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 10: New York Giants @ Philadelphia Eagles, Live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2008 PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 Houston Rockets @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 10: New York Giants @ Philadelphia Eagles, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NFL Week 10: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 10: New York Giants @ Philadelphia Eagles, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Tuesday 11/11/08

NHL on Versus: Tampa Bay Lightning @ Washington Capitals, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
**ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 10: San Francisco 49ers @ Arizona Cardinals, Live 4:30 AFN/sports**  
 Memphis Grizzlies @ Phoenix Suns (JIP), Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 AMA Motocross: Steel City, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 10: San Francisco 49ers @ Arizona Cardinals, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 10: San Francisco 49ers @ Arizona Cardinals, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

# Photos around Iraq



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sarah De Boise

U.S. Soldiers from Civil Affairs Team 6, C Company, 415th Civil Affairs, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, visit St. Behnam's Monastery and Father Abu'na Francis Lalu, in Nimrud, Iraq on Oct. 15, 2008. The Monastery is located six miles to the northeast of Nimrud or the ancient Assyrian city of Kalkh.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sarah De Boise

(L-R) U.S. Army Major Tony Vacha, from Civil Affairs Team 6, C Company, 415th Civil Affairs, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, an interpreter, Ahkmed Isa, the Mayor of Nimrud, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jon Anderstrom and Iraqi police officer Colonel Eed, walk together to St. Behnam's Monastery to meet with Father Abu'na Francis Lalu in Nimrud, Iraq on Oct. 15, 2008.



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner

U.S. Army Capt. Scott Cassidy, from 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, plays with a local Iraqi boy while visiting a school renovation site in Iskandariyah, Iraq on Oct. 25, 2008.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eric Harris

U.S. Army Cpl. Jordan Shaw, teaches Iraqi forces how to operate equipment used to collect biometric and personal data during the Sons of Iraq registration, in Diwaniyah, Iraq, Oct. 25, 2008. As part of the registration process for the Sons of Iraq, data such as fingerprints and retinal scans are collected.

# News around Iraq

## School for Girls undergoes major renovations

**MOSUL, Iraq** – Renovation work began mid October at the School for Girls in Muhallahbiyah, a village outside of Mosul. The repair of the girls' school is part of a larger effort by the Iraqi government to rebuild damaged public buildings in and around the city of Mosul and is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 15.

"Reopening schools for the children of Iraq is essential to the future of the Iraqi people," said Capt. Tia Winston, public affairs officer, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The renovation includes repairing the doors, windows, concrete walls and ceilings. Iraqi contracted workers will repair all electrical wiring, water pipes and install three new water tanks.

"Total cost of the refurbishing project is \$32,300 U.S.," said Maj. Jonathan Simmons, civil affairs officer, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

## Iraqi funds help improve Mosul medical facility

**MOSUL, Iraq** – Improving basic medical care for the citizens of Mosul took a step in the right direction Oct. 18 with the completion of upgrading a medical facility in the Somer neighborhood.

The Somer Medical Facility in east Mosul was recently outfitted with new equipment and medical supplies courtesy of the Iraqi Commanders Emergency Relief Program at an estimated cost of \$19,285.

"The completion of this project provides a strong indication that the Iraqi Government remains committed to taking care of the citizens of Mosul and Ninewa Province" said Maj. Gary Dangerfield, Coalition forces spokesman in Mosul.

## Garry Owen regiment scores 'goal' in Amarah

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE GARRY OWEN, Iraq** – Scrambling for the ball, the two men collided, both focused on the mission at hand Oct. 23. The man in red, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division, came to his feet first and dashed toward the soccer ball, while his blue clad opponent, a member of the Abu Rummanah District All-Stars, could do nothing but watch.

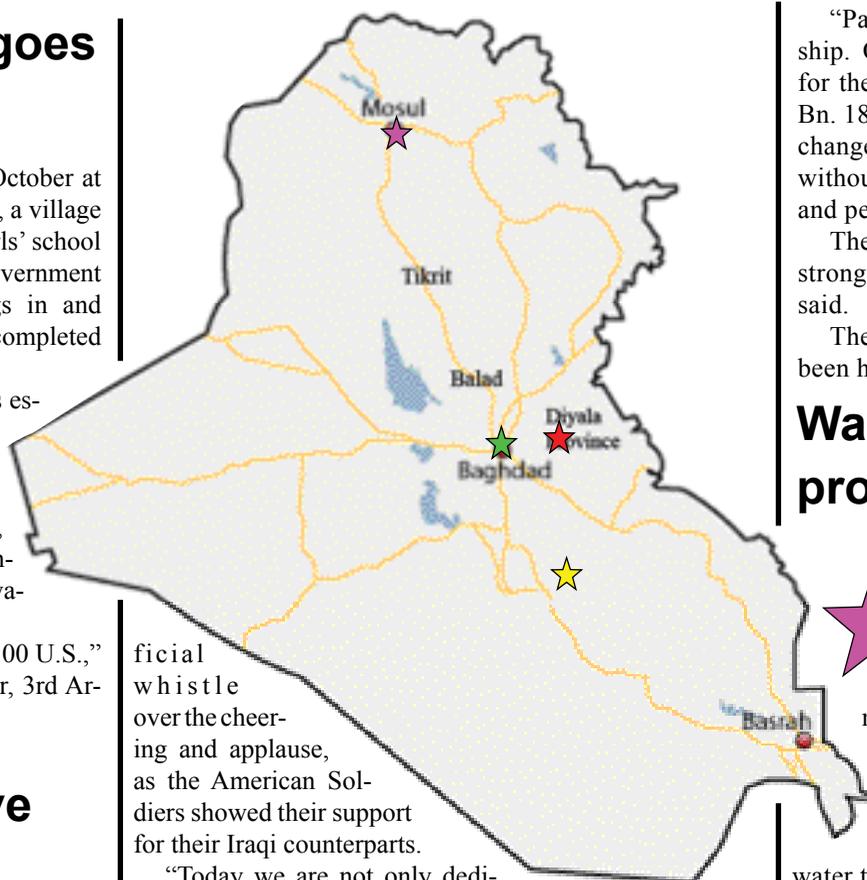
The IA soldier drew his leg back, kicked the ball past the goalie, and the referee yelled, "goal!"

"We are doing good things here for the people in this province," said Lt. Col. Huseiu Abdfileih, an officer from the 3rd Battalion, 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division who helped coordinate the soccer game.

The American Soldiers, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, along with nearly 400 Amaran citizens, gathered to watch the first soccer match on the newly built field.

"We wanted to be here with these people," said Lt. Col. Bohneman, the Commander of the Garry Owen troops. "It's important to show that we are partnering with them in something other than combat operations."

The Garry Owen and IA soldiers have formed a partnership to stop illegal weapon smuggling along the southeastern Iraq-Iran border. But on this day, you could barely hear the of-



ficial whistle over the cheering and applause, as the American Soldiers showed their support for their Iraqi counterparts.

"Today we are not only dedicated to providing security to the people of Amarah, but also focused on rebuilding our communities," said Abdfileih.

Ali Aweid Abd Al Sa'ada, the goalkeeper for the Abu Rummanah team, said the new soccer field is good for the community because it gives the young people a safe place to gather and hang out.

There was no official score or time clock during the event, because the real "goal" was to show how the Iraqi and American Soldiers are improving the city of Amarah through partnership.

## Iraqi Army takes over PB Inchon

**CAMP STRIKER, Iraq** – The Iraqi Army officially assumed authority of Patrol Base Inchon during base turnover in Qarghuli Village Oct. 20.

The 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division took over from Co. D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault).

"This day will be the strong hand that finishes (criminals) and makes our area safe," said Capt. Ahmed, 1st Bn, 23rd Bde, 17th IA Div. commander. "Making our people safe in this area and all of Iraq has been our goal."

PB Inchon was established in January 2007 by Co. D, 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt., 10th Mountain Div. (Light Infantry). After the establishment of the patrol base, Qarghuli Village was one of the first areas to adopt the Sons of Iraq program.

"The operations conducted from Inchon helped establish and legitimize the Sons of Iraq in the eyes of the government," said 1st Lt. Colin Corrigan, Co. D., 3rd Bn. 187th Inf. Regt., fire support officer. "Many civil service projects were completed such as the water treatment facility."

Corrigan said the IA has come full circle as a fighting force evidenced by their partnership with the Rakkasans during this deployment.

The Co. D., 3rd Bn. 187th Inf. Regt Soldiers took over the patrol base in October 2007, and have conducted various combined operations with the IA throughout the year.

"Patrol Base Inchon stands as a symbol of partnership. Our IA counterparts trained and lived beside us for the past year," said Capt. Frank Castro, Co. D., 3rd Bn. 187th Inf. Regt. commander. "The dramatic positive change that has been seen would not have been possible without combined efforts from the Iraqi Army, Coalition and people of Qarghuli."

The IA will continue to secure the area, making it both stronger and safer for the people of Qarghuli, Ahmed said.

The majority of the Rakkasans' patrol bases will have been handed over to the IA by November.

## Water Office refurbishing project in progress

**MOSUL, Iraq** – Renovations are underway at the Water Office in Muhallahbiyah, a village outside of Mosul.

The project began mid October and is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

The work includes the installation of new doors and windows and the repair of concrete walls and floors. Iraqi-contracted workers will replace all electrical wiring and install two new water tanks. The office will be furnished with new furniture and equipment.

"Total cost of the refurbishing project is \$19,800 U.S.," said Maj. Jonathan Simmons, civil affairs officer 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "These types of projects play a vital role in the efforts of the Iraqi government to restore essential services to its population."

## Local citizen leads MND-C Soldiers to large cache in North Babil

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – A local citizen led Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers to a cache of over 5,000 pounds of munitions in the town of al-Harij in northern Babil province Oct. 23.

At approximately 1:20 p.m. Soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, MND-C, uncovered the buried cache that contained 34 bags of home-made explosives weighing 154 pounds each, 200 4-foot cylinders of explosives, 4,018 3-inch cylinders of explosives, 300 6-inch cylinders of explosives, 85 2-foot cylinders of explosives, 30 RPG rounds, 100 mortar rounds, two 5-pound bags of explosives, 23 hand grenades, two 80-mm mortars, two 4-foot rockets, four 60-mm rounds, four mortar sights, three anti-personnel grenade rounds, one bag of loose AK-47 rounds, 15 magazines for 7.62-caliber rounds as well another bomb-making materials.

An explosive ordnance disposal team arrived to the site to render the cache items safe for removal.

"Though we have a relatively peaceful and stable environment in the Jurf As Sakhr region, the astounding size of this cache, the variety of munitions that are in it and the indicators that it is a relative new cache all serve to demonstrate the very tenuous nature of the hard fought peace that is currently in place," said Lt. Col. Timothy Newsome, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf., Regt., commander. "Discoveries of this magnitude would not be possible without the close working relationships we have fostered over the past 11 months with the honest, hard-working citizens of the region."

The 3rd Bn., 7 Inf., Regt. is partnered with 31st Brigade of the 8th Iraqi Army.

# CSM Hill says good-bye

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

## JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

Command sergeants major from across Iraq met in Baghdad on Oct. 20 to give well wishes to Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, the Multi-National Forces-Iraq senior noncommissioned officer.

Hill, who is scheduled to leave Iraq soon, spent his last 19 months in Iraq. Hill was the senior enlisted advisor of MNF-I, which is currently comprised of forces from 17 coalition partners. Hill also served as Gen. David Petraeus' senior enlisted advisor when the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was in theater.

The goodbye party took place on the veranda behind the joint visitor bureau hotel. Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division band "Hip-all-day", based out of Fort Hood, Texas, played jazz near the entrance, lightening the mood. Finger foods, snacks, and cakes were set on tables lining the edges of the open area. Senior leaders from the Army, Marines and Iraqi Army made conversation while awaiting Hill's arrival.

The party crowded around a podium while command sergeants major took turns telling stories of Hill's achievements, gave their congratulations and handed Hill gifts

in parting. These included an Iraqi plaque, coins from other command sergeants major in the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a flag carried in a convoy to the event.

Hill smiled as he addressed the crowd of people there to say farewell. He explained to the crowd of combined service leaders that it was not easy to tell his Family that he wanted to come to Iraq instead of staying at home.

"What makes 19 months go by fast," Hill said, "is loving what you do every day. Every day has been exciting and every day has brought new challenges."

Hill joked that sometimes his personal security detail was an improvised explosive device magnet, and servicemembers laughed when Hill said he often felt his convoy acted as the route clearance team.

Hill took a serious tone when addressing the command sergeants major on continuing to lead the Soldiers he would soon be leaving. He also talked about the rules and guidelines he tried to live by.

Hill explained three golden rules he tried to incorporate into his life: "Do what's right," Hill said. "Do the best you can. Treat others (the way) you want to be treated."

Hill also said he tried to live by three a's: available, assessable, and approachable.

He said the first two a's mean nothing without the third.

"You guys grade me," Hill said, "I pray that I leave with a good report card."



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, the Multi-National Forces-Iraq senior noncommissioned officer, holds up a going-away gift containing all the coins from the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) command sergeants major in Baghdad, Iraq on Oct. 20.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Tennant, the senior noncommissioned officer of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., grabs some dinner while attending a going away party for Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, the Multi National Forces-Iraq senior noncommissioned officer in Baghdad, Iraq on Oct. 20.



When: 0600 November 8, 2008

Where: Holt Stadium

**FIRST 450 finishers will get a T-Shirt!!**

No registration required

**Commemorative Prizes: Male and Female 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.**

POC:  
SSG Narcomey, Adrianna  
[adrianna.narcomey@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:adrianna.narcomey@iraq.centcom.mil)  
or CPT Kee, Marvin  
[Marvin.kee@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Marvin.kee@iraq.centcom.mil)

## Post Exchange Aug. 15, 2003



"I was stationed at Balad from May to August of 2003 with the (Arizona National Guard) 855th MP Co. The PX was a one room PX. You stood in line for at least 30 minutes to purchase items. They never had what you wanted. They were always out of everything good."

-- Sgt. 1st Class Max Hamlin

## Then & Now of Balad



## Post Exchange Oct. 29, 2008

### **READ THIS!**

Tell us what you THINK about the \*new\* *Expeditionary Times*!

Write a "**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**"



- Likes/dislikes
- Changes
- Story ideas
- Base policies

- Soldier-related events
- Tell the CG your thoughts
- Serious inquires only



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

# Tennessee Guardsmen receive combat patches

Story and photo's by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson  
16th SB Public Affairs

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq



Soldiers from the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, recieved their combat patches during a ceremony at Lion Memorial Field here Oct. 18.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a 12-month deployment for the Tennessee Army National Guard unit

headquartered in Humbolt, Tenn.

"The combat patch symbolizes not only serving with a specific unit during combat, ... it ... symbolizes Soldiers of the unit who are forever bonded together by shared commitment, hardships and sacrifice," said Lt. Col. Tommy Baker, commander of the 30th CSSB.

Baker also said it was important to remember the service of Families during the deployment.

"While talking about sacrifice and service, I think it is appropriate that we not forget the Families of our Soldiers who often end up bearing the toughest task: staying behind and doing it all, and

sacrificing just as much, if not more, than us," said Baker.

For Pfc. John Larney, a systems information support specialist from Johnson City, Tenn., the combat patch was just another milestone in a longer journey.

"Just being here is an experience all its own," said Larny. "I wanted the experience to know what everyone else is going through."

Staff Sgt. Chris Smith, assistant motor pool non-commissioned officer in charge from Dickson, Tenn., said this deployment — his second — was unique.

"I'm working with a whole new group of people," Smith said. "Soldiers, con-

tractors, Iraqis, Turks — I feel like I've become part of something greater."

The 30th CSSB oversees 11 companies and 1,600 Soldiers, and provides combat sustainment support operations for northern Iraq.

"You have chosen to sacrifice your freedom for someone else," Baker told the formation of Soldiers. "That is truly noble. You have chosen, in many cases, to sacrifice your own wealth for others. This is selfless. You have chosen to sacrifice many comforts in order to achieve the mission. This clearly demonstrates character."



LEFT: Capt. Donald Jackson Jr., commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, places the battalion's patch onto Staff Sgt. Thomas Yale, HHC, 30th CSSB, during the battalion's combat patch ceremony at Lions Memorial Field, Q-West, Iraq, Oct. 18.

ABOVE: Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, render honors during the battalion's combat patch ceremony at Lions Memorial Field, Q-West, Iraq, Oct. 18.

# Gain a new perspective.

Own the Edge through Composite Risk Management, or CRM

https://crc.army.mil

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OWN the EDGE

Composite Risk Management

# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<p><b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>EAST FITNESS CENTER</b> 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:</p>	<p>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 &amp; Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat.,- 8-10 p.m.</p> <p><b>EAST RECREATION CENTER</b> 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.</p>	<p>9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons &amp; 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 &amp; Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> 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.</p>	<p>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:</p>	<p>Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>WEST RECREATION CENTER</b> 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.</p> <p><b>WEST FITNESS CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 8-10 p.m.</p>
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# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

Wednesday, November 5  
5 p.m. The Women  
8 p.m. Righteous Kill  
Thursday, November 6  
5 p.m. The Family That Preys  
8 p.m. Pride And Glory  
Friday, November 7  
2 p.m. My Best Friend's Girl  
5 p.m. Madagascar: Escape 2  
Africa  
8:30 p.m. Miracle At St. Anna  
Saturday, November 8  
2 p.m. Miracle At St. Anna  
5 p.m. Burn After Reading  
8 p.m. My Best Friend's Girl  
Sunday, November 9  
2 p.m. Burn After Reading  
5 p.m. My Best Friend's Girl  
8 p.m. Miracle At St. Anna  
Monday, November 10  
5 p.m. Burn After Reading  
8 p.m. My Best Friend's Girl  
Tuesday, November 11  
5 p.m. Disaster Movie  
8 p.m. Miracle At St. Anna

(Schedule is subject to change)

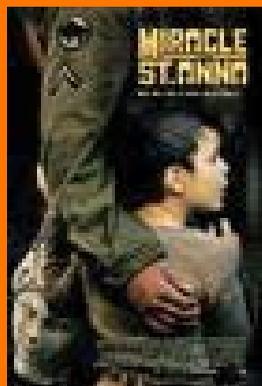
## Movies This Week

### Burn After Reading

A dark spy-comedy from Academy Award winners Joel and Ethan Coen. An ousted CIA official's (Academy Award nominee John Malkovich) memoir accidentally falls into the hands of two unwise gym employees intent on exploiting their find



### Miracle At St. Anna



The story of four black American soldiers who are members of the US Army as part of the all-black 92nd "Buffalo Soldier" Division stationed in Tuscany, Italy during World War II. They experience the tragedy and triumph of the war as they find themselves trapped behind enemy lines and separated from their unit after one of them risks his life to save an Italian boy.

### My Best Friend's Girl

Smart, beautiful and headstrong, Alexis is the girl of Dustin's dreams. But after only five weeks of dating, the love-struck Dustin is coming on so strong that Alexis is forced to slow things down – permanently. Devastated and desperate to get her back, Dustin turns to his best friend, Tank, the rebound specialist. A master at seducing – and offending – women, Tank gets hired by freshly dumped guys to take their ex-girlfriends out on the worst date of their lives – an experience so horrible it sends them running gratefully back to their beaus. But when Tank works his magic on Alexis, he ends up meeting the challenge of a lifetime. Alexis is the first girl who knows how to call his bluff, and Tank soon finds himself torn between his loyalty to Dustin and a strange new attraction to his best friend's girl.



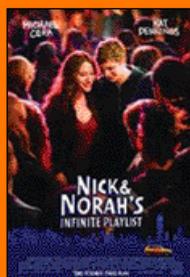
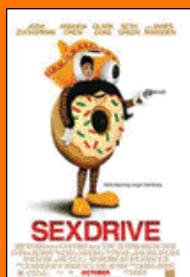
### Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

Hopelessly stranded on the remote shores of Madagascar, the New Yorkers hatch a plan to get back to Central Park that instead finds them soaking up sun in the picturesque plains of Africa. Madagascar may be a nice place to visit, but for the gang of animals who spent most of their lives in New York, there is truly no place like home. After discovering



the remnants of a crashed airplane, the penguins quickly set about making the repairs needed to get the craft airborne again. When the plane finally takes to the sky, it begins to look like it's only a matter of time before Alex the Lion (voice of Ben Stiller) and friends are soaring over New York Harbor. Unfortunately the penguins weren't the aviation experts they claimed to be, and before long the crew is coming in for a crash-landing in the untamed plains of Africa.

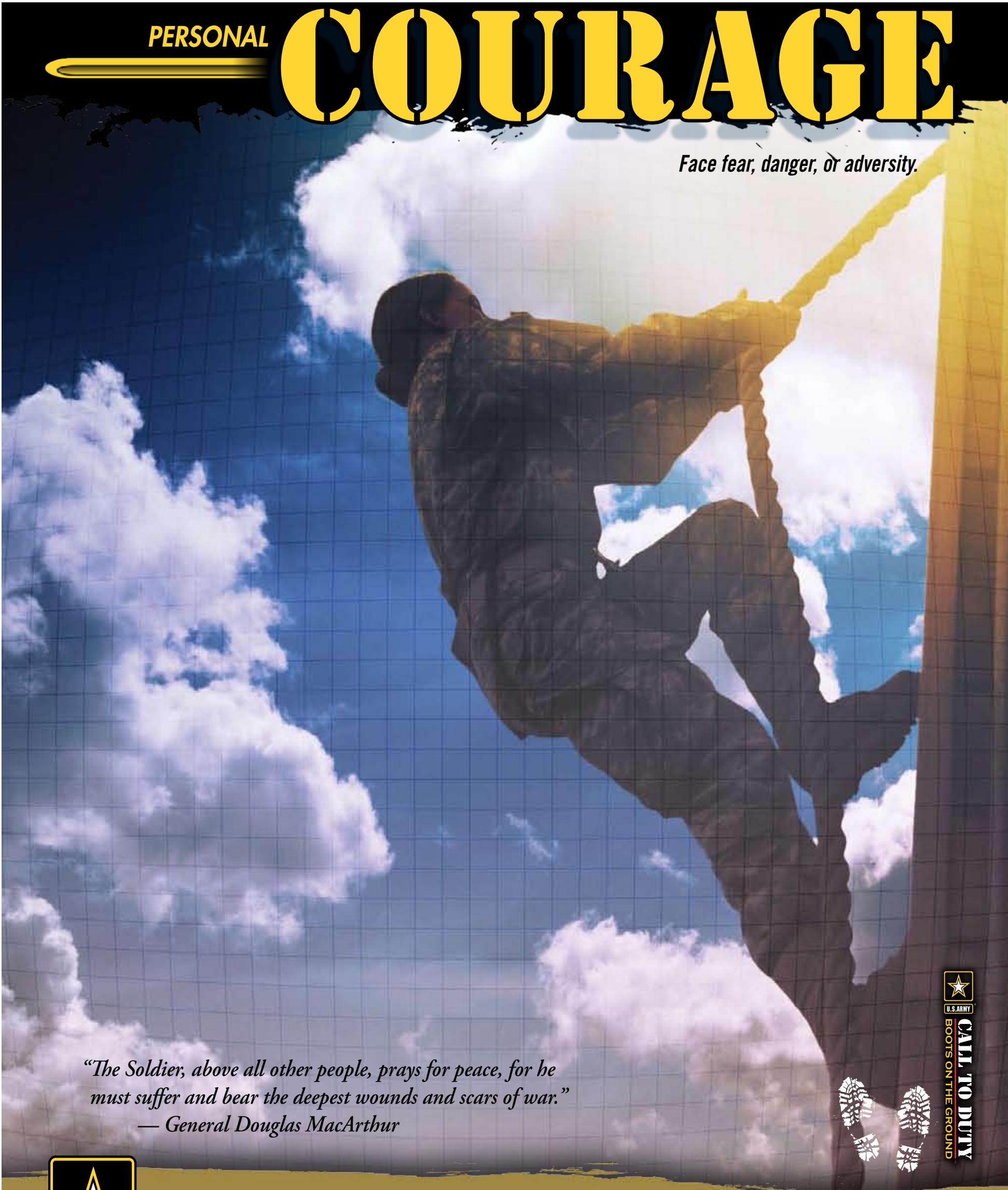
## Movies Coming Soon



PERSONAL

# COURAGE

*Face fear, danger, or adversity.*



*“The Soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”  
— General Douglas MacArthur*

  
U.S. ARMY  
**CALL TO DUTY**  
BOOTS ON THE GROUND



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.™

# ARMY VALUES

# Al Asad au Natural

Contributed by Major Randall Rogers

**Y**ellow sac spiders are found around the world and are present in Iraq. They are one of two spiders venomous enough to be dangerous to humans on Al Asad. Named for the silk sack they spin to contain their eggs and their pale yellow color, sac spiders are about 1/4" long and with legs are about the size of a quarter. They generally live outside, but as the temperature cools down this fall they will also move inside. For this reason you should shake out any clothing or dufflebags that have sat in one place for a while, and watch for silk "tents" to form in corners and along the edge of the ceiling. These guys are very common, even in our houses in the States, and one scientist has estimated that this is the spider most often swallowed while you sleep! I don't know if that is true, but I do know that they can give a nasty bite, similar to a Brown recluse. Spider bites do not hurt at first, but soon become painful and swollen as the tissue around the bite dies. Some victims can suffer anaphylactic shock. Although a spider bite is seldom life threatening, it can be a serious injury, especially if you are allergic. LTC Gouhin found one at the office!



Photo courtesy of University of Nebraska

## Who's Living Under My CHU?

**T**he Turkestan Roach Not only are these guys under our CHUs, but they are also invading the U.S.! Starting with the 1st Gulf War, this species has hitched a ride with soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, & now are invasive from CA to FL. Males are 1" long and have wings, females are wingless. Being thin shelled (easy to digest & high meat-to-shell ratio) and fast breeding, they are raised as pet food and are sold on the internet for \$.50 to \$1.50 each. Downside—they lay multiple egg cases and can spread disease.

## Bats in Iraq

**N**early one-fifth of all the types of mammals in Iraq are bats. Iraq is home to at least 20 different species! Bats are a critical link in the environment, controlling insects and pollinating a number of night-blooming plants. Most bats eat small insects, but others eat fruit and still others are vampires, biting a small cut into an animal in order to drink the blood. In Iraq nearly all the bats eat insects, the exception being the Egyptian fruit bat. Although largely beneficial and harmless, bats also pose a few of health risks. For one, bats are especially susceptible to rabies, which they can pass either thru a bite or thru inhalation in extremely confined areas. Bat dens can also build up toxic levels of ammonia and the accumulated guano on the floor can cause disease or host biting insects. It has recently been established that the Egyptian fruit bat carries the flesh-eating Marburg virus. Most bats spend the day in a communal den, which can be under the eaves of a building, the cracks between concrete barriers, or a hollow tree. Other bats will hang in trees, and some also live solo lives. Bats hunt at night using echolocation—they emit high pitched noises and triangulate the return echos from even the smallest of objects with great accuracy. Most of the bats of Iraq are very common, but some species are endangered, usually due to the effects of habitat destruction & pesticides. Look for them at dusk!

## Questions from the field... your questions answered!

### *What Kind of Skull is This?*

**G**olden Jackal. This skull was found in the ASP at GTQ and was thought to be from a Striped Hyena. Only about 7" long, it appears a little small at least for an adult hyena, and the wear on the teeth do indicate this was from an adult animal. To positively identify it, it was necessary to study the dental pattern. Each side of this upper set of teeth has 3 incisors, 1 canine, 4 pre-molars, and 2 molars, matching the dentate of the Golden jackal. The Striped Hyena would have had one less molar. Teeth can often tell about the type of animal, it's health, and age. The dollar in the photo shows scale, an aid in identification.



Photo courtesy of Army Chief Warrant Officer David Rohrbacher

# Around Balad

U.S. Army photos by  
Spc. Brian A. Barbour

**RIGHT:** Pvt. Norberto Gonzalez of Chicago, Ill, from the 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry out of Fort Wainwright AK, prepares to move out on a convoy resupply mission from Joint Base Balad, Iraq Oct. 29, 2008. Gonzalez, a driver for a Stryker unit based in Camp Normandy, Iraq, has been in Iraq for a month.



**ABOVE:** Army National Guard Soldiers from the 34th Combat Aviation Brigade out of St. Paul Minn., wait for a bus on Pennsylvania Avenue at Joint Base Balad Oct. 29, 2008. The buses run 24 hours a day and have stops throughout the base.



**ABOVE:** Staff Sgt. Stephen Wechsler of Allentown Pa., and Sgt. Jeff Johanson of Redding Calif., members of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, currently based at Camp Taji, Iraq, relax on their armored security vehicle at Joint Base Balad before heading back to their base. The soldiers, who fall under the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are both truck commanders for their vehicles and provide security for combat logistics patrols.



**LEFT:** Clockwise, Staff Sgt. Nick Wisely of Coffeyville, Kan., Master Sgt. Thomas Williams of Columbus, Ga., Staff Sgt. Joseph Rose of Flint, Mich., and Staff Sgt. Hamilton Jonas of Niles, Mich., play a board game in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment under the Multi-National Division - North are in transition before heading back to the United States after completing a 15-month deployment.