

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

www.dvidshub.net (search phrase: Expeditionary Times)

Vol. 2, Issue 10

Staying safe

233rd Trans. Co. conducts safety stand-downs to stay safe.

Page 9

Play nice

Think sports safety when conducting PT

Page 10

Post Attack Reconnaissance

287th Sust. Bde. trains Sustainers what to do after an indirect fire attack

Page 17

Joint Base Balad Tax Center

Taxes are prepared and filed for all Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as DOD/DA/DAF Civilians; and for those filing a Form 1040EZ, 1040, or 1040A, as well as Schedules A, B, C and D.

The JBB Tax center is open from Feb. 2 to April 30, 2009; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 0800-1700 hrs; Saturday: 1600-2300 hrs; Closed: Wednesday and Sunday

The center is located at: 332 EMSG Building (Mission Support Group/JBB Info Center), directly across the street from DFAC 2

For more information, e-mail: Tech Sgt. Jerol Boyce at jerol.boyce@blab.afcent.af.mil, Spc. Jaclyn Mims at jaclyn.mims@blab.afcent.af.mil or call DSN: 443-8304 or stop by during business hours.

Personnel may be referred to a paid preparer for any tax returns that are complicated, or involve filing multiple forms and schedules.



Bottling the Tigris

Page 12-13

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

Employees at the Oasis International Waters water purification and bottling plant test for bottle-cap tightness on the production line at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, March 7. The Army saves approximately \$900,000 a month using the six water bottling plants in theater.

Northern unit serves as 'gatekeepers'

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

HABUR GATE, Iraq – Since March 2008, the mission of the 609th Movement Control Teams at Habur Gate has been to ensure supplies get to their destination in a timely manner.

Located on the northern border of Iraq, Habur Gate is the U.S. Army portion of the Iraqi Customs Facility that functions as an inspection point between supply shipments destined for Coalition forces and supplies for a variety of other uses. Overall, the inspections are part of

the 3rd Sustainment Command's (Expeditionary) mission of providing logistics and distribution management anywhere, in any environment and against any adversary.

Along with a strong Kurdish presence, the 609th MCT, an active duty unit from Fort Bragg, N.C., validates, receives, stages, manifests and monitors the movement of cargo entering and leaving Iraq.

Headquartered at the Ibrahim Khalil Customs Facility, commonly known as the "Marble Palace" by the personnel assigned there, the 609th MCT controls the flow of class I (food) and III (fuel) supplies moving from Europe and Turkey into Iraq, which is then distributed to Coalition forces throughout the country.



Staff Sgt. Leroy Cain, a 609th Movement Control Team transportation managing coordinator and Wilmington, N.C., native, checks compartments on a driver's trailer for contraband before the trailer is allowed to be moved forward into a staging yard at Habur Gate, Iraq. Contraband items commonly taken from drivers during an inspection include alcohol and siphons (siphons can be used to steal fuel).

See GATEKEEPERS, Page 7

332 ESFS Blotter

1 Mar. – 8 Mar.

PATROL RESPONSE:

The reporting party contacted the Joint Defense Operations Center by telephone to report a verbal altercation between two individuals at Dining Facility #2. A patrol was dispatched and made contact with the RP who stated an individual made a verbal threat against the victim. The victim was not fluent in English and refused to complete a statement. Attempts were made to contact the suspect with negative results.

THEFT OF UNSECURE PERSONAL PROPERTY:

The victim walked into the law enforcement desk to report a theft which occurred at the passenger terminal transient tents. A patrol was dispatched and arrived to assist the complainant with completion of a written statement. The victim stated upon arrival at the terminal, roll call was conducted to process into camp. He said he and his coworkers were instructed to ground their baggage due to the volume of people. Upon returning, to the location of his baggage, his computer bag was gone.

STRAY ROUND IMPACT:

Joint Defense Operations Center was notified by the reporting party that a small arms round had penetrated the roof of Bldg 7162. A patrol was dispatched and made contact with the RP. The patrol assisted the RP with a written statement where he stated he heard a small explosion in the ceiling and saw what seemed to be a 7.62mm size bullet on the floor. The RP notified his chain of command and the safety office of the incident. The patrol took five digital photographs of the damage and searched the area for further evidence.

GENERAL ORDER-1 VIOLATION:

The reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and stated a suspect was possibly in possession of pornographic material in AMC housing and wanted a patrol present during a check of the premises for the illicit material. The witnesses walked into the law enforcement desk and made contact with a patrol. The shift leader advised the witnesses a patrol would standby at the location but could not assist with the search unless consent or authority to search/seize paperwork was conducted. The patrol arrived on scene with the witnesses and made contact with the suspect. The property was found and the suspect was detained. He was later released to a supervisor.

NIPR- 443-8602

SIPR- 241-1171

Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

APO AE 09342

Class III B Green Lasers



PURPOSE. To review potential hazards of Class III B green lasers used within the Iraq Theater of Operation (ITO).

BACKGROUND. There are many types of lasers used throughout the ITO. Class III B lasers are capable of causing permanent retinal damage if the beam directly enters the eye. In the ITO, the green beam designators, or "dazzlers" used in escalation of force (EOF) procedures are of this class. This class, as well as other classes of lasers, can temporarily disrupt vision for up to 30 minutes when shined at the eyes. This effect is especially true at night.

APPLICABILITY. This information applies to all personnel who utilize this type of laser weapon system.

DISCUSSION. In 2005 and 2006 the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) evaluated several green laser systems for use as non-lethal weapons in the EOF. These laser systems are listed below.

- XADS Photonic Disruptor/Green (PD/G) – 105
- B.E. Meyers Green Beam Designator (GBD) – III (not to be used as a dazzler without the diffuser permanently affixed)
- B.E. Meyers Mini-Green
- Helios
- Green Handheld Optical Surveillance and Target (GHOST)

The nominal optical hazard distances can be found in TAB D TO APPENDIX 16 TO ANNEX C TO MNC-I OPOD 08-02, CONTROL MEASURES AND TTP TRAINING FOR GREEN LIGHT LASER SYSTEMS. These laser systems are commercially available, off-the-shelf, products. It must be emphasized that the beam characteristics, i.e. "safe" distances, can be different on these same laser systems if independently purchased. For example the PD/G-105 was modified by the manufacturer in 2007 resulting in a seven fold increase in the eye safety distance.

RECOMMENDATION. Following these basic safety instructions will ensure the safe use of these valuable non-lethal weapons while minimizing the possibility of eye injuries:

Green Laser Safety Instructions

- Commanders must ensure that all personnel utilizing these lasers are properly trained
- Treat these systems as weapons, not toys (never intentionally point the laser at anyone except an aggressor).
- Maintain awareness of mirrored surfaces to avoid reflecting the beam back at friendly forces.
- Never shine the laser at someone's face if they are closer than 50 meters
- Include laser safety in the unit SOP
- Include laser safety precautions when briefing ROE and EOF procedures
- Do not purchase Class III B lasers through non-official channels
- Do not purchase newly manufactured versions of the lasers listed above without a CHPPM evaluation for safe distances
- For questions regarding laser safety please contact the MNC-I Radiation Safety Officer at 485-2637.



EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). 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 5,000 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

Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Managing Editor

Maj. Paul Hayes, 3^d ESC PAO
paul.r.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil

3^d ESC PAO NCOIC

Sgt. 1st Class David McClain, 3^d ESC
david.mcclain@iraq.centcom.mil

3^d ESC Staff Writers

Spc. Michael Behlin, 3^d ESC
michael.behlin@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Amanda Tucker, 3^d ESC
amanda.tucker@iraq.centcom.mil

3^d ESC G2, Security Manager

Lt. Col Dale Davis, 3^d ESC
dale.davis@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD Commander

Maj. Christopher A. Emmons
christopher.emmons@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD First Sergeant

1st Sgt. Reginald M. Smith
reginald.m.smith@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD Production Editor

Staff Sgt. Tonya Gonzales
tonya.gonzales@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD Photo Editor

Spc. Brian A. Barbour
brian.barbour@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD Layout and Design

Spc. Mario A. Aguirre
mario.aguirre@iraq.centcom.mil

123rd MPAD Staff Writers

Sgt. Crystal G. Reidy
crystal.reidy@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. Alexander Snyder

alexander.snyder@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Kelly Anne Beck
kelly.beck@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman
kiyoshi.freeman@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices

10th Sustainment Brigade
16th Sustainment Brigade
371st Sustainment Brigade
287th Sustainment Brigade
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
555th Engineer Brigade
304th Sustainment Brigade

For online publication visit www.dvidshub.net; keyword: Expeditionary Times

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

*"Those who drink to forget,
please pay in advance."*

- Sign at an Irish pub

How do you cope with life's problems?

- A. Deny that the problems exists
- B. Numb your feelings through alcohol or drugs
- C. Workaholism
- D. Pray and trust God to help you
- E. Talk to a close friend or counselor
- F. Your name is Chuck Norris and you don't have problems

The truth of the matter is that we all have problems. No one gets through life without pain and suffering. The challenge we face is how we respond to our problems.

"Suck it up and drive on" is not always the best way to handle the difficulties of life. The healthiest way to deal with our hardships is face them head on. Acknowledge that the problems exist and work through them. This may require a little humility on our part. We may need to ask for help and support. That is not a sign of weakness but a demonstration of wisdom and strength.

Drinking to forget only leaves you with temporary amnesia (and a few less dollars in your pocket). There is a better way. From a faith perspective, God is there to help us with our problems. In the Scriptures we are told that we can "Cast all our cares or anxieties on Him because He cares for us." I Peter 5:7

God wants to walk with us as we face the challenges of life. He is there to help carry the load. Problems do exist. They are real. But they are not insurmountable. So, instead of trying to forget them, remember this: You are not alone. Help is close at hand. Call out to God. With His help, you can make it through anything!

Submitted by CH (CPT) Peter Strong
304th Sustainment Brigade

Hooah of the Week



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

Staff Sgt. Aaron J. Larson is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, as this week's "Hooah of the Week." Larson, who is from Sioux Falls, S.D., and a reservist with the 1041st Engineer Detachment, is attached to the 3rd ESC where he works as a technical engineer specialist in the G7 office. Larson received the award because he is an integral part of project management and facilities maintenance that allows the entire 3rd ESC to function on a daily basis.



Tune In To

BALAD AND BEYOND

Telling the Sustainer Story from all across Iraq

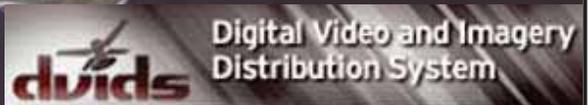
Now airing on the
Pentagon Channel

every Tuesday at 2000 IZ
every Thursday at 0930 IZ
every Saturday at 1530 IZ

Or log on to

www.dvidshub.net

keyword: Balad and Beyond



Still in the fight

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A sergeant drives around the flightline here supervising crew chiefs, making sure jets are prepped properly for the fight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In uniform, one would never look twice at the senior master sergeant ... until he puts on a pair of Air Force PT shorts.

"I was in a motorcycle accident four years ago," said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Clements, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit productions supervisor deployed from the 419th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. "The accident was severe enough that the doctors had to do a below-the-knee amputation on my left leg.

"I didn't even think twice about the decision, because I've been around an amputee for 20 years," he added. "My daughter, Amber, had a birth defect, and at 15 months old she had to have her right foot amputated. I know she can do anything, so I didn't hesitate when the doctor was skeptical about being able to save the leg. I just wanted to move on; however, I did not realize at the time that it was going to possibly jeopardize my career as an Air Force Reservist."

Clements said the Air Force wanted to medically discharge him from the Air Force Reserve after 25 years of service.

"My biggest deal was, 'don't throw me out. Give me a chance to rehabilitate and improve myself and prove I am still able to do my job,'" Clements said.

"I think it was the old stigma that if someone loses a limb, they are automatically out," Clements said. "But now, it's the new military where if someone can

do their job, they should be able to keep that job. Granted, if I still had to crawl around on jets, I might not be able to keep my job; but now, I am a supervisor. The military needs this (pointing to his head) more than they need this (pointing to his prosthetic leg)."

The Riverdale, Utah, native said he traveled from Hill AFB to Lackland AFB, Texas, to stand in front of a three-panel medical board.

"The board asked me how having a prosthetic leg has affected me and my life," he explained. "I told them I can still do most things that anyone else can do. I may have to rethink it or it may take me a little longer, but I can still do most things."

For example, Clements informed the board he had just returned from playing golf for 5 days with a bunch of his friends. He informed them of his score to prove that the prosthetic is not crimping his golf game.

"My golfing buddies tell me I play better now than I did before, because I don't try to kill the ball when I swing now," Clements said.

The board reinstated Clements, but he had to deploy where there is a hospital that can meet his needs.

"I don't really need any special attention," Clements said. "All I really need is an Allen wrench to tighten up my foot every once in a while. Most of the guys here are used to it now. I just throw my leg up on the bench and tighten up a few screws."

"I think the reason he took on those challenges is a testament to his character, and love for his country and his job," said Chief Master Sgt. John Tomsick, 419th AMXS superintendent, Cle-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Lionel Castellano

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Clements, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit productions supervisor, reviews forms with Staff Sgt. Brandon Howe, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron here March 2. Both are deployed at JBB from Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Clements' hometown is Riverdale, Utah, and Howe is from San Luis Obispo, Calif.

ments' supervisor at home station. "It really could have been easy to just retire and move on but I believe he felt like he had more to give and teach the people around him. I still learn from him."

While deployed here, Clements is helping others who are going through the same ordeals of losing a limb.

A couple days ago, a captain and a major from the Air Force Theater Hospital here saw Clements at the dining facility in PT gear, and asked if he would come over to the hospital.

"I got the tour of the facility, and I met a couple of Iraqi teenagers in there that are amputees as well," Clements said. "Through a translator, I would talk to them and I would walk for them to show them that it will be all right and that this is not the end of the world."

Clements said he also attends physical therapy sessions for Iraqis and

military personnel to show them the exercises, and how to take care of an amputated limb.

"If someone who has lost their limb sees me walking around them and sees that I'm even in the military, maybe that will give them some hope that not all is lost," Clements said. "They will hopefully think, 'Well, if he can do it, I can do it.'"

"Senior Master Sgt. Clements' ability to move on with very few setbacks considering his injuries is a true reflection on what kind of person he is," Chief Master Sgt. Tomsick said. "He never quit and is still moving forward."

"I still ride motorcycles," Clements said. "When I was recouping, it made me sick to watch my buddies all go off on their long rides.

"If I'm gonna go, I'm gonna go doing something I love," he added.

Combat chapel team ministers 'outside wire'

BY STAFF SGT. TIM BECKHAM
U.S. AFCENT, Baghdad Media Outreach Team

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – The 732nd Air Expeditionary Group chaplain and his assistant have a one-of-a-kind job. The Airmen they serve perform their duties outside the wire ... so they do too.

As one of the only "combat" chapel teams, Chaplain (Capt.) David Haltom and Staff Sgt. Porscha Howard, the chapel team for the 732nd AEG, minister to Joint Expeditionary Tasking Airmen who are filling Army positions in unique locations. These Airmen are known as "Combat Airmen."

"It's been a privilege to spend our time side by side with our combat Airmen in some of the most dangerous and austere environments across the country," said the chaplain. "Sometimes Airmen can get discouraged as they attend to their little corner of the universe. Our position affords us the opportunity to help Airmen see the big picture and realize the incredible impact of their service."

The job for this chapel team may be different from other chapel teams in deployed locations, but they have the same overall goal ... to support and serve those who need them.

"Our mission is to provide opportunities for religious observance and counseling; however, we're often told that just being physically present is enough," Chaplain Haltom said. "Sometimes a visible reminder of the holy is all that's needed to inspire an Airman to



Courtesy photo

Chaplain (Capt.) David Haltom, 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, provides spiritual guidance to a Joint Expeditionary Tasking Airman in a combat zone. As one of the only "combat" chapel teams, Chaplain Haltom and Staff Sgt. Porscha Howard, the chapel team for the 732nd AEG, provide ministry support to JET Airmen, who are filling Army positions in unique locations.

reconnect with their faith or that part of themselves where hope, meaning and purpose reside."

Chaplain Haltom and Sergeant Howard said seeing Airmen spiritually fit-to-fight is the ultimate reward.

"It is very rewarding serving outside the wire in Iraq," Sergeant Howard said. "The look in the Airmen's eyes with smiles on their faces when they see

the chaplain and I am in full battle rattle walking up to them outside the safety of T-walls and gate guards is amazing."

"To say we've been greeted with open arms would be an understatement," Chaplain Haltom said. "We find that we have plenty of shared experiences to joke about during our visits. Life is relationships ... period, and being able to share this brief time in our lives creating and deepening the combat Airmen bond with these warriors is immensely rewarding."

In a recent interview, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force chief of chaplains, said chaplains tend to be sought out by deployed members.

"In the area of responsibility, the chaplain can't walk from point A to point B without being pulled aside for a question," the general said. "In fact, chaplains often spend seven to 10 hours a day counseling Airmen, hearing them ask, 'would you pray for me?'"

As a chaplain assistant, Sergeant Howard's most important job is to keep Chaplain Haltom safe and, as a prior security forces member, she was hand-selected for the deployment.

"I had spent several months being trained to provide safety for the chaplain," she said. "Chaplain Haltom and I work well together and, no matter what may happen, he knows I have his back."

This combat chapel duo may have a unique and sometimes dangerous job but they will never doubt the importance of their mission, or the resolve of their faith to pull them through.

3rd SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) SUSTAINING THE LINE!



2 March 2009



GREEN LASER INCIDENTS

1. Since 14 November 2008, the 3rd ESC has experienced 12 green laser incidents involving 14 of our Soldiers. These Soldiers have experienced varying degrees of injury and discomfort, but three of these Soldiers have been medically evacuated back to CONUS. One of our Soldiers is now blind in one eye.
2. This is a serious problem and Commanders and NCOs at every level must be involved. This is an issue regarding awareness, proper training, accountability, reporting and overall safety management and execution. Green lasers are an essential element within our EOF procedures, but we must be vigilant in their training and proper use.
3. I directed a team from within the 3rd ESC staff to examine this problem and provide recommendations and our way ahead. The team will be publishing an integrated FRAGO to subordinate units with specific required actions regarding training, accountability, proper use and reporting of green lasers. This team has also coordinated with MNC-I and an updated Yellow Hash Safety Alert and FRAGO will be forthcoming from MNC-I.
4. The safety and force protection of our Soldiers is paramount. Green laser incidents can be prevented with proper training, complete awareness and direct leadership involvement from all leaders within the 3rd ESC.

Sustaining the Line!

Michael J Lally
 MICHAEL J. LALLY
 Brigadier General, USA
 Commanding

S
U
S
T
A
I
N
E
R

6

S
E
N
D
S

4

**“WHATEVER THE TASK, HOWEVER COMPLEX
THE CHALLENGE, WE ALWAYS SUSTAIN THE LINE!”**

Duties as a mission commander in Iraq

BY 2ND LT. ERIC B. BUTLER
UPAR, 10th Sust. Bde.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Duties as a mission commander in the 154th Transportation Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade are complex, and require a great deal of preparation.

Platoon leaders for heavy equipment transport platoons in Iraq spend a great deal of time planning missions because the HET systems are in high demand.

Missions begin when a company's operations section receives a requirement from the battalion to move a specific piece of heavy equipment, such as a tank

or Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The platoon leader then begins backwards planning, using the Army's five paragraph operations order.

First, the mission commander concentrates on collecting intelligence on enemy forces and identifying other friendly forces in the area of operation. Then, he factors in weather, light data and terrain to help determine the best time for the mission. Once those factors are set and the mission commander knows as much about the situation as possible, he moves on to establish his mission statement.

The mission statement informs the Soldier of the task that is required for them to perform. This statement is clear, concise and read twice. It contains the five Ws: who is involved, what they will do, when the start time is, where to begin and why the mission is necessary. A good mission statement always contains

the five Ws and can stand alone so that it is understood without other supporting documents.

Once the mission commander establishes a solid mission statement, he can begin to write his detailed plan for execution of the mission. The execution section of the OPORD is the longest section to cover when a leader briefs his Soldiers. In this section, the mission commander details the route of travel, timeline, order of vehicles, travel speed and battle drills.

Battle drills are important because they instill in the Soldier instinctive responses for how to react when something goes wrong.

Rehearsals are another portion of the execution section. The mission commander rehearses several battle drills with the Soldiers prior to each mission, so the steps are always fresh in their minds. Amidst stress, confusion, and uncertain circumstances, Soldiers can rely on time-tested battle drills that have been rehearsed again and again to get them through tough situations and back to safety.

Service and support – the fourth step in the OPORD – includes identifying fuel, maintenance and medical facilities along the specified route that can be used if necessary. Most camps along the route store fuel, so vehicle operators can make an unplanned stop for refuel if required.

Limited maintenance support is included in the convoy. For example, each wrecker in a convoy has some maintenance capability for onsite repairs. If

an onsite fix is not possible, a downed vehicle can easily be towed to the destination for repair within the safety of a camp. Finally, for medical support, each convoy includes multiple combat lifesaver personnel, as well as identified medical facilities along the route. Combat lifesavers can administer first aid, intravenous fluids and apply tourniquets if necessary, to prepare injured Soldiers for transport to the nearest medical facility.

The last step in the mission commander's OPORD is command and signal. Here, he identifies who will take charge of the convoy if he can no longer perform his duties. Soldiers should understand who is in charge to avoid confusion during stressful situations and to prevent added conflict if the convoy is under attack. The assistant mission commander is the next in charge after the mission commander, followed by the next non-commissioned officer according to rank and order of merit. During this step, the mission commander also outlines what types of communication and signals will be used during the convoy. A successful mission is often dependent upon reliable, clear communications between vehicles and leadership in each convoy mission.

The duties and responsibilities of a mission commander in the 154th Trans. Co. may seem complicated, but they pay dividends when a successful mission is completed. The Army's five paragraph OPORD is an effective tool when planning any type of military operation, and is proven to save lives when used correctly.

The strong and ready warrior

BY LT. COL. RENEE A. ROUSE
304th Sust. Bde., PAO

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 304th Sustainment Brigade, from Riverside, Calif., arrived in theater in November 2008. It was Brigade Commander Lt. Col. Norman Green's intent to ensure that all of his Soldiers

were fully engaged and had something significant to show at the end of the deployment – something that enhanced their lives, health, and well being which would continue to enable the warfighter.

Capt. Peter Strong, a chaplain from Seattle, Wash., spearheaded the concept of the "Strong and Ready Warrior." He envisioned the program and the results to be something tangible that every Soldier can say: "This is one thing I did to better myself!" Strong and his advisory team of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Brady, a resident of Garden Grove, Calif., Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mary Anne Southwick, a resident of Newcastle, Wash., and Capt. Amanda Gatewood from Stockton, Calif., began meeting in October 2008 to develop the program. The Brigade level-supported event launched in January 2009.

The Strong and Ready Warrior program is intended to help Soldiers identify clear and achievable personal and/or professional goals during deployment. Leaders are required to discuss these goals with their Soldiers and assist them in their achievement, even if it means having to adjust the Soldiers work schedule. Although the program is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged that all Soldiers and leaders participate.

It is anticipated that the program will empower Soldiers through improved physical fitness, increased mental development, deeper spiritual understanding

and greater personal satisfaction and fulfillment. Strong described four pillars for success: body, mind, spirit and emotions. The program promotes a holistic approach to health and the four pillars must work together in order to create vitality, calmness, and inner peace.

According to the program, strengthening the body through physical exercise, building and integrating the mind by satisfying its hunger for knowledge and enhancing emotional growth through spirituality can only be accomplished when one is fully engaged in life.

The body, mind, spirit and emotions work collectively and are inseparable. If a Soldier devotes himself or herself to a minimal regimen of physical exercise and mental stimulation, as a goal set through the program, it can facilitate growth and maturation. Additional benefits of the program include increased levels of Soldier participation in meaningful activities, reduction in suicidal behaviors, improved unit morale, a greater sense of team spirit and leadership development.

Since the program's inception, Soldiers from the 304th Sust. Bde. have committed to 118 various objectives. These goals include: acquiring a perfect score on a physical training test, learning a foreign language, participation in sports activities, losing weight, taking college courses, improving one's General Technical score, writing a book, attending tax training in order to help Soldiers file their taxes, volunteering at the hospital and becoming more religious and/or spiritually grounded.

The quest for mind, body, spirit, and emotional integration through the adoption of a deliberate program such as the Strong and Ready Warrior program can lead to rapid personal growth, a calm sense of self-assurance, the ability to withstand the hardships of life and the emergence of an increasingly mature, wise and integrated self.

Safety Topic of the Week

Courtesy of PS Magazine. For service members using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/psonline.cfm>

Underbody NMC Criteria Update

Dear Half-Mast,
I've heard that the underbody NMC criteria for M1151A1, M1152A1 and M1165A1 HMMWVs has changed. Can you tell me what those changes are?
SFC M.U.V.

Dear Sergeant M.U.V.,
Can do!
Item 44g in Table 2-2 of TM 9-2320-387-10 says that if your up-armored HMMWV is missing a retainer plate or more than one screw, your truck is NMC. That hasn't changed, but TACOM LCMC will add inspection criteria for your M1151A1, M1152A1 and M1165A1 HMMWV's underbody armor. This is because it has a unique attaching scheme.

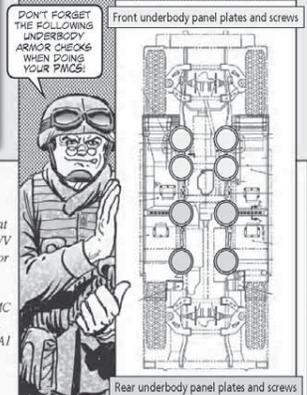
The -10 TM will eventually be updated with the extra criteria. But while you wait for that to happen, note these additions, and keep a copy of this article with your TM.

Under these circumstances, your HMMWV is still mission capable:

1. One of two plates must remain on each of the group of two front underbody panels.
2. One of two plates must remain on each of the group of two rear underbody panels.
3. A total of up to four retainer plates may be missing provided that the conditions above are met.

Remember, this change applies only to M1151A1, M1152A1 and M1165A1 HMMWV models!

Make sure you follow the underbody NMC changes for M1114, M1116 and M1145 up-armored HMMWVs we put out on pages 18 and 19 of PS 667 (Jan 08). Here's the link to that article: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2008/667/667-18-19.pdf>



SAFETY



Then and Now: Soldier returns to Iraq, finds improvement on the ground

BY CAPT. MIKE VINCENT
UPAR, 161st Infantry Regiment

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – It's been said that old Soldiers never die, they just fade away. But Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Ross, a 44 year-old native of North Bend, Wash., has no intention of fading away any time soon. In fact, he says he is just getting started.

As an Army Ranger and veteran of Operation Just Cause (the invasion of Panama), Operation Iraqi Freedom II and now Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10, Ross has seen a lot more than many of his fellow Soldiers in his 22 year Army career.

As the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Hotel Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, Ross is often called upon for wisdom and guidance from others within his company, and he is always willing to give his opinion – like it or not. Being an old Soldier, he has seen many changes throughout the Army and throughout the struggle here in Iraq. He has witnessed the evolution of this conflict – from its initial stages in 2004 to the situation today, in what many consider the closing months of the conflict.

As a part of the Then & Now series, I asked Ross what has changed his

perspective here in Iraq and what the results are of his efforts as an assistant convoy commander in sustaining Coalition forces.

In 2004, Ross was a platoon sergeant of an infantry platoon stationed at Forward Base Prosperity, a coalition camp in central Baghdad. His platoon experienced daily insurgent attacks, conducted raids on local insurgent hideouts and acted as peace keepers, trainers, negotiators, and nation builders in Baghdad. All the while his platoon attempted to gain the support of the Iraqi people and encourage them to take on the responsibilities of their own peace.

Back then, basic services were rare and the Iraqi people's trust in Americans and its own government was close to nonexistent. Trust was a rare commodity among the Iraqi people and even less common among the Iraqi security forces. Secular differences ran deep.

The tactics and procedures used during convoy operations were firm and aggressive. Warning shots were a common way to get through traffic. If the vehicles were stationary too long, they risked being the target of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices or grenade attacks. The questioning of loyalty when one encountered an Iraqi Army unit was commonplace and expected if you were to survive.

Today, Iraq is a much different sto-

ry. Ross said he has seen tremendous progress, in both the Iraqi way of life and the security forces he encounters. As a convoy commander, he said he noticed that the way the U.S. Army does business has changed too. He said he realizes that Iraq now belongs to the Iraqi people. Ross has instilled in his Soldiers a new way of thinking and has trained them to understand the big picture and to consider the new security agreement when conducting operations.

"The way you point your weapon is different. Where you drive on the streets of Baghdad is different, and now we share the roads in Iraq with the Iraqi people to maintain the trust," Ross said. Although many things have changed, there are still parts of Iraq that are struggling."

But, Ross also stated "trust between the Iraqi government and its people is growing and there seems to be an understanding that the sustainment convoys are an inconvenience but necessary to the rebuilding of Iraq."

Ross went on to say, "It was tough adjusting to each stage of the war. Each stage was different and we had to adjust quickly." Now, the change is for the better. Ross described an encounter that happened on a convoy recovery mission outside of JBB that illustrated this new way of thinking and the progress Iraqis have made.

"We were on a recovery mission just

Editor's note: This article is part of a larger "Then and now" series.

north of the base to recover a damaged convoy vehicle. We were tasked with blocking the road so the recovery vehicle could get the damaged vehicle back to the base. A squad sized group of Iraq Police came up to us wanting to use the road. They were all armed with AK-47s and new police uniforms. I had to explain and negotiate with the Iraqis that they could not use the road due to a broken vehicle and offered an alternate route. It seemed the police understood the situation, were friendly and also seemed to have a more informed approach to the situation than in years past. The Iraqi Police agreed and used the alternate route. This would have been a different story in 2004 and it would have involved much less understanding or cooperation." Ross said.

Ross is now more than half way done with his second and most likely last tour in Iraq. He said he looks forward to returning home to his wife of 20 years, Fiorella and his 10-year-old son, Austin. He wants to take on a new responsibility of training the next generation of warfighters and leaders of his beloved unit. After that, retire into the beautiful woods of Mt. Si, Wash., and just fade away...

GATEKEEPERS Continued from Page 1

"Of all of the supply trucks entering Iraq from Turkey, roughly 10 percent of them are for Coalition forces," said 1st Lt. Eric Hart, the 609th MCT operations officer in charge and a Baton Rouge, La., native. "Once they enter Iraq, they go through a number of inspections and from there our mission comes into play by making sure we filter and validate shipment expected for Coalition forces."

For drivers transporting goods to Iraq, the process they follow is a lengthy one. They are led through a validation process determining whether their shipment is meant for Coalition forces or not, while working closely with workers from the Iraqi Customs Facility.

Aiding Kurdish inspectors, the 609th MCT Soldiers make sure their standard is being enforced.

"What we do when drivers come through our facility is ensure that they are following the rules, and are operating equipment [trucks] that are safe," said Staff Sgt. Leroy Cain, the 609th MCT transportation managing coordi-

nator /day-shift staging yard noncommissioned officer in charge and Wilmington, N.C., native. "We put them through a process of various inspections in order to make sure they are able to safely operate their equipment once they move forward from here."

When drivers arrive at the Habur Gate staging yard, they receive inspections for proper vehicle operation documents. This includes, but is not limited to, checking their driver's license and weather or not it matches the type of equipment they are operating.

From this point, 609th MCT Soldiers and Kurdish inspectors check with the drivers for a cargo movement request. The 609th MCT Soldier then validate shipments with a stamp, which is recognized by customs and border patrol agents who handle drivers' passports.

Hart explained that while the process usually runs smoothly, there are times when drivers try to take advantage of operations. In the past, drivers have attempted to travel from Turkey to Iraq with falsified documents showing their shipment is for Coalition forces,

when really it is not. While Hart described this as being a rare occurrence, it would be wrong to say that it hasn't been attempted. These attempts are usually caught during the validation process and are fairly obvious to those working at the site, he said.

During inspections, Soldiers and Kurdish inspectors also check the driver's truck for leaks, damage, worn tires, drugs and other contraband. They check the driver's load, making sure it is secured properly and is safe to move forward into the country.

Contraband items commonly taken from drivers during an inspection include alcohol and siphons, siphons can be used to steal fuel.

Drivers who violate the guidelines are added to a restricted list, which denies them future access to the Habur Gate facility. The driver's company is then notified of the violations, and a new driver is requested.

Once the 609th MCT has trucks in its staging yards, it reports to its higher headquarters, the 330th Trans. Battalion and 3rd ESC. Depending on the

needs of the forward operation bases and sustainment brigades, trucks will either stay within the staging yards for a few days or continue to transport the goods to its final destination.

The amount of trucks moving into Iraq and what classes of supplies depends on reports from sustainment brigades. For example, Trucks carrying class I supplies don't stay in the staging yards as long as class III because food is more likely to spoil before it reaches its destination.

The 609th MCT's process of inspections is important because it helps drivers do their job effectively. As a result, it allows supplies destined for Coalition forces to arrive in a timely manner.

"Putting drivers through the inspection process can be uncomfortable for them, but it is very necessary," Hart said. "If drivers are not able to perform their jobs safely, it could have fatal results, and cause delays in sustainment operations."



A message from the Commanding General



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

AETV-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Women's History Month 2009

1. In honor of the significant contributions and sacrifices women have made throughout American history, Women's History Month is celebrated annually during the month of March. President Ronald Reagan signed the observance of Women's History Month into public law in March 1987. Our 2009 National Theme is "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet."
2. The 2009 celebration honors women who have demonstrated leadership on a local, state, national or international level regarding protecting our environment. Honorees include scientists, engineers, conservationists, teachers, writers, filmmakers, community organizers, business and workplace leaders, and others whose lives show exceptional vision toward saving our planet for future generations.
3. Soldiers of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) should reflect on the service of women, past, present and future, and their many contributions to our nation's well-being. All subordinate units of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are encouraged to support appropriate programs and activities to observe Women's History Month.
4. "Sustaining the Line."

Michael J. Lally
MICHAEL J. LALLY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A

Transporters train to stay safe

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The 233rd Transportation Company, from Fort Knox, Ky., conducts a two to four-day safety stand down every three months to enforce safety standards both on base and on the roads of Iraq.

The classes are taught by junior enlisted Soldiers on the importance of safety in the buildings on base, convoy tracking, proper care of hazardous

materials and driving procedures to reinforce safety standards.

“It’s so important to stress it now,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard M. Wolfe, the truck master for the 233rd Trans. Co., and Butler, Pa., native. “It keeps their focus on being safe and doing the right thing versus doing it quickly to get it done.”

A primary focus during the safety stand down is electrical and fire hazards. Soldiers go through fire drills and ensure two fire exits are clear in all of the 233rd Trans. Co. buildings.

Soldiers also get a refresher class on the movement tracking system. The MTS provides texting capabilities via satellite and gives convoys a form of

communication to headquarters when vehicle radios are out of range.

The transporters also go through hazardous material training.

“With all the different chemicals they work with (in the motor pool), we have to have (the chemicals) properly disposed of, properly stored and take special time to train for certification,” said 1st Lt. John. O. Ferrell, the safety officer for the 233rd Trans. Co., and Pasadena, Calif., native.

Some of the most useful training the drivers go through is emergency braking procedures, which they practice. They go through drills releasing the brakes, dropping the transmission and using the trailer brakes and

engine power to stop the heavy equipment transporter vehicles used by the unit.

These emergency braking procedures were introduced into the company’s safety stand down after a vehicle accident occurred because of a steep slope on Fort Knox.

“If you train in a garrison environment, (conduct) repetitive training and emphasize the safety aspects it’s going to be instantaneous when you are put into a situation,” Wolfe said. “Safety saves lives. Each deployment we have had no significant accidents and we’ve taken every Soldier home each time and we can do it again this time.”



Military brat has Army, Fort Knox running through his veins

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – For some service members, joining the military was just an option, but for Sgt. Gregory Gayfield Jr., the military is something he just can’t seem to escape.

A native of Radcliff, Ky., Gayfield describes himself as being born with combat boots on.

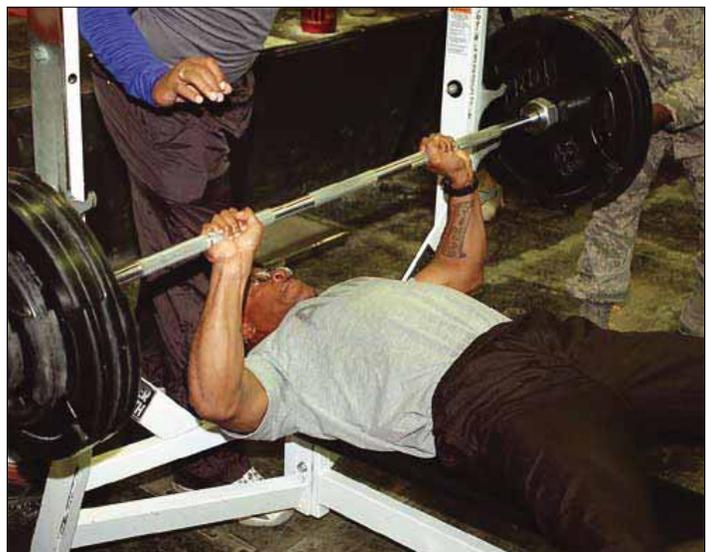
Born in Milwaukee, Wis., the young Gayfield is the son of Gregory Gayfield Sr., a retired Army sergeant first class and Debra A. Gayfield. Raised much of his younger years in Chicago, he spent most of his life around the Army as his father was stationed at the now-closed Fort Sheridan.

As a young child, Gayfield spent many years in different countries, with Germany being a constant home for his Family. While stationed there, the Family lived at many installations to include Stuttgart, Kaiserslautern and Carl Schurz. The younger Gayfield considers himself fortunate to have lived in different countries and understands the diverse cultures of the world.

“I was very lucky to have been able to experience different cultures at a young age,” Gayfield said. “This prepared me for my own military career, even though I didn’t know it at the time.”

After many tours in Germany, the elder Gayfield chose Fort Knox as his last duty station before retirement. This allowed the Gayfields to reunite with other Family members and become permanent residents in a large military community.

The younger Gayfield spent his grade school years attending Macdonald Intermediate School and Fort Knox High School. In 1994, he graduated from



Sgt. Gregory Gayfield, a Radcliff, Ky., native and food service specialist for the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), works hard to bench-press 285 pounds during a recent competition here. Gayfield placed fifth in the competition which sought the strongest pound-for-pound competitor on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

North Hardin High School and he said the first day on campus at North Hardin was familiar.

“I remember when I started attending North Hardin, I noticed that many of my friends from Fort Knox High were there,” Gayfield said. “We had a long-standing joke that North Hardin at the time was just Fort Knox all over again, since many former Fort Knox students were now there. They were just like me, in that their parents retired and decided to stay in the area.”

This camaraderie between his peers led to Gayfield joining the Army Reserve in 1994 as a food service specialist, after a brief enrollment at Western Kentucky University.

While his life is similar to that of his

father, he said he secured a place in the Gayfield Family tradition as well.

“When I joined the Army, not only was I third generation Army, but I was third generation Quartermaster Corps as well,” Gayfield said. “My grandfather and my father were members of the Quartermaster Corps. You meet a lot of kids growing up who are fellow military brats, but to be a third generation military brat on more than one level is something special.”

His path in the Army led to a life similar to his father, as he now travels the world to different duty stations. To date, he has served at Fort Hood, Texas; Camp LaGuardia, South Korea and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

After many deployments and PCS

moves, the younger Gayfield is finally stationed at Fort Knox where he and his Family consider home. Returning to Fort Knox meant a lot to Gayfield and has allowed him more opportunities in his career.

“When I returned to Fort Knox, my Family was really grateful for me to be there because they would have the opportunity to see me more,” Gayfield said. “Being stationed there allows me to help out my parents, and spend more time with my wife and three beautiful daughters.”

Gayfield quickly realized that a lot changed since his childhood years. In particular, he noticed the growth of Fort Knox and its surrounding areas.

Buildings that were once on post and shopping centers he remembered as a child have moved or relocated to different locations. He described his feelings while driving on Fort Knox for the first time as being weird because of the many changes. Though different than he remembered, he was able to adjust and accept it as his home.

Now a member of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Gayfield considers himself fortunate because of the differences from his previous units.

He explained his new unit has given him a chance to experience a different aspect of the Army. With the 3rd ESC, he has been able to experience operations from a top-level sustainment command. He said he is able to see operations put into actions rather than being the one performing the action. It has been different -- but an enjoyable -- experience.

Gayfield said he makes a conscious effort to spend more time with his Family. “A big goal of mine is to just relax more and enjoys things while I’m stationed here [Fort Knox] since I always seem to be in a big hurry than when I was in this area,” Gayfield said. “It’s been a good move so far and a great experience.”

Practicing safety while you train, compete

BY SPC. KELLY ANNE BECK
Expeditionary Times Staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – According to the safety director here, 17 Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade reported sports-related injuries in January, making it the number one safety issue here.

While deployed, many Soldiers receive injuries due to over-exertion, which is playing while already hurt, or by straining their muscles, said Jeffrey Buchanan, the safety director for the 16th Sust. Bde. These types of incidents are preventable by stretching properly before and after an activity and by taking precautions while playing.

According to Department of the Army pamphlet 385-5 Fundamentals of Safety in Morale Support Activities, sports and recreational accidents rank second in cause of injuries to privately owned motor vehicle accidents. Accidental injury is a major cause of weakened combat effectiveness by the loss of skilled personnel.

Although it is important for Soldiers to participate in physical activities they enjoy, it is imperative they participate in the safest way possible, Buchanan said.

“A lot of people become more (physi-



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

Members of the Air Force and Army compete in the Turkey Bowl at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Nov. 27. The Air Force was defeated by the Army 59-34 in the flag football game. According to DA PAM 385-5 touch football has the highest percentage chance of disabling injuries among supervised team sports.

cally) active in this type of environment,” Buchanan said. “They want to stay in shape and sometimes they overestimate their abilities. Some of these Soldiers come over on a deployment and they haven’t played sports in a while, so they push themselves too hard. Push yourself, but know your own abilities.”

Buchanan said although there were

17 reported injuries, many sports injuries have gone unreported.

Although DA PAM 385-5 states touch football has the highest percentage chance of disabling injuries among supervised team sports, it cautions that there are safety risks when playing any sport.

Buchanan said regardless of what

sport a Soldier is playing, there is a possibility for injury if they forget the safety standards.

The majority of sports-related injuries are from people not reporting their first incident, Buchanan said. Soldiers don’t report they’re hurt because they want to play through it or don’t want to risk being told not to play. He said continuing to play with an injury is the most un-safe thing a Soldier can do.

“Playing with an injury will only make it worse, probably keeping the Soldier from playing for even longer,” Buchanan said.

Besides not reporting an injury, Buchanan said most Soldiers jump into their intramural sports games or pickup games without considering the risks. The number one cause of injury in unsupervised team sports is basketball because many Soldiers start again without stretching properly, Buchanan said.

The proper stretching procedures before participating in a physical activity are stated in Field Manual 21-20, Army Physical Fitness Training.

In order to maintain the competitiveness and value to the game it is impossible to play without physical contact. Every accident has a cause, and all precautions should be taken to avoid them.

Have fun, stay in shape, be aggressive and continue to play sports, Buchanan said -- just don’t forget the importance of playing safely.

Second green safety streamer awarded

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Col. Martin B.

Pitts, 16th Sustainment Brigade commander, awarded the brigade’s second safety streamer to Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st

Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., during a battalion formation here Feb. 17.

The HHC Soldiers went 90 days without an accident, to become the second company in the brigade to be awarded the green safety streamer since the brigade deployed to Iraq in July 2008.

“This is the second streamer I’ve tied since I’ve been in Iraq,” Pitts said to the Soldiers in the battalion formation. “These Soldiers did the safe thing, inside and outside the wire. They owned the edge.”

Pitts singled out the battalion for another safety accomplishment; no negligent discharges in Iraq.

HHC deployed to Iraq in February 2008 on a 15-month deployment.



Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, presents a certificate of achievement for safety excellence to the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, during a battalion formation at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Feb. 17.



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



Aloha Alpha Detachment, 125th FM Co

BY STAFF SGT. MICHAEL W. TUCKER
UPAR, 10th Sust. Bde.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq – After five months of individual readiness training, technical and tactical training, and a field training exercise, Alpha Detachment, 125th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, arrived at FOB Falcon on Jan. 14, ready for its mission.



The 23-person detachment from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, will spend a total of 12 months conducting finance operations for FOB Falcon Soldiers. In addition to office operations, A Det., 125th FM Co. has the responsibility of conducting mobile finance missions throughout its area of operation.

A Det., 125th FM Co. is commanded by Capt. Marcia Dailey, a native of Saint



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brianna Jerome

2nd Lt Charryse Bass, a resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., re-enlists Spc. Zorwell Largo, a resident of Fair Oaks, Calif. Largo re-enlisted for five years on Feb. 7. Both Soldiers are currently deployed with Alpha Detachment, 125th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The Detachment Sergeant is Sgt. 1st Class Ken-

dall Booker, a Lanett, Ala., native, and dis-bursing is headed by 2nd Lt. Charryse Bass, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. Chief of Military Pay is Staff Sgt. Michael Tucker, a native of Perrysburg, Ohio.

Pfc. Jared Ouimette, a Highland, Mich., native, and Soldier of A Det., 125th FM Co. also has a Soldier supporting a mission at the 208th Financial Management Company, 10th Sust. Bde. Troops Bat., 10th Sust. Bde.

With the first month of deployment behind them, Soldiers of A Det., 125th FM Co. will now turn their attention to cross-training to provide a diverse team. After normal duty hours,

many A Det. Soldiers are keeping busy improving their minds and bodies. Many are either enrolled, or in the process of enrolling, in college classes or concentrating on working out at the gym.

On Feb. 1, Pvt. Jaime Velastegui, a native of Houston, and Pvt. Johnnie Ward, a Washington, N.C., native, were promoted to the rank of private first class. Spc. Zorwell Largo, a Fair Oaks, Calif., native, was the first of many Soldiers to reenlist for five more years.

Training is an ongoing task for the detachment. One Soldier attended and completed the combat lifesaver course and two Soldiers are currently enrolled in the General Technical score improvement class.

April will mark the start of the R&R leave portion of the rotation, which will be a welcomed break for many A Det. Soldiers. With this team of highly motivated and dedicated Soldiers, A Det., 125th FM Co. is ready to accomplish any task or mission that may come its way.

A Soldier's duty: Knowledge is power

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. ANGELA ROKEY
UPAR, 259th CSSB

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Sgt.



Jacob Weigel, a resident of Golden, Colo., lends his expertise in the classroom teaching functional academic skills training (FAST) at the Blackjack Education Center here in order to help fellow Soldiers improve their General Technical score.

Since October 2008, Weigel, the contracting officer's assistant for the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 304th Sustainment Brigade, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has taught nearly 180 Soldiers. Eighty percent of whom have improved their GT score.

"This class is a great tool Soldiers can use to improve their arithmetic and reading skills," Weigel said.

Soldier-students are required to meet three hours a day for four weeks. Sgt. Weigel assigns homework relating to the lesson of the day. "We work out of individual lesson books based

on what each students needs are and those areas are determined based on an initial TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) test," Weigel said.

After completing all the individual lessons, Soldiers have the option to take the GT test which roughly predicts their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score.

Sgt. Nikki Pettey, a resident of Marysville, Wash., and a Soldier in Bravo Company, 51st Signal Battalion, finished the most recent FAST class Feb. 13 and noted that she raised her score by four points.

"I really enjoyed the class," Pettey said. "It was a refresher course for me. Math isn't my strong subject and this class helped me out."

Practice tests are taken on a weekly basis, giving Soldiers the opportunity to track their improvements. Weigel's students embrace his hands-on approach to teaching.

"Whenever you need help he was there to explain and work the problem for you to understand," Pettey said, adding, "I am the type of person that needs someone to show me how to work a problem and tell me what I'm doing wrong. He did a great job doing that."

Many Soldiers, like Pettey, choose to further their education during deployment in order to keep their minds active and to change up the monotony of military work. The 304th Sust. Bde. fosters such efforts through the Strong and Ready Warrior Program, a program initiated by Brigade Commander, Lt. Col. Norman B. Green, the brigade commander, and led by Capt. Peter Strong, a chaplain. "My desire is to see Soldiers take on leadership roles, especially NCOs. Strong said this is a perfect way for NCO's to help mentor their Soldiers and help them become promotable."

The Strong and Ready Warrior Program institutes four pillars of a Soldier's growth: body, mind, emotions and spirit. These components work together to build the concept of personal improvement and bettering oneself during deployment.

Strong said he believes Sgt. Weigel's efforts tie directly into the "mind" pillar of the program and noted the significant impact of his classes. "What many people don't know is that if a Soldier can improve their GT score to a 110 or better, he or she can change their MOS and qualify for certain military schools," Strong said. "This opens

the door for all kinds of opportunities for the Soldiers."

Strengthening the mind through such classes as Sgt. Weigel's FAST can directly affect the well-being of Soldiers and can ultimately empower their goals by providing countless career possibilities in the military and civilian side. Petty said the class sparked her desire to start college courses when she returns home.

Weigel plans to continue teaching until he leaves this summer. "I really enjoy getting to help other Soldiers. These classes are extremely focused on the individual and their learning habits which gives me the chance to learn a lot about the Soldier and how I can improve my teaching style," Weigel said. He starts his next FAST class on Feb 23.

"The Army has been well served by Sgt. Weigel," Strong said. He also said he is proud to see such strong, positive effects of the Strong and Ready Warrior program. "Through his work, we now have Soldiers who are motivated and enthusiastic about their role in the Army. They will be going home from deployment with a new outlook on military service."

10th Sustainment Brigade
Task Force Muleskinner
10th Sustainment Brigade, Camp Taji <http://www.taskforcemuleskinner.army.mil/mm.asp>

Water plant bottles water for troops

BY SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Since 2005, the Oasis International Waters bottling plant here has provided Soldiers in northern Iraq with clean bottled water, enabling Soldiers to stay hydrated while focusing on their mission.

Peter Balitski, the quality assurance reverse osmosis manager, said the plant does everything from purifying the water, to making the bottle and packaging it through highly automated equipment. He said the number one priority of the plant is to provide safe water for the Soldiers.

"We pride ourselves on being able to provide an adequate amount of purified water for the troops," Balitski said.

The plant runs 24-hours a day, seven days a week and produces up to two million bottles per week.

Even though the plant produces a high amount of bottled water, the quality does not suffer, Balitski said.

"We fall under the same regulations as any bottling plant in the United States and we're expected to meet the same regulations imposed by the Food and Drug Administration," Balitski said. "We proudly meet those expectations."

Each of the six bottling plants located around Iraq are designed to support the population on its home base and the forward operating bases in close proximity to it.

"The water is distributed from our facility to the class one yard, where it is allocated to convoys headed to the outlying FOBs," Balitski said.

Maj. Stephanie J. Requa, class one officer in charge for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said the water bottling plant has been successful because Soldiers

are not on the road delivering water long distance. She said it also saves the Army a lot of money to bottle water locally.

"It is beneficial to have water produced where it is needed, instead of having it shipped in from other countries," Requa, said. "We save approximately, \$900,000 a month using the six water bottling plants in theater."

The bottles are first formed from a five-inch plastic tube into a one liter bottle. Then, the newly made bottles are filled with purified water that is initially pumped from a canal near JBB fed by the Tigris River.

"We run it through a very complex water processing system," Balitski said.

The 20th Quartermaster Company from Fort Campbell, Ky., has a very close working relationship with the plant because they supply and maintain the equipment used to pump the water from the canal to the plant.

Balitski said from the time the

bottle is made, filled, capped and loaded on a pallet, there is no human contact.

"No one touches it from the beginning to the end," Balitski said.

Balitski said his favorite part of working in this environment is the interaction with the Soldiers here on JBB. He said when he is in the dining facility, Soldiers come up to him, recognize him from the logo on his shirt and say, "Hey you're the water bottling guy."

"It's a source of personal pride for me to be working in this environment with the troops here and the U.S. military," Balitski said.

Balitski said the entire company and everyone that works here takes pride in providing a life sustaining element for the troops.

"The biggest reward we get is when a Soldier thanks us," Balitski said.



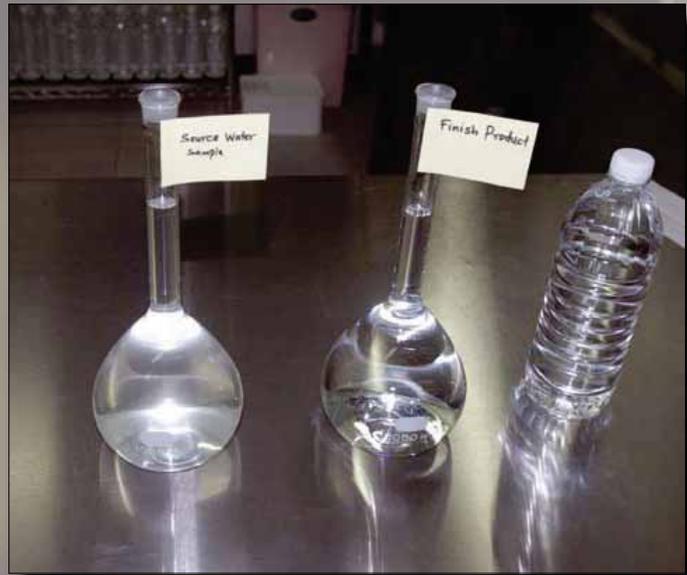
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mario A. Aguirre

Five-inch plastic tubes move on a conveyor belt at the Oasis International Waters bottling plant. Each tube is molded into a 1-liter bottle and filled with purified drinking water.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mario A. Aguirre

An employee at the Oasis International Waters bottling plant on Joint Base Balad tests water to ensure regulations imposed by the Food and Drug Administration are met. From the time the bottles above are made, filled, capped and loaded onto a pallet, there is no human contact.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mario A. Aguirre

Two beakers – one containing water before processing, another afterwards – are compared side-by-side to illustrate the difference in water quality after processing. The finished product, bottled, is displayed at right.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mario A. Aguirre

Water is moved from the treatment and bottling facility to the class one yard, where it is allocated to convoys headed to the outlying FOBs. The Army saves approximately \$900,000 a month using the six water bottling plants in theater.

Sustainers introduce Read Iraq program to Al Ansam School

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MASTER SGT. CARL MAR
UPAR, 287th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – On Feb. 18, the 287th Sustainment Brigade civilian military operations team introduced its “Read Iraq” program to the students and teachers of Al Ansam School, located in the town of Al Ager, in the Dhi Qar Province.

The 287th Sust. Bde. is a National Guard unit from Wichita, Kan., and is based at COB Adder where it oversees sustainment operations in southern Iraq.

The “Read Iraq” program uses Soldier volunteers to read children’s books to young Iraqi students who are learning English as a second language. At the same time, the children learn about Western culture from the readers.

With an enrollment of over 200 students, Al Ansam School is the largest Iraqi school augmenting its English language courses with the “Read Iraq” program.

Reading at the school was Master Sgt. Stephen Brandt, a 287th Sust. Bde. medical operations noncommissioned officer, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Patton, the 287th Sust. Bde. support operations maintenance branch chief.

Brandt, who is married and has three children between the ages of seven and nine, lives with his family in Kansas City, Kan. He teaches math at Washington High School and is also head coach for the school’s track team.

“I read a book about a young raccoon who thought he couldn’t do anything special,” Brandt said. “His sister played the piano well, his mom cooked well and his father could build things well. But everything he tried he couldn’t do well, until at the end of the story, he learns that he could paint well.”

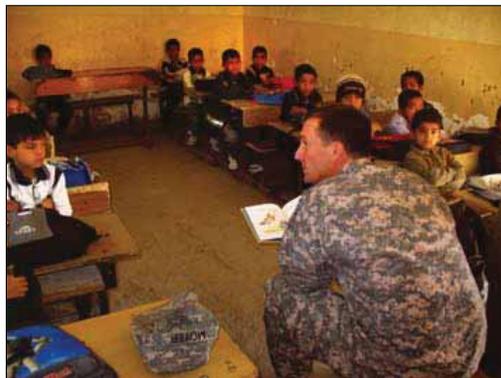
While he read he occasionally flipped the story-book around.

“That’s when I could look around and see that their eyes were focused on me or the interpreter,” he said. “They looked serious until they saw the pictures, then they’d giggle.”

He read to two groups of approximately 40 to 45 students each; one classroom of eight-year olds and another classroom of 10-year-olds. Only a few students in each class knew a little English.

The classrooms, Brandt said, were small, about a quarter the size of Kansas classrooms. Students sat three abreast at a single table, with five tables running alongside each of two walls. At the front of the classrooms were chalk boards -- and nothing else. There were no desks for the teachers’ use.

“I admire the Iraqi teachers for what they do with so little teaching aids,” Brandt said. “I’m going to write home to my school and ask if they can help in



Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, the 287th Sustainment Brigade civilian military operations officer, reads to students in one Al Ansam classroom as part of the “Read Iraq” program Feb. 18. With an enrollment of over 200 students, the Al Ansam School located in the town of Al Ager, Dhi Qar province, is the largest school to be introduced to the program.

any way, with school supplies, books, projectors and computers. I’d like to help this school however I can.”

Patton is married, the father of six children and five grandchildren and resides in Chapman, Kans. He retired last summer from his job as the Allied Trades Supervisor at Fort Riley’s Mobilization and Training Equipment Site facility.

Patton said he had expected to read to a class of 8-year-old girls, but instead found only one girl in his classroom.

“I thought they would be all third-grade girls, so in my preparations I chose a book about two princesses,” Patton said. “It’s a story about how two princesses scheme against each other to be the number one princess in their kingdom. The problem is solved when their mother, the Queen, decides that they can each take turns being the number one princess.”

“It was a good story for girls. But I ended up in a room full of boys except for one girl,” Patton said.

He read the story anyway, and afterwards he said he thought all the kids enjoyed it.

Patton read two additional books: A book about a cement truck and how its driver could do all kinds of projects with cement and another book about animals.

“The animal book had simple questions like what is the difference between big cats and little cats? The kids answered that the big cats could eat you. The correct answer is that big cats have a special bone in their throats that allows them to roar,” Patton said.

Reflecting on his “Read Iraq” experience, Patton said the Iraqi children acted just like regular kids. They were in the early stages of learning English but perhaps already knew more than American kids learning a second language.

“When I showed them pictures from the animal book, they easily identified them in English as ‘dog,’ ‘cat,’ ‘fish,’” Patton said, “You could tell from their faces, their actions and enthusiasm that they enjoyed the exercise. I enjoyed it.”

What did the kids learn about Americans in return?

Patton, who is 58, told the students about his age.

“I am probably one of the older people in the military at this time,” Patton said. “I told them I have grandkids their age, that my visit with them today was like me reading to my grandkids and that they reminded me of being home. I hope they took it that I was not that much different from their own grandparents.”

Sustainer, New U.S. citizen has interesting story

BY MAJ. DALE COPARANIS
167th CSSB PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – For Spc. Adriana Chung of Alpha Company, 636th Brigade Support Battalion, becoming an American citizen was extremely exciting. Her story, however, is not necessarily one you would expect.

Chung speaks fluent Korean, yet her citizenship is Argentinean. She speaks fluent English but very little Spanish. She often takes a moment to explain why her history is unusual.

“I was born in Argentina,” she begins, “but only lived there a few months before my father brought us to America.” Her father emigrated from South Korea to



U.S. Army photo by Sgt 1st Class Michael Porter
Spc. Adriana Chung and Pfc. Deseri Brewer of Alpha Company, 636th Brigade Support Battalion, pose for a picture. Chung is about to become a U.S. citizen thanks, in great part, to Brewer’s help.

Argentina a number of years earlier and operated a clothing business.

Shortly after Adriana was born, they moved to California where other members of her father’s family were living. Ten years later, they moved to Dallas, which Chung now calls home.

Chung said she always thought about becoming a citizen, but had not become serious about it until the elections in 2008. Her younger sister, who had been born in the U.S., was able to vote and Chung was not. In addition, she could not obtain a security clearance with the Army until she became naturalized.

Chung started her citizenship process at Fort Stewart, Ga., during mobilization with her company.

1st Sgt. Warner Stadler, Chung’s first sergeant, helped coordinate with the personnel at Fort Stewart for the proper forms and fingerprints.

When she arrived in Iraq, Pfc. Deseri Brewer, A Co., 636th Bde. Support Bn. legal clerk, worked hard to get the final items together so that Chung would be ready for her March 3 naturalization ceremony.

During this process, Chung’s friends, neighbors, and family were all interviewed. “They asked all sorts of questions, such as where I’ve lived, if I had any debts and if I’ve ever had membership in political groups,” Chung said.

“The process was not as long or hard as I expected,” she said. “I’m very happy and my parents are very excited for me.”

Sustainer teammates receive citizenship

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. DAVID EMERSON
*UPAR, 3rd Battalion, 133rd
Field Artillery Regiment*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq – Two Soldiers – Spc.
Hugo Murguia and Cpl. Juan Villegas from
Charlie Company, 1st
Battalion, 17th Field
Artillery, 3rd Bat-
talion, 133rd Field
Artillery Regiment,
287th Sustainment
Brigade – became naturalized United

Cpl. Juan Villegas, a Soldier with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, became a U.S. citizen during a naturalization ceremony in Baghdad on March 3.



States citizens during a ceremony at Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq, on March 3.

For many of those attending it is a long awaited-event.

“I’ve always wanted to become a citizen, because I always felt like I didn’t really have a country,” said Murguia, who resides in Colecamp, Mo.

Soldiers deployed in Iraq can go through the naturalization process quicker than those trying to obtain citizenship state-side because they are given priority due to their special circumstance.

The process begins by filling out the



Spc. Hugo Murguia, and a convoy escort team gunner with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, became a U.S. citizen during a naturalization ceremony in Baghdad on March 3.



standard paperwork and takes about six months as opposed to the normal year and a half.

“I feel relieved to be finally getting it done, I’ve put off so long and I’m the last one in my family who is not a citizen,” said Villegas, who lives in Cochise, Ariz.

Murguia and Villegas have a unique relationship. While they are friends, Villegas is also Murguia’s team leader on a convoy escort team. Villegas said it is his job to take care of Murguia and to make sure he has everything he needs.

“I started to get on him to get it done, because it’s something he is go-

ing to need later in life,” Villegas said.

“Yeah, Cpl. ‘V’ really influenced me to just go ahead and get it done. I was going to wait till we got back to the states, but he had already started his application and really pushed for me to get it done here,” Murguia said.

Both Soldiers came to the U.S. from Mexico as children and became permanent residents, a status that has the same rights as naturalized citizens, except the right to vote.

“I’m excited! I’ve been going around telling everyone the next time you see me I’ll be a citizen!” Murguia said before the ceremony took place.

Triple Nickel Shamrock Shuffle



555 Engineer Brigade presents the 5.55K Shamrock Shuffle

Come celebrate St. Patrick’s day at:

Date: 17 March 2009

Start Point: Holt Stadium

Opening Remarks: 0615

Run Start Time: 0630

T-shirts will be given to the first 1000 finishers!!

POC: CPT Lisa Corcoran, 555 EN Bde at 483-2361



Black History Month makes history

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from 181st Brigade Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, celebrated Black History Month with skits, songs, a saxophone and speeches at the morale, welfare and recreation base complex here Feb. 25.

The Washington and California Guardsmen said that it is important to recognize the struggles and accomplishments of Black Americans.

"I think it's very important to be culturally aware, so that we're all engaged in diversity and knowledgeable about our fellow Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Brandy Kurtze, the senior human resources noncommissioned officer and equal opportunity leader for the 181st Brigade Support Battalion.

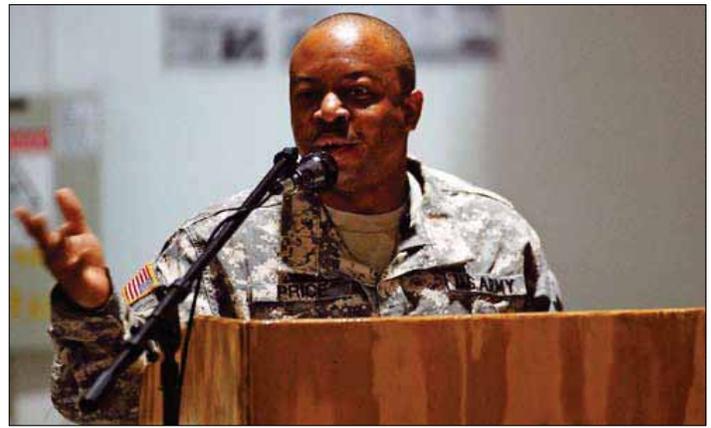
Kurtze, who organized the event, said that cultural events in the military improve unit cohesiveness.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin T. Price, the guest speaker at the event, said African Americans have made history.

"Black History Month is a time in the U.S. where people of color are recognized for their great contributions and their great sacrifices," Price said. "Crispus Attucks, a fugitive slave serving as an American patriot, was the first American to lose his life for independence."

Price went on to name many other African Americans that made history, including George Washington Carver, the famous agriculturalist and inventor of peanut butter; W.E.B. Du Bois, the author and civil-rights activist who wrote "The Souls of Black Folks"; and Booker T. Washington, the famous educator who ran the Tuskegee Institute and who accomplished much to improve education and establish schools for minorities.

Price challenged the African American Soldiers and leaders in the audience



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin T. Price, brigades ammunition officer, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and the guest speaker at a Black History Month observance at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, tells the audience of Soldiers and leaders that African Americans have made history, during his speech at the morale, welfare and recreation base complex Feb. 25.

at the Black History Month observance.

"My challenge to all African Americans here tonight is this: We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated," Price said. "You might even encounter some defeats that help you to know who you are. Take on adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak and every loss contains its own seed, its own lesson in life."

Price said African Americans have made history again now that an African American, President Barack Obama, is president of the United States.

"President Obama empowered us all by believing in himself and giving all African Americans hope, determination, courage and most of all the ability to achieve," Price said. "We have made history."

Iraqi entrapeneur creates jobs for the future

BY LT. COL. RENEE ROUSE
PAO, 304th Sust. Bde.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — In August 2008, Hashim Abd Al-Amir Mahdi, an Iraqi business man, entered into a partnership here with the U.S. government.

Hashim became the proprietor of the only container repair yard located on a U.S. military base in Iraq.

The collaboration between Hashim and the Soldiers is the result of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone program initiative that is geared toward assisting startup companies.

The I-BIZ initiative is intended to create joint business ventures to build the local Iraqi economy.

"I hire eighty percent of my employees through the Sons of Iraq Program," Hashim said. He said he is free to hire the remaining twenty percent of his choosing, provided they meet the screening criteria stipulated in the I-BIZ contract he entered into. The majority of Hashim's workers were previously farmers who now travel as far as 25 miles a day to work, to learn new skill sets and expertise in the areas of carpentry, welding and painting.

Hashim said each of his workers go through a month-long apprenticeship program until they become skillful in welding and plasma cutting. His program consists of classroom work, tests and partnering with an experienced worker to gain more knowledge. A normal week includes classroom work followed by a test.

"The workers stay in classes all day

to ensure all is ok," Hashim said.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commander of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) passed on to Hashim his philosophy on teaching new employees: "Watch one, do one, teach one." In other words, in order to achieve proficiency in a skill, one needs to watch someone to see how the job is done, do the job until it is mastered and teach others his learned skills.

Every three months each worker is re-tested and certified. The American Soldiers assist with initial training for the workers and testing. Hashim pays his workers in cash once a month a base salary of approximately \$468.

"This is more than the average college graduate from the University of Baghdad earns," Hashim said. He also said that workers can earn additional

income based on the more jobs they complete. He said that his best employee earned \$717 in one month.

Typically, Iraqis have to pay to learn a vocational trade. Hashim said this is why his workers continue to return to work each day -- they can get paid while learning a trade that will enable them to support their families.

Hashim is a very proud and humble man who states that the best part of his business is that it gives him a chance to better the lives of approximately 60 families per year. And as his workers become more proficient in their skills, they are given an opportunity to branch out, seek new careers and the option of one day starting their own business, thereby encouraging and promoting self-sufficiency for fellow countrymen.

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

16TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

287th Sustainment Brigade trains post attack reconnaissance teams

BY SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq – Each month, Sgt. 1st

Class Fred Jones, 287th Sustainment Brigade anti-terrorism and force protection non-commissioned officer in charge, conducts force protection training for brigade

members of the post action reconnaissance teams here.

“In many ways,” Jones said, “the PAR team is a mirror of the quick reaction force. The PAR team looks for dan-

ger inside the wire as opposed to the danger outside of the wire.”

Jones trains 14 teams consisting of 56 Soldiers from four subordinate units; the 287th Special Troops Battalion, the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, and the 167th, the 157th Combat Sustainment Support Battalions.

“My job is to make sure our Soldiers conduct post attack measures quickly and accurately when our base receives direct or indirect fire from the enemy,” Jones said.

After the team is alerted, they clear the base, look for unexploded ordnance, breaches in the wall security and any injured Soldiers that may need medical assistance in their designated area of responsibility.

“I set up realistic training for the Soldiers to react to different scenarios,” Jones said. “The first thing they do is to look

for unexploded ordnance. Once they determine there is no danger to themselves, they alert their PAR team leader for assistance to give first aid and to get the injured to a casualty collection point.”

If the team does encounter



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, the 287th Sustainment Brigade anti-terrorism and force protection non-commissioned officer in charge, prepares a dummy of an injured Soldier to simulate what PAR team members should search for after an attack.



U.S. Army courtesy photo

At the end of a day's training, Sgt. 1st Class Fred Jones, the 287th Sustainment Brigade anti-terrorism and force protection non-commissioned officer in charge receives an after action review from Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Adams and 1st Lt. Kurt Dawson, both of the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, on their post attack reconnaissance team's performance.

unexploded ordnance, they cordon off the area to keep everybody out of the blast zone, use binoculars to identify the ordnance and report the information to garrison. An explosive ordnance unit is mobilized to dispose of the ordnance.

Each company assigns different Soldiers to the teams for various reasons. Some are chosen because they have responsibilities that would not impact normal operations if they were gone, and others are chosen because they have certain responsibilities outside the gate. There are alternate plans to ensure the PAR teams are fully manned

when individual team members are on leave, sick or away for other reasons.

The monthly training, Jones said, keeps the PAR teams “ready and effective.”

Until recently, COB Adder hadn't been attacked since last spring. However, in the days leading up to the Iraqi Provincial elections, one mortar round struck the base.

“The PAR teams' response to the attack showed them that this training is real and that the training works,” Jones said.

Maintenance and Supply Topic of the Week

Courtesy of PS Magazine. Soldiers using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/psonline.cfm>

MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY



You're not done LUBIN' ...

... 'til all the OLD GREASE is pushed out!



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
 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

SPANISH BIBLE STUDY

Saturday 1930 Provider Chapel

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.,
 9 p.m.
 Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m.,
 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday- 9 a.m., 7
 p.m.
 Boxing:
 Sunday- 4 p.m.
 Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.
 Boot Camp:
 Sunday- 8:45 a.m.
 Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.

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

Level: Very Hard

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

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

Last weeks answers

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



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 3/11/09

Buffalo Sabres @ Philadelphia Flyers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Mavericks @ Phoenix Suns, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 World Baseball Classic: Teams TBD, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports

Championship Week: Horizon League Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Horizon League Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 World Baseball Classic: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 3/12/09

2009 World Baseball Classic: Teams TBD, Live 1:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Big East Tournament - Second Round: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Big East Tournament - Second Round: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra

2009 World Baseball Classic: Teams TBD (Foro Sol Stadium; Mexico City, Mexico), Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Northeast Conference Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Big Sky Conference Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 3/13/09

Los Angeles Lakers @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Phoenix Suns, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: ACC Tournament - First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Big East Tournament - Quarterfinal #4: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 3/14/09

Chicago Bulls @ Philadelphia 76ers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Big East Tournament - Semifinal #2: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
New Jersey Nets @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Patriot League Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/prime pacific

New Orleans Hornets @ Milwaukee Bucks, Tape Delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
Big Ten Tournament - Semifinal #2: Teams TBD (Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, IN), Live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 3/15/09

Championship Week: Atlantic 10 Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 1 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Big 12 Tournament - Championship: Teams TBD, Live 1 a.m. AFN/sports
Championship Week: Mid-American Conference Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Big West Conference Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: Big East Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
AMA Supercross: Anaheim, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/xtra
Championship Week: ACC Tournament - Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
SEC Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
Dallas Mavericks @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
2009 World Baseball Classic - Round 2: Teams TBD, Live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Monday 3/16/09

New York Knicks @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 1 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Jose Sharks @ Anaheim Ducks, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Phoenix Suns @ Golden State Warriors, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 World Baseball Classic - Round 2: Teams TBD, Live 6 a.m. AFN/sports
NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series: ACDelco NHRA Gatornationals, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 3/17/09

Washington Capitals @ Atlanta Thrashers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Nashville Predators @ Los Angeles Kings, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Jersey Nets @ Denver Nuggets, Tape Delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
Houston Rockets @ New Orleans Hornets, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports



This Week in History

March 11

- 2004 - Madrid Train Bombings: Simultaneous explosions on rush hour trains in Madrid kill 191 people.

March 12

- 1993 - North Korea nuclear weapons program: North Korea says that it plans to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and refuses to allow inspectors access to nuclear sites.

March 13

- 1997 - The Phoenix lights were seen over Phoenix, Ariz. by hundreds of people, and by millions on television. They are now a hotly debated controversy.

March 14

- 1951 - Korean War: For the second time, United Nations troops recapture Seoul.

March 15

- 1916 - President Woodrow Wilson sends 12,000 United States troops over the U.S.-Mexico border to pursue Pancho Villa.

March 16

- 1985 - Associated Press newsman Terry Anderson is taken hostage in Beirut. He is released on Dec. 4, 1991.

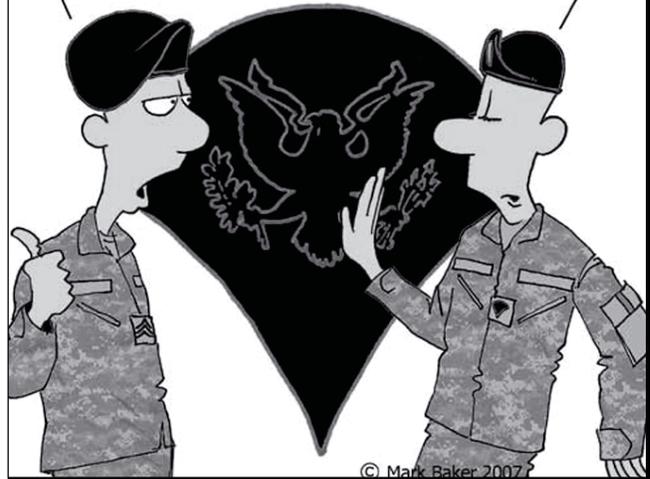
March 17

- 1985 - Serial killer Richard Ramirez, the "Night Stalker," commits his first two murders in Los Angeles, Calif. murder spree.

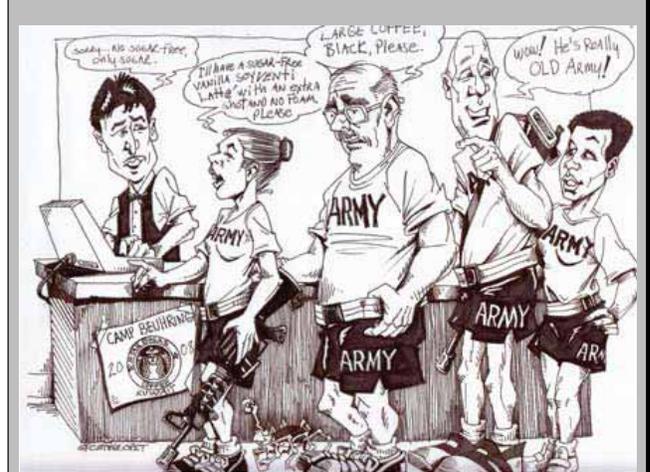
The Sham Shield

MURPHY, I NEED YOU TO...

SORRY, SARGE, NO CAN DO. I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT.



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet

Eastern Orthodox Services

For the Great Fast

Divine Liturgy
Every Sun 0900 ~ 1030

PreSanctified Liturgy
Wed 1900 ~ 2130
Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
Apr 1, 8, 15

Holy Week and Pascha

Apr 15 Unction 1900
Apr 16 Passion Gospels 1900

Apr 17 Royal Hours 1200
Lamentations 1700

Apr 18 St Basil Liturgy 0900
Great and Holy Pascha 2100

Eastern Orthodox Priest Chaplain Henry Close 433-2429
All services at Provider Chapel Annex



TOBYHANNA FRA

We are located at Bldg 6828 Victory Loop N
behind the Education Center at JBB

Computer Repair



Exchanges and DX



DSN: 312-987-5130, OPTION 1
EXT 6363/6364 HIT "F"
TYAD_FRA_Balad@mmsc.army.mil

We repair:

- Laptops
- Digital Senders
- Desktops
- LCD Monitors
- Printers
- UPS
- HP copiers
- Cisco Switches

We exchange:

- Batteries
- A/C Adapters
- Keyboards

Printer Repair



We DX:

- HIIDE
- PRC 112
- HCLOS
- TBC
- CAISI





GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT ONLY!

To open an account with us... just bring a signature card and an assumption of command letter.

“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 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*

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



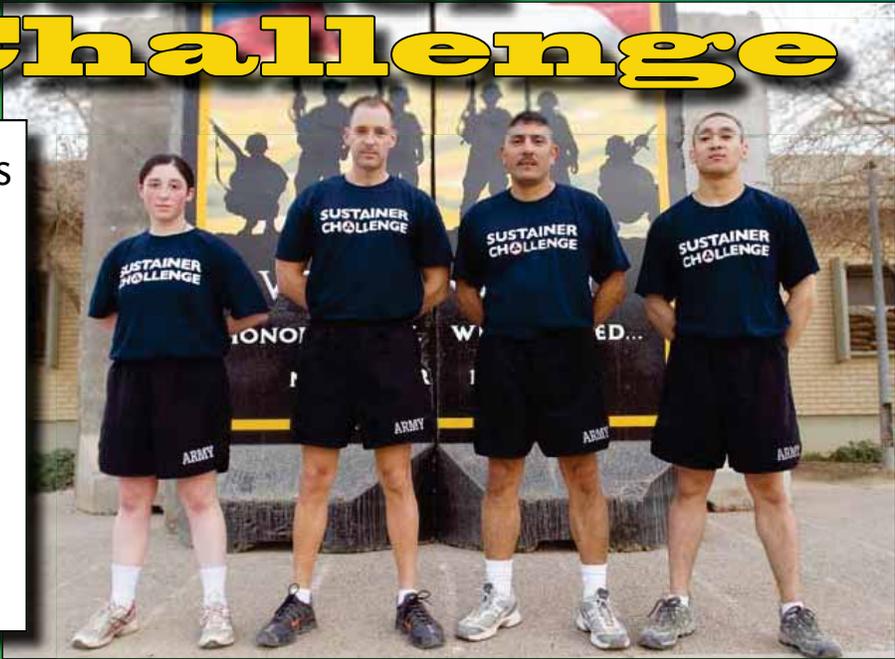
Sustainer Challenge

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 and Spc. Andre Tacardon.

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

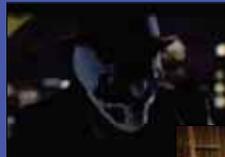
- Wednesday, March 11**
- 5 p.m. Street Fighter:
The Legend of Chun-Li
- 8 p.m. My Bloody Valentine
- Thursday, March 12**
- 5 p.m. My Bloody Valentine
- 8 p.m. Street Fighter:
The Legend of Chun-Li
- Friday, March 13**
- 2 p.m. Hotel for Dogs
- 5 p.m. Inkheart
- 8:30 p.m. Watchmen
- Saturday, March 14**
- 2 p.m. Inkheart
- 5 p.m. Watchmen
- 8 p.m. Last Chance Harvey
- Sunday, March 15**
- 2 p.m. Watchmen
- 5 p.m. Last Chance Harvey
- 8 p.m. Inkheart
- Monday, March 16**
- 5 p.m. Inkheart
- 8 p.m. Hotel for Dogs
- Tuesday, March 17**
- 5 p.m. Hotel for Dogs
- 8 p.m. Watchmen

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

Watchmen



300's Zack Snyder adapts Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' acclaimed comic book Watchmen for the big screen. Set in an alternate universe circa 1985, the film's world is an unstable one where a nuclear war is imminent between America and Russia. Superheroes have been forced to go into retirement due to the government's Keene Act, but the death of The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), an ex-hero commando, perks the interest of one of the country's last remaining superheroes, Rorschach



Inkheart

Mo Folchart is a father who possesses a secret ability to bring characters from books to life when he reads them aloud. But when Mo accidentally brings a power-hungry villain from a rare children's fable to life, the villain kidnaps Mo's daughter and demands Mo bring other evil fictional characters to life. In an attempt to rescue his daughter, Mo assembles a disparate group of friends - both real and magic - and embarks on a journey to save her and set things right.



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



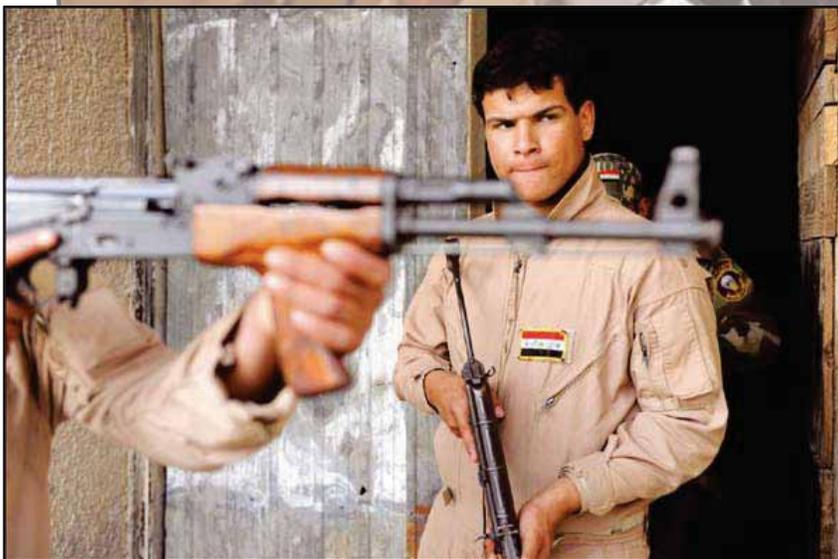
U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rasheen A. Douglas

U.S. Soldiers of the 67th Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, visit schools during a routine mission in Al Hayy, Iraq, Feb. 12, 2009.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jacob H. Smith

U.S. Soldiers assigned to 556th Signal Company, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, wait to board a transit bus. They are re-deploying back to Hawaii after spending the last 15 months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 23 2009.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karah Cohe

An Iraqi Soldier with the 26th Brigade, practices room clearing techniques taught by the U.S. Marine Corps, 26th Brigade Military Transition Team, in Basra, Iraq, on Feb. 25, 2009.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Robert J. Whelan

U.S. Army Spc. Cedric Griffen and Sgt. Raymond Aversch, with the 6th Iraqi Army Military Transition and Training Team, assemble a wheel for a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle in Kadhimiya, Iraq, Feb. 23 2009.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraq assumes responsibility of Sol program in Kirkuk

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – A large crowd gathered at an Iraqi Army base known as K-1, in Kirkuk, to witness the official transfer of responsibility of the Sons of Iraq in Kirkuk province from the U.S. Military to the 12th Iraqi Army Division on Feb. 25.

The SoI program, which began in 2007, is regarded by Coalition forces as an important security organization consisting of citizen Soldiers who assist in the fight against terrorists and help improve security in Iraq.

The crowd consisted of SoI, IA leaders, Kirkuk Provincial Police and U.S. military. The historic event marks significant steps in transferring the SoI to the Government of Iraq, which will make the first payment to them by April 1.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Ameer, the division commander for the 12th IA Div., was present to represent the IA, and Maj. Gen. Robert Caslen, commander, Multi-National Division-North, was present to sign on behalf of CF. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss the future of SoI and how to best continue their efforts in the region.

“This ceremony and what the SoI have done is very historic,” Caslen said.

According to Caslen, this transition is very important to the security of the region. By joining the SoI and the 12th IA, we are bringing different groups together to make one force that can defend Iraq.

“As we transition responsibility of the SoI to the GoI, it is important that we do it right and we must all be collectively committed to the success of this transfer,” Caslen said.

“We have a well-studied plan for the future of the SoI,” Ameer said. “We are coordinating with the leaders of the SoI. We are conducting meetings and planning for the future of the SoI.”

Opening classrooms, opening minds

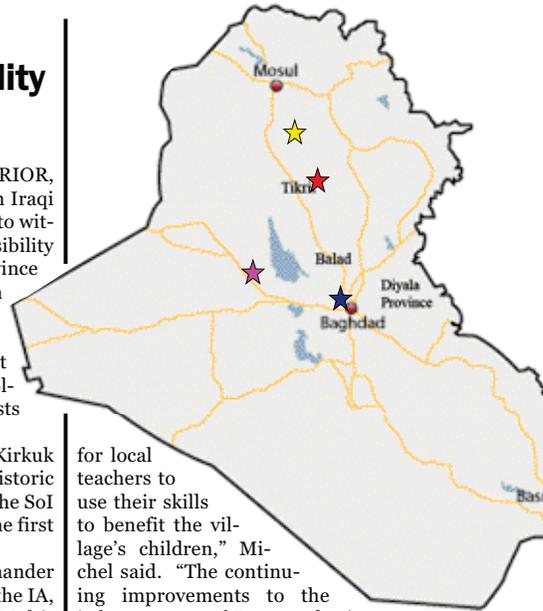
FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Kirkuk, Iraq – The Government of Iraq’s commitment to progress continues in the form of three new classrooms which opened at the Hegna Primary School on Feb. 15. The additional classrooms will allow younger children to focus on educational fundamentals.

“This is a great opportunity for the children of Hegna to have greater access to a learning environment and will allow teachers to be able to focus more closely on the children by reducing the classroom sizes,” said Capt. Justin Michel, the commander of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

According to Michel, the Government of Iraq has taken the responsibility of providing for its country’s future and is determined to create better lives for its citizens and its children by continuing to add on to this school and schools like it around the country.

The children of Hegna are not the sole beneficiaries of the GoI school openings.

“Opening more classrooms creates opportunities



for local teachers to use their skills to benefit the village’s children,” Michel said. “The continuing improvements to the infrastructure of Iraq are beginning to be more and more apparent in towns like Hegna. The GoI is providing its citizens the vital social services they need to continue to build a bright future for their country.”

Multiple contingency operating locations closed or turned over in Anbar

AL ASAD AIRBASE, Iraq – During the month of February 2009 in Al Anbar province, Multi National Force – West closed two observation posts and one patrol base and turned over two contingency operating posts and one observation post to Iraqi Security Forces.

These locations were closed or turned over as a result of the capability and professionalism of the Iraqi Security Forces to operate independently of Coalition forces, and in support of the security agreement between the U.S. and Iraq.

Truck handover brings hope of clean future

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Twenty waste sanitation trucks were turned over to the Government of Iraq during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Loyalty on Feb. 25.

The new trucks, used for sewage maintenance and repair, give the Iraqis additional capacity to work out sanitation problems in eastern Baghdad, said Conrad Tribble, chief of the Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

“It’s a tangible sign of what the U.S. government is doing to help Baghdad really address concrete needs. We’re not doing this to make ourselves look good, but to make their country better,” Tribble explained.

“Ultimately, the goal is to increase the capacity of

the municipal government and government legitimacy,” said Maj. Brad Hofmann, the civil military operations chief, 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

Hoffman and his team purchased the sewage trucks with Commander’s Emergency Response Funds to enable the municipal governments of Baghdad’s Karadah, Rusafa and nine Nissan districts.

“The trucks are going to fix the sewage and people are going to love it,” said Abel Hassan Al Fetlawi, the chief engineer of the New Baghdad province. “This is a pretty good thing.”

Basra regional courthouse ready to serve justice

BASRA – Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate the dedication of a new six-court regional courthouse of justice in Basra on Feb. 26.

The Union of Basra Court of Appeals was welcomed by Basra Governor Mohamad El Wa’eli, Iraqi Judiciary Commission Chairman Medhatt Al Mahmoud, Multi-National Division – South East Commander Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon, members of the Iraqi legal community, Iraqi security forces, other Coalition members and local media.

“This courthouse will be a monument of justice,” Mahmoud said. “Iraqi justice is very strong. It will not allow outside influences to keep it from serving justice.”

The regional courthouse is a \$10 million U.S.-funded project expected to be operational in about 10 days. It is the highest court in the province and is expected to handle civil and criminal cases.

“I think this building is a reflection of the progress that the Coalition and the Iraqis have made,” said Capt. Charles Bronowski, Multi-National Corps – Iraq Judge Advocate. “Rule of law is one of the most important aspects of self governance.”

The building took about one year to complete by Iraqi contractors with oversight by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to courtrooms, the facility includes investigation rooms, legal offices, a conference room and training facilities for staff.

“This is a symbol of the establishment of the rule of law and an increase in the judicial capacity,” Salmon said. “This is exactly what is required at this stage on the road from where we’ve been to where we’ve got to get to, which is a stable and peaceful Basra.”

IP receive tools for investigating crime scenes

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi crime scene investigators in Salah ad-Din Province evidence sections received 16 forensic evidence processing kits Feb. 25 to enhance their crime scene evaluations throughout the region.

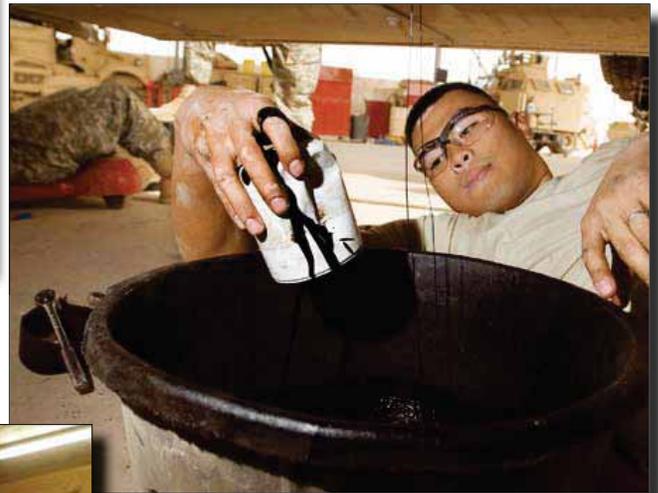
The kits were presented by the 733rd Military Police Battalion and other Multi-National Division-North personnel at the Joint Expeditionary Forensic Facility on Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

Sustaining the Line



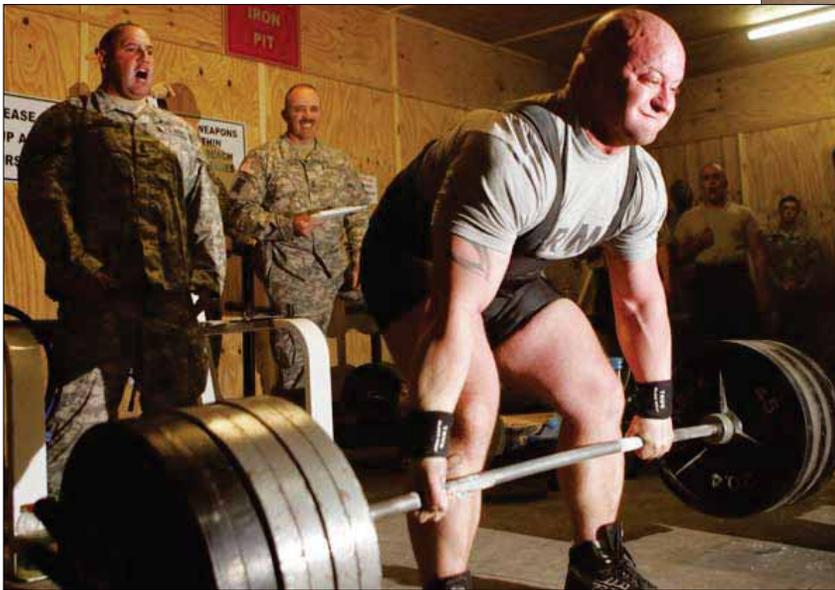
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

1st Lt. Molly C. Jensen from Audubon, Iowa, and the headquarters and headquarters detachment commander for the 421st Multi-Functional Medical Battalion based out of Wiesbaden, Germany, helps run a video presentation at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, March 5. Jensen volunteered her time for a suicide prevention class put on by 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



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

Spc. Richard R. Pacheco from Jacksonville, Fla., and a member of the 602nd Mechanic Company based at Fort Hood, Texas, changes the oil on a humvee at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, March 6. Pacheco is a wheeled vehicle mechanic attached to the 161st Infantry Division and stationed at JBB.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brian A. Kinney

Sergeant 1st Class Jeremy Slusher of Portsmouth, Ohio, competes in the dead lift event during the Show of Strength Power Lifting Contest on Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, Feb 10 2009. The contest was held by the 371st Sustainment Brigade, an Ohio Army National Guard unit, and consisted of competitors from both the Army and Marine Corps performing squats, bench presses and dead lifts.



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

Spc. Matthew P. Kelso from Bremerton, Wash., and a member of the 602nd Mechanic Company based at Fort Hood, Texas, works on a humvee at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, March 6. Kelso, an air conditioning mechanic, is attached to the 161st Infantry Regiment.