

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 16

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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 until 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: Master Sgt. Katrina Martin at katrina.martin2@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.

154th Transportation Company repositions to Afghanistan



Soldiers of the 154th Transportation Company load onto a C-17 aircraft for their flight to Afghanistan at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, April 14. The 154th Trans. Co., an active-component unit from Fort Hood, Texas, is the second 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unit in three weeks to move directly to Afghanistan from Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. ALEX SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – A transportation company here was moved from Iraq to Afghanistan on April 14, marking the second time in three weeks a 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unit has moved directly from one combat theater to another.

The 154th Transportation Company, an active-component unit from Fort Hood, Texas, was repositioned to southern Afghanistan where it will continue its mission of transporting supplies to Coalition forces, unit leadership said.

Capt. Corinne F. McClellan, the 154th Trans. Co. com-

mander, said the move would not change her unit's mission – only its location.

"We'll go wherever we are needed," McClellan said. "The Soldiers are ready to go."

Deployed to Iraq in January, over 150 Soldiers of the 154th Trans. Co. operated under the Fort Hood's 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. While stationed at Camp Liberty, the unit moved supplies to camps across Iraq, although most missions were in or around Baghdad.

1st Sgt. Eric A. Moree, the company's senior noncommissioned officer, said he is proud of his unit's performance thus far and believes they are "absolutely" ready to assume their mission in Afghanistan.

"We haven't lost a vehicle," Moree said. "We haven't lost a Soldier. We haven't lost any cargo. And in doing so we were



Spc. Keith E. Stoner, a gunner with the 154th Transportation Company's newly formed gun truck platoon, waits with other unit Soldiers for his company's flight to Afghanistan at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, April 14. The 154th Trans. Co., an active-component unit from Fort Hood, Texas, is the second 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unit in three weeks to move directly to Afghanistan from Iraq.

332 ESFS Blotter

April 8 - 14

HIT AND RUN COLLISION:

The victim driver telephoned the law enforcement desk and stated a vehicle collision had occurred. Security forces arrived on scene, and made contact with the victim who said he was driving his vehicle when it was struck by another vehicle causing some damage. The victim did not make contact with the driver of the second vehicle after the collision. The victim reported the collision to his flight chief, who relayed the need to complete a written statement.

VEHICLE DAMAGE:

A reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported damage to a vehicle. Security forces arrived on scene and made contact with the RP who said he was attempting to open a rear driver side sliding window when it fell and broke.

PATROL RESPONSE/STRAY ROUND:

A reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a stray round which had come through the roof. Security Forces arrived on scene and made contact with RP who said he was standing at the end of his bed when he heard a loud pop and noticed a round had come through the roof of his pod and embedded in the floor.

911 CALL/PATROL/FIRE RESPONSE:

A reporting party called the law enforcement desk via 911 and reported an MRAP was on fire. Security forces were dispatched along with the fire department personnel. Fire department personnel stated a flame ignited in the battery compartment due to a short in the relay box. On scene personnel attempted to put out the fire with their fire extinguisher, but the flame reignited once fire arrived on scene. Fire department personnel extinguished the fire.

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EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3rd 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

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

- John 11: 21-23 (NIV)

This is a passage of hope and optimism. The Creator wants us to know that our gloomy situation is not doomed. Let us not tarry in the valley of despair; let us run with joy in our success and accomplishments.

God is conveying to us through this passage that He is able to restore and revive hope where there is hopelessness.

God wants the privates and specialists to know they can be effective leaders. He wants the Soldiers to believe in themselves, and know they can overcome all things, and with Him nothing is impossible. If you are having financial hardship, your finances can change from a deficit to a surplus. Your bad can be transformed into good.

How do we begin walking in this belief?

- *Develop a spiritual connection with your Creator. You don't have to be religious in order to be spiritual.*
- *Know that God loves you. God wants you to succeed and excel in all that you do.*
- *We must believe that God is able. If we believe; we will receive. If you believe, you will walk in belief that all things are possible.*

Even now, your situation can change for the best. Never give up! The great thing about life, you can change your situation at any moment -- especially with God.

*Submitted by CH (CPT) Dwayne Jones
USAF, 3^d ESC Chaplain*

Hooah of the Week



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Amanda Tucker

Spc. Brian A. Barbour is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week". Barbour, from Phoenix, Ariz., is a member of the Arizona Army National Guard's 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Phoenix, Ariz. Barbour was selected for the award for his outstanding work as command photographer for the 3^d ESC.



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Military doctor makes medical history

BY STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A surgeon and his team made medical history at the Air Force Theater Hospital here March 30.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wilmer Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group vascular surgeon, and his team performed only the ninth medically documented transposition of the internal carotid artery, the artery that provides blood to the brain.

"A 42-year-old lady was seen at the (Iraqi) Balad Hospital by Iraqi physicians," Doctor Jones said. "She had a six-month history of headaches and a throbbing mass in her neck. (The Iraqi doctors) did an ultra-sound down at the Balad Hospital and saw what looked like an aneurism of the carotid artery, which is the artery that goes to the brain and the face.

"Hers was actually the portion of the artery that went to the brain, so it was much more serious," continued the doctor deployed here from Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio. "If it was just the artery going to the face, you could simply tie it off, ligate it, and that would take care of it. Since it was going to the brain, you can't really do that because if you ligate it, one-third of those people have a massive stroke."

Furthering the woman's need for the surgery was the size of the aneurism.

"The normal artery going to the brain is about eight-tenths of a centimeter in diameter and hers was three centimeters," Doctor Jones explained. "It was larger than a golf ball. If you don't do anything, 50 percent of those people will have a stroke."

Due to the seriousness of the woman's condition, the Iraqi doctors consulted with the medical staff here and determined a plan.

Approval was granted by higher headquarters to proceed with the elective surgery since it was not a battle-related injury.

Although Doctor Jones had previous experience performing similar surgeries, he did research, seeking other cases like hers to further his knowledge on



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dalia Ayala

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wilmer Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group vascular surgeon, reviews medical images here April 13. Doctor Jones recently performed only the ninth medically documented transposition of the internal carotid artery, the artery that provides blood to the brain. He performed the operation on a 42-year-old Iraqi woman. Doctor Jones is deployed here from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and is a native of Baltimore.

this particular kind of vascular surgery.

"On reviewing the literature before treating her, I found there are eight other documented cases of repairing a true aneurism of the internal carotid artery," he said.

Doctor Jones and his team of professionals took to the operating room.

During the surgery, Doctor Jones and his team, to include a cardiovascular specialist, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jerry Pratt, took the healthy artery going to her face, and used it to replace the aneurismal portion of the diseased artery going to her brain.

"We just moved (the carotid artery providing blood to her face) over and attached it to the normal portion (of the artery) going to her brain," Doctor Jones said. "It's similar to a by-pass; it's called a transposition because the artery was there; we just moved it over and sewed it over above the aneurism and (removed) the aneurism."

Despite performing the delicate surgery in Iraq, the doctors did not encounter any problems.

"In the operating room here at Balad, we have pretty much anything we need to handle any emergency or surgery just like back in the States. We've been very well-supported as far as vascular surgery," added Doctor Jones.

Nearly two hours later, upon completing the surgery, the Iraqi woman's life was not completely out of harm's way.

"Within the first five minutes of her waking up, we wanted to get a very good neuro-exam on her," said Capt. (Dr.) Chad Stine, 332nd MDG anaesthesiologist. "By neuro-exam, I mean we want her to follow commands, we want her to move all four extremities. That signifies to us that during that procedure she didn't get a part of her brain that had a stroke.

"She woke up very well; I used an anesthetic that wore off quickly," added the doctor, deployed here from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. "We were able to have her follow commands before we even removed the breathing tubes."

Doctor Jones shared his feelings on his patient's state after the surgery: "It worked out very well and she went home three days later and is at home with her family. The only thing she has now is a small neck incision, which is healing nicely.

"She was very appreciative that she was going home to her family and this problem was taken care of," Doctor Jones continued. "Her stroke risk was lowered to that of a normal person. I think that within the next couple of years, had we not done the surgery, she would have had a massive stroke and that's supported in the literature."

Despite the medically historic significance of the surgical procedure, Doctor Jones and his team remain humble.

"It's neat to have done that particular procedure," Doctor Stine said. "At the time, when we were doing it, I didn't think, 'oh, this is a historic thing.' It really didn't seem like that."

"Performing the surgery was great," Doctor Jones said. "It is the reason we came into the business -- to take care of and help people. Certainly, I think we helped her a lot."

Airman field-tests modified PT uniform in the AOR

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – An Airman was selected to field-test the Air Force's modified physical training uniform while deployed here to provide feedback to leadership at the end of the testing process.

Senior Airman James Debiase, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency manager, said he received an e-mail from his chief asking for a volunteer to field-test the modified PT uniform. After jumping at the opportunity, he received an e-mail from Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief, that he had been chosen.

The only Airman in Iraq field-testing it, Airman Debiase has been wearing the uniform for approximately one week now and is very impressed with the changes thus far.

"I can describe the new uniform with one word: comfortable," said the Glastonbury, Conn., native deployed

here from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas. "The uniform is made from a much lighter material. It is more flexible, and it breathes better.

"When I start sweating, the new uniform seems to absorb the sweat better than our current PT uniform, and it doesn't weigh down as much either," Airman Debiase continued. "The new pants and coat are also more breathable, and they don't make the, 'swish, swish, swish' sound when you walk or run."

Overall, Airmen here are noticing the modified uniform and are quick to ask questions and touch the new fabric.

"The first thing people notice is the difference in material," Airman Debiase said. "When they get up close, they notice the lighter and more comfortable material. Second, they notice the PT uniform doesn't make the swishing sound when I move. Third, they notice my shorts are longer. I have pockets for keys, wallet or MP3 player. I have received a lot of good feedback from curious Airmen.

"Another great quality about the coat and pants is that it is still water-

proof," Airman Debiase added. "Yesterday (April 12), it rained for the first time since I received the uniform, and the water just beaded off the coat and pants with ease."

Another change in the uniform is the sizing.

"With the normal PT gear, I had to buy a large-sized shirt with XXL- or XXXL-sized shorts to fit me properly," Airman Debiase said. "This modified uniform is a large; every item is large – pants, coat, shirt and shorts – and it fits me perfectly."

So far, Airman Debiase said he hasn't found a problem with the uniform yet, and he is going to report the pluses and minuses of the uniform to leadership at the end of the month. However, he will be wearing the modified PT uniform for the remainder of his deployment.

"I am really excited and thankful for this opportunity," he said. "It's not every day you get the chance to participate in something that can make a difference and a change throughout the entire Air Force."



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

Senior Airman James Debiase, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron emergency manager, models the current physical training uniform (left) and the modified PT uniform (right). Airman Debiase was selected to field-test the modified PT uniform while deployed here from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas.



2009 Army Earth Day Message

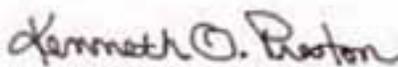
The Army joins our Nation in recognizing Earth Day and the need for responsible stewardship of our environment and natural resources. Increasingly, the health and security of our Nation as well as global stability are impacted by our ability to safeguard and protect our environment.

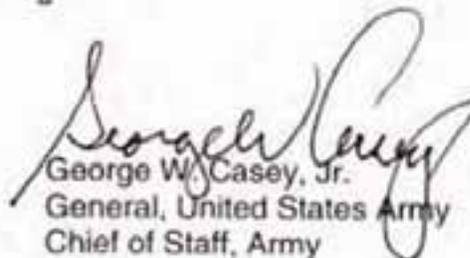
By leveraging the interdependence among mission, environment and community to establish and sustain necessary resources, we ensure that the Army simultaneously meets current as well as future mission requirements worldwide, safeguards human health, improves quality of life, while also enhancing the natural environment. Moreover, as a component of Army transformation, we are eliminating waste, driving innovation and promoting collaboration across the Army enterprise.

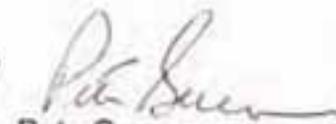
The Army has never failed to seize on an opportunity to lead. This commitment is no more apparent than in the Army's approach to environmental stewardship. In 2008, the Army released the federal government's first sustainability report outlining the accomplishments of our Soldiers, Families, Army Civilians and contractors in green construction, more efficient use of fuels, and expanded use of renewable and alternative energy sources. In January 2009, the Army signaled its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by introducing the first of what will be the largest acquisition of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV) in the United States.

As we continue our efforts to minimize the Army "footprint" on Earth we ask every member of the Army team this Earth Day to re-dedicate to being good stewards of our environment to "Sustain the Mission – Secure the Future."

Army Green is Army Strong.


Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army


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


Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

Guardsmen taking steps to help troops find employment

81st BSTB,
16th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — With economic challenges in the United States, it has been daunting for many National Guard Soldiers here thinking about whether or not they will have a job when they return home.

Guardsmen from the 181st Brigade Support Battalion and 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Washington Army National Guard, are taking steps to ensure they have jobs upon redeployment this fall.

“With the economy the way it is right now back home, the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team is really showing its support for Soldiers and Families,” said Capt. Jackie Baird, administrative officer, 81st Brigade Special Troops Bat-

talion, and a DuPont, Wash., native. “Our battalion has made a great effort in spreading the word about the opportunities available to Guardsmen after our deployment. We want to make sure we do our best in taking care of our Soldiers.”

Many Soldiers have already heard from their previous employers that their position no longer exists in the company. Losing their job was not what these Soldiers had planned for when the National Guard members mobilized. Although they are protected by the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act (SSCRA), it is not a safety net in every case.

Fortunately, there are some active duty job options available to National Guard Soldiers upon returning from a deployment.

“Operation Warrior Trainer and CO-ADOS (contingency operation for active duty operational support) tours are a great opportunity for Soldiers to also

enhance their military job skills, increase their resume, and bridge the gap between civilian jobs,” says Command Sgt. Maj. David Nunn, the 81st BSTB command sergeant major. “Many of the leadership skills we learn in the military transfer straight over to the civilian side, and in many cases, can help the person obtain a higher wage because of their demonstrated ability to make decisions and supervise others.”

A Soldier wishing to remain in theater can request an extension by submitting a CO-ADOS packet. Usually, a few months before a Guard unit prepares for transfer of authority, they will identify any Soldiers who like to stay with other incoming units. If the Soldier would like to stay with another unit, they can request that as well, although it is the responsibility of the Soldier to find a position within another unit.

While serving on Title 10 active duty, National Guard Soldiers can also apply to transfer to the regular Army. A

conditional release request is typically easier to obtain while serving on Title 10 mobilization orders than when back at home station. Soldiers should review their state personnel policy, however for the WA ARNG they require at least 30 days after demobilization to submit their request.

Another opportunity for those National Guard Soldiers serving an Iraq tour may qualify to apply for the Operation Warrior Trainer (OWT) program, operated by First Army. This program retains Soldiers who complete a deployment on active duty and utilizes them as instructors/trainers to train units who are preparing to mobilize. They employ various positions in various mobilization sites across the United States.

Any National Guard Soldiers who are interested in these job opportunities, should consult their unit administrator for guidance and obtain information.

Check CHUsdays

Each **Tuesday** Check The Following in Your CHU

1. Power strips are free of debris and clothing
2. Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
3. Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
4. Smoke detector is operational
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly

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

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

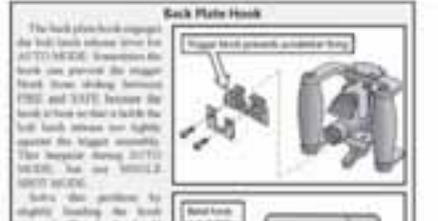
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SAFETY

Correcting Trigger Block Problems



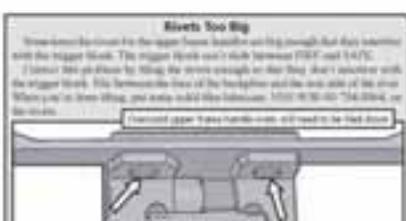
Back Plate Hook



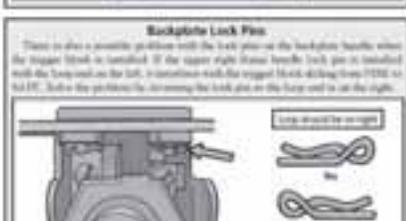
Back Plate Hook Pin



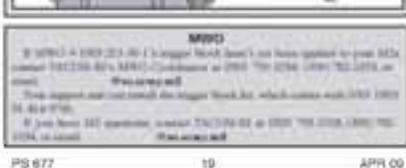
Screws Too Big



Backplate Lock Pin

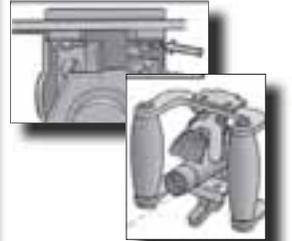


Backplate Lock Pin



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>



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APR 09



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

ARMY POLICY ON DIVERSITY

Men and women who serve our great Army come from all walks of life. While each thinks differently and brings different attributes and characteristics, together they make up the best Army in the world. Army diversity is defined as *the different attributes, experiences, and backgrounds of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members that further enhance our global capabilities and contribute to an adaptive, culturally astute Army.*

Diversity is a major strength of our Army. Our Army is the strength of this Nation. Our reflection of the Nation's diverse talent and our commitment to Army Values empower us to achieve the Army's Diversity Vision: *The National leader in embracing the strengths of diverse people in an inclusive environment.* We will achieve this vision by investing in and managing talent, valuing individuals, and developing culturally astute Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members who support our communities, and who embrace the human dimension of leadership. Leaders must promote a common understanding of this vision and make it a reality; doing so strengthens our Army and continues our legacy of sustaining a high quality, All Volunteer Force.

Leaders must lead the Army's diversity efforts. As we continue to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the diversity within our ranks, not only will our strength, versatility, and efficiency be amplified, but we will be more effective at understanding the cultures and environments where we serve. We expect all leaders to develop and maintain an inclusive environment that will sustain the Army as a relevant and ready Force. We share in this commitment as a team.

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

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

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

Puerto Rican cargo transfer company completes deployment

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
JENNY ANNE CANLAS
UPAR, 18th CSSB, 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Soldiers from the 268th Cargo Transportation Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, completed a successful ten-month deployment during a transfer of authority ceremony here April 1.

During their deployment, the unit conducted numerous cargo transfer and linehaul missions for units throughout Multi-National Division – North.

“Without transporters, there are no bullets and beans for the combat Soldiers on the ground,” said 1st Lt. Joel Ayala, commander, 268th CTC. “We not only supported our own troops, but the unit also helped to rebuild the country of Iraq by moving essential equipment to the local communities.”

Cargo transfer Soldiers operated a central receiving shipping point yard, safely conducted convoy escort missions for contractor fuel trucks from the movement control team yard to the bulk fuel farm, provided material handling equipment in support of the re-deployment of the South Korean forces and provided support for the Iraqi provincial elections.

Ayala, a native of Bayamon, P.R., is very proud of his Soldiers’ accomplishments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I am very satisfied and proud.”

Ayala said. “The Soldiers safely moved over 20,000 pieces of equipment without a single accident.”

While in Iraq, the 268th CTC Soldiers from Ft. Buchanan, P.R. were based at Forward Operating Base Marez and Logistical Task Force Sykes.

The 18th CSSB welcomed the Soldiers of the 359th CTC from Fort Eustis, Va., who assumed responsibilities from the 268th CTC while continuing to support the ongoing logistical operations throughout MND-N.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patrice Elmes

The 268th Cargo Transportation Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, transfers authority during a ceremony at the Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq, April 1.

Got Passport? Learn how to get your passport in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. ALEXANDER SNYDER
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Rifle? Check. Body armor? Check. Passport?! Uh... If you're traveling to a combat zone, obtaining a passport may be the last thing on your mind.

But if you hope to spend your rest and recuperation leave sunbathing in the Greek Isles, enjoying the sights Dublin or trailblazing the Australian Outback, you'll need to have one.

If you don't have one, you may not be entirely out of luck. The Combined Legal Center here accepts 20 passport applications per month for processing at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

However, other military legal offices in Iraq that accept passport applications are: Al Asad Airbase; Logistical Support Center (LSA) Camp Adder; Camp Taji and Victory Base Complex.

Maj. Brian Nomi, from Camarillo, Calif., and chief of legal assistance at the JBB CLC said the application limit is reached early each month as they accept applications on the first of each month and process them on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“We fill up all of our slots on pretty much the first or second day of every month,” said Nomi who is also assigned



to the 304th Sustainment Brigade.

To apply for a passport, service members must apply in person and bring the following items: two passport photos, a completed but unsigned application form (DS-11, 2008 version), a \$100 money order payable to "U.S. Department of State," an original birth certificate or naturalization certificate, a leave form or signed passport prioritization form, and two forms of identification.

Nomi said service members should apply for a passport as early as possible, but no later than two months before tak-

ing leave. Service members can expect to receive their passports approximately five weeks after submitting their application, he said.

Nomi said the most common mistake Soldiers make is failure to produce an original copy of their birth certificate. Although temporary passports (good for up to one year) may be obtained stateside without a birth certificate, this service is not offered in theater, Nomi said.

Despite the limitations, Nomi said there are special situations that can be accommodated, such as when a service

member needs to take emergency leave to a foreign country.

An emergency situation might include a case where a Soldier's Family member has unexpectedly passed away in a foreign country, and the Soldier needs a passport to visit the Family. In this case, the application will receive special priority.

Nomi said he has not yet processed such a request since arriving in theater in November.

Because of the strict limitations and high demand, Nomi suggests that service members try to obtain their passport prior to leaving the states. Also, he said they shouldn't be upset if they aren't able to receive one before taking leave.

The legal assistance office is located in the JBB CLC, building 7235 at the intersection of Hawk and Pennsylvania Avenue at JBB eastside, (the barriers are painted like a castle with a blue sky above it). For further assistance, please contact the JBB LAO at DSN 318.433.2836.

Other legal office accepting passport applications around Iraq:

Camp Taji – DSN 834-3109; COB Adder – DSN 833-1469; For Al Asad, e-mail: legalhelp@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil, The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in the International Zone in Baghdad accepts applications continuously on first-come, first-serve, walk-in basis during certain window hours and days. For questions and operating hours, e-mail baghdadacs@state.gov or call DSN 239-2413

REPOSITIONED TO AFGHANISTAN CONTINUED from page One

able to provide the support to the warfighters.”

Moree said the unit will face some challenges, however, and cited the narrow dirt roads and mountainous terrain of southern Afghanistan as two examples.

In preparation for the move, the unit trained on various tasks that could prove useful to the unit’s mission, including weapons training and first-aid training. The unit conducted additional training on vehicles the company will use in Afghanistan.

The unit reorganized itself by creating a “gun truck” platoon – a special convoy security element for its mission in Afghanistan.

“They are fully prepared to execute that mission,” Moree said. “They had months of extensive training prior to

even coming to Iraq.”

The 154th Trans. Co. drives the military’s Palletized Load System, a vehicle designed with self-loading capabilities that reduces the need for forklifts and other equipment that may not be readily available in smaller military camps in southern Afghanistan.

According to current Department of Defense policy, the length of the 154th Trans. Co.’s deployment will not be affected by the unit’s move.

Soldiers of 154th Transportation Company from Fort Hood, Texas, stand in formation prior to leaving for Afghanistan at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, April 14. The 154th Trans. Co. is the second 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unit in three weeks to move directly to Afghanistan from Iraq.



Sustainers upgrade Internet Café to keep Soldiers, Families connected

By 1st Lt. ANGELA ROKEY
*UPAR, 259th CSSB,
304th Sust. Bde.*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — After five months of hard work, Soldiers from the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 356th Quartermaster Company re-opened their



new internet café during a ribbon cutting ceremony here April 3.

Staff Sgt. Mike Sulak, from Denver Colo., and 259th CSSB information manager, took over the restoration of the internet café after closing for safety reasons last November. The building has since received an electrical upgrade with new breaker panels, electrical rewiring, light fixtures and an outdoor spotlight, as well as the computers.

“Everything is all up to date to include [computer] firewalls and virus

protection,” Sulak said. “This was a long process and it passed through a lot of hands before its final approval, but all the same rules apply as before.”

Although Sulak will continue to assist the internet café in many ways, Staff Sgt. Hector Rodriguez, with the 356th Quartermaster Company and native of Sebring, Fl., will control and manage the operation of the Café.

Sgt. Juan Asmat, a St. Paul, Minn. resident said, a lot of service members have been looking forward to the café’s

re-opening.

“I’m so glad it’s finally opening,” said Asmat. “But I think once everyone finds out that we’re open, it will be really busy.”

The 24-hour internet café offers eight phones, SPAWAR service with 19 desktop computers, four include headphones and webcams. To accommodate all Coalition forces, the current time limit is: 20 minutes per phone call; 30 minutes for computer use.

Sustainers host redeployment conference

By SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Approximately 180 Soldiers from across Iraq attended a two-day redeployment conference hosted by the 840th Deployment and Distribution Support Battalion here March 25 and 26.



“(The 840th DDSB) provides a link into the global pipeline through commercial transportation providers and the use of the Port of Um Qasr,” said Col. Cheri A. Provanca, support operations officer in charge, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). “It is this partnership that ensures we are able to support the deployment and redeployment of units and the redistribution of commodities.”

The event was held to train attendees and introduce them to the agencies they might work with during the redeploy-

ment process, said Maj. B. Eric Whitelock, officer in charge for the 840th DDSB’s redeployment support section.

“It was an opportunity to get all the players (together) who have a hand in assisting or moving cargo as units redeploy ... to make sure they had all the skills that they needed,” he said.

The 840th DDSB — whose motto is: “Move the Force!” — supports brigade-level operations in a role Whitelock, a native of Seaford, Del., likened to transportation consultants.

“We don’t actually drive trucks or operate forklifts,” he said, “but we assist and guide units through proper cargo preparation procedures, HAZMAT labeling, shipment and documentation.”

Consequently, the conference’s targeted audience was smaller support units, which are typically National Guard or Army Reserve, Whitelock said. Often such units must rely on their own Unit Movement Officers, or UMOs, and logistics personnel to prepare them for the redeployment process.

“I’m the type of person — cross the

T’s and dot the I’s. Nothing’s going to get past me,” said Master Sgt. Inez D. Battle, noncommissioned officer in charge, redeployment support team, 840th DDSB, and native of Pasadena, Md. UMOs should share a similar attention to detail, she said.

Unfortunately, most UMOs when units redeploy are not the same UMOs a unit had when they went overseas. “Bringing them back home could practically be anybody,” and a new, inexperienced UMO might not be aware of how big a job it is, Battle said.

Another goal of the conference was to refresh skills and train new UMOs.

“If nothing else, they’ll have points of contact of who to go to if they need further assistance,” Whitelock said.

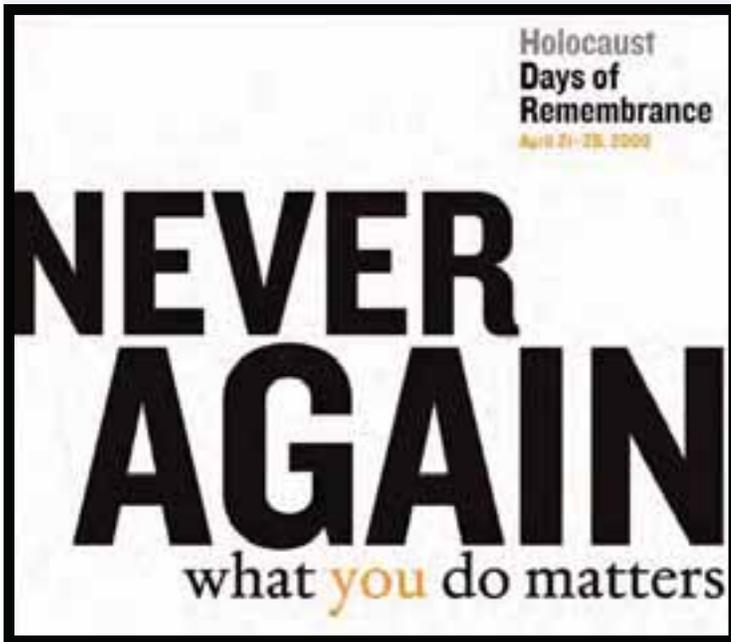
The biggest difference between going to Iraq and coming home are the more strict regulations and restrictions, said 1st Lt. Darnell T. Reese, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment. Everything has to be clean, spotless, right down boots and bags, because customs doesn’t want any con-

tamination from overseas, he said.

The consequences of failing to do so were highlighted earlier last year, when a British paratrooper inadvertently brought a camel spider home from Afghanistan, according to a report from the BBC. The creature allegedly killed a dog and chased the Soldier’s Family from their home.

Although units traditionally begin preparing for redeployment 120 days out from their scheduled departure date, Whitelock’s advice is to start as early as possible. An early start is especially important if units participate in the Army’s Reset Induction program, which removes equipment from a unit’s property book and ships it to a depot in the United States for maintenance and repairs.

Battle went one step further. “[Units should] make sure that they have their redeploying equipment at all times ready. Know what they’re going to send back,” she said. “Be on top of it from day one, and then they wouldn’t have to run around.”



Mauthausen survivors cheer the soldiers of the Eleventh Armored Division of the U.S. Third Army one day after their actual liberation. May 6, 1945.



Jews in the Warsaw ghetto awaiting their turn in the soup kitchen. 1941, Warsaw, Poland.



Two children beg for food on the streets of the Warsaw ghetto. September 19, 1941.



A transport of Jews from Subcarpathian Rus, the historic term for Transcarpathian oblast, or (still formerly) eastern part of Czechoslovakia, is taken off the trains and assembled on the ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. May 1944. Auschwitz, Poland.



Jewish girls sheltered at the Centre de Sainte-Mande, children's home on rue Granville in Paris. Only a few escaped deportation to Auschwitz. June 1943. Paris, France



Jewish men, women, and children await execution in a ravine. October 14, 1942.

Editors Note: *This is in recognition of Holocaust Days of Remembrance.*
 Photos courtesy of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Sustainers receive combat lifesaver extreme training

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
ADAM SHAW
16TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — For 40 Soldiers here, this was combat lifesaver training with a new twist, a combat lifesaver extreme, from April 6 to 9.



Staff Sgt. Robert Norton, troop medical clinic noncommissioned officer in charge, 16th Sustainment Brigade, wearing a drill sergeant hat shouted at the CLS students who placed their CLS training into action and saved the bleeding Soldier-volunteers of casualties during the trauma lanes here April 9.

“We added the extra pressure to ensure that Soldiers can tune out the noise and confusion and focus on saving a Soldier’s life,” said Sgt. Evelyn Pollard, medical noncommissioned officer, 16th Sust. Bde., and combat lifesaver instructor. “When there is a casualty that may have injuries that are distracting, you may forget to check things that may kill. Something like the tongue blocking the airway is more of a problem than a broken arm that is

not bleeding.”

With a new advanced military casualty moulage kit, a remote-controlled simulation kit spurting fake blood onto live, volunteer-casualties, the medics taught the Soldiers from a spectrum of Army occupational specialties lifesaving medical skills.

“I thought the day we did IVs on each other would be the hardest part, but the trauma lanes, with the shouting and squirting blood and multiple injuries was definitely harder,” said Sgt. Keith M. Anderson, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde. “I was so nervous I started to IV a casualty that was not breathing and had no pulse.”

Soldiers from seven companies within the 16th Sust. Bde., learned the fundamentals of “combat lifesaver,” a course of instruction the Army teaches to ensure that Soldiers won’t die on the battlefield.

“In the 16th SB there are less than a hundred medics, and some are doing other jobs,” said Pollard. “There are thousands of Soldiers in the brigade, and medics can’t go on every mission and can’t be at every place on the COB or on the battlefield; so the CLS is taught the life-saving steps that will save a Soldier’s life until we can get to

them.”

Soldiers learned care under fire, tactical field care, combat casualty evacuation care, and the ABC’s of checking airway, breathing and circulation.

“Today’s combat lifesaver is highly skilled, learning pertinent life-saving medical skills such as tactical combat casualty care, managing a casualty’s airway, treating penetrating chest trauma, decompressing a tension pneumothorax, hemorrhage control, and initiating intravenous infusions as well as performing casualty evacuations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Hardiek, surgeon cell noncommissioned officer in charge, 16th Sust. Bde. “These carefully chosen lifesaving skills provide the most intervention to the major preventable causes of death on today’s battlefield and thus save lives.”

Medics from the “Jedi Base” have trained more than 300 Soldiers at COB Q-West since assuming responsibility of the troop medical clinic here in August.

During the 40-hour course, CLS students received two days of classroom instruction, one day learning how-to and administering the intravenous infusions, and the last day was spent outside - running through trauma lanes.



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

Staff Sgt. Robert Norton, troop medical clinic noncommissioned officer in charge, 16th Sustainment Brigade, wearing a drill sergeant hat, shouts at combat lifesaver students as they fight to save a bleeding Sgt. Terrell Fox, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, 16th Sust. Bde., during the casualty trauma lanes at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, April 9.

Memorial Service Honors Fallen 3^d ESC Soldier

STORY AND PHOTO BY
MASTER SGT. CARL MAR
287TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — Over 300 U.S. Soldiers of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) mourned the loss of fellow soldier, Spc. Daniel Jay Beard, 24, in a memorial service at the Memorial Hall here, April 10.



Beard, a member of the 3rd platoon, 147th Adjutant General Company (Postal), assigned to the 408th Human Resources Company, 287th Special Troops Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade, 3^d ESC, died April 3. His death was non-combat related.

His friends and comrades remembered him as a motivated Soldier with a “healthy dose” of humor. Those traits, according to Beard’s platoon leader, 1st Lt. Jacqueline Woods, “made him a very popular Soldier, yet humble. He could always make you laugh. From a leader’s standpoint, I was always most impressed by what a warrior he was. He never showed any weakness; he was tough in every way.”



Over 300 Soldiers assigned to the 287th Sustainment Brigade assembled to honor fallen 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier, Spc. Daniel J. Beard at the Memorial Hall in Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 9.

Beard came to Iraq, she said, with a resolution of improving his physical fitness. Within months he had transformed himself, and Soldiers from other COBs were asking her to send them pictures of

him. “It was because I told everyone that he was a lot leaner. But Specialist Beard joked that didn’t want anyone to see him before his big ‘reveal’ in Kuwait before redeployment. His last APFT was his personal best and was impressive to all of us,” she said.

Spc. Samuel Boadi, who was Beard’s roommate and battle buddy, was unable to attend the memorial but his remarks were read by another soldier.

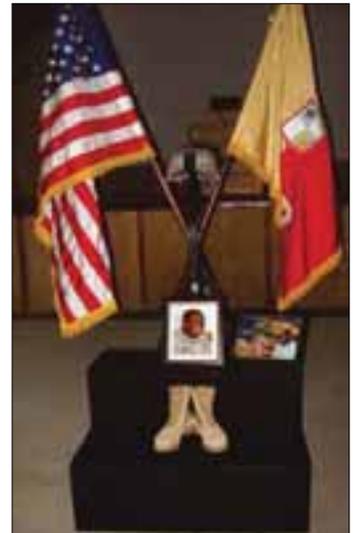
Boadi’s message was that Beard was an inspiration and a source of strength to everyone around him. He credited Beard’s energy and motivation for their platoon acquiring the name “The Aggressor” while training in Germany.

“You were indeed the backbone of our platoon. Thank you for not hesitating to come to war with us...you always kept a positive attitude and never let a day go by without smiling on something,” the message read.

Beard’s awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Beard is survived by his wife Yolanda,

father Ulysses Beard, two older brothers and sisters -- all residing in Buffalo, New York.



A memorial service was held at Contingency Operating Base Adder Memorial Hall, April 9, to honor a fallen 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier, Spc. Daniel J. Beard.

SUSTAINERS TRAIN TO PREVENT

BY SPC. KELLY ANNE BECK
AND SGT. ALEX SNYDER
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – For many 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers here in Iraq today, clearing their weapons properly may seem like a simple task, but not done correctly it can result in serious injury or death.

Most negligent discharges are caused by Soldier complacency. Some Soldiers are not going through each individual step of the weapons clearing process, said Charles Timms, a native of Houston, Texas and safety director for the 3^d ESC.

Since June 2008 units reporting to the 3^d ESC had approximately 12 recorded negligent discharges. Fortunately none have resulted in a serious injury or death, Timms said.

According to the Army Combat Readiness Center, weapons handling is one of the most basic Soldiering skills. Regardless of a Soldier's weapon status, they must treat it as if it's loaded, Timms said. Remembering basic muzzle and trigger awareness is the key to handling weapons safely.

Timms said all the safety officers and 3^d ESC command are working together to continually train and re-train their Soldiers by conducting safety stand downs in order to remind Soldiers of proper safety procedures while deployed.

Since the majority of negligent discharges occur within the first 30 days a Soldier arrives in Iraq and 90 days before leaving, the 3^d ESC requires all units to have safety stand-downs during those times in their deployments.

Timms explained that for many Soldiers this is their first deployment and first time in their lives where they are handling a weapon on a daily basis. When having to load and unload the weapon daily it's very important to take every step in the weapons clearing procedure they've been taught.

Once Soldiers start clearing their weapons without following each step, that's when problems occur, Timms said.

"When you're doing something without a thought process, you're doing it as second nature," Timms said. "When it becomes second nature without that thought process, that's complacency."

Timms said in order to lower the risk of negligent discharges, it takes responsibility from Soldiers as well as involvement from leadership. That is why they need to work together to keep everyone safe.



ACCIDENTAL NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE

M16 rifle proper Unloading and Clearing procedures:



1) Orient weapon in a safe direction (Into a clearing container if available)



2) Remove the magazine from the weapon



3) Attempt to place weapon selector lever on SAFE.



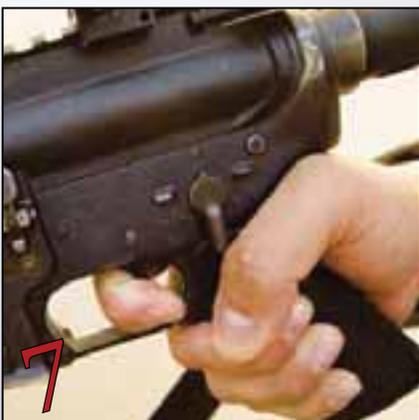
4) Lock bolt to rear (ensure weapon is on SAFE).



5) Inspect the receiver and chamber to ensure no ammunition is present.



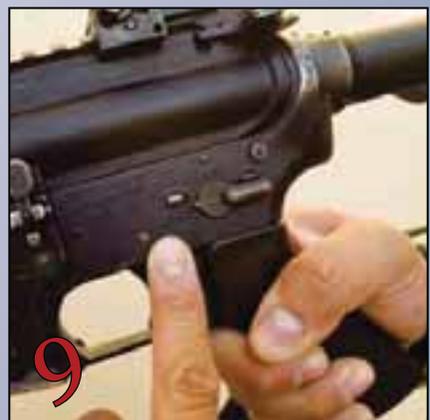
6) With NO ammunition in chamber or receiver, allow the bolt to go forward.



7) Aim weapon into clearing container, rotate selector lever to SEMI, squeeze the trigger.



8) Charge the weapon once.



9) Place selector level on SAFE.

NCO paints to relax

BY SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16TH SUST. BDE.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — When Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, isn't training his medics to save lives, he trains to inflict injury on his enemies, under a form of fighting called Bujinkan Ninjutsu.

But Tackett branched-out to Ninjutsu artist this deployment, when he painted a mural on an old card table to present to his sensei (teacher), 8th Shodan Ryan Lowe.

"I recognized the potential immediately and began to turn this discarded table top into something much more," Tackett said. He said painting the table with elements of the fighting discipline was a way to relax during his down time here, and a way to remind himself of the important concepts of Bujinkan

Ninjutsu.

"I think that it is very important for me to be reminded of these elements which represent more spiritual concepts such as balance, adapting, instincts, tenacity and perseverance," Tackett said.

It took Tackett more than a month to paint the four-foot mural of his martial arts system on the card table. It is a six-sided hexagon, with three layers of bright enamel white, two layers of bright blood-red and two traces of sharp midnight black as the main focus.

The mural brings the spirit of this martial arts system to life, he said.

"Well, as you can see, it is one big circle in the middle with six smaller circles surrounding it at the edges," Tackett said. "The large, center kanji translates to 'Bujinkan Ninjutsu,' which is the name of my style of martial arts. The six smaller circles starting from the top and progressing in a clockwise manner translate to 'earth,' 'water,' 'emptiness,' 'scorpion,' 'fire' and 'air.'" The Scorpion kanji represents his sensei.

Tackett plans to send his mural to his wife in California, who will present



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Renato Rossignoli

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, stands next to the mural he painted on an old card table as a gift to his sensei (teacher), 8th Shodan Ryan Lowe, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, March 29.

it to Sensei Lowe in person.

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



**See page 21 for
movie schedule**

Sustainers keep Normandy water running

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. KELLY ANNE BECK
304TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NORMANDY, Iraq — Many Soldiers take clean uniforms, showers or hand washing stations in a dining facility for granted. All these privileges transpire from one source - clean water.

Two Soldiers from the 20th Quartermaster Company, an active-duty component from Ft. Campbell, Ky., purify approximately a half million gallons of water each week. The water is then used by more than 1,200 Soldiers and contractors here.

"We take a lot of pride in our water," said Sgt. Henry A. Sandoval, a native of

Visalia, Calif., and water purification noncommissioned officer in charge. Everyone on this FOB uses this water so we want it to be the best by making sure it's safe and always meets the standard, he said.

The water is initially drawn from a 180-meter- deep ground well and placed in large water storage bags before its transferred into a reverse osmosis water purification unit to remove any harmful chemicals or substances. After purification, the water is checked for proper chemical and chlorine levels.

"One of the most important steps is checking the chlorine levels because you need enough chlorine to protect the water from bacteria, but there shouldn't be too much in it either," said Spc. Gerald McVicker, native of Fairmont, Va., and water purification specialist. "There has to be the perfect balance and that's what

we make sure we get."

"Our water is consistently at pH level of 6.8," McVicker said. The pH levels for pure water should be between five and seven.

Sandoval adds, "It's good enough to drink. I actually prefer drinking this water than the bottled water I drink back home."

Once tested and treated, the water is ready to be pumped into large water trucks and delivered around the forward operating base here and neighboring Iraqi Army Camp Falock. The water is used by the dining facilities, laundry facilities, restrooms and wherever potable water is needed.

"I'm a hard worker and am proud of what I do here," Sandoval said. "Everyday I'm doing something to help my fellow Soldiers, and that's what makes this job rewarding."



Spc. Gerald McVicker, from Fairmont, W.Va., and the water treatment specialist with the 20th Quartermaster Company, tests the water's chlorine levels after the water purification process at Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq. Pure water is then delivered around the various base facilities to include the Iraqi Army Camp Falock, while accommodating more than 1,200 service members and contractors.

Task Force Muleskinner

10th Sustainment Brigade





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

Mortuary affairs Soldiers in Mosul deal with stressors

BY CPT. NATALIA MERCEDES-WILLIAMS
UPAR, 18TH CSSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq -- The mortuary affairs Soldiers here deal with stress in different ways.



"It takes a lot to do this job," said Staff Sgt. John Stittgen Jr., mortuary affairs collection point noncommissioned officer in charge, 111th

Quartermaster Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

The mortuary affairs personnel specialize in the recovery, processing, and shipment of the remains of U.S. service members, Department of Defense contractors, Coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Stittgen said he goes for long runs most days.

"It is a real stress burner and I feel pretty good physically and mentally," Stittgen said. "That is one way to handle this job and the situations that come with it."

Stittgen's team arrived at Marez-East in November of 2008. They will be deployed for only six months due to the psychological stress, an occupational performance hazard of mortuary affairs personnel in a combat zone.

This particular team is composed of the following Soldiers: Spc. Britney Brooks, from Virginia Beach, Va., Spc. Jesus Munoz Aviles, from Arecibo, P.R., Spc. Kimberly Gallegos, from Pueblo, Colo., Spc. Kenneth McWilliams, from Philadelphia, Miss., Spc.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jerome Gisclair
Members of the mortuary affairs collection point team, 111th Quartermaster Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq. They recover, process, and ship the remains of those who lost their lives while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. (From left to right) Spc. Jesus Munoz Aviles, Spc. Kimberly Gallegos, Spc. Britney Brooks, Spc. Kenneth McWilliams, and Staff Sgt. John Stittgen Jr.

Eduardo Santiago Bonilla, from Aguada, P.R., and Staff Sgt. John Stittgen Jr., from Frederick, Md.

"The way I cope with the stress of the job is by reading my Bible and praying," said McWilliams. "I love my MOS (military occupational specialty)."

The priority of the team is to treat all remains with dignity and respect; ensuring American casualties return to the continental United States as quickly as possible.



On the Web

http://www.army.mil/3rdesc

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

Sustainers, Iraqi Army: A profile of partnership

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

CAMP MEJID, Iraq – Sustainers and the Iraqi Army continue a training and advisory mission focused on the Al Asad medium workshop here.

After nine months of training, on Dec. 15, 2008, the Iraqi Army 7th Division Location Command assumed authority for the multi-million dollar facility, which performs all major vehicle repairs for the IA in Anbar province.

It was an important step toward becoming completely self-sufficient, said 1st Lt. Isaura I. Ramirez, the Logistics Training and Advisory Team officer in charge, 69th Transportation Co., 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Previously, civilian contractors were running everything.

The Iraqis are not alone, though.

The LTAT, led by Ramirez, a native of Guanyabo, Puerto Rico, has been by the Iraqis' sides since August, training and mentoring their counterparts in the IA.

Even with the help of translators, language barriers and cultural differences remain significant challenges to the training staff, said Staff Sgt. Gualberto M. Ramos, the noncommissioned officer in charge, 584th Maintenance Co., from Fort. Campbell, Ky. The key, he said, is patience, especially when working with the Iraqi Soldiers, who come from various backgrounds and levels



Staff Sgt. Gualberto M. Ramos, 584th Maintenance Co., 101st Airborne Div., poses for a picture with Iraqi mechanic Rafeh Jameel Mekhleef at the Al Asad medium workshop, Camp Mejid, Iraq, Feb. 19. Ramos is part of a Logistics Training and Advisory Team who are partnered with the Iraqi Army to train and mentor mechanics at the facility.

of experience.

One such Soldier is Rafeh Jameel Mekhleef, a fulltime mechanic from Habbaniyah.

A conscript Soldier under Saddam Hussein in the 1990s, Mekhleef rejoined the Army in 2007, both to support his family and secure his country. On his days off, Mekhleef continues his job as a cab driver to earn more money.

The LTAT mission is not only about training or mentoring, but also about developing trust between the Coalition forces and IA.

"I was surprised Americans were nice people," Mekhleef said through a translator. He admitted he had an image of Americans being ruthless killers, one reinforced by the media under Saddam Hussein ever since the end of the first Gulf War.

However, Mekhleef said his perception of Americans has changed over the years. They are a very serious people and hard working, he said, and he believes they want to help rebuild the Iraqi Army and police force, to stabilize the government and secure the people.

In addition, Mekhleef said he was impressed by the professionalism of the American Army's NCO corps. In the IA, officers perform many of the roles and responsibilities traditionally reserved by NCOs in a Western army.

All his life, Mekhleef said all he's ever known about is war. Even before the first Gulf War, he went on to say, Iraq had fought a disastrous war with Iran which nearly ruined the country. Mekhleef said he only wants something different, something better, for his children and he remains cautiously optimistic for the future.

In the meantime, Mekhleef will continue working at the Al Asad medium workshop, learning how to maintain humvees and working side-by-side with the LTAT.

"With us being here as an advisory team, letting them know how stuff is supposed to be done . . . We can be a little more secure in knowing that once we actually leave Iraq, they're going to be able to (sustain) themselves," Ramos said. "It feels like we're actually making a difference."

Emergency leave and how it works

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Service members may need to go home for a Family emergency at any moment during a deployment.

Knowing what to do, who to talk to, and how emergency leave works could be important for any service member, especially when time is critical.

"It's always stuff that comes up right away that the Soldier needs to go home now to take care of (it)," said Sgt. Jessica L. Faith, human resources sergeant, 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Faith, a native of Littleton, Colo., is one of two people who process emergency leave packets for her unit.

Service members will usually go on emergency leave for the death or critical illness of an immediate Family member, although exceptions could be made on a case-by-case basis. A financial crisis or an important court date, such as a child custody hearing, could also constitute an emergency.

An emergency leave packet is usually signed and processed within two to three hours, and the leave itself is typically for 15 days.

If the Family emergency does not concern death, bereavement, or critical illness, it's important for service members to know they may not be granted emergency leave, Faith said. For example, if the life expectancy of a Family member was more than a month, service members could have to wait until their scheduled rest and recuperation leave begins, she said.

However, Faith was quick to point out, going on R&R leave or not having enough accrued leave dates, would not prevent service members from going on emergency leave. In that event, service members could get advanced leave days, she said.

Although Army regulations do not require a Red Cross message, Faith

said they are preferred and will help expedite the emergency leave process.

Indeed, Mary E. Messina, the Red Cross station chief here, said the Red Cross's principal mission here in theater is handling these emergency communications, which also include birth announcements.

"We're the messenger. The reason for the messages is to help commanders make good leave decisions," Messina said. "In the couple of weeks we've been here, we've handled almost 600 messages."

Messina said the military relies on the Red Cross for third-party verification, which is usually in the form of a doctor's interpretive statement, also known as a DIS. A DIS includes a diagnosis, prognosis of life expectancy and the doctor's recommendation of whether or not a service member should be present.

In the event of an emergency, Messina said Families should contact their local Red Cross to initiate a message, making sure to include the service member's name, rank, social security number, unit and overseas address. Their local Red Cross chapter can be found at <http://www.redcross.org/where/where.html>.

The service member may also contact a Red Cross office here in theater to either track an emergency message or start their own. In Iraq, Red Cross offices are located at Tikrit, Balad and Baghdad; and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

If a service member needs an extension on his emergency leave, it is a simple matter of contacting his unit and then submitting another Red Cross message, Faith said. Though it will then be the service member's responsibility to contact the travel office in Kuwait to arrange for a new return flight.

An emergency could occur at any moment with any Soldier. In order to be prepared, Faith said leaders should have their paperwork in order and know what's going on with their service members and their Families back home.

If a service member should need to go on emergency leave, the following steps should be followed:

Step 1: The service member should inform their chain of command of the situation.

Step 2: The service member and/or the service member's Family should contact the American Red Cross. The Red Cross will need to know how to contact all interested parties, such as the hospital where a Family member is being treated. Keep in mind: It will take more time for confirmation if a Family member is located in a foreign country.

Step 3: Be sure to give the service member's name, rank, social security number, assigned unit and overseas address to the Red Cross. Likewise, write down the case number the Red Cross uses to track emergency messages.

Step 4: The Red Cross will contact the hospital to obtain a Doctor's Interpretive Statement, or a DIS. This statement helps commanders make better decisions on whether or not to grant emergency leave.

Step 5: An emergency leave packet, including the Red Cross message, is submitted to the appropriate authority for approval.

Step 6: The service member will fly down to Kuwait, where they will out-process from theater and arrange for a return flight back. The process is similar to going on normal R&R leave with a few administrative differences. Service members should remember to identify themselves as going on emergency leave.

Finally, if a service member is unsure if the situation warrants going on emergency leave, they should talk to someone in their chain of command or contact any Red Cross offices in theater.

Sustainers join the NCO corps

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JEREMY REEVE
3RD DET., 374TH FM CO.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP STRYKER, Iraq - The Stryker Finance Office promoted four outstanding and motivated Soldiers to the noncommissioned officer corps here in February.

These new NCOs filled several vacant NCO positions in the 3rd Detachment, 374th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade, and execute

finance supervisory responsibilities in Basrah and Camp Bucca.

The Fort Lee, Va., based Soldiers: Sgt. David Carmody, an Altoona, Pa. native; Sgt. Heather Miller, a native of Reading, Pa.; Sgt. Gregory Beerli, a native of Baltimore and Sgt. Nickolas Trayer, a Dillsburg, Pa. native are all ready to lead after demonstrating the potential and ability to handle any task with little or no supervision.

Mobilized in July 2008, these Soldiers showed continuous motivation while coming together to build a team and helping make their finance mission successful.



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

Sgt. Heather Miller, a Reading, Pa. native, gets pinned the sergeant's rank by Staff Sgt. Alicia Chandler, a native of Dover, Del., and squad leader and 1st Lt. Floyd Jordan, from Etters, Pa., during a promotion ceremony at Camp Stryker, Iraq. These Soldiers are deployed with 3rd Detachment, 374th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Iraqi Logistics gains momentum toward self-sustainment

BY LT. COL. RENEE ROUSE
304TH SUST. BDE. PAO

KIRKUSH MILITARY TRAINING BASE, Iraq—The Kirkush Military Training Base Logistics Training Advisory Team, consisting of Soldiers from the 602nd Support Maintenance Company, 356th Quartermaster Company and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion have been mentoring the Kirkush Repair and Maintenance Company of the 5th Iraqi Army in Diyala province since Dec. 2008.

This mentorship and collaboration has been paramount in transferring skills and knowledge to an Iraqi Army unit in order to develop their own maintenance work practices.

Sgt. Mark Bauer, a Killeen, Texas

resident, from the 602nd Maintenance Company of Fort Hood, Texas, said his unit played a pivotal part of the Iraqi advisory endeavors.

Bauer said they work diligently with their Iraqi counterparts while instructing the Iraqi officers on vehicles and parts status and implementing preventive maintenance measures of their equipment. This is to ensure safe maintenance practices, he said.

In addition to Bauer, two Ocala, Fla., based 356th QM Co. noncommissioned officers also train the Iraqi Soldiers on the logistics aspects of the maintenance and warehouse operations.

Sgt. Michael Ammons, taught the Iraqi Soldiers how to use the Iraqi Army Maintenance Program (IAMP) and was developed by ANHAM LLC, a Colorado based logistics contractor that provides equipment work order status and information. The system is similar to the U.S. Army logistics Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced

(SAMS-E).

Staff Sgt. David Timmons, trained the warehouse operations procedures to process receipts, storage, issuing and accountability of Class IX repair parts. This process will facilitate timely repairs and return of equipment.

The LTAT has accomplished a lot in a relatively short time while allowing the Iraqis to gain trust and confidence in their own system. The LTAT men-

torship is one part of training the Iraqis to eventually become self-sustaining.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Slate

Capt. Michael Hannah, from Nacogdoches, Texas, and Sgt. Mark Bauer, from Killeen, Texas, mentor leaders of the Kirkush Repair and Maintenance Company during a maintenance meeting discussing vehicle status at Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq.

Turkish brothers open million-dollar restaurant at Q-West

BY 1ST LT. ANTHONY R. MARION
UPAR, 181ST SSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Two brothers from Adana, Turkey, Memet and Omar Katar, and a cousin, Abit Baska, officially opened a million-dollar restaurant venture here April 1. Memet and Lt. Col.

Alan Dorow, 181st Brigade Support Battalion commander and Q-West Mayor, cut the ribbon before a hungry crowd of Soldiers and contractors.

“It’s good to taste authentic Turkish food, and it will boost the morale of the Soldiers, by giving them an alternative to the DFAC (dining facility),” said Sgt. 1st Class Robin Forrey, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

The restaurant, with state-of-the-art equipment including a special bread-making oven, will serve traditional

Turkish meals like kabob and doners as well as spaghetti, specialty steaks, grilled chicken breasts, and chicken tava.

Soldiers and civilians welcomed the new restaurant as the base currently operates a Pizza Hut, Subway and several dining facilities.

Two brothers opened Katar Restaurant, a new Turkish restaurant at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, April 1.



Courtesy photo

MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY

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>

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

HISPANIC CHURCH SERVICE

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 CENTER

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

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

P90x:
 Monday- Saturday-
 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10
 p.m.
 12 a.m.
 Soccer:
 Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
 Yoga:
 Wednesday- 8 p.m.
 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 RECREATION CENTER
 Green Bean Karaoke:

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

WEST FITNESS CENTER

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

6 on 6 volleyball
 tourney:
 Friday- 7 p.m.
 Aerobics:
 Monday, Wednesday,
 Friday- 7 p.m.
 Body by Midgett 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: Medium

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.

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

Last weeks answers

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



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 4/22/09

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra

Oakland Athletics @ New York Yankees, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 4/23/09

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra

Milwaukee Brewers @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 4/24/09

New York Red Bulls @ Kansas City Wizards, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

Saturday 4/25/09

2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game 3: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Tampa Bay Rays @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime pacific

Atlanta Braves @ Cincinnati Reds, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Washington Nationals @ New York Mets, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra

2009 NFL Draft (Radio City Music Hall; New York, NY), Live 11 p.m. AFN/sports
New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox, Live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Chicago Fire @ Columbus Crew, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 4/26/09

2009 Fed Cup - Semifinal: USA vs Czech Republic - Day 1: Rubber 1 (Starobrn Rondo Arena; Brno, Czech Republic), Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra

NASCAR Nationwide Series: Aaron's 312 (Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, AL), Tape Delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game 4: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game 1: Teams TBD * 2-hour ESPN Cutdown Version, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Aaron's 499 (Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, AL), Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 4/27/09

New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic

2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/xtra

2009 NBA Playoffs - First Round, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports

2009 Fed Cup - Semifinal: USA vs Czech Republic - Day 2: Rubber 3 (Starobrn Rondo Arena; Brno, Czech Republic), Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra

Zurich Classic of New Orleans: Final Round (TPC Louisiana, Avondale, LA), Tape Delayed 11 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 4/28/09

2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports

2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra

Oakland Athletics @ New York Yankees, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

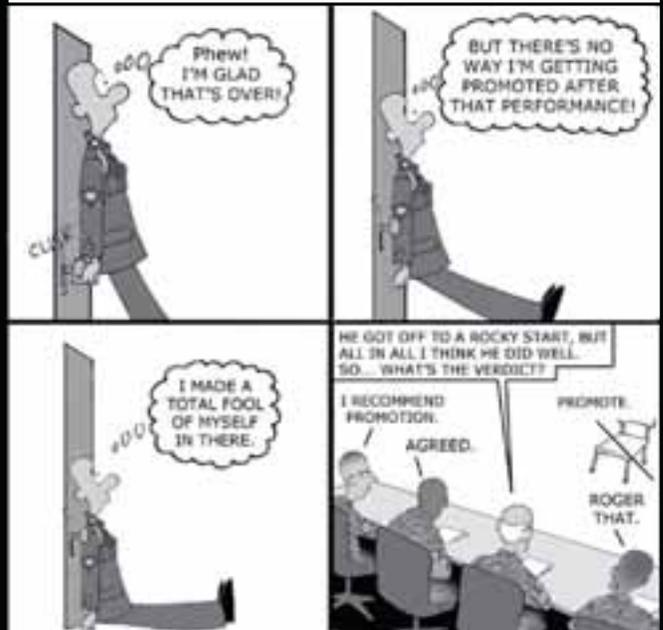
1. What British princess died on February 2002, one month before *69 Things to Do With a Dead Princess* hit the shelves in Britain?
2. What lightweight gas makes up 90 percent of Jupiter's atmosphere?
3. What U.S. protest song did Tiananmen Square protesters adopt as their anthem in 1989?
4. What city's Donnell Library is home to the original stuffed Winnie-the-Pooh bear?
5. What's "NPC" short for, to a videogamer?

- 5. Non-player character
- 4. New York City
- 3. We Shall Overcome
- 2. Hydrogen
- 1. Princess Margaret

Iraq according to Opet



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW





JOINT BASE BALAD
Present
Holocaust Days of Remembrance
Observance

MWR East Facility
23 April 2009 at 1130 Hours

Guest Speaker: Rabbi (CPT) Sarah D. Schechter
332 Air Expeditionary Wing

2009 National Theme: "Never Again: What You Do Matters" Lunch will be provided. Essay Awards. Musical selection.

Contact: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3150 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MSG Matthew Womble, 332 AEW Victim Advocate @ 443-7162, LTC Esther Aubert, 332 AEW Victim Advocate @ 443-7162, MSG Scott Shockley, 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MSG Rita Cossio, 3d ESC @ 433-2527, SFC Teresa Ryan, 332 AEW Victim Advocate @ 443-7162, SFC Dana Ahi, 304th DSARC @ 433-2935, MSG Sandra Escobal, 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MSG Audie Murphy, 3150 3d ESC @ 433-2527.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month Luncheon
JOINT BASE BALAD
Presents

April 2009 Sexual Assault Awareness Month

DOD National Theme: "Our Strength is For Defending"

Guest Speaker: MAJ Teresa Ferguson
Women's Health Nurse
332 Air Expeditionary Wing

Contact: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3150 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MAJ Teresa Ryan, Director DCCRT @ 443-7162, MSG Scott Shockley, 3d ESC @ 433-2527, SFC Dana Ahi, 304th DSARC @ 433-2935, MSG Audie Murphy, 3150 3d ESC @ 433-2527.

Location: Audie Murphy Room DFAC #1
Date/Time: 30 April 2009 at 1130 Hours



Network Security Focus is Everyday

The U.S. Air Forces Central directed a Network Security Focus Day to increase information awareness. The 332 Air Expeditionary Wing calls on all service members, civilians and contracts using their computer network to continuously conduct mandatory training and review network security briefs. For further information on assurance education and training, the web site is <http://iase.disa.mil/eta/>. It is everyone's responsibility to understand the threat to our networks and prevent vulnerabilities.



JOINT BASE BALAD

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

April 2009 Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- Open to all on JBB
- 12 point font size, Double space, 2 pages or less
- Must pertain to the DOD 2009 Theme: "Our Strength is For Defending."
- Please submit all essays by 1800 Hours

24 APRIL 2009

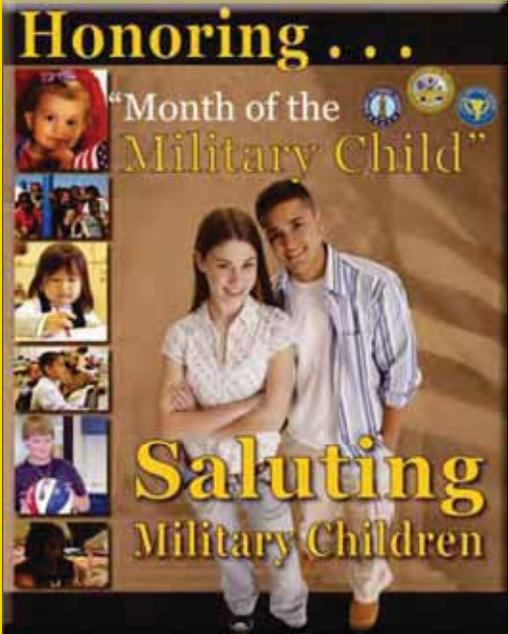
Send essays to:
tuynuykua.jackson@iraq.centcom.mil
rita.cossio@iraq.centcom.mil
scott.shockley@iraq.centcom.mil



Prizes for the top three essays will be presented at the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Luncheon

30 April 2009 1130 hours at Audie Murphy Room DFAC 1

POC: MSG Jackson, Tuynuykua EO Advisor/DSARC 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MAJ Esther Aubert, 332 AEW Victim Advocate @ 443-7162, MSG Scott Shockley, EO Advisor 3d ESC @ 433-2527, MSG Rita Cossio, EO Advisor 3d ESC @ 433-2527, LTC Teresa Ryan, Director DCCRT @ 443-2755, MAJ Sandra Escobal, Deputy Director DCCRT @ 443-2755, CW3 Dana Ahi, 304th DSARC @ 433-2935



Check out the <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/family/childand youth/momc.asp> or <http://www.military-child.org/> to find latest events, activities happening on military installations, the pentagon, National Guard and Reserves Families.

TOBYHANNA FRA

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

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

Computer Repair

Exchanges and DX

We repair:

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

We exchange:

- Batteries
- A/C Adapters
- Keyboards

We DX:

- HIIDE , PRC 112, HCLOS, TBC, CAISI

Printer Repair

GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT ONLY!

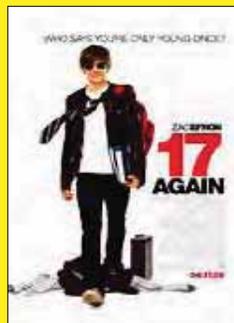
SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

- Wednesday, April 22**
 5 p.m. The International
 8 p.m. Street Fighter
- Thursday, April 23**
 5 p.m. Madea Goes To Jail
 8 p.m. Fast And Furious
- Friday, April 24**
 2 p.m. Miss March
 5 p.m. Watchmen
 8:30 p.m. 17 Again
- Saturday, April 25**
 2 p.m. Watchmen
 5 p.m. 17 Again
 8 p.m. Last House On The Left
- Sunday, April 26**
 2 p.m. 17 Again
 5 p.m. Last House On The Left
 8 p.m. Watchmen
- Monday, April 27**
 5 p.m. Watchmen
 8 p.m. Miss March
- Tuesday, April 28**
 5 p.m. Miss March
 8 p.m. 17 Again

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

17 Again



Mike O'Donnell (Matthew Perry) was a high-school basketball star with a bright future. But he threw it all away to marry his girlfriend and raise their child. Almost 20 years later, Mike's marriage has failed, his kids think he's a loser, and his job is going nowhere. He gets a chance to correct the mistakes of his past and change his life when he is miraculously

transformed back into a teenager (Zac Efron), but in trying to fix his past, Mike may be jeopardizing his present and future.



Last House On the left



A pair of teenage girls are brutally raped and terrorized by a vicious gang of psychopaths, who subsequently find their cruelty returned tenfold when they seek sanctuary in the home of one of the victim's parents in this contemporary reworking of Wes Craven's controversial 1972 shocker.



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



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

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Hedetniemi of East Norriton, Pa., assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment (Associators), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, tests out the tactical capabilities of his new Iraqi friend's umbrella while on a patrol to Nadeem Village, Iraq, on April 9.



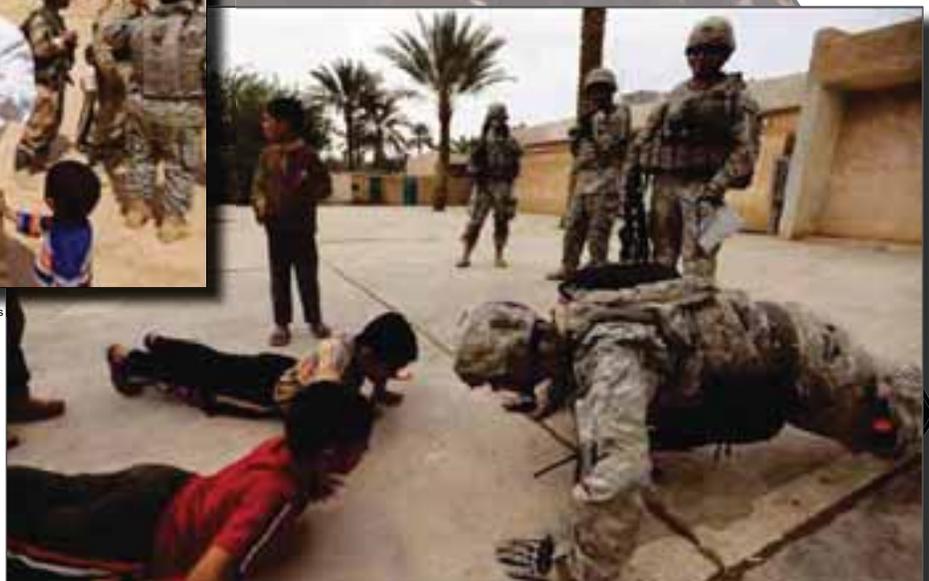
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Walter J. Pels

An Iraqi man brings his daughters for a medical checkup at a makeshift medical clinic in Abu Bakr, Iraq on April 7. Iraqi medical personnel from the Ministry Of Health are providing free medical care and consultation to the residents of Abu Bakr.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Walter J. Pels

An Iraqi man speaks with U.S. Army Capt. Matthew Mackey from 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at a makeshift medical clinic in Abu Bakr, Iraq on April 7. Iraqi medical personnel from the Ministry Of Health are providing free medical care and consultations to the residents of Abu Bakr.



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

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Josh Hedetniemi of East Norriton, Pa., from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment (Associators), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, does some pushups with several Iraqi children outside of a school near Sheik Hammad Village, Iraq, on April 8.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Coalition, Iraqis 'jazz up' Ziggurat

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq –



The smooth sounds of keyboard, drums and saxophone echoed off the walls of the 5,000-year-old Ziggurat of Ur at a concert here April 1.

"This concert is because of all of you," said Dr. Anne Prouse, the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team leader, as she stood on the stage in front of more than 200 Iraqi and Coalition forces. "Iraqi citizens, the Iraqi Army and the rest of the Coalition forces are the reason why this is happening today."

Prouse and her PRT assisted the Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition forces and Dhaif Muhsen, the Ziggurat curator, to plan the event. The musical event showcased the Ali Joda band, from Iraq, and the Alvin and Atkinson Jazz Band, from America.

"In some other countries in the world, like Egypt or Jordan, they depend on tourism," said Muhsen. "This is a good thing and I hope that Iraq can depend on its tourism using places like the Ziggurat."

The Ali Joda band started the night by performing some of their internationally known music, which has been played worldwide, including at the White House. After a standing ovation, America's Alvin Atkinson Jazz Band took the stage.

"It was wonderful to see the (Iraqi citizens) united through music," said Lt. Col. Mark Nelson, the deputy commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Wounded Soldier receives Purple Heart

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Kirkuk, Iraq –



"Let it be known that he who wears the military order of the Purple Heart has given his blood in defense of his homeland and shall forever be revered by his fellow countrymen." These are the words that were once written on the orders received when a Soldier earned a Purple Heart; and for every Purple Heart, there is a story to accompany it.

Spc. Robert Williams, a water purification specialist with 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, added his own story to the history of the Purple Heart April 9. Williams' convoy was hit in downtown Kirkuk city, Iraq, by an RKG-3, a hand-held anti-tank grenade, wounding him and other Soldiers in the vehicle.

"We stopped our vehicle and I started scanning," recalled Williams. "Then all I remember was a 'boom' that knocked me out for about eight seconds."

"After I came to, I pretty much knew what had happened," said Williams.

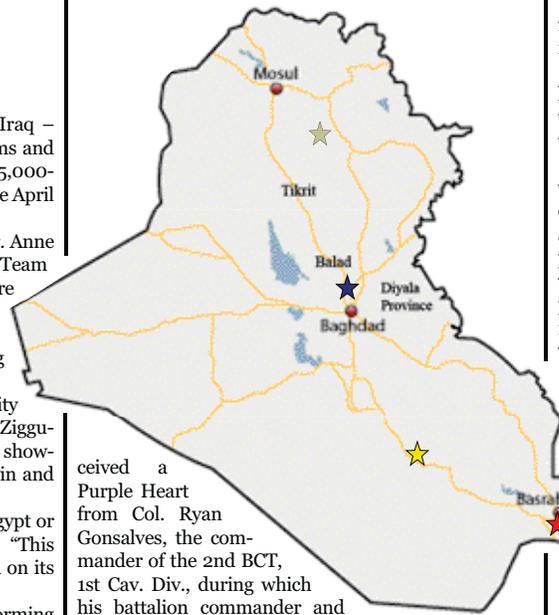
The event left Williams disoriented and peppered with shrapnel from the blast; fortunately the training of the Soldiers in his convoy prepared them for just such an event.

His unit reacted exactly how they were supposed to, said Williams.

"My medic was on the ball, and he patched me up in record time," said Williams. "You couldn't ask for a better group."

Williams was then rushed back to Forward Operating Base Warrior's Emergency Medical Station, where he was treated for shrapnel wounds in his arm.

The following day, inside of the EMEDs, Williams re-



ceived a Purple Heart from Col. Ryan Gonsalves, the commander of the 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., during which his battalion commander and fellow Soldiers were present.

"What you are doing is absolutely amazing," said Gonsalves to the gathered crowd. "3rd Bn., 82nd FA has done a tremendous amount of work in a short amount of time."

"This is a citation we don't like to give out, and no one likes to receive," explained Gonsalves. "This could have turned out tragically. We appreciate all of your efforts every day."

Although the event came as a shock, Williams is still looking forward to hitting the streets of Kirkuk again after a little bit more time for recuperation.

"I am looking forward to going back in [Kirkuk city] with them," said Williams.

The Purple Heart medal has a long history in the U.S. military and the medal bears the likeness of the first president of the United States, George Washington, who implemented the medal Aug. 7, 1782, calling it the Badge of Military Merit. The medal is awarded to service members who have been killed or wounded by an opposing force, and three service members from 2nd BCT have received the medal during this rotation in Iraq.

Taji Vocational Institute Graduation Prepares Iraqis for Work at Joint Base Factory

TAJI, Iraq – The Taji Vocational Institute has achieved another important milestone in its education of Iraqi soldiers for future employment at the Taji National Maintenance Depot, now known as the Joint Base Factory, with the combined graduation of four classes on April 8 here.

The ceremony, co-hosted by Iraqi Brig. Gen. Schallal, commander of the Joint Base Factory at Taji and Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sabah, commander, Taji Location Command, recognized each of the previous TVI honor graduates that have completed their on-the-job training experience in their respective industrial maintenance shops. Each honor graduate was presented an award of achievement of their outstanding work. Key personnel

from the Taji Vocational Institute staff were also recognized.

The mission of the TVI is to produce soldiers that have a requisite knowledge of a specific trade skill, so that they are prepared to enter the on-the-job phase of their training in a specific maintenance shop.

The duration of the course is six weeks long. During the first two weeks, students learn the overall mission of the depot, security procedures, supply accountability and safety, among other important topics. The second phase of TVI is four weeks of skill specific training in which students receive instruction in the theory and principles of a particular industrial trade required to rebuild vehicles in support of the Iraqi Army combat weapons systems fleet.

Graduates receive instruction in electroplating, heavy equipment leader, material examiner and tow tractor operator skill sets. The Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq advised on 63 different areas of instruction, which resulted in 771 graduates from the TVI being ready to help support the Iraqi Army in its mission to provide a secure and stable Iraq.

Task Force Bucca Civil Affairs presents Safwan and Umm Qasr with agricultural equipment

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq – The Task Force Bucca Civil Affairs team presented agricultural equipment April 11 to members of the Umm Qasr and Safwan Farmers Associations and Town Councils at Camp Bucca.

A total of six water trucks and eight tractors were presented to Mr. Majid Talib Muzam, Umm Qasr Town Council President and Mr. Munadhel Shanin Manahe, Safwan Town Council President, who accepted the keys on the towns' behalf. The project is part of a \$2.34 million investment Coalition forces made to assist the community's economy, which also included the newly renovated Safwan Agricultural Center, seeds, generators, greenhouse kits and plastic sheathing.

"According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), agriculture is Iraq's largest employer, the second largest contributor to Iraq's economy, and an effective engine for promoting stability through private sector development, poverty reduction and food security," said Col. David P. Glaser, commander, 42nd Military Police Brigade and Task Force Bucca.

"For a long period, the agricultural sector has suffered the challenges of crop production being threatened by the shortage and saltiness of water and old agricultural machines. The borders need exceptional care and support, and security protection to enable them to stand on their own again," said Mr. Majid.

"We are celebrating in this occasion to thank all the hands who participated for their generous support," he added.

The towns of Safwan and Umm Qasr each received three water trucks and four tractors. Each 4,000 gallon water truck will be used to distribute water to local farms to irrigate crops and vegetation. The tractors will be used by local farmers to strengthen the town's farming industry.

The local economy will benefit by creating long-term jobs, business center development, agriculture initiatives, and civic clean-up activities.

Sustaining the Line



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

Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., commanding general, Multi-National Corps-Iraq is greeted by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, during a visit to the 3rd ESC headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 11. Jacoby, who recently assumed command of MNC-I, was at JBB for a briefing overview regarding the 3rd ESC logistics operations.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Isaac.

Capt. Selina Riedel, from DuPont, Wash., and the Alpha Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, commander, dominates her opponent during the Sustainer Challenge combatives event at Joint Base Balad, Iraq in March.



courtesy photo

Sgt. Magno Orellana, Spc. Hiram Rivera, Spc. Gonzalo Medina, Sgt. Joseph Hernandez, and Pfc. Justin Czerwinski, all from 506th Quartermaster Co., 16th Sustainment Brigade, hold up a Letter of Appreciation presented by 1st Lt. Marshall Kulp, platoon leader, 574th QM Co., 16th Sust. Bde, for providing effective and efficient service at the renovation shop on Contingency Operating Base Q-West Feb. 23. The 506th Soldiers support all uniform repairs and special projects. "We help keep the Soldiers mission ready," said Hernandez. "We pride ourselves with same day service, so the Soldiers remain on the highest level of readiness." The 506th QM Co. is out of Ft. Lee, Va.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Dusty Sargent

Spc. Danny Sengsouvanpreseuth, a Fort Worth, Texas native, receives a certificate of achievement from Capt. Edward Angle, an Austin, Texas native after winning the 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion Soldier of the Quarter board at Camp Taji, Iraq. Sengsouvanpreseuth, a Bravo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier will continue to study and compete in the 10th Sust. Bde., Soldier of the Year board.