

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 26

Gates in Balad

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with troops
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B-day Wish Guardsmen re-enlist on National Guard's 372nd Birthday

Page 8



Courtesy photo

The "Musical" AAFES Teddy bear controversy answered

Is the singing teddy bear available?

Yes. The teddy bear is mailable and should be packaged in a way that it will not activate during shipment. (Tip: If multiple things are going in the box, place the bear in its own box and then place in the larger box).

The nonmailable list states "Mailable batteries must be removed from the device they power and be protected from short circuiting," this item is mailable and has been approved to be shipped, according to a representative from the Military Postal Service Agency and DHL.

Recommended mailing dates for delivery by Dec. 25

From Iraq to the U.S.

- Domestic deadlines & regular mail to U.S. destinations - Dec. 20

From the U.S. to:

- Iraq & Afghanistan - by Dec. 4
- Other military overseas APO/FPO locations - Dec. 11
- Express Mail to other overseas military locations - Dec. 18
- Express Mail to certain U.S. locations - Dec. 23
- Express Mail to most major cities - Dec. 24 & 25

Follow the APO/FPO general mailing restrictions when shipping or receiving mail this holiday season.

Christmas Spirit, page 2



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi Freeman

Chaplain (Major) Lewis, the brigade chaplain of 371st Sustainment Brigade, supervises an assembly line of volunteers packing Christmas stockings at Al Asad Air Base on Dec. 6. Lewis estimated he would need approximately 3,000 stockings, one for every Soldier in the brigade.

Sustainers conduct transfer of authority

STORY BY 3^d SUSTAINMENT
COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

TALLIL, Iraq – The 7th Sustainment Brigade transferred authority to the 287th Sustainment Brigade from Wichita, Kan., during a ceremony at contingency operating base Adder Dec. 19. As a 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unit, the 7th Sust. Bde. from Fort Eustis, Va., was responsible for supply and

distribution of all classes of supply as well as for providing maintenance, human resources and financial management support to the Soldiers and units of Multi-National Division-Center, Center-South, and Southeast.

Since arriving in October 2007, Soldiers of the brigade issued more than 331 million gallons of fuel, produced more than 89 million bottles of water, delivered over 3.5 million meals and executed more than 3,800 convoys accounting for over 14 million miles traveled.

"Your efforts were a critical part to the greatly improved security situation throughout Iraq," said the guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3^d ESC.

During their tour, the 7th Sust. Bde. partnered with Coalition allies such as the Romanian contingent and led the way in mentoring Iraqi Army logistics units, helping to increase Iraq's drive towards logistical self-sustainment. Additionally, the brigade contributed to Iraqi civil capacity through teaming

with Iraqi trucking companies and local communities to improve supplies of clean water and reconstruct schools in both Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces.

"I look back at all the things that we accomplished and all I can say is that I'm awed at what we did, but just mostly proud," said Col. Mark Barbosa, the 7th Sust. Bde. commander.

"The team from Kansas brought an incredible array

See **TRANSFER**
Page 4

332 ESFS Blotter

27 Nov. – 03 Dec.

Damage to Private Property:

A civilian contractor entered the Eagles Nest to log a complaint concerning damage to private property. The desk sergeant assisted the contractor in completing a statement. The contractor stated he accidentally laundered his passport. The contractor was informed to report back to security forces after 72 hours for a copy of the statement.

UXO Discovery:

A civilian contractor notified security forces of a possible UXO located in the ICP gravel yard. SF patrols responded, inspected the area, determined the UXO to be a 57 mm rocket, and initiated cordon procedures. EOD and the fire department arrived on-scene. EOD took control of the UXO for destruction. SF response terminated.

Medical Emergency:

Security forces were notified of a medical emergency involving a civilian contractor. SF patrolmen responded to the scene and made contact with medical personnel treating the victim. The patrolmen were informed the victim would be transported to the base hospital due to a lower back injury. SF response was terminated.

Theft of Private Property:

A civilian contractor entered the Eagles Nest to report theft of his private property. The desk sergeant assisted the contractor with a statement. The contractor stated that upon return to his quarters, he noticed his door ajar and his property missing. The contractor was advised to report back to security forces after 72 hours to obtain a copy of the incident report.

NIPR- 443-8602

SIPR- 241-1171

Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Corrections

A photo published in last week's paper, "Touchdown in Al Asad," the U.S. Army photo by should state U.S. Army photo illustration by Spc. Kiyoshi Freeman.

An article published in last week's paper about the 10th Sustainment Brigade transfer of authority ceremony incorrectly attributed certain quotes to Col. Mark Drake. The statements, which concerned future changes in the 10th Sust. Bde.'s operational environment and appeared at the end of the story, should have been attributed to Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritszching.

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

17 DEC 2008

3^d ESC FLIPL Report

Below are listed some of the recent findings from Financial Liability Investigation of Property Lost (FLIPL)

- NVGs were hand receipted to the platoon leader. After a sensitive items inventory, it was discovered the NVGs were missing and unable to be found. All efforts to find NVGs were exhausted. Soldier held liable for \$2,705.25. Loss to the Government: NVGs (\$3,607.00)
- During convoy operations, an ASV crew was forced to dismount. While dismounted, the NVGs were in use and lost while returning to the vehicle. Soldier held liable for \$2,705.25. Loss to the Government: NVGS (\$3,607.00)
- MTS receiver was destroyed during an attack. No one held liable. Loss to the Government: MTS receiver (\$2,013.00)
- Rollover accident involving M1114 and ASV. The ASV was towing M1114 and rolled over while attempting to stop. No one held liable. Loss to the Government: multiple items (\$223,862.54)

ACofS G4
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
DSN: 318-433-2023

Sustaining the Line!

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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10th Sustainment Brigade
16th Sustainment Brigade
371st Sustainment Brigade
287th Sustainment Brigade
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
55th Engineer Brigade
55th Sustainment Brigade
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
CJSOTF-AP
Task Force 34

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.

JBB Religious Service Schedule

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

HISPANIC SERVICE

Saturday 1930 Provider Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 1100 MWR East building
 1200 Freedom Chapel (West side)
 1230 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 1900 Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 0900 MWR East building
 1030 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
 1900 Freedom Chapel (West side)
 Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

LITURGICAL

Sunday 1500 Gilbert Chapel (H-6)

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 0900 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Call the Provider Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)

Sunday 1300 Provider Chapel
 1530 Freedom Chapel (West side)
 1900 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

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

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 Saturday 0800 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday 1230 Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 1900 Eden Chapel
 Saturday 1900 Eden Chapel

GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 0900 Provider Annex

For more information, call
 Gilbert Chapel: 433-7703
 Provider Chapel: 433-2430
 Freedom Chapel: 443-6303



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

USO Rocks!

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Kid Rock performs for service members during a USO tour here at the Jordan-Hare Stadium on Dec. 19. Kid Rock was part of a USO tour which also featured comedian Lewis Black and singer Kellie Pickler.

Operation Christmas Spirit

By SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Operation Christmas Spirit began here this week, an effort led by a National Guard chaplain to hand out thousands of Christmas stockings to the 371st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Chaplain (Major) James Lewis, the 371st Sust. Bde. chaplain and native of Kent, Ohio, said the goal of the project is “to bring a tangible sense of Christmas cheer to every Soldier within the brigade,” especially new, young Soldiers who may be on their first deployment away from home.

Lewis said the idea came from a previous deployment, when another chaplain attempted to give a stocking to every service member in Afghanistan.

Though on a much smaller scale, Lewis’ goal still presented its own challenges – namely filling and distributing approximately 3,000 Christmas stockings.

“Because I’m a chaplain,” he said, “I happen to run into a lot of organizations that say, ‘What can we do to support the troops?’ It’s hard these days with a mature battlefield situation for the folks back home to be able to demonstrate their support.”

Lewis informed interested parties and non-profit organizations – like churches, the Cub Scouts, the Foreign Legion, Blue Star Moms and the United Service Organization – on how they could help by providing a list of suggested items they could send.

The response has surprised him.

According to Lewis, one teenage girl, the daughter of former service members, decided to forgo her own Christmas gifts to buy stockings and items for troops overseas.

The boxes began arriving at the end of September, and Lewis said he expects to receive 300 boxes before the end of the holiday season. The boxes were packed with candy, puzzle books, Christmas CDs and movies, socks, beef jerky and other assorted goods, all of which Lewis had to open and separate.

Lewis said his biggest challenge is figuring out how to pack the stockings and make them equitable. Not every stocking will be packed the same way, but having some sort of balance is important, he said, “so some macho kind of guy doesn’t get a stocking with women’s socks.”

An assembly line will be set up outside the chaplain’s coffee house, called “Holey Grounds”, where volunteers will be able to fill the Christmas stockings and then pack them for shipment. Unit ministry teams, usually a chaplain and his assistant, will ensure the stockings are distributed throughout their units before the end of the month.

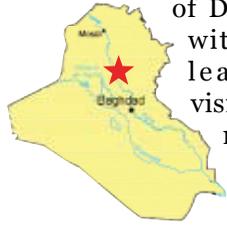
More importantly, Lewis said, is how Operation Christmas Spirit allows him to reach out and connect with every Soldier in the 371st Sust. Bde., a rare opportunity only possible during the holidays.

“The biggest concern that I have is for those Soldiers who might have a particularly tough time being away from home,” he said. “Those you know are having a difficult time (or) those you don’t know are having a difficult time.”

Gates visits Sustainers at Joint Base Balad

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Dr. Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense met with military leaders and visited service members here Dec. 13 as part of a tour through the Middle East.



While at Joint Base Balad, Gates met with Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of Multi-National Force – Iraq; Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of Multi-National Corps – Iraq; Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commander of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); Air Force Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, the commander of 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing; and other senior personnel.

Earlier in the day, Gates had lunch with senior non-commissioned officers from

multiple branches of service and hosted a town hall event at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East building here.

At the town hall, when asked about his decision to stay on as Secretary of Defense, Gates said, “No reason was more compelling to me than the fact that if hundreds of thousands of young Americans are doing their duty – your duty – without fail and often under difficult and dangerous circumstances, then I really had no choice but to follow suit.”

Gates praised the military’s efforts to improve warrior care and medical evacuations. He said everything possible was being done to protect service members and get them home safe, and he cited how quickly the Department of Defense deployed 12,000 Mine-Resistant and Ambush-Protected vehicles as proof.

In his opening remarks,



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

Service members listen to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates during his visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 13. The town hall meeting allowed service members to ask questions of the Secretary of Defense.

Gates had nothing but praise for the service members.

“Each one of you could have done something easier, safer,

probably with better pay,” he said, “but you chose to step forward and wear the country’s uniform.”

This is Gates’ ninth trip to Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar

Col. Mark Barbosa and Command Sgt. Maj. Lesly McCorkle, both with the 7th Sustainment Brigade, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), case their unit’s organizational color during a transfer of authority ceremony with 287th Sust. Bde. at contingency operating base Adder Dec. 19.

TRANSFER

Continued from Page 1

of talent,” Barbosa added, referring to his unit’s replacements, the 287th Sust. Bde. “I’m really impressed. I actually believe they are ready to take this mission to the next level”

The 287th Sust. Bde. replaces the 7th Sust. Bde. at COB Adder and will remain

responsible for sustainment of Coalition forces south of Baghdad. “I want to pledge that I will continue those efforts and I will take those to the next level to continue our relationship with the community in Iraq,” said Col. Robert Schmitt, the 287th Sust. Bde. commander.

Schmitt then told his Soldiers, “We have a difficult job in front of us and, yes, we have very tough shoes to fill, but I know we’re ready.”

1st TSC commander visits 3^d ESC

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Brig. Gen. (promotable) James E. Rogers, the commanding general of 1st Theater Sustainment Command, visited the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and toured sustainment facilities here Dec. 16.

Rogers met with Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3^d ESC, and discussed sustainment and distribution operations in support of Coalition forces, as well as future redeployment operations.

Rogers said he was impressed with everything the 3^d ESC has done to support the warfighter

and streamline sustainment operations throughout Iraq.

“A lot of people don’t realize how much you’re doing for the people of Iraq,” he said, referring to the 3^d ESC’s effort to train Iraqi logisticians and support Iraq’s civil distribution network.

The 1st Theater Sustainment Command from Fort Bragg, N.C., is responsible for supporting combat operations in U.S. Army Central Command, which includes Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based from Fort Knox, Ky., provides headquarters command and control for operational level sustainment and distribution management in support of Multi-National Corps – Iraq.



Brig. Gen. (P) James E. Rogers, the commanding general of 1st Theater Sustainment Command, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commanding general of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), listen to a briefing from Capt. Lee Veltum, 679th Movement Control Team and native of Lansing, Kan., at the new convoy support center on Joint Base Balad Dec. 16. Rogers was visiting the base to discuss sustainment operations in support of Coalition forces and future redeployments from Iraq.



2008 Holiday Season

This holiday season, we recognize the noble sacrifices of our Soldiers, Families, and Army Civilians who bear the burden of safeguarding our freedoms. On the frontlines in Iraq and Afghanistan, far from home in Asia, Africa and Europe, and across the Americas, Soldiers tirelessly defend freedoms while helping others to secure their own. In this season of joy and hope, this selfless service continues to inspire countless acts of generosity, both here at home and overseas.

America has long been a beacon of hope for people around the world—and our Soldiers are daily ambassadors representing—and fighting for—ideals affirming life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. As Americans, we have diverse heritages and backgrounds and we celebrate many traditions this season. Whether at home with family and friends or deployed this holiday season, know that each member of our Army Family is valued—and together, we remain Army Strong.

As we reflect on this past year and look forward to 2009, we are confident that we will continue to meet the challenges ahead and work toward a better future for all of us. Know that you have the appreciation—and prayers—of a grateful Nation.

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW
MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Historians capture Sustainers in action for future generations

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. BRIAN A. BARBOUR
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Without the existence of military historians, it's possible that a Soldier's heroic efforts in Iraq could be forgotten.

The 44th Military History Detachment from Fort McPherson, Ga., currently deployed here in support of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is composed of one officer, one non-commissioned officer, and one enlisted soldier. Of the 25 MHDs in the Army, the 44th MHD is the only active duty detachment. The other MHDs are found in the Reserves (19) and National Guard (five).

Historical documentation for the 3^d ESC is specifically important because the collection of historical data in the logistics arena hasn't been captured before, said Capt. Joseph Green, an Aiken, S.C., native and officer in charge for the 44th MHD.

According to the U.S. Army Field Manual 1-20, Military

History Operations, gathering historical data provides the basis for developing future Army doctrine, training, leadership, organization, plans, as well as, materiel and management techniques.

"There hasn't been any focus on logistics. How are we feeding the Army, how are we clothing the Army? Not only ours, but the Iraqi Army as well," said Green. "Our mission is to collect that data and to document it."

An MHD is an independent team that compiles historical material to supplement the historical records of Army units in the field. The data collected by MHDs is sent to the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., where it is catalogued in the Military History Collection System Integration. This collected data consists of electronic media, paper document records, maps, photographs, audio and video recordings, artifacts, and other historical documents not preserved by a unit.

With current technology, most unit's historical materials are stored electronically on computers, such as slideshow presentations, digital photographs, and text



Spc. Hillary McKey from Memphis, Tenn., Capt. Joseph Green from Aiken, S.C., and Staff Sgt. John Brown from Philadelphia Mo., are members of the 44th Military History Detachment which is deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 44th MHD, from Fort McPherson Ga., is the only active duty MHD in the Army.

documents.

According to Green, one method used to collect information is by gathering digital documents compiled and stored on a unit's computers. The 44th MHD is equipped with 500 gigabyte external hard drives as part of their issued equipment and uses them to collect stored unit data.

"It's loosely called a data

dump," said Green. "We take those hard drives with us when we visit a unit and plug them directly into a computer or server and download data, file for file."

Conducting interviews is another method to document Army history on the battlefield. The 44th MHD conducts many interviews of service members in the 3^d ESC.

"The center for military history would like individual history, to see what the Soldier's experience was like during this time frame," said Green. "We try to capture the best we can, how Soldiers are feeling, their morale, what their jobs are, so we can paint a picture of what the typical life of a Soldier was like during this rotation."



JOINT BASE BALAD

Presents

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday



- Open to all on JBB
- 12 point font size, Double space, 2 pages or less
- Must pertain to the National 2009 Theme: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"
- Please submit all essays by COB January 8, 2009

Send essays to:

joseph.newton@blab.afcent.af.mil
everett.worman@iraq.centcom.mil
damon.walker@iraq.centcom.mil

Prizes for the top three essays will be presented at the **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance Celebration Luncheon**

January 15, 2009 at 1130 hours at MWR East Facility

POC: MSG Jackson, Tuynuykua EO Advisor 3d ESC at 433-2527,
MSgt Joseph Newton, EO Directory 332 AEW at 443-8459,
SFC Everett Worman, EO Advisor 555th EN BDE at 483-4645
SSG DaMon Walker, BN EOL 51 SB(E) at 483-2217

3^d ESC Soldier excited to be involved with the convoy security company training

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Training Soldiers to become safer and more knowledgeable on the equipment they will be using in Iraq is a big deal to 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally.



Matter of fact, he found this so important that he put into action the 3^d ESC convoy security company, which was based at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The CSC consisted of a 10-man team from 3^d ESC Soldiers appointed by Lally to help reduce the accident rate in the command. Doing so, the 3^d ESC pulled Soldiers from its combat security units to form a complete team of organizers and trainers.

Making the trip to Kuwait with the team is Capt. Brian Pilch, a support operations mobility officer for the 3^d ESC

and Seward, Alaska, native.

Pilch, a 16 year service member, took an enthusiastic approach to ensuring the safety of Soldiers with his position within the CSC.

As a battle captain for the CSC, Pilch was responsible for facilitating training with key instructors for each company. Each brigade combat team has around 20-24 companies that he coordinates with, and locks in the times and amount of vehicles they will use.

Pilch helps organize training that includes convoy live fire lanes and Blue Force tracker.

“I think that with any familiarization training, the earlier it’s conducted, the better,” said Pilch. “The Soldiers have a better understanding of how big and powerful these vehicles are.”

So far, Pilch said the training has been phenomenal as the CSC has met the commanding general’s intent on getting Soldiers familiar with the Mine-Resistance Ambush-Protected and M1117 armored security vehicles, that the Army is using in theater.

Fueling Pilch’s enthusiasm throughout the training were

Soldiers and has been something that was more prevalent in his military career during his time as a noncommissioned officer six years ago.

The former staff sergeant was excited to watch Soldiers go through the training process and interact with them as well. When asked what part of the training he enjoyed, here replied, “Soldiers.”

“I’ve taken some ownership of this training because when I see these young Soldiers faces, who are our brothers and sisters in arms,” said Pilch. “Anything we can do to help facilitate them being safe, I’m all for it.”

“We’re put into harm’s way and that comes with our jobs, and we know that,” he continued. “But anything we can do to keep Soldiers safe, we as leaders need to embrace and



Capt. Brian Pilch, a Seward, Alaska, native, and battle captain for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) convoy security company, explains the CSC daily battle rhythm to Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general during his visit to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. As the CSC battle captain, Pilch is responsible for facilitating training with key instructors for each incoming company.

try to develop further.”

From his interaction with trainers and Soldiers who conducted the training, Pilch said the feedback has been outstanding. The Soldiers have been grateful and enthusiastic to learn and drive the various pieces of equipment they will operate in Iraq. He said that at his level of leadership, he hopes the training will help reduce or

eliminate the accident rate in country.

Pilch and his fellow CSC cadre expect the accident rates to drop in the future for incoming BCTs. To sum it all up, he has given the CSC training his personal stamp of approval.

“I believe in it,” Pilch said, “and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

T F Muleskinner makes history in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS
MIKE BRANTLEY
10th SBDE PAO

Kevin G. O’Connell, 1st Sust. Bde. O’Connell’s brigade served a 15-month deployment.

The Muleskinners assumed

command and control of one sustainment brigade troops battalion and three combat sustainment support battalions,

consisting of Soldiers from 22 different states. Task Force Muleskinner’s command and control encompasses more than

4,500 Soldiers and provides support to more than 90,000 Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“We provide all the food, water, ammunition, repair parts and distribution, and all the truck transportation to 17 different locations in and around the Baghdad area,” said Drake. “We feed and fuel the force in those areas.”

Drake feels that the most challenging part of that mission is to ensure that what the Soldiers need is delivered on time and in the right quantities.

Another aspect of the mission is “to build on the foundation with our Iraqi partners. We need them to get their systems back in place so they can support their own divisions and allow us to redeploy.”

“We are extremely prepared to take over this mission,” Drake said.

This is the brigade’s first deployment to Iraq, following a 1992 deployment as the 10th Division Support Command in Florida for Hurricane Andrew

relief operations. In December of that year, they deployed again to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope. In September 1994, the 10th DISCOM deployed to Haiti to support humanitarian operations as part of Operation Uphold Democracy.

In August 1999, elements of the 10th DISCOM deployed to the Balkans for peacekeeping operations as part of Task Force Eagle in Bosnia. Then in November 2001, elements again deployed to Kosovo in support of Task Force Falcon.

In 2001, elements of the 10th DISCOM deployed to Uzbekistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism. In August 2003, the DISCOM headquarters deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom IV.

The 10th DISCOM was redesignated the 10th Sustainment Brigade in May 2005 and deployed back to Afghanistan in February 2006 for OEF 7.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- The 10th Sustainment Brigade made history Dec. 6 during a transfer of authority ceremony from

the 1st Sustainment Brigade, Fort Riley, Kan., marking the Muleskinner’s first step into Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The brigade, which departed Fort Drum in early November, is stationed at Camp Taji in support of the Multi-National Division – Baghdad and will be deployed here for 12 months.

As the brigade colors took their spot atop the flagpole in front of the brigade headquarters building here, Col. Mark E. Drake, commander and a St. Paul, Minn. native, 10th Sust. Bde., took over from the Clinton, Md. native, Col.

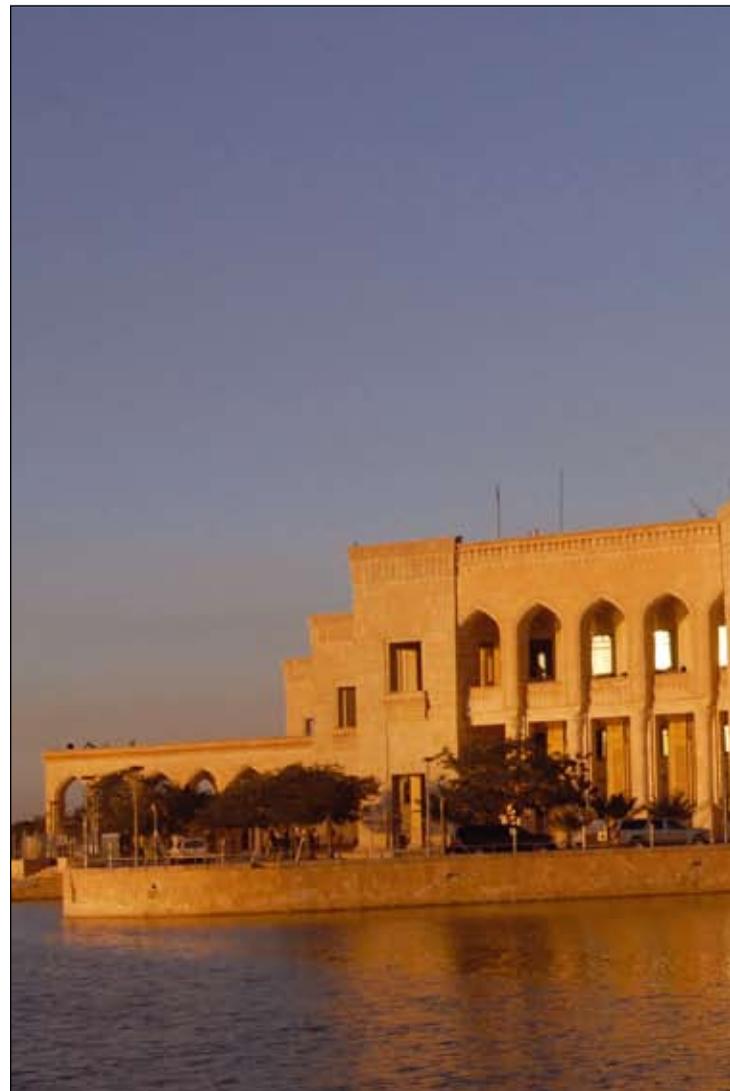


Col. Mark E. Drake, commander, 10th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching, look on behind the color guard as the Muleskinner’s flag is raised over the courtyard of the brigade headquarters at Camp Taji, Iraq, Dec. 6, marking the first time in the brigade’s history they have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Service members re-enlist, celebrate National Guard's 372nd birthday



The 4th Infantry Division Band from Fort Hood, Texas performs for Soldiers and Airmen during a mass re-enlistment ceremony at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq Dec. 13.



The Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, during the National Guard's 372nd birthday.



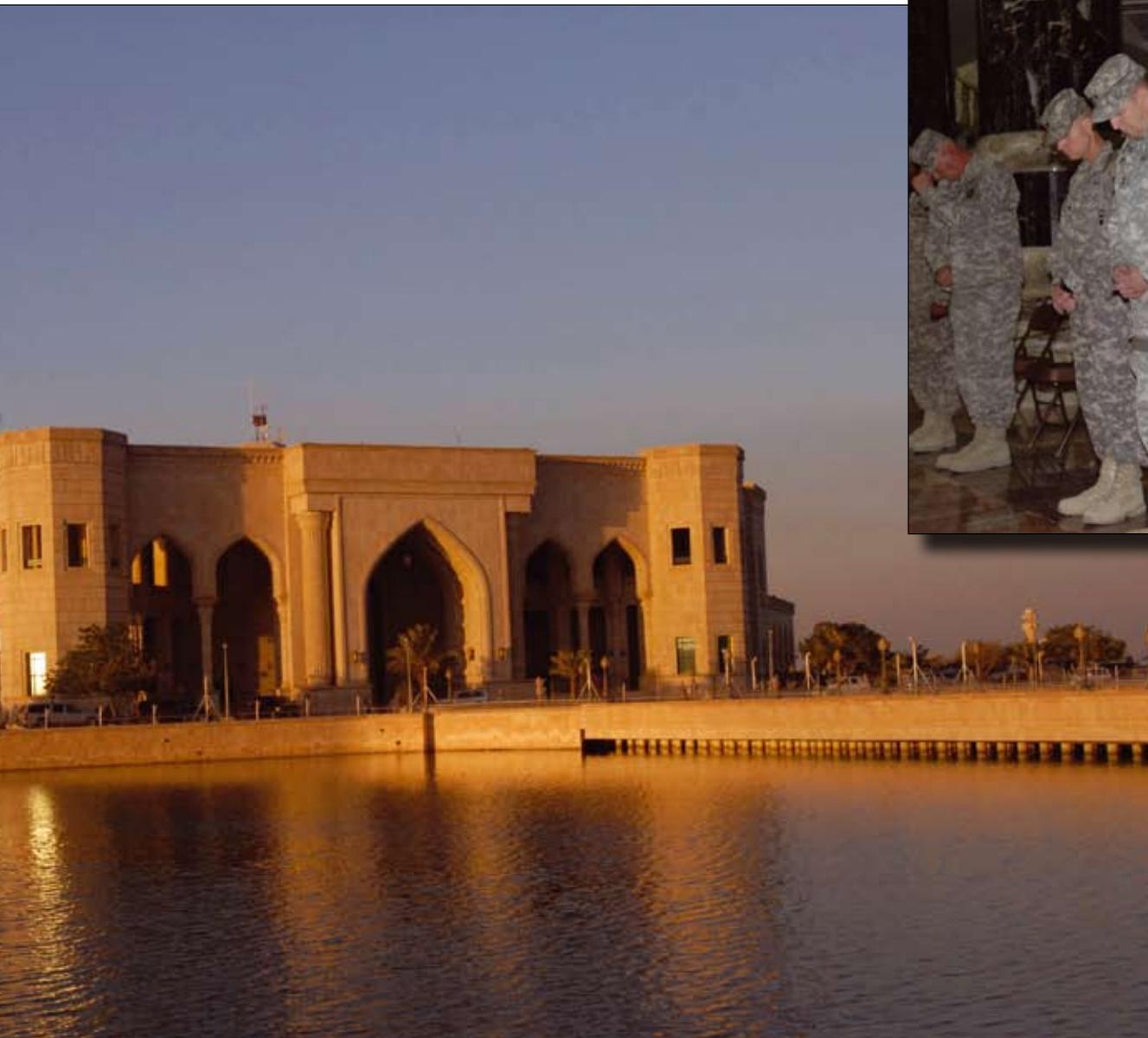
Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, director general, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, and part of the Michigan National Guard, recited the oath of re-enlistment to the Soldiers and Airmen during the mass re-enlistment ceremony at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, on Dec. 13. This event marked the National Guard's 372nd birthday.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers



Transition Command
National Guard, re-enlistment ceremony.
“Always Ready” slogan.
speaks value about
said in his opening
years of building
nation is a significant
possible by Soldiers.
Cannon said it
play in protecting
freedom around the
Sgt. Travis Fletch

Celebrate on 372nd Birthday



Capt. Timothy Sastic, the chaplain of the 890th Engineer Battalion with the Mississippi National Guard gives the invocation for the mass re-enlistment ceremony marking the National Guard's 372nd birthday at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq, Dec. 13.

Camp Victory, Iraq, where the National Guard's mass re-enlistment ceremony occurred in the rotunda on Dec. 13, marked the National Guards

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. HOLLY MOODY
Expeditionary Times Staff

iers and Airmen from around Iraq gathered at the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory on Dec. 13 to re-enlist on the National Guard's 372nd birthday.

More than 200 guardsmen raised their right hand while Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, director general, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Command – Iraq, and part of the Michigan lead them the oath of re-enlistment..

Always There'- that phrase, that slogan at our National Guard tradition," Cannon g remarks. "Three hundred seventy-two serving, protecting our states and our icant accomplishment that is all made rs and Airmen like you."

is a vital role that National Guardsmen the American way of life and defending e globe.

cher, a combat medic for Task Force 1st

Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment and native of Spokane, Wash., said he re-enlisted in the Army National Guard because of the camaraderie and the experience.

"I wanted to better myself, meet new people, and get an education," were the reasons Fletcher gave when asked why he joined the military. "The ceremony was nice, short and

"Here we are today...helping to build another free and democratic nation, opening the doors of hope, stability and security in one of the most complex regions in the world."

-- Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon
Director general, CPATT, Directorate of Interior Affairs
Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

sweet, and it is cool to look back and tell my grandkids, I re-enlisted in one of Saddam's palaces."

Cpl. Abraham Velasco, a combat medic with Task Force 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., and native of Seattle, Wash., said it was an honor to re-enlist and serve his country.

Staff Sgt. Robert Lockert, the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) retention noncommissioned officer with the Mississippi National Guard, performed for the troops by singing "American by God's Grace," with his guitar accompaniment.

The 4th Infantry Division Band from Fort Hood, Texas, performed the national anthem while an honor guard presented the colors. The band concluded the ceremony with the Air Force and Army songs.

The oath of re-enlistment was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate both the commitment and sacrifices of these service members and the National Guard birthday.

The National Guard Affairs office hosted the ceremony, and organized the 3.72-mile run to correspond with the National Guard's 372nd birthday the following day.

"It is comforting to know that for 372 years in our own nation's history, the National Guard has always been there constantly serving as one of our most enduring institutions," Cannon said during his closing remarks.

"Here we are today...helping to build another free and democratic nation, opening the doors of hope, stability and security in one of the most complex regions in the world," he said. "We're answering our nation's call just like our forefathers did 372 years ago."

“Knights” talk with provisional leaders; play soccer



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, hands a player from the Alhood village soccer team a ball after an exhibition match at Q-West Dec. 13. The match was part of the “souq,” where brigade leaders meet with leaders from the Ninawa province to discuss a variety of issues such as water and security.

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
ADAM V. SHAW
16th Sust. Bde. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
Q-WEST, Iraq — 16th Sustainment Brigade leaders met with area shaykh, municipal leaders, Iraqi Police officials, Iraqi Army leaders and others from the Ninawa Province at a “souq” here Dec. 13.

In Arabic, a souq is a marketplace or bazaar, but it is also used as a time where U.S. military leaders can discuss issues with local Iraqi leaders.

“These souqs are very valuable for relationship building,” said Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade. “It also gives us an opportunity to look at improving the situation in Qayarah and on the

Tigris River.”

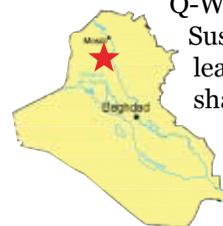
During the meeting, leaders discussed the security situation, on and off the contingency operating base and water issues.

Pitts said that the water situation here has improved over the past month and the brigade will continue to find ways to improve the water situation in the local Iraqi communities.

After the two-hour discussion, participants watched an exhibition soccer match played by the Alhood village soccer team.

Pitts and the brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer handed out new soccer balls to the team in appreciation of the match.

“We look forward to the monthly souq,” said Pitts. “We will continue to build our relationship and friendship for the future.”



536th Maintenance Company measures up to standard

STORY BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS GREGORY HOOSLINE
536th Maint. Co, 165th CSSB, 10
Sust. Bde., UPAR

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Precision is the mission for eight Soldiers from the 536th Maintenance Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade here, who provide calibration and repair support for deployed units operating within the Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

Properly calibrated equipment and instruments measurements are made with a calibrated test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment and traceable to national, international, or intrinsic standards of measurement. Every facet of military equipment uses some form of TMDE, from torque wrenches, multi-meters, to spectrum

analyzers, signal generators and flight instruments. The calibration accuracy of these measurements is vital for proper operations of equipment and instruments on the battlefield.

The 536th Maint. Co. TMDE section provides calibration and repair support for all types of test equipment belonging to the Army, as well as, other branches of service.

“Supporting one of the largest TMDE missions in Iraq is no small feat,” said Sgt. 1st Class Corey Barnes, team chief for the TMDE section and a Milwaukee, Wis. native. “These Soldiers work long hours to accomplish the mission and get the job done well.” Since their arrival, the TMDE section has completed 4,359 calibration and repair jobs, he said.

TMDE calibration and repair support plays a critical role for Coalition forces aviation units, who require the use of TMDE items for nearly every aspect of aircraft

instruments. Maintenance performed with uncalibrated equipment may cause catastrophic results. If properly calibrated equipment is not available, aircraft could be grounded unnecessarily for maintenance, resulting in less air support resources available to help sustain combat operations on the ground. The TMDE section has provided support to nearly 20 separate aviation units since their arrival.

The TMDE section also provides support for the Coalition Air Force Transition Team at Camp Taji. This is a unit that supports the development of the Iraqi Air Force. The section has adapted to existing capabilities and allows on-site calibration and repairs of equipment here; otherwise it would have to be shipped to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar for support. The section at Taji has greatly improved the availability of precision test equipment, a fundamental for

the maintenance of Iraqi rotary wing aircraft

One of the goals of the TMDE section is to maintain a TMDE readiness rate of 95 percent or greater.

“The expedient return of customer’s equipment is essential to our customer’s readiness” said Staff Sgt. Lan Dickinson, the shop foreman for the 536th Maintenance Company’s TMDE section and Birmingham, Ala. native. He said his Soldiers have been able to maintain a turn-around time of less than ten days for most equipment resulting in an average TMDE readiness rate of 98.6 percent for supported units.

The 536th Maintenance Company, whose parent unit is the 524th Combat Service Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, is based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and has been deployed in support of combat operations here since November 2007.

A Christmas Tradition Coming to Al Asad

BY MAJ. RANDEL ROGERS
Al Asad au Natural

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq - Americans once participated in a Christmas tradition known as the “side hunt”. After the Christmas meal, family and friends would divide into “sides” and take to the woods to shoot birds. The side with the biggest bird count won the day.

Throughout the 1800s and early 1900s this tradition began to take a severe toll on birds and other wildlife, that drove some species to extinction

and many others to the brink of extinction.

By Christmas of 1900, numerous species such as the Passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeet, and Snowy egret were on the brink of extinction. That year ornithologist, Frank Chapman changed the rules. Instead of killing birds, he organized with his friends to conduct 25 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). On that day these enthusiasts counted nearly 18,500 individual birds representing 90 species. A new tradition was born.

By the 101st annual count in 2001, 52,471 people in 1,823 places participated in a CBC. These surveys are organized to cover a 15-mile diameter

circle, counting every bird seen or heard that day. The results are compiled and sent to the Audubon Society. While a count of this nature is not precise, over time is an excellent tool to identify patterns in bird numbers.

One of the challenges facing ornithologists in Iraq is much of the country has not been surveyed for over 30 years and there is not an accurate picture of everything that lives here and what conditions they are in.

With this in mind, a CBC is to be conducted on Al Asad. The results will be little more than anecdotal evidence, but hopefully will provide a rough idea of which birds live on Al Asad in winter and provide a basis for future surveys,

and report those results to Nature Iraq and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East. In America, changes in attitudes towards wildlife occurred too late for the Passenger pigeon (extinct in 1914) and the Carolina parakeet (1918), but others like the Snowy egret have recovered, although some are still threatened.

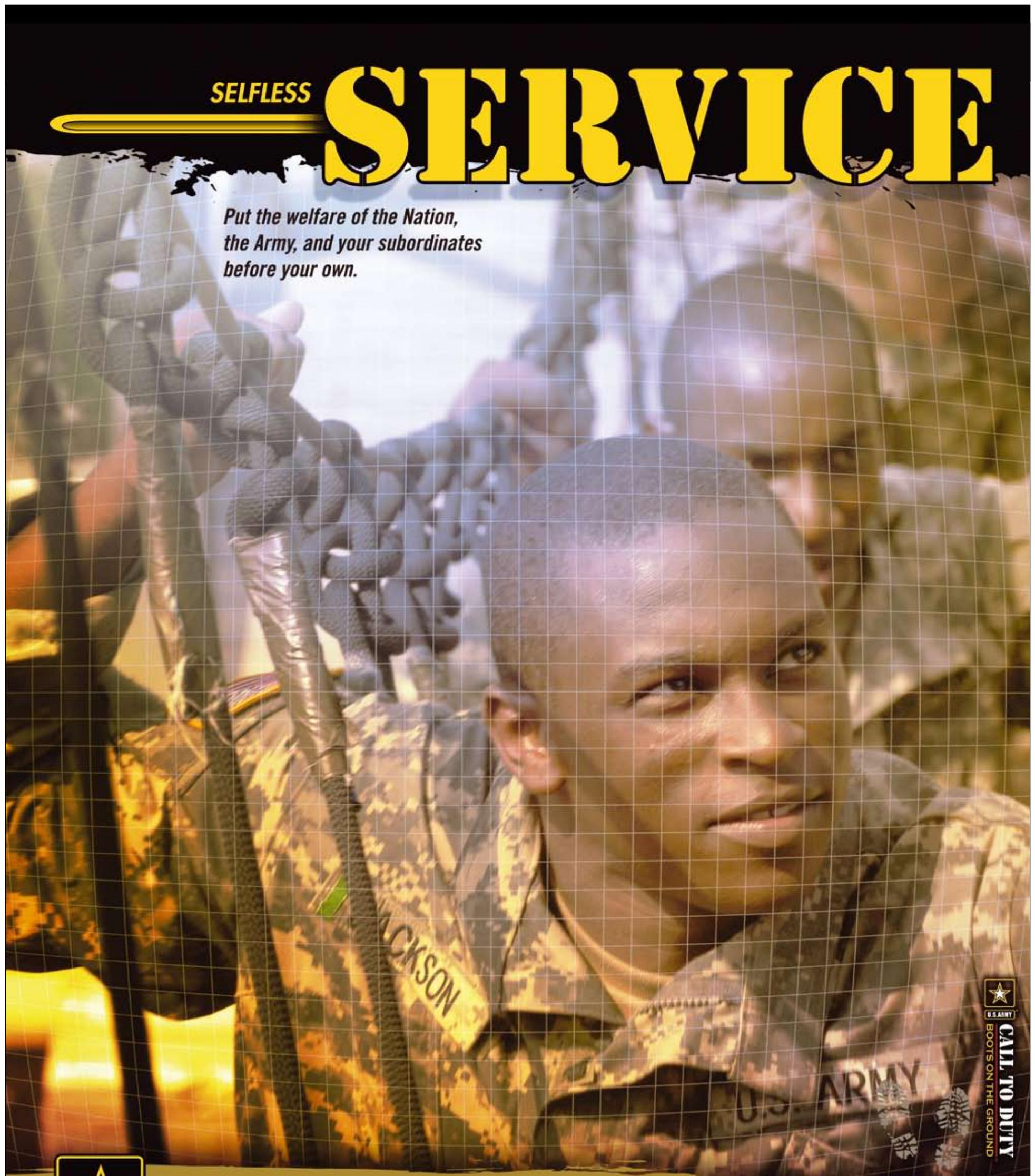
Many birds are threatened in the Middle East. Iraq has a great opportunity to take action now and protect its natural heritage for future generations, and groups like Nature Iraq are working hard to do just this. They will start their annual bird surveys in January and February, and wish them, “Good Birding!”



SELFLESS

SERVICE

*Put the welfare of the Nation,
the Army, and your subordinates
before your own.*



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



ARMY STRONG.

ARMY VALUES

DA Form 300-213, 1 March 2007, superseded the 1 June 1999 edition.

Sustainers' help local man, share the road



Spc. Luis Valdivida (left) of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, assisted a local Iraqi with wrecker recovery while Capt. Robert D'Andrea (right), commander, E Co., translated. The convoy was able to assist the driver by towing it to a nearby service station, allowing other convoys on the road to pass without stopping traffic.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JUSTIN CRUZ, UPAR
1st Bn., 185th Armor, 16th Sust. Bde

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST,
Iraq — Soldiers from 1st platoon,
Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 185th
Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade,
assisted a local man with his
disabled vehicle while on mission.



The lead scout vehicle discovered a suspicious red dump truck blocking the number two lane. While investigating the blocked vehicle, the dump truck driver was discovered sleeping on the side of the road. Staff Sgt. Christopher Vaughn, convoy commander, E Co., 1st Bn., 185th Armor said an interpreter was not available but luckily Capt. Robert D' Andrea, commander of E Co., who studied Arabic in college, was able to talk to the driver.

The driver, Hashem, a local Iraqi, said his truck battery was dead and another truck was towing him using the steel cable attached to the front of his vehicle. The truck's air brakes locked up and the cable broke leaving him stranded on the road. The tow-vehicle left him there.

Vaughn said his wrecker operators towed the dump truck to a nearby service station for repairs and gave Hashem food and water for the evening.

Hashem is a father of four, two girls and two boys, and was on his way home at the time his vehicle became disabled.

With the dump truck off the road, it could no longer impede other convoys from passing through.

Sustainers continue to train, mentor Iraqi Army Transporters

BY MAJ. DONNA J. JOHNSON
68th Transportation Company, 165 CSSB,
10th Sust. Bde., UPAR

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The Iraqi Army's General Transport Regiment under the guidance of the 68th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, conducted their sixth transportation mission here Nov. 19.

The mission, as part of their continuing training, requires the GTR to receive tracked vehicle hulls from the track storage yard on the Coalition side of Taji and transport them to the Taji National Maintenance Depot. The 10 T-72s tanks and 10 BMP-1 armored personnel carriers provide the TNMD the ability to train their track mechanics on repair procedures with the goal of bringing the vehicles to operational status and returning them to the Iraqi Army supply system for re-issue.

Established six months ahead of schedule in September 2008, the GTR is the only theater level transportation unit in the Iraqi Army. With a mission to transport critical supplies and equipment to and from various depots, multiple ports of embarkation and twelve location commands throughout Iraq, the GTR plays a vital role in the country's logistical system. Since the inception of the GTR, the 68th Trans. Co. from Mannheim, Germany, continues to train and advise the GTR on conducting convoys and transportation operations.

Members of the 68th Trans. Co. are pleased with the progress the GTR has made over the past several months. "They have a way to go, but we've seen an improvement over the past couple of missions," said Staff Sgt. George Barnhart of the 68th Trans. Co.

The 68th Trans. Co. will continue to collaborate, mentor and train with the GTR for the remainder of their deployment in order to assist the Iraqi Army in achieving logistical self-reliance.

JBB Chapel Holiday Schedule

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Protestant</u>
<p>8 Dec 1700 Immaculate Conception (GMC-H6) (Holy Day of Obligation)</p> <p>12 Dec 1930 Penance Service (Provider)</p> <p>21 Dec 1900 Penance Service (GMC-H6)</p> <p>24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE 1900 Mass (GMC-H6) 2330 Caroling (GMC-H6) 2400 Midnight Mass (GMC-H6)</p> <p>25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY 0830 Mass (GMC-H6) 1100 Mass (Provider) 1400 Mass (Restricted Area) 1600 Mass (Restricted Area) 2000 Mass (Freedom)</p> <p>1 Jan New Year's Day 1700 Mary Mother of God (GMC-H6) (Holy Day of Obligation)</p>	<p>24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE 1700 Christmas Eve Service (GMC) 2000 Christmas Eve Service (Provider) 2000 Christmas Eve Service (AFTHC) 2100 Christmas Eve Service (Freedom) 2100 Christmas Eve Service (GMC)</p> <p>25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY 0730 Christmas Service (AFTHC) 1030 Christmas Service (GMC-H6) 1100 Christmas Service (Freedom) 1400 Christmas Service (Provider)</p> <p>31 Dec NEW YEAR'S EVE 2100 Gospel Fest (MWR East)</p>
	<u>Ecumenical</u>
	<p>24 Dec 1500 Ecumenical Service (PAX Terminal)</p>
	<u>Jewish</u>
	<p>21-29 Dec HANUKKAH 1700 Menorah Lighting (GMC-H6)</p>
	<u>Movies — AFTR East</u>
	<p>13 Dec 1200 and 1900 "It's A Wonderful Life"</p> <p>20 Dec 1200 and 1900 "The Nativity"</p>
<u>Orthodox</u>	
<p>24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE 1800 Nativity Liturgy (Provider)</p>	

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraqi Army achieves milestone at Bayji National Ammo Depot

 BAJI, Iraq - The Iraqi Army achieved a new milestone in their path towards self-sufficiency on Dec. 14 when Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Army Advisory Training Team - Logistics Military Advisory Team contingent departed Bayji National Ammunition Depot.

The Iraqi Forces accepted full depot management and all associated operational control at BNAD for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense at a ceremony in late September 2008. Since that time, a small contingent of coalition personnel has been assisting them as they develop full capacity. The Iraqi Army quickly gained control of all aspects of the depot operation, including the receipt, inspection, quality control, segregation, storage, maintenance, and issue of ammunition. In addition, Iraqi Forces have inherited all security and life support activities.

Brig. Gen. Suheel, BNAD Commander, is also looking ahead to future expansion of their capabilities, such as the employment of the Iraqi Logistics Management Program to enhance their efficiency and capability. This program will provide a new method for asset visibility to Brig. Gen. Ali, director of the Ammunition Command at forward operating base Honor, and update the combined logistic operation center.

Between August and December 2008, both U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contracting Officer Representatives and MNSTC-I LMAT leaders were impressed with IA progress and performance. The IA forces learned all facets of depot operations via on-the-job training in a very short time. "This is another demonstration of the rapidly improving ability of the Iraqi Army to conduct their own logistics operations," said Col. Dan Leatherman, director of CAATT logistics.

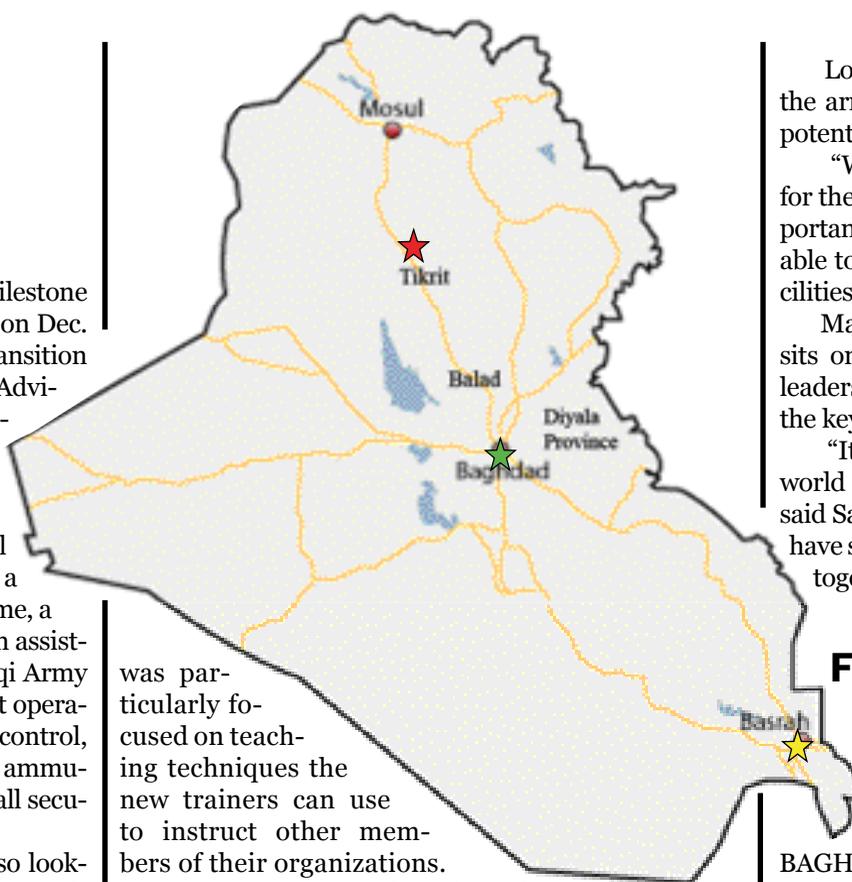
FBI-trained Iraqi Law Enforcement Officers now train their own

 BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently trained 18 law enforcement officers now charged with training their own.

The FBI training encompassed crime scene processing, evidence collection techniques, kidnapping investigations, hostage survival techniques, and tactical training related to arrest and search operations. Upon completion of the initial three-week course, these officers are now qualified to train other Iraqi law enforcement personnel in these disciplines.

"This course is an excellent example of how we are equipping our Iraqi counterparts with vital knowledge and techniques to better help them do their jobs," said Col. Benjamin Lukefahr, senior advisor, National Information and Investigations Agency. "The attendees of the FBI training are participating in an ongoing program to become master instructors who will continue to build ministerial capacity and self-reliance within the law enforcement community."

The FBI has conducted law enforcement training throughout the country of Iraq since 2004. Courses normally run for two to three weeks, but this course



was particularly focused on teaching techniques the new trainers can use to instruct other members of their organizations.

"We are extremely pleased with how the training has progressed," said Lukefahr. "The students quickly and easily transformed to their new teaching role, and the benefits to law enforcement are undeniable."

The Iraqi master instructors will continue to teach courses here in Iraq. They will continue to receive follow-on instruction and oversight from trained FBI instructors. Follow-on training is scheduled for the spring of 2009 and will be conducted both in Iraq and the United States.

ISF demonstrates integrated training facility's capabilities

 BASRAH, Iraq – An Iraqi forces capabilities demonstration Dec. 19 showed how integrated training can be an effective, efficient way to meet the continuous training needs for a secure Iraq.

Iraqi security force commanders led by Maj. Gen. Muhammad Juwd Hwaidi and Coalition leaders witnessed the day's events at the Basrah Training College in Shaibah, Iraq.

The divisional training facility featured displays by the Iraqi Police Service, Department of Border Enforcement, Iraqi Army and emergency medical services.

"The process has begun for making Shaibah an excellent logistics base for all of the Iraqi Security Forces," said Lt. Col. David Sosa, Iraqi Security Force planning liaison officer.

He said that many new facilities were built in the last few months to provide an environment where all Iraqi security forces can train and meet their future logistics needs.

"It will help develop all Iraq security forces and ensure Iraq will remain safe and secure," Sosa said.

Although Coalition leaders said the college is off to a good start, the long-term success of this program depends on the Iraqi government continuing to fund the program.

"We are hoping that more funding is put into training and that the security force leaders here in Iraq will realize that continuation training is a key part to maintaining a sustainable security system," said Maj. Steven Lowe, staff officer with Multi-National Division-South East headquarters in Basrah.

Lowe said that getting all of the key leaders of all of the armed security forces together to see the facility's potential was an important part of this effort.

"We think it has been a resounding success both for the multinational security forces here, but more importantly, for the Iraqi security forces who have been able to network and see training at all the different facilities," Lowe said.

Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon, commander of MND-SE, sits on the Basrah Security Council with these Iraqi leaders. He said that communication and interaction is the key to solving problems for Iraq.

"It is the same issue in every single country in the world that is coming out of the darkness of violence," said Salmon. "If everyone is tightly knit, then we can all have stability and security for a long time and do things together."

Forces command top enlisted sees improvement in the Iraqi NCO firsthand

 BAGHDAD, Iraq – There has been a 180-degree turnaround in the Iraqi noncommissioned officer since 2005, according to the top enlisted Soldier at U.S. Army Forces Command in Atlanta.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Carey, command sergeant major, FORSCOM, spent two days touring Iraq, and on a trip to Camp Taji's Iraqi NCO academy Dec. 16, he said he has seen vast improvement in just three years.

"The Iraqi Army has made great strides in empowering the Iraqi NCO," Carey said.

Carey, a Phoenixville, Penn. native, was the command sergeant major for the XVIII Airborne Corps during its tour as Multi-National Corps – Iraq in 2005.

He, along with the current XVIII Abn. Corps and MNC-I command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, spent the better part of the day visiting with Iraqi instructors at the NCO Academy – getting a feel for how the academy works and what lies on the horizon for the NCOs.

The duo visited firing ranges and urban terrain training sites before linking up with a handful of Iraqi instructors at the academy.

"Do you find your Soldiers learn better in the classroom, or outside hands on?" Carey asked the group.

The reply from one NCO was that "some learn better and faster than others. We prefer to do both. We train them in the classroom before going out into the field."

"The Americans have been a great help to us," said Iraqi Warrant Officer Adel, the commandant of the academy. "If we need help, they help us. When we don't, they let us do the things we are here to do."

An Iraqi warrant officer is the equivalent of a U.S. Army sergeant major.

"Our Soldiers here in Iraq who are teaching the Iraqi Army are doing a fabulous job," Carey said. "It's great to come out here and see this firsthand. I'd do it once a month if I could."

"We are very proud of what we do in the Army, and we know we are getting better," Adel said. "Trips like these, when a command sergeant major like Command Sgt. Maj. Carey comes to visit, it lets us know that what we are doing is important. It shows that he cares about our training."

Carey and Allen finished their trip to Camp Taji with a briefing from the Army military transition team troops before having lunch with both Iraqi and U.S. instructors from the academy.

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

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

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

Mon., Wed., Fri.-
8-9 p.m.
Abs-Aerobics:
Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m.,
5-6 p.m.
Edge Weapons & Stick
Fighting Combative
Training:
Tue., Thur., Sat., -
8-10 p.m.

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

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

H6 FITNESS CENTER
Spin:
Sunday- 9 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m.,
8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m.,
9 p.m.
Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m.,
9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.
Boxing:
Sunday- 4 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.
Boot Camp:
Sunday- 8:45 a.m.
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.
Power Abs:
Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
Friday- 9 p.m.
CC Cross Fit:
Monday-Saturday-
10:30 p.m.
Cross Fit:
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45
a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.,
6 p.m.
Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m.,
3 p.m.
Sunday- 5:45 a.m.,
7 a.m., 3 p.m.
P90x:
Monday- Saturday- 4:30
a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.
12 a.m.
Soccer:
Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
Yoga:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
MCAP Level 1:
Friday- 8 p.m.
5 on 5 Basketball:

Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION CENTER
Bingo:
Sunday- 8 p.m.
Texas Hold'em:
Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.
8-ball tourney:
Tuesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.
Spades:
Wednesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Salsa:
Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.
9-ball:
Thursday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.
Karaoke:
Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Dominos:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Darts:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

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

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

Marley and Me



Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston go to the dogs with Marley & Me, a tale of a couple forced to deal with a troublesome Labrador retriever. The Devil Wears Prada's David Frankel directs the adaptation of John Grogan's best-seller by screenwriters Scott Frank and Don Roos. Alan Arkin and Eric Dane co-star in the Fox 2000 production.

SOUL MEN

In 1965, Marcus Hooks (John Legend), Floyd Henderson (Bernie Mac), and Louis Hinds (Samuel L. Jackson) were just three kids singing doo-wop harmonies around a fire barrel when legendary record producer Willie Mitchell caught an earful of their infectious harmonizing. Two short years later, Marcus Hooks and the Real Deal had signed to Hi Records, and quickly became one of the most popular soul acts in America. But success can't last forever, and it wasn't long before Hooks decided to strike out on his own. Though Floyd and Lewis would do their best to keep the Real Deal going, scoring one breakout hit with "Walk in the Park," clashing egos and "creative differences" would eventually break the duo apart...



Movie Times

Wednesday, December 24

5 p.m. Role Models
8 p.m. Changeling

Thursday, December 25

2 p.m. Changeling
5 p.m. JBB WIDE EVENT
VARIETY SHOW

Friday, December 26

2 p.m. Madagascar 2
5 p.m. Marley and Me
8:30 p.m. Yes Man

Saturday, December 27

2 p.m. Quantum Of Solace
8:30 p.m. A Christmas Carol

Sunday, December 28

2 p.m. Yes Man
5 p.m. Soul Men

Monday, December 29

8 p.m. Marley and Me
5 p.m. Marley and Me
8 p.m. Soul Men

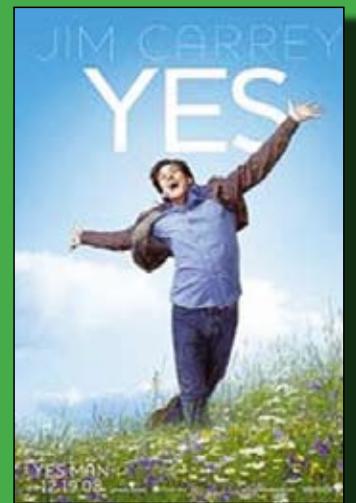
Tuesday, December 30

5 p.m. Quantum Of Solace
8 p.m. Madagascar 2

(Schedule is subject to change)

YES MAN

Jim Carrey stars as Carl Allen, a guy whose life is going nowhere—the operative word being "no"—until he signs up for a self-help program based on one simple covenant: say yes to everything...and anything. Unleashing the power of "YES" begins to transform Carl's life in amazing and unexpected ways, getting him promoted at work and opening the door to a new romance. But his willingness to embrace every opportunity might just become too much of a good thing.



Changeling



In 1928 Los Angeles, single mother Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie) arrives home to find her son, Walter, gone. Five months later, her prayers are answered and Walter is found in Illinois. But, to Christine's horror, the boy who steps off the train is not her son. The authorities vehemently disagree with Christine's assessment, and her only ally is a clergyman

(John Malkovich), who sees the case as his chance to expose the corruptness of L.A.'s police and government.

Sudoku

Level: Very Hard

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.

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

Last weeks answers

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



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 12/24/08

NHL on Versus: Boston Bruins @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl: Boise State vs TCU (Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, CA), Live 4 a.m. AFN/xsports
 2Pac-10 Men's Basketball: Kansas @ Arizona, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Missouri vs Illinois (Scotttrade Center, St. Louis, MO), Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 Texas @ Wisconsin, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 2008 San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl: Boise State vs TCU (Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, CA), Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFM/sports

Washington State @ LSU, Live 10 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 WWE Smackdown, Tape Delayed 10 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 12/28/08

UAB @ Louisville, Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
 West Virginia @ Ohio State, Live 12 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 2008 Champs Sports Bowl: Wisconsin vs Florida State (Florida Citrus Bowl, Orlando, FL), Live 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Northwestern State @ Arkansas, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Iona @ South Florida, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Western Illinois @ Iowa, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 2008 Emerald Bowl: Miami (FL) vs California (AT&T Park, San Francisco, CA), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 92 Countdown, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 UFC 92: The Ultimate 2008 (MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Boston Bruins @ Carolina Hurricanes, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Red Wings @ Colorado Avalanche, Tape Delayed 2:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

Thursday 12/25/08

2008 Sheraton Hawaii Bowl: Hawaii vs Notre Dame (Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, HI), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 The Ultimate Fighter 8 Finale, Live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, Tape Delayed 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Christmas Special: New Orleans Hornets @ Orlando Magic, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Christmas Special: San Antonio Spurs @ Phoenix Suns, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 12/26/08

NBA Christmas Special: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 1 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on TNT: Washington Wizards @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on TNT: Dallas Mavericks @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Christmas Special: San Antonio Spurs @ Phoenix Suns, Tape Delayed 2:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA Christmas Special: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 12/27/08

NBA Friday: Chicago Bulls @ Miami Heat, Live 1 a.m. AFN/sports
 2008 Motor City Bowl: Florida Atlantic vs Central Michigan (Ford Field, Detroit, MI), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Houston Rockets @ New Orleans Hornets, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Phoenix Coyotes @ Los Angeles Kings, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 NBA on NBATV: Boston Celtics @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Philadelphia 76ers @ Denver Nuggets, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 2008 Motor City Bowl: Florida Atlantic vs Central Michigan (Ford Field, Detroit, MI), Tape Delayed 2:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 Miami (FL) @ St. John's, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

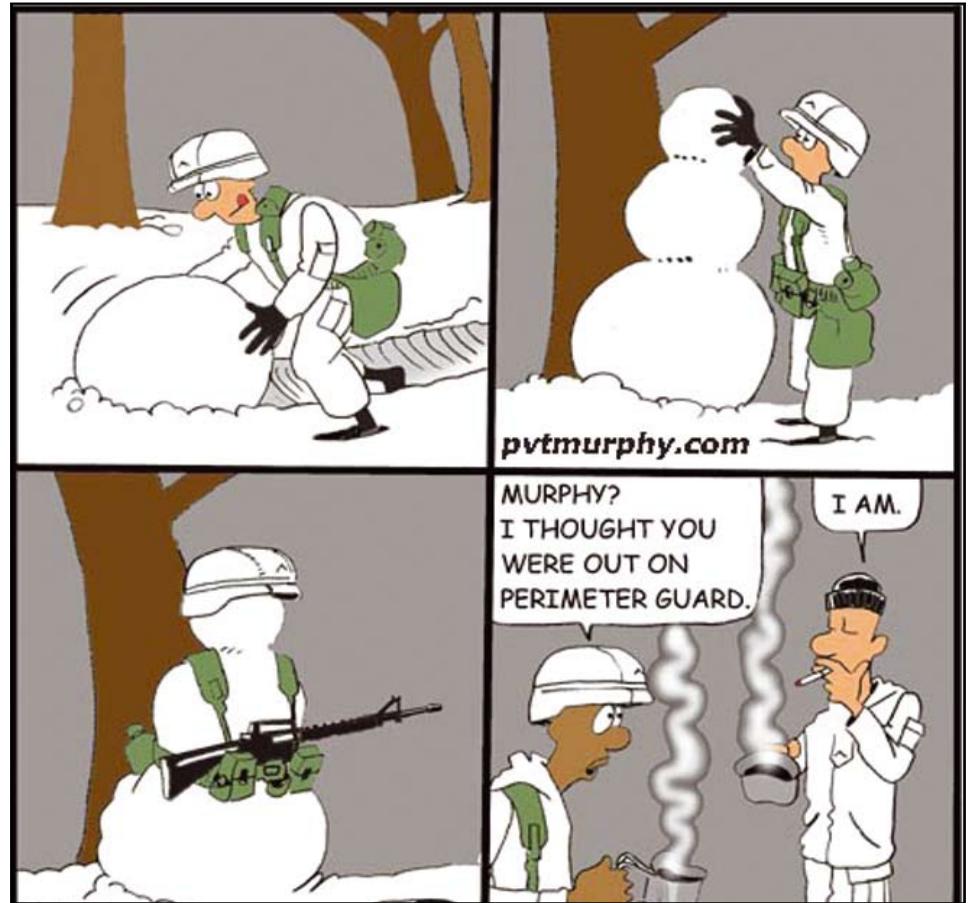
Monday 12/29/08

NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL Week 17: Teams TBD, Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ACC Sunday Night Hoops: Virginia @ Georgia Tech (JIP), Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 ACC Sunday Night Hoops: Rutgers @ North Carolina, Live 3:45 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Chicago Blackhawks @ Minnesota Wild, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
 UFC 92: The Ultimate 2008 (MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 Independence Bowl: Northern Illinois vs Louisiana Tech (Independence Stadium, Shreveport, LA) * ESPN 2-hour Countdown, Live 10:45 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 17: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 92: The Ultimate 2008 (MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV), Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 17: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports
 2008 Papajohns.com Bowl: North Carolina State vs Rutgers (Legion Field, Birmingham, AL), Live 11 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 12/30/08

NHL on Versus: New York Islanders @ New York Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 Valero Alamo Bowl: Missouri vs Northwestern (Alamodome, San Antonio, TX), Live 4 AFN/sports
 NBA on NBATV: Toronto Raptors @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 2008 Papajohns.com Bowl: North Carolina State vs Rutgers (Legion Field, Birmingham, AL), Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 Cincinnati @ Memphis, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/Sports

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Sustaining the Line



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour
 Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr. senior noncommissioned officer for the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), judges an oversized Christmas card during a display making competition at Joint Base Balad Dec. 16. The oversized cards, created by Air Force and Army units, will have winners announced Dec. 25.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour
 A holiday display illuminates Sapper Circle at Joint Base Balad Dec. 16. The display was lit after a small ceremony followed by a Christmas display judging.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Angela Velasco
 Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, took home the Diamondback Softball Championship here, Dec. 7. The Hammers pounded the team from the 632nd Maintenance Company, 15-1, to take home the base crown. "We just went out to have fun and get our minds off the daily routine," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Ramer, personnel non-commissioned officer in charge and team captain of the Hammers. The Unionville, Ill., native and his team won over ten other units in the Diamondback Softball League. The 18th CSSB is stationed at Grafenwoehr, Germany and deployed here for 15 months.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. G. Elizabeth Brown
 Spc. Heather Smiechowski, a native of South Bend, Ind., sorts through hundreds of Christmas cards sent from Indianapolis, Ind., Roncalli High School students. Every Soldier in the 1538th Transportation Company received Christmas cards.