

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 19

## PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES

287th Sust. Bde. assist ITC in transport business

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## TRANSPORTER RECOGNIZED

Q-West Trans 1SG awarded Honorable Order of St. Christopher

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## UNDERSTANDING IRAQI CULTURE

Various topics offer invaluable knowledge of Iraq and its citizens

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President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.



## MRAP rollover trainers

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alex Snyder

Sgt. Chris J. Kimble an S-3 noncommissioned officer with the 49th Movement Control Battalion helps Sgt. David A. Boling, the S-2 noncommissioned officer in charge with the 49th Movement Control Bn., out of the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Egress Trainer at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 1. Camp Buehring is among the first locations to receive the new egress trainers.

# Fort Drum Soldiers Hand Over Al Asad Sustainment Mission

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

ALASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Fort Drum Soldiers cased their colors and handed over their mission to a South Carolina Army National Guard unit during a transfer of authority ceremony here May 3.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Fort Drum, N.Y.,

provided logistics support for Army, Navy and Marine Corp units throughout Anbar province, an area roughly the size of Maine, during their 15-month tour.

“We prepare to depart Al Asad proud of a job well done and look forward to reuniting with our Families soon,” said Lt. Col. Mary E. Abrams, commander, 548th CSSB. “But at the same time, we leave with part of our Family (subordinate units) still here.”

Rather than deploy as part of a Brigade Combat Team, the Soldiers of HHC, 548th CSSB deployed alone, knowing they would work with different units

in Iraq. Abrams said the biggest challenge was the constant turnover of those units under her command—24 different units from everywhere in the world and from different services, including water purification experts from Goodwater, Ala. and Navy Reservists from Omaha, Neb.

This constant turnover of units challenged the 548th CSSB to find the best way to accomplish their various missions.

“We couldn’t have asked more from our Soldiers and Sailors,” said Abrams, of Paseco, N.Y. “It didn’t matter who showed up, we were always

able to integrate them and we were always able to accomplish the mission.”

As a logistics unit, the 548th CSSB performed a variety of sustainment missions, such as supporting the movement of rations, fuel, ammunition and repair parts to providing services like showers and laundry, Abrams said.

Abrams said the most rewarding mission was the maintenance, logistics, and water purification training the unit provided for the Iraqi Army.

Beginning in May 2008, a

See Fort Drum Soldiers, Page 9

# 332 ESFS Blotter

## April 29 - May 4

### MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION/GOV-FIXED

#### **OBJECT:**

A vehicle driver telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle collision. Security forces were dispatched and arrived on scene. They made contact with the vehicle driver who made the following written statement via an Air Force Statement of Complainant. Prior to reversing in the parking lot of Taco Bell, the vehicle driver checked both sides to make sure they were clear to proceed and sounded the horn twice. The driver stated when they reversed they did not see the tree, causing the vehicle to strike it resulting in the damage.

### MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION/GOV-FIXED

#### **OBJECT:**

A vehicle driver entered the law enforcement desk and reported a minor vehicle collision. Security forces made contact with the vehicle driver who stated on April 17 at approximately 1100 hrs while in reverse and backing out of a parking space, his vehicle ran over a concrete land marker approximately two feet by two feet in size causing damage to vehicle.

### PATROL RESPONSE/MEDICAL EMERGENCY/FIRE RESPONSE:

A reporting party contacted the law enforcement desk via telephone to report a medical emergency. The RP relayed that a victim fell off a piece of equipment and landed on a crowbar receiving injuries. Security forces were briefed and dispatched along with the fire department and medical team. The victim was transported to the Air Force Theater Hospital (AFTH) for further evaluation.

**NIPR: 443-8602**

**SIPR: 241-1171**

**Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil**

## Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment



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

02 MAY 09

### 3d ESC FLIPL Report

Unit leadership must insure proper accountability of sensitive items. They should ensure SOPs are in place and enforced.

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

Item	Description	Action	Cost
M249 5.56 MM MACH GUN	Soldier left his M249 leaning on the tire of his vehicle. The convey departed without performing a weapons check. Upon returning to recover the weapon, they found the M249 ran over.	2 Soldiers Charged	\$1,839.01
NAV Set : AN/PSN-13	Soldiers sent two MRAPs to another location for training. The equipment was not inventoried nor eyes on the equipment for two months.	No One charged	\$4,768.43
NVGS: AN/ PVS-14	Soldier placed NVG on tire while checking for an air leak. He then returned to vehicle and reported a Green status. Convoy departed, another soldier found NVG had been run over.	Soldier charged	\$2,705.25
M4 5.56MM RIFLE / AN/PAQ-4C	Soldier placed weapon on roof of vehicle to don IOTV, then got in the vehicle and drove away. Weapon fell off and was run over.	Soldier charged	\$1,174.25
NVGS: AN/PVS-7B	Soldier stepped out of his vehicle to recover unsecured equipment dropped from another vehicle. While doing so, dropped his NVGS without noticing resulting in his NVGS to be run over.	Soldier charged	\$1,789.00

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

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

**Sustaining the Line!**

## Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

Corrections: The Hooah of the Week in May 6 edition, Spc. Bernadette Montes was selected for helping organize a G4/S4 conference and misdated to May 21-25. The conference was held April 23.

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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16th Sustainment Brigade  
287th Sustainment Brigade  
304th Sustainment Brigade  
321st Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

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keyword: Expeditionary Times

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3<sup>d</sup> 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

To counteract the drama of trauma at the Air Force Theater Hospital, I occasionally try to lighten things up through casual conversations. Nevertheless, casual conversations prove problematic.

For instance, I recently met a soldier bracing himself against a hospital hallway.

"You look a little confused," I casually observed. "Can I help you find something?"

"The dining hall?"

As I pointed him in that direction, he matter-of-factly explained his unbalanced stance. "I've been in four IED blasts, so I'm a bit confused."

Yes, he said, "four times." There's nothing casual about that kind of constancy.

Sometime earlier, I talked to a Marine who had broken her knee on her walk to the dining hall.

I causally joked that military food is Okay, but it's not worth a broken knee.

She started crying. Uh-oh. What did I say?

"They're sending me home," she sobbed. "I can't leave without my unit."

There's nothing casual about that kind of commitment.

During a recent walk to the gym,

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from Air Force Chaplain (MAJ) Norris Burkes' Website [www.thechaplain.net](http://www.thechaplain.net). Burkes has recently redeployed after completing his rotation after working at the Air Force Theater Hospital, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.*

I haplessly suggested to a hatless soldier that he should find his hat.

He smiled as he presented me with an official paper. "This explains that I lost my hat when my vehicle was blown up."

I smiled. "No worries," I said, "You're good with the casual look."

And breaking with military protocol, I saluted this hatless soldier.

There's nothing casual about that kind of courage.

My final attempt to initiate a casual conversation took place last month.

During a recent trauma call, I watched Senior Airmen Luis Bermudez casually walk into our Emergency Room with a little blood on his shirtless chest.

A few minutes later, Bermudez was asking for a chaplain. Turns out he'd been shot with a stray bullet on his first day of work.

Later he would recall the incident at his Purple Heart ceremony. "I feel blessed to be alive...", he said in an article written by Staff Sgt. Dilia Ayala, 332nd AEW Public Affairs.

These conversations definitely showed the best of these service members, but they also demonstrate that there is rarely anything casual about conversations in a combat-zone hospital.

## Hooah of the Week



Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Terry is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week." Terry, who is a Rochester, N.Y., native, is a support operations air mobility noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC. Terry was recognized because of her work involving the reposition of two 3<sup>d</sup> ESC units from Iraq to Afghanistan.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel Edwards is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week." Edwards, who is a New Orleans native, is a support operations air mobility officer with the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC. Edwards was recognized because of his work involving the reposition of two 3<sup>d</sup> ESC units from Iraq to Afghanistan.

U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael Behlin



# "The Weekly Standard"

*"If you can't apply the standard to everyone, you cannot apply the standard to anyone."*

Welcome to "The Weekly Standard," the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC Inspector General's new weekly contribution to the "Expeditionary Times." Your IG team is launching an information campaign to help educate and enlighten the great Soldiers and Leaders of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC on the multitude of regulations, policies, and trends impacting our units every day.

Along with several other outlets and events, the IG will utilize "The Weekly Standard" to address various topics on a weekly a basis.

You can expect to see information regarding such issues as promotions, nonsupport, awards, uniform policies, and many other "Hot Topics". We will also attempt to answer your questions and welcome your input through our NIPR e-mail at: [escig@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escig@iraq.centcom.mil).

Ensure to check "The Weekly Standard" section each week. Until then, additional information can be found on the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC NIPR portal: <https://www.jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/sustainer/specialstaff/IG/default.aspx>.

By Maj. Lee Kemp  
3<sup>d</sup> ESC Command Inspector General

I'd like to use this first edition to briefly introduce you to your 3<sup>d</sup> ESC IG team. Our organization is comprised of nine Inspectors General dispersed throughout the 3d ESC area of operations with five offices; each one collocated with a Sustainment Brigade in order to provide the command with the best possible support.

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MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)  
SFC Aaron Loos (NCOIC)  
SFC Danilo Egudin  
SFC Javier Cruz

Taji (10th SB): DSN 834-3079  
SFC Tamera Wynn

Q-West (16th SB): DSN 827-6115  
LTC Kyle Peterson

Adder/Tallil (287th SB): DSN 833-1710  
LTC Melanie Meier

Al Asad (321st SB): DSN 440-7049  
LTC Timothy Norton

# Vehicle techs ensure combat-patrol mission, safety

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Security Forces Airmen in the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here constantly go outside the wire to perform missions, and they rely on protection from Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicles to get them through the mission and back to JBB safely.

“Every morning and afternoon as ground combat patrols get ready to leave here, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron tactical mobile maintenance team members stand ready like crew chiefs on F-16s ready to roll in and fix whatever will stop the patrols from executing their missions,” said Col. John Decknick, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group commander.

“We received MRAPs that were brand-new, but because of some configuration issues, and some parts that had not been operations-tested in combat, we had multiple mechanical and electrical problems,” the colonel continued. “Enter ELRS! They devised home-made and innovative (fabrications) for our problems.”

“Every problem that comes up, we get on it immediately and start figuring out whether we need to get parts ordered or if we need to find an alternate way to fix it,” said Staff Sgt. Mike Ferguson, 332nd ELRS tactical mobile maintenance technician.

Since parts for MRAP vehicles can take several months to arrive here, the TMMT fabricates parts to get the vehicle restored and back to the Security Forces Airmen in a timely manner.

“We have designed better alternatives and have fixed the vehicles,” said Sergeant Ferguson. “Now, we are having the parts made in bulk so we can fix and retrofit all of the trucks before damage occurs.”

For example, one of the recent MRAP issues the team tackled was a faulty solenoid, which threatens Airmen’s safety and could destroy the entire vehicle.

A solenoid that helps supply electricity throughout the vehicle caught fire in some of the MRAP vehicles; there are approximately 90 reported cases like this



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Gordinier

**Staff Sgt. Joshua Wheeler, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle maintenance craftsman, attaches a new fabricated door handle on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protection vehicle. Airmen before were using a less-sturdy handle to close the door, which caused it to break.**

one, Sergeant Ferguson said, who is deployed here from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., and is a native of Covington, Ind.

“We tore apart the solenoids and found condensation and other problems that led to the fire, which caused thousands of dollars in damage,” he said. “Tech. Sgt. Nathan Neilsen, 332nd ELRS force-protection maintenance NCO-in-charge, researched alternative solenoids online and found a better one. We ordered a few and put them on the vehicle. We haven’t had the same problems with them since.”

Something else the team trumped was a rear-door closure issue.

The Airmen using the vehicles were running up and down the ramps in the rear of the vehicle, said Sergeant Neilsen, who is deployed here from Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, and is from Tomahawk, Wis. The end result was a warped door that eventually wouldn’t close, which could be disastrous outside the wire.

“We came up with the idea of making legs to support the door to prevent warping,” Sergeant Ferguson said. “Staff Sgt. Joshua Wheeler (332nd ELRS vehicle-main-

tenance craftsman) made the legs for us, and then we took it to ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph Allied Trades) to mass produce them for other MRAPs in the field.”

“Before we identify an issue as ‘fleet-wide,’ we have to let a few repairs come and go as normal; once we identify a trend, that’s when we put on our thinking caps and work the problem,” Sergeant Neilsen said.

“All the problems we have identified have been sent through our chain of command and sent through engineers, MRAP, and the Joint Program Office for implementation in the new revisions at the assembly line,” he continued.

Overall, all the modifications the team has made to the vehicles have been “problem-solvers,” Sergeant Neilsen said, and, upon clearing the discrepancy, have not had the repaired vehicles come back into the shop for duplicate repairs.

“I have a very talented team, and am lucky we are all on the same sheet of music to get these vehicles fully serviceable,” Sergeant Neilsen added. “We have often-times stepped way outside of our Air Force specialty code to better identify and understand the issues.”

Part of an initiative to expedite maintenance for tactical vehicles, the 332nd ELRS is the first squadron in the AOR (U.S. Central Command area of responsibility) to start up a TMMT.

“We started a mobile team that would go to the vehicle’s location, quickly correct the problem, and keep the mission going,” said Lt. Col. David Sanford, 332nd ELRS commander. “In its two months, the TMMT has significantly enhanced our ability to serve front-line customers like the ESFG.”

“As security forces, we cannot accomplish our mission without vehicles and communications,” Colonel Decknick said. “MRAPs are better protection off-base, and we need them in this environment.”

“ELRS is doing all they can to bring our MRAPs up to speed, and putting brain power, muscle and innovation into every solution,” the colonel added. “ELRS makes sure we can do our job. They are truly part of our team, and we feel privileged to be working with these pros.”

## JET Airmen distribute HMMWVs to Iraqi forces

BY STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Working hand-in-hand, Joint Expeditionary Tasking or JET Airmen and Soldiers here are working to arm Iraqi forces with more protective means of transportation.

As U.S. forces change over to the M1151 HMMWV, they turn in their older vehicles, the M1114, to the Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team here as a means of salvaging the vehicles.

Overall, the team processes M1114 up-armored HMMWVs prior to distribution to Iraqi Army and Police.

“We receive M1114 (HMMVVs) from all over Iraq,” said 1st Lt. Victoria Smith, 732nd Air Expeditionary Group JET Airman and RPAT officer-in-charge. “We are the central hub or depot point for the receiving and transferring of M1114s over to the Iraqis.”

The team then accounts for each vehicle turned in and performs an initial safety inspection, storing them until they are ready to be picked up for processing to the next staging point.

“We take these vehicles in from various companies, various battalions, whoever is in need of turning them in,” said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Dietz, RPAT yard

boss and fellow JET Airman. “Instead of scrapping these vehicles, we use kind of like a recycling program.”

“In turn, we continue to improve our relationship with the Iraqi government by selling these vehicles to the Iraqi government for a much lower price than they are standard,” added the sergeant deployed from Moody Air Force Base, Ga. “Then the Iraqi government takes (the HMMWVs), does a little work to them and puts them out in their army and police force for better protection (of their forces) against IEDs, insurgents, things of that nature.”

Once the M1114 HMMWVs are accounted for and have passed their initial inspection, U.S. Soldiers assist in turning the vehicles over to the Iraqis for the next step in the redistribution process. During a typical pick-up, 150 HMMWVs are taken to the next stage in the process.

“The Iraqi Army along with U.S. Soldiers come over to pick up the vehicles to take them to their next staging point,” said Sergeant Dietz, a native of East Islip, N.Y. “We will transfer the M114 to MNSTC-I (Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq); they will in-turn sell it to the Iraqi (government).”

MNSTC-I is a command that is responsible for helping Iraq organize, train and equip its military and police forces and develop Iraqi security institutions capable of sustaining security with reduced Coalition involvement.

While in the hands of MNSTC-I personnel, the vehicles are repainted and any necessary maintenance is performed before they are turned over to Iraqi Soldiers and Police.

Assisting in the redistribution process, Iraqi Soldiers are excited to assist in taking the vehicles to MNSTC-I for processing, helping bring the HMMWVs one step closer to being distributed for use on their daily patrols.

“I am so thankful for these vehicles,” said Hakem, an Iraqi Army private stationed here. “I’m proud to be a part of the process to get them to our Iraqi Soldiers and Police. These HMMWVs will help keep them safe.”

As for them, the JET Airmen on the RPAT feel just as proud to be a part of the redistribution process in terms of what it means for the country.

“This process is really important,” said Lieutenant Smith, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., deployed here from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. “It is important what we are doing in



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

**First Lt. Victoria Smith, Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team officer-in-charge, speaks with Iraqi Army Soldiers prior to them driving M1114 HMMWVs to the Iraqi-run section of Camp Taji.**

this country as far as helping rebuild the infrastructure ... (this will) help get Iraq back on its feet and get them to the point where they can provide everyday security on their own streets.”

As Sergeant Dietz noted, “We are helping the nation stand on its own. It feels good.”

# MEDICAL ALERT



**HEADQUARTERS**  
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS IRAQ  
BAGHDAD, IRAQ  
APO AE 09342

FICI-MD

2 May 2009

## MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

**SUBJECT:** Mandatory Recall of Hydroxycut Products by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- 1. **PURPOSE.** To provide information regarding risks associated with Hydroxycut products.
- 2. **BACKGROUND.** Hydroxycut products are dietary supplements marketed for weight-loss as fat burners or energy-enhancers. The FDA has received reports of serious health problems indicating potential liver injury severe enough to require liver transplant. One death due to liver failure has been reported to FDA. Other health problems reported include seizures, cardiovascular disorders, and kidney failure. As a result, on 1 May 09, the FDA ordered a mandatory recall of Hydroxycut products.

3. **DISCUSSION.** The use of multiple performance supplements is a common finding among deployed personnel. These products are not reviewed, approved, or regulated by the FDA and manufacturers of these products are not required to prove product safety and effectiveness. Based on the information available, we cannot determine exactly which ingredient(s) or proprietary blends in Hydroxycut may be associated with liver injury, or what other factors, such as health condition, length of use, dosage, or use along with other dietary supplements or drugs, may affect the risk of using Hydroxycut. By direction of the FDA, the manufacturer has agreed to recall all the products found at the following link:  
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW02006.html>.

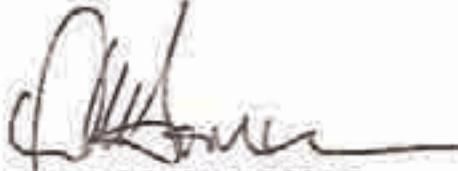
## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS.

- a. Immediately discontinue use of Hydroxycut products in order to avoid any undue risk.
- b. Dispose of or return Hydroxycut products to the place of purchase.
- c. Consumers who have used Hydroxycut and experience signs of illness associated with liver disease should immediately consult a health care provider. Symptoms of serious liver disease may include jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes) and brown urine. Non-specific symptoms of liver disease can include nausea, vomiting, light-colored stools, unusual tiredness, weakness, stomach or abdominal pain, itching, and loss of appetite.
- d. Health care professionals and consumers are encouraged to report serious adverse events with the use of these products to the FDA MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting Program at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/index.html>.

5. The point of contact for this alert is the MNC-I Force Health Protection Officer, DSN 318-485-4202 /4203 or email: [DLMNC-ISURGEONFHP@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:DLMNC-ISURGEONFHP@iraq.centcom.mil).

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARD**



  
**DALLAS W. HOMAS**  
 COL, MC  
 MNC-I Surgeon

MEDICAL ALERT 09-12

# MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

MEDICAL ALERT

# Tips to build your financial wealth

BY MAJ. BRIAN NOMI  
JBB COMBINED LEGAL CENTER

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Many service members in Iraq get paid more than usual, primarily due to special pay and the tax exclusion for being in a combat zone. This is an opportunity to save money. If you're young, time is on your side and retiring a millionaire is achievable. Being deployed presents a chance for service members serving in Iraq to get out of debt and start building personal wealth.

Here are some suggestions to get the most financial benefit during a deployment:

**1. Stop Senseless Spending.** People have a habit of spending their hard-earned cash on goods and services they don't need. The dining facilities offer food free of charge to every service member, yet the lines at the Burger King and Subway are always long.

In order to become wealthy, one must adopt a disciplined lifestyle and bud-

get. This means those who are looking to build their financial nest must make sacrifices – it requires dining out less frequently, spending less on entertainment, and cutting back on unnecessary expenses.

This doesn't mean imposing a restriction on fun, but try doing things in moderation - set a budget to save money.

**2. Pay your Debt Immediately.** Credit card debt is the downfall for many people in today's society. Use credit cards for emergencies only when unable to pay in cash.

For those with credit card debt, start by paying off the highest interest rate debt first until completely paid. Then pay the next highest rate debt, and so on. Save money aggressively until completely out of debt.

**3. Avoid Buying Expensive Cars.** There's nothing wrong with purchasing a luxury vehicle in cash. However, some people spend an excessive amount of their income on vehicles and doing themselves a disservice – especially since assets depreciate in value.

A general rule is a new car loses 15-20 percent of its value per year. So, a two-year old car will be worth 80-85 percent

of its purchase price; a three-year old car will be worth 60-70 percent of its purchase price. After 3 years, a \$20,000 vehicle is worth as little as \$12,000.

In short, many younger Soldiers just starting out should consider buying something practical and dependable with low monthly payments – or preferably one that can be paid in cash. In the long run, this will mean more money to put into savings – an asset that will appreciate, rather than depreciate like a car.

**4. Renting versus Buying.** Many service members will rent a home or an apartment because they are unable to afford to buy a home or unsure if they will live there for a long time. However, renting is often not a good long-term investment because buying a home is a one way to build equity.

Consider putting a down payment on a home, unless planning to move soon. Buying a home will build up some equity with time to build a financial nest.

For military careerist who frequent permanent change of station moves, should be careful on buying a house unless expecting to use the house over a reasonably long term.

**5. Start Building Financial Assets.** One goal is to save up three to six months of living expenses in a cash savings account. This will help save money by not having to pay interest on credit cards, or to pay for unexpected events as they arise.

After establishing this emergency fund, the next step is fund a retirement plan. These are tax-advantaged investments. Funding a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account, a 401(k) and/or a IRA early in life means contributing less money overall and end up with significantly more in the ending than someone who started later in life.

On a long term plan, consider investing in stocks, bonds, and real estate. These investments can be risky, but taking care of your financial priorities first is more important. Such investments are vehicles that can produce real wealth.

For further assistance, please contact the Joint Base Balad Combined Legal Center at DSN 318.433.2836 or stop by their office, building number is 7235 (The painted castle t-barriers at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Hawk).

# SAFETY

## Safety Topic of the Week

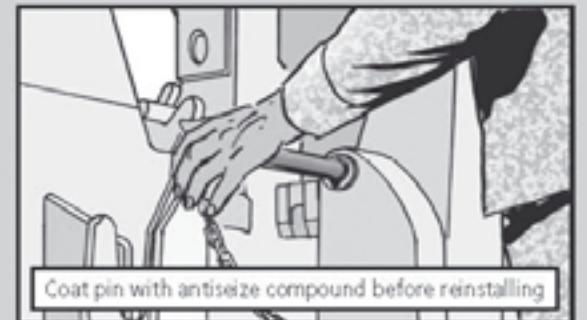
Courtesy of PS Magazine. For service members using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/ps-mag/psonline.cfm>



Drivers, the load handling system (LHS) hook arm on your PLS or HEMTT won't be grabbing many loads if you don't keep its pin, NSN 5315-01-361-2721, lubed. Some of those pins are going unlubed so long that they have to be removed with a sledgehammer!

Just lube the pin according to App G in TM 9-2320-364-10 (Nov 05) and Page 3-2 of TM 9-2320-304-14&P (Aug 00 w/Ch 1, Sep 01). That means removing the pin, cleaning it, and giving it a coat of antiseize compound every 1,500 miles or semiannually, whichever comes first.



ANTISEIZE COMPOUND COMES IN VARIOUS SIZED CONTAINERS, SO ORDER WHAT YOU NEED FROM THIS LIST...



Container Size	NSN 8030-
1/4-lb	00-059-2761
1/2-lb	01-087-8254
1-lb	00-251-3980
2 1/2-lb	00-597-5367
5-lb	00-286-5453

Before reinstalling the pin, eyeball the flat washer, NSN 5310-01-216-2799, and safety pin, NSN 5315-01-355-3744, that hold it in place. Replace them if they're missing or damaged.

Then, make sure you use a bore brush to clean out the bore where the pin goes. If you don't, all that old antiseize compound, along with any dirt and sand that has collected, will still be there. That newly lubricated pin won't last very long.

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF**HEADQUARTERS  
MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS - IRAQ  
BAGHDAD, IRAQ  
APO AE 09342**

FICI-CG

## MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

1. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault within our ranks. In support of the second phase of the Army's "I. A.M. STRONG" campaign, which is an "Army-Wide Conviction", the Multi National Corps-Iraq will aggressively address sexual assault and harassment issues. It will focus on training, education, reporting, prevention, victim advocacy, and holding offenders accountable. The Army policy promotes sensitive care and confidentiality of victims of sexual assault, as well as accountability for individuals who commit these heinous crimes, and it is our objective within this theater to do the same.
2. Our service members and civilian professionals make tremendous sacrifices each day serving their Nation's call, and they must be able to serve in a command climate free from incidents of sexual assault. We are a "Band of Brothers and Sisters" bound by common values with discipline and loyalty to each other which sets us apart from society. It is the duty of every person to intervene and prevent incidents of sexual assault before they occur. Offenders who commit the crime of sexual assault not only betray their victims, they violate the sacred trust of their fellow professionals who count on them. Sexual assault violates the very essence of what it means to be a service member and civilian professional.
3. The Multi National Corps-Iraq team will be the vanguard of the "I. A.M. STRONG" campaign. All leaders across the theater are charged with employing initiatives that combat sexual assault, and to help bring about a cultural change. Leaders must serve as role models who personally take action and address any behavior which can lead to sexual assault. It is fitting that this is also "The Year of the NCO," as non-commissioned officers from across the branches of service are the key to ensuring that every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine is educated on measures that will help rid sexual assault from the Iraqi theater of operations.
4. The point of contact is LTC Simpson, MNCI EO/SHARP Program Manager, DSN: 485-5082.

FRANK A. GRIPPE  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
Multi-National Corps-IraqCHARLES H. JACOBY JR.  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

A

# ITC, Sustainers sustain partnership

BY SGT CRYSTAL REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – A Kansas based Sustainment Brigade renewed a six-month contract in March with local Iraqi trucking company, Al Ghezy, to deliver cargo across southern Iraq.



The trucking contract, will continue the successful partnership between Al Ghezy and the 287th Sustainment Brigade from Wich-

ita, Kan., helping further establish Iraqi logistics infrastructure.

“Al Ghezy has been successful and is helping support all of southern Iraq with the items they move for us,” said 1st Lt. Andrew R. Wright, the ITC officer in charge for the 287th Sust. Bde. “We want to continue to work with them to be able to stand on their own and continue to contribute to Iraq’s infrastructure.”

Wright, a resident of Paola, Kan. said the first six months of working with Al Ghezy focused on basic convoy operations, security and safety standards. He said it is a new experience for Iraqis

to learn the U.S. safety standards like preventative maintenance on vehicles and properly securing the cargo to the truck.

“Every time they (Al Ghezy) hire a new driver we train them on the importance of safety and security,” Wright said. “To date ITC has had no accidents or serious incidents reported.”

When the new contract ends in September, the 287th projects Al Ghezy will have moved 2,020 containers of cargo. Wright said the ITC drivers are excited to work with Coalition forces and do a great job delivering cargo.

“They can complete missions quicker

because they know the area better and can go on side routes,” Wright said. “U.S. convoys are restricted to certain routes for security purposes.”

Wright said the goal for the next six-months is to work on the business aspect of the ITC, such as teaching them record keeping and proper payroll paperwork. He said before payroll was just word of mouth and a handshake and now they’re training them to keep a signed payroll to track people who have been paid.

“We are slowly but surely are stepping up their business skills to get them to a level to be successful on their own,” Wright said.

# Sustainer choir inspires unit

BY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The newly formed Sustainer Choir made their first performance at the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prayer luncheon at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation east center here on April 4.



The choir was formed by Maj. Deon M. Green, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC command judge ad-

vocate and the Sustainment Choir director, so Soldiers from the unit could perform at unit functions.

“Having a small choir is a challenge because when only five or six people are singing you have to hit every note right every time,” Green, from Milwaukee, Wis., said.

She said joining the choir was open to any Soldier in the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC; with participants ranking from specialist to lieutenant colonel.

“I don’t know how many more events we will do, but I do know there are some very talented people in this

unit,” Green said.

Green said the choir only had three weeks to practice before the concert and it was hard to meet because Soldiers have varying work schedules. She said thankfully, everyone was dedicated to making the choir successful.

“It was excellent in the end,” Green said. “We had people who believed in the event and who had a desire to sing and came together to make it happen.”

The Sustainer Choir is made up of five singers, one person who sings and plays the drums and one keyboard player.

Green also explained that the benefit of having a small choir is that the director can select songs that are not only appropriate for the event but songs that also match the voices of the people in the choir. She said she selected the first song, Holiness – the version the Sustainer Choir sang was inspired by gospel singer Donnie McClurkin’s version of the popular song – because it fit the voices of the singers in the choir.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever been in a unit with so much talent,” Green said. “They’re not just singers and musicians but other types of artists as well.”




## Tune In To

# BALAD AND BEYOND

Telling the Sustainer Story from all across Iraq

Now airing on the  
Pentagon Channel

every Tuesday at 1900 IZ  
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keyword: Balad and Beyond




Digital Video and Imagery  
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# Balad MMT Soldiers awarded Combat Action Badge

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Four 81st Military Mail Terminal Soldiers received the Combat Action Badge while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Friday during a ceremony here May 1.

“The Soldiers presented the CAB here today have all worked hard to support the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC mission and I want to thank them for all that they do,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general. “Their mission for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC is very important as mail is an integral part of a Soldiers quality of life, especially in a combat environment.”

Receiving the CAB were Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan L. Gay, Sgt.

Ysian N. Feanny-Peele, Spc. Andrew S. Castaneda, and Pfc. Shayla K. Sturm.

The Soldiers received the CAB for their actions on October 25, 2008, when, during an indirect fire attack on Joint Base Balad, a 57mm rocket crashed through the roof of the Joint Military Mail Terminal and landed within close proximity.

“This is my first deployment and while we’re not located in the most dangerous area, it’s not necessarily considered one of the safest either,” said Pfc. Sturm, an Alexander, Iowa native and JMMT postal operations Soldier. “It feels good to receive a Combat Action Badge for what happened that day. As a private first class, I feel privileged.”

On May 2, 2005, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff approved the creation of the Combat Action Badge. In keeping with the spirit of the Warrior Ethos, the Combat Action Badge provides special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage the enemy, or are engaged by the enemy during combat operations.



Sgt. Ysian N. Feanny-Peele, a Kingston, Jamaica native, and Joint Base Balad postal operations noncommissioned officer, is congratulated by 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Major Willie C. Tennant, after being awarded the Combat Action Badge during a ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

## Fort Drum Soldiers From page one

Logistics Training and Advisory Team partnering with the Al Asad Location Command, trained the IA to self-sufficiency in water treatment, power generation, and vehicle maintenance, according to Col. Samuel R. Bethel, commander, 321st Sustainment Brigade.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cliff Young, battalion command sergeant major, 548th CSSB, said he was impressed by his Soldiers’ day-to-day level of commitment, dedication and overall work ethic.

“I’m honored to serve with them,” said the Montgomery, Ala., native. “Whether it was 15 months or 20 months, we were here to carry out the mission.”

Although an Army unit, the 548th CSSB was the primary support bat-

talion for the Marines at forward operating bases and combat outposts throughout Anbar province. In accordance with the new security agreement, the unit also helped the Marines close down those bases located in or near cities.

The 548th CSSB was relieved by the 751st Combat Support Sustainment Battalion of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

“The 548 did an outstanding job,” said Lt. Col. Jody L. Dew, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 751st CSSB. “We plan to continue that tradition and support the effort.”

The 584th Maintenance Company color guard listens as unit histories are recited during a transfer of authority ceremony at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq May 3.



On the Web

16<sup>TH</sup> SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

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

## Transportation first sergeant awarded St. Christopher medallion

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



Q-WEST, Iraq — First Sgt. Keith Edwards from the 51st Transportation Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade,

was awarded the Honorable Order of Saint Christopher medallion here April 27.

"I spoke with 1st Sgt. Edwards before this ceremony and he didn't tell me what he had done, he told me what his company had done," said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) who traveled from Joint Base Balad and presented the award. "People like Edwards take pride in what their units have done, and that's why they're great leaders."

The award was bittersweet for the

outgoing first sergeant, who was leaving for the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy after three years with the 51st Trans. Co.

But Edwards, a Grenada, Miss., native, said he was proud to be recognized.

"It was an honor," said Edwards. He said being nominated for the award "shows the confidence that my leaders have in me."

Edwards, who has served in the Transportation Corps since he enlisted straight out of high school in 1984, currently on his third deployment to Iraq, said he joined the Army for new challenges and has never looked back.

"I just wanted to try something different, something new, and challenge myself," Edwards said. "I've never regretted one day of it. I've loved every bit of it since I've been in."

The Army's Chief of Transportation, Brig. Gen. G.S. Harper approved the Military Order of Saint Christopher in July 1998 "to recognize those individuals who have made significant contribu-

tions to the U.S. Army Transportation Corps."

The "Honorable Order of Saint Christopher" recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character; displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence; and served the Transportation Corps with selflessness.

St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers and of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. The corps, established July 31, 1942, dates back to the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington appointed the first wagon master.

Edwards, who has served in Turkey, Japan, Korea, and through several combat tours, has some advice for Soldiers just getting started in transportation.

"A lot of times you will have to make sacrifices, but hang in there and maintain your motivation," Edwards said. "You are Sustaining Soldiers; you are working for a great cause."

The Mannheim, Germany based



First Sgt. Keith Edwards with the 51st Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade is awarded the "Honorable Order of St. Christopher" medallion by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general from, in front of the transportation company's headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq April 27.

transportation company provides convoy security and line haul support to bases in Multi-National Division – North.

## MRAP rollover trainer

BY SGT. ALEX SNYDER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The U.S. military is fielding a new vehicle rollover simulator to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The simulator is the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Egress Trainer, or MET, and is the military's latest initiative to prepare troops how to react in the event of a rollover.

According to military statistics, there were approximately 118 non-hostile-related MRAP rollover incidents from Nov. 1, 2007 to Mar. 31, 2008. Since April 2007, the military has fielded approximately 12,000 MRAPS.

"The training was definitely beneficial," said Sgt. 1st Class Marlon L. Williamson, first sergeant with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Movement Control Battalion after going through the training. "Hopefully

all Soldiers will be able to go through this so they experience what it feels like to go through a rollover just in case they do become a part of one."

The MET consists of a vehicle cab mounted to two rotating wheels on a raised platform, and is based on an earlier humvee rollover trainer.

Unlike its predecessor, however, the MET comes in five variants for different MRAP models currently fielded by the military – the RG-33, RG-31, MaxxPro, Caiman and Cougar.

Although the MET system currently exists at only three locations – Camp Buehring and two camps in Afghanistan – this will soon change.

By the end of June, MET systems will spread to 20 locations, including 13 camps in Iraq and six in Afghanistan, said Bill Huggins, the project manager for Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation in

Southwest Asia. PEO STRI is an Army agency responsible for developing and fielding new equipment.

Huggins said approximately half of the MET systems will be delivered to the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Iraq.

Future production models will be built with the ability to change out cabs to meet the training needs of troops at a given camp, Huggins said.

"Initially each site will only have a MaxxPro cab," Huggins said. "As the ... priorities from theater are determined, those follow on cabs will be built and shipped later."

Because Buehring has three MET systems and three civilian trainers, it is capable of training up to 300 troops per day; at sites where only one system is available that number will be between 100 and 120, Huggins said.

Camp Buehring was selected as the lo-

cation for three of the five initial trainers because it serves as the gateway to the Iraq theater and "touches every unit that deploys to Iraq," said Capt. Anthony A. Wheeler, an operations training officer for United States Army Central G3 (Forward) Training.

While many troops have applauded the prototype MET systems at Buehring, they have not been without some hiccups, training officials said. Recently, during one training session an escape hatch broke off its hinges when a Soldier attempted to climb out of a vehicle.

Huggins said it's not uncommon to encounter issues when equipment is fielded quickly because it hasn't undergone the usual two years of extensive testing.

"The bigger interest is getting training capability to the warfighters," Huggins said, noting these issues will be corrected on the "production" models fielded in coming weeks.

From page one



On the Web

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
(EXPEDITIONARY)

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

# 63rd RRC receives combat patch

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Representing 30 different states and 23 unique Reserve commands, Soldiers from the 63rd Regional Readiness Command from Los Alamitos, Calif., received their 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) combat patch during a ceremony here April 17.

The Soldiers, who handle multiple staff roles within the ESC headquarters, help manage the ESC logistics operations in Iraq while working as one team with the Fort Knox, Ky., based active duty ESC Soldiers.

“Life and service in Iraq is inherently dangerous and you should be proud of your contributions and know that from this day forward, you are always going to be a proud Veteran of

the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC commanding general addressing the newly assigned Reserve Soldiers during the ceremony.

For one Soldier, this is his third deployment and second combat patch. Of his two combat patches, Lt. Col. William J. Hruska, a G-3 plans officer for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, and Sheboygan, Wisc., native, chose to wear the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC’s patch.

“This is more significant because it seems like the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC really took us under their wings and made us feel like one of the team,” said Hruska.

For Spc. Sean M. Campbell, a help desk technician for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC and Eugene, Ore., native, this is his first deployment and first combat patch.

“It signifies that you have gone overseas, you’ve done your duty and you’ve done what you signed up for,” Campbell said. He said listening to “The Star-Spangled Banner” while hearing helicopters fly over made him tear up.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian Barbour

Soldiers from the 63rd Regional Readiness Command don their combat patch during a patching ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq April 17. The Soldiers, who handle multiple staff roles within the ESC headquarters, help manage the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC logistics operations in Iraq while working as one team with the Fort Knox, Ky., based active duty 3dESC Soldiers.

# Public health offers influenza prevention measures

COURTESY MESSAGE FROM THE  
332ND EAMDS PUBLIC HEALTH,  
JOINT BASE BALAD, IRAQ

A novel H1N1 Influenza virus causing human “swine flu” continues to grow in the United States and internationally. The virus is believed to be spread in the same way as regular seasonal influenza viruses. Influenza viruses are spread mainly from person-to-person through sneezing or coughing by infected individuals. People may become infected by touching something contaminated with influenza viruses and then touching their nose or mouth. Infected people may be able to infect others one day before symptoms even emerge and up to seven or more days after becoming sick.

Personal protective measures to avoid influenza infection include:

1. Wash hands often with soap and water
  - a. Wet hands and apply liquid, bar, or powder soap
  - b. Rub hands together vigorously

to make a lather and scrub all surfaces

- c. Continue for 20 seconds! It takes that long for the soap and scrubbing action to dislodge and remove stubborn germs

- d. Rinse hands well under running water

- e. Dry hands using a paper towel or air-dryer

- f. If possible, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and open doors with knobs/handles

- g. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based wipe or hand gel

2. Cover nose and mouth by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or up-pur sleeve, not the hands

3. Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth

4. Minimize crowding in living quarters and work spaces to the greatest extent feasible

5. Orient bunks in a head-to-toe configuration

6. Don’t share drinking contain-

ers and eating utensils

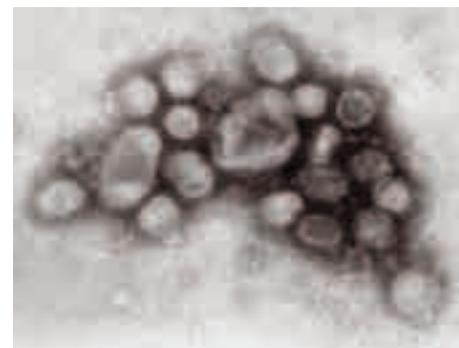
7. Frequently clean/wipe inanimate objects (e.g. desks, telephones, keyboards, faucet handles, doorknobs, etc) to help decrease this hardy virus from spreading. Left unchecked, this virus can retain its infectivity for up to three days on surfaces.

8. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food

9. Quit smoking. Some research studies show an increase in influenza infections among smokers compared to nonsmokers. If you are thinking about quitting smoking, today is the time to take the appropriate steps to do so. There is a higher mortality rate for smokers than nonsmokers from influenza.

For additional information, log on to these website links:

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>



Courtesy photo

The image is of the newly identified H1N1 influenza virus taken in the CDC Influenza Laboratory.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

DoD Watch Board: <http://fhp.osd.mil/aiWatchboard/>

Pandemic Flu Home Page: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

Global Disease Alert Map: <http://healthmap.org/swineflu>

The 332nd EAMDS Public Health can be contacted at DSN 443-2950

On the Web

Task Force  
Muleskinner

10th Sustainment Brigade

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

# Army, Air Force Part

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
*Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman*  
 Expeditionary Times Staff

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER SCANIA, Iraq – Thirteen Airmen partner with Soldiers here to support convoy operations between Kuwait and Baghdad.



Attached to the 330th Transportation Battalion, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the 37th Movement Control Team is a team of Airmen who assumed what was historically an Army mission.

“They’ve adapted and grasped onto the concept very quickly,” said Air Force 1st Lt. Hannah N. Grewatz, commanding officer, 37th MCT. “Even though this is all out of their comfort zone, I think they’ve picked up things very quickly and they’re doing a fabulous job.”

Located alongside Main Supply Route Tampa, or Highway 1, south of Baghdad, Grewatz described the CSC as a huge truck stop for both northbound and southbound Coalition convoys. Several hundred vehicles stop here to rest and refuel every day, and the 37th MCT tracks each and every vehicle and its cargo.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Amanda S. Crowley, of Ellsinore, Miss., said tracking convoys is important to keep everyone informed and to get supplies where they are needed as safely and quickly as possible.

In addition to tracking the convoys, the 37th MCT also ensures convoys get refueled, secure parking spaces and billeting for Soldiers who stay overnight.

Aside from the combat skills training at Fort Dix, N.J. before being deployed here, the Airmen had little to prepare them for the mission. Most had some experience transporting household goods or palletized cargo by air; none were familiar with MCT and convoy operations, admitted Grewatz, a native of Arlington, Texas.

When Airman 1st Class Jennifer L. Beesley, of Sacramento, Calif., first heard about their mission to support an Army unit on a small, remote base, she said she was apprehensive. The experience from this deployment, though, has built her confidence.

“I think we’re actually doing a pretty good job taking over for the Army,” she said. “I’m out there doing the same thing they’re doing.”

Crowley said the opportunity to see how another branch of the military works is a unique opportunity for her Airmen. In the case of the 37th MCT’s mission here: seeing how the Army manages convoys, what Soldiers do and how they live is an invaluable experience.

“And that’s why I’m Air Force,” she said with a laugh.



Military vehicles queue up for convoy mission inside the yard at Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq April 16. Convoys routinely stop at CSC Scania to rest and refuel on the way to their destination.

# Partnership at Scania



A line of fuel trucks wait for a convoy mission to begin inside the yard at Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq April 18.



Spc. Thomas Bramble, a broadcast journalist with the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, helps crewmembers clean the mirrors and windows of an up-armored humvee, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq April 14. The humvee was part of a convoy which escorted fuel trucks down to Convoy Support Center Scania, south of Baghdad.

## Program Makes High-Cost Schooling Accessible to Troops, Vets

BY DONNA MILES  
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (May 1) – Service members and veterans who enroll in the new Post-9/11 GI Bill will be able to attend some of the country's most prestigious – and high-cost – universities, thanks to a new program that's gaining momentum in academic circles.

Keith Wilson, director of education service for the Veterans Benefits Administration, reported growing interest in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

"We're getting a lot of activity in that area," he said. "There are a lot of schools that have expressed interest in participating."

Participating colleges and universities enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses above the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. That rate, the maximum the Post-9/11 GI Bill can pay by law, varies from state to state.

Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, the school waives or offsets up to 50 percent of those higher costs, and VA will match that same amount.

If, for example, the tuition bill at a participating university is \$20,000 and the Post-9/11 GI Bill can pay only \$15,000, the university and VA will split the \$5,000 difference, explained Tammy Duckworth, who was confirmed last week as VA's assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs.

Duckworth's alma mater, Washington's George Washington University, became the latest institution to sign on to the program this week. GW's commitment provides for 360 veteran stu-

dents to benefit during the 2009-2010 academic year, which university officials expect to cover all eligible undergraduate and graduate students.

Under the agreement, qualified servicemembers and veterans attending GW as undergraduates will receive free tuition, and those attending as graduate students will receive a significantly discounted rate.

In announcing the university's participation, GW President Steven Knapp called the school's estimated \$2.5 million investment in the program during the upcoming school year a way of giving back.

"This is a significant investment in those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf," he said. "We as a nation owe our veterans a debt of gratitude, and this commitment will enable veterans who attend GW to have the kind of educational opportunity the original GI Bill envisioned."

Other schools large and small have signed on or are considering the program.

At Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., officials said they couldn't say no to the initiative. "It's really exciting for us, because it's an opportunity for us to serve veterans who have served our country," public relations director Karrie Heartlein said. "As you know, veterans deserve the best our country has to offer, and that includes the opportunity to attend the college of their choice. The opportunity for them to attend Knox College is very exciting."

La Roche College in McCandless, Pa., also joined the program. "We're honored to play a role in helping our veterans reach their education and ca-

reer goals," said Hope Schiffgens, director of the school's Office of Graduate Studies and Adult Education. "This is a time in our nation's history when education and retraining is vitally important, especially to this group of men and women who have given so much to us."

Jerry Jackson, dean of enrollment management at Union College in Barboursville, Ky., said his school also looks forward to working with veterans through the Yellow Ribbon Program. "We're eager to get this program started and to make sure our veterans know they're welcome as students at Union," he said. "We're proud to be able to help cover the cost of a college education for people who have served our country."

"I am so pleased that Centenary College will be able to provide this benefit to the fine men and women who have served our country," echoed Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite, acting president of Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J. "It is an honor to be able to reward these individuals for their dedication. Additionally, we look forward to benefiting from their global experiences in the classroom based on their military service."

In announcing his school's participation, Mari Ditzler, president of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill., said he looks forward to the opportunity "to serve those who have served our country."

"The residential liberal arts experience at colleges like Monmouth has been described as uniquely American," he said. "We are pleased that the Yellow Ribbon Program will enable our veterans to experience this special ap-

proach to learning and living."

"We are excited to be a part of the Yellow Ribbon Program and to support our nation's veterans," agreed Joel Bauman, vice president of enrollment services at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. "This program allows us to offer educational opportunities to those who have made tremendous sacrifices, and this is one way we can give back and thank them for their service."

In Pittsburgh, Seton Hill University's vice president for enrollment services, Barbara Hinkle, called the program a win-win situation. "We're very excited about the possibilities -- both for our current students whose families may qualify, but also for future students as they come back from being deployed or their family members who are here," she said.

Wilson said he expects more schools to join their ranks as Yellow Ribbon Program participants.

"We just started soliciting applications about two weeks ago," he said. "We're processing them as they come in, and we're getting them coming in every day."

VA began accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill today. The new benefit takes effect Aug. 1. It is among several VA-sponsored educational benefits available to servicemembers and veterans.

Related articles:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54151>

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=54127>

## Saving service members bundles of money

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Volunteer income tax assistants received certificates of appreciation from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Air Force Brig. Gen. Brian T. Bishop, commanding general, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, here April 29.

Volunteers at the tax center here helped service members and civilian contractors save approximately \$1.7 million this tax season.

"This was a resource that's truly appreciated by all the Soldiers," said Lally, whose own tax return was filed at the volunteer tax center. "Each of you (volunteers) is a credit to your own organization and to yourselves."

From Feb. 2 to April 30, 36 volunteers at the tax center processed more than 1,300 tax returns free of charge, saving service members another \$140,000 in estimated service and filing fees.

Wearing a shirt with "I survived tax

season 2008" emblazoned on the front, Spc. Jaclyn M. Mims, a paralegal specialist from Palmer, Mass., and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jerol Boyce were the driving force behind the program.

Mims said the pair started in October, taking certification classes and contacting the Internal Revenue Service, which had to approve the program. They scrounged up computers, supplies, even a building to establish operations.

Mims' only previous experience was her volunteer work at a tax center last year.

"I think we topped ourselves," she said. "I think we did a lot more than we thought we could do."

A greater challenge was finding and training volunteers as military tax preparers, and then figuring out how to work around their schedules, Mims said. Some volunteered for the recognition, she admitted, while others did it for the simple satisfaction of helping someone else. One volunteer, a flight surgeon, she said spent two hours a week at the tax center for no other reason than he liked doing taxes.

Even with full-time jobs, Lally said most volunteers worked 12-20 hours a week at the tax center. It was a level of devotion he said impressed him and ev-



Spc. Jaclyn M. Mims, a paralegal specialist, helps a Soldier file his tax return at the tax center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq April 30.

everyone involved.

"I've made really good friends working here," Mims said, adding that two volunteers were already invited to her wedding this September when they return to the United States.

After Boyce redeployed back to the United States, Mims said she essentially ran the tax center on her own. It was hectic, she said, trying to juggle her job as a paralegal specialist and her responsibilities at the tax center. She received phone calls all day long from volunteers with questions and did the record-keeping on

her own.

"It was a little crazy at times, and I ended up getting some anxiety issues in the middle of it," she said with a smile.

Still, between the one-star general and the service members who walked in with boxes of receipts, wondering what they could deduct, Mims said the entire effort was worth it.

"I would do it a million times over if they asked me," she said. "The recognition is cool, but it's the satisfaction in knowing I was a part of something really great here."

# First day of Iraqi Cultural Awareness Class

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Sustainers began an Iraqi Cultural Awareness class here at the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters April 27.

The purpose of the class is to give Soldiers who do not regularly interact with Iraqis a better understanding of their unique culture and history, said Lt. Col. Billy V. Hall, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC officer in charge of Iraqi Security Forces-Transition Team, which is sponsoring the course.

The class is especially important for young Soldiers and junior leaders as “it will put things more into perspective as we continue relations with Iraq and

other countries in the Middle East,” said Hall, a native of Whitesburg, Ky.

Twelve one-hour lectures are scheduled over a six-week period, covering a diverse range of topics, such as history, geography, language and customs.

“Classes like this are important because they help break down walls between different cultures,” said Sgt. Maj. Chris D. Mackey, support operations sergeant major, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, and native of New Orleans, La.

Mackey, who attended a previous class, said it was invaluable.

He said the class provided the context he needed to understand the local culture; the relationship between Kurds, Sunni and Shia; and the challenges faced by the Iraqi government. He said it surprised him when he learned how similar the Islamic holy book was to the Bible.

It’s because of classes like this, relations between Coalition forces and Iraqis have improved over the years, Mackey said.

Omar al Ogaili, the current instructor, started working as an interpreter for Coalition forces in Baghdad in 2003. He said Coalition forces were initially hesitant to interact with Iraqis or to trust them; service members made a lot of unintentional mistakes because they didn’t know how to interact with Iraqis.

Now Coalition forces are more prepared, and there is a working partnership to build on, Ogaili said.

Ogaili believes the Iraqi Cultural Awareness class is a big help for service members who might not fully appreciate Iraq’s rich cultural heritage. Among other things, Iraq was the birthplace of civilization, and has the

first code of laws and the earliest example of literary fiction, the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Attending the class is voluntary. Students, who ranged in rank from colonel to private first class, took the class primarily for their own benefit and personal development, Hall said.

This is the fourth iteration of the Iraqi Cultural Awareness Class hosted by the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC. The next class is scheduled from June 8 to July 15.

Any service member who wants to attend can email Maj. Patrick L. Rowe at [patrick.l.rowe@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:patrick.l.rowe@iraq.centcom.mil). As seating is limited, Headquarters, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC Soldiers will have priority because the coursework was designed with them in mind. However, any service member who is interested in attending the class can make an inquiry, Hall said.

# Transporters honor outgoing leaders

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
1ST LT. NICHOLAS MADSEN  
UPAR, 68TH TRANS. CO.,  
419TH CSSB, 10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Mannheim, Germany’s 68th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, conducted a change of command ceremony here April 3.



Iraqi Army General Transport Regiment commander Col. Muhammed joined Coalition leaders from the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 10th Sustainment Brigade during the 68th Transportation Company change of command ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq April 3.

Commander, Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks, of Irvine, Calif., and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Swanson, of Perris, Calif., presided over the transfer of command ceremony from Maj. Donna Johnson, a Columbus, Ohio native to incoming Capt. Robert Richard, a native of Laplata, Md.

During the 15 month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 68th Trans. Co., worked on numerous joint endeavors devoted to developing the IA General Transport Regiment into a more capable, logistically focused organization and conducted sustainment convoys supporting Coalition forces throughout Iraq.

Also in attendance were Soldiers and Leaders from the 10th Sustainment Brigade and representatives from the Iraqi Army with whom the 68th Trans. Co. has worked during their deployment.

The incoming commander was selected, by the unit’s higher command from Kaiserslautern, Germany’s 28th Transportation Battalion, after serving as battle captain during the battalion’s current deployment. Both Richard and the incoming first sergeant look forward to leading the unit through their remaining deployment and redeployment process while continuing to



Capt. Robert Richard, a Laplata, Md. native, accepts the 68th Transportation Company’s colors from 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks, a native of Irvine, Calif., during a change of command ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq April 3. The transfer of colors symbolically represents the entrusting of the incoming commander with maintaining the welfare of the unit.

successfully develop the 68th Trans. Co. here and in Germany.

Both Johnson and 1st Sgt. Brian

Stoops, of Butler, Pa., were selected for promotion and continuing on to attend their respective training schools.



**On the Web**

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



# Liberty Sustainers; a 'family affair'

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. KIMBERLY OSORIO-TORRES  
UPAR, 317TH MAINT. CO., 10TH  
SUST. BDE.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Bamberg, Germany's 317th Maintenance Company has several Soldiers with Family members in theater - sharing the hardship and experience of their deployment together.

## The Hernandez Family

Staff Sgt. Emilo Hernandez, an operations noncommissioned officer and a native of Immokalee, Fla., is deployed with his brother, Sgt. Maj. Santiago J. Hernandez. Santiago is currently based at Forward Operating Base Summerall with the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Santiago, an Infantryman and also a native of Immokalee, Fla., is the battalion operations non-commissioned officer in charge.

"Being in the military, for both of us, is like a roller coaster. When we talk on the phone, being far apart is easy. However, getting together at home is a battle for even the best of NCOs. Sometimes

our biggest disputes are about who is going to do what and who is better," Emilio said. "Now that we are serving together in Iraq, it has brought us closer than ever. Even though we have our differences at home, here we stick together."

Other Soldiers find it more difficult leaving their Family with other Family members stateside.

## The Bishop Family

Deployed to Victory Base Complex, Sgt. Deeann Bishop and her spouse share the benefit being on deployment together but the hardest is leaving their son with Family.

A challenge - both Deeann, a native of Flagstaff, Ariz., and a small arms & artillery repair specialist, and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Bishop, a tracked vehicle mechanic with the Forward Support Company, 54th Engineer Battalion, and a Campbellsville, Ky. native - face together.

While having different missions, they are able to spend at least one day during the week catching up.

## The Johnson Family

Pfc. Steffen Johnson, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 317th and native of Carthage, N.Y., on his first deployment to Iraq had quite the experience.

Six months into his deployment,



Pfc. Steffen Johnson, a native of Carthage, N.Y., and wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 319th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and his father, Staff Sgt. John Johnson, Moses Lake, Wash., native and forward observer with the Fort Lewis, Wash., based 1st Corps, reunite in Iraq after eight months into Steffan's deployment at Camp Liberty, Iraq March 3.

Johnson's father, Staff Sgt. John Johnson, a Moses Lake, Wash., native, and a forward observer with the 1st Corps, came walking through the company area looking for the younger Johnson.

"It's great to have someone close while deployed. It definitely makes the time go by faster and gives me a reason

to look forward to the weekends," said the younger Johnson after spending some time with his father.

Deployments are never easy and being separated from Families can be stressful. But for some, Soldier's deployed with a sibling, a parent or spouse can be a "family affair."

Leadership  
to  
Meet  
the  
Challenges  
of a  
Changing  
World

**JOINT BASE BALAD**  
Present  
*Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*  
**Observance**  
**MWR East Facility**  
**28 May 2009 at 1130 Hours**  
*Guest Speaker: CSM Jose Crisostomo*  
**Command Sergeant Major**  
**402<sup>nd</sup> Army Field Support Brigade**

**Contact:** MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC EO Advisor @ 433-2527,  
MSGt Matthew Wendel, 332 AEW EO Director @ 443-8459,  
LTC James-Michael Yates, TF 34 EO PM @ 483-4589,  
MSG Scott Shockley, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC EO Advisor @ 433-2527,  
MSG Rita Cossio, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC EO Advisor @ 433-2527,  
SFC Sidney Karneke, 555<sup>th</sup> EN BDE EO Advisor @ 483-4645,  
SFC Lisa Paxton, 304<sup>th</sup> SB EO Advisor @ 433-2917,  
SSG DaMon Walker, 51<sup>st</sup> ESB BN EOL @483-2217  
MSG Bernice Mitchell, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC Fusion Cell NCOIC @ 433-2314

**DOD National Theme:**  
*"Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World."*

**Lunch will be provided**  
**Essay Awards**  
**Cultural Dance Presentations**

# Sustainers receives KALMAR training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
1ST LT. AARON CLINARD  
UPAR, 398TH CSSB, 10TH SUST. BDE.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - Three



Forward Logistics Element Soldiers with the 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion were trained on the

technical operations and maintenance of



Staff Sgt. Justin Gondeiro, a Geyser, Mont. native, is trained by KALMAR representative Tracey King, a native of San Antonio, operates a KALMAR Rough Terrain Container Handler during a class held for three Soldiers from the 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq.

Kalmar's Rough Terrain Container Handler here.

The RTCH is used to assist in the movement of shipping containers during the loading and unloading from transport trucks.

Staff Sgt. Brian Wilson, a Meadville, Pa.; Staff Sgt. Justin Gondeiro, a native of Geyser, Mont.; and Staff Sgt. Dorothy Hightower, a Warner Robbins, Ga. native, were taught how to use the material handling equipment to help improve their mission of movement operations and function more efficiently.

The FLE operates a supply point, ammunition storage, fuel point, and maintenance area as part of their operation is assisting in the transportation of equipment and supplies around the Baghdad area.

Staff Sgt. Lee Mickleberry, a native of Richmond, Va., the FLE support operations maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge contacted KALMAR representatives to conduct the unit's training and support.

The KALMAR representatives provided in-depth training on the equipment maintenance and operator level operations such as how to properly conduct preventive maintenance checks and services while offering operator tips to better employ the equipment safely.



A 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Forward Logistics Element Soldier operates a KALMAR Rough Terrain Container Handler and places a 20-foot shipping container on the flatbed of a tractor-trailer during a class by Kalmar representative at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq.

The training was successful and showed initiative on the part of the unit to prolong the use of its equipment and to improve its capabilities.

The KALMAR RTCH is capable of picking up 20 and 40 foot shipping containers weighing up to 53,000 pounds

and loading the containers onto a truck or rail for transport.

A major part of these Soldiers mission requires moving large shipping containers which can carry many types of supplies needed to sustain units in the Baghdad area.

## Topic of the Week

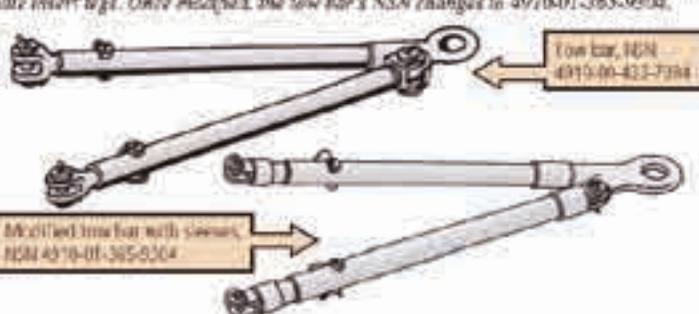
Courtesy of PS Magazine. Soldiers using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/psonline.cfm>

# Maintenance & Supply

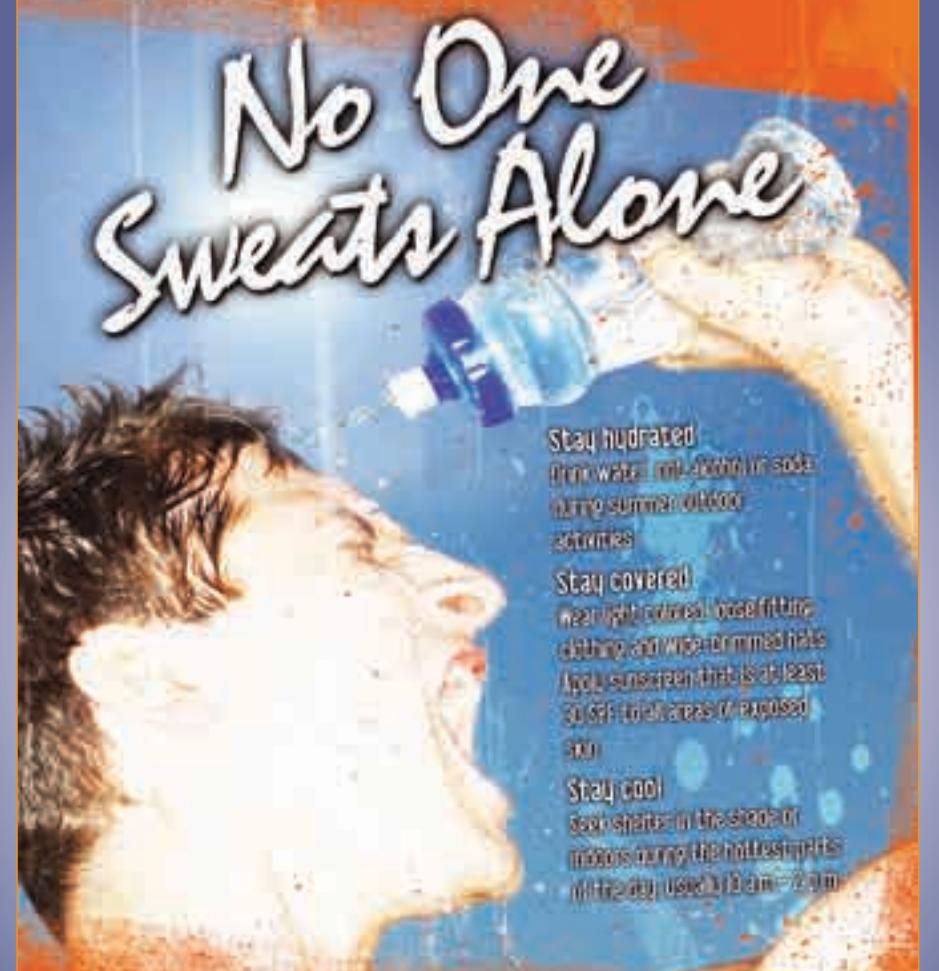
Tactical Vehicles...

### Tow Bar Help Needed

Dear Half-Meat:  
I found the article on M113A3 tow bar parts in PS 637 (Dec 05) to be a lot of help. Do you have any similar info on the wheeled vehicle tow bar, NSN 4910-00-433-7094?  
We have a big problem with missing pins and haven't been able to locate the parts or numbers. Anything you can provide would be greatly appreciated!  
CW2 A.H.E.

Dear Mr. A.H.E.,  
This one's a little complicated, but I think we can help you out, Sir.  
First, if you're still using tow bar NSN 4910-00-433-7094, imp: TACOM Safety-Use Message 05-001 disallows these tow bars because of a potentially dangerous design deficiency.  
The SQUM tells you to inspect the tow bar to see if it has been modified. Modified tow bars will have a sleeve welded to the fixed leg, the movable leg, and to each of the two male insert legs. Once modified, the tow bar's NSN changes to 4910-01-365-0204.  
  
You'll find SQUM 05-001 at the AEP's website:  
[https://aep2.arpa.army.mil/commodity/aeum/tacom\\_wa06/squm05-001.html](https://aep2.arpa.army.mil/commodity/aeum/tacom_wa06/squm05-001.html)  
If your tow bar doesn't have the sleeves, it'll need to be modified following the instructions in MWO 9-4910-593-20-1. Use your AKO login and password to access it at the LOGSA ETM website:  
<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etm/pdf/files/070000/071000/073192.p-3f>  
The modified tow bar, NSN 4910-01-365-0204, is covered by TM 9-4910-593-12A.F:  
<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etm/pdf/files/060000/060000/062965.p-3f>  
You'll need your AKO login and password to access the TM. The repair parts for the tow bar are in Appendix C of the TM.  
Half-Meat

# No One Sweats Alone



Stay hydrated  
Drink water, not soda, during summer outdoor activities

Stay covered  
Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and wide-brimmed hats. Apply sunscreen that is at least 30 SPF to all areas of exposed skin.

Stay cool  
Seek shade in the shade of trees during the hottest parts of the day. Use a 18-in. x 24-in.

SAFE Summer

Have fun and look out for each other this summer. Be your part to protect your Band of Brothers and Sisters.



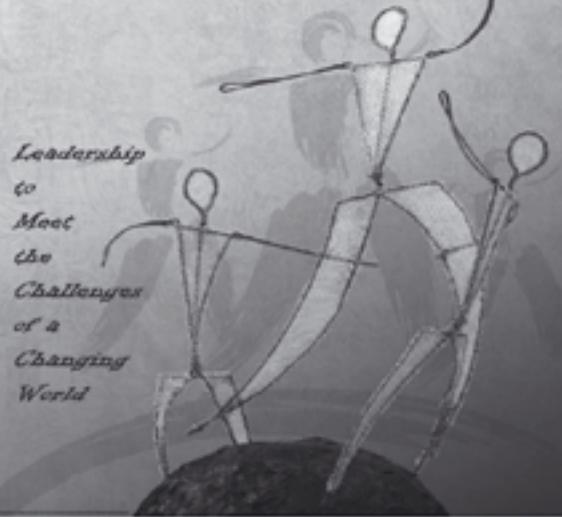


# JOINT BASE BALAD

## Presents Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

- **Open to all on JBB**
- **12 point font size, Double space, 2 pages or less**
- **Must pertain to the National 2009 Theme: "Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World."**
- **Please submit all essays by 1800 hours May 22, 2009**

### Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



#### Send essays to:

tuynuykua.jackson@iraq.centcom.mil  
 scott.shockely@iraq.centcom.mil  
 mattew.wendal@blab.afcent.af.mil

Prizes for the top three essays will be presented at the  
**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Luncheon  
 on 28 May 2009 at the MWR East at 1130**

POC: MSG Jackson, Tuynuykua Senior EO Advisor 3d ESC at 433-2695,  
 MSgt Wendel, Matthew EO Director 332 AEW at 443-8459,  
 LTC Yates, James-Michael EO PM TF 34 at 483-4519,  
 MSG Shockley, Scott EO Advisor 3d ESC at 433-2527,  
 MSG Cossio, Rita EO Advisor 3d ESC at 433-2527,  
 SFC Karneke, Sidney EO Advisor 555<sup>th</sup> EN BDE at 483-4645,  
 SFC Paxton, Lisa EO Advisor 304<sup>th</sup> SB at 433-2917

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# MEMORIAL DAY

T-SHIRTS WILL  
 BE GIVEN TO  
 THE FIRST 700  
 FINISHERS !!!!!

25 MAY 2009 @ 0600

HOLT STADIUM

# 5K FUN RUN

# JOINT BASE BALAD

# 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.

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

Last weeks answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Now considered one of the most influential pieces of music of the 19th century, which opera was composed by Richard Wagner in 1857-59?
2. Formed as a party in 1872, what party split from the ranks of the Republican Party in opposition to President Ulysses S. Grant?
3. Who played SGT. HULKA in the movie STRIPES?
4. Who was the first player to win a batting title without hitting a homerun?
5. Other than the Air Force, which military service requires the highest general ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Appitude Battery) test score in order to join?

1. Tristan and Isolde 2. Liberal Republicans 3. Warren Gales 4. Rod Carew 5. Marine Corps

## JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

<b>TRADITIONAL</b>	<b>MASS</b>
Sunday 0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel 0930 Provider Chapel 1030 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel 1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel	Saturday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) (Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment) 2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side) Sunday 0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1100 Provider Chapel 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel Tha 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel Mon, Wed, Fri 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Mon-Fri 1130 555th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200
<b>GOSPEL</b>	<b>JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES</b>
Sunday 1100 MWR East Building 1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1900 Provider Chapel	Friday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Saturday 0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Saturday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
<b>CONTEMPORARY</b>	<b>ISLAMIC PRAYER</b>
Sunday 0900 Chapel-Ned Iraq/MWR East 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) 1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side) Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	Friday 1230 Provider Chapel
<b>HISPANIC PROTESTANT</b>	<b>PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP</b>
Saturday 1930 Provider Chapel	Thursday 1900 The Shack Saturday 1900 The Shack
<b>LITURGICAL -Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian</b>	<b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b>
Sunday 1500 Gilbert Chapel (H-6)	Sunday 0900 Provider Annex
<b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b>	
Saturday 1000 Provider Chapel	
<b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b>	
Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)	
<b>LATTER DAY SAINTS-(MORMON)</b>	
Sunday 1300 Provider Chapel 1530 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1900 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	

For Further Information Please Call:  
 Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703  
 Provider Chapel: 433-2430  
 Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. AquaTraining: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	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.	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.	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. Tue., Thu., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.	<b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Tue., Wed., Fri., 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. Dminos: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. 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. 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.
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## Check CHUdays

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

**Gain a new perspective.**

Own the Edge through Composite Risk Management, or CRM

<https://crc.army.mil>

U.S. ARMY  
  
 U.S. Army Center of Excellence  
<https://crc.army.mil>  
 OWN the EDGE  
 Composite Risk Management

**Joint Base Balad**  
Blackjack Education Center DSN 433-2099

**CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE**

*Enrollment Dates for 2009 Semesters*

Program	Course Number	Course title	Start Date	End Date	Days	Times
Information Technology	IS1012200-120001	Introduction to Information Technology (1 Credit Course)	05/04/09	08/03/09	Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri	0800-1200
Management/ Business Science	MG1012227-120001	Study in Psychology of Personal Development (1 Credit Course) (no previous)	05/04/09	08/03/09	Mon-Thu 0800-1045 (4 days straight)	0800-1000
Management/ Business Science	MG1012225-120001	Introduction to Business (1 Credit Course)	05/04/09	08/03/09	Wed, Thurs (2 consecutive)	0800-1000
Criminal Justice	CRJ1012227-120001	Introduction to Criminal Justice (1 Credit Course)	05/04/09	08/03/09	Mon, Wed, Fri	0800-1000
Criminal Justice	CRJ1012225-120001	Legal Systems and Practices	05/04/09	08/03/09	Tue, Thu, Sat	0800-1000

For more information contact Dustin Colson at [Balad@europetcd.edu](mailto:Balad@europetcd.edu) or DSN: 433-2595.

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**University of Maryland University College Europe**  
**\*2009 May Seminar Schedule\***  
*\*These are all one credit seminars\**

Seminar	Seminar Description	Days	Times	Start Date	End Date	Go Army Ed #
SO02986	Family Violence	Sat	0900-1700	9 May 2009	10 May 2009	84386
HW1190C	Noncom: Understanding the Global Threat	Sat	0900-1700	9 May 2009	9 May 2009	84443
UB0150	Introduction to Research Methods	Sat	0900-1700	17 May 2009	18 May 2009	83035
EW01005	Remedial Weather Waves	M/W/F	0800-1030	18 May 2009	19 May 2009	83026
EN01006	Introduction to Army Issues	Sat/Thu/Fri	0800-1030	19 May 2009	20 May 2009	83029
BC01001	State of Nutrition & Muscle Development in Combat and Heat Stress	Sat	0900-1700	23 May 2009	24 May 2009	92704

For more information contact UMUC at 440-7412 / 483-2857 or [enac@ed.umuc.edu](mailto:enac@ed.umuc.edu)  
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HI ALISSA, IT'S TIM. I'M HOME ON LEAVE. IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY TONIGHT, I THOUGHT WE COULD GET TOGETHER...

YOU WOULD?! ... OK! GREAT! SO I'LL PICK YOU UP AT 8:00 THEN. ...BYE.

MY HAIR?! YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON WHO SHOULD BE MAKING ANY HAIRCUT JUDGEMENTS, BUB.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HAIR?!

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# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

### Wednesday, May 13

5 p.m. Madea Goes To Jail  
8 p.m. I Love You Man

### Thursday, May 14

5 p.m. Race To Witch Mountain  
8 p.m. X-Men: Wolverine

### Friday, May 15

2 p.m. Monsters vs Aliens  
5 p.m. Star Trek  
8:30 p.m. Star Trek

### Saturday, May 16

2 p.m. Adventureland  
5 p.m. Star Trek  
8 p.m. Fast & Furious 2009

### Sunday, May 17

2 p.m. Star Trek  
5 p.m. Fast & Furious 2009  
8 p.m. Monsters vs Aliens

### Monday, May 18

5 p.m. Monsters vs Aliens  
8 p.m. Adventureland

### Tuesday, May 19

5 p.m. Adventureland  
8 p.m. Star Trek

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

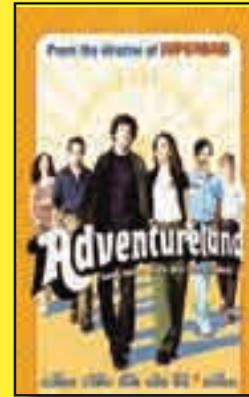
## Star Trek



Mission: Impossible III director and Alias creator J.J. Abrams resurrects the classic science fiction franchise created by Gene Roddenberry with this feature film that embraces the rich history of the influential television and film series while also exploring some uncharted territory. Heroes star Zachary Quinto assumes the role of the Federation Starfleet lieutenant and Vulcan made famous in the original series by Leonard Nimoy (who also appears in an older incarnation of his original role), Spock, with Anton Yelchin stepping into the role of USS Enterprise navigator Pavel Chekov, Zoe Saldana assuming the role of communications officer Uhura, Simon Pegg keeping the ship in top shape as chief engineer Montgomery Scott (aka "Scotty"), and Eric Bana tormenting the benevolent space explorers as the villainous Nero. Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle co-star John Cho also boards the Enterprise as Hikaru Sulu, with Chris Pine and Karl Urban assuming the legendary roles of Captain Kirk and Leonard "Bones" McCoy, respectively.



## Adventureland



Inspired by writer/director Greg Mottola's own true-life job-from-hell experience, Adventureland stars The Education of Charlie Banks' Jesse Eisenberg as an uptight recent college graduate who discovers that he'll have to get a degrading minimum-wage job at a local amusement park instead of spending his summer drinking German beer, visiting world-class museums, and flirting with cute French girls. It's the summer of 1987, and James Brennan (Eisenberg) has just graduated college. James is all set to embark on his dream tour of Europe when his parents (Wendie Malick and Jack Gilpin) suddenly announce that they won't be able to subsidize the trip. Now the only things James has to look forward to this summer are sugar-fueled children, belligerent dads, and an endless parade of giant stuffed animals. When James strikes up a relationship with captivating co-worker Em (Kristen Stewart), however, he finally starts to loosen up. Suddenly, the worst summer ever doesn't seem quite so bad.



## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Wednesday 5/13/09

Tampa Bay Rays @ Baltimore Orioles, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Boston Red Sox @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Atlanta Braves @ New York Mets, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

### Thursday 5/14/09

2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Kansas City Royals @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 5/15/09

St. Louis Cardinals @ Pittsburgh Pirates, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
New York Mets @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra

### Saturday 5/16/09

Houston Astros @ Chicago Cubs, Live p.m. AFN/sports  
2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Milwaukee Brewers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Houston Astros @ Chicago Cubs, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra  
FOX Saturday Baseball Game of the Week: Los Angeles Angels @ Texas Rangers, Live 11 pm AFN/xtra

### Sunday 5/17/09

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: All-Star Challenge (Lowe's Motor Speedway, Concord, NC), Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Round TBD, Game TBD: Teams TBD, Live 2 a.m. AFN/Prime atlantic  
Boston Red Sox @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
D.C. United @ Chivas USA, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
FC Dallas @ Houston Dynamo, Tape Delayed

5:30 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Sunday MLB on  
TBS: Atlanta Braves @ St. Louis Blues @ Cincinnati Reds, Live 8:00 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

### Monday 5/18/09

Cincinnati Reds @ San Diego Dodgers, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Chicago White Sox @ Toronto Blue Jays, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

### Tuesday 5/19/09

Los Angeles Angels @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 NBA Playoffs - Round TBD, Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Angels @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra

On the Web



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

# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



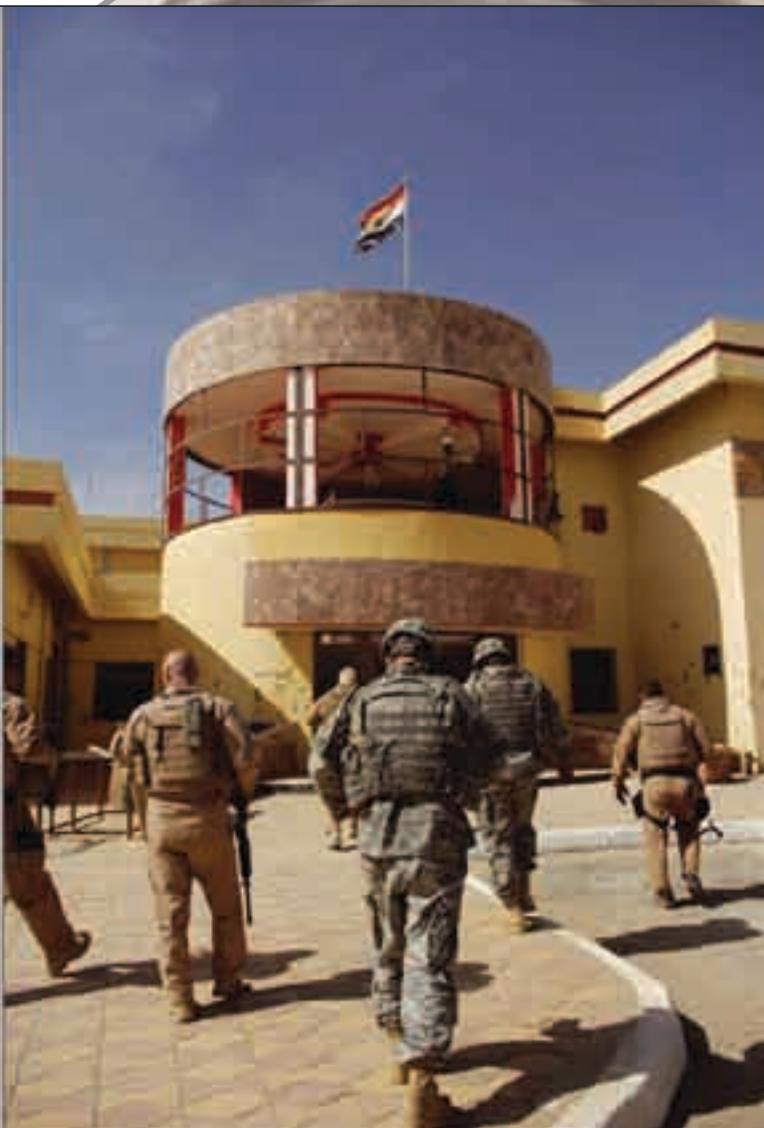
U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Elliott

**U.S. Army Sgt. Teddy Solomon (right) from Atlanta, Ga., of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) (left), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, talks with an Iraqi student from Tikrit University, in Tikrit, Iraq April 27.**



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Joshua E. Powell

**U.S. Army Spc. Arthur Guevara from San Antonio, Texas, of 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, performs vehicle maintenance on a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Armored Fighting Vehicle at Joint Security Station War Eagle in Baghdad, Iraq, April 29.**



U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kim Smith

**Members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers checks the progress on a hospital facility that will provide maternity services to more than 50,000 people near Musayib, Iraq April 27.**



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

**U.S. Army Sgt. Felix Tartaglia of Manheim, Pa., assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment (Associators), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard, walks through a field while on a joint air assault mission with Iraqi soldiers, near the city of Tarmiyah, Iraq April 29.**

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Iraqis prepare with Critical Maintenance Skills

 BAGHDAD, Iraq - The National Police Sustainment Brigade held their third automotive maintenance course at Prosperity Forward Operating Base April 30. Thirty three national policemen were trained as automotive mechanics within a two week period. Thus far, 86 people have graduated with the skills provided by this course to provide basic maintainer skills necessary to sustain the M1114s used to perform their daily activities.

In attendance was Iraqi Maj. Gen. Adnan, commander of the Iraqi National Police and U.S. Army Col. Michael Sage, J4 Logistics, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. Adnan addressed the members of the graduation by stating, "The Iraqi people were isolated from training for a long period, and the Iraqi people are intelligent and picked themselves up."

Adnan followed his address by congratulating the graduates of the Maintenance Support Team and wishing them well in providing support and service to their fellow countrymen.

Sage followed Adnan with a few encouraging words to the graduates of the MST Course by declaring, "I want to congratulate you on the completion of this course and thank you for your dedication. I hope that you take this information back to your units. We will continue to work together to create a stable logistics system."

This training was asked for by the national police in an effort to legitimize and professionalize their automotive mechanics in order to increase and maintain the national police equipment readiness. Students are collected from a variety of towns and cities found all over the country of Iraq in order to participate in this course.

We estimate the training of 120 national policemen by May 28 to be automotive mechanic certified.

## Locations Increase Iraqi Army Command & Control

 AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq - Throughout Iraq, Location Commands are being planned, designed and developed in close coordination with coalition forces and private Iraqi construction companies in order to consolidate and coordinate Iraqi Army training and maintenance activities.

Currently the Iraqi Army is spread out over vast areas in facilities poorly designed for command and control of training and maintenance operations. These Location Commands will bring an Iraqi Army division together, to work closely with one another, ensuring unity of effort and standardization of training and maintenance programs.

A team of engineers and planners from the Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq reviewed plans and drawings that are 99 percent complete for the Location Command at An Numaniyah Military Training Base April 29. This Location Command, close to Forward Operating Base Delta, will provide housing for Iraqi Army officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers along with a Petroleum Oil and Lubricants facility, Morale Welfare and Recreation, buildings, latrines and hygiene facilities and a level three maintenance facility. The foundations for some of these new buildings have already been laid and work is eagerly being done to complete this project in the next nine months.

"We are very excited about working with the Iraqi Army and private Iraqi construction companies to develop a facility that will enable the Iraqi Army units to sleep, live and train together," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mark Behl, Senior Advisor to the Director of Location Commands,



Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. "This facility will make it possible for the Iraqi Army 8th Division Commander to provide services to his soldiers and their equipment much easier than before."

The project at An Numaniyah was coordinated with MNSTC-I J7 engineers and the Gulf Region South, GRS. The project will cost approximately \$6.7 million to complete and when finished will provide a level of service that will allow the Iraqi Army to better maintain its strength and capability to protect the people of Iraq.

## Cannons go silent in Al Anbar province

 CAMP AL TAQADDUM, Iraq - As the security situation in the Al Anbar province continues to improve, the final Marine Corps artillery unit to operate its cannons in Iraq, Battery G, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, is preparing to go home, signifying a significant change in the nature of the conflict in Anbar.

Three Marine artillerymen currently deployed with RCT-6 were present during the initial push into Iraq in 2003, and these same men returned with a new mission - to see the conclusion of artillery's chronicle in Anbar province.

On March 20, 2003, Coalition forces entered Iraq, beginning an offensive that focused firepower at specific targets in order to take control of significant strategic positions. Before this attack commenced, Marines sat for hours waiting at the Iraqi border, a border covered with M198 howitzers, which was then the pinnacle of Marine Corps artillery fire power.

Within range of the long-range weapons, U.S. forces struck hard and fast to gain the advantage and overrun enemy positions.

Demoralizing the elite forces on the border, Marines pushed forward into enemy territory.

During the invasion, Marine Capt. Michael J. Carrasquilla, the current RCT-6 fire support coordinator and a forward observer with 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines at the time, commented that artillery had no problem living up to its magnificent history.

"We did what artillerymen always do during a time of war - justify our existence to the Marine Corps," said Carrasquilla.

But soon artillery faced a new restriction. It wasn't the enemy's use of urban areas that prevented fire missions; it was the changing nature of the conflict in Iraq.

Though the kinetic aspect of artillery's involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom has significantly decreased, artillery commanders are still assisting in civil affairs

and have played a valuable role in helping Iraqis reconstruct their society.

Since their arrival at Camp Al Taqaddum, Battery G has fired numerous illumination rounds in support of nighttime operations. But now, with levels of violence reaching new lows, the Marine Corps is ready to send its artillery home.

"As a whole, in 2003, we came here to liberate a country," said Carrasquilla. "In 2009, we are here to help the people of Iraq develop a self-sustaining country ... we are helping the people of Iraq develop a new way of life."

Even while preparing to withdraw the last of Marine Corps artillery from Iraq, artillerymen are preparing for new missions wherever they are ordered to go.

"We will be just as efficient as we were against the common enemies of the Iraqi people," said Harrison. "Our tactics will adapt as Marines do."

## Provincial police in Tikrit train to serve Salah ad-Din

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq - After three days of training and instruction, Iraqi policemen listened intently to questions about first aid, vehicle maintenance and driving tactical vehicles - questions they quickly met with enthusiastic answers, proving what they had learned.

Salah ad-Din provincial policemen from the 3rd Emergency Response Unit in Tikrit increased their knowledge of these procedures to better serve the citizens of the province. The policemen trained with Soldiers of Company G, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Forward Operating Base Danger during the last week of April.

"The training was truly beneficial to me, because in these three days of training, I have learned things that I did not know before," said Rasool Khalil Esmail, a policeman with the 3rd Emergency Response Unit.

Provincial policemen from three ERU's in Tikrit are training with Coalition forces to improve efficiency in their operations. Approximately 30 policemen from each ERU participate in the training each three-day session.

The training provided the Iraqi policemen the opportunity to get hands-on instruction in three important areas: proper vehicle maintenance, basic first aid and behind-the-wheel training using the up-armored humvee.

The Iraqi Police force will be issued vehicles at a later time, according to 2nd Lt. Dan Smith, a platoon leader who helped organize the training.

"Upon receiving the vehicles, they will have a familiarization of how to operate these vehicles safely - they know what the abilities of the vehicles are, and also the limitations. This will enable them to use these assets to complete their missions in Tikrit," said Staff Sgt. Jason Sanford, one of the company's platoon sergeants.

During the medical training, the Iraqi Police learned basic first aid skills in a manner similar to a first responder's course where individuals react to different medical trauma scenarios.

"It is important ... to explain not just how to perform the medical procedures but why - so I incorporate basic human anatomy into the course to increase their understanding on these techniques," said Spc. Brandon Shaffer, a medic who taught the first aid classes.

The Iraqi Policemen remained enthusiastic throughout the training and showcased their aptitude in the final examination day of the course.

"This training is very useful because we will be capable of controlling situations that present themselves while we are performing our job," added Esmail.

# Sustaining the Line



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kirsten E. Froelich

Approximately 300 Soldiers and civilians ran in cool, breezy weather in recognition of the World Health Day at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, April 7.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Dezerie Jemmott

Spc. Tyler Hand, a native of Springfield, Mass., and Spc. Eric Chaffins, a native of Ashland, Ky., conduct vehicle maintenance services in the 110th Quartermaster Company motor pool at Camp Liberty, Iraq April 13.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Jesse Johnson

Sgt. Jason Davidson, a native of Round, S.C., installs a category-5 cable system into the Bravo company office space. Sgt. Davidson's professionalism and pride in his work keep the office fully functioning while maintaining a neat and orderly appearance. Davidson is currently deployed with Bravo Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Demetrius Spruill

First Sgt. Lamando Parker, native of Salisbury, N.C., first sergeant for the 991st Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion advises several young noncommissioned officers of the values of success and the importance of mentorship during the 419th CSSB NCO induction ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq, March 27. "Your success is not judged by how far you move up in the ranks... but how many Soldiers you help move through the ranks. NCOs are homegrown."