

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 21

A balancing act

Arizona resident:
From vice principal to
intelligence analyst
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*'The word is
spreading'*
Training pushes
limits
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546th ASMC

Indiana Guard unit:
*'All good things
must come
to an end'*
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**557th mixes
things up
story on pg. 8**

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

Spc. Julian Ramirez of El Paso, Texas, cleans the axle of a Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) trailer during a 5-year service at Joint Base Balad Oct. 30. Ramirez, an active duty Soldier with the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin Calif., has been deployed for 13 months.

Iraqi logisticians train for independence

BY SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

TAJI, Iraq – When you think of an army, images of sleek, lethal-looking tanks and armored vehicles may come to mind — not Ford F-350 pick-up trucks. However, such a vehicle is simply one of over 200 types of vehicles in the Iraqi Army arsenal, which has everything from Soviet-era T-72 tanks (once part of the Hungarian army) to American humvees



and British armored personnel carriers.

Servicing and repairing this wide range of vehicles was one of the key issues discussed during a two-day logistical training exercise at the Taji National Maintenance Depot here Oct. 27 and 28.

Approximately 250-300 Iraqi and Coalition officers attended the event, the first of its kind.

“It was both a historic and monumental event,” said Col. Kevin O’Connell, the commander of 1st Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), adding that the last two days were critical

to identifying problems in the current system. “From here, we work as a team to come to solution sets,” he said.

With so many vehicles in its fleet, Iraq must import most of its spare parts from different countries, said Capt. Randall Weiser, a liaison officer between 1st SB and the IA. This requires a sophisticated inventory management system, Internet databases, and trained personnel, he said.

Iraqi Col. Wihed, the commander of the south depot at Taji, said the IA received good equipment over the last year, but the transportation of spare

parts and reliable maintenance was still necessary to become self-sufficient.

In the past the IA was dependent on Coalition support to sustain its fighting forces. Iraqis have recently taken their own steps to increase their logistical capabilities.

The Taji National Maintenance Depot and the Taji National Supply Depot here centralizes Iraq’s logistical support, and Iraqis established a General Transportation Regiment and the Third Line Maintenance Facility here, mentored by Soldiers with the 1st SB, 3rd ESC.

The heart of this Iraqi-Coal-

ition partnership — this mentoring process — are the Logistics Training Assistance Teams, or LTATs, spread across the 3rd ESC’s area of operations.

Composed of detachments of American Soldiers or entire units, LTATs train and mentor their counterparts in IA sustainment units. At the Third Line Maintenance Facility here, Spc. Nathan Collins, an East Lansing, Mich., native and a maintenance advisor in 1st SB LTAT, works with Iraqi mechanics daily, showing them how to repair

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332 ESFS Blotter: 25 Oct. – 30 Oct.

Minor Vehicle Accident:

A Soldier reported to Security Forces his involvement in a minor vehicle accident. SF Patrols responded to his location and assisted the Soldier in filling out a statement of the events. The Soldier stated that while pulling his vehicle forward, he struck another parked vehicle causing damage to the parked vehicle and scratches to his vehicle. SF personnel recorded the damage with digital photography and briefed the Soldier to inform his chain of command about the incident.

Medical Response:

Fire personnel contacted Security Forces in reference to a medical emergency at the East Gate involving an injured local national's injury. SF patrols arrived on-scene and were informed by EMT that the LN would be transported to the AFTH for further treatment. SF response was terminated.

Minor Vehicle Accident:

An Air Force Member contacted Security Forces regarding a minor vehicle mishap. SF patrols arrived on-scene and assisted the member in completing a statement. The member stated that he was parked adjacent to the H-6 Housing fence and an unknown object shattered the back window of his vehicle. SF patrolman recorded the damage with digital photography and informed the member to report the mishap to his chain of command.

Assault/GOIB Violation:

A TCN Contractor entered the Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest to report an altercation between two of his fellow employees. Complainant further stated that he believed both individuals involved were intoxicated. SF Patrols responded to the scene and made contact with the TCNs. SF determined the individuals to be intoxicated and in need of medical attention due to the injuries sustained during the fight. Both individuals were transported to the AFTH and treated. The subjects were then taken to Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest and placed in detention cells. The complainant stated he would return later in the day to assist the subjects with their statements concerning the altercation.

Patrol Response/Loud Noise Complaint/GOIB Violation:

Security Forces was contacted in regards to a loud noise complaint in H-6 Housing. SF Patrols arrived on-scene and made contact with two individuals causing the noise. Upon contact, patrolmen discovered them to be intoxicated and non-compliant. The individuals were placed under apprehension and transported to the AFTH for blood tests to determine the levels of influence. The subjects were then transported to Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest and placed in the detention cells. Unit leadership was contacted and the subjects were released.

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:

NIPR- 443-8602

SIPR- 241-1171

Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Legal advice: Family matters, deployments

BY ARMY PFC. JACLYN MIMS
224th MI paralegal

Do you and your spouse have marital problems? If you do, you are far from being alone.

According to studies conducted by matrimonial lawyers, the top three causes of separation and divorce in couples are infidelity, financial problems and poor communication.

Unfortunately, these problems contribute to the high number of divorces.

The United States Census Bureau reports that, on average, about 957,200 divorces are finalized every year in the United States. When you compare the number of divorces to the number of marriages every year (about 2,355,005), the divorce rate seems awfully high.

With such a high number of divorces, it may be tempting to feel discouraged with your own marriage.

It may also seem extremely hard to find the right balance between work, personal, and Family obligations.

In the military, maintaining good communication is very important to having a successful relationship. Soldiers and their Families face many additional stressors such as deployment, limited communication, and geographical

separation.

The more time that a couple spends apart, the easier it becomes for them to grow apart, form new friendships, and neglect personal affairs.

Although you may be geographically separated from your spouse and/or children, you still have certain obligations.

While you are deployed, make sure that you understand your obligations under Army Regulation 608-99 (Family Support, Child Custody, and Paternity).

Army Regulation 608-99 explains Army policy and Soldier responsibilities with regard to financial support of Family members, child custody, child visitation, and related personal affairs. The regulation prohibits using military status or assignment to avoid financial support of Family members.

In addition, Soldiers must conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit upon themselves or the United States Army. AR 608-99 states that a Soldier's responsibility to his/her Family includes:

- 1) Maintaining reasonable contact with Family members so that the Family's financial needs and welfare do not rise to the level of requiring intervention by the Army,
- 2) Conducting himself/her-

self in an honorable manner with regard to parental commitments and responsibilities,

3) Providing adequate financial support to Family members, and

4) Complying with all court orders.

The bottom line is that the geographical separation created by deployment may appear to make marital problems more difficult to manage.

However, the key to minimizing the strain on your relationship is good communication.

Remember that you are not the first person (and certainly will not be the last person) to experience relationship problems.

You also have many people and resources that can assist you in resolving your problems, such as the chaplain, chain of command, and legal assistance.

Finally, if you have any specific questions about your responsibilities under AR 608-99, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at DSN 433-2836.

We are always willing to assist you with your legal affairs to make it easier for you to focus on completing your mission and safely returning home.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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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^d 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.

World's largest!



Courtesy photo

2,216 people form the world's largest yellow ribbon at Fort Knox, Ky. The previous world record of 1,358 people was set at the U.S. Army Garrison-Ansbach in Germany on May 14, 2008. The Fort Knox Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation office is planning to submit the photo and documentation to the Guinness Book of World Records.

'HOOAH' SOLDIER OF THE WEEK



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Master Sgt. Andrew McArdell, a Denver, Colo., native and medical operation noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, the 3^d ESC commanding general, for being selected as this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week"

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.*



LEFT: While standing on a map of Iraq, Iraqi army officers respond to a scenario during a logistical training exercise at Taji, Iraq on Oct. 28. The 1st Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is currently mentoring the Iraqi General Transportation Regiment and the Third Line Maintenance Facility here, both of which would enhance the logistical capability of Iraqi security forces.

U.S. Army photo by Kiyoshi Freeman

LOGISTICS, from Page 1

humvees.

Collins said he felt confident to ride in any vehicle the Iraqis repaired. He said that being able to “maintain their own vehicles (allows) them to provide their own security and will help them become self-reliant.”

“The Iraqis feel there is someone standing by their side,” said O’Connell, whose unit was one of the first to incorporate LTATs. “Every day they’re getting

better and grasping the things they need to do . . . We’re proud to work with our Iraqi partners.”

During the exercise, some IA officers began referring to how sustainment operations used to run. Iraqi Staff Lt. Gen. Abdullah, the deputy chief of staff-logistics for Iraqi Joint Headquarters and the host for the event, interrupted and said the focus of the training would not be on what the Coalition would or have done for the IA in the past, but how the

Iraqis would solve logistical problems themselves.

In his closing remarks, Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, the senior logistician from Multi-National Forces—Iraq, said the Coalition would continue to work hand-in-hand with the IA to find solutions to these new challenges.

“The logisticians’ sole purpose,” McHale said, “is to support the warfighter.”



U.S. Army photo by Kiyoshi Freeman

ABOVE: Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, the senior logistician from Multi-National Forces - Iraq, shares his closing remarks with Iraqi Staff Lt. Gen. Abdullah, the deputy chief of staff-logistics for Iraqi Joint Headquarters, during a two-day logistical training exercise held at Taji, Iraq on Oct. 27 and 28. McHale said the Coalition would continue to work together with their Iraqi partners until the Iraqi army was ready to stand on its own.



U.S. Army photo by Kiyoshi Freeman

ABOVE: From left to right, Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, the Iraq Assistance Group Commander, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commander of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), listen to a translation as Iraqi army officers brief Coalition Forces during a logistics symposium held at Taji, Iraq on Oct. 27. The 1st Sustainment Brigade, 3^d ESC, currently mentors the General Transportation Regiment and the Third Line Maintenance Facility here.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Audrey Iliberi

ABOVE: Spc. Nathan Collins, a maintenance advisor with 1st Sustainment Brigade, from East Lansing, Mich., works together with Iraqi mechanics on a humvee engine at the Third Line Maintenance Facility at Taji, Iraq. Collins said he felt confident to ride in any vehicle the Iraqis repaired, and that being able to “maintain their own vehicles (allows) them to provide their own security and will help them become self-reliant.”

591st MLC keeps supplies stocked, ready

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. ANTHONY HOOKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – For just over a year, Soldiers assigned to the 591st Medical Logistics Company have provided direct support to Task Force, brigade and Corps Medical units throughout Iraq.

Since November 2007, the 70-member company from Ft. Sam Houston, Texas has received, stocked and shipped medical items, run a single and multi-vision optical lens fabrication and repair lab, and provided a medical maintenance shop for customers assigned missions on behalf of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 591st MLC, nearing completion of their 15-month deployment, reports that they service over 400 different units on a monthly basis.

The 591st MLC hosted nearly 100 customer representatives in the inaugural Medical logistics conference in February and three Iraqi medical officers in April. During each event the 591st provided instruction, knowledge and understanding of medical logistics operations.

Capt. Shondra Thomas, commander

of the 591st MLC, says the unit's goal has been to provide life saving medical supplies to Warfighters. Thomas, a native of Birmingham, Ala., says the unit met the Department of the Army standard of 62 percent for demand accommodation after 130 days in theater, a fact her office says has never been done previously in Iraq. Although proud of the accomplishment, Thomas says it is her hope that the percentage rises to 90 percent by the time her unit leaves theater.

Receiving supplies from U.S. bases in Germany or Qatar, the items are identified and marked and shelved. The 591st MLC keeps over 1200 lines of items on stock at the warehouse, making sure customers are fully mission capable. When a product is scheduled to be moved, it must be done using a material release order, which identifies items and verifies their proper destinations.

Sgt. Matthew Byars, the medical maintenance shipping noncommissioned officer, accounts for items as soon as they arrive at the warehouse. Whether receiving incoming equipment that needs repair or performing inspections on new or swapped-out equipment, Byars says the handoff is key, as a breakdown can lead to major problems.

"The right hand must know what the left hand is doing," Byars says, whose

section can receive four or five truckloads a day, depending on the season. "If our counterparts in receiving don't tell us what's coming or if my group is not updating statuses, we are not able to do command and control."

Byars says they often deal with high-dollar, high-visibility equipment, so he says it's important to be conscientious of Army dollars and other people's involvement.

"Earlier in the year, we lost track of an item that was loaned out to a customer," Byars says. "It was eventually found in e-mail traffic, but that was a \$92,000 item that was almost lost . . . something a person could have thrown right in the back of a humvee."

The 591st MLC reports that they have saved over 14 million dollars in re-stock. Byars says whatever the situation, the priority is to make sure items are accounted for.

"I may never touch the equipment but the accountability is still mine," says Spc. Emmanuel Alvarado, a medical maintenance repair technician who worked in the medical warehouse in 2005. Alvarado says the

workload is still the same but the environment is better.

"The last time (I) was here, we worked in tents," says Alvarado. "The equipment took a beating. Now that we are under a hardened area, dust is still an issue, but it's much less than when we worked under tents."

Occasionally going to outlying areas to fix broken equipment, Alvarado says the customers let him know how important the company's services are.

"Our customers tell us (they) appreciate what we do," Alvarado says. "It's very motivating when you hear it from people who use it."



Spc. Bryan Ashe, a medical supply specialist with the 591st Medical Logistics Company, stacks supplies in the cold storage container at the Class VIII (medical supplies) warehouse Aug. 29. Ashe is a native of San Antonio, Texas.

Soldier balances leadership role at home, in the Army

BY SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Many Soldiers join the military to gain knowledge, leadership skills, and serve their country.

In today's Army, many Soldiers are joining the ranks more prepared, with more life experience, and with many members enlisting after college or prominent careers in the civilian sector.

All this can be said about Spc. Jeffrey Jones, a Tucson, Ariz., native, and reservist who works as an intelligence analyst with the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Jones is also a vice-principal with the Arizona Children's Association, which offers more than 40 child welfare and behavioral health programs that fall into three categories: intervention, prevention and permanency.

With his civilian position, the father of two brings many positive attributes to the Army that many younger Soldiers have yet to be exposed to or lack.

"I started working for the Arizona Children's Association 11 years ago as a residential counselor working with emotionally, behaviorally disordered adolescents and at-risk youth and it just grew from there," Jones says. "I've worked boys and girls dorms, instructed therapeutic crisis intervention courses, substance abuse programs, and in the edu-

cational side of the organization, which I currently work."

As a vice-principal, Jones is responsible for 12 teacher's aides whom he supervises and trains.

These job responsibilities are much different than those that are expected of him as a junior Soldier. While all Soldiers are expected to be leaders regardless of rank, Jones admits that he has had to take a different approach to his Army career.

"I may not wear the rank here, but I do feel as if I contribute something larger than myself,"

Spc. Jeffrey D. Jones
3^d Sust. Cmd. (Expeditionary)

"Coming here has been much different for me because I'm only a specialist, so my mindset and rank are on different levels," Jones says. "It's comforting in a way to not have to be in charge, but the people I work with respect my opinions and I'm able to talk very openly about what I think about things happening around me."

Even as a junior Soldier, Jones says he feels as if he brings much to the table in the form of leadership. While in his position as vice-principal, he started the LEADER Program, which is an acronym for Learn Effective Alternative Decision making through Experiential learning

and Relationships.

The program's objectives were for participants to learn through experiences in order to gain trust. Many of the youth Jones deals with daily in his civilian job have trust issues, and this program was a way to teach them how to gain it.

Jones began his Army career in 1992 as a combat engineer, serving for four years. During his enlistment, he became a noncommissioned officer as a corporal. Jones later left the Army and had a

five-year absence from service. After returning to the military, Jones had to start over as a private first class and work his way back up in rank.

With his most recent military stint, Jones re-enlisted because of a reason which he said he feels to be a cliché these days, but is very respectable and admirable.

"After 9/11 I started thinking about rejoining the military, and I was a proud member before and just decided to come back in and give it another whirl," Jones says. "This time around I just knew I was a little older and not as hooah as I used to be, but I decided to try again."

As far as his new position within the Army is concerned, Jones considers it to be different from his first stint as a Soldier. Life as an intelligence analyst is different from that of an engineer. More of Jones' duties consist of working at a computer than performing the manual labor required of engineers, but he says he has made the most of it.

Those who work with him have taken notice to his leadership qualities.

"He has been working special projects for us, including integrating new systems into our daily operations," says Maj. Steven Powell, 3^d ESC military intelligence deputy. "He has been very effective in this role and has shown tremendous initiative in organizing our data. His maturity and attention to detail have put him in position to replace me when we I go on leave."

Even though his role within the Army and life have changed this time around, Jones says he is comfortable with his decision to rejoin the service he knows and loves. The work he's done with his past and current units, coupled with his civilian capacity, has provided a helping hand in this matter.

"With the choices I've made that's gotten me to where I'm at today, I'm very proud of who I am, I'm proud of what I've done and the things I've accomplished," Jones says. "I may not wear the rank here, but I do feel as if I contribute something larger than just myself. I'm part of the bigger picture and I don't think I would change anything."

Personal security detail to end tour

BY ARMY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -

Many Indiana Army National Guardsmen here are preparing to conclude a nine-month deployment as the Personal Security Detail for the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at the end of November.

The detail, which is part of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Lafayette, Ind., the PSD team will hand over their mission to A Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion from Seattle, Wash.

Over the last several months, the PSD team has had two missions, but one goal: keep people safe.

They did this by providing security to general officers, distinguished visitors and vulnerable personnel on base.

They also served as security for these personnel during convoys across Iraq.

During their deployment, the unit protected such distinguished visitors as Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, General David Petraeus and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

1st Lt. Scott Andrews, the team's officer in charge, said escorting well-known guests isn't any different than escorting anyone else.

"We do the same as we always do; we have a standard for everything," Andrews said. "We might have more personnel assigned to the team, but our standard operating procedures are the same for everyone."

Andrews said his unit needed to be ready at all times. PSD teams are on standby if the Commanding General needs to be escorted.

"Our vehicles and equipment have to

learned protective services tactics and how to conduct anti-ambush operations.

Another 14 Soldiers attended special reaction team school learning spe-

Thus far, the unit has successfully protected every person they've escorted.

The journey has not always been smooth. One convoy came under small-arms fire after insurgents hit one convoy with an improvised explosive device. Soldiers from the unit received two Purple Heart medals, three combat action badges and one combat medic badge.

Spc. Kattie J. Elridge, a lead scout driver from Switzerland County, Ind., deployed for the first time with the unit and said she could not have imagined what it would be like in Iraq.

"When you hear people talk (about Iraq) you get an idea of what it is like," Elridge said. "This was nothing like I expected."

Elridge said she wouldn't mind coming back to Iraq but only if she could do the exact same job.

"It's a big adrenaline rush being lead scout; telling the convoy what they are going to see ahead," Elridge said. "It's a blast."

Elridge said she also enjoyed the people they protected. She said the people they escorted they were always professional and gave them compliments.

"They (escorted visitors) let us know they were confident in us and would go out with us again," said Elridge.

Spc. Brent H. Crouch, an M-240 gunner from St. Paul, Ind., said the deployment has made him consider a new career.

"This deployment has been a lot of good training for law enforcement," Crouch said.

Andrews attributes the success of this deployment to his team.

"The Soldiers have stepped up and shined during this mission," Andrews said.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David E. Caldwell

Soldiers from the personal security detail, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pose in front of their vehicles here Oct. 26. The Indiana Army National Guard unit from Lafayette, Ind., prepares to conclude their nine-month deployment and hand over their mission to A Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion out of Seattle, Wash.

be ready," Andrews said. "A normal day is preparing things to be ready. So when you get the call, you load up the truck, get the latest intel and you go."

Andrews said arriving in Iraq with a well-trained team has added to the mission's success.

Prior to arriving in country, the PSD received special training for the mission.

Eight team members attended protective services training, in which they

specialized team responses to high-risk situations such as barricaded subjects, hostage situations and counterterrorist operations.

"The training was important because working on a PSD team is not a traditional combat military police mission," Andrews said. "It's good we have trained for it."

When the unit leaves country in late November they will have completed over 60 PSD missions.

Unit begins new 'Baron University' for Q-West

BY ARMY SPC. SEAN DILLARD
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq -

Signal Soldiers and leaders from the 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, started a program to allow Department of Defense personnel here to get technical certifications and college credits for computer programs and systems.

The program, known as "Baron University," will also allow Soldiers to get promotion points and training in systems they are interested in, regardless of their military jobs, said Chief Warrant Officer Dannie Walters, network operations, from the 16th Sust. Bde.

"All Signal warrants (warrant officers) usually start a network univer-

sity of some type to keep their workers proficient in their job level task," Walters said. "Baron University takes it a little further to prepare for future jobs in the IT (information technology) field."

Bde. headquarters Oct. 5. "The return that the Army gets on its investment could be a future warrant officer or a government contractor."

Baron University is a new way to develop signal skills and certifications

job related equipment training in the signal field.

"I think it will help out with the professional growth of Soldiers," said Sgt. Walter Ashcraft, joint network node operator, from the 16th STB.

For others, the classes are an opportunity to refresh their job skills.

"After being out of tech (technical) school for almost two years, I've had no experience in networking though that is what my school was all about," said Tech. Sgt. Rick Fried, U.S. Air Force. "I would like a refresher and to build on my experience."

Also, the signal Soldiers are planning to have classes for entry-level students to learn basic troubleshooting for their workstations.

The classes will begin in November and are planned to run every other month. Prerequisites to participate in the program will be on the SharePoint portal.

"I think it will help out with the professional growth of Soldiers."

Sgt. Walter Ashcraft
16th Sust. Bde.

Education and on-the-job training are important in developing competent Soldiers and leaders, Walters said.

"Teaching others works," Walters said, during a briefing at the 16th Sust.

in a peer teaching environment for Soldiers and Officers, Walters said.

One goal for the program is to establish a testing center for certification in CCNET, CCNA, A+, Comptia Network +, Comptia Security + and



LEFT & ABOVE: Iraqi recruits exercise and train while going through the basic-training style indoctrination of "Hell Week" with the national Emergency Response Brigade. Trained by Iraqi instructors, and advised by Coalition forces Soldiers, the recruits are going through the first week of a five-week selection course to train new men to join the national counter-terrorism units. If they succeed, they will continue the efforts of the Iraqi government in bringing safety and security to Iraq.

ERB selection course pushes recruits to physical limits

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. MIKE MEARES
CJSOTF-AP Public Affairs

Editors Note: Names have been withheld from this story for operational security purposes.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

Wrenched in pain, their faces hover inches from the ground. Large drops of sweat drip from their noses and fall to the dusty, rocky ground. An instructor yells out instructions to complete another set of push-ups.

The Iraqi national Emergency Response Brigade is conducting "Hell Week," or the first of a five-week selection course to train new recruits to join the national counter-terrorism units, continuing the efforts of the Iraqi government to bring security and safety to Iraq.

"The word is spreading about the good reputation ERB has," says a Coalition forces staff sergeant. "A lot of guys want to be a part of it."

There were more than 500 applicants from Baghdad, 1,500 from Mosul area and 2,800 from Tikrit. The selection criteria of high-quality, high-

school-educated men narrowed down the field of selection to 217 men.

"It's crucial we have a selection process," says a Coalition forces sergeant serving as a technical advisor. "We go after [wanted criminals and terrorists] and need skilled and intelligent people who can handle the intensity of the high-value missions."

Applicants from Mosul to Basrah had to complete a physical-fitness test, medical screening and biological metrics. The physical fitness test weeds out those who are not physically capable of making it through training.

"We will find out here who can [handle] missions and who cannot," says the senior Iraqi instructor. "We never know what kind of conditions will challenge us while on a mission. If they comply with orders here, they will comply on mission."

The sun-up to sun-down training pushes the trainees through dozens of obstacles across a hard, rocky ground, pushing the men to their physical limits. The applicants have a varied range of experience. Some of them have prior Iraqi security forces training while others have little to no training at all. Prior training or not, successful completion of the course is not guaranteed.

"This is hard on these guys," says a Coalition forces training tactical advisor and ERB mentor. "They are not

used to this kind of physical punishment."

A bell sits at the front of the training area and rings out to the entire group every time a man decides he can't continue the training. The sound of the bell announces defeat, as one man after another, breathing heavily, calls it quits. Sixteen men ultimately rang the bell during day one, signaling the end of the training for them; they cannot continue.

"Every man has a breaking point," says one of the Iraqi men from the Tikrit area waiting to turn in his uniform and boots after ringing the bell. "I have found mine."

According to the training advisors, the training is designed to initiate self-motivation. They also says most of the Iraqi trainees, ages 18 to 45, have never done any type of training as physical as this before.

The training is conducted from beginning to end by Iraqi instructors who are veteran members of one of the national units. They are hand selected from active units. They complete a 12-week, train-the-trainer course to learn how to conduct basic combat-skills training, then spend an additional three weeks learning how to teach with professional aids. As seasoned operators who know what it takes to survive while on mission, they marry these newly-learned skills with

experience to either transform new recruits or usher them to their breaking points.

Ding, ding, ding!

The sound of the bell turns every head to see another recruit quit.

By the second day, 23 more trainees ring the bell, further thinning out the crowd of men, leaving the others pushing to complete training. The Iraqi and Coalition instructors' goal is not to kick men out of the program, but to prepare the Soldiers to battle an insurgency threatening Iraqi progress.

"We are preparing them to fight criminals and terrorists," the senior Iraqi instructor says. "Anything can happen. Our men need to be physically and mentally superior to the enemies."

One trainee, a resident of Basrah, hung up his hammer as a construction worker to provide a better living for his family. He says he also wants to be a part of a team that helps keep his family and countrymen safe. He says he feels bad every time he hears the bell ring, but uses the sound to motivate himself to push on.

"It's okay, I can take it," he says, talking about the physical intensity of

See **ERB**, Page 12

Not what yo



ABOVE: Spc. Shane McAulay of Norton, Mass., moves a Bradley Fighting Vehicle in the convoy receiving supply point, or CRSP, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Oct. 30. McAulay, a Soldier on a 15-month deployment with his unit, the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., has the job of loading and unloading tracked vehicles at the CRSP.

BELOW: Spc. Matthew Hall of Hanna, Texas, a Soldier with the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., and DOD civilian Ronald Jones with the Red River Army Depot out of Texarkana, Texas, check fluids in a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



BELOW: Soldiers from the 557th Maintenance Company out of Fort Irwin, Calif., and Communication Electronics Command civilian Rick Tauares pose for a photo at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Oct. 30. The soldiers work under Tauares, maintaining and fixing generators that power security systems on base.



STORY BY SPC. KELLY BECK
PHOTOS BY SPC. BRIAN BARBOUR
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – From the moment their boots hit the ground in Iraq, the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., was tasked out with missions that are what you might expect of a maintenance unit.

Of the 215 Soldiers that make up the company, 50 were sent to Forward Operating Base Speicher to conduct convoy recovery missions, one was sent to Mosul and the rest were sent to Joint Base Balad.

Regardless of their location, they share one thing in common; they did what was asked of them.

At JBB, the 557th's shipping containers remained untouched because their mission didn't require using



You'd expect...

the maintenance equipment they had brought with them. Instead of turning wrenches, they were assigned to secure the north, south and east entry control points to the base.

After only about a week of training, they took over the three ECPs.

"It definitely isn't what we thought we would be doing, but I loved it," says Spc. Simon Danielson, a 557th Soldier. We each had our strong points and we shared our knowledge with each other and watched out for each other."

1st Sgt. David Williams says that after maintaining the ECPs for about a month and a half they were given the opportunity to suggest ways to improve them.

"Three million dollars was put into improving the structure and lay out of JBB's ECPs and we designed many of the improvements that were used," says Capt. Beau Taylor, the 557th company commander.

While part of the unit helped improve the ECPs, the company's team

at FOB Speicher was busy conducting about 120 convoy recovery missions.

"We have done so much," Williams says. "And everyone has had such a great attitude. I just get so proud thinking of all the things we have done. The soldiers have gotten so much experience out here."

Not only did the 557th help improve the ECPs, they also trained Air Force personnel and contract security to take them over.

"We ran the ECPs, went on several patrols into local villages, spoke with sheiks, arranged times to have kids come to the ECPs and give them toys, trained how to run an ECP and now we are doing almost a little bit of everything," Williams says.

Eleven months into the company's scheduled 15-month deployment, the unit was recalled to JBB and were quickly scattered across the base doing many different jobs. These jobs included everything from uploading and downloading M1 Abrams tanks

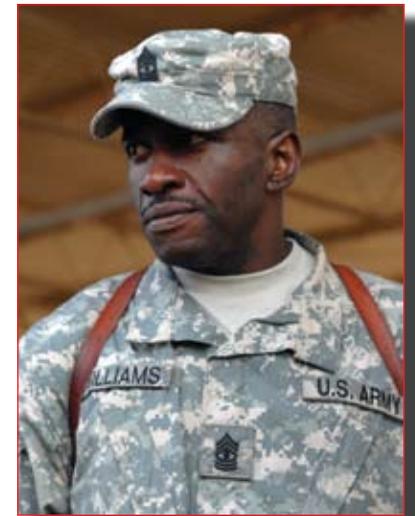
to working the generators that power security systems on base. They also maintained humvees, Heavy Equipment Transporters, and repaired weapons, as other tasks on JBB.

One task included taking inventory of "FOB in a Box" kits – kits which include everything needed to create a new FOB.

"Things are a lot more relaxing now," says Spc. Madeline Brown, from the 557th who first worked at an ECP and now works on base generators. "It's more of a 9 to 5 where I can have more of a daily routine because the ECPs were hectic."

Now, with two months left in their deployment, many of the Soldiers are ready to go home.

"I miss my family so much, and I can tell you, if it wasn't for being able to go home and see them, I've had a great time here and wish I could stay," Williams says.



ABOVE: 1st Sgt. David Williams, with the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., talks to one of his Soldiers while making his rounds at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Williams' unit has been tasked with several different missions throughout Iraq, and has been deployed for 13 months.



LEFT: From left, Spc. Juan Cuevas of Burbank Calif., Cpl. Brian Butti of Oxnard Calif., and Shane McAulay of Norton, Mass., use a M88 armored recovery vehicle and slave cables to jumpstart a M1 Abrams tank at the convoy receiving supply point (CRSP) at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Oct. 30. Many Soldiers from the 557th Maintenance Company, from Fort Irwin, Calif., are tasked with loading and unloading tracked vehicles at the CRSP.

BELOW: Spc. Dustin Picard of Riverside Calif., and Cpl. Christopher Clement of Shareport, La., soldiers from the 557th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., examine a M2 .50-caliber machinegun at the small arms support center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The SASC exists so that enlisted personnel from all branches can have their weapons repaired or replaced in theater.



Soldiers enable the warfighter — to relax

BY ARMY SGT. KEITH ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq

— There are many ways to “enable the Warfighter” to do his job, but few ways to enable him or her to relax; and for two Soldiers here, “down-time” is a full-time mission.

Pfc. Billy Anderson and Spc. Randal Couch, both Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Indiana Army National Guard, run cables, trouble shoot, install networks, antennas, power inverters and splitters to ensure that everyone on base can watch American Forces Network television programming.

“Couch and Anderson go out of their way to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have AFN, with most installs completed within 48 hours,” says Sgt. 1st Class Jeramie Baty, signal operations non-commissioned officer in charge, 76th BSTB.

“These two Soldiers service a COB with over six thousand people, and they do it ten hours a day, seven days a week,” Baty says. “Considering neither one of them has had any formal training in the cable television industry — that includes operating the equipment needed to decode the satellite signal into its various stations and then

recombine and broadcast the new signal to the individual customer’s television — they have done a great job.”

Couch, a signal systems support specialist on his second deployment, says he was caught off-guard with the job.

“I didn’t ask for the job,” says Couch. “It was given to me. I was tasked to complete the project started by the last unit (the 332nd Rear Area Operations Center, Wisconsin Army National Guard) to get everyone AFN.”

The 26-year-old from Indianapolis, Ind., says he enjoyed the work.

“It’s nice,” he says. “I get to get out of the office.”

In 2006, Soldiers at Q-West starting getting three channels of AFN, with limited availability. The 76th BSTB took over the project in May 2008, Baty says.

“In our time here we have installed over 14 miles of cable; provided service in over 800 CHUs; and installed networks in seven “pads” and 40 buildings,” says Baty, a 31-year-old native of Middletown, Ind. “We have upgraded the equipment that runs the commander’s channel, added the Q-West movie channel and one FM radio station. We have installed over \$40,000-worth of equipment throughout the COB.”

Baty says that television is important to Soldiers’ well-being.

“AFN is a vital piece in maintaining a Soldiers morale and sanity,” Baty says. “It is the link that you have to home, especially now during

the baseball World Series and, of course, football season. Soldiers will complain about lost AFN service before they will about water rationing.”

For Sgt. 1st Class Lamar Chancellor, brigade property book non-commissioned officer, being able to see his favorite teams, including the Alabama Crimson Tide, Dallas Cowboys and Phoenix Suns, is very important.

“I’m telling you, it’s definitely a big plus,” says the 35-year-old from Birmingham, Ala. “Because there was a time they didn’t have it here.”

Anderson, a 23-year-old construction equipment repair specialist from New Castle, Ind., says he didn’t expect to be a cable installer in Iraq.

“I was just going to show up and do whatever they told me to do,” Anderson says. “I didn’t know I’d be running cable, though. I don’t mind it; I’m learning a different trade. I guess I can’t complain.”

Anderson says television is important to Soldiers, though he doesn’t like watching it.

“If we don’t give it to them we’re not liked much,” Anderson says. “I don’t have a



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
Spc. Randal Couch, signal systems support specialist, and Pfc. Billy Anderson, construction equipment repair specialist, both Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indiana Army National Guard, run coaxial cable through a drainage conduit on the roof of the 16th Sustainment Brigade headquarters building here Oct. 30.

TV; I don’t watch TV. I try to keep busy. I hate being in the CHU (containerized housing unit).”

Anderson says he was proud of the work he’s done, but he’s ready to wrap-up this

deployment and go to school to study sports medicine.

“I’m ready to get back, get back to Indiana,” he says. “I won’t have to walk through sand and gravel to get anywhere.”

Senegalese Soldier becomes citizen during deployment

BY ARMY SGT. KEITH ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq

— He came to the U.S. in 2001 to go to school, but now he is a Soldier in the U.S.

Army deployed to Iraq, and recently accomplished a long-time goal: become a U.S. citizen.

Spc. Sidy Sidibe, a mechanic with Alpha Co, 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, became

a full-fledged citizen when he was naturalized — along with other Soldiers — during a ceremony at Victory Base Compound on Nov. 4.

Sidibe, who is from Dakar, Senegal, said becoming a citizen had been on his mind for a long time. He said he is proud to be an American citizen and that it is a privilege to serve in the Army.

The naturalization ceremony was an end to a six-year process for the married, father of one. He was married in 2002, but was told he had to wait three years after getting married to file for citizenship. He filed in 2005.

Sidibe left his wife, Marquita, and one-month-old

baby, Mina, behind when he deployed, but said the sacrifice was worthwhile, and he was following in his father’s

steps growing up and he put me back on track.”

Sidibe said that despite having to leave a newborn

citizenship.

“It’s one of those experiences you can’t get anywhere else,” Sidibe said. “And it’s the best thing they could do to get their stuff going. There are many advantages.”

Before he came to America, Sidibe earned the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in Dakar. He is now studying business administration and bio-technology in Illinois, and has taken courses online during his deployment.

Sidibe said he plans to return to Indiana and finish his courses after the deployment. He would like to someday move to New York City.

footsteps.

“My dad was in the French army so I thought I’d follow his path,” Sidibe said. “He’s my reference. I had some is-

behind, his deployment was worthwhile, and actually sped-up the naturalization process, and he recommended it for other immigrants considering

“I will be proud to be an American and it’s a privilege to serve in the Army.”

Spc. Sidy Sidibe
30th CSSB

215th MPAD ends tour in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. BRIAN BARBOUR
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, commanded by Maj. Timothy Horton, handed over responsibility of the public affairs mission, under the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment commanded by Maj. Christopher Emmons here Nov. 3.

The 215th MPAD, an Army Reserve unit from New Orleans, La., supported the 3^d ESC by running the ESC's public affairs office here.

Maj. Christopher Emmons said he

is excited about taking over the mission from the 215th.

"We'll have to meet or exceed their standard," Emmons said. "They have set a high standard with their print and broadcast products."

During its deployment to Iraq, Horton said the 215th increased the number of products that were being picked up by mainstream international media. The 215th also doubled the video product output, and extended coverage to include all units subordinate to the ESC, regardless of their location.

When asked how his mission enabled the Warefighter, Horton replied that the 215th "put a spotlight on operations without bias or malice, and relieved commanders of the constant battle with the press."

The 215th is a conglomerate of reserve soldiers from all over the United



Maj. Christopher Emmons, commander of the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment officially takes responsibility of the public affairs mission, under the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Maj. Timothy Horton, commander of the 215th MPAD during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Nov. 3.

States; most didn't know each other until reporting for duty in New Orleans.

Spc. Ryan Hohman of Hutto, Texas, says the unit was able to pull together

quickly.

"We were able to find the strengths and weaknesses of the unit Soldiers and learned to work with them," he said.

546th ASMC ends tour, transfers authority

STORY AND PHOTO BY
ARMY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers from the 546th Area Support Medical Company celebrated the end of a 15-month deployment and transferred authority to the 215th Area Support Medical Company, an Indiana National Guard unit, during a ceremony here Oct. 31.

"All good things must come to an end, and I am not going to lie, we are thrilled to be heading out," said Capt. Gregory M. Sprowl, the 546th ASMC company commander from Georgetown, Texas. "But we leave knowing we left a better footprint than we received, and we did things the right way."

The Soldiers, noncommissioned officer and officers of the 546th have done great things for the Soldiers of this community, Sprowl said.

While deployed the unit had approximately 25,000 outpatient encounters, 40,000 pharmacy orders, 6,500 X-rays and 15,000 vaccinations.

"These are all hard numbers and a testament to the activities in the Sgt. Ivory Phipps Medical Clinic and our Emergency Response Center," Sprowl said.

Sprowl said he also measured the quality of their tour by the quick response of the unit ambulance teams which arrived before other first responders to the scene 75% of the time, with no motor vehicle accidents.

Sprowl said all the medics were instrumental in the success of this tour.

"I could not be more proud of the results," Sprowl said.

The Sgt. Ivory Phipps Medical Clinic has been the busiest health care facility of its kind in all of Iraq since the unit took over in September of 2007, said 1st Lt. Nolan G. Ellis, the Treatment Platoon Leader from St. Robert, Miss.

The clinic provided daily sick call and immunization care for Joint Base Balad military residents and Department of Defense civilians 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I am extremely proud of my medics and their dedication to providing consistent, outstanding health care for such a long period," Ellis said.

One project the 546th worked on, but did not complete, was the redesign of the treatment area, an additional room for privacy and increased efficiency. The renovations are scheduled to be completed by the 215th.

"Personally, it will be bitter sweet for me to not see the renovations complete since I have been driving this project for over 10 months," Ellis said. "I am very glad this facility will get improvements that it needs."

Staff Sgt. Maurice Hampton, an ambulance team NCO from Killeen, Texas said he is impressed with the 215th. He said the unit came in prepared for their mission.

"The soldiers know what to do. They know the wound and how to categorize it," Hampton said. "We are confident they can take over and do a great job."

Maj. Craig T. Hawes, the 215th company commander from Columbus, Ind., said he was thankful to the 546th for the professional work environment they established.

"We are falling into a first class op-

eration," Hawes said. "We will continue to administer the same level of care that has been established by the 546th."

Sprowl said the 546th's new mission will be transitioning back into their personal lives when they reach Fort

Hood, Texas.

"A great officer once told me that in the Army there is no ENDEX (end of exercise), only changes in mission, Sprowl said, "We must put the same focus on this new mission as the one from which we are relieved."



Members of the 546th Area Support Medical Company and the 215th Area Support Medical Company participate in a transfer of authority ceremony held at Balad on Oct. 31. "We are falling into a first class operation," said Maj. Craig T. Hawes, the 215th company commander from Columbus, Ind. "We will continue to administer the same level of care that has been established by the 546th."

Under new management



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

Col. John Dolan, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander, speaks to Airmen and Soldiers during a Base Operating Support-Integrator transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 5. Col. Sal Nodjoman, the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, assumed responsibility of mission support functions such as law enforcement, civil engineering and vehicle operations Nov. 6 from Army Col. Courtney Carr, the commander of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

ERB, from Page 7

the training. "I want to tell the ones quitting not to, to tough it out."

Once the trainees are done with Hell Week, they will endure another four weeks of physical conditioning and learn weapons safety and marksmanship.

"Just because they make it through the first week, doesn't mean they are going to make it," says a Coalition forces sergeant first class and ERB advisor.

The second and third week of the training will concentrate on small-arms proficiency with pistols and assault rifles. The final two weeks will introduce them to close-quarters battle techniques. Close-quarters battle, also known as close-quarters combat, is when small security units engage an enemy with personal weapons at very short range, potentially to the point of hand-to-hand combat.

Enemies, hostages, civilians and fellow operators may be in very close proximity, increasing the chances of fratricide or other unintended injury or death. This technique of fighting

demands a rapid assault and a precise application of lethal force. The operators need great proficiency with their weapons, but also the ability to make split-second decisions.

"If they don't understand the concept of (close-quarters battle), I'm not going to let them continue," the sergeant first class says.

The initial training program prepares them to join their home units, where they will see continuous advanced training through foreign internal defense partnerships. They will receive training in advanced marksmanship techniques, close-quarters battle, urban movement, reactive sniper fire and continuous physical fitness.

According to officials at Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula, nearly all the ERB and SWAT units in the country are conducting completely unilateral operations. They are developing their own intelligence on enemy forces, obtaining warrants from Iraqi judges and independently conducting operations to arrest criminals and terrorists.

The ERB has a battalion in Bagh-



Covered in mud, an Iraqi recruit waits for further instruction while going through the basic-training style indoctrination of "Hell Week."

dad as well as four regionally-based Special Weapons and Tactics units in Mosul, Tikrit, Hillah and Kut. This training is the largest selection course to date for the ERB and Special Weapons and Tactics units from around the country.

At the end of Hell Week, 144 men are left standing, ready to continue through the next four weeks.

The successful completion of this challenging course will deliver more capability and capacity for Iraqis to increase national security.



SSG Gregory Radermacher:

Krumel and your family and friends miss you! See my new seat? I'm a big boy now.

Love Kay, and the Rosenaus and Krumel

SSG. Gregory Radermacher is with HSC 834th ASB Task Force 34.



Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

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Gain a new perspective.

Own the Edge through Composite Risk Management, or CRM

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JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

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

EAST FITNESS

CENTER

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.-
 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics:
 Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m.,
 5-6 p.m.
 Edge Weapons & Stick
 Fighting Combative
 Training:
 Tue., Thur., Sat.,-
 8-10 p.m.

EAST RECREATION

CENTER

4-ball tourney:
 Sunday- 8 p.m.
 8-ball tourney:
 Monday- 8 p.m.
 Karaoke:
 Monday- 8 p.m.
 Swing Class:
 Tuesday- 8 p.m.
 Table Tennis:
 Tuesday- 8 p.m.
 9-ball tourney:
 Wednesday- 8 p.m.
 Dungeons & Dragons:

Thursday- 7:30 p.m.

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

H6 FITNESS CENTER

Spin:
 Sunday- 9 a.m.
 Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 2 a.m.,
 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m.,
 9 p.m.
 Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m.,
 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.
 Boxing:
 Sunday- 4 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.

Boot Camp:
 Sunday- 8:45 a.m.
 Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.
 Power Abs:
 Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
 Friday- 9 p.m.
 CC Cross Fit:
 Monday-Saturday-
 10:30 p.m.
 Cross Fit:
 Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 5:45
 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.,
 6 p.m.
 Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m.,
 3 p.m.
 Sunday- 5:45 a.m.,
 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
 P90x:
 Monday- Saturday- 4:30
 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.,
 12 a.m.
 Soccer:
 Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
 Yoga:
 Wednesday- 8 p.m.
 MCAP Level 1:
 Friday- 8 p.m.
 5 on 5 Basketball:

Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION

CENTER

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

CENTER

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

WEST FITNESS

CENTER

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

6 on 6 volleyball

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

CIRCUIT GYM

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

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Nights In Rodanthe

Movie Times

Wednesday, November 12

5 p.m. College

8 p.m. Burn After Reading

Thursday, November 13

5 p.m. Righteous Kill

8 p.m. Disaster Movie

Friday, November 14

2 p.m. IGOR

5 p.m. Nights In Rodanthe

8:30 p.m. Quantum of Solace

Saturday, November 15

2 p.m. Nights In Rodanthe

5 p.m. Madagascar: Escape 2
 Africa

8 p.m. Ghost Town

Sunday, November 16

2 p.m. Madagascar: Escape 2
 Africa

5 p.m. Ghost Town

8 p.m. Nights In Rodanthe

Monday, November 17

5 p.m. IGOR

8 p.m. Madagascar: Escape 2
 Africa

Tuesday, Noveber 18

5 p.m. Nights In Rodanthe

8 p.m. IGOR

(Schedule is subject to change)

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.



Adrienne Willis (Diane Lane), a woman with her life in chaos, retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend. Here she hopes to find the tranquility she so desperately needs to rethink the conflicts surrounding her—a wayward husband who has asked to come home, and a teenaged daughter who resents her every decision. Almost as soon as Adrienne gets to Rodanthe, a major storm is forecast and Dr. Paul Flanner (Richard Gere) arrives. The only guest at the inn, Flanner is not on a weekend escape but rather is there to face his own crisis of conscience.

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.



IGOR

A hilarious twist on the classic monster movie, Igor tells the story of one Igor who's sick of being a lowly lab assistant with a Yes Master's degree and dreams of becoming a scientist. When his cruel master kicks the bucket a week before the annual Evil Science Fair, Igor finally gets his chance.



NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Heroic efforts of Iraqi NPs stop attack at checkpoint in Baghdad

 BAGHDAD, Iraq – National Police stopped a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device as an al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist attempted to transport it through a NP check point in the West Rashid area of Baghdad at approximately 5:45 p.m. Nov. 5.

While manning the checkpoint, policemen with the 3rd Battalion, 1st National Police Mechanized Brigade, using established security measures, stopped a vehicle loaded with an estimated 200 pounds of explosive material and three mortar rounds. While stopped in the search lane, the vehicle detonated, killing the terrorist. The blast also killed two national policemen and wounded another.

“Three heroic Iraqi National Police stopped a potentially catastrophic VBIED attack when they diligently stopped a terrorist from entering Airport Road at an NP checkpoint,” said Lt. Col. Steve Stover, spokesman, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Iraqi Army brings school supplies to Mosul youth

 MOSUL, Iraq – Soldiers from the 7th Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi Army, visited students at the Al Sahabh School in Mosul to hand out supplies and book bags Nov. 5.

“We need to protect the future of Iraq,” said Col. Salah Adeziz, executive officer, 7th Bde., 2nd Div., IA. “This is a very important thing that I wanted to do now with the Coalition Forces. For our students, we hold nothing back to support them with supplies, food, anything that we can do. They see the IA and the Coalition Forces working together, it will make a good future for the children to see that.”

This visit was the fourth trip the soldiers made to the school as the Iraqi Security Forces continue to visit with area residents and local schools to build stronger relationships in the communities where they work. During this trip, they handed out supplies and bags to 400 students at the boys and girls primary school.

Detainees released as part of reintegration efforts

 FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Thirty-four Iraqi detainees were released from different regions of northern Babil Oct. 31, making 430 the total number of detainees released by 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“Much has changed in Babil Province in the year since many of you have been detained,” said Lt. Col. Michael Getchell, commander of 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, to nine detainees released at FOB Kalsu by his unit. “I ask you to stand on the bridge and walk to the future, embrace the change and not look back at the past.”

Getchell told the detainees that the symbolism of the bridge represented Iraq ... one side was the old

Iraq filled with violence; the other side is the new Iraq representing a growing security force and

a growing economy.

“The new Iraq is an Iraq where disputes are settled by discussion not violence,” Getchell continued. “The new Babil Province is a province secured by the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police; it is no longer (secured) by the Coalition forces. This is a great day for not only you and your family but a great day for the Coalition. This represents that people are ready to settle disputes with a dialog of discussion but not violence, and I ask you to continue moving Iraq and Babil province forward by your commitment to the current security situation and making it better.”

The former detainees, who are no longer viewed as a threat by those providing security and stability in Iraq, were reminded that their freedom was due to the combined efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces, the Government of Iraq and Coalition forces.

“Not everything is perfect but it is much better than it was a year ago, and I look forward to your cooperation in helping Babil Province continue moving forward,” said Getchell.

Prior to reintegrating them back into their communities, the detainees had to meet preset requirements: First, the person released must renounce violence, and second, the person released must have a sponsor, such as a prominent person in his community or a religious or tribal leader, willing to accept responsibility for the good conduct of the individual being set free.

The detainees were released at numerous locations from various units throughout the Vanguard AO. Some of the units releasing detainees include: five from 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment; four from 30th Military Transition Team; three from 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery; and one from 33rd MiTT.

Wasit now under Provincial Iraqi Control

 FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Wasit province became the 13th of 18 Iraqi provinces to be handed over to Provincial Iraqi Control in a ceremony in al-Kut Oct. 29.

“We came to the position that we are fully prepared to take responsibility of the security in the

province and that made the dream of Wasit come true,” said Dr. Mowaaffak al-Rubaie, Iraq National Security Advisor.

Wasit Governor Abd al-Latif Hamad Tarfah and Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, commanding general of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, signed the Wasit Memorandum of Understanding, transferring the security of Wasit province over to the provincial government and Iraqi Security Forces.

“Today is a celebrated day in Wasit that we’ve been waiting for, for a long time,” Tarfah said. “It didn’t come easy and was a result of lots of hard work and sacrifice from the Police and the Army.”

The Iraqi Government and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki decided Wasit was ready for PIC based on its local government’s readiness and its ability to assume the security lead. Coalition forces will remain in the area to support the local government and will transition to an over watch posture further away from populated cities and centers, as warranted by safer conditions.

Iraqi National Police seize weapons cache in Hayy Jihad

 BAGHDAD, Iraqi – National Police seized a weapons cache during security operations Nov. 2, in the Hayy Jihad community of the Rashid district located in southern Baghdad.

At approximately 11:45 a.m., Iraqi National Policemen from the 5th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, discovered a weapons cache, seizing 14 AK-47 assault rifles, one SKS automatic rifle, one bolt-action rifle, five rocket-propelled grenades, six sticks of propellant, 50 7.62 mm rounds and four magazines.

“The Iraqi Security Forces continue to hone their skills as they keep the communities and neighborhoods of the Rashid district safe and secure from the violent acts of criminals and terrorists,” said Maj. Dave Olson, 1st Brigade Combat Team spokesman, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. “The 1st ‘Raider’ Brigade is committed to teaching, coaching and mentoring the Iraqi Security Forces in Rashid as they transition to the lead to protect and to serve the people of Baghdad.”

Iraqi NPs see large turnout during recruiting drive

 BADUSH, Iraq – The Iraqi National Police were collecting applications of potential new police officers for a new unit during a recruiting drive at the Iraqi Police Station in Badush, a village on the outskirts of Mosul, Nov. 4.

National Police from the 3rd Brigade in Mosul are creating a new battalion, said Maj. Gen. Mohammed Sabree Latif, commander, 3rd NP Division. They currently have two battalions in Mosul.

“We are looking for fifteen hundred people from the surrounding areas of Mosul during this recruitment for the next few days,” said Mohammed.

One of the goals of the recruiting drive is to get a variety of recruits from the surrounding areas, which will give the new battalion diversity.



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.

Illinois

- You may be arrested for vagrancy if you do not have at least one dollar bill on your person.
- You must contact the police before entering the city in an automobile.

Nebraska

- Persons with gonorrhea may not marry.
- If a child burps during church, his parent may be arrested.
- It is illegal for bar owners to sell beer unless they are simultaneously brewing a kettle of soup.

Sudoku

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

Level: Very Easy

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

Last weeks answers

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

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 11/12/08
 NHL on Versus: Pittsburgh Penguins @ Detroit Red Wings Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Ball State @ Miami (Ohio) Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Nashville Predators @ San Jose Sharks Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Milwaukee Bucks @ Cleveland Cavaliers Tape Delayed 11:30 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 11/13/08
 New York Rangers @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA Wednesday: Utah Jazz @ Washington Wizards, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Colorado Avalanche @ Vancouver Canucks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA Wednesday: Houston Rockets @ Phoenix Suns, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Wednesday: Houston Rockets @ Phoenix Suns * 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
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Central Michigan @ Northern Illinois, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 11/14/08
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Virginia Tech @ Miami Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL Week 11: New York Jets @ New England Patriots, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Detroit Pistons @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 MLS Primetime Thursday: MLS Playoffs Teams TBD., Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on TNT: Denver Nuggets @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Tape Delayed 2:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on TNT: Dallas Mavericks @ Chicago Bulls, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 11: New York Jets @ New England Patriots, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 11/15/08
 New Jersey Devils @ Washington Capitals, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA Friday: Denver Nuggets @ Boston Celtics, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Cincinnati @ Louisville, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Nashville Predators @ Anaheim Ducks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA Friday: Detroit Pistons @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Friday: Detroit Pistons @ Los Angeles Lakers *2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Cincinnati @ Louisville, 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/ports

Sunday 11/16/08
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 College Football: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 91 Countdown, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 UFC 91: Couture vs Lesnar (MGM Grand Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 NASCAR Nationwide Series: Ford 300 (Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, FL), Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/xtra
 HBO World Championship Boxing: Jermain Taylor vs Jeff Lacy (Memorial Gym, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN), Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 11: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 11: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 11: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 11/17/08
 NFL Week 11: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 11: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Ford 400 (Homestead-Miami Speedway, Homestead, FL) (JIP), Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NHRA POWERade Drag Racing: Automobile Club of Southern California NHRA (JIP), Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 11: Dallas Cowboys @ Washington Redskins, Live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 O'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic: UMKC @ Kansas, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 UFC 91: Couture vs Lesnar (MGM Grand Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 11: Dallas Cowboys @ Washington Redskins, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 ATP Tennis Masters Series - Tennis Masters Cup: Men's Final (Shanghai, China), Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 91: Couture vs Lesnar (MGM Grand Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 11: Dallas Cowboys @ Washington Redskins, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 11/18/08
 NHL on Versus: Boston Bruins @ Toronto Maple Leafs, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 11: Cleveland Browns @ Buffalo Bills, Live 4:30 AFN/sports
 NBA on NBATV: San Antonio Spurs @ Los Angeles Clippers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 11: Cleveland Browns @ Buffalo Bills, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 College Hoops Tip-Off: Massachusetts @ Memphis, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/Sports
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 11: Cleveland Browns @ Buffalo Bills, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua E. Powell

ABOVE: Maj. John Gossart, from Washington, D.C., and U.S. Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stop by a check point in the city of Baghdad on Oct. 30. They like to check up on the Iraqi army manning the post to see if they need supplies or equipment.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Thacker

ABOVE: Sgt. Ian Walker watches his platoon set up perimeter security after dismounting a Merlin transport helicopter outside a Marsh Arab village near Basrah on Oct. 30. The platoon's mission was to look for ordnance and establish contacts in the village.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Thacker

ABOVE: Local Marsh Arab children greet British soldiers on patrol in southern Iraq on Oct. 27. Many Marsh Arabs living in southern Iraq were displaced after Saddam Hussein drained the marshes.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 James Wagner

ABOVE: U.S. Army Sgt. Derrick Somers of Rigby, Idaho, from the 230th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade Combat Team and Petty Officer 2nd Class Wendy Wyman of Madison, Wis. and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Detachment Combat Camera, stop and talk to some Iraqi children outside of a market in Jabella, Iraq, on Oct. 31.