

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 8

Navy VIP visits Balad

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Celebrating Black History Month at Balad

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MRAP milestone, page 8



U.S. Army Photo by Master Sgt. Max Hamlin

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presents Pfc. Derek Sharp of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, a ceremonial key for the 10,000th Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle fielded in Baghdad, Iraq on Feb. 20.

287th Sustainment trucks to receive new Fire Suppression System

By Master Sgt. Carl Mar
287th Sust Bde Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The 287th Sustainment Brigade demonstrated a new fire suppression system (to be used on its



convoy trucks) at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Feb. 6.

The new system is the Tri-Max-3 fire extinguisher which will replace the 50-pound Purple K-Potassium Powder (PKP) fire extinguisher system that is used on most Sustainment trucks.

"The Tri-Max-3 system is designed for fighting engine fires, electrical fires, tire and

brake fires on convoys," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Morgan, 287th Sust. Bde., unit movement noncommissioned officer, and supervised the demonstration. Morgan, who is a native of Wichita, Kan., is responsible for implementing the new system into the 287th Sust. Bde., hauling fleet.

Delivered in early January, the 287th Sust. Bde., is the only

unit on COB Adder and possibly all of southern Iraq to have the new system, said Morgan. "I heard that the Tri-Max-3 might be in use with a few units in the northern half of the country, but to my knowledge, COB Adder is the only base in the south to have it."

What makes the Tri-Max-3 better than the PKP system that it will replace, he said, is its superior ability to put out a fire.

"PKP will put out a fire, but that fire might flare up again in 10 to 30 minutes. That's because the powder doesn't do anything to reduce the residual heat from the first fire. Oil and melted rubber will sometimes continue building up heat and



U.S. Army photos by Maj. Timothy Ohlhaver

332 ESFS Blotter

13 Feb. – 20 Feb.

INFORMATIONAL ENTRY:

The victim came to the law enforcement desk to report a credit card fraud at the East Side PX. The victim said that when he checked his bank account on Feb. 12, he noticed a "forced debit" of \$600 taken out of his U.S. bank account on Feb. 9. The victim was told by a friend that the PX does a "forced debit" when they are not able to get your credit card to process. The last time the victim used his Bank of America debit card was to purchase a couple of movies and an \$80 dollar gift card from the East Side PX 2-3 weeks ago.

DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:

The reporting party telephoned the law enforcement Desk to report damage to his 1999 Ford F150, which was damaged while parked at DFAC 1. The base patrol was briefed and made contact with the RP. The RP stated that the vehicle was last signed out on 13 Jan 2009. The person who last signed the vehicle out has since left JBB. The patrol took seven photos.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY:

The reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a medical emergency at the DFAC #4. The victim had an increased pulse, shortness of breath and heavy sweating. The base patrol and medical team were dispatched to the scene and made contact with the RP. Medical personnel stated they would be transporting the victim to the Air Force Theater Hospital for further evaluation.

PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

The victim came to the law enforcement desk and reported an assault that occurred at HAS #6. The patrols were dispatched to HAS#6 and made contact with the suspect. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to the law enforcement desk for processing. The suspect agreed to make a written statement in which he indicated that he grabbed the victim's shirt. The suspect was released to his company first sergeant.

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LEGAL ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)



JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391



3^d ESC Military Justice Report

In a General Court-Martial convened in February 2009, a noncommissioned officer was convicted of conspiracy to sell military property of a value more than \$500.00, selling military property without proper authority of a value more than \$500.00, and dereliction of duty. The Soldier was sentenced by a Military Judge to the following:

- A Bad Conduct Discharge
- 10 months confinement
- Reduction to Private (E-1)

The co-conspirator in the case was convicted in a separate General Court-Martial of conspiracy to sell military property of a value more than \$500.00 and dereliction of duty. The Soldier was sentenced by a Military Judge to the following:

- A Bad Conduct Discharge
- 8 months confinement
- Reduction to Private (E-1)
- A fine of \$6,000.00

Sustaining the Line!

LEGAL ALERT

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for the Joint Base Balad community. The contents of the Expeditionary Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and reviewed by the ESC G2 for security purposes.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 8,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 3^d ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net

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 16th Sustainment Brigade
 371st Sustainment Brigade
 287th Sustainment Brigade
 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
 555th Engineer Brigade
 304th Sustainment Brigade

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

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.

Chaplain's Corner

**“Wherever you go,
there you are!”**

-Thomas a Kempis

*H*uh?! Although this may appear to be funny or confusing, it is not meant to be. In fact, today's quote is very serious and conveys one of life's most important lessons: Wherever you go, you take all of your "baggage" with you. Whoever you are as a person is who you will be wherever you go.

Sometimes we think that we can run away from our problems. Sometimes we think that a new job, a new town, or a new set of friends will give us a new chance to start all over again. That is true to a certain extent, but there is one thing that will not be new....and that is you!

A change of environment or a change of scenery does not necessarily produce a change of personality or a change of attitude. Now that isn't bad, it is just reality. You will still most likely be the same you.

What if you don't like the "you" that you are? What if you are tired of carrying around all that extra baggage? Then you are in a perfect place to experience a miracle from God.

One of God's specialties is taking broken and hurting men and women and healing them. Through the power of love and forgiveness, many bitter and unhappy people have been changed and transformed.

Let God have your baggage and He will give you a peace like you have never known. Stop running and find rest for your soul. Enjoy the "you" that you were meant to be.

NOTE: *Some people attribute the above quote to Buckaroo Banzai from a popular movie, but he is not the originator! The full quote is this: "So, the cross is always ready and waits for you everywhere. You cannot escape it no matter where you run, for wherever you go you are burdened with yourself. Wherever you go, there you are." —Thomas a Kempis, Imitation of Christ, ca. A.D. 1440*

Submitted by Chaplain (CPT) Peter Strong, brigade chaplain, 304th Sustainment Brigade

Hooah of the Week



US Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Staff Sgt. David C. Webb is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week". Webb who is from Chattanooga, Tenn., is a member of the 3^d ESC and works in the G-3 force protection office as a training NCO. Webb received the award for coordinating the Level 2 Anti-Terrorism Class on Joint Base Balad earlier this month and for his overall job performance as the force protection advisor.



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JET Airmen impress Soldiers at FOB Hunter

By STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER
332nd AEW Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HUNTER, Iraq – It's like landing on the moon when the C-130 Hercules touches down on the landing strip here. In the distance is a fortress made of T-wall cement barriers. Dusty, windy and desolate, it's where 20 Joint Expeditionary Tasking, or JET, Airmen are helping out the Army.

"Our challenge and main mission is to complete a 64-tent living area bed-down to support 780 personnel of an entire Army battalion and then some," said Master Sgt. Jason Elftmann, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Construction Team 10 superintendent and horizontal repair and project manager. "I've got approximately 20 JET Airmen comprised of electricians, carpenters, pavement and equipment technicians or 'Dirt Boys,' and plumbers here who are facing a challenge of getting power, heating and air, and showers for 64 tents within the week."

The master sergeant, from Lombard, Ill., said JET Airmen solely work for the Army here.

"We work where they want, when they want and how they want us to," Elftmann said.

"The Soldiers are looking forward to



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Rissmiller

Staff Sgt. Richard Kahler, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structures technician, constructs a floor for a shower unit Feb. 7. Kahler is part of a 20-man team forward-deployed to FOB Hunter to provide a 64-tent living area to the Army. He is deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and is a native of Charlotte, N.C.

getting these tents built up and powered up," said Army 1st Sergeant Jonathon Ballard, Bravo Battery 582nd Field Artillery first sergeant. "The work relationship between the Air Force and Army is great. Even though the Airmen are greatly outnumbered by the Army, we still take care of them because they are part of the team, and they work very hard."

Elftmann said the progress thus far has been great, and is expecting to complete and surpass the challenge and mis-

sion days earlier than required.

In fact, within two dusty days, the JET Airmen had completed much of the mission.

The Airmen installed two of three shower units with five stalls in each, including building the structure, putting in the plumbing, and installing the water heater. Electricians and Dirt Boys installed the generator and distribution panels, dug the power line trenches, and wired 32 of the 64 tents.

Overall, the JET Airmen made use of

every pocket on the Airman Battle Uniform – stuffing tools into them, thereby, wasting no time looking for tools.

With every tent completed, Soldiers, who've been living in powerless tents, move into the newly powered tents with lights, outlets and heating.

"The impact we make makes us feel good," said Senior Airman Mark Turner, 732nd ECES CT 10 electrician and Chicago native. "You get to see the project from the beginning to the end and see how the Soldiers appreciate what we do. We are here to improve their well-being and that fact gives you some pride."

"When the team got here to FOB Hunter, the Army was pretty happy to see us," said Senior Airman Phillip Coley, 732nd ECES CT 10 utility systems journeyman. "I had one (Army) specialist walk up to me and say, 'When we see the Air Force roll up, we know living conditions are going to get better.'"

The Army first sergeant, from Norfolk, Va., agreed and said he has been impressed since the (JET Airmen) have arrived.

"I didn't even know the Air Force did this kind of work," Ballard added. "I always thought Army engineers came in and built up the FOB. It was a big surprise when I saw the Air Force come in and saw how efficiently and fast they work. They have impressed me."

New Predator takes flight in Iraq

By MAJ. STAN PAREGIEN
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing received a new MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial aircraft and immediately put it into action here Feb. 13.

"As far as getting a new aircraft, it's not very often in the Predator community you are launching a brand-new plane that's never been flown operationally before," said Lt. Col. Debra Lee, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron commander. "The one we received today only had four hours on it, which includes testing time back in the United States."

After arriving here disassembled and packed in a crate, the remotely piloted plane used for reconnaissance and strike missions (if needed) was reassembled within two days and up and flying its perfect first trip into blue Iraqi skies on "Friday the Thirteenth."

"Normally on a daily basis, we are launching aircraft with at least hundreds, if not thousands of hours on them," added the squadron commander, deployed here from Creech Air Force Base, Nev. "It is great to get a new aircraft."

The commander and pilot went on to point out that her squadron can't accomplish its mission without the maintainers who put it together, and the squadron can't fly missions without the work of other aviators -- both in Iraq and back in the U.S.

"The maintenance team we have here is very professional," Lee said, who's from Carroll, Iowa. "They get our aircraft crated up and then unpacked over here in a very short time and are working around the clock."

At 5 p.m. local, the plane went through a series of checks and the engine started. After another series of power and brake checks, maintainers pulled away the chocks (pieces of heavy wood holding the tires in

place) and, a few seconds later, the Predator carefully taxied out to the runway -- which is also used by fighter, cargo and civilian aircraft.

Twenty minutes before sundown, the MQ-1 aircraft launched from the desert base without a hitch, rising high into the light blue sky to help provide overwatch and security for U.S. and Coalition forces and Iraqis alike. Back in the control booth, Lee and sensor operator Senior Airman Charlie Cui were busy talking to controllers and each other while working a multitude of buttons, controls and radios.

"This first day we'll fly it just a couple of hours," said Lee. "After this first sortie is over, it will be full-up and ready like the rest of our aircraft and it will be able to do everything we need it to with longer missions."

Day in and day out, the Predator mission continues at JBB.

"One of the pilots will go out and preflight the plane, which includes getting all the numbers on the aircraft that we need to launch it, and come into one of our ground-control stations and we'll set it up locally and enter all the significant data we need to control it locally," Lee added. "Once we get that initial information then we'll get in touch with our launch and maintenance personnel to do a series of checks to make sure the airplane is airworthy and all the systems are good to go before taking off."

Smiling when he walked out to see the new Predator, Maj. Morgan Andrews is one such pilot.

"It is great anytime you get a new airplane, just like getting a brand-new car is nice," said the major, who is also deployed here from Creech AFB and a native of Elk, Wa. "Being part of Operation Iraqi Freedom has been a good deployment for me to be over here and be involved on this side with a new Predator."

The Predator teams make sure all the systems are good to go from minute to minute, and it takes both the sensor operator and crew chiefs to make it work.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

Lt. Col. Debra Lee, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron commander, flies an MQ-1 Predator, here Feb. 13. The entire Predator system is made up of the ground-control system, a satellite link, personnel and the aircraft. Lee is deployed from Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and is a native of Carroll, Iowa.

So far, so good for the new "baby" Predator.

"This was the maiden voyage and all things went well with the launch, even on Friday the Thirteenth, and we don't expect to have any problems with this airplane," said Lee.

"While we flew this first mission completely local as we ran patrol around the base, on other missions we will hand the aircraft back home through our satellite system and let our other crews back in the States control it," she continued.

Also deployed here from Creech AFB, Cui said he is proud of his work alongside the pilots.

"What is nice and unique out here is that we work with security forces locally to help with security for both our base and the Iraqis. We set the Predator up to launch its first flight in Iraq."

"It's quite involved in setting up computer systems and, on my side in sensor operations, I'm responsible for the camera," continued the Daly City, Calif., native. "Good communications between the pilot and I are important so you know what both the pilot and the plane are doing. You have to keep the overall mission in mind."

Sustainer receives Samuel Sharpe Ordnance Award

BY 1ST LT. ANDREW B. BURQUEST
UPAR, 991st Trans. Co., 419th
CSSB, 10th Sust. Bde

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - The United States Army Ordnance Corps honors one of its enlisted Soldiers each year with the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe for a career commitment to the proud tradition of ordnance excellence. This year, Staff Sgt. Thomas Owens of Charlotte, N.C. received this honor for his dedication to the Ordnance Corps and unit for his 14 years of military service.

The Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe was created in honor of Samuel Sharpe, a member of the Council of 13 freemen of the original 13 American Colonies. On April 17th, 1629 Samuel Sharpe was appointed the "Master gunner of Ordnance" by the Massachusetts Bay Colonies for his knowledge, expertise, and professionalism. The U.S. Army



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rex Tran

Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Swanson, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion command sergeant major, and a Peris, Calif. native, congratulates Staff Sgt. Thomas Owens, a Charlotte, N.C. native, on an outstanding performance and support for company operations. Owens is currently deployed with the 991st Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

Ordnance Corps continues to honor career Soldiers who exemplify those same traits as Samuel Sharpe with an award that bears his namesake.

Owens, motor sergeant for the 991st

Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade is currently serving his second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and his third deployment to Iraq including Desert Storm as a member of the Ordnance Corps. His peers and superiors recognize him as the backbone of the maintenance platoon for his outstanding performance and support for company operations. He dedicates his off duty hours to mentoring younger Soldiers in his platoon, developing their skill sets and providing career guidance.

One of his mechanics, Sgt. Adam Lunceford, a Mountain City, Tenn. native, had this to say about his shop foreman, "Staff Sgt. Owens always demonstrates true military bearing and sets high standards for his maintenance section. His commitment to his career and dedication to his troops is among the most respected. I am honored to know Staff Sgt. Owens; the Soldier, the father, the friend, and I am honored to serve under his leadership."

The knowledge and skills under Ow-

ens's command are unrivalled according to 1st Lt. Andrew Burquest, 991st Trans. Co. executive officer, also from Charlotte, N.C. "This is my second deployment with Staff Sgt. Owens and I have yet to see a maintenance issue that he could not figure out. Anytime someone in the Battalion had a problem that they could not handle, Staff Sgt. Owens was always there to assist, no matter what kind of equipment they had to work with" he said.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donald Dillon, the maintenance platoon leader, and a Johnson City, Tenn. native, made this statement about his senior enlisted man being this year's awardee, "Staff Sgt. Thomas Owens has always been an asset to the 991st Trans. Co. He is well known throughout the battalion for getting the job done right. Staff Sgt. Owens has also dedicated most of his time to physical fitness training with his soldiers."

The Ordnance Corps has done well to recognize one of its outstanding sons, and the 991st Trans. Co. is certainly fortunate to have a Soldier of Owens's caliber in its ranks.

Sustainers host Defense Logistics Agency Director

Agency Director

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson, Director of the Defense Logistics Agency based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., visited Joint Base Balad as part of a larger theater-wide visit Feb. 15th.

The purpose of Thompson's visit was

to interact with his primary customers, the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

Thompson was welcomed by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, Commander 3^d ESC and received a number of briefings at multiple stops on JBB including the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, 259th Corps Distribution Center/Forward Distribution Point, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle yard and the Retrograde Property Assistance Team yard.

Lally provided a tour of the joint operation center, detailing how transportation is tracked throughout theater. He said he is proud of the communication system that tracks Soldiers on convoys.

"It (communication) is about everyone looking at the same set of facts," Lally said.

During one briefing, Lally explained the 3^d ESC is partnering with Iraqis to develop effective logistics capabilities. He said part of their mission is to foster a climate of interdependency with Iraqis.



Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson, Director of the Defense Logistics Agency based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., speaks with Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, Commander 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during a tour of the 259th CSSB Corps Distribution Center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Feb. 15. The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, technical and logistics services to military services and civilian agencies.

"We're telling them you have to develop your business to be successful when we (Coalition forces) have left Iraq," Lally said.

Lally said the Iraqi Trucking Network is a great example of Iraqis developing their economy. He said the ITN has earned over \$25 million for the Iraqi tribal consortium and drivers.

The ITN has also accomplished 8,000 missions without loss to cargo and no military escort. This has saved 1300 convoy escort teams from being out on the road.

"If Iraq is going to be successful they need to have a good economy," Lally said. "If you're going to have a good

economy, you need trucks to move things around."

Thompson said he is impressed with the organization of the 3^d ESC and 402nd AFSB.

"I very much appreciate seeing what everyone is doing out here," Thompson said. "It lets us know what we can do to help you."

The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, technical and logistics services to military services and civilian agencies. DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations.



Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson, Director of the Defense Logistics Agency based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., is briefed by 1st Lt. Kurt D. Ziegler, an accountable officer with the 356th Quartermaster Company during a visit at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Feb. 15. The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, technical and logistics services to military services and civilian agencies.

374th Finance Boots on Ground

BY 2ND LT. ANTHONY J. FEDERICO
UPAR, 3RD DET., 374TH FM CO.,
10TH SBDE

CAMP STRYKER, Iraq - After nearly five months of pre-mobilization and post-mobilization training, the 3rd Detachment, 374th Finance Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade arrived here on Dec. 14, and is ready to take on finance operations in Iraq.

The 24-person detachment from Fort Lee, Va., will spend the next 11 months providing finance service to the Soldiers of Camp Stryker. In addition to office operations, the 3rd Det., 374th FM Co., also has a responsibility for one of the larger mobile finance missions in-country.

Since taking over finance operations, the detachment has serviced nearly 9,500 customers. The military pay section led by Staff Sgt. Alicia Chandler, a native of Dover, Del., processed more than 3,500 transactions with 98 percent accuracy. When asked about the secret to the success, Sgt. Dianna Carmody, an Altoona, Pa. native, stated, "Our section's success is due to

team cohesion, not individual accomplishment."

The finance mobile support team missions have also been immensely successful with Spc. Gregory Beerli, a Baltimore native, and Spc. Chad Lauffer, a native of Pittsburgh, each receiving Certificates of Achievement for the outstanding support they provided the Soldiers of 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 63st Infantry Regiment.

Outside of work a number of Soldiers have taken the opportunity to enroll in college classes or prepare for graduate school entrance exams. According to Beerli, "The education center has much to offer deployed Soldiers in the way of counselors, online courses, tutors, and exams. The University of Maryland University College representative is helpful in finding a course that will benefit you in your degree, and the Army will pay for it."

Carmody, the customer service non-commissioned officer in charge and student at Penn State University, is currently enrolled in calculus through the UMUC. Beerli enrolled in Business Ethics while Spc. Miguel Briceno, residing in Gaithersburg, Md., is taking Intelligence studies through the American Military University. Both Spc. Lauffer and Spc. Joseph Bicher, from Richland, Pa., have started studying



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Thanh Luu

Sgt. Dianna Carmody, a Altoona, Pa. native, and Spc. Miguel Briceno, a native of Gaithersburg, Md., speak about the benefits of using the Eagle Cash Card. Both Soldiers are currently deployed with 3rd Detachment, 374th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

for the Graduate Management Admissions Test, which they will take later in their deployment.

With the first month of their deployment dedicated to identifying op-

erations procedures and setting quality standards, the Soldiers of 3rd Det., 374th FM Co. will continue to focus on improving their operational process and cross training.

Transporters rocked by David Cook

BY 1ST LT. G. ELIZABETH BROWN
UPAR, 1538TH TRANS. CO., 419TH
CSSB, 10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers of the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, had the opportunity to relax and enjoy a USO show with musician David Cook during his tour in Iraq at Camp Taji, Jan. 21.

The 1538th Soldiers, an Indiana National Guard company from Elkhart, Ind., are nearing the end of their year-long deployment to Iraq and this was an event that definitely brought smiles to the troops.

"It was very exciting to separate myself from Iraq for a moment and enjoy the concert," said Capt. Phillip Anderson, from Plainfield, Ind., commander of the 1538th Transportation Company. "David Cook rocked the stage and reminded us of the support we have back home," he said.

For at least one hour, Cook entertained service members and brought calm to the day to day military life each Soldier deals with in Iraq, while they are away from home and loved ones.

"It was fun," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Kabay, a North Liberty, Ind. native, maintenance technician for the 1538th Trans Co. "I would go again."

"It was a great time; he played a good variety of music. I think that anytime someone comes in to perform

a show, whether it is a concert, a meet and greet or whatever the case may be, it is great for the service members to be able to get away for a few hours," said Kabay.

This is the second USO concert that the company has been able to attend since being deployed. They brighten the spirits of the Soldiers and make a difference to troops who are deployed.

"David Cook was very personable and took the time after the concert to sign autographs and take photos with all who wanted to," said Anderson.

"It was very fun, it was just a time to forget about work and hang out with friends and not worry about anything," said Spc. Jeremy Bontrager, a native of Goshen, Ind., currently serving with the 1538th Trans. Co. "It means a lot when people come over

here to support us because it helps us drive on and lets us know that people from home really do support us and want to see us succeed."

For many service members this was a great opportunity to see a star that they helped put in the mainstream of music.

Staff Sgt. Loretta Fluck, a Buchanan, Mich. native, said, "I thought it was really great to see a new face in music, especially one that myself and many other Soldiers voted for on American Idol. It is a nice way to release your work stress and have fun with your fellow Soldiers."

"It was nice that he took time out of his busy schedule to be over here, showing his support for the Soldiers. I very much enjoyed the concert. His meet and greet after the concert was pretty cool too," said Kabay.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Fire Suppression Continued from Page 1

flare up again.”

“Our tests support the manufacturer’s claim that fires won’t reignite using the Tri-Max-3. The foam and water act together to cool down the source of the fire. However, another great feature of the Tri-Max-3 is that it only requires a half tank of the foam and water to extinguish a fire. You can put out a major truck fire and still have a half of a tank remaining to put out the fire again if it reignites,” he said.

Lower cost and ease of use are two additional benefits of the Tri-Max-3 system. Using only one quart of liquid foam, three gallons of water and an air compressor, it is easy to recharge

the system’s two container bottles. Also, no modifications are required on Sustainment trucks to accommodate the new system; they fit into the same mounting brackets as the older PKP system.

“It only takes five minutes to prepare the Tri-Max-3 and it’s ready again. Volume-wise it also uses less foam than powder. That saves time and money. With PKP, once the bottle is discharged, it’s not easy to get the powder back into it, plus it may take up to three days for a bottle to be turned in and returned to you. With the Tri-Max-3, a person can recharge it. It’s the newest, greatest fire suppression

system out there,” he said.

Because of its many advantages – and Morgan’s enthusiasm for the product -- interest in the Tri-Max-3 system has been spreading.

“There’s no other product which can compare to this one. I’ve been telling all the other sustainment brigades, other units about this system. The Air Force here is interested in it. The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, here wants to order it for their trucks and I’ve given them the contract information.”

“You can’t find the system in the regular military ordering system. It has to be an open-purchase item. So,

if any unit wants it, I can give them the information on how to order it,” he said.

To date, the 287th Sust. Bde., has 144 sets of the Tri-Max-3 ready to be fielded. Three of those sets will be transferred to the Air Force component on Ali Base adjoining COB Ad-der, which requested them for use on their rescue trucks, and the remainder will go into 287th Sust. Bde., trucks.

“My grandfather was a firefighter for 21 years,” said Morgan. “I know he’d be impressed with this product. I certainly am.”

Sustainer Hopes to Return Home U.S. Citizen

BY SPC. KELLY ANN BECK
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq- While on his deployment to northern Iraq, a California National Guard Soldier hopes to gain his naturalized citizenship.

By going through the process for deployed, non-citizen Soldiers, Spc. Edgar Fuentes, a native of San Jose, Calif., and driver for the Calif. Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment said he wants to become an American citizen and feels fortunate to have his fellow Soldiers, who have become his close friends, help him during the process.



During Fuentes’ senior year of high school, an Army recruiter approached him about joining the military. Fuentes said it took him only 20 minutes to decide that he wanted to be a Soldier.

He said becoming a Soldier felt like a natural decision. Wearing the uniform is something he’s been passionate about from the start and, that he didn’t join to become a citizen- that was just an extra bonus to a job he loved.

Fuentes said when he decided to begin the naturalization process, his fellow Soldiers were more than willing to do all they could to help.

“I swear, sometimes it seems like they want it for me more than even I do,” Fuentes said.

Sgt. David Preston, a vehicle commander for the 1st Bn., 185th Armor Regt., who has been helping Fuentes

through the process, said that Fuentes deserves to be a citizen; he is a hard worker and is giving his all for America, he said.

In between their convoy security missions, Preston has been working with Fuentes to complete his required applications for naturalization.

Soldiers applying for naturalization have to fill out a number of forms including an authorization for release of information, an overseas processing form (if applicable), authorization of fingerprints, a memorandum of Honorable Service Verification signed by the Soldier’s commander, two passport pictures, an application of naturalization, biographic information and request for certification of military service.

“Preston was there during the whole process,” Fuentes said. “He collected all

the right paperwork for me, sat down with me to help complete it and is helping me submit it. He’s been so supportive this whole time,” Fuentes said.

Fuentes said with the support from his Soldiers and having lived in the states since he was five, he already feels like a citizen.

Once he has the certificate stating his citizenship, he will not only feel like a citizen, but will finally be one, Fuentes said.

Sgt. Desmond McIntyre, a native of Salinas, Calif., a gunner for the 1st Bn., 185th Armor Regt., said he is very excited for Fuentes.

“I don’t even know what you could say about this guy; he’s a character,” McIntyre said. “He’s really a good Soldier... he deserves it. He’s served his time in the military and he has earned it.”

Railroad operations come back to Camp Taji

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS MIKE BRANTLEY
10th Sust. Bde Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The rusted steel railroad tracks lay in wait. Two concrete barriers that had stood in front of a black metal gate for more than five years sat off to the right as security forces opened the gate leading to Main Supply Route Tampa and to the first train to enter Camp Taji since 2004.

A rail master summoned the oncoming train, both arms raised. The train began slowly moving across Tampa and forward through the gate and onto post.

Once the engine, pulling 20 empty railroad cars, entered the post, the gates were secured and the barriers replaced, thus beginning railroad operations here again.

Maj. Scott Meyer, Strategic Mobil-



The first locomotive on Camp Taji since 2004 comes through Train Gate on Feb. 10, to begin the Proof of Principle Rail Mission of moving 40 containers from Camp Taji to the port city of Umm Qasr.

ity – Iraqi Railroad, or IRR, program manager with the Multi-National Force – Iraq, said this was the first time in five years that empty containers were loaded for Coalition forces on the Iraqi Public Railroad.

“This will continue the circle of commodities flowing into Iraq,” the Naugatuck, Conn., native said, refer-

ring to the train’s two-day trek to the port city of Umm Qasr on the Persian Gulf. “The proof of principle shows it’s a safe, efficient and cheaper manner and takes Soldiers off of the road.”

The train engine pulled the cars forward, each holding two containers. Once the cars were loaded, the engine unhooked, pulled forward, switched tracks and came around to what was the rear of the railroad cars to hook up to take the cars off post to the Taji Station for further movement south and onward to Kuwait.

The train conductor, Mohamed, said that he is proud to serve his country and to help rebuild it. He said that he has worked in the railroad business since 1994.

The 10th Sustainment Brigade has the lead to synchronize all rail efforts at Taji, said Maj. Peter Vien, 10th Sustainment Brigade engineer, and Orlando, Fla. native. “In addition, we

also worked with the IRR in the last several months to repair the damaged rail spur so that it can accommodate limited train operations.” He said it was a successful mission since “we achieved the mission end state – to be able to load 40 empty containers on the train and ship them out of Camp Taji in four hours.”

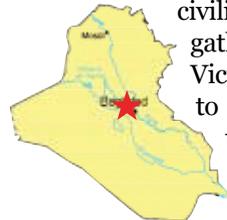
Meyer added that a follow-on mission will continue this operation and bring cargo from Umm Qasr to Taji as an efficient means of transport, and will give the Iraqis more pride and shows they can move the cargo and validates the transportation corridor between Umm Qasr and Taji. “The IRR is the heart and soul of inland distribution with Iraq being a land bridge.”

Vien said that this will directly impact on Coalition forces’ abilities to retrograde equipment and material in the future. It also indicates the possibility of expansion of rail operations to other parts of Iraq, he said. “This will revitalize the IRR and will have direct impact on the Iraqi economy.”

MRAP milestone reached in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MASTER SGT. MAX HAMLIN
123 MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A team of Soldiers, civilians and contractors gathered Feb. 20 at the Victory Base Complex to celebrate fielding the 10,000th Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle.



The event demonstrated force protection of service members remains the number one priority in theater with over 10,000 vehicles being fielded across Iraq since April 2007 bringing a proven capability to reduce combat deaths and casualties associated with improvised explosive devices, mines and other explosive threats.

U.S. Army private first class Derek Sharp of the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and Greenville, Mich. native received the ceremonial key to the special MRAP as part of the ceremony.

Highlighting the importance of the vehicles for Soldiers like Sharp, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) said, “As a result of American

ingenuity, hard work and teamwork – Pfc. Sharp will be able to receive this ten thousandth MRAP knowing that thousands of Americans from Texas to Baghdad were 100 percent behind the effort to provide the safest and best protected vehicle possible.”

First fielded in April 2007, the MRAP quickly became the number one acquisition priority for the Department of Defense. In order to expedite the delivery of these vehicles, multiple contracts were awarded expanding the capacity to produce the MRAPs. Lally noted during his speech that the 3^d ESC received its first MRAP in June 2008 and now has a fleet of about 600.

The 3^d ESC has yet to lose a Soldier operating the vehicles.

After being presented with the cere-



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), poses for a photo with members of his personal security detail prior to departing the 10,000th MRAP ceremony in Baghdad, Iraq on Feb. 20.

monial key, Sharp climbed into the driver seat and pulled away to the sound of a cheering crowd. When asked how he felt being part of this ceremony Sharp said “It feels pretty good, at least I know there

are a lot of these getting out to Soldiers.”

The confidence that the Soldiers have in this vehicle were highlighted by the actions of Lally who traveled from Joint Base Balad to the ceremony in a MRAP.

Ohio representative visits troops in Anbar province

BY 1ST LT. SCOTT DETLING
371st Sust. Bde. Historian

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Congressman John Boehner of Ohio's 8th district and five other members of Congress visited Anbar province here, Feb. 6.



The stop here was part of a five-day trip the House Minority Leader and his congressional party as they make their way across Iraq and Afghanistan. The delegation received a first-hand operational assessment from the Marine Corps, Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly, commander, Multi-National Forces-

“Our Soldiers have played a significant role in the success of the Marine Corps mission and supported our Army units effectively.”

Col. Daniel Tack
371st Sust. Bde., commander

West.

Many Service members serves at Al Asad. Boeher met with a group of Sol-

diers from the 371st Sustainment Brigade of Kettering, Ohio. Col. Daniel Tack, 371st Sust. Bde., commander welcomed Boehner to Iraq and explained his National Guard unit's role in the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission.

“Our brigade provides sustainment to all military forces in the West,” Tack explained. “I provided a rollup of our day-to-day responsibilities and successes. Our Soldiers have played a significant role in the success of the Marine Corps mission and supported our Army units effectively.”

The Marines continue to oversee the training of Iraqi Security Forces. The goal of the mission is for the Iraqis to provide their own security and take care of their own affairs. The Marines and Soldiers have already seen Iraqi

forces grow and the changes in the working environment.

“The new Security Agreement provides the Iraqis to have a right to protect their own sovereignty,” said Lt. Col. Jesse Green, brigade staff judge advocate. “Service members in duty status remain under the jurisdiction of the United States military. Still, the Government of Iraq is asserting itself and has undertaken a greater law enforcement role.”

With the 371st Sust. Bde., approximately 2,000 Soldiers are members of the Ohio National Guard and resident of Boehner's Eighth Congressional District. This is Boehner's fourth trip to the Southwest Asia area since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom campaign.



10th Sustainment Brigade

Task Force Muleskinner





10th Sustainment Brigade, Camp Taji

<http://www.taskforcemuleskinner.army.mil/mm.asp>

Washington guardsmen in the lead at Al Asad

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Since beginning their mission in November, Washington National Guardsmen convoyed 9,088 miles, while ensuring the safe delivery of food, fuel, water, vehicle parts, and other supplies to bases around Anbar province.



Once trained as a mechanized force to gather information and conduct reconnaissance, A Troop, 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment adapted to a different mission as well as a different mindset.

“That was the biggest transition,” said 1st Sgt. Travis E. Wise, senior non-commissioned officer, and a native of Stanwood, Wash. “But the guys adapted well to it, and they realized what needed to be done and got to work.”

It helped, Wise continued, that most of the leaders in the troop deployed to Iraq before. On the previous deployment, doing the same mission, the Soldiers exchanged their Bradley fighting vehicles – the workhorse of the cavalry scouts – for escort vehicles.

It is these same leaders, the staff sergeants in particular, who run most of the convoys, said Capt. Patrick D. Gehring, cavalry troop commander and native of Tacoma, Wash.

“Culturally there are some differences, but I think that the command section has been very supportive,” Gehring said, referring to his unit’s relationship with the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, an active duty unit from Fort Drum, N.Y.

The guardsmen faced many challenges when they began their deployment, such as familiarizing themselves on new vehicles and training new Soldiers to operate tactically, he said.

“I think we’re to the point now where the truck drivers that we escort have the same confidence in us that they had in the unit before us,” he said.

This ability to adapt comes in handy, given how convoy operations are conducted in Iraq, where, according to recent statistics released by Multi-National Forces-Iraq, nationwide attacks are at their lowest levels since August 2003.

A greater emphasis has been placed on sharing the road with Iraqis, and on more stringent rules of engagement, both of which were in place even before the new security agreement went into effect.

“It requires us to assume a little bit



Soldiers with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment wait for a convoy briefing to start at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 21. Although trained as cavalry scouts, the Washington National Guard unit performs convoy escort missions for 548th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade.

more risk, to get out of our comfort zone,” Gehring said. “We’re letting people get a lot closer than we otherwise would.”

However, he adds, Iraq’s security has improved to the point where the threat no longer warrants the additional caution, and Coalition convoys no longer need to be escorted as before.

Indeed, Gehring said most of his time is spent “dreaming up ways to make our operations safer,” which he said is accomplished through a monthly safety meeting.

Nowadays, the most difficult part of any mission – which can last from a few hours to a couple days – is staying alert or being a driver, said Spc. Joseph D. Powell, a gunner for an armored scout vehicle.

“ASVs are not built to sit in for more than a couple hours,” he said with a

smile.

When asked to comment on the importance of their mission, Wise said, “That’s probably a question you should ask the guys at [the bases] . . . If it wasn’t for us, they wouldn’t have heat, they wouldn’t get letters from home, and they wouldn’t get food or water, supply, parts.”

“I think that we’re hugely important,” he said. “If we weren’t here, then the fight wouldn’t be able to be sustained.”

Approximately 400,000 National Guardsmen have been mobilized in support of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, according to a congressional report. Currently, over 6,000 guardsmen are partnered with the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) escorting supply convoys around Iraq to support Coalition operations.

Safety is the key to success in one company

BY 1ST LT. ANDREW B. BADGLEY
UPAR, Co. E, 949th BSB, 553rd
CSSB, 10th SBDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – As the company commander, safety is a word often heard on a daily basis. Although violence against Coalition forces is at an all time low, our company must ensure every possible action is taken to mitigate the risks we face when conducting operations outside the safe zone.

Echo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, deployed here as a convoy security company to the Baghdad area. The two most dangerous threats that Soldiers of Co. E face are improvised explosive devices and vehicle rollovers. Mitigating these risks starts hours and sometimes days prior to each mission.

The convoy commander ensures all of their Soldiers have the required and necessary personal protective equipment, their weapons are clean and function properly, and their vehicles adequately prepared for the mission. Convoy commanders mitigate the risk of IEDs by

gathering all possible information and intelligence for their particular mission. Using that, they develop a composite risk management worksheet with the input from Soldiers in the convoy and ensure everyone at each level is aware of both the risks and controls used to mitigate risk.

For example, one control used to mitigate the threat of IEDs is for Soldiers to study recent photographs and trigger devices used on previous IED setups. This helps them identify IEDs outside the safe zone. The composite risk management worksheet is a tool the Army uses to help leaders identify each risk and implement specific controls to lower the overall risk associated with a task.

When convoy commanders brief Soldiers on the current mission they identify all possible risks and implement controls to mitigate them. For example, if one risk is vehicle rollovers, that risk can be mitigated by slowing the convoy speed in certain areas where the terrain is unfamiliar. Slowing the convoy speed is the control that is implemented by leaders at the lowest level in our organization.

When Soldiers complete their missions and return to the safe zone, they face a different set of safety hazards. The two most dangerous threats to Co. E Soldiers on the camp are indirect fire and vehicular accidents. We mitigate indi-

rect fire collateral damage by providing protection from shrapnel through concrete barriers, and we decrease the time it takes to locate each Soldier by requiring Soldiers to always move with a fellow Soldier. By practicing good personnel accountability and immediate response rehearsals, we ensure that all Soldiers know what to do and where to report.

To mitigate vehicle accidents we ensure that all Soldiers practice safe driving techniques, wear appropriate safety equipment such as helmets, and use ground guides for parking and moving through crowded areas. One drawback is that Soldiers can become complacent when they do these activities on a daily basis.

As a commander, complacency is one of the biggest challenges seen on a daily basis. A day in the life of a convoy security company, a Soldier can be surprisingly monotonous. He or she drives the same vehicle over the same route every day. Commanders help them develop a sense of confidence in their abilities without instilling overconfidence that leads to accidents.

Soldiers live and work in a very dangerous place, where horrible accidents can happen daily. While a small percentage of these incidents are out of leaders control, Soldiers at all levels can decrease their severity by mitigating risks before-

hand. As Soldiers and leaders, we must ensure that we put safety first and risk management planning into everything that we do.

**Stressed?
Relax and
go see a
movie.**

**See page 21 for
movie schedule**

Kansas Guard partners with Iraqi Trucking Co

BY SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Kansas National Guardsmen are partnering



with a local Iraqi trucking company to help build the Iraqi economy here over the next two years.

The contract with the Al Ghezy trucking company, overseen since December by the 287th Sustainment Brigade from Wichita, Kan., allows Al Ghezy to deliver unescorted cargo to bases throughout southern Iraq.

The contract is scheduled for review every six months to ensure the company is successful long after the 287th Sust. Bde. has left Iraq.

“Our goal is to see the business grow as much as possible so they can keep the local economy growing,” said 1st. Lt. Andrew R. Wright, ITC officer in charge, 287th Sust. Bde., and native of Paola, Kan.

Master Sgt. Richard Medina, non-commissioned officer in charge of ITC, 287th Sust. Bde., and resident of Albion, Mich., said the primary goal of the partnership is to improve the Iraqi economy, and a secondary goal is to keep Soldiers safe. He said, ITC missions have kept 2,636 Soldiers off the road and available for other missions.

“We are getting responsibility of moving more things and the FOBs (forward operating base) are getting used to seeing locals on base,” said Asaad Sultan, an ITC project manager from Nasariyah, through an Iraqi interpreter.

Wright said the brigade is teaching

Al Ghezy basic convoy operations security and safety standards, like keeping driver logs and doing after action reviews. The ITC has learned to identify trends, like road conditions and aggressors, so they can take alternate routes to complete the mission.

“The most important mission is safety,” Sultan said. “The Army doesn’t need mistakes.”

Since October, Al Ghezy has completed 114 missions, delivering 864 containers of cargo with no damage or pilferage. Sultan said his drivers are very protective of



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

The Al-Ghezy Trucking Company employs one of the most modern hauling fleets in Iraq. Many of its flatbed haulers, seen here preparing to receive their consignments at Contingency Operating Base Adder’s Joint distribution Center, were built by Mercedes of Germany.

the cargo they carry.

“We make sure it (the cargo) arrives in the same condition as it left,” Sultan said.

Wright said the success of the partnership is due to the work ethic of the ITC; Sultan has never missed a day of work since they began working together last year.

“They are very hard workers,” Wright said. “They have never failed to get a mission done.”

Sultan said his company will do whatever it takes to complete a mission. He is a project manager but he does everything, including loading trucks, working in the convoy yard and driving.

“We do everything to get the job done,” Sultan said. “We are like Sol-

diers, we don’t say no.”

Medina said because of the work ethic of the Iraqis the Army is looking to expand to more contracts with Al Ghezy and other trucking companies as well.

“Right now we are contracting 30 trucks, 25 flatbeds and five heavy equipment trucks,” Medina said. “We want to double those numbers to include water and fuel tankers.”

Sultan said the best thing about working with the Army is the consistency; the missions are always there. He said the contracts continue to get bigger and run smoother.

“It is a good experience working with the Army,” Sultan said. “We work together to benefit both the business and the Army.”



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

Al-Ghezy Trucking and General Contracting Company owner Jameel Jabir discusses hauling schedules with 287th Sustainment Brigade IBIZ (Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone) Manager 1st Lt. Andrew Wright, ITC officer in charge, 287th Sust. Bde., and native of Paola, Kan. Jabir maintains a satellite office at the IBIZ complex and leases a large yard there to park a portion of his 300-plus trucks when they are idle.

Iraqis, Americans cooperate for success at Qayarrah Pump Station

BY MAJ. JEROME KALAMEN
UPAR, 181ST BRIGADE SUPPORT
BATTALION, 16TH SUST. BDE.

QAYARRAH, Iraq-- Seattle, Wash.,

Guardsmen from the Water Management Section, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, executed a mission to the Qayarrah Pump Station by the Tigris River to remove a pump for repair here Feb. 16.

The pump had been in place for only three months, but vibrations were caus-

ing the motor and pump to come out of alignment, wearing on the shaft coupler bushings. The installation was believed to have been rectified about two weeks ago, but has since come out of alignment again which required a mission to remove the pump and return it to Contingency Operating Base Q-West for repairs.

Since the 181st BSB deployed here, the pump station manager has been replaced. The pump station is now managed by an Iraqi engineer who has some water works experience. He has been instrumental in making sure the pump house operation runs smoothly and keeping the facility clean and neat.

“Having the right people in place,

who are interested in working with us, and having the best interest of the facility in mind has really made a difference from the last [manager] who worked here,” said 1st Sgt. Dane Case, native of Everett, Wash., and first sergeant from the 181st BSB.

The pump station manager ensures the pump is not damaged and keeps it in operational condition.

“[The new manager] really knows what he’s doing,” said Chief Warrant Officer Marty Sable, of Moxee, Wash., and from the 181st BSB. “I need to listen to him more. He’s kept this place running and knows what to do to keep things from breaking.”

The new manager advised the Army

that the pump could be irreparably damaged if it continued to run in its current condition. According to 181st BSB leaders, had the pump been irreparably damaged, it would have cost the Army \$60,000 to replace. COB Q-West would also not have received water from that pump for at least 60 days.

Removal of the pump will allow repair and realignment of the mountings, and will prevent vibration from further damaging the pump.

The work staff at the Qayarrah Pump Station is comprised of Iraqis from the Qayarrah area who work side-by-side with Soldiers and contractors to ensure COB Q-West has a continuous supply of water.

Soldier's Lifeline – Train to Save

BY 1ST LT. DAMON FOGLEY
UPAR, Echo Co., 949th BSB,
553rd CSSB, 10th SBDE

BAGHDAD, Iraq - You never know when you may need one—a lifeline that is. Today's Soldier-medic is prepared for any type of medical emergency on the contemporary battlefield. Through intense training, vigilance, and leadership, current Army medics have proven to be the most effective in the history of wartime operations.

For the medics of Echo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, currently attached to the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in Baghdad, Iraq, their training and skill are called on daily. These medics provide routine and emergency care for Soldiers of the 553rd CSSB, and provide a lifeline when convoy missions are attacked by the enemy.

Medics assigned to convoy security companies are tasked with the responsibility of medical operations in relation to battle space movement. The medic is the subject matter expert when it comes to emergency medical evacuation. Every route that is travelled by coalition force convoys has distinct battle spaces with unique medical evacuation criteria. The preferred method of medical evacuation is

by helicopter. It is by far the quickest way to reach advanced life support. In certain instances, air medical evacuation may not be available.

Often times, bad weather, high volume of requests, and sand storms can ground all possibilities of air medical evacuation. If air medical evacuation, also known as dustoff, is not available, it is imperative that convoy commanders, truck commanders, and medics are familiar with ground routes to the closest medical treatment facilities equipped to handle serious traumatic injuries. It is also imperative that the medic and his crew are familiar with the level of care that each facility has to offer. In some instances it may benefit the Soldier to pass up one medical treatment facility for another that offers a higher level of care.

During mass casualty exercises and in real life, it is the medic that will treat and supervise the wounded warrior both in and outside the forward operating base. The medic is often responsible for directing first responders such as combat lifesavers or EMTs, and pointing them to separate triage areas or casualty collection points. The medic is intensely involved in the process of prioritizing and directing care to the appropriate casualties in the most efficient manner possible.

The senior medic in Co. E is Staff Sgt. Matthew Golemon of Belton, Texas. He spearheads all the medical standard operating procedures for the company, and devotes much planning and critical thinking to the way the

SOPs are written in order to prevent confusion when time is most critical.

All 68W military occupational specialties must undergo combat medic advanced skills training. During this rigorous course, medics learn advanced combat lifesaving skills that serve them indefinitely. Soldiers attached to the Texas Army National Guard conduct their training at Camp Bullis, Texas. They learn various extraction techniques under a combat simulated atmosphere. Artillery fire and small arms fire are simulated in the distance as medics attempt to treat casualties in a stressful environment.

In today's modern Army, the average medic goes through months of training and is trained on all of the state-of-the-art equipment that the Army has to offer. The newest training aids such as the advanced life support skill master 4000 simulate breathing, heart sounds, talking, choking sounds, moaning and vomiting. It provides realistic training for each medic.

During convoy missions, the medic is constantly alert and flexible to change. During pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections, they check all combat lifesaver bags, and warrior aid and litter kits. All medical bags are examined for readiness and uniformity to ensure supplies can easily be identified in darkness, water, or any type of unfamiliar circumstance. Medics make on-the-spot adjustments if anything is out of place.

Not all medical care that the medics of Co. E provide is as glorious as

it seems. The majority of it is routine care. Sprained ankles, minor back injuries, and flu-like symptoms are treated by the medics on a regular basis. Most of the routine care offered by the medics is taken care of at the company level without having to evacuate the Soldier to a higher-level facility. The medics are given standing orders by a physician or physician assistant to administer certain intravenous and over-the-counter drugs to Soldiers for various purposes.

A big responsibility that medics manage is the maintenance of immunization records. Flu and anthrax shots must be updated in the MED-PROS database on a regular basis. It is also the medics' responsibility to continue their education in order to maintain their certification status through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Between convoy missions, medics train on an array of different topics related to emergency medicine. Some of these classes are refresher classes on medical problems such as diabetic emergencies and blunt force trauma. No matter the circumstances, the medics of Co. E must be prepared for anything.

As Co. E continues to provide convoy security in and around Baghdad, the mission of the combat medic remains crucial to mission success. Operations in the current spectrum expose Soldiers to the risk of traumatic injury, but the Co. E lifeline medics mitigate that risk with superior training and combat experience.

Iraqi Provincial Leaders enjoy unexpected Visit with the 287th Sust Bde commander

BY MASTER SGT. CARL MAR
287th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – “It was a pleasant surprise for the shaykhs and our Colonel,” said 287th Sustainment Brigade civil affairs operations sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Parker. He spoke about the unexpected meeting between Col. Robert Schmitt, commander of the 287th Sust. Bde., and three Iraqi provincial leaders while visiting Al Ashyabb school in the town of Al Batha, Jan. 12.

“The Iraqi leaders themselves did not know entirely that the others were going to be at the school too,” said Parker.

“Col. Schmitt,” he said, “went on the trip simply to view the first presentation of the ‘Read Iraq’ program, an effort of the 287th Sustainment Brigade civil military operations to help young Iraqi students improve their English

speaking skills.”

“It was expected that Shaykh Hus-sain Rashad of the Al Fawaz tribe would be at the school because the facility is located in his area of Dhi Qar Province. However, Shaykh Rashad did not know that Col. Schmitt would be attending,” said Parker.

“Shaykh Saleh Fahad Shershab of the Al Badur tribe or one of his staff members was going to assist civil affairs later in the day with a coat drop off, but him (Schmitt) being at the school was a complete surprise. Al Batha Councilman Mohammed Al Tattia showing up was another complete surprise, although it made sense since the school is in his district,” Parker continues.

“Everyone might have known something about at least one other person being at the school, but no one knew about them all. So, that's why it was a pleasant surprise for everyone,” said Parker.

The most pleasantly surprised person was Al Ashyabb School Principal Heyam Shakir Saleh. He invited the leaders into his office for informal

discussions about the upcoming national elections, how the school might be used as a polling station and on the needs of school itself.

“The school has four computers, but we have no printers. The computers are of little use without them. We also need more school supplies for all the students,” he said.

Shaykh Rashad also pointed out that during winter months the classrooms become very cold because of the school's open court yard. “A wall placed in front of the hallway entrances would help reduce the wind and reduce the cold felt by our children,” he said.

Afterwards, Principal Saleh gave his visitors a tour of the school and pointed out its main features: a large playground, the open court dividing the classrooms and a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside from the school's roof top. They then observed the Coalition Soldiers reading children's stories to students in two classrooms.

The school is a new facility, opened for use in November 2008. It was built

as a joint effort between the 7th Sust. Bde., CMO and the town of Al Batha. The 7th Sust. Bde., redeployed home in December and was replaced by the 287th Sust. Bde.

The impromptu meeting between the Iraqi leaders and Schmitt of the 287th Sust. Bde., was an unexpected opportunity for both parties. It provided a venue for them to strengthen friendship and discuss mutual issues in an informal setting.

As the Soldiers prepared to leave, Schmitt said to the shaykhs, “I'm glad for our meeting today. I believe that we've shown our commitment to one another to build a better Iraq and that by working together it will happen sooner rather than later.”

Shaykh Saleh, speaking on behalf of the other Iraqi leaders, warmly replied, “Your support and visit to our school show that you love our people, and we are grateful for that love. When you return to your camp and you meet with your commanders and Soldiers, I want you to tell them that we Iraqis love all of you in return.”

Celebrating African American/ Black History Month at Balad

1

By Staff Sgt. Willie Moody,
332d Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron

The question has been asked about the identity of African American citizenship in the United States in one form or another since the introduction of Africans to the U.S mainland some 390 years ago. What part does questing play and determines the position an African American might hold as a citizen of these United States? I believe we are better able to see what is meant by that quest when we look at definition of citizenship.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "Citizenship", as - a: membership in a community, and - b: the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community. When we look at the first definition I believe we can agree the membership role of African Americans has taken on different forms since slaves were first brought to Virginia in 1619. Through the turmoil of post Civil War re-construction, the topsy turvey times of the "roaring 1920's", the violence, legislation and progress of the civil rights 1960's; finally, all the way up to present day. Time has seen the identity of that role have a metamorphosis into a truer form of citizenship.

When we look at the second definition, I believe a more complete definition of citizenship is able to surface. Because a response is an action, and the verb "quest" requires an action on the part of the individual seeking the desired result; in this instance citizenship. Consequently quest is defined as a: the act or an instance of seeking or pursuing something; a search. When we are able to see the definition, we are able to form an opinion that true citizenship is not just a birthright; it requires some sort of action by the individual.

In this spirit; moreover, when

Dr. King pursued equal civil rights treatment for all, it was a quest for black citizenship. When Mrs. Rosa Parks used her "quiet strength" that December of 1955, it was a quest for black citizenship. When Benjamin O. Davis Jr. endured years of the "silent treatment" from his classmates at West Point, and went on to become the first commander to the famed Tuskegee Airmen, it was a quest for black citizenship. When Jesse Owens earned a spot on the 1936 U.S Olympic team and went to Berlin as a representative of a country that didn't yet value the impact of its black citizens, it was a quest for black citizenship. And when a young man born in Hawaii with a Mother from Kansas and a Father from Kenya was able to shatter societal stigmas and misconceptions by reaching the highest seat of power in these United States, it was a quest for black citizenship.

The African American quest for citizenship is not only defined by men and women of great stature, or dependent on monumental moments. The role of the African American pertaining to the condition of the quest primarily relies on the everyday African American citizen and the quality of their response to being a part of that broader community which is our United States of America.

When does this quest end you might ask? In truth it doesn't, but its metamorphosis is ever changing, and ever improving because of the positive individual acts of those seeking its end. Each African American who progresses our role in this broad community; furthermore, anyone who takes full advantage of the opportunities provided them because of citizenship "in word", are then worthy of being named citizen "in truth".

Editor's Note: The essays are reprinted for the Essay writing contest winners in recognition of the African American/Black history month sponsored by the 3d ESC at Joint Base Balad, Feb. 19.

"The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."



From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, senior noncommissioned officer for the expeditionary), Senior Airman Jadale J. Staten, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Communication Squadron, Staff Sgt. Willie Moody, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, pose for a photo during the African American History Observance Celebration Luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Moody are the essay contest winners.

2

By Staff Sgt. Duane L. Vandross
332nd Expeditionary Communication Squadron

In President Obama's Inaugural speech, regarding the duties to our nation and ourselves, and the difficult times ahead, he stated, "This is the price and the promise of citizenship. This is the source of our confidence — the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed — why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."¹ A man whose father's ancestors were subjected to the same suffering as my own, amid one of America's most trying periods. Across the decades of this Nation, peace and war, depression and prosperity, there are few stories as agonizing, overwhelming, celebrated or triumphant as yesteryear's own autobiography of Black American History.

Slavery is one of the more loathsome blemishes on the face of American culture, a chapter that must never go untold when attempting to narrate this portion of our heritage. No one instance or event can render a thorough enough depiction of the remarkable accomplishments or unrelenting struggles of a Nations' people. In such compel-

ling times, the journey for equality and the quest for equal citizenship was an undertone too worthy of justice, and a dream too vibrant to be subdued for African Americans.

The ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865² officially ended slavery in United States, but there was still little acknowledgment of white and black Americans as equals. It would take another century of strife, segregation, and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to bring to light the need for true equality of our nation's citizens. The profound meaning of the Declaration of Independence and its proclamation; "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal."³ could never hold true while America remained segregated.

Throughout the ages, African Americans would continue to demonstrate resilience, and create a more tangible prospective to the term overcome. Through the buying and selling of human beings, rape of African American Slave woman, carnage and lynching's, separated families and Jim Crow laws regarding racial segregation into 1965, several distinguished African Americans have made significant contributions to overall American citizenship. Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Thurgood Marshall, Langston Hughes, Rosa Parks and the aforementioned Martin Luther

King Jr. are only a few. From 1619, when Dutch traders first brought African slaves to American soil, until today with the Election of our 44th President of the United States, we can note the extraordinary evolution in the citizenship of Black Americans.

Long after the successes of our children, will the legacy of African American culture be a part of America's livelihood. Americans who have faith in our Democracy are ashamed that racism and bigotry still remain prevalent in our society. For the pledge we make to our country, "One Nation under God with Liberty and Justice for all."⁴ has never changed. Finally, with this intricacy and many of our values alike, we as a people shall continue to shape and take charge of our future. It is with honor, during this celebrated month I share with you in brevity, a piece of our history, African American History.

NOTES:

1. President Obama's Inaugural Speech
2. Thirteenth Amendment
3. Declaration of Independence
4. Pledge of Allegiance



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour
3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary Logistics Readiness) photo during the Black History / Feb. 19. Staten, Vandross, and



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

Seguya James, center, and Syrus Sozzi, right, perform with fellow members of the Ugandan choir during the Black / African American History Month observance luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 19.

Six Guardsmen inducted into NCO Corps

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS KIRSTEN FROELICH
UPAR, 81st BSTB, 16th Sust. Bde

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
Q-WEST, Iraq -- Six new members of
the Noncommissioned
officer Corps, were of-
ficially inducted during
a ceremony here, Jan.
31.



Leaders inducted
Sgt. Christian Ga-
briel, Sgt. Chad
Hollopeter, Sgt. Susie Lopez and Sgt.
Paul Nollette, all from Headquarters
and Headquarters Co., 181st Brigade
Support Battalion, a battalion com-
prised of California and Washington
Army National Guardsmen; and Sgt.
Christian Harris and Sgt. Erin Hen-
drix, both from Headquarters and

Headquarters Co., 81st Brigade Spe-
cial Troops Battalion, comprised of
Washington Guardsmen.

The induction ceremony included
the "Charge to the Noncommissioned
Officer" where the new NCOs accepted
their new duties and responsibilities,
and the reading of the NCO creed.

Being inducted into the NCO Corps
is a long-standing Army tradition. It
is a rite of passage as a Soldier moves
from the junior enlisted ranks to ser-
geant. For many, becoming a mem-
ber of the NCO Corps is the single big-
gest thing that will happen during his
or her career.

The leaders included Command
Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command
sergeant major, 16th Sustainment
Brigade; Command Sgt. Maj. Robert
Lane, command sergeant major, 181st
BSB; and Command Sgt. Maj. David
Nunn, 81st BSTB.

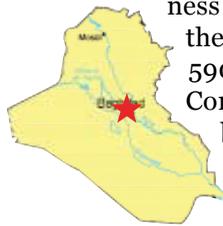


(From left to right) Sgt. Christian Gabriel, 181st Brigade Support Battalion; Sgt. Paul Nollette, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion; Sgt. Susie Lopez, 181st BSB; Sgt. Erin Hendrix, 81st BSTB; Sgt. Christian Harris, 81st BSTB; and Sgt. Chad Hollopeter, 181st BSB, show their framed copies of the NCO creed, after a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Jan. 31.

590th QM Co succeeds in mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
2ND LT. MARIA GAFF
UPAR, 590th QM Co.,
398th CSSB, 10th Sust. Bde.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- If cleanli-
ness is next to Godliness,
then the Soldiers of the
590th Quartermaster
Company, 398th Com-
bat Sustainment
Support Battalion,
10th Sustainment
Brigade are truly
angels of mercy.



The shower, laundry, and clothing
repair specialists (SLCR) Soldier's
primary role is to provide shower and
laundry services to the combat troops
operating in their assigned area. SLCR
specialists are often needed in remote
locations where there is little or no
civilian contractor support. Many of
these sites have very few or no ameni-
ties that are available to other Soldiers
located on the larger forward operat-
ing bases.

One of the sites supported by the
590th Quartermaster Company is
Joint Security Station Istaqlaal, locat-
ed northeast of Baghdad. 3rd Platoon,
590th Quartermaster Company is led
by 2nd Lt. Maria Gaff, a native of Sara-
nac, N.Y., and Sgt. 1st Class Terrance
Porter, a Boston native, and are re-

sponsible for providing support to JSS
Istaqlaal. This support includes laun-
dry services for more than 500 Sol-
diers assigned to the Multi-National
Division-Baghdad that operates from
JSS Istaqlaal. This SLCR site opened
last September when the Soldiers of
the 590th Quartermaster Company
established a laundry facility and be-
gan operations within 24 hours.

The SLCR site is led by Sgt. Arman-
do Soriano from Chicago. His team
consists of six SLCR Soldiers – Spc.
Jonathan Lawson, a York, Pa. native;
Spc. Kathleen Stumpner, a native of
Orlando, Fla.; Spc. Jose Gomez, a
Oceanside, Calif. native; Spc. Philbert
Fred, a Second Mesa, Ariz. native; Pfc.
Karla Chim, a College Park, Ga. na-
tive; and Pfc. Robert Lovin, a native of
Erie, Pa. Soriano's team is extremely
knowledgeable in their field and they
continue to serve the Soldiers of the
JSS Istaqlaal with distinction.

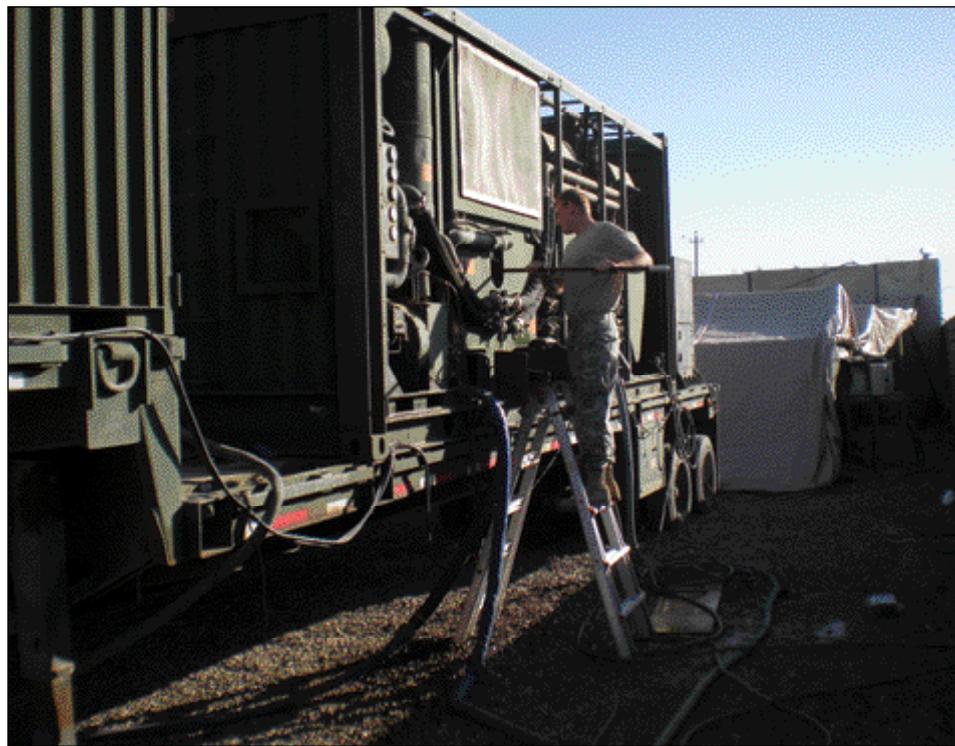
Despite working under difficult and
dangerous circumstances, the Sol-
diers at JSS Istaqlaal have performed
at a high level and continue to provide
full laundry support at all times. This
service is not taken for granted by the
combat Soldiers in the field who truly
appreciate a clean uniform and a hot
shower.

In addition to providing laundry
services, the Soldiers located at JSS

Istaqlaal continue to further their ca-
reers by preparing for the promotion
boards and completing correspon-
dence courses. Their hard work and
sacrifice for their country is truly com-
mendable.

The laundry facility at JSS Istaqlaal

sets the standard for SLCR Soldiers
within the company; their positive at-
titude and dedication to duty set the
standard for all Soldiers across the
Army.



Pfc. Robert Lovin, an Erie, Pa. native, performs routine maintenance on the laundry advanced system (LADS). Lovin is currently deployed with the 590th Quartermaster Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



**287th Sustainment Brigade,
COB Adder**
<http://www.287susbd.com/>



Limited movement window provides opportunity for additional Safety training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1st Lt. SCOTT DETLING
UPAR, 371st Sust. Bde. Historian

AL ASAD, Iraq.-- Soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade took advantage of a recent limited movement (ground convoys in Iraq) order to focus on safety, Feb 1.

The brigade trained its Soldiers on events during a safety day across its command while the Government of Iraq held provincial elections. The events included weapon clearing; tactics, techniques, and procedures; proper use and safety of green laser; accident avoidance; ground guiding and vehicle recovery.

The safety office team from the 371st Sust. Bde., visited their subordinate battalions and observe the safety training.

Maj. Patrick Hinton, safety officer, 371st Sustainment Brigade, visited the 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment.

"This limited movement window was a perfect opportunity to take time for safety," commented Hinton. "We were able to focus on those issues most prevalent in theater right now."

"The soldiers were able to get some good training and leaders were able to

reinforce safety measures often lost during normal operations," said Hinton.

In addition to the training, a recovery operation class was conducted with 1st Sqdn, 303rd Cav. Regt. Soldiers and contractors. All members of the recovery team successfully recovered a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle with a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck - wrecker. During the training, contractor recovery drivers discussed the capabilities of their various assets including recovering both Armored Security Vehicles and MRAPs. The contractor demonstrators picked up both vehicles and placed them on a Heavy Equipment Transporter System trailer. This was to simulate recovering a badly damaged vehicle.

While the safety stand down was ongoing in Al Asad, Troop A, 1st Sqdn, 303rd Cav. Regt. completed weapons safety and practice casualty evacuation.

"Every Soldier should know his weapon, but today everyone got a refresher on crew-served weapons," said Sgt. Major William Dillon, brigade safety sergeant major. "Each Soldier practiced loading and unloading, proper clearing



Staff Sgt. Jason Broyles from Co. B, 2nd Bn., 142nd Inf. Regt., demonstrates the proper handling to assemble the M240 machine gun

and performed functions checks for the M2 .50-cal and the M240 machine gun. Often, these functions were performed in the confined areas of their MRAPs and ASVs, so the training is immediately useful to their work in convoys."

"The ASV is also a great vehicle to practice CASEVAC [casualty evacuation] in," said Dillon. "With such a cramped area, the Soldiers had to use teamwork to extract an injured squad member from a disabled vehicle."



Staff Sgt. Brian Golonka from H Troop, 1st Sqdn, 303rd Cav. instructs other Soldiers through the proper procedures to a vehicle recovery process.

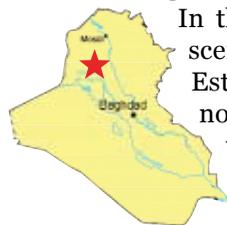
Safety at Home, at Work or in Combat
LIVE RESPONSIBLY

Keep Safety All Around You, All the Time.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Wrap yourself in Safety.

Transportation Soldiers train to save lives in combat

BY 2ND LT.
BRADLEY A. NOWACK
UPAR, 497TH TRANS CO.,
30TH CSSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq –



In this training scenario, Spc. Esteban Trevino, gunner for the 497th Transportation Company

from Ft. Lewis, Wash., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, had only moments to save the lives of his fellow Soldiers.

The initial blast had disabled the lead vehicle in the convoy. The convoy commander dismounted to direct the recovery, but an unseen secondary device detonated, severing his left leg and inflicting other wounds from shrapnel. He was unconscious and losing blood fast. To make matters worse, the convoy was now under small arms fire from the enemy.

Faced with this nightmare

scenario, Trevino and his partner for the simulation lane laid down suppressive fire, dragged the casualty to

“It’s important for the Soldiers to keep training even while deployed,”

Sgt. Raffinee Adams
497th Trans. Co.,
Squad Leader

cover and began applying a tourniquet to the amputated leg.

Fortunately this situation was only a test, the culminating event of the combat life

saver certification course held from Jan. 5 - 8.

“Playing out scenarios like this really makes you think about what could happen out there,” said Trevino after finishing his lane. “I’m really glad I would know, from training, what to do.”

In another similar battle, raging a few yards away in the gravel courtyard of the 407th Medical Detachment headquarters at COB Q-West, Sgt. Raffinee Adams, squad leader, 497th Trans. Co., swabbed the forearm of her simulated casualty with an alcohol pad and prepared to insert a not-simulated 18-gauge needle-catheter unit into his vein. Under the scrutiny of the instructor and the weight of her full combat load and body armor, Adams steadied her hand and made a perfect puncture on her first try.

“It’s important for the Soldiers to keep training even while deployed,” said Adams, still wearing her outer tactical vest and latex gloves. She would be wearing that armor again, on a mission in 16

hours.

From Dec. 23 to Jan. 29, the 497th Trans. Co. and the 407th Medical Detachment worked together to train and recertify 69 Soldiers from the company as combat life-savers. The class, normally a week long, had to be compressed to three days to fit into the busy operational schedule of both units. This was in response to a directive that all Soldiers going “outside the wire” had to be CLS qualified.

Medics from the detachment, who are attached to the transportation company on each convoy mission, taught the course in tactical combat casualty care (TC3). TC3 encompasses advanced first aid topics including opening and managing a casualty’s airway, controlling severe bleeding, treating penetrating chest trauma, and initiating a saline lock and intravenous infusion. The training was both classroom and hands-on. Each Soldier administered an IV, and no one escaped getting stuck.

CLS-qualified Soldiers are

trained on how and when to apply these skills in a combat environment.

“Sometimes the best thing you can do to save your buddy is kill the enemy,” explained senior instructor and medic Staff Sgt. Eddy Ellis, in his lecture.

A Combat Life Saver is a Soldier whose primary role is not that of a medic, and Soldiers are taught that the instinct to drop everything and tend to a casualty in the middle of a firefight will lead to more casualties overall, Ellis said.

In the opinion of the medics, having 100-percent of Soldiers CLS-qualified augments the effectiveness of medics rather than replacing them.

“It means a CLS Soldier can open airways, stop major bleeding and control the other factors that are the main causes of death before I get there and take over, because my vehicle might actually be a mile away,” said Spc. Paul Macchi, medic, 407th Med. Det.

Father and Son serve together

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE ADDER, Iraq – Two Texas

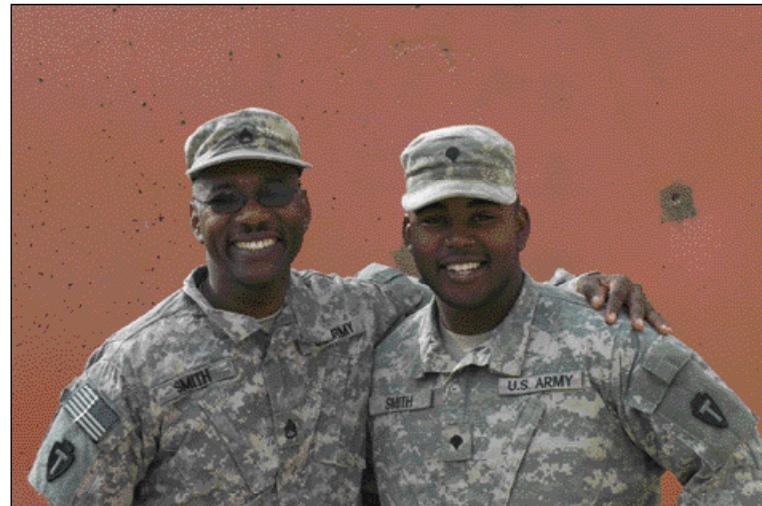


guardsmen, a father and son, will be serving in the same unit together at a small camp in southern

Iraq for the next nine months.

Spc. Raul G. Smith Jr., a gunner with Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment from El Paso, Texas had just returned from Iraq in June 2008 when he found out his father, Staff Sgt. Raul G. Smith Sr., an assistant set commander with the 3rd Bn., 133rd FA Regt., and native of the Republic of Panama, was deploying to Iraq late 2008. Smith Jr. said he instantly volunteered to deploy with him.

“I knew there would be nothing better than to deploy with my dad,” the younger



Staff Sgt. Raul G. Smith Sr. poses with his son, Spc. Raul G. Smith Jr. on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq on Jan. 16. The father and son chose to deploy together with the Texas National Guard Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment from El Paso, Texas. “I knew there would be nothing better than to deploy with my dad,” the younger Smith said.

Smith said.

Smith Jr. always knew what he wanted to be when he grew up; he wanted to be just like his father. He joined the Army and chose a law enforcement career following in the footsteps of his father.

“I think it’s in my blood to fight and serve. It’s one of our families most honored tradi-

tions to serve in the military,” the younger Smith said.

As a child, Smith Jr. remembers receiving pictures of his dad in his Army uniform in Saudi Arabia during the 90’s.

“I remember wanting to look like my dad in his uniform, and here I am,” he said.

The elder Smith said his son always wanted to know every-

thing about the military and would read his Army manuals and books that he kept at home.

“Especially, my criminal investigation division books,” he said. “My son was always excited to learn about my job as a CID investigator.”

Smith Jr. said he chose military police as his military occupational specialty because he wanted to be in law enforcement like his dad. He said he still needs to catch up because when his dad was his age, he had already graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York with a degree in forensic psychology.

The father said the admiration and respect goes both ways, and he is proud of the Soldier his son has become.

The younger Smith earned the company, “Soldier of the Year” while deployed in Fallujah. His dad said he was proud when he received pictures of his son in Iraq standing with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

“I hear great things from ev-

eryone he works for,” he said.

“That is why he is up for sergeant after only three years in the Army.”

The son says they do not go out on convoys together to avoid the appearance of favoritism, but he said it would be fun to go out on missions together.

They stay close by committing to a weekly dinner, whether it’s at the dining facility or the local restaurant. The elder Smith said they get to talk about their week and stay connected.

The younger Smith said he learns a lot by being deployed with his father.

“I get to see the NCO mindset,” he said. “I can share with my dad what the lower enlisted is thinking as well.”

The elder Smith, who resigned his recruiting position to deploy, said other parents would ask, “Would you let your son join?”

“Now, I can tell them yes, we went together,” he said. “We came here to do our duty and it’s where we want to be.”

Iraqis, Sustainers partnership in High Regard

BY 12ND LT. ANGELA ROKEY
UPAR, 259TH CSSB,
304TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Army Brig. Gen. William N. Phillips, Joint Contracting Command for Multi-National Force-Iraq visited the Iraqi-owned container repair facility here, Feb. 5.



He briefed the significance of

the partnership program built between the Iraqi population and Coalition forces at Joint Base Balad.

“We [Coalition forces] truly appreciate what you are doing here. Keep up the good work,” Phillips expresses to Hashim, manager and owner of the Miran Company.

The container repair facility project operates as the only one of its kind in Iraq. It saves over \$1 million by repairing empty shipping containers here rather than shipping them to Kuwait.

The 259th CSSB took control

of the container repair facility project in October 2008 as part of an Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone program initiative. The project provides several Iraqis work, and teaching them viable skills: welding, carpentry and general repair.

More importantly, it promotes partnership and allows Soldiers here a chance to work hand-in-hand with the Iraqi population.

“This gives us an amazing opportunity to learn more about one another and then tell our families about our differ-

ent cultures,” said Capt. Jason Whitehorn, support operations transportation officer in charge, 259th CSSB, 304th Sustainment Brigade.

The 259th CSSB Soldiers works directly with Hashim and his staff, which is comprised of many Iraqis who travel over twenty-two miles every day for work. Hashim said, “Most of them leave around 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. and do not return home until after dark, but their families are always excited to hear their stories about the Soldiers.”

Whitehorn believes this

program benefits everyone involved.

“Not only are we saving money, we’re interacting on a personal level and creating jobs in the process,” he said and adds, “this visit helps raise awareness of the program and recognizes the partnership.”

Phillips visited Joint Base Balad as part of his assessment of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone programs throughout Iraq. With the success of this particular initiative, he hopes to adopt the same process in Afghanistan.

Logisticians understand sharing the road to complete mission

BY 2ND LT. KAILEY VILCHES
UPAR, 70TH TRANS. CO.,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Coalition forces in Iraq finalized and officially implemented a new ‘Share the Road’ policy in January 2009. This



is a ground breaking step, leaning forward in stabilizing the country and drawing down our military presence.

Soldiers from 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Germany, have been working for months learning the ins and outs of ‘Share the Road’ and what it means for them.

While the Soldiers have been refining standards for the new operational climate, Iraqis have been learning about the cam-

paign via civilian affairs publications in news media.

Lt. Col. Ronald Pacheco Jr., commander, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, considers the initiative to be a measure of success in our efforts with the Iraqi public, and although Soldiers may feel uneasy about the new policy, he understands that this is part of the process.

“We are preparing here to turn Iraq over to its people,” said Pacheco.

There are a lot of specifics in how to implement the ‘Share the Road’ initiative but it essentially come down to our convoys and allowing the Iraqi civilians to pass at will.

Spc. Jonathon Patton, 70th Trans. Co., 391st CSSB, and Fort Worth, Texas native, also knows the importance of the new program.

“This initiative is something that is needed in order for our goals to be met,” said Patton. “I understand that incidences with

vehicle born improvised explosive devices across Iraq have been on a downward trend in occurrence, so I am okay with the idea of sharing the road.”

There are many varying perspectives and concerns around the policy. A great deal of focus has been put behind educating the force. Units have received a number of briefings on the importance of the objective and battle focus.

Initially it was not very popular among some Soldiers in 70th Trans. Co.

“I feel it puts Soldiers into harms-way,” said Staff Sgt. Colan Roberts, platoon sergeant, 70th Trans. Co. “We still have an identified threat out there; overall it will make our convoys more vulnerable.”

The Lumberton, N.C., native also said that he understands that safely restoring government back to Iraqis is the end-line objective for Coalition forces in Iraq.

This requires negotiating



U.S. Army courtesy photo
Soldiers from Company A, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division provided a security escort for a shipment of four massive generators to a power plant in Samarra, Iraq, during an 8-day, 300-mile convoy Dec. 3 to Dec. 10, 2008. When brought online, the new generators will provide several more hours of electricity per day to the 150,000 people in Samarra and thousands of other Iraqis in Salah ad-Din province.

around certain risks and hazards in order to reach our goals for a responsible exit out of the region. Sharing the road is one of the last steps in finishing the transition from being the leader in combat operations to a sup-

porting force of the Iraqi Security Forces.

70th Trans. Co. is currently in the seventh month of its 15-month deployment. The unit is scheduled to redeploy to Mannheim, Germany, Oct. 2009.



16th Sustainment Brigade “Knights” at COB Q-West
<http://www.16sustainment.army.mil/>



JBB Religious Service Schedule

PROTESTANT

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel
 0930 Provider Chapel
 1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)
 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel
 1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
 2000 Air Force Hospital 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)

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)
 Mon - Fri 1130 555th Eng. Bde. Bldg 7200

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 Saturday 0930 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday 1230 Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 1900 The Shack
 Saturday 1900 The Shack

GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 0900 Provider Annex

For more information, call

Gilbert Chapel: 433-7703
 Provider Chapel: 433-2430
 Freedom Chapel: 443-6303
 AF Hospital Chapel: 443-2547/2546

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 CEN-

TER

Spin:
 Sunday- 9 a.m.
 Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2
 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7
 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.
 MACP 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 RECRE-
ATION 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 Ton-
 ing 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.

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

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

Last weeks answers

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



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 2/25/09

Penn State @ Ohio State, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Anaheim Ducks @ Buffalo Sabres, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Florida @ LSU, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 Texas A&M @ Nebraska, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Pittsburgh @ Providence, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 Florida State @ Boston College, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 Portland Trail Blazers @ Houston Rockets, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA on NBATV Fan Night: Teams TBD * Game is selected by fan vote at NBA.com, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 2/26/09

Connecticut @ Marquette, Live 3 p.m. AFN/sports
 San Jose Sharks @ Detroit Red Wings, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Duke @ Maryland, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 Charlotte Bobcats @ Sacramento Kings, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Virginia Tech @ Clemson, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 Texas Tech @ Texas, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 Detroit Pistons @ New Orleans Hornets, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 2/27/09

Cleveland Cavaliers @ Houston Rockets, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Phoenix Suns @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Minnesota @ Illinois, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
 Phoenix Suns @ Los Angeles Lakers, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 2/28/09

Detroit Pistons @ Orlando Magic, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Anaheim Ducks @ Boston Bruins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Phoenix Coyotes @ Nashville Predators, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Charlotte Bobcats @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Miami Heat @ Atlanta Hawks, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 Los Angeles Lakers @ Denver Nuggets, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports
 Georgetown @ Villanova, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Georgia Tech @ North Carolina, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Cleveland State @ Butler, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Notre Dame @ Connecticut, Live 10 p.m. AFN/sports
 Clemson @ Florida State, Live 10 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Wake Forest @ Virginia, Live 10 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 3/1/09

LSU @ Kentucky, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 Texas @ Oklahoma State, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 Auburn @ Mississippi State, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 New York Knicks @ Miami Heat, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Nebraska @ Kansas State, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 UCLA @ California, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 Charlotte Bobcats @ Los Angeles Clippers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Gonzaga @ San Diego, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Washington Capitals @ Boston Bruins, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Duke @ Virginia Tech, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 Orlando Magic @ Philadelphia 76ers, Tape Delayed 1:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Oklahoma @ Texas Tech, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Buffalo @ Ohio, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Marquette @ Louisville, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Pistons @ Boston Celtics, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports
 Los Angeles Lakers @ Phoenix Suns, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 3/2/09

Columbus Blue Jackets @ Vancouver Canucks, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 San Antonio Spurs @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Oregon St. @ Oregon, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Philadelphia Flyers @ New Jersey Devils, Tape Delayed 8:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Pittsburgh Penguins @ Dallas Stars, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Atlanta Hawks, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 3/3/09

Villanova @ Notre Dame, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Colorado Avalanche @ New York Islanders, Live 3 AFN/xtra
 Baylor @ Texas, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 San Antonio Spurs @ Los Angeles Clippers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Kansas @ Oklahoma, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Miami Heat, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports



This Week in History

February 25

- 1793 - George Washington holds the first Cabinet meeting as President of the United States.

February 26

- 1870 - In New York City, the first pneumatic-subway opens.

February 27

- 1951 - The Twenty-second Amendment to the United States Constitution, limiting Presidents to two terms, is ratified.

- 1991 - Gulf War: U.S. President George H. W. Bush announces that "Kuwait is liberated".

February 28

- 1998 - Kosovo War: Serbian police begin the offensive against the Kosovo Liberation Army in Kosovo.

March 1

- 1936 - The Hoover Dam is completed.

March 2

- 2002 - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda begins.

March 3

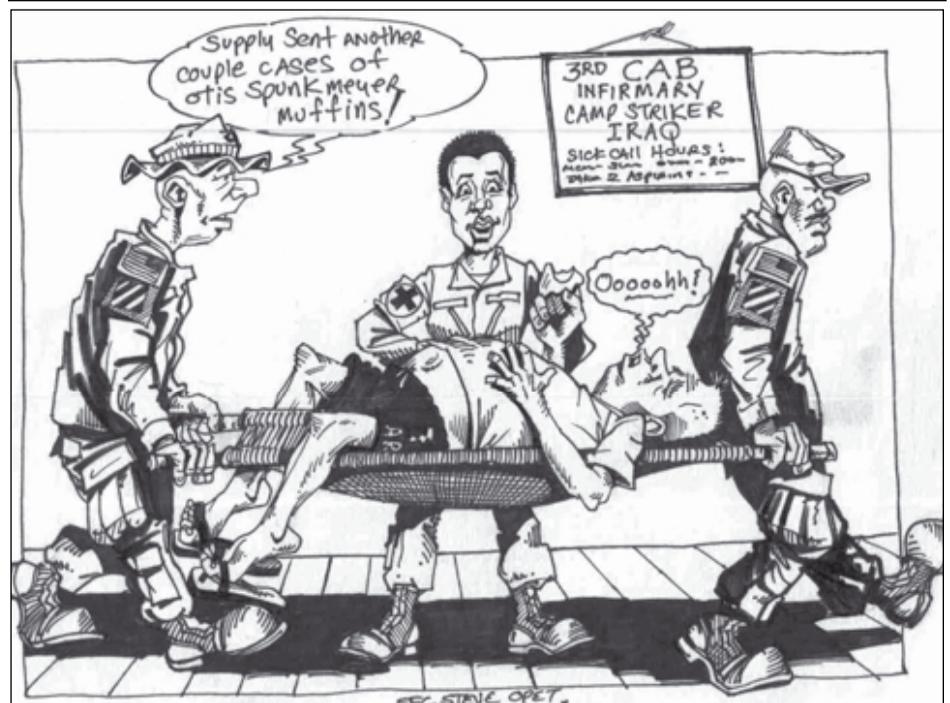
- 1960 - Elvis Presley returns home from Germany, after being away on duty for 2 years.

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

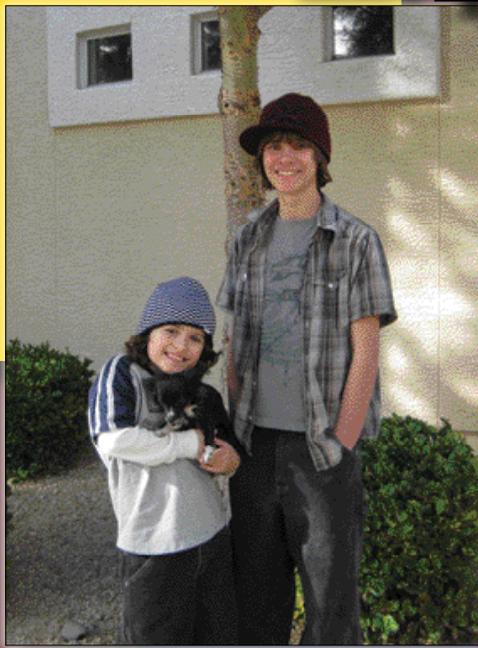
WELL HON, I'VE GOT TO GO NOW.
 YOU'VE GOT THIS, RIGHT?



Iraq according to Opet



Happy Birthday!



Sgt. Crystal Reidy, 123rd MPAD, 3^d ESC

**To the best Mom we could ever ask for!
Happy Birthday!!!**

**We love and miss you!
Walter, Tristan, Corbin and Puppy.**

Where do you read your Expeditionary Times?

For distribution, contact the 3^d ESC PAO located throughout Iraq

Joint Base Balad	318-483-4603
COB Adder	318-833-1002
Camp Taji	318-834-1281
COB Q-West	318-827-6101
Al Asad Air Base	318-440-4103
COB Speicher	318-849-2501

e-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

“Caring for the Warfighter’s Soul”

Joint Base Balad Protestant Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service – Feb. 25
1900 - Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
Good Friday Service – Apr. 10
2100 - Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
Easter Sunrise Service, Apr. 12
0600 - Holt Stadium

JBB Catholic Lent & Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday – 25 February
1130 - Provider Chapel
1700 - Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
2000 - Freedom Chapel
Lenten Penance Services
Friday, 19 March, 1900, Provider Chapel
Tuesday, 31 March, 1900, Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
Holy Thursday
1900 - Gilbert Memorial
2000 - Freedom Chapel
Good Friday
1130 - Provider Chapel
1900 - H6 Chapel
2000 - Freedom Chapel
Easter
Easter Vigil – 11 April
1900 - Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
Easter Sunday – 12 April
0830 - Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H6)
1100 - Provider Chapel
1100 - Hospital Chapel
2000 - Freedom Chapel

JBB Purim and Passover

Purim:
Service - 9 March 2009, 1700
Festival Dinner – 9 March 2009, 1800
Where: Gilbert Memorial Chapel, Multi-faith Room

Passover:
First Night Seder - 8 April, 1600-2000
Second Night – 9 April, 1600-2000
DFAC-1, Audie Murphy Room, RSVP

For more information , call Gilbert Memorial Chapel: 443-7703

MNF-I
TF SAFE

Check **CHUs**days

MNF-I
TF SAFE

Each Tuesday Check The Following In Your CHU

- ✘ Power strips are free of debris and clothing
- ✘ Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
- ✘ Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
- ✘ Smoke detector is operational
- ✘ Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
- ✘ Room is neat and orderly

This Simple Act Could Save You, Your CHU and Your Buddy Too

Sustainer Challenge

Send your team photos

Are you participating in the 2009 Sustainer Challenge competition?

E-mail us two high resolution team photos with team information, to be published in the Expeditionary Times.

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



Members from the HHC, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) trains for the upcoming Sustainer Challenge by participating in the Valentine's Day 5K run at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 14. The Soldiers are (from left to right): Spc. Amanda Tucker, Maj. Mike Arnold, Master Sgt. Juan Dominguez, Spc. Andre Tacardon.

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, February 25

5 p.m. Friday the 13th
8 p.m. The Unborn

Thursday, February 26

5 p.m. The Unborn
8 p.m. Friday the 13th

Friday, February 27

2 p.m. Not Easily Broken
5 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
8:30 p.m. Fired Up

Saturday, February 28

LIVE CONCERT

Sunday, March 1

2 p.m. Fired Up
5 p.m. Not Easily Broken
8 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

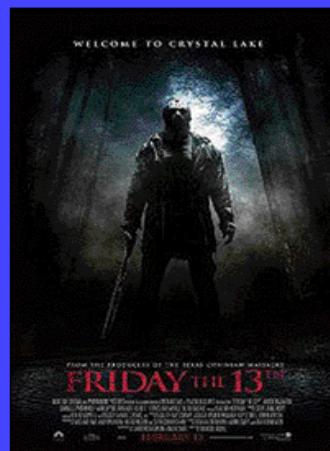
Monday, March 2

5 p.m. Not Easily Broken
8 p.m. Fired Up

Tuesday, March 3

5 p.m. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
8 p.m. Not Easily Broken
(Schedule is Subject to Change)

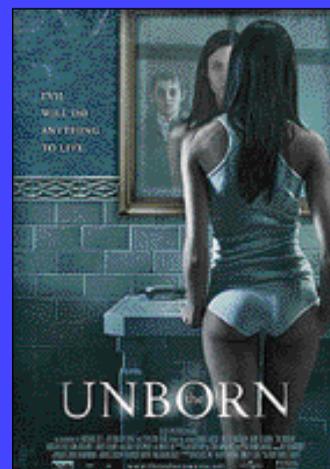
Friday the 13th



Against the advice of locals and police, Clay scours the eerie woods surrounding Crystal Lake for his missing sister. But the rotting cabins of an abandoned summer camp are not the only things he finds. Hockey-masked killer Jason Voorhees lies in wait for a chance to use his razor-sharp machete on Clay and the group of college students who have come to the forest to party.



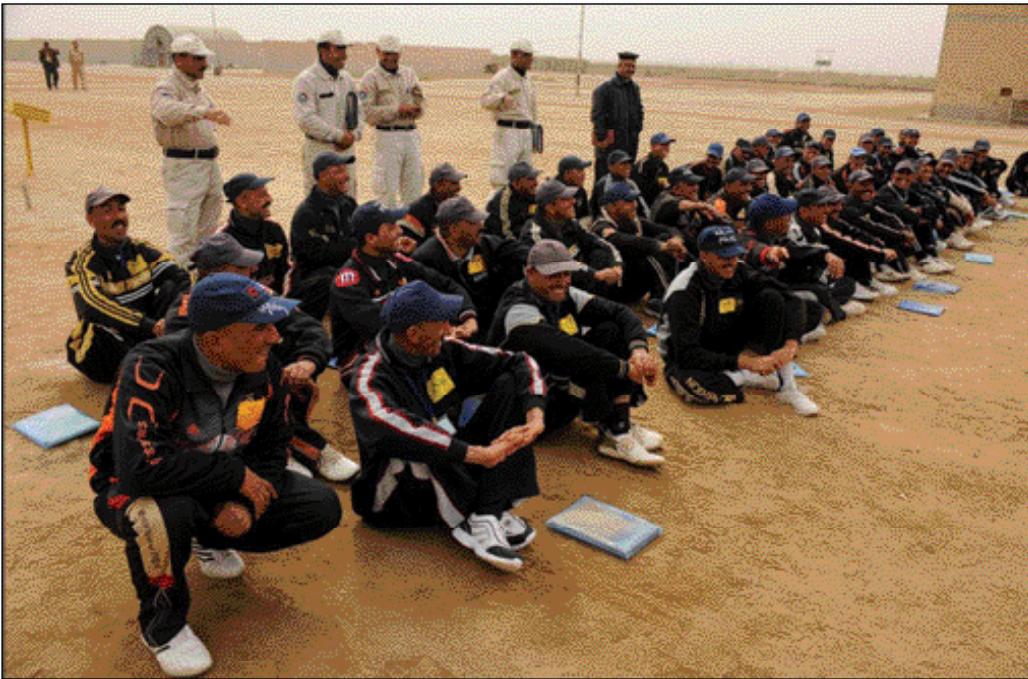
The Unborn



Casey Beldon hated her mother for leaving her as a child. But when inexplicable things start to happen, Casey begins to understand why she left. Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts her waking hours, she must turn to the only spiritual advisor, Sendak, who can make it stop.

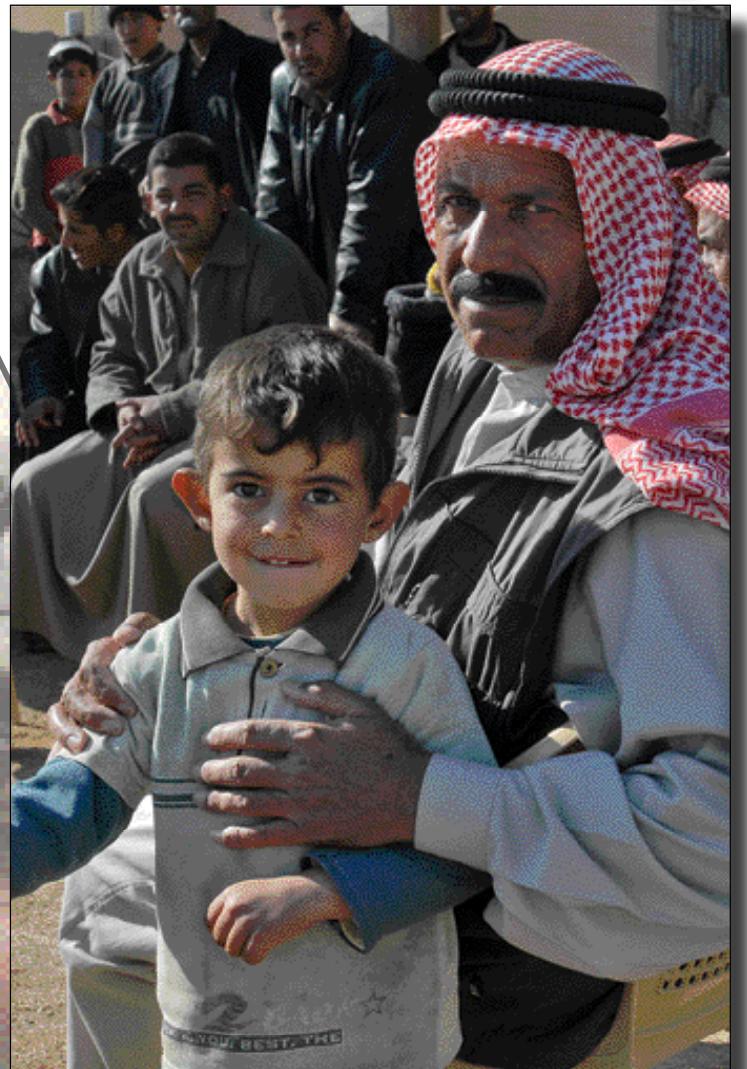


PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



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

Iraqi Police basic trainees laugh during a demonstration of the capabilities of military working dogs at the Diwaniyah Police Academy in Diwaniyah, Iraq, Feb. 9. The demonstration was conducted by U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.



US Army photo by Spc. Kelly Anne Beck

Two villagers look on as Soldiers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion visit Estella Village, Iraq during a humanitarian visit, Jan. 28.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano

Iraqi soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, hand out toys to children during a humanitarian aid mission in the Nabi Younis neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq, Feb. 11.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ray K. Ragan

Iraqi Soldiers work on a Soviet-made heavy truck at the Taji Wheel Level Three Maintenance facility on the Iraqi operated side of Camp Taji, Iraq on Feb. 12.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraqi Medics Teach Life-Saving Skills

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GARRY OWEN, Iraq — Thirteen of the Iraqi Army's newest combat medics graduated the Combat Life Saver's course here Feb. 4.

The 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division, with assistance from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Div. Soldiers, taught the Iraqi troops the same skills most American Soldiers learn while preparing for deployments.

"Thank you, my friends," said Chief Sgt. Maj. Haider to the U.S. Soldiers. "I'm ready to work with you any time any place."

Haider, an Iraqi CLS instructor, was thankful because the course marked the first time the class was taught by Iraqis.

Sgt. Wa'il Zahir Naji, a combat medic from the 38th IA Bde., showed his students the basic combat care techniques of medical care-under fire, casualty evacuation, clearing airways and controlling bleeding.

The graduates learned how to respond to many of the injuries they could encounter in combat, while their American counterparts stood by to field questions.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment provided stretchers and gauze, but Haider and Wa'il, who had been standout students in a previous CLS course, brought their own expertise to share with their fellow countrymen.

The 2nd Bat., 7th Cav. Regt. Soldiers have trained more than 75 of the Iraqis in combat life-saver procedures since the brigade deployed to southern Iraq in June 2008.

The latest course was significant because this time there were Iraqi instructors, and the students didn't have to rely on an interpreter to translate from English to Arabic.

"The new roles were a sign of progress," said Sgt. 1st Class Jamie Farmer, a native of Eden, N.C., assigned to the 2nd Bat., 7th Cav. Regt. "The goal is to leave this country with a unit capable of sustaining their own medical training."

Refurbished school opens for students in Jurf Nadaf

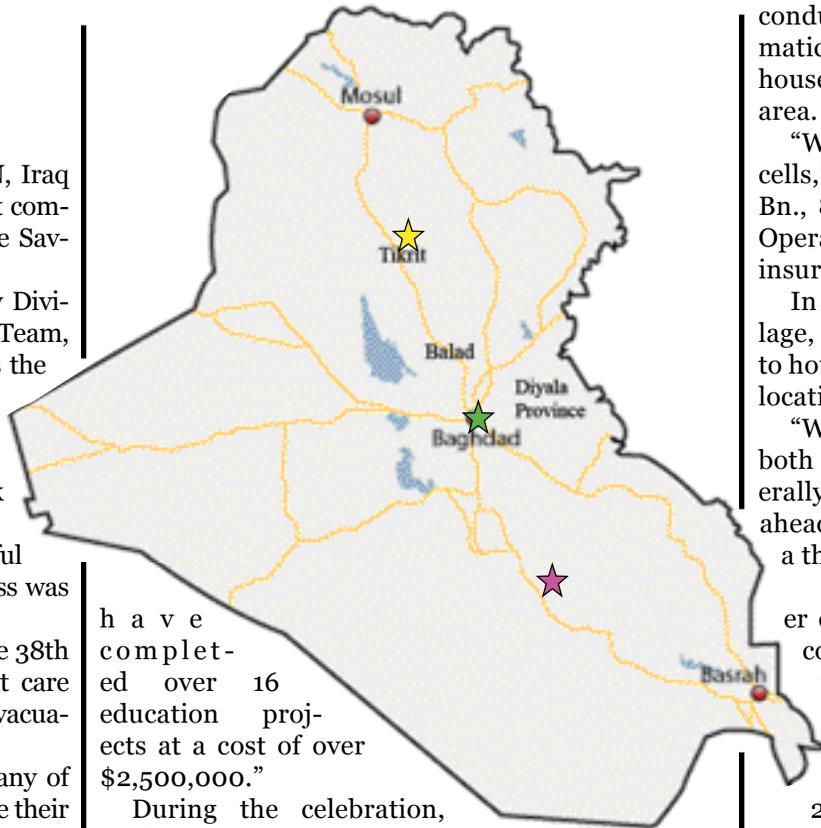
BAGHDAD — Members from the Jurf Nadaf community and Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, Multi-National Division - Baghdad met Feb. 12 for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Al Ghasacena Primary School.

The ceremony marked the completion of a major refurbishment to the school.

Teachers and staff of the Al Ghasacena School held the celebration to emphasize the reconstruction gains in the area. The newly refurbished school provides an improved educational environment for children in the area. With funding from the Commander's Emergency Relief Program, the project included the addition of nine new classrooms and construction of a new restroom facility.

The ceremony included student performances and comments from Nahia Council members including Abdul Razzaq, councilman and education committee chairman for Jisr Diyala.

"Since the 'Iron Knights' began their deployment in the Jisr Diyala Nahia in April 2008, they have worked hard to improve the quality of education received by the students in the area," Abdul said. "In total they



have completed over 16 education projects at a cost of over \$2,500,000."

During the celebration, students from each age group at the Al Ghasacena School performed short skits and dances.

"It is wonderful to receive appreciation from the populace for a job well done. This celebration was a very fun and entertaining gesture of that Iraqi appreciation," said Capt. Andrew Besser, the civil military operations officer of Task Force 1-35 Armor.

The Al Ghasacena School located in Jurf Nadaf West is historically set on a sectarian fault line but now enjoys relative peace and cooperation.

"This project is successful because of the gains in security that have been accomplished over the past six months by [Coalition forces] and the National Police," Razzaq said. "God willing, the peace will continue: We will continue to rebuild Iraq, and our children will enjoy a safe, prosperous future."

Ghost town receives new life

TIKRIT, Iraq — There are no children playing outside, no animals, no clothing lines hung or even a whisper of voices to acknowledge any sign of life in Amugaten. There is only the sound of the whistling wind blowing clouds of dust and dead wood brush down the empty streets. Amugaten almost seems like a ghost town.

But there is a reason for the stillness; the village is plagued with improvised explosive devices. Sprayed on the side of a wall in white paint lettering, both in Arabic and in English, "bombs inside" sends a clear message to anyone passing through the village of Amugaten.

No longer wanting to remain in the shadows of impending IED threats, the people are starting to take a stand and want to bring life back into their community. Amugaten is slowly becoming a safer place to live, thanks to the joint efforts of 3rd and 4th Battalion, 18th Iraqi Army Brigade, in conjunction with 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – North.

By request of village residents, IA and U.S. Forces

conducted a joint mission called Operation Automatic Pursuit II, to rid the town of several known house-borne IED's which threaten people in the area.

"We're trying to clear out the (al Qaida in Iraq) cells," said Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne La Clair, 2nd Bn., 8th FA Reg. "We hit another location during Operation Automatic Pursuit I, and we believe the insurgents who are left have moved into this town.

In order to remove the HBIED threats in the village, IA cleared the entire village, going from house to house to ensure the villagers were moved to a safe location.

"We've had a lot of trouble getting clearance to both of these locations," La Clair stated. "It has literally taken several months, so we're going to go ahead and blow these two sites so they are no longer a threat to the local people.

"We have several joint forces working together on this mission," La Clair said. "It is a pretty complicated mission because we have guys on the ground and guys in the air for support. When U.S. forces came here in 2007, literally some of these towns were completely rigged HBIEDs. Sometimes there would be ten or 20 structures, and each one of them would be rigged with IEDs."

After blowing the two sites the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit 1, checked each location and cleared them to ensure no more munitions remained in the area.

"Until now, this village has been a very dangerous village," said Staff Col. Alaa', commander, 3rd Bn., 18th Bde., IA. "As we went through here, the people asked us to stay and to provide security for their village."

In order to facilitate the safe keeping of the Amugaten, Alaa' said IA will maintain a strong presence in the village by constructing a new headquarters there and setting up various check points leading up to the village.

"There has been no IA presence in this area," Alaa' said. "We held a meeting with the local people and have decided to keep IA troops here and they have agreed to help us by giving us information. With IA remaining in the area, there will be no more terrorism around."

After receiving an all clear sign from Navy EOD, some residents began to return to their homes. With IA remaining in the area the people may begin to feel safe again.

Coalition detainee population drops to about 14,500

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Force-Iraq and the Government of Iraq reached another milestone Feb. 14 when the total population of detainees in Coalition custody dropped to about 14,500.

This month, Task Force 134 Detainee Operations began releasing an average 50 detainees a day in accordance with the Security Agreement. The signed agreement between the U.S. and the GOI requires all detainees to be released in a safe and orderly manner or transferred to Iraqi custody pursuant to a judicial order.

Those being released this month represent the first group of case files that were reviewed by Iraqi authorities under the Security Agreement.

Sustaining the Line



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

Sgt. Kellyn L. Furgiuele and Pfc. Christina R. Disano won the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Quarter board (second quarter) held at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Friday. Furgiuele, native of Fresno, Calif. and convoy support center NCO, 372nd Inland Cargo Transport Company, 371st Sustainment Brigade and Disano, a native of Brattleboro, Vt., and motor transport operator with the 233rd Transportation Company, 16th Sust. Bde., competed against eight other Soldiers representing the five sustainment brigade from the 3^d ESC. "You represent the best of the best," said Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr., 3^d ESC command sergeant major.

Spc. Thomas B. Beloat from the Texas Army National Guard 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, a native of Santa Ana, Texas welds a shade on the gunners turret to protect Soldiers from the hot Iraqi sun at Contingency Operating Base Adder on Jan. 17.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Froelich

Eleven Soldiers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, to include Lt. Col. Ken Garrison, commander, 81st BSTB, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Nunn, command sergeant major, 81st BSTB, shaved their heads in support of Karl Froelich, a former member of the unit who was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Feb. 8. Froelich's son, Sgt. Beau Froelich, and sister, Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Froelich, are members of the unit.



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

Sgt. James Languirand, paralegal non-commissioned officer, HHC, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, re-assembles his M16 at the 16th Sust. Bde. Warrior Leader of the Quarter board Jan. 20 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Languirand, formerly a British citizen, became an American citizen Sept. 1, 2008, at Joint Base Balad.