

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 24

"I.A.M. STRONG"

Army Campaign aims to eliminate sexual assault in 5 years.

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Vehicle Maintenance

Fort Lewis, Wash., Soldiers train Iraqis on the importance of humvee care

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Talking Turkey

The holiday in review

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Soldiers, Airmen Face Off!



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

Members of the Air Force and Army compete in the Turkey Bowl at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 27. The Army defeated the Air Force 59-34 in the flag football game.

I-BIZ drums up business

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

An auto body shop, a bicycle sales and repair shop, and a TV repair shop. These are businesses a typical main street in Anytown, USA might have.

This is not the U.S. However, it's Joint Base Balad and the owners of these businesses are local Iraqis.

Six months ago, new busi-

nesses were brought to JBB with the help of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, a program designed to stimulate the Iraqi economy by allowing business owners to secure land use agreements on Coalition bases.

Currently there are six I-BIZ businesses operating on JBB, including a container repair shop, oil service center and a recycling center.

But that is just the beginning; future I-BIZ projects include restaurants, a retail zone, an Industrial area and a wholesale center made up of nine vendors.

Lt. Col. Barbara Bachmeier, native of Indianapolis, Ind., the I-BIZ officer in charge for the

3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) said the asphalt plant, soon to be opened in the new industrial area, will be located outside the gate but adjacent to JBB. She said the asphalt company will provide a service to JBB, but can sell to Iraqis outside JBB too.

Still other businesses will be on the base, like an Al Warka bank branch. Al Warka has seven banks throughout Iraq. JBB will be the first to have an Al Warka bank on a Coalition installation, said Bachmeier.

Bachmeier said the bank is scheduled to open Feb. 1 of next year, will allow third country nationals, U.S. service members

and the local populace to do transactions if they need to wire money back home or open up a savings or checking account.

Bachmeier said the bank will also help other I-BIZ businesses to be successful. For example, the container repair yard can't buy parts from outside Iraq because the business owner can't process electronic fund transfers without a bank.

Master Sgt. Edward Scott, a native of Lakewood, Wash., I-BIZ noncommissioned officer in charge with 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from said that I-BIZ has been well received by many Iraqis.

"The Iraqis love it," Scott said,

"because it helps them establish a business of their own."

Bachmeier said I-BIZ looks for services needed on JBB and then opens the bidding process to potential business owners who then submit a business plan.

A subject matter expert reviews the business plan to ensure it is capable of producing the goods or services needed. A board of officers then decides who is awarded the contract based on each applicant's qualifications.

"The program helps the local Iraqis start their own busi-

See I-BIZ, Page 10

332 ESFS Blotter: 20 Nov. – 26 Nov.

Patrol Response/TCN Badge Seizure:

A TCN contractor entered the Eagles Nest stating his badge was taken by an unknown person in Army PT gear. He further stated that the individual was angry that the showers were nonfunctioning while the TCN was working on the plumbing. A statement was completed and a sweep of the H-4 Housing area was initiated by SF patrols. The individual was not located. A Soldier later reported to the Eagles Nest and returned the badge. The badge was taken to contractor security so it could be returned to the TCN.

Vehicle Mishap:

An Army Soldier reported to the Eagles Nest stating he had been involved in a vehicle accident. A SF Patrol responded and assisted the Soldier with a statement. The Soldier stated that he parked his vehicle and upon return discovered a dent in the side that had not been there before. The patrolman took digital photos of the damage. The Soldier was instructed to brief his chain of command concerning the mishap.

Patrol Response/Loud Noise Complaint:

An Airman contacted security forces concerning loud noise coming from an adjacent pod. SF Patrolmen arrived on-scene, made contact with the complainant, and accompanied him to the pod in question. SF Patrolmen were unable to contact the occupant inside. The patrol response was terminated.

Medical Emergency:

SF Patrols were dispatched to the report of a Soldier suffering from a medical emergency. Upon arrival, patrolmen made contact with medical personnel treating the Soldier. The Soldier was taken to the AFTH for further treatment.

Suspicious Item:

An Airman reported a suspicious item located on Victory Loop. SF Patrolmen responded to the scene and requested EOD response to inspect the item. EOD arrived on-scene and determined the item to be safe. Patrol response terminated.

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



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EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. 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^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.

Hooah of the Week



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Capt. Jim Stephens, a Sherrard, W.Va., native, and 55th Sustainment Brigade staff judge advocate is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3rd ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week." Stephens was selected for the award because of his work with the Corp Distribution Center. "We're making a lot of progress, the building was recently reclassified and now we can go do things that we want because we are on strong legal grounds with the help of these two," said Lally.

Hooah of the Week



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Capt. James Du Pre, an Atlanta, Ga., native, and chief of administrative and fiscal law for the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3rd ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week." Du Pre was selected for the award because of his work with the Corp Distribution Center.

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT

TRADITIONAL

Sunday	0730	Air Force Hospital Chapel
	0930	Provider Chapel
	1030	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1100	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
	1730	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	2000	Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday	1100	MWR East Building
	1200	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1230	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	1900	Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday	0900	CHAPEL NEXT, MWR East Bldg
	1030	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	1400	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
	1900	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Wednesday	2000	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

LITURGICAL

Sunday	1500	Gilbert Chapel (H-6)
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HISPANIC PROTESTANT

Saturday	1930	Provider Chapel
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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Call the Provider Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday	0900	Provider Chapel
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CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday	1530	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
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LATTER DAY SAINTS-(MORMON)

Sunday	1300	Provider Chapel
	1530	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1900	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

MASS

Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) (Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)
	2000	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Sunday	0830	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	1100	Provider Chapel
	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Thu	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Mon, Wed, Fri	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
Saturday	0800	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	1900	Eden Chapel
Saturday	1900	Eden Chapel

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703
 Provider Chapel: 433-2430
 Freedom Chapel: 443-6303



HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342-1400

27 November 2008

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

Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, and as we celebrate this American holiday, I want to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your courage, versatility, and steadfast dedication to our mission and the people of Iraq. Throughout this campaign, you have been warriors and diplomats, guardians and mentors, trainers and friends. You have been fearless defenders of freedom, and you have been compassionate builders of peace and stability. I am continually amazed by your ingenuity and perseverance, and not a day that goes by that I do not pause to appreciate the extraordinary patriots of this command and the incredibly important endeavor in which we are engaged.

I also give thanks for the significant progress achieved in the past year. Together with our Iraqi partners, you have reduced violence to its lowest level in nearly five years, and a sense of normalcy is beginning to return to communities across the country. You have proven to the people of Iraq – and to the entire world – how much is achievable when gallant troopers commit themselves wholeheartedly to their mission, and you have renewed hope in the hearts of millions.

As Americans gather with their families and loved ones this holiday, they will no doubt pause for a moment to give thanks for the brave men and women who are selflessly protecting freedoms around the world. I join in their gratitude, and I am honored to be in the company of heroes who make up our family here in MNF-I. Thank you for your selfless service and resolute determination, and may you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

With pride and determination,

Raymond T. Odierno
General, US Army
Commanding

Sustainers hold Iraqi women's business workshop

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. RJ GILBERT
7th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP MITTICA, Iraq – Nearly 40 local Iraqi business women gathered at Camp Mittica, Iraq, as part of an Iraqi women's business workshop orchestrated by the 7th Sustainment Brigade on Nov. 17.



"This was a combined effort with Muthanna and Dhi Qar provincial reconstruction teams with the 7th Sustainment Brigade leading the way," said Maj. Shawn D. Sanborn, finance operations, 7th Sust. Bde. "We've been having these workshops with men so we knew it was important to get women involved. Where it

took off was when Muthanna PRT got the word out with their chamber of commerce, as with Dhi Qar PRT. The Small Business Development Center did the same."

The combined effort had a varied range of speakers.

The speakers included members of the 7th Sust. Bde., the 217th Garrison Command, the Small Business Development Center for Nasiriyah and one of the Iraqi business women.

The speakers covered some important topics on businesses, including Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, micro grants, loans and how to create a business plan.

"It was a very good class with useful material," said Batel Abuol Almer, chief engineer, attendee and speaker.

Not only did those in attendance benefit from the works;

those who lectured did also.

"Today's workshop really uncovered a lot of information and showed me how much interest they (Iraqi business women) have," said Alison Kosnett, governance specialist, Provincial Reconstruction Team Muthanna. "This was the first time we had 40 women from Muthanna and Dhi Qar. It showed us that they're serious and energetic and that there is entrepreneurial energy. There was definite mojo in there. I was very excited."

Kosnett elaborated on the conditions, which the lecturers and organizers understood the Iraqi business women in attendance.

"They told us this morning that when they've gone to a bank to get a loan, the interest rate was 14 percent, which is high," Kosnett said. "They also face high collateral requests



An Iraqi Businesswoman pens her notes during the Iraqi Women's Business Conference at Camp Mittica, Iraq, Nov. 17.

and very short repayment periods in high increments."

The workshop was well received.

"The meeting went well. Everyone gave their opinion

and participated," said Nabeel Alsaffy, executive director of the Small Business Development Center of Nasiriyah. "The women want another workshop."

Washington Guardsmen take base defense reins at Q-West

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Guardsmen from



Everett, Wash., assumed responsibility for base defense operations and force protection during a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 16.

Soldiers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard, assumed authority from Task Force 113, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Muncie, Ind., Indiana Army National Guard.

"Believe it or not, we have looked forward to this day almost as much as the 76th IBCT Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Garrison, commander, 81st BSTB, to the audience of Soldiers and civilians at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center. "This day has been a long time coming, and we have worked long and hard to prepare for it."

The ceremony marked the end of a year-long deployment cycle for the Soldiers of Task Force 113.

"Task Force 113 Soldiers were responsible for 39 quick reaction force responses, 90



Maj. Kimberly M. Martindale, commander, Task Force 113, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indiana Army National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven P. Ridings, command sergeant major, TF 113, case the unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Q-West, Iraq, Nov. 15. The task force, headquartered in Muncie, Ind., wrapped up a year-long deployment cycle and transferred responsibility for base defense operations and force protection to the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard.

pump house missions, 320 perimeter patrols and 252 reconnaissance and counter-rocket patrols covering over 115,000 miles," said Col. Martin Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

"You did this safely, with no loss of life and no serious accidents," Pitts added. "Your unit had an outstanding improvised explosive device find-rate, continually adapted to new enemy tactics, techniques and

procedures and adjusted to an ever-changing battle rhythm. Your battalion's achievements during this rotation have been phenomenal."

Soldiers from the 81st BSTB were anxious to get started.

For Spc. Sarah Fister, radio transmitter operator, 81st BSTB, the deployment will be an opportunity to learn about operations in Iraq first hand.

"It'll be great," said the 33-year-old native of Puyallup,

Wash., "I'll be one of the first to hear what's really going on."

Fister, who has served in many roles, including laundry specialist, fabric repair, cook, and water purification specialist in the National Guard for 13 years, said she had some mixed feelings about deploying.

"I don't really have anything against it," Fister said. "I miss home, but I understand the purpose behind it. I think it'll be a good experience."

Garrison had a final injunction for his Soldiers at the ceremony.

"To the Soldiers of the 81st BSTB, I offer you a challenge," he said. "You have worked and trained hard for this moment. This is the execution phase of this operation, and I am supremely confident in your ability to perform this mission, and we will bring everybody home when we finish this tour."

Overcoming a Shortcoming

BY WARRANT OFFICER
JAMES NELSON
377th HET Co., 165th CSSB
1st Sust. Bde.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Mechanics assigned to the 377th Heavy Equipment Transporter Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Fort Bliss, Texas, work around the clock keeping the company's fleet of HETs well maintained and ready for every mission.

The primary vehicles used by the 377th are the M1070 Tractors and the M1000 Semi-Trailers, which require extensive

maintenance on a daily basis.

It was recently discovered that 67 of the M1000 Semi-Trailers assigned to the company did not have a specific inspection, commonly known in the Army as a 5-year service, which was due while the 377th was in Iraq.

This comprehensive maintenance entails periodic lubrication, cleaning, and servicing of the M1000 semi-trailer steering plates, that consist of four per trailer, and the suspension assemblies, consisting of 10 per trailer.

The required service was coordinated and organized by the company's maintenance technician Warrant Officer James Nelson, and the company's maintenance supervisor

Master Sgt. Duane Edwards.

Nelson coordinated with logistics supply representatives to ensure the mandatory repair parts, estimated at \$3,800 per trailer, were available when the services were started.

Together, Nelson and Edwards coordinated the special training that their mechanics needed to complete the 5-year service.

The Soldier tasked with physically overseeing the services was Staff Sgt. Onekie Quinn, native of Snellville, Ga. For several weeks, Quinn oversaw the daily maintenance operations of the 5-year service to ensure it was completed in a timely manner and to standard.

The turnaround time for

every trailer was estimated at 88 man hours. Eleven mechanics of the 377th were able to whittle this long turnaround

time down to six days per trailer, eventually completing the overall task in one and a half months ahead of schedule.



U.S. Army courtesy photo
Spc. Juan Gonzalez, of Zapata, Texas, and Spc Leonardo Vazquez, of Santa Ana, Calif., disassemble one of the four steering plates on a HET trailer belonging to the 377th HET Company.

Postal operations gear up for holiday surge

BY SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As the holiday season rapidly approaches, Soldiers will begin to receive more mail from loved ones

and friends.

As this happens, postal offices worldwide will be crammed with customers shipping and receiving mail, to and from everywhere imaginable.

Postal operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are no different.

Supervised by service members who act as contracting officer representatives, and manned by civilian contractors, theater postal operations have prepared year-round to accommodate the holiday rush.

The COR's are responsible for providing contractors with oversight on the overall mail operation by making sure they are performing their duties according to policy and regulation.

Helping to ensure that postal operations on Joint Base Balad run smoothly for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and its subordinate brigades, 1st Lt. Calvin Ma, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., and postal operations officer, is in charge for the 3d ESC.

"What we do at the 3d ESC is to provide oversight to make sure that the COR's are doing what they're supposed to be doing via the sustainment

brigade," says Ma. "The postal operations director in Kuwait sets the policies, but here at the 3d ESC, we enforce the policies."

On average, civilian contractors throughout Iraq are responsible for processing mail for 165,000 personnel, or about 330,000 pounds of mail per day. During the holiday season this year, the Joint Military Mail Terminal will increase its number of postal employees to help accommodate the holiday rush. Ma says that contractors will move employees from other contracts to work in the JMMT and help with the mail surge.

Also, according to Ma, civilian contractors now have the necessary equipment, knowledge and JMMT configuration to be successful during this year's holiday season. Through trial and error, they have worked year-round to correct any deficiency from previous years, making operations run smoother.

1st Lt. Matthew Fecteau, Joint Base Balad JMMT COR, says the two biggest changes being made to the Balad operation will be an increase in the number of employees and a solution to the problems at FOB Caldwell and FOB Normandy.

Fecteau says that in the past, the two FOBs were listed in the same zip code, which caused major problems for postal workers and service members alike. Mail was frequently shipped to one FOB, but arrived at the other.

As a temporary fix, postal workers used to just match unit information with the FOB, initialing "N" for Normandy or "C" for Caldwell on every piece of mail.

This year, however, Normandy's zip code has been permanently changed, putting an end to the headache.

Overall, Ma and Fecteau say that they were pleased with the job the contractors have been doing with postal operations, both during normal and holiday seasons. With Fecteau working directly with the contractor, he gets a more personal view of operations. He says as of right now the only issues have been minor.

"The civilian contractors are very willing to entertain our concerns or objections," says Fecteau. "Clearly, on occasion, we don't see eye to eye; yet, they are always willing to be as flexible as possible to meet the needs of our deployed personnel, especially during the holidays."

While the Military Postal Service will be doing its job to ensure postal operations run as smooth as possible, there are a few facts that Soldiers, their family members and friends may need to know when mailing items.

When it comes to shipping items to an Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office, family members and Soldiers need to understand the general mail restrictions for each APO/FPO zip code.

For Balad, aerosol cans, fire-

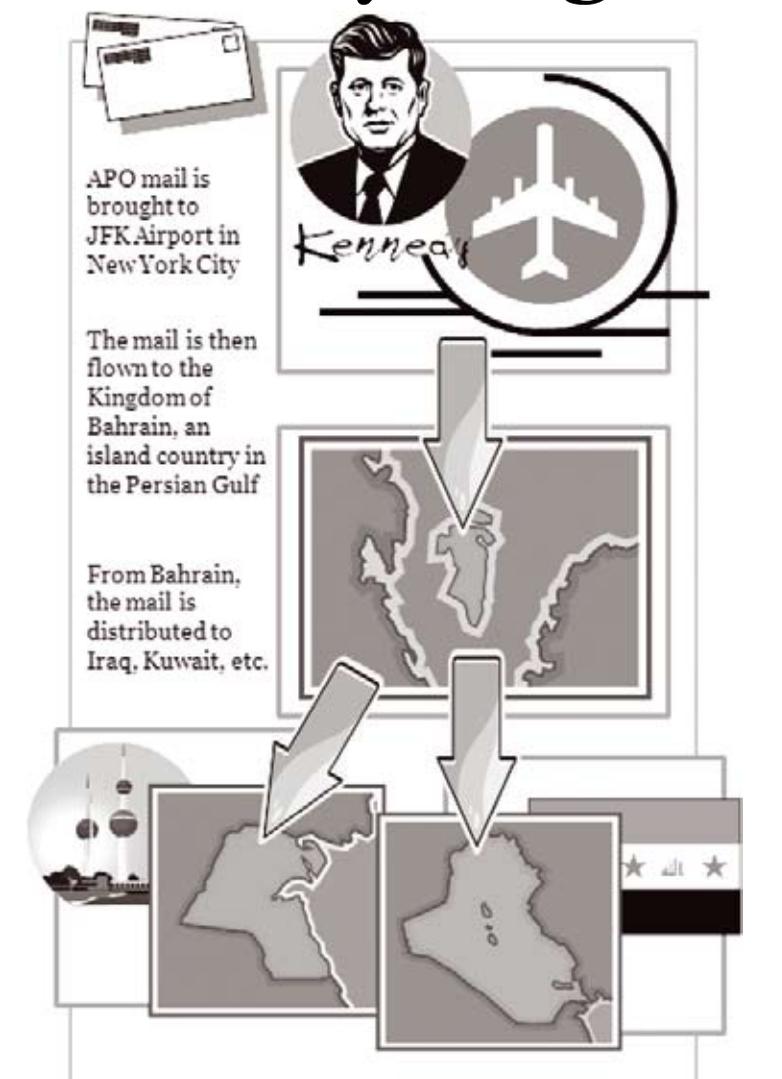


Illustration by Sgt. Alexander Snyder

arms, flammable materials, lottery tickets, poisons, alcohol and liquor, ammunition, drug paraphernalia and anything else covered in general order number one are prohibited from being shipped either to or from an APO/FPO address according to U.S. Central Command regulation 25-103.

Even though those using the MPS will have to follow these restrictions, there are no other

special requirements needed for holiday mail.

Those shipping items should plan to ship at least three weeks in advance. Priority mail usually takes about two weeks to be delivered and standard mail takes at least three to four weeks.

Following these mail requirements should make a happy holiday season for all.



ABOVE: Little Rock, Ark. native, Spc. John Kronnick, a truck driver with the 1123rd Transportation Company, tosses a football around with an Iraqi Soldier during a cookout Oct. 30. Kronnick has been working with Iraqi Soldiers at the Taji National Depot and assisting Iraqi Soldiers with setting up and organizing a system to properly stock their warehouses with a variety of supply items.

BELOW: Sgt. Donald Evance, a Lepanto, Ark., native; and Spc. John Kronnick, a Little Rock, Ark., native; both Soldiers with the 1123rd Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade, prepare food for a cookout with Iraqi Soldiers Oct. 30.

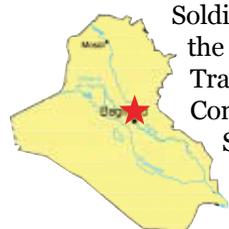
Iraqi Soldiers pose for a photo during a cookout with Soldiers from the 1123rd Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade. The cookout was held here on Oct. 30, as a way to improve relations between Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers.



Building relationships

STORY AND PHOTOS BY 1ST LT. AARON WARD
1123rd Trans. Co.
1-152nd Cav.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Two Soldiers from the 1123rd Transportation Company, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade, are working to build a strong relationship with Iraqi Army Soldiers at the Taji National Depot, where



they have been employed for the past three weeks.

Recently, the 1123rd Trans. Co. handed off their mission of force protection to the 1038th Horizontal Construction Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade and the unit's Soldiers were tasked with new jobs.

Sgt. Donald Evance, a Lepanto, Ark., native, and mechanic with the 1123rd Trans. Co., has been working with the Defense Logistics Agency to train Iraqi Soldiers on warehouse operations and setting up their warehouse system.

For the past few weeks, Evance has been teaching Iraqi Soldiers how to safely operate equipment and perform preventive maintenance checks and services on equipment such as the 6K forklift. He also teaches them about warehouse safety.

"It was hard at first because they had been doing things one way for so long," Evance says.

Spc. John Kronnick, a Little Rock, Ark., native, and truck driver with the 1123rd Trans. Co., has been working with the Iraqi Soldiers on their cargo documentation and organiza-

tion skills.

Like Evance, Kronnick also works with DLA and assists Iraqi Soldiers with setting up and organizing a system to properly stock warehouses with a variety of supply items. "The guys are very willing to work," says Kronnick, speaking of the Iraqi Soldiers.

In an effort to build cohesion between the Iraqi and American Soldiers, Evance and Kronnick felt it would be a good idea to have a cookout, which they held Oct. 30.

"I asked my supervisor if I could have the cook out in or-

der to break up the monotony," Evance says.

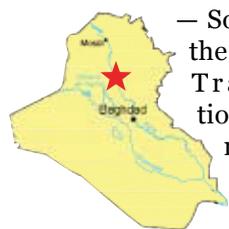
During the cookout, Evance and Kronnick took a break, ate steaks and tossed around a football. Their plan apparently worked because they noticed an increase in production after the cookout.

"The next three days the crew was able to move around 280 pallets as opposed to around 30 pallets over the previous three days," says Evance. "If I've learned anything, I've learned building relationships is the key to accomplishing a mission."

233rd Transportation Company sports Combat Patch

BY 2ND LT. CHARLES YORK
233rd Trans. Co.
16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Soldiers from the 233rd Transportation Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustain-



ment Brigade, donned their combat patches in a ceremony held in the company's motor pool here Oct. 30.

An exciting time for any unit deployed to Iraq would definitely be when the Soldiers of that unit have earned the privilege of wearing the combat patch. The ceremony, though short and formal, will be remembered by these Soldiers throughout their military career.

The 233rd is first and

foremost a heavy equipment transporter company, and since they've first put boots on ground two months ago, the mission has been anything but slow-paced.

With total vehicle miles already amounting to approximately 260,000 miles, all sections of the company have been working hard. Whether it is taking care of personnel, turning wrenches in the motor pool, or actually putting rubber down on the pave-

ment, the company has been doing many things to ensure that the mission is accomplished and everybody is safe.

During the ceremony, Pvt. Kenneth Larman, from Flint, Mich., briefed the crowd on the origins and major accomplishments of the unit from WWII to present-day Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With five deployments to OIF already under their belt, the company's choice of patch for this deployment was one of

careful thought and consideration. The leadership decided that the best choice was to wear the company's unit patch — the 101st Airborne Division. Although many people may think by wearing this patch that the 233rd Trans. Co. is based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., the company is actually based out of Fort Knox, Ky.

After the ceremony, many of the Soldiers posed for pictures to show off their new uniform additions.

Campaign takes aim at sexual assault

BY SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - In March of 2003, Staff Sgt. Rachel Donovan (not her real name) left Kuwait and was on her way into Baghdad on a convoy with an artillery unit.



At three o'clock one morning, Donovan's convoy commander ordered the convoy to take a shortcut through a village, that resulted in half the unit being separated from the unit convoy.

The convoy regrouped, turned around and paused to take accountability.

While stopped, the unit took small-arms fire; the Howitzer self-propelled artillery that was in the convoy fired back at the enemy.

At the time, Donovan was in the tactical operations center. Ordinarily, other people would have been with her in the van that night.

Due to chaotic events, however, there was only Donovan and another person present, a master sergeant.

It was then Donovan was sexually assaulted.

"When the sexual assault happened, I couldn't believe it," Donovan said. "It happened so fast. When I think of it today, it's slow motion in my mind."

When the assault happened, Donovan had been in a chemical suit for 32 days filled with blood, dirt, food and sweat. The only things she changed were her socks, underwear and t-shirts, she said.

"It (sexual assault) doesn't just happen when you're drinking or in a bar," Donovan says. "It happens when you least expect it."

At the time, Donovan says she didn't want to tell anyone.

"We were fighting and I didn't want to interrupt the mission," she says.

Donovan says it was her unit victim advocate who intervened the next day and encouraged her to get help.

"I wasn't smiling, wasn't eating, wasn't sleeping, all she saw was me crying all the time," Donovan says. "She

encouraged me to go forward and tell the command."

During the investigation, the master sergeant admitted to the assault.

She had not been his first victim.

As tragic as Donovan's story may seem, however, she is not alone.

The Army estimates one in six Army females are sexually assaulted at least once in her career and sexual assault is estimated to be the most under reported crime in the military.

It is stories like Donovan's that the Army plans to eliminate within the next five years with its new "I.A.M. STRONG" campaign, which launched in early September.

The campaign will combat sexual assault by holding Soldiers accountable

"If you would lay down your life or jump on a grenade for a fellow Soldier, you should be willing to intervene when you see a threat."

Master Sgt. Verlean Brown
3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

for preventing sexual assaults before they occur.

Based on the Army core values, the "I.A.M. STRONG" campaign seeks to remind Soldiers they are a band of brothers and sisters who need to protect each other in every situation.

According to the program, Soldiers are duty bound to intervene, act and motivate others to stop sexual assault before it happens.

When a service member recognizes a potential threat they need to have personal courage to intervene and prevent sexual assault, the program says.

"If you would lay down your life or jump on a grenade for a fellow Soldier, you should be willing to intervene when you see a threat," says Master Sgt. Verlean Brown, the deployable sexual assault response coordinator with 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a native of Sherwood, Ark.

This specific campaign is Army driven, but it is due to a Department of Defense push, Brown said. The DoD's overall idea of a cultural change effects all Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors.

The campaign illustrates that it is the duty of every Soldier to stand up for each other and take action, no matter the time or place, to prevent sexual assault.

Air Force Maj. Carina Givens, of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and the chief of sexual assault prevention and response for Joint Base Balad, says the "I.A.M. STRONG" campaign is about putting the responsibility of sexual assault prevention on everyone, not just the victim.

Army centric," Givens said. "This is because the program's overall concept applies to all services -- the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The new program is a prevention tool and not designed to replace the current SARC program. Under the current program, victims can report their assault either restricted or unrestricted.

The unrestricted option is recommended for victims of sexual assault who desire medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime.

Victims will use chain of command, law enforcement, SARC, or healthcare providers to report the crime.

"For reporting in general, any SARC can take a complaint," Brown said. "If it is service specific, we will call in that respective service's SARC, but any of us can take any complaint."

Restricted reporting allows a sexual assault victim to confidentially disclose the details of his or her assault to specified individuals and receive medical treatment and counseling, without triggering the official investigative process.

Service members who are sexually assaulted and desire restricted reporting under this policy, may only report the assault to the SARC, veteran's administration or HCP.

Donovan says leaders have to support the sexual assault program and show support to the troops.

"If you're trying to make your Soldiers believe in something, you have to believe in it for yourself," Donovan said.

Donovan said she has since stopped following the case because she is not looking for revenge.

"He has to live with himself for what he did to me and others," Donovan said. "My thing is to go forward and help people."

Donovan said in order for the "I.A.M. STRONG" campaign to work, service members must be able to rely on each other.

Her message to other victims: "We are going to get through this. Not you alone -- we, together will get through it."

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**I.A.M.
STRONGSM**
 INTERVENE ★ ACT ★ MOTIVATE

Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention



INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

402nd AFSB aids in book donation

BY NITA R. FULFORD
402nd Army Field Support Brigade

CAMP MITTICA, Iraq – A donation of \$20,000 worth of new engineering textbooks and English as a Second Language learning materials for approximately 200 students was made to the Dhi Qar University in An Nasiriyah on Nov. 11.

The materials were donated by Oregon State University College of Engineering and the Book Wish Foundation and Oxford University Press, respectively.

The transfer of materials took place between Joshua Mater, president, and Jesus Quispe, vice president of the Michael Scott Mater Foundation, and Dhi Qar Chancellor, Ali Ismael Obeidi Al Snafi, with several university staff members in attendance.

This project brought together OSU, Dhi Qar University, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. Department of State, the Book Wish Foundation, Honeywell Technology Solutions Inc., the 4-1 Brigade Combat Team, from Contingency Operating Base Adder, and leadership from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad.

“Thanks to the support of Col. Sullivan and Lt. Col. Hart of the 402nd AFSB, we are one step closer

to making this partnership a reality,” Mater said. The brigade is part of the Army Sustainment Command’s global logistics support network.

The MSMF has been working as a catalyst with officials of both Universities for the past eight months in developing a relationship that will benefit both institutions through cooperative learning.

The primary initiative is to develop an exchange program that will target engineering and English language majors at the master degree level as well as developing professional training seminars targeting Iraqi city planners, engineers and public servants.

Mater, an OSU alumni and former Army Captain who spent eight months helping rebuild Iraq, drew on his alma mater to continue his work.

“More than any other time in recent history, Iraq’s destiny is of its own choosing,” Mater said, “The youth of this country did not seek, nor did they provoke, strict limitations on what they are able to achieve. They did not expect, nor did they invite, a confrontation with fundamentalism. Yet the true measure of a people’s strength is how they rise to master those moments when they do arrive. This is a time for Iraqi heroes; they will do what is hard and achieve what is great. This is a time for Iraqi heroes and they reach for the stars.”

As part of the program, the two university leaders are scheduled to meet at Oregon State in early

2009 to discuss curriculum structuring and to formalize an agreement that will enable students from Dhi Qar University to study at OSU.

“This exchange program represents a new trend in partnership between American and Iraqi Universities,” Ali said.

In a letter written by President Ed Ray of OSU to Chancellor Ali for the textbook exchange, he said, “We are bound together by centuries of commitments by those who came before us to a love of learning, an un-abiding search for truths and a sense of duty to find so-

lutions for the problems of humanity.”

Cultural Affairs Officer Helen LaFave and Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Jinnie Lee, from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, were present for the exchange and are facilitating the processing of Chancellor Ali’s visa for his travels to the United States.

“It is the hope of the MSMF that those in a position to educate the youth of the world will follow the example of President Ed Ray and Chancellor Ali,” Mater said.



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Chad Carroll

From far left, Jesus Quispe, Josh Mater, Dhi Qar University Chancellor Dr. Ali Ismael Obeidi Al Snafi, and various university staff members, look over donated textbooks.

I-BIZ

Continued from Page 1

ness,” said Scott. I-BIZ also offers a full range of mentorship guidance to establish good business practices.

“Not only are we helping them start the business and get money out into the economy,” Bachmeier said, “we are also helping them learn good business practices so they can start more business outside of JBB.”

Presently, I-BIZ businesses are located on or near JBB to allow a safe environment for Iraqis to conduct business.

Bachmeier said the initial concept of I-BIZ was to provide a safe and secure location on base where Iraqi vendors would be able to provide goods and services to service members.

The original concept of keeping businesses on the base has changed, Bachmeier said, and I-BIZ is looking to build businesses outside JBB so they can offer their services to the Iraqi community.

I-BIZ is also working on a project to strategically place truck stops all over Iraq. The stops will supply truckers with fuel and food, and will serve as service stations to fix trucks if they break down.

“We want to help build up the transportation industry in Iraq,” Bachmeier said. “It will help us when we turn over operations. We can have Iraqi-owned



Chief Petty Officer Michael Bazis, from the United States Coast Guard redeployment assistance inspection detachment team, trains Iraqis on how to inspect repairs done at the I-BIZ sponsored container repair shop on Joint Base Balad Nov. 8. Currently, there are six I-BIZ businesses operating on JBB, including a container repair shop, oil service center and a recycling center.

commercial trucks instead of U.S. military convoys on the road.”

I-BIZ is looking for businesses that works with civil engineering services like electricity and plumbing, to receive U.S. contracts and allow the Iraqis to take over those functions.

“Our overall goal,” Bachmeier said, “is to stimulate the Iraqi economy and build it to the point that they are self sustaining long after coalition forces withdraw.”



Iraqi workers stencil a container that was recently repaired at the I-BIZ sponsored container repair shop on Joint Base Balad Nov. 8. I-BIZ businesses are located on or near JBB to allow a safe environment for Iraqis to conduct business.

Hoosier state medic awarded CMB

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – An Indiana Army National Guardsman received a Combat Medic Badge here Nov. 15 for an incident when his convoy came under attack July 20.

Sgt. Michael Zarth, a medic and convoy commander with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment from Hammond, Ind., said receiving the CMB was a momentous event.

“In terms of awards, I think it’s the pinnacle for being a medic,” he said.

While on a combat logistics patrol from Joint Base Balad to contingency operating base Speicher, Zarth’s convoy came under attack from small arms fire and an improvised explosive device.

The IED detonated next to a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle in the convoy, peppering it with shrapnel and wounding the gunner, Spc. Russell Alcorn from Scottsburg, Ind.

“After the blast,” Alcorn said, “I

dropped down into the turret because I knew I was hit. I didn’t know how bad or anything like that.”

“When (it was reported) the gunner was down, honestly, I was expecting him to be on the floor,” Zarth said. “I prepared myself for the worst.”

Zarth said he was relieved to find Alcorn had received only a minor wound to his hand – a wound Alcorn received because of bad luck and bad timing; his hand was outside the well-protected turret, adjusting a search light when the IED detonated.

While treating Alcorn’s wound, Zarth said the convoy came under attack from small arms fire.

Alcorn was eventually returned to JBB for treatment and released.

Although a trained medic, Zarth was utilized as a team commander, a position that was new to him, especially in an infantry unit. Nevertheless, he stepped up to the challenge, said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Atwater, Zarth’s platoon sergeant.

“Sgt. Zarth, over the deployment, has proven himself over and over again as a capable leader,” Atwater said. “He stepped up to what an NCO should be.”

Zarth said he enjoyed his time



Sgt. Alexander Gago (left), a public affairs specialist with the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, briefs Sgt. Michael Zarth (right) before a scheduled interview here Nov. 20. Zarth said he plans to stay with his unit, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment, and reclassify as an infantryman.

with the 1-293rd and plans to stay with the unit, even reclassify as an infantryman, which is a decision his superiors support.

“He takes care of his guys, he looks after them,” Atwater said. “I wish there was more like him in the Army.”

The CMB was approved over two

months ago, but Zarth was not officially pinned with the medal until Nov. 15.

Alcorn, the gunner wounded in the incident, received a Purple Heart.

Zarth’s unit, the 1-293rd Infantry Regiment, is slated to return home soon following a nine-month tour escorting logistics convoys around Iraq.

Romanians treat Iraqis during cooperative medical engagement

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS KELLY JO BRIDGWATER
7th Sust. Bde.

AL BATHA, Iraq – Soldiers from the 3^d Sustainment Command’s 7th Sustainment Brigade, and members of the Romanian Army’s 341st Infantry Battalion (the White Sharks) gathered with local Iraqi leaders in the province of Dhi Qar, to participate in a cooperative medical engagement Nov. 16.

Maj. William O’Connell, brigade surgeon, 7th Sust. Bde. described the purpose behind the CME, “Our original plan was to see 50 patients and then use the template and lessons learned at similar future engagements around the vicinity of contingency operating base Adder.”

However, nearly twice as many patients arrived on site.

“Between the two medical teams, we were able to see approximately 80 patients, most of whom have limited access to health care,” O’Connell said. “We only had supplies to treat acute medical issues. Those patients with chronic medical issues were directed to local health care facilities for their care.”

Romanian and U.S. Army medical troops worked side by side from start to finish during the CME.

“The event brought together multiple 7th Sust. Bde. units and allowed the 7th Sust. Bde. medical operations and Romanian medical teams the chance to gain experience working together while at the same time helping the local populace,” O’Connell explained.

In addition to medical treatment, patients received humanitarian assistance items including clothes, blankets, shoes, toys, food and water.

During the event Sheik Mahmood from the Al-Ghizie tribe and Mohamed At-Taee, a member on the local council of Al-Batha, assisted the medical teams by escorting patients from the entry control point to the medical screening areas.

“It was a combined effort,” O’Connell said. “We also helped develop confidence in the local Iraqi security forces as they provided security for the event.”

Capt. Gabriel Molnar, family practitioner, 341st Infantry Battalion, Romanian Army, examines a boy during a cooperative medical engagement held Nov. 16 in the province of Dhi Qar, Iraq. Approximately 80 patients were treated for acute medical issues. Patients with chronic medical issues were directed to local healthcare facilities.



Editor's Note: Here are the winning Native American Indian Heritage month essays in their entirety.

Living in Many Worlds

3rd Place

By Spc. Sarah Hernandez, 259th CSSB, HHC

Compassion, tolerance, strength, devotion, and wisdom are the things that come to mind when thinking of the theme living in many worlds. Native American Indians have contributed greatly to the history of the United States Military and their homeland. Compassion is needed to sympathize with other people from different races. Tolerance is needed to overcome past wrongs and prejudice. Strength is required emotionally, physically and mentally to endure the challenges ahead. Devotion to country and your fellowman and Soldier is the crucial element in the recipe for living in blended but separate worlds. Wisdom is fundamental to the Native American Indian culture.

Compassion is needed for not only Native American Indians but every member of the U.S. Armed Forces regardless of branch, or service. There are approximately 452 known Native American tribes today. All members of the various tribes who enter military service practice compassion not only with one another, but with persons of other cultures. It is through this practice of compassion that tolerance is nurtured and grows fostering a stronger military and society.

Tolerance allows Native American Indians to be sympatric for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with their own. It is through this tolerance that a greater sense of strength is developed.

Strength is one of the qualities of the warrior code of the Native American Indian. Native American Indian warriors should possess physical, mental, and spiritual strength. These traits strongly mirror the values that every branch of the armed services is based on.

Devotion is yet another warrior code value of the Native American Indian. Serving in the armed forces allows Native American Indians to fulfill a cultural purpose rooted in tradition, which is fighting in defense of their homeland. Since many young people join the military at an age where they are unable to take on a leadership role within their tribe: the armed forces allows Native American Indians as with other ethnic groups leadership experience and training. This is possibly the reason for Native American Indians participating with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Their courage, determination, and fighting spirit were recognized by American military leaders as early as the 18th century. Many tribes were involved in the War of 1812, and Indians fought for both sides as auxiliary troops in the Civil War. Scouting the enemy was recognized as a particular skill of the Native American Soldier. In 1866, the U.S. Army established its Indian Scouts to exploit this aptitude. There were nearly 190,000 Native American military veterans at the end of the 20th century. Native Americans have the highest record of service when compared to other ethnic groups. Wisdom is last but not the least trait of the warrior code. Native American Indians who serve in the armed forces have many different experiences. These experiences provide a wisdom through exposure to other people and cultures. Military service offers excellent educational and job skill opportunities for Native American men and women, as well as, from other ethnic groups. Death is regarded as the ultimate sacrifice for their own and their people's continued survival, which also embodies the values of the armed forces of the United States of America. Compassion, tolerance, strength, devotion, and wisdom today, tomorrow and always....



LEFT TO RIGHT: Col. John Dolan, vice commander of 332nd Airborne Division, Maj. Andrew E. Montoya, Private First Class, Staff Sgt. Adriel J. Montoya, commanding general pose with winners of the Native American Heritage Month Essay Contest at Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 25.

1st Place

By Pfc. Tiffany Willis of 332nd Airborne Division

The Native American is born to two worlds: The world to which they were torn. The world to which they were born. We are born as Americans with liberty for generations. The world from which we were torn blemishes United States history like charcoal on a white canvas. The ideology "freedom of choice and religion" and fosters a culture that has suffered the most. It's difficult to believe that at one time Native Americans braving the harsh winters of Plymouth Rock and cruel summer droughts receive that these same people were jointly responsible for the "discovery" and yet have reaped little fruits from this establishment. Forced migration, known to most as "The Trail of Tears," followed. We knew little of. Ironically, while they nurtured our survival and growth many times, Americans forget the sacrifices and cultural gifts that were what was left of their enterprise of beauty and naturalism. The rising Sun gleaming on the high plains of Oklahoma and the West. I think of how our Western culture is dominated by the Native American. Manifest Destiny, but because of the Indian Removal Act. However, the indigenous cultures of the United States, Native Americans. The tribes dwelling in the United States, one common theme is survival. Even today, as the Native American culture blends with ours, it nurtures their cultural survival.

Native American culture has remained an integral part of our nation under the guise of 'cultural preservation' Native American 'reservations.' Although isolated, Native Americans would prosper and freedom. Over 40,000 Native Americans fought in WWI. Many were even Japanese code breakers could decipher. Sadly, after WWI half returned from war. Native American war participation was not public. While this was good in establishing a growing relationship with our culture, the decline of the Native American culture increased. In many worlds the Native Americans would grow to know. The first world surrounded by the culture and historical backing of stories and a new world would be that of American society; a new world marked by challenges and hardships. Yet, Native Americans have gracefully maintained by integrating a myriad of traditions into American culture and identity. In numerous conflicts and betrayal, they were able to sustain themselves, garnering the true philosophies of the American dream.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Crystal G. Reidy

nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Spc. Sarah Hernandez,
 ianna Narcomey and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally,
 rican Indian Heritage essay contest held at Joint

Place

the MSC 29th BSC EMS

the world to which they were born and the world from
 ey were born is much like the one to which most
 ans protected by the doctrines that have preserved our
 h they were torn is marked by centuries of pain that
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 ultural autonomy for all, the Native American culture
 ne, Native Americans dominated the eastern seaboard
 amers of Jamestown, Virginia. It's also hard to per-
 ne development and survival of the "American settle-
 ment. Instead, their sacrifices were welcomed with
 rom the home they had always known to a land they
 years earlier, we abandoned them years later. Too
 enocide many Native Americans endured to preserve
 And now, even as we gaze to the West to glance upon
 nd Texas, a sadness overshadows the splendor as we
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 ngs true: strength, perseverance, and everlasting es-
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of American history. Following the western migra-
 icans were placed on settlements we now call "res-
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 Native American code breakers wrote codes that not
 VWI, most tribes took a blow since only a little over
 a opened up reservations to the general American
 ionship with American society and Native American
 ed. This change and exposure would lead to the dual
 t world would be the reservation they were born to
 passed down from generation to generation. The new
 ked by prejudice, misunderstanding, generalizations,
 ntained the countless traditions of their culture while
 nd convention. While Native Americans were met with
 the world they would always respect while jointly

2nd Place

By Andrew E. Montoya of the 3^d ESC

I married a beautiful Native American girl. She has the long black hair like Pocahontas in the Walt Disney movie. Our marriage took place inside a teepee and a Medicine man (her father) performed the traditional Navajo wedding basket ceremony. She wore a traditional dress made of wool just like her ancestors wore when they were married. She was raised on the Navajo Indian reservation in Arizona. Many people have heard of the Indian reservations but not many people know about them, the Navajo people, or their way of life. The reservation to many people is a different world even though it is right here in the United States of America.

Navajo is the largest tribe of the North American Indians. They call themselves Dineh, meaning "the people." The name Navajo came from the Spanish word Nabaju which means "great planted fields," symbolic of the fields in which the Navajos planted corn, beans, squash, and melons. The Navajo acquired sheep and horses from the Spanish after they settled in the 1600's. The sheep were used for food and their wool to make clothes, blankets, and rugs. The Navajos were known as fierce warriors using horses for battle and sustained, continuous fighting to protect themselves and their land.

As the demand for land grew in 1864, the United States government sent Col. Kit Carson to force more than 8,500 Navajo men, women and children off their land. As part of President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act the Navajos were to march in harsh winter conditions for hundreds of miles to a reservation at Bosque Redondo, New Mexico (present-day Ft. Sumner). This march became known as "The Long Walk." While on the merciless march, the Navajo were forced to leave their elderly and young children behind who could not keep up in the bitter cold without food on the trails. After four years of a failed campaign in which many Navajos died because of disease, crop infestation, and poor conditions for agriculture, the Navajos were allowed to return to their homeland. They were granted 3.5 million acres of land by the U. S. Government and Federal Indian Agents were appointed to rule the reservation.

The Navajos soon returned to their self-sufficient lifestyle of farming, herding sheep, and trading. They became silversmiths hammering Spanish and Mexican coins into silver buttons. They started using specialized tools for silver smiting and began making jewelry with turquoise stones.

Navajo families lived in homes called hogans, which were made with tree supporting poles that were covered with brush, tree bark, and mud. The doorway opened to the east to welcome the sun in. The Navajo blessed their homes in a special ceremony to bring good luck and happiness.

The women wore wool dresses made with two blankets stitched together at their shoulders. Later the women traded for calico and made big, full skirts. Velvet was later adorned with coin buttons and a traditional woven belt named a "sash;" the women also wore a bun positioned on the back of the head. Men's traditional dress include jewelry, moccasins, velveteen shirt with a blanket draped over one shoulder.

Window Rock, Ariz., is the capital of the Navajo nation with the Navajo reservation covering 27,635 square miles. There are preserved artifacts of the early, indigenous tribes that lived in the area, including the ancient Pueblo people called Anasazi. The traditional boundaries where the Navajo live are four sacred mountains: Mounts Blanca and Hesperus in Colorado, and Mount Taylor and the San Francisco Peaks in New Mexico. The holy ancestral ones live in these mountains and are attracted by ritual songs, prayers, stories and sand paintings. The Navajo people have two major kinds of ceremonies: the Blessing way, which is to keep them on the path of happiness and wisdom, and the Enemy way, which is to eliminate ghosts and discourage evil spirits.

The reservation contains some of America's most scenic areas. One very popular tourist attraction is the Four Corners monument where the boundaries of four states meet. Monument Valley is a favorite shooting location for Hollywood filmmakers. The valley floor is red siltstone with dark blue-gray rocks which were carved by rivers. Shiprock, is the erosional remnant of a volcano some 30 million years ago standing at almost 1,800 feet. Canyon de Chelly is 131 square miles of picturesque canyon and of course, there is the breathtaking Grand Canyon which borders the reservation.

The Navajo people continue the ways that were passed down to them for many years. One visit to the Indian reservation and its many wonders will leave you amazed with this world.



Staff Sgt. Stacyann Hayletts, (right) medic, 7th Sustainment Brigade, assists an Iraqi man to a screening room for treatment during the Cooperative Medical Engagement held in Khider. Men, women and children from across the province were seen by local Iraqi doctors for a number of ailments, including minor skin disorders to a variety of bacterial infections.

300 patients treated at the Al Khidr CME

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
KELLY JO BRIDGWATER
7th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

KHIDER, Iraq - A crowd of men, women and children pressed tightly together, all of them waiting to gain entrance into a school-house tucked away in the heart of the Muthana Province. Their interest was one of basic human need — to be seen and treated by a doctor.

On Nov. 1, more than 300 patients were treated by a team of Iraqi doctors in Al Khider. In attendance to offer support and guidance were U.S. Army medical staff including a brigade surgeon, a physician assistant and several combat medics.

“The purpose of the CME was to assess and provide for the immediate (acute) medical needs of the local populace,” said Maj. William O’Connell, brigade surgeon, 7th Sustainment Brigade, Contingency Operating Base Adder, Tallil. “It further helped develop confidence in the local medical community, the local government and the Iraqi police and security forces.”

“This will have a big influence on the spirit of the people of Khider,” said



Razaq Al-Jabiry, (left) the mayor of Khider, and Maj. William O’Connell, brigade surgeon, 7th Sustainment Brigade, stand outside in the school courtyard during the Cooperative Medical Engagement held Nov. 1 in the city of Khider in the Muthana Province. Over 300 Iraqi people were seen by local Iraqi doctors during the event.

the city mayor, Razaq Al-Jabiry, as he addressed the crowd gathered in the school’s courtyard. “What I would like to see in the future, is to see the local government take care of its people.”

For O’Connell, supporting the Iraqi healthcare professionals and having them ‘out front’ was beneficial.

“As a continuation of the professional relationship we have been building through our monthly medical en-

agements, our role was to help ‘build capacity’ in our Iraqi counterparts,” explained O’Connell. “All medical care was provided by Iraqi healthcare professionals while the U.S. participants acted as advisors and consultants.”

The CME was the result of a combined effort between members of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, the 27th Base Support Battalion and 4th Bri-

gade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, unit based at COB Adder in Tallil.

“The 7th Sustainment Brigade medical operations team provided the planning and execution of the medical aspect of the CME,” explained O’Connell. “Two providers and four medics from our brigade went to Al Khider with the rest of the team. The majority of the medication used was from our CME stockpile, though a percentage came from the 4-1 Cav. Civil Military Operations office. This was a combined medical engagement with many different units participating and working together.”

Classrooms were turned into medical screening rooms so patients could be seen in privacy by an Iraqi doctor. Toddlers, elderly men and women, and a large assortment of people of all ages unable to walk without the help of their Family or friends were attended to by the medical team. The goal of the CME was to provide hope for a brighter future.

Though the day was hot, it did not stop the high team on the ground from lending a helping hand for those in need.

“I think it was a positive event for all involved,” O’Connell said. “The local populace was able to see a healthcare provider from a local facility. Iraqi security forces were seen cooperating with our forces and the local mayor was handing out wheelchairs purchased by the Provincial Reconstruction Team.”

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times
expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



Sgt. 1st Class Dale Phillips, noncommissioned officer in charge of Iraqi Army maintenance training, explains to members of the 10th Division Iraqi Army the importance of preventative maintenance check service of a humvee to avoid having future problems with the vehicles at Camp Ur, Iraq, on Nov. 10.

Soldiers from 542nd train IA on vehicle maintenance

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. KELLY ANNE BECK
Expeditionary Times Staff

TALLIL, Iraq – A team of four Soldiers from the 542nd Support Maintenance Company from Ft. Lewis, Wash., who support the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have been training the 10th Division Iraqi Army on how to maintain the M1114 humvees at Camp Ur, an Iraqi Army Camp, for several weeks.



The program was implemented to emphasize the importance of preventative maintenance. The goal of the program is to teach the Iraqi Army Soldiers how to troubleshoot engines, keep maintenance records and dispose of hazardous material.

“They just saved an entire engine yesterday,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dale Phillips, the noncommissioned officer in charge of training the Iraqi Army. “Not only does that save the Army a lot of money, but more importantly it shows they are improving.”

Phillips said before their training began, brand new engines were being thrown out daily.

“They kept asking me: ‘Why do the vehicles break for us and not the American Soldier?’” Phillips said. “I kept telling them it’s because we focus on the importance of maintenance instead of waiting until there is a problem.”

Phillips said a lot of the issues they had with their engines started from simple problems. Their training now focuses on the importance of changing oil, putting coolant instead of water into vehicles and learning how to conduct preventative maintenance checks

and services on their vehicles.

Chief Warrant Officer Gary Smith, officer in charge of the 7th Sustainment Brigade Ur Logistics Training Advisory Team Four, said even though they are training the IA, they understand the Iraqi Army will have their own techniques and methods they’ll want to use. So far they’ve done a great job of compromising with each other, Smith said.

“They’re part of a different culture and they have different standards, but another important thing we want to teach them is safety,” Phillips said.

Phillips said Soldiers would drive recklessly, nearly hitting their own Soldiers or even their parked vehicles, until they learned how to use a ground guide. He said once they taught them how to direct each other and slow down, they have been a lot better about driving safely in the maintenance

area. Phillips also said the Iraqi Soldiers seem thankful for their help and haven’t given them any trouble when teaching them new methods.

“When we come here to train them, they all have very good attitudes,” Phillips said. “I haven’t had a single problem with any of the Soldiers. Actually the biggest challenge is just the language barrier.”

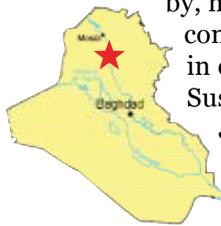
Though the 542nd has an interpreter with them to help train, there are still mechanical terms that don’t translate clearly and it can make the training very difficult, Phillips said.

“It is definitely a challenge every day, but that’s part of the reason I took on this project,” Smith said. “We are continually trying to find new ways to get around the language differences, but we are helping their Army and ours by doing this, so at the end of the day it’s worth it.”

JAG Soldiers don’t object to helping

BY SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Chad Darby, military justice non-commissioned officer in charge at the 16th Sustainment Brigade Judge Advocate’s Legal Services Center here, says this deployment – his fourth – is different.



“I’m not being shot at,” says the 34-year-old former infantryman from Zanesville, Ohio. “I was always out on patrols. As a paralegal, I don’t have to worry about someone coming up on me with a satchel charge.”

Darby helps prepare non-judicial punishment paperwork, known as

“Article 15” under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and court-martial paperwork, for military commanders.

Darby says his experience in combat arms helps him to relate to the people that he works with.

“I love my job,” Darby says. “And with this job—being previous infantry—I can relate with the Soldiers and commanders from combat units. If I can help one Soldier, then I’ve done what I need to.”

The Soldiers at the legal office here at Q-West got more than they bargained for when they arrived here in July 2008. Because there isn’t a trial defense services office, the JAG office, usually prosecutorial, has had to take on unofficial legal assistance roles.

“In the past seven days, we’ve seen over 30 people for legal assistance issues,” says Spc. Ryan Frick, paralegal,

16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde. “It’s busy, and it helps the time go by.”

Besides the traditional work of a JAG office, the Q-West office can help Soldiers with proxy marriages, divorces, power of attorneys, wills, notarized documents, citizenship packets, and even, occasionally, legal advice, for Soldiers and contractors.

In fact, since the 16th Sust. Bde.’s transfer of authority ceremony in August 2008, the office has seen more than 600 people, excluding UCMJ matters, Frick says.

As a battalion paralegal specialist, Frick helps Soldiers create power of attorneys, notarizes documents and helps prepare commander’s affidavits.

“Let’s say you want your wife to buy a house in the states while you’re deployed, I can help with that,” Frick

says. “We help people, all of us here.”

Every day is different, says Capt. Joseph Gross, brigade trial counsel, 16th Sust. Bde.

“Anytime someone walks through the door we never know what they’ll need,” Gross says. “We serve anyone who wants to come in and get help from us.”

The 32-year-old military attorney from Cinnaminson, N.J., has served in different roles in the military. He’s been a general’s aide, a company executive officer and a battalion personnel operations officer in charge, but says this job was the most rewarding.

“It’s really fulfilling being able to provide help to the people that are out there running missions, so that they don’t have to worry about issues back home or other problems,” he says. “The real focus should be on them.”



From left to right: Anthony Jones, the manager of Dining Facility Two here, points out a Thanksgiving display to Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commanding general of 3rd Sustainment Command, and Air Force Col. John Dolan, the vice commander, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Nov. 27. Lally and Dolan were part of a judging committee who visited every dining facility here to evaluate their quality of service and Thanksgiving displays.



Soldiers with the 55th Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and contractors put the finishing touches on a Thanksgiving display here at Dining Facility One on Nov. 27.

Talking turkey

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – If it's the last Thursday of November, chances are there are only three things on your mind: turkey, football and Family.

It's Thanksgiving Day, but for service members – even here in Iraq, even thousands of miles away from home – certain expectations don't change.

"We can still celebrate

(Thanksgiving) and have our Family within the unit," said Master Sgt. Karen Wilkerson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of food services for 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). "It boosts our morale."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tiffany Alexander, the officer in charge of food services for 3rd ESC, said getting Thanksgiving meals to the troops – especially on this day – is extremely important.

"Something as simple as a scoop of dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, a slice of turkey and cranberry sauce is a big deal to someone who is constantly kicking down doors," she said.

This year, the dining facilities here on Joint Base Balad expected to serve tens of thousands of Thanksgiving meals to service members and civilians, Alexander said.

Getting holiday meals from warehouses in Kuwait to transport hubs like Joint Base Balad, and then out to mobile kitchen trailers, requires coordination between different units, services and civilian contractors, Alexander said. It requires accurate head counts, submitted request forms, inventories and combat logistics patrols to escort the meals to outlying bases.

Wilkerson said everything from tracking the trucks to making sure all of the subordi-

nate units received their food, their turkeys, was exhausting work. After Thanksgiving the process will start all over again for the Christmas meals.

However, Thanksgiving isn't only about the food.

Decorations help to create a touch of home and they are just as important, Alexander said.

Contractors at the dining facilities here have been working on holiday displays for weeks – some since the beginning of October. At DFAC Three, six contractors on two shifts have worked around the clock to create giant turkeys, animal-shaped bread, cakes and cornucopias – and all of it by hand.

"It's a lot of intricate work and time consuming work," Alexander said. "When you try to put something together of that magnitude at the last minute, it definitely shows."

On Thanksgiving Day, a judging team visited all the DFACs here and determined which did the best, based on categories such as decorations, displays and serving lines.

When asked how she would determine if Thanksgiving was a success, Alexander said, "If every Soldier that walked through got a great meal, was comfortable and it took their mind off being in Iraq for a little while, I would consider (that) successful."



Col. Jarrold Reeves, the deputy commander of 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), serves bread to a contractor here at Dining Facility Three on Nov. 27. It is a tradition in the military for officers and senior enlisted personnel to work on the serving lines during Thanksgiving.



Sustainers with the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) pose for a picture wearing Thanksgiving-themed costumes here at Dining Facility Three on Nov. 27.

Sustainers celebrate Thanksgiving at Q-West with slice of home

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MAJ. PAUL R. HAYES
Expeditionary Times Staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq –

With millions of Americans celebrating Thanksgiving around dinner tables with helpings of food, family-togetherness, football and a year's worth of reflection, Soldiers of the 3^d Sustainment Command's 16th Sustainment Brigade, briefly took time to pause and celebrate while preparing for missions departing this remote post in northwestern Iraq.

Over 4,000 service members enjoyed a variety of holiday meal options on Thanksgiving Day even though missions in support of Multi-National Division - North continued like any other day. The efforts of the brigade's food-service team ensured Soldiers could enjoy a brief slice of home along with their choice of pie at this remote installation 150 miles north of Baghdad.

"This is our Superbowl," said Master Sgt. Michael Davis, a food service supervisor, 16th Sust. Bde. from Bam-

berg, Germany. "We started preparing for this seven days ago with the goal of not only showcasing our talents, but also to come together and give these Soldiers a 'home away from home.'"

For the 25-year veteran and Cleveland, Ohio native, ensuring each dining facility on Q-west is doing something special for Soldiers is a job he takes seriously. Davis and his team of four non-commissioned officers supervise the preparation of food at all of the installation's five dining facilities. For Davis and his team, food preparation began at around mid-night and would continue until around 8 p.m. "We'll sleep and eat after the Soldiers are done," he added.

The installation boasts one large, main facility and four smaller satellite facilities, catering to units and Soldiers on the go.

"Each facility might not have the exact same menu," said Davis, "But each one will have the main Thanksgiving ingredients and something special for the Soldiers."

One such satellite facility is the more remote, Knight's Express, near Q-west's Combat Logistics Patrol Readiness Center. Nestled next to a former Iraqi Air Force han-

gar, the facility, whose 200-square-foot dining room seats a mere 20 people, is a vivid contrast to Q-west's spacious main dining facility.

But at the tiny facility, quality, quantity and atmosphere were not a problem as friends and Soldiers enjoyed prime rib and Cornish hen for their Thanksgiving meal while sharing stories from home.

For friends and fellow Minnesotans, Sgt Dale Berthiaume and Pfc. Bryan Oliverius spent their holiday at the Knight's Express on Thanksgiving. Later in the day, they began loading their trucks for missions.

"In a word, it's homey," said Berthiaume, a St. Cloud, Minn., native, who is on his third rotation to Iraq. Both he and Oliverius, a Blaine, Minn., native served with the 353rd Transportation Company from Buffalo, Minn.

As both friends finished their meals and paused to laugh at Chevy Chase's antics in "Christmas Vacation," they reflected on what Thanksgiving meant thousands of miles from home.

"I miss home and my three kids," said Oliverius. "But I'm looking forward to talking to them tonight by webcam." On his second rotation to Iraq, the young Soldier also said

he'll miss snowmobiling this year but is thankful for this little slice of home so far from Minnesota.

And what was the specialty at the tiny Knight's Express? The 16th Sust. Bde. food service team offered up a delicacy not usually associated with November's signature holiday meal.

"Banana splits are our specialty today," stated food service non-commissioned officer Sgt. Thomas Clendening from Grafenwoer, Germany. "It's not a requirement, but we enjoy doing it for the Soldiers that eat here."

For Clendening, Thanks-

giving Day is like any other in that he's always trying to ensure the Soldiers moving through his facility are taken care of before heading out on missions to locations across Iraq.

As Thanksgiving Day ended here at COB Q-west, 16th Sust. Bde., Soldiers continued their mission to provide distribution of supplies to Multi-National Division-North units. For these Soldiers on mission, however, Thanksgiving was special thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the brigade's food service team who went out of their way to bring their Soldiers a little slice of home.



16th Sus. Bde Command Team Col. Martin B. Pitts and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer serve up Thanksgiving cheer during an holiday meal at the "Knight's Feasting Hall" at COB Q-West Nov. 27.

Countdown to Thanksgiving

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

– Final preparations began around midnight.

Contractors wheeled out hand-made

displays – turkeys, of course – and decorative cakes; tables were dressed in fall colors: muted greens, browns, and orange; and in the kitchen, cooks continued working. In a few short hours, as they knew all too well, thousands of hungry service members would be waiting in line for their share of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce.

For Americans everywhere,

Thanksgiving is an important holiday, even more so for those thousands of miles away from their homes and Families.

"I know how it was for me, being overseas and being away from my Family," said Herman Smith, the senior food service manager for all the dining facilities on post. A retired Army cook, Smith said all the time and effort which goes into preparing for Thanksgiving is important for the morale of deployed service members.

Those preparations began last month when contractors began working on static displays. Carved watermelons, Mayflower ships made with granola bars and colored Macaroni, turkeys fashioned out of potato chips or pieces



U.S. Army photo by SPC. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Pfc. Julian Hayden, a cook with the 55th Sustainment Brigade, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Quantico, Va., works with contractors to prepare deviled eggs for the Thanksgiving meal here at Dining Facility One on Nov. 27.

of fruit – all of it is simple but time-consuming to create.

Everything from the displays to the bunting to the food and garnishes is all focused on one goal, said Sgt. Homer Butler, a cook with the 366th Quartermaster Company, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). It's those little touches, the attention

to detail, which gives service members that sense of home, Butler said, and reminds them they're all part of another Family, too.

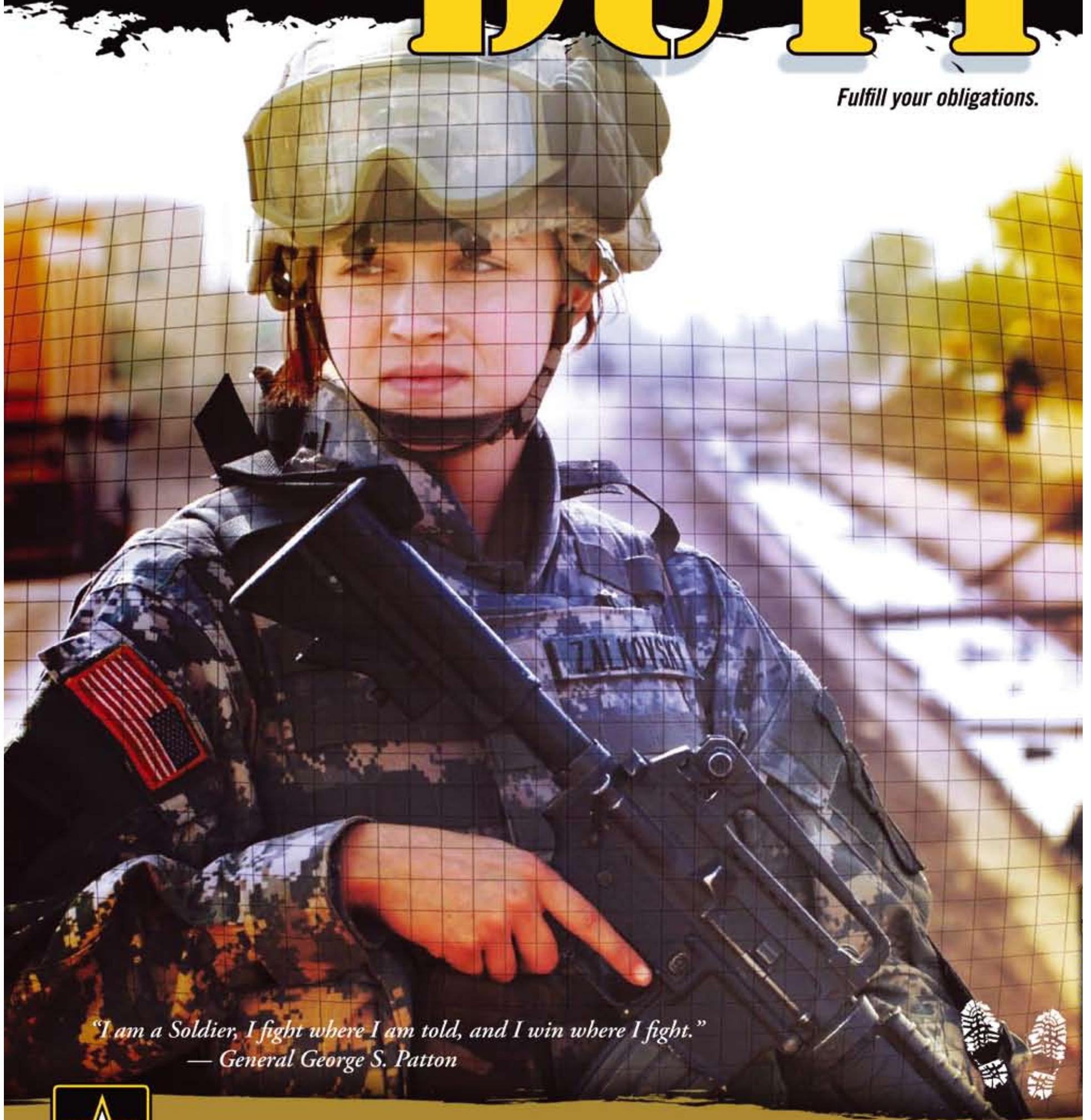
A plateful of turkey and mashed potatoes in one hand and a camera in the other, Sgt. 1st Class Taylor Westbrook, the noncommissioned officer in charge for reset and

redistribution for 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said she appreciated all the effort contractors and service members put into the holiday meal.

"It's good to have a touch of home," she said with a smile, "and that people have put forth the effort to make it special for the Soldiers here."

DUTY

Fulfill your obligations.



*"I am a Soldier, I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight."
— General George S. Patton*



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.™

ARMY VALUES

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. We at 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.

UTAH

- It is illegal to cause a catastrophe.
- Individuals may not possess beer in containers larger than two liters unless they are a retailer.
- Boxing matches that allow biting are not allowed.

NORTH CAROLINA

- The mere possession of a lottery ticket is illegal in North Carolina and may result in a \$2,000 fine.
- It's against the law to sing off key.
- Elephants may not be used to plow cotton fields.

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 Hard

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

Last weeks answers

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

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

WATCH OUT FOR HIM. THE PROMOTION TO CORPORAL HAS MADE HIM DRUNK WITH POWER.



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 12/03/08

NHL on Versus: Tampa Bay Lightning @ Philadelphia Flyers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Ohio State @ Miami (FL), Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Duke @ Purdue, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 Utah Jazz @ Sacramento Kings, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Clemson @ Illinois, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Virginia @ Minnesota, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 12/04/08

Minnesota Timberwolves @ Orlando Magic, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Indiana @ Wake Forest, Live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: North Carolina @ Michigan State, Live 5:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 Dallas Stars @ Edmonton Oilers, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Penn State @ Georgia Tech, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 ACC/Big Ten Challenge: Florida State @ Northwestern, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 Los Angeles Lakers @ Philadelphia 76ers, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 12/05/08

NBA on TNT: Phoenix Suns @ Dallas Mavericks, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL Week 14: Oakland Raiders @ San Diego Chargers, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on TNT: San Antonio Spurs @ Denver Nuggets, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Louisville @ Rutgers, Tape Delayed 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series: USC @ Oklahoma, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports
 Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series: UCLA @ Texas, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 14: Oakland Raiders @ San Diego Chargers, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 12/06/08

NBA Friday: Portland Trail Blazers @ Boston Celtics, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime - 2008 MAC Championship Game: Teams TBD (Ford Field, Detroit, MI), Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Calgary Flames @ St. Louis Blues, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Edmonton Oilers @ Los Angeles Kings, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA Friday: Toronto Raptors @ Utah Jazz, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Philadelphia 76ers @ Detroit Pistons, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime - 2008 MAC Championship Game: Teams TBD (Ford Field, Detroit, MI), Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 College GameDay (Location TBD), Live 6 p.m. AFN/sports
 Academy Football on AFN: Army vs Navy (Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA), Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
 ACC Championship Game: Teams TBD (Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, FL), Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 12/07/08

SEC Championship Game: Alabama vs Florida (Georgia Dome, Atlanta, GA), Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 ABC College Football: USC @ UCLA, Live 12:30 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Teams TBD, Live 3:45 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Big 12 Championship Game: Teams TBD (Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, MO), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 12/08/08

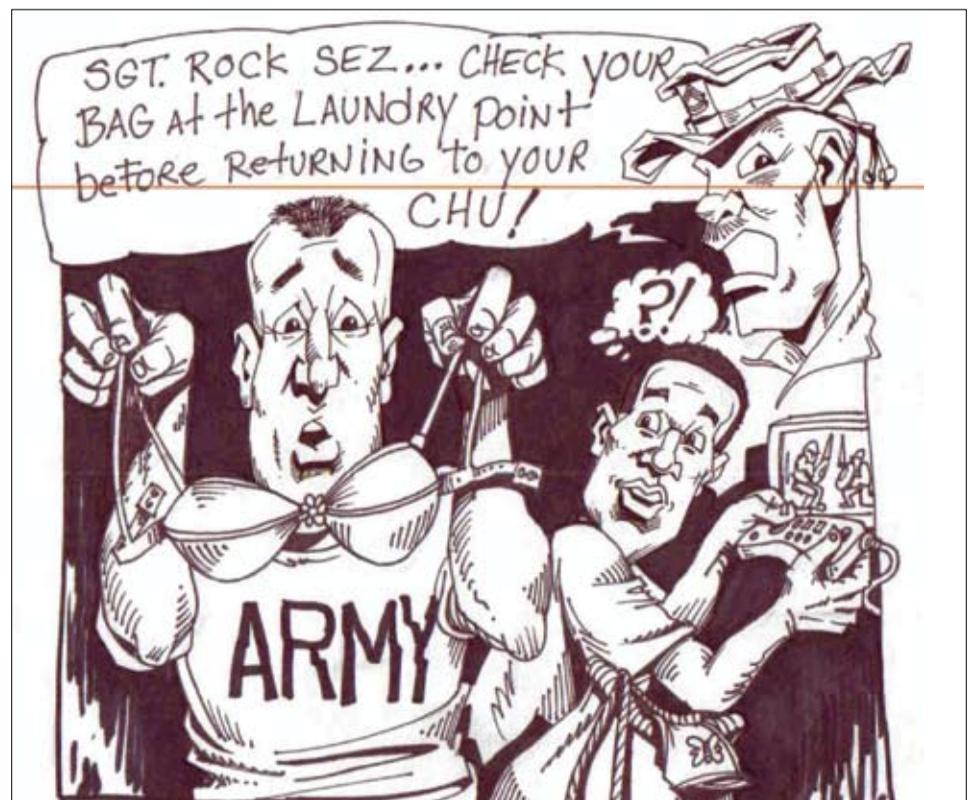
NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 14: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
 AMA Motocross Lites: Steel City, Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 14: New England Patriots @ Seattle Seahawks, Live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 American LeMans: Monterey Sports Car Championships, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 2008 BB&T Classic: Virginia Tech vs Navy (Verizon Center, Washington, DC), Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Week 14: Teams TBD Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 14: New England Patriots @ Seattle Seahawks, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 ACC Sunday Night Hoops: Florida @ Florida State, Tape Delayed 5:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 Week 14: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 14: New England Patriots @ Seattle Seahawks, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 12/09/08

NHL on Versus: Buffalo Sabres @ Pittsburgh Penguins, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 14: Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Carolina Panthers, Live 4:30 AFN/sports
 Orlando Magic @ Los Angeles Clippers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 14: Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Carolina Panthers, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on NBATV: Houston Rockets @ Memphis Grizzlies, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/Sports



Iraq according to Opet



THEN & NOW



2003

2008

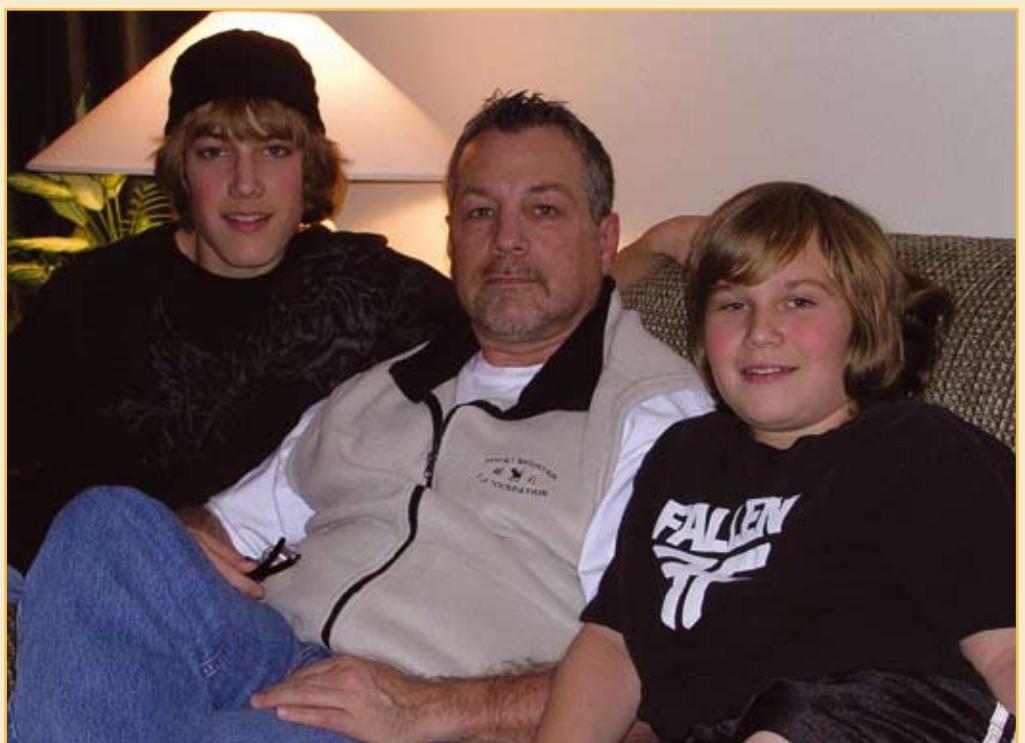


Shout Outs!

TO: CSM Karen Jacobs-Harryman,

From your Family: Mike, Tyler and Tanner. Happy Holidays, we are very proud of you and miss you greatly. Stay safe, and we look forward to the day you come home!

Mike Harryman, MSG (Ret)
U.S. Army



JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

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.

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

MAX PAYNE



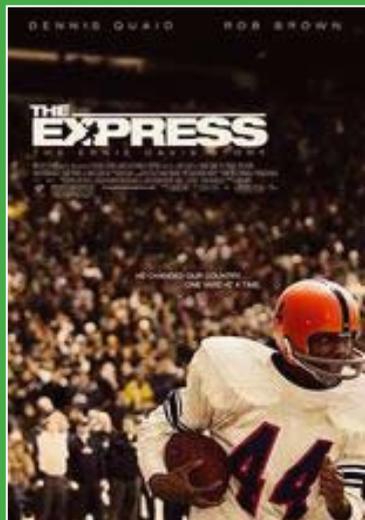
A maverick cop (Mark Wahlberg) faces a supernatural battle when he descends into a dark underworld to find those who killed his family and his partner.

"Turning video games into movies may be one way for studios to coax teenagers away from their laptops, but this time around, the results are miserable, in every sense of the word." Los Angeles Times

-Mark Olsen

The Express

Born into poverty, Ernie Davis (Rob Brown) overcomes many obstacles to get into Syracuse University's football program. Under the guidance of Coach Ben Schwartzwalder (Dennis Quaid), Davis becomes one of the school's best players, even surpassing Jim Brown's achievements. In 1961 Davis becomes the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy, but there is one more obstacle in his life that he must overcome.



Movie Times

Wednesday, December 3

5 p.m. Bolt (PG)

8 p.m. Quarantine (R)

Thursday, December 4

5 p.m. Quarantine (R)

8 p.m. Body of Lies (R)

Friday, December 5

2 p.m. Australia (G)

5 p.m. Max Payne (PG-13)

8:30 p.m. The Express (PG)

Saturday, December 6

2 p.m. Max Payne (PG-13)

5 p.m. The Express (PG)

8 p.m. The Secret Life

Of Bees (PG-13)

Sunday, December 7

2 p.m. The Express (PG)

5 p.m. The Secret Life

Of Bees (PG-13)

8 p.m. Max Payne (PG-13)

Monday, December 8

5 p.m. Max Payne (PG-13)

8 p.m. The Secret Life

Of Bees (PG-13)

Tuesday, December 9

5 p.m. Australia (PG)

8 p.m. The Express (PG)

(Schedule is subject to change)

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

The Secret Life of Bees stars Dakota Fanning as Lily, a fourteen-year-old growing up in a small southern town in 1964. She is haunted by memories of shooting her mother when she was a young girl. Lily lives with her emotionally distant father, and her best friend is their African-American housekeeper (Jennifer Hudson). After locals beat Lily for attempting to register as a voter, and her Dad goes one step too far during an argument with Lily, she and the housekeeper set out to find the place where the only picture Lily has of her mother was taken. That place turns out to be the home of the independent Boatwright sisters, a trio - Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo, and Alicia Keys - who make a very successful living producing honey. Lily and her friend move in with them, and soon the girl learns about both beekeeping and life.



Australia



An English aristocrat inherits an Australian ranch the size of Maryland. When English cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough-hewn cattle driver to drive 2,000-head of cattle across hundreds of miles of the country's most unforgiving land, only to still face the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbor only months earlier.

Photos Around Iraq



LEFT: Iraqi Army Soldiers beat the Americans at soccer and volleyball, but could not master dodge ball, during a joint organizational day at Forward Operating Base Hawk, an Iraqi Army compound on Q-West, Nov. 2.

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



ABOVE: Col. Walter E. Piatt, Brigade Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Marrero, senior noncommissioned officer of the 3-4th Cav., serve Thanksgiving dinner to Soldiers at Forward Operation Base Paliwoda, Iraq Nov. 27.

U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Reginald Smith



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

ABOVE: Iraqi Army Soldiers from 7th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, shut out Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2-0 in soccer, during a joint organizational day at Forward Operating Base Hawk, an Iraqi Army compound at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Nov. 2.



LEFT: Col. Martin Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde. and the brigade personal security detail poses for a group photo to wish Family and friends in Bamberg, Germany, happy holidays at COB Q-West Nov. 27.

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

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraqi Police foil kidnapping attempt in Sha'ab

SHA'AB, Iraq – Iraqi Police thwarted a kidnapping attempt in Adhamiyah's Sha'ab neighborhood around noon, Nov. 22.

The police, from the Sha'ab station, witnessed four gunmen in a white van in the midst of a kidnapping attempt. The IPs engaged the men with small arms fire, injuring one man who was later detained. The other three men escaped immediate capture and fled from the Iraqi Police and a Company E, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad patrol that was dispatched to the area.

Later, a second kidnapper was arrested following a tip from a local resident. The resident notified an Iraqi Police checkpoint of a criminal who had taken refuge inside his home.

The two men are currently in Iraqi Police custody pending further action. Iraqi Police along with the Iraqi Security and Coalition forces are on the lookout for the other two men.

"This is a good thing for my police and right now they have responsibility for this country," said Col. Hassan, commander of Sha'ab Iraqi Police.

Engineers move forward with Operation Peace for Iraqi Children

BAGHDAD – Students of the Al Kifah Girls School in Baghdad's Rusafa district received much needed school supplies, toys and clothing Nov. 18 from Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers.

Lt. Col. Carlton Fisher, chaplain, 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, Awatef Fadel, the School Principal, and Mohamed Abd Al Rahman, Mayor of Rusafa, coordinated the school supply donation. The entire 926th Engineer Brigade Family Readiness Group and Families had a hand in organizing the Al Kifah School donation.

"When I got in country, I discovered that several of us were soliciting donations from the 926th Family Readiness Groups, Soldiers' Families and churches and organizations back home," said Fisher. "I got together with our chief of staff and Sgt. (Amy) Lehman.

"We consolidated our efforts into one mission entitled: 'Operation Peace for Iraqi Children.' We changed our priority to school supplies and focused on locating a specific school," he added.

Fisher received clothing from various churches throughout Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Illinois. In addition to receiving supplies, 420 backpacks were donated.

Along with Fisher's organization, Sgt. Amy Lehman, executive noncommissioned officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lehman, S2 noncommissioned officer in charge, 926th Eng. Bde., developed "Every Child Counts."

Lehman received more than 150 boxes of supplies, toys and clothing.

"Clothing, shoes, hygiene items, toys and snacks were donated by the Lehman, Girard, Phillips, Kelsey Family, over eight different churches and numerous organizations and companies," said Leh-

man.

Planning started in April 2008 for "Operation Peace for Iraqi Children."

"The mission began back at Camp Shelby when Brig. Gen. (Jeffrey) Talley encouraged us to send soccer paraphernalia and toys for Iraqi kids," said Fisher.

Fisher and his team of volunteers organized, inventoried and packed all of the donations. The 46th Engineer Combat Battalion, out of Fort Polk, La., provided additional support by identifying the school site.

The 890th Engineer Battalion, out of Gulf Port, Miss., received donated items which added to the Al Kifah donation.

Lehman felt it was extremely important to give to the children of Iraq.

"It is important to give to the children of Iraq for two reasons," said Lehman. "One, these children are the future of Iraq and they will be the leaders of tomorrow. Two, they didn't ask for the life styles they have, and if we can help them out in any little way to comfort them or show the children we care, maybe they will look back as they grow older and remember the good the American Soldiers did."

Fisher saw donating the items to the Al Kifah School as a type of reconciliation.

"We saw the mission as an opportunity to give to needy children in Baghdad and build relationships between Iraqi citizens and Coalition forces."

The event also broadened Iraqi citizens support from U.S based churches and organizations to engender a free republic in Iraq, said Fisher.

The 926th plans to organize another school donation before they leave.

Refurbished Salman Pak school opens for students

BAGHDAD – Wurwood Kindergarten School officially reopened its doors Nov. 21 in the Rasheed neighborhood of Salman Pak after a two-month long refurbishing period.

The school has 350 students enrolled, aged four to five years old, and six class rooms. Before the refurbishment, the school could only hold 60 students. The school employs eight teachers, a director and an assistant.

"The neighborhood Families feel safe sending their

kids to the school," said Nawad Abid Alaziz, the school's headmistress, adding that the refurbishment occurred in synch with the improved security in the area.

Capt. William Richardson, the commander of Company C, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and his Soldiers, attended the building dedication ceremony. His unit assisted the Iraqi Army, local Shaykhs and contractors in achieving their success at the school.

"The increased professionalism of the Iraqi Army has made the area more secure," Richardson said.

The brightly painted school contrasts to what the building's condition was a short time ago. Much of the building had been hit by gunfire and was strewn with garbage.

Alaziz led Richardson, along with Iraqi Army officers and local Shaykhs on a tour of the school.

Alaziz said she was pleased with the \$80,000 refurbishment and that she watches television and sees American kindergarten schools and dreams of having schools like that in Iraq to educate their children.

"We need more rugs, a hot water heater, space heaters for the classrooms and more furniture," Alaziz told the group.

Richardson said he felt improving education opportunities for the children requires efforts from all those involved.

"Yes, that's very important because the kids are the future, and with the help of the IA, Shaykhs and neighborhood, we can make the school better," he said.

The kindergarten project is a small part of a larger program in the neighborhood. The overall objective of the disarmament, disbandment, and reintegration program is to pump \$5.6 million in the area to stimulate the economy and provide employment and vocational skills for lasting employability.

The money will be spent on seven construction projects, which will include two more kindergarten schools in the neighborhood, a land registration office, roads, a clinic, new fire trucks and new ambulances.

Mr. Razaq, a Civil Service Corps contractor, whose students refurbished the school, also attended the opening. His vocational program trains students on carpentry, masonry, electrical work, crane operations and laying asphalt.

"The program provides good paying jobs for the members of the community," said Razaq.

The DDR program provided nine local Shaykhs the opportunity to nominate people from their tribes to enter the program.

"Before the program, there were no job opportunities in the area. It's good because it provides jobs and gives positive alternatives for the young," said Shaykh Hussein.

Lt. Col. Michael Shroud, commander of TF 2-6, partnered with the 9th Iraqi Army Division in the area, was asked by the Iraqis to cut the ribbon to signify the opening.

"Thank you for your gracious offer," said Shroud, "but this school was built by Iraqi workers for Iraqi children with the support of the Iraqi Army maintaining security. We (Coalition forces) are just your fans to cheer you on."

Col. Muhammad Ali, 1st Battalion, 35th Brigade, 9th IA Div., took the honor of cutting the ribbon to signify the official opening.

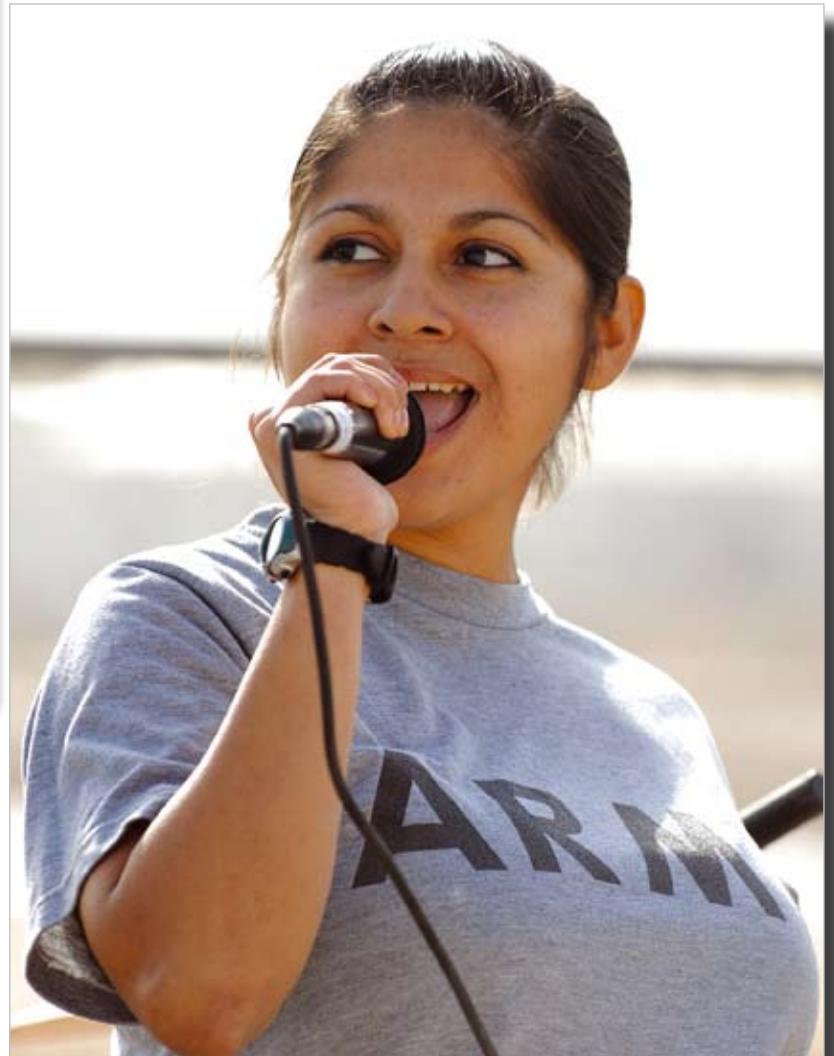
Two more schools are planned to open in the neighborhood in the near future.





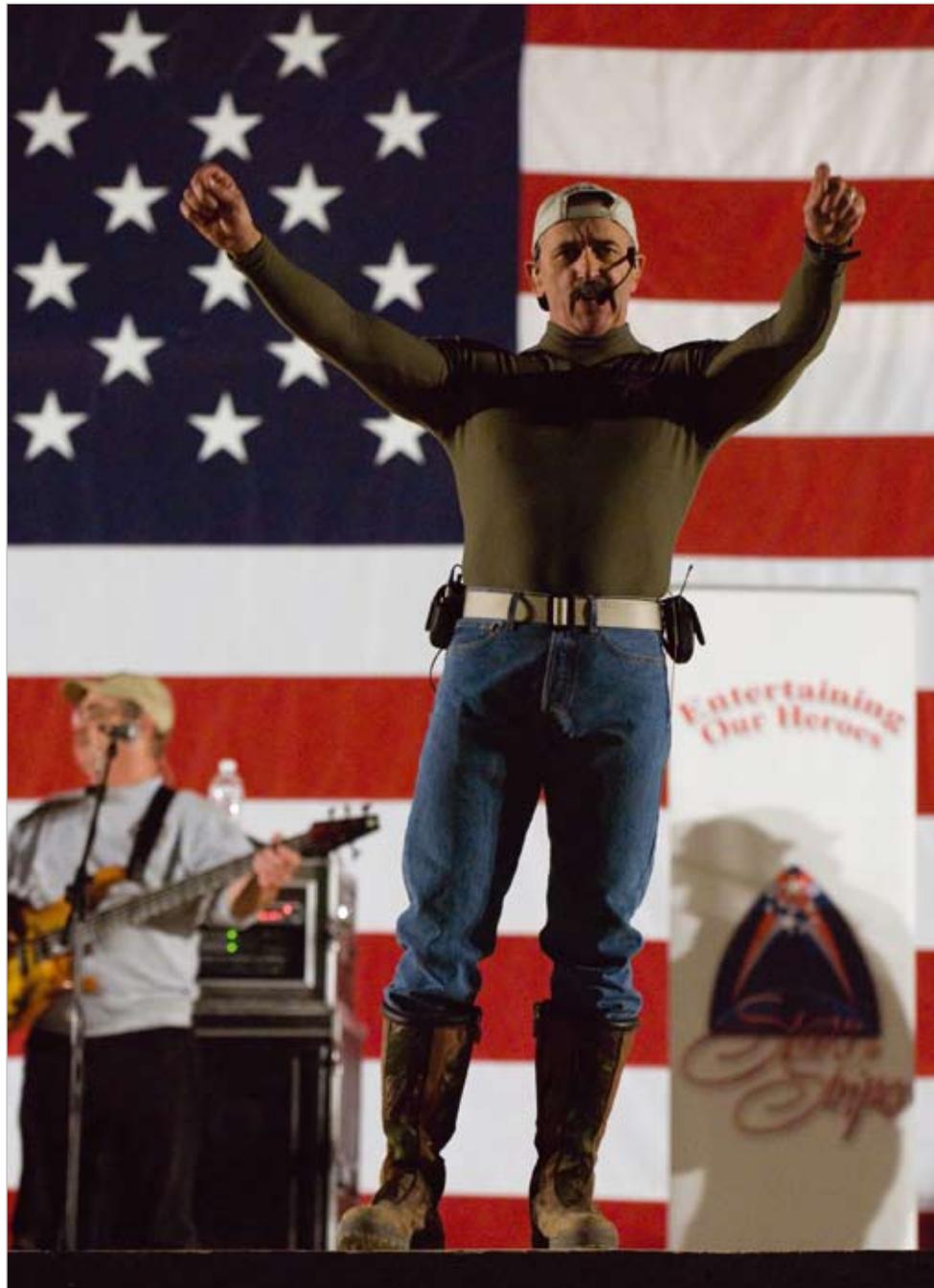
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal G. Reidy

Spc. Joshlyn Smith and Spc. Fernando Perra, from the 834th Aviation Support Battalion, a National Guard unit from St. Paul, Minn. pose with "combat santa." Master Sgt. John Haggerty, 34th Aviation Battalion from Cushing, Minn., poses for a photo in front Joint Base Balad USO on Nov. 15. "I usually dress up at home for underprivileged kids," Haggerty said. "Since I'm not going to be home for the holidays, my wife sent it (the suit) to me to bring a smile to the troops."



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

Spc. Amanda Gordon, from Miami, Fla., a member of the 356th Quarter Master Company, sings "I'm Just a Girl" during a half-time show for the Turkey Bowl at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 27. The flag football game involved Soldiers and Airmen; the Army won, 59-34.



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

Country singer Aaron Tippin performs for service members at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 25 during his Drill N' Thrill tour.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Reginald Smith

Maj. Timothy R. King, with the 3rd Brigade 4th Cavalry Regiment, sits down to eat his Thanksgiving meal in the dining facility at forward operation base Paliwoda, Iraq Nov. 27. A great effort was put forth by the dining facility personnel to provide service members with a Thanksgiving meal away from home.