

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 23

SHARING THE ROAD

Iraqis, Coalition forces celebrate return of Scania thoroughfare

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MORE WATER IN THE SOUTH

COB Adder unveils bottled water plant

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MASTERS OF ARMOR

602nd Maint resets humvees for ISF mission

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Is your Father deployed to Iraq this Father's day?

Send us your Father's Day messages with a HiRes photo by June 10.

Photos and messages will be published in the June 17 Expeditionary Times.

Please include you and your father's full name with rank, unit information, base location in Iraq and any message or shout-out to your Family.

For more information or message submission, send an e-mail to Staff Sgt. Tonya Gonzales at: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



AMC Commander visits Sustainers

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alex Snyder
 Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, and Mr. Dean G. Popps, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology are briefed by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the 3rd ESC commander, during a visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq on June 4. The visit to JBB was part of a larger tour of the Middle East to meet with leaders in preparation for the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

Iraqi Army Director of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering visits 3rd ESC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
 SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
 EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

for maintenance and repair parts sustainment operations. Hosted by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd ESC commanding

See EME VISIT,
 Page 5

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Staff Maj. Gen. Muniem, Iraqi Army Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, and Brig.

Gen. Nabeel, EME deputy, visited the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) here Tuesday, to observe U.S. military practices and processes

Staff Maj. Gen. Muniem, the Iraqi Army Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, takes notes while being briefed by Maj. Robert Frank, 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion support operations officer, on the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) logistics processes practiced in the consolidated supply support activity warehouse at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 2.



332 ESFS Blotter

May 28 – Jun 3

MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION:

A vehicle driver came to the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle collision occurred. The driver stated via AF Form 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant after backing out of the parking space, the driver proceeded to pull forward and struck a t-wall barrier causing some damage. There were no damages to the t-wall barrier. There were no injuries to the driver.

LOSS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY:

A victim telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a theft had occurred. Security Forces were dispatched and when they arrived on scene made contact with the victim. The SF assisted him in completing his written statement via AF IMT 1168 Suspect/Witness/Complainant. The victim stated he placed his property in his room May 13. By May 30, he noticed his property missing and was not able to locate it. SF conducted an exterior sweep of his quarters for signs of forced entry and found no signs of forced entry.

MAJOR VEHICLE COLLISION WITH NO INJURIES:

A reporting party called the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle collision had occurred. Security forces were briefed and dispatched. SF arrived on scene and determined the collision to be a major vehicle collision. The vehicle driver #1 stated via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant he was making a left turn when he heard someone yell "watch out," but driver #1 had no time to react. Vehicle driver #2 statement supported driver #1's statement.

NIPR: 443-8602
SIPR: 241-1171
Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

LEGAL ALERT



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

3^d ESC Military Justice Report

In a General Court-Martial convened in June 2009, a Specialist was convicted of stealing money from a Soldier in his unit on multiple occasions of a value greater than \$500.00. The Soldier was also convicted of stealing money from a Soldier in his unit on multiple occasions of a value less than \$500.00. Finally, the Soldier was convicted of giving a false official statement to CID about the misconduct. The Soldier was sentenced by a Military Judge to the following:

- A Dishonorable Discharge
- 14-months confinement
- Reduction to Private (E-1)

Sustaining the Line!

LEGAL ALERT

June 2009 Calendar
June is National Safety Month
June 12- 19: Army Birthday Week

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

Chaplain's Corner

"Have you ever noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac."

-George Carlin

There is a popular misconception among many people and it is this: They think that they are at the center of the universe and everything revolves around them. They see the world from their perspective and consider only how things affect them and not others.

For almost 30 years we have been living in the "Me" generation. Based on recent events, it is apparent that this lifestyle and attitude hasn't been working very well. When people live for themselves, they develop character qualities such as greed, selfishness, deceit and exploitation. Not quite in keeping with the Army values or any other values for that matter!

As we cruise down the highway of life, do we complain about the driving habits of others? To the person in the "car" next to us or behind us, we might be the one who is the idiot or the maniac behind the wheel! Life is a good ride when we have the right perspective. The other "drivers" that we get frustrated with are people just like us. We need to "share the road" with one another, appreciating each other's differences and working together for the common good.

What we need today is an inter-planetary shift, a decision to remove ourselves from the center of the universe. When this occurs, a new generation will emerge known as the "We" generation. And the sooner this happens, the better.

Prayer for Selflessness

Dear God, I sometimes live like life is all about me. Forgive me for my selfishness. Help me to put the needs of others ahead of my own. Amen.

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

WARRIOR CARE
SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN MILITARY WELL-BEING

OUR GREATEST ASSET: YOU

IF YOU ARE WOUNDED, ILL, OR INJURED,
WE WILL GET THROUGH IT TOGETHER.

"THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
AFTER THE WAR ITSELF, THAN CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS."
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES

ARMY WARRIOR CARE
WARRIOR CARE AND TRANSITION PROGRAM: [HTTP://WWW.ARMYMIL/WARRIORCARE](http://www.armymil/warriorcare)
ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM: [HTTP://WWW.AW2.ARMYMIL](http://www.aw2.armymil)
WOUNDED WARRIOR RESOURCE CENTER: (800) 342-7647

WE STAND TOGETHER



"The Weekly Standard"



Army National Guard NCO Promotion System

The National Guard Bureau provides an automated system to each state in order to calculate a Soldier's promotion points covering promotions to sergeant through sergeant major. YOU, the Soldier, must remember it is a tool that relies on the data entered in your state's personnel database system and personnel electronic records management system (iPERMS). That is why YOU must be involved in the promotion process.

Your commander is required by AR 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, to verify the unit eligibility roster before each promotion board. This includes adding and deleting names.

Your first line leader is required by the same regulation to review NGB Form 4100-1-R-E (Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet) with you to verify and update the information and to obtain your choice in writing whether to accept or decline consideration. If you are not available to do this in person, your commander may verify the data with you and obtain your choice by phone, fax, mail or email, and then sign and date the worksheet for you.

Before every promotion board, your first line leader should be sitting down with you. However, if he or she does not approach you about going over your Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet, you need to bring it up. Your NCO supervisor, first Sergeant and command sergeant major should want the best for you and make sure it is done by the regulation, but you are ultimately the one responsible for managing your career.

By Lt. Col Melanie Meier
3^d ESC Inspector General

<p>Our organization is comprised of nine Inspectors General dispersed throughout the 3^d ESC area of operations with five offices; each one co-located with a Sustainment Brigade in order to provide the command with the best possible support.</p>	<p>Joint Base Balad (304th SB): DSN 433-2125 MAJ Lee Kemp (Command Inspector General) MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy) SFC Aaron Loos (NCOIC) SFC Danilo Egudin SFC Javier Cruz</p>	<p>Q-West (16th SB): DSN 827-6115 LTC Kyle Peterson Taji (10th SB): DSN 834-3079 SFC Tamera Wynn Adder/Tallil (287th SB): DSN 833-1710 LTC Melanie Meier Al Asad (321st SB): DSN 440-7049 LTC Timothy Norton</p>
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JBB's BOS-I team focuses on mission, QoL

BY MAJ. BILL PIERCE

332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Base residents are the beneficiaries of additional benefits since the Base Operating Support-Integration team conducted its initial planning meetings 11 months ago.

In general, BOS-I is a changeover of base support functions that includes food service, lodging, vehicle operations, supply, fuel, base upkeep, construction and base defense.

In June 2008, the BOS-I team began the long process of transferring support functional authority to the Air Force here. Leading this initiative was the newly selected 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, Col. Sal Nodjomian.

"Fortunately for us we had about four months before the transfer of authority took place," said Nodjomian. "This gave us time to work with the former leadership team and learn how they conducted business. In addition, we had the opportunity to look at all of the projects they started but were not able to finish."

Using this information, Nodjomian was able to successfully implement many processes typically conducted on Air Force bases stateside, bringing everything under the 332nd EMSG umbrella.

"One of the Air Force's core competencies is installation management," he said. "Traditionally, the Air Force fights from its bases. The installation is our warfighting platform. Therefore, we look at things differently than other services; not necessarily better, just different."

Today, results of the changeover can be seen around JBB. Whether the changes affect sanitation or electricity, food services or force protection, the 332nd EMSG's efforts have a direct impact on mission execution, quality of life and process improvement.

"Every member of the Mission Support Group, top-down bottom-up, understands anything and everything they do on a daily basis



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

Workers install new power lines here June 1. The new lines allow JBB to run on power-plant power, no longer requiring generator power.



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

Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron dig trenches and lay waterlines here recently. The 332nd ECES is taking the final steps to get recently moved shower and bathroom units back up and running as part of a quality-of-life project here. The units were moved to provide residents better access.

must fit into one of these categories. Our focus is the customer," added the Baltimore native deployed here from Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon.

Mission Execution

For example, the 332nd EMSG consolidated the base master plan. Under the old system, various organizations would create individual plans and then execute them. Today, the base master plan provides a single focal point allowing all organizations on JBB to routinely present their plans to the 332nd EMSG.

Overall, implementing this system eliminated more than \$5 million in facility construction the first six months alone.

"Once we found out what our customers needs were and we had a good idea of our inventory, we were able to match their needs with existing inventory, preventing unnecessary development," said Nodjomian.

Moreover, the group understands development is sometimes necessary. When that time comes, Nodjomian's team is ready to serve.

"Colonel John Decknick (332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group commander) came to our organization saying, 'here is a system we inherited. Here are the deficiencies, and we would like your help to fix them.' We took their information, analyzed it, came up with a plan to improve the overall security of JBB, and engaged," said Nodjomian.

Meeting the needs of customers like the 332nd ESFG ultimately resulted in improved security and safety for more than 26,000 JBB residents. By and large, more than \$50 million was devoted to lighting, entry control point construction,

badging stations, and overhead protection.

"This is just one example of meeting our customers needs," said Nodjomian.

Quality of life

Since BOS-I transferred in November 2008, the 332nd EMSG has focused on improving the quality of life for all JBB residents. To develop other housing areas around the base, the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron used the Housing Area 6 model. "Our initial goal was to raise the other areas to the H6 standard," said Colonel Nodjomian. "To get there, we developed a comprehensive community-development plan. All JBB construction projects fit into one of three phases: completed, under construction, or planned."

"Our goal is to improve the quality of lives for everyone; they deserve it," he added the.

While the 332nd EMSG looks for ways to improve quality of life, the group is always mindful of funding.

"Most improvement items we im-

plemented have a relatively low cost but a high rate of return," said Nodjomian. "Today, residents are enjoying one of three fitness centers, a remodeled USO, a new post office, TV and radio stations, self-help centers, sanitation upgrades, and the numerous AAFES enhancements."

Process improvement

Since the Air Force and the 332nd EMSG assumed BOS-I, there have been a number of challenges the group has had to contend with; one of them is the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq.

In preparation Nodjomian and his team conducted several studies analyzing JBB's base life-support capabilities. This detailed analysis has been used by Air Force Central Command, Multi-National Core-Iraq, and Multi-National Force-Iraq to show the JBB mission set can grow over the next two years as US forces continue to reposture. In general, these studies prove promising and also lead to significant cost savings.

One such savings is the way power is generated and distributed on JBB. Since taking over BOS-I, the 332nd EMSG is consolidating inefficient spot generation and bringing a significantly more reliable and efficient power-plant online. This initiative will eliminate more than 330 dispersed generators and will yield an annual fuel and manpower savings of \$36 million.

"Even this late in the game with withdrawal facing us, the power-plant project will have less than a two-year payback," said Nodjomian.

While the BOS-I process has proven to be a highly effective method of running JBB, the colonel is quick to credit the Airmen of the 332nd EMSG:

"Hundreds of Airmen have transitioned through the 332nd EMSG; each of them has made a major contribution to our collective success he concluded.



Dunwoody, Poppo visit Joint Base Balad

Continued from page one

By 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the commanding general of Army Materiel Command, and Mr. Dean G. Poppo, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology visited Joint Base Balad, Iraq, June 4-5.



The visit was part of a larger tour of the Middle East to meet with senior leaders to gain situational awareness on AMC activities and receive updates on reset operations in advance of the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

“Gen. Dunwoody and I are on a collective mission,” Poppo said during a key leader’s dinner, “We’re here to keep promoting and make everyone aware of the materiel enterprise.”

“We have a big mission a head of us,” Poppo said, speaking on the drawn-down of troops in Iraq to 50,000 by August 2010. “We’re highly motivated.”

During their time at JBB, Dunwoody and Poppo were given a tour of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Joint Operations Center, the hub for logistics command and control of Iraq.

During a meeting with 3^d ESC leaders, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the 3^d ESC commanding general, briefed Dunwoody and Poppo on the current state of logistics operations in Iraq.

Topics of discussion included the future of logis-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alex Snyder

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody (left), the commanding general of Army Materiel Command, and Mr. Dean G. Poppo (far right), the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology, are briefed by Lt. Col. Christopher D. Hardin (center), the distribution management center chief for 3d ESC, during a tour of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Fusion Cell on June 4.

tics in the responsible drawdown, initiatives to hire ships 3^d ESC shares with Iraqi Security Forces units Iraqis to transport U.S. supplies and the partner- across Iraq.

EME VISIT

Continued from page one



general, Muniem and Nabeel toured the Joint Base Balad consolidated supply support activity warehouse, 602nd Maintenance Company and the 3^d ESC headquarters.

“There are many practices and processes that go into what we do as a military,” Lally told his guests. “What we want to talk about today is how we help support what you want to do in the future.”

During the visit, Muniem and Nabeel were given briefings which al-

Brig. Gen. Nabeel, Maj. Gen. Muniem and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, listen to the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Material Readiness Branch on maintenance management at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, June 2.

lowed them a more defined observation of U.S. logistics practices, which could assist the IA as they develop into a self-reliant security force that is capable of self-sustainment.

As a result of the visit, Muniem said he feels confident that he could take the information presented to him and apply it to his duties within the IA.

“It was very beneficial to learn how the U.S. Army handles their maintenance processes to include replacement parts, warehouses and maintenance depots,” said Muniem. “I learned a lot today that I could use and would like to thank Brig. Gen. Lally and everyone who helped to make today possible.”



On the Web

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

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

Bankruptcy Law explained for military personnel

BY MAJ. BRIAN NOMI
JBB COMBINED LEGAL CENTER

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Bankruptcy is a way to "discharge" certain types of debts, meaning that you do not have to pay the debt. For service members who are deep in debt-with no way to pay the debt-bankruptcy is a powerful tool to eliminate those debts and give eligible individuals a fresh start.

Bankruptcy attorneys generally charge from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to handle a case. Most attorneys charge no extra fee for filing a case for a married couple. It is important to use an experienced bankruptcy attorney, as failure to file the entire case correctly could result in a loss. It is a good idea to seek out an attorney who will not charge an initial consultation.

Typically, clients who file for bankruptcy have debts in excess of \$50,000 and the prospect of pay-

ing \$3,000 or less to wipe out those debts is very appealing.

The drawback of bankruptcy is the negative effect on your credit. Bankruptcy is the worst thing to do to your credit and could result in lowering your credit score to the 400 range. This may not be much of a drawback, since people who file for bankruptcy typically already have relatively low credit scores. A bankruptcy can stay on your record for ten years.

You can rehabilitate your credit rating in a few years with the wise use of credit by using and paying off a secured credit card. Within two years you may qualify for average loans and even a VA mortgage.

TIP: You can check your credit record for free, once per year, by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com. For a small fee, you can also see your credit score.

Certain debts cannot be discharged in bankruptcy. These include: Child support or alimony, federally guaranteed student loans, criminal fines (including traffic tickets), income tax debts, and

most other debts owed to the government. One such debt that cannot be discharged is an Army Emergency Relief (AER) loan.

In the military, bankruptcy has one other important dimension that must be considered. Filing for bankruptcy may result in the loss of your security clearance. If you need the clearance to do your job, you could be reassigned to another job that does not require a clearance, or possibly even face being separated from the military. But you will not get an Article 15 or other UCMJ punishment for going bankrupt. Discuss this issue with your battalion intelligence officer/S2 beforehand.

You can also "reaffirm" (retain) certain debts. For example, you can decide to keep your car and reaffirm your car loan, but if you do so you must be certain that you have the ability to pay the note if you desire to "reaffirm" the loan for the car.

There are different types of bankruptcies. Without question, the best type is the Chapter 7, known as "liquidation." Other types, such

as Chapter 13, are rarely as advantageous for clients. Before filing, however, you should consult with an experienced bankruptcy attorney.

You can only file bankruptcy once every eight years. Accordingly, once the process is complete, it is important to strengthen your money management skills or you may find yourself with the same problems that led to the bankruptcy in the first place.

The military offers several ways to do this, including classes on personal financial management and Army Community Service assistance; Joint Base Balad Chaplains also offer the Financial Peach University Class, which meets weekly to help with these skills.

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

Balad Sustainers accompany Iraqis, encourage self-sufficiency

BY 1ST LT. ANGELA ROKEY
UPAR, 259TH CSSB, 304TH
SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD - Soldiers of the 699th Maintenance Company from Fort Irwin, Calif., assist the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's Iraqi Transportation Net-

work mission each week and escort approximately 30 Iraqis to conduct repairs of transporting storage containers here.

The 259th CSSB began the ITN mission in March and have successfully worked with the Iraqis to complete 40 transport missions of shipping or receiving more than 800 storage containers throughout Iraq.

"We built the contact and infrastructure for them, in order to sus-

tain themselves when we're gone," said Capt. Jason Whitehorn, 259th CSSB support operations officer in charge. "The 699th Soldiers conduct the safety and transportation piece of these missions for us."

Whitehorn, of Denver Colo., and Staff Sgt. Kelly Ford, of Aberdeen, S.D., transportation movement coordinator, oversee every escort mission the 699th Maint. Co., manages.

Ford said the 49th Transporta-

tion Battalion will coordinate the movement request and operations.

"This helps us determine the number of escorts and the amount of time they will need that day with the workers," he said.

Sixteen 699th Maint. Co. Soldiers report in the early mornings to conduct briefings, equipment and per-

See SELF-SUFFICIENCY,
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SAFETY

LOCK UP BEFORE YOU BACK UP



Safety Topic of the Week



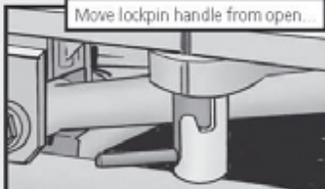
Courtesy of PS Magazine. For service members using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/ps-mag/psonline.cfm>

Not locking the tow bar in place can lead to damage to the trailer and the back of the truck when the trailer jackknives. Your unit will end up replacing broken tow bar lock pins more often than necessary, too.

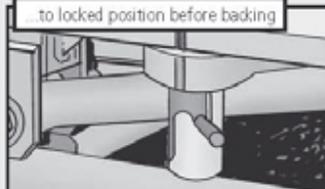
So before backing the trailer, get out of your truck and lock the trailer's towbar in place. Straighten the tow bar to get rid of the tension. Then remove the hitch pin, raise the lockpin handle, rotate it counterclockwise to the short slot, and replace the hitch pin. After that, get a couple of ground guides to help you back up.

If the hitch pin and chain are missing, replace them with NSN 4010-01-353-9428. You can also order the parts individually. The pin comes with NSN 53 15-01-098-6455 and the chain with NSN 4010-01-353-9368.

When you're finished backing, unlock the towbar so you don't forget when it's time to move out again.



Move lockpin handle from open



to locked position before backing

Sustainers maintain relationship, repairs generator at Al Almal School

BY SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Key 287th Sustainment Brigade leadership visited the Al Almal School for the Deaf and the Al Raja School for the Physically Disabled co-located in Samawah on

April 27 to bring good news, gifts and to begin work on the schools' faulty generator.

Leadership making the visits included Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th Sust. Bde. civil military operations chief, Lt. Col. Richard White, 287th Sust. Bde. medical operations chief

and Albert Hadi, Muthanna Provincial reconstruction team senior media specialist.

During their first stop, which was to the Al Raja School, the 287th Sust. Bde. presented a set of ergonomically designed crutches to a little girl whose rough wooden crutches were leaving sores underneath her arms.

"They'll take some getting used to," Moyer said as the girl walked forward for the first time with her shiny red crutches. "There's so much that I want to do for the school and these children. It's gratifying to be able to make even a small difference in a child's life."

The CMO team also handed out stuffed animals to the rest of the class, much to the delight of the children.

While the CMO team visited with

the schools, Master Sgt. Randy Kohlman, 287th Sust. Bde. support operations maintenance branch officer, and Pfc. Norma Zepeda, 287th Sust. Bde. Special Troops Battalion generator mechanic, inspected the schools' broken generator.

According to Kohlman, the generator's engine needed to be rebuilt and have the electronic master control switch replaced. He believes that a total replacement with maintenance provided by a local vendor would be the best course of action.

While there, Kohlman enjoyed being able to offer his expertise to the school.

"My heart went out to these children," Kohlman said. "I have three kids of my own that are blessed with good health, a good school that has electricity and air condition-

ing. These children need support, and through cooperation with the Iraqi Government, I'm confident that their needs should, and can be met."

After Moyer finished visiting with the Al Raja students, he moved on to the Al Almal side of the school. White, an audiologist, was happy to report to the Al Almal teachers that hearing aids were on order and that he hopes to have them the next time he visits the school. He also brought flash cards, books and other teaching aids for the teachers and children to enjoy.

"It's always a pleasure to visit Al Almal," White said. "My mission is to help give these children the best quality of life they can have. I hope that hearing aids will make their lives a little brighter."

SELF-SUFFICIENCY Continued from page six

sonnel inventory prior to their departure for the entry control point gate here for every mission.

Sgt. Miguel Alvarez, of Earlimart, Calif., and his team verifies the workers and their vehicles by checking manifest for accuracy, ensuring proper issue of temporary post badges and conducting thorough searches of all personnel and vehicles. Once cleared, Alvarez will assign them to certain vehicle groups and escort the Iraqis to their designated work area.

"Most of the Iraqis work in three yards on post," says Ford, "They repair containers in the Container Repair Yard and transport containers to the Central Receiving and Shipping Point yard or the Joint Distribution Center; depending on the nature of their mission."

Staff Sgt. Willie Johnson, of Pamplico, S.C., said the mission creates a positive cross-cultural relationship between Coalition forces and local citizens.

"It allows Iraq citizens to work

on their logistical options and get them to conduct international business," says Johnson, "It also gives them great employment opportunities."

While escorting Iraqis to their designated work areas, Soldiers of the 699th Maint. Co., will also escort a convoy of the Iraqi Transportation Company transporting containers from Ramadi to JBB.

The Iraqis efforts of maintaining sufficient logistics operations are being met with the Coalition forces

commitment of the Security Agreement. The 699th Maint. Co., Soldier and the 259th CSSB, to include Whitehorn, agree their mission coincides with the broad initiative of training and assisting the Iraqis to be self-sustaining once Coalition forces withdraw from Iraq.

The Soldiers of the 699th Maint. Co., will continue to perform their duty while providing integral security and safety measures escorting Iraqis around Joint Base Balad.



The 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
presents

234th ARMY BIRTHDAY

5K RUN





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14 JUNE 2009
0545 to 0700
1000 T-SHIRTS



POC: SSG Stacy Giles at 433-2004 or stacy.giles@iraq.centcom.mil or SGT James Gregerson at 433-2004 or james.gregerson@iraq.centcom.mil

Iraqi public gains highway access; convoy managers adjust for lane loss

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

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER SCANIA, Iraq -- Coalition forces opened two lanes of traffic along Main Supply Route Tampa for use by Iraqi travelers during a ribbon cutting ceremony here Monday.



This move comes as more security responsibilities are handed back to Iraq as a part of the 2009 Security Agreement, which calls for Coalition forces to provide a greater share of the road to the Iraqi people.

Dozens of people from various agencies came to commemorate the event to include: U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Christopher R. Hill; Gov. Salman Al Zargany, governor of Babil Province; U.S. Brig. Gen. David Elicero, Multinational Division South deputy commanding general for operations; Maj. Gen. Fadil Raddad, Director General of Babil Iraqi Police; members of Iraqi Press and Soldiers who supported the mission.

"We stand on a route where people have traveled ... for thousands of years," said Hill. "This has been one of the main routes from the Fertile Crescent down to the sea."

Hill talked about how the last five years were difficult for both Iraqi and Coalition forces, but it is important to recognize progress.

"When we have a moment like this, a moment where we can mark important progress, we should stop and think about those difficult times and think about how we are going to make a better future," Hill said. "Today we are going to reattach a very important service: this beautiful highway, which will now go from Baghdad down to the sea."

Scania is the main refueling point for Coalition

convoys traveling north or south between Kuwait and anywhere north in theater.

The highway was blocked to local traffic early on in the war to protect CSC Scania from insurgent threats, forcing locals to take a slow, bumpy dirt road around the facility.

Recently, the Army Corps of Engineers and contractors moved T-walls into the highway's median, opening up the two southbound lanes to civilian traffic.

This was a major challenge in the way business was conducted by the 37th Movement Control Team, a U.S. Air Force unit augmenting the U.S. Army 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to manage the flow of convoys coming and going from the truck stop.

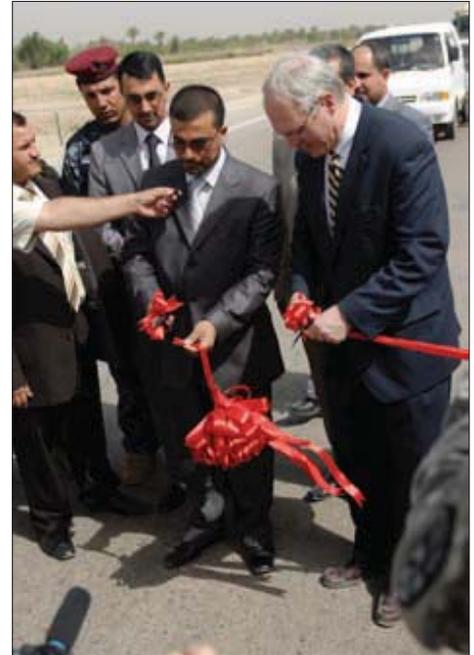
"With the construction on the southbound lanes, we had to convert four lanes into two lanes," said Air Force 1st Lt. Hannah N. Grewatz, 37th MTC commander and native of Arlington, Texas. "The convoys going north and convoys going south both had to use the northbound lanes, which created more of a traffic issue than a parking issue."

Previously, the MSR was holding about 1,200 vehicles before the T-walls were moved. They lost about 400 parking spots due to the reconstruction.

"We were getting 600 to 800 vehicles per night, and now we can only take 300-400 due to the construction," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Corwin Stone, a shift leader with the 37th MCT. "It was difficult to get convoys in, refueled and parked."

Stone said that they improved on pre-planning convoy arrivals and learned how to stage vehicles on the MSR with limited space.

"You don't know when each convoy is coming in, so you have multiple convoys waiting to come through, refuel and press on out," Stone said. "It was very hard at first, but we got it down."



Babil Province Gov. Salman Al Zargany and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Christopher R. Hill cut the ribbon dedicating the opening of MSR Tampa at Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq June 2.

CSC Scania is south of Baghdad, outside of city limits, and will continue to serve as a logistical support center.

The re-design of the CSC Scania and the opening of part of the roadway is a demonstration of the CF commitment to the S.A.




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Operation Liberator searches for missing personnel in Iraq

BY MNF-I PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Hostage-taking, abductions, and kidnapping are unacceptable practices that adversely affect the future of Iraq's burgeoning government, but they still occur.

"As the environment changes with the responsible draw-down of forces in the country, it is also important to responsibly locate and recover our missing personnel and bring them home with honor," said Australian Brigadier Simon Gould, Deputy for Operations, Multi-National Forces - Iraq. "Operation Liberator is a full-scale personnel

recovery campaign to assist in locating and recovering missing personnel."

Currently, 22 people who supported Coalition forces in the country are unaccounted for. These missing personnel were military members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors. The group includes 13 Americans, five British and four South Africans. One of the Americans is still missing from Operation Desert Storm. All others were lost during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Coalition forces will not stop looking for those who have been kidnapped, taken hostage or killed," said Gould. "Every individual is vitally important."

Multi-National Force – Iraq and U.S. Embassy – Baghdad's initia-

tive, Operation Liberator, is a renewed effort in direct response to limited intelligence and reporting. It is intended to generate information that will ultimately lead to the location and expedient recovery of all missing persons.

"Coalition forces vow to never leave a fallen comrade and to not stop looking for missing persons until all have been found and returned to their homeland," added Gould. "As the search for missing comrades continues, the importance of educating personnel on security procedures and ways to avoid becoming isolated or a potential target for kidnapping is paramount."

Locating missing personnel is a team effort. The MNF-I Personnel Recovery Division collaborated and coordinated with a variety of mili-

tary, governmental and non-governmental U.S and non-U.S. agencies for the theater-wide Operation Liberator. The government of Iraq supports the multi-service, multi-agency effort.

"Anytime someone supporting the Coalition forces in Iraq goes missing, a search begins immediately," said Gould. "As forces in Iraq responsibly drawdown, the desired outcome of Operation Liberator is to responsibly recover our missing personnel, return them home with honor, and provide closure for their Families."

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of missing personnel should call the Iraqi national tip line at 130 or contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation via their website at <https://tips.fbi.gov>.



OPERATION LIBERATOR: "Never Leave a Fallen Comrade" ISOLATED, MISSING, DETAINED, or CAPTURED (IMDC) PERSONNEL IN IRAQ



 	SGT Al-Taie Baghdad 23 Oct 06		
	Badri Hamze Tikrit 6 Nov 04		Major Gilbert IVO Al Taji 27 Nov 06
Jeffrey Ake Al Taji 11 Apr 05		South African 4 Baghdad 10 Dec 06	
Neenus Khoshaba Baghdad 17 May 05		Adnan Al-Hilawi Baghdad 3 Mar 07	

Capt. Speicher Al Asad AB 17 Jan 91		Aban M. Elias Al Taji 3 May 04	
Timothy Bell Abu Ghuraib 9 Apr 04		Dean Sadek Baghdad 2 Nov 04	

Abbas Naama Baghdad 27 Sep 05		UK 5 Baghdad 29 May 07	
Hussein Al-Zurufi An Najaf 3 Dec 05		Michael Chand Al Amarah 17 Aug 07	

Sustainment Leaders meet with Al Ghizi Shaykh

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DHI QAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Key leaders from the 287th Sustainment Brigade enjoyed a lunch with Shaykh Ali Mohamed Al Manshed of the Al Ghizi tribe in Al Manshed village May 21.

Ali's mudhif, or tribal council hall, was the setting for the luncheon. The air conditioned tent boasted marble floors, seven crystal chandeliers, a collection of Arabian coffee urns and religious artifacts. Shaykh Ali directed the traffic flow as Soldiers entered the tent and workers hurried to hand out tea to the guests.

Conversation ranged from provincial elections to the drought.

"The elections are a good thing for my country," Ali said. He was concerned about the drought though; it has seriously impacted the Euphrates' water levels, which in turn has

impacted the canals and farming. He also discussed the possibilities of improving farm roads in the future.

"These meetings are essential to keeping lines of communication open and showing tribal leaders that we're (Coalition forces) ready to do what is necessary to make the transition a successful one," said Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th Sust. Bde. civil military operations chief. "These meetings allow us to get to know leaders on a personal level, see what they're doing for their communities and what, if any, assistance may be needed."

Conversation slowed when Ali's staff members laid out lunch for the guests; a meal of lamb on mounds of rice, whole baked fish, vegetable stew, flat bread and fruit placed on a tablecloth in the center of the mudhif. Shaykh Ali directed his guests to eat and ensured that everyone had what they needed and were enjoying themselves.

After lunch was over, Col. Robert Schmitt, 287th Sust. Bde., commander, presented Ali with a certifi-



Col. Robert Schmitt, the 287th Sustainment Brigade commander enjoys a luncheon with Shaykh Ali Mohamed Al Manshed of the Al Ghizi tribe, in Al Manshed village May 21.

cate of appreciation.

"I want to thank you for what you're doing for your country," Schmitt said. "I look forward to con-

tinuing our friendship and creating positive change within the community."

New dental clinic opens at Q-West

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS ADAM V. SHAW
16TH SUST. BDE. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – After nearly a year of planning, building and furnishing, the Q-West Dental Clinic opened its doors here May 23.

The nearly-\$1-million facility has six dental chairs, a dental lab, a sterilization area, a waiting area and offices.

"The Q-West patients will benefit

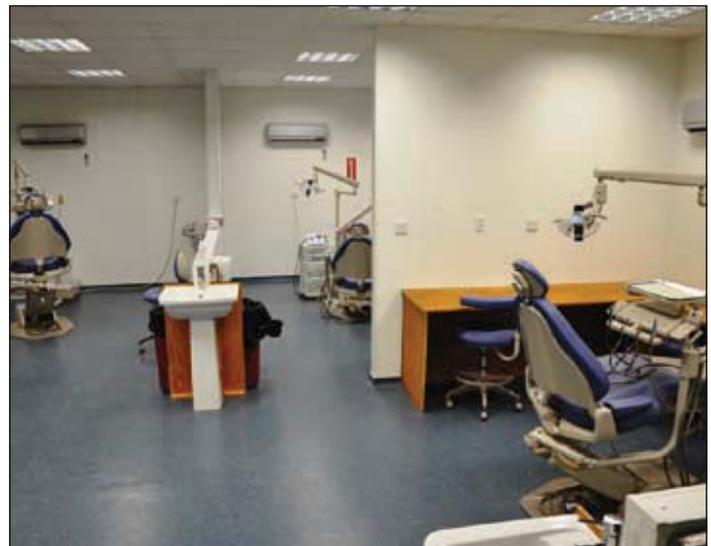
vastly from this spacious state-of-the-art clinic with the latest equipment," said Col. Thomas Dundon, commander, 360th Medical Company who traveled from Joint Base Balad.

Previously, dental Soldiers worked out of one treatment room in the base medical clinic.

"The space was insufficient – and inefficient – for good care," said Dundon.

Contractors began construction on the new clinic after starting expansion and renovation of the Q-West Troop Medical Clinic.

Currently, Soldiers from the 360th Med. Co., from Twinsburg, Ohio, staff the new facility.



The Q-West Dental Clinic opened its doors at a ribbon cutting ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq May 23. The nearly \$1-million facility has six dental chairs, a dental lab, a sterilization area, a waiting area and administrative offices.

On the Web

10th Sustainment Brigade

Task Force Muleskinner

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

Unit Adopts New Patch Downrange

BY 1ST LT. BRETT MONROE
UPAR, 1538TH TRANS. CO., 10TH
SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – It’s common for a deployed unit to hold a “combat patch” ceremony during their tour however Soldiers of the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade conducted a different kind of patch ceremony May 1.

In a unique twist, Capt. Phillip C. Anderson, a native of Plainfield, Ind., commander of the 1538th Trans. Co., presented his Soldiers with their newly designed shoulder-sleeve insignia.

“This is really a special occasion,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Gorsuch, a native of Elkhart, Ind.

The 1538th Trans. Co., an Indiana National Guard unit from Elkhart, Ind., is affiliated under the 38th Sustainment Brigade. Since the brigade’s inception as a separate brigade in 2007, Soldiers of the 38th Sust. Bde., had worn the patch of the 38th Infantry Division, known as the “CY” or “Cyclone.” On May 1, the 38th Sust. Bde.’s new patch became effective and authorized for wear.

On the day the new patch became authorized for wear, the 1538th Trans. Co., was scheduled to con-

duct training for all members of the unit and it was decided to incorporate presenting the new patch into the day’s activities.

“It only made sense to give it out while we had the entire unit together in one place,” said Capt. Anderson.

“This is history in the making,” said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Spencer, 1538th Trans. Co. first sergeant and Westport, Ind. native. “We’re the first unit to be able to put on this patch as a combat patch, and we got to put it on in the combat zone.”

Other units of the 38th Sust. Bde., have deployed since the brigade became separate from the 38th Inf. Regt., but the 1538th Trans. Co., is

the first unit to be deployed wearing the new patch.

“It’s a big change,” said 1st Class Marion Siebenthal, a 1583th Trans. Co. squad leader and Madison, Ind. native. “Other units will see the new patch and wonder if we’re a new unit, when we’ve been here so long and we’re close to the end of the tour.”

These Soldiers have become used to changes, having served under two different brigade headquarters and two different battalions since arriving on Camp Taji according to unit officials.

The 1538th Trans. Co. left Camp Atterbury for Iraq in early September 2008. The unit is scheduled to return from Iraq in the summer. The Indiana National Guard unit’s members include Soldiers from neighboring Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois, and as far away as Missouri, Florida and New York.



NCO and Soldier lead the way

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) conducted a board here for its subordinate sustainment brigades to determine who would

hold the title of Soldier and non-commissioned officer of the quarter May 22.

Sustainment Soldiers came from across Iraq to compete in the board.

“It (is not) every day that you go up in front of a whole bunch of ser-

geants major,” said Sgt. Ahmad M. Mahmoud, a petroleum specialist for the 20th Transportation Company, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Houston, Texas native and NCO of the Quarter for the 3^d ESC. “The fact that they talk to you like a normal person, not like somebody that is below them helped me gain the confidence that I needed in front of the board.”

A panel of sergeants major from four sustainment brigades under the 3^d ESC and the 3^d ESC command sergeant major questioned the Soldiers on a variety of topics including military programs, Army promotions, wear and appearance of Army uniforms, drill and ceremonies, warrior tasks and battle

drills and 21 additional subjects. In addition to the topics, the NCO of the Quarter participants had to know the Army Values, NCO and Soldier Creed and the 3^d ESC and Army Song, while the Soldier of the Quarter had the same topics excluding the NCO Creed. All participants had to reassemble their assigned weapon and participated in a mystery exam worth 50 points.

“The hardest thing was waiting because I got really nervous,” said Spc. Alexander B. Wilson, a motor transportation operator for the 51st Transportation Company out of Mannheim, Germany, a Commerce, Ga., native and the Soldier of the Quarter. “Once I got in there and started talking to all the

sergeants major I kind of calmed down.”

Wilson was informed that he would be going to the board shortly before he would attend because another Soldier was unable to attend. Despite the short notice, Wilson studied during his leave to ensure he was ready.

“I want to be a sergeant major one day and I want to be up here doing the same thing, helping younger Soldiers and younger NCOs lead the way,” Wilson said.

Command Sgt. Major Willie C. Tennant, the 3^d ESC senior non-commissioned officer presented the winners of the board with Army commendation medal for their professionalism.

On the Web

16TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

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

WATER BOTTLING PLANT PRODUCTION IN SOU

BY SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Leaders from the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the Oasis International Waters, Inc., opened a water bottling and purification plant during a ribbon cutting ceremony here June 1.



With six Oasis water bottling plants operational in Iraq, the 3^d ESC managed and coordinated the repositioning of the plant from Camp Taqqadum, one of many Coalition bases scheduled for return to the Government of Iraq.

“Now that we are at a draw down period of forces, we looked at what was really needed,” said Col. Cheri A. Provancha, 3^d ESC support

operations officer in charge. “The decision was made to cancel the request for a seventh plant and relocate an existing plant.”

“There was a lot of cost savings that came out of this effort and we are able to get water in the right place on the battle field,” she said. “This is definitely, one, in the win column for the U.S. Army.”

“It’s a very noble and honored position to be able to provide water to the troops,” said Larry M. Delk, the Oasis International Waters, Inc., bottled water plant manager and supervisor of the TQ move.

The 3^d ESC and 287th Sustainment Brigade logistical project was a success as the plant will provide bottled water to Coalition forces based in southern Iraq.

“The 287th (Sust. Bde.) did a tremendous job,” said Maj. Stephanie J. Requa, 3^d ESC class I (subsistence) officer in charge, a resident of Erie,

Colo. “This plant is operational on the day it was supposed to open. There were no delays.”

As the drawdown in Iraq continues, Coalition leaders continue to explore options to maintain the plant and eventually benefit Iraqis in the future, she said.

“There is intent to hire local nationals and train them,” Requa said. “Iraqis will be hired to work at the plant and their income will help (sustain) the local Iraqi economy.”

Since 2005, the Oasis International Waters, Inc., water bottling plant across Iraq produced approximately 32 million cases of bottled water per year for Coalition forces.

The following bases in Iraq have plants operated by Oasis International Waters, Inc. and provide water to Coalition forces: Victory Camp, Joint Base Balad, Al Asad airbase, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, COB Q-West, and now COB Adder.



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

Col. Cheri A. Provancha, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) support operation officer in charge and Col. Robert F. Schmitt, 287th Sustainment Brigade commander listen to Maj. Stephanie J. Requa, class I (subsistence) officer in charge for 3^d ESC, as she describes the successful opening of the water bottling plant located at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq June 1.



An employee of the Oasis International Waters, Inc., inspects water bottling contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq June 1.

PLANT OPENS, BEGINS SOUTHERN IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar
es during the opening of the plant at Con-



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

Destined for the new Oasis International Waters, Inc., water bottling plant at Contingency Operating Base Adder, the 39-ton PET Blow Injection Molder was stabilized by heavy lift cranes during unloading from the delivering aircraft, an Antonov An-124 cargo airplane at COB Adder, Iraq March 23.

602nd Maint. Co. Soldiers repair humvees for transfer to Iraqi security forces

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. ALEX SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

— Since April 2008, a handful of Soldiers here tested brakes, turned wrenches and inspected parts to ensure nearly 1,800 humvees were ready for their next mission.

They are a group of Soldiers from the 602nd Maintenance Company, an active-component unit from Fort Hood, Texas and their mission is to refurbish armored American humvees for transfer to Iraqi security forces.

“Our mission here is to provide the Iraqi Army the same equipment that we would provide to our own Soldiers to do their mission,” said Sgt. Michael J. Matusiak, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the inspections team, 602nd Maint. Co.

As American units across

Iraq turn in their up-armored humvees for newer vehicles, the trucks are given to the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

In turn, these vehicles are given to the maintenance and inspection teams of the 602nd Maint. Co., which support the 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB.

Matusiak, who is from Saint Augustine, Fla., said the goal of the two shops is to bring each humvee to “almost factory-new” status.

But many of the trucks have operated for months or even years in a field environment, and they are sometimes missing parts or have been modified by the troops who used them.

“There are a lot of modifications to these trucks,” Matusiak said, “and we have to catch all those modifications.”

Each problem discovered is documented to the serial number of the truck for the maintenance team to fix.

For the maintenance team, these problems can take as little as 20 minutes or as long as six hours each to fix, said

Pfc. Anthony G. Jones, a mechanic with the maintenance team. Jones said the longest he ever worked on a single vehicle was three days.

Jones said the most rewarding part of his job is a finished product.

“That’s the best part – seeing the truck roll out and being done,” Jones said.

When a vehicle is fixed, it is returned to the inspection team for a final inspection and road test.

“It’s a pretty hard test,” Matusiak said. “We treat them like they’re outside the wire doing a mission.”

When a vehicle is deemed fully functional, it is returned to the 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB.

The truck is then shipped to Camp Taji, Iraq, where it is eventually sold to the Iraqi government. This sale is done at a price well below cost, saving the Iraqi government approximately \$154,000 per vehicle, said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Robert J. Fikety the officer in charge of the 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB redistribution property assistance team yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



A humvee is tested for breaking and steering responsiveness by a 602nd Maintenance Company Soldier at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 16. Some members of the 602nd Maintenance Company are responsible for fixing humvees that are shipped to Camp Taji, Iraq, and sold to the Iraqi government.

Although distanced from the actual turn-over, many inspection and maintenance team Soldiers say they get a sense of pride knowing the vehicles they repair will be used by Iraqi security forces.

“This job is very important because ... it gets one more (American) team off the Iraqi streets,” said Sgt. Chris-

topher M. Creech, the shop foreman of inspection team, 602nd Maint. Co. Creech is from Dayton, Ohio.

“It gives me a sense of pride that my Soldiers are pushing these trucks for that purpose – that they’re doing an outstanding job to facilitate the Iraqi Army’s movement,” Matusiak said.

I.A.M. S'TRONG
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WA ARNG ATAG visits Q-West Guardsman

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS KIRSTEN FROELICH
UPAR, 81ST BSTB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Washington
Army National Guard
leader's- Brig. Gen.
Gordon Toney, assistant
adjutant general and Command Sgt.
Maj. Shawn Lee-visited National
Guard Soldiers

here May 28.

Toney and Lee visited nearly
2,400 Washington Guardsmen
in Iraq. In Q-West, they met with
Soldiers from Headquarters and
Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion,
146th Field Artillery Regiment,
based out Olympia, Wash.; Head-
quarters and Headquarters Compa-
ny, 181st Brigade Support Battal-
ion, based out of Seattle Wash.; and
HHC, 81st Brigade Special Troops
Battalion, based out of Everett,
Wash.

The visit included a quick tour of
Q-West and ended with a barbeque
and pool party at the Mirage Pool,
where Toney expressed thanks on
behalf of the governor of Washing-
ton and encouraged Soldiers to fin-



Brig. Gen. Gordon Toney, assistant adjutant general, Washington Army National Guard, speaks with Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, from Olympia, Wash., at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq May 28.

ish strong and return home safely.

The WA ARNG units currently
support the 16th Sustainment Bri-

gade, an active-duty logistics bri-
gade from Bamberg, Germany, in
northern Iraq.

Stressed? Relax and go see a movie.



See page 21 for
movie schedule

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- Keep fire under control.
- Never leave a grill unattended once lit.
- Wear safe clothing.

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ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

A BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

California Guardsmen grapple in unit's first combatives training

BY CAPT. RENATO ROSSIGNOLI
UPAR, 1ST BN, 185TH ARMOR REGT.,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Thirty-nine National Guard Soldiers spent a week grappling one another in the first Army combatives level-1 course offered at the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment here May 4 to May 11.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Tackett, medical platoon sergeant, 1st Bn., 185th AR, the battalion's primary combatives instructor, said they will offer more courses due to demand, and qualify more Soldiers at higher levels of combatives.

"We had such a huge request for more classes that we plan on conducting three more Level 1 classes in the month of June," Tackett said. "We currently have three Level 2 certified instructors. We have another 12 Soldiers currently enrolled in the Level 2 instructor's course, which finishes this coming Friday."

During the week long program,

Soldiers are exposed to various exercises that help them become good at level 1 skill and develop their warrior mentality, Tackett said.

"This ground fighting style, based on Brazilian and Gracie Jiu-Jitsu, is a solid foundation from which to train in further hand-to-hand combat tactics," said Tackett, a native of Covina, Calif. "The class teaches the warrior spirit, to never quit, to close the distance with your enemy, to obtain a dominant position and then to finish your enemy."

The class teaches basic ground grappling positions like the mount, side control, guard and rear mount. It also demonstrates finishing moves such as straight arm bars and bent arm bars.

Soldiers spend many hours of studying and grappling on the mats and running through drills like the "clinch drill."

"A clinch drill to show your warrior spirit and willingness to close with the enemy is mandatory and always leaves the body sore," Tackett said.

"The combative course was great," said Spc. Juan Rivas, 1st



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Two California National Guardsmen battle it out during combatives level 1 training at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq May 10. Thirty-nine Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment participated in the training May 4 to May 11.

Bn., 185th AR. "I learned how to properly close the distance, achieve the dominant position and finish the fight. I know there are a lot of mixed martial arts out there, but this one was really easy to learn and a lot of fun. I would recommend this course to anybody in the Army."

Marez Soldiers release music honoring fallen comrades

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — For Washington Guardsman Staff Sgt. Erik Burch, composing and singing religious songs is a way to cope with his deployment in Iraq. Burch, Alpha

Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, along with three other Soldiers, produced a CD of original and standard Christian songs at the Liberty Chapel. The "Out of Mosul" CD captures a moment in time where worshipers come together during a chapel's service to honor fallen Soldiers.

"The idea for the CD came about Christmas Day after Maj. John Pryor was killed," said Burch, a Vancouver, Wash., native.

Burch, along with Spc. Emery Lee, Alpha Btry., 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., a native of Lockhart, Texas;

Sgt. Chance Crow, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, a native of Midland, Texas; and Sgt. Rick Hunter, Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., a native of Kent, Wash., spearheaded the project.

"The creation of music and expression of our faith is the way we fellowship with our comrades," said Burch. "The CD was a goal we set that helped time go by and gave further meaning to our mission."

Soldiers at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East produced a CD of original and standard Christian songs to honor fallen comrades. The "Out of Mosul" album, released May 1, captures a moment in time where worshipers come together during services at the Liberty Chapel, COS Marez-East, Iraq. (From left to right) Staff Sgt. Erik Burch, Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Vancouver, Wash., native; Spc. Emery Lee, Alpha Btry., 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., and a Lockhart, Texas, native; Sgt. Rick Hunter, Headquarters and Headquarters Btry., 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., and Kent, Wash., native; and (seated) Sgt. Chance Crow, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, a Midland, Texas, native.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class JennyAnne Canlas



Give a Shout Out!

Tell your family and friends how much you miss them.

Send a brief message to: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil Subject line: "Shout Out"

USO Volunteers – Real American Patriots, Part I

BY CAPT. MICHAEL R. VINCENT
UPAR, HHC, 1ST BN., 161ST INF.
REGT., 304TH SUST. BDE.

DALLAS, Texas – Like many Soldiers taking a short rest and recuperation from Iraq, Staff Sgt. Alicia M. Chivers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment takes part in her R&R traveling 19 hours in an airplane with fellow Soldiers from Kuwait City to Dallas, Texas; Chivers final destination is her hometown, Spokane, Wash.

Her journey began three days ago at Joint Base Balad, Iraq where she is based; along with the other members Task Force 1-161. With little sleep, going from station to station, waiting in countless lines, paperwork and eating on the move; Chivers finally makes it to the states, Dallas – Ft. Worth International Airport three days later. Exhausted from not being able to sleep and never comfortable flying, she grabbed her bags and was stopped at yet another station, stamping her leave form and customs. With frustration mounting

and patience wearing thin, she stands again waiting through another brief, but in the United States.

The doors open and she walks down the long hall to the DFW terminals to catch her connecting flight. Just past the last turn, she is met with a sea of red, white and blue and the well deserved hero's welcome by the citizens of the United States of America; the volunteer members of the United States Organization (USO).

Hand shakes, hugs, flags met the returning veterans as they stepped onto American soil. Complete strangers in the early morning greet the Soldiers as if they were family. Some with tears, hugging the Soldiers when they could and wishing them all, "Welcome Home". This was an awe-inspiring display of true American patriotism. Only a few times in one's life, can one experience such a display of thanks for ones efforts. "It's nice to feel appreciated and to know that the people back home haven't forgotten about us still being over there." said Chivers.

Many of the USO volunteer mem-

bers are veterans themselves or have military family members past and present. Many donate their time and money to bring a little comfort and ease to military members and their families while traveling.

Chuck Lechner of Plano Texas and a USO volunteer said, "Being a veteran of Vietnam, I understand the challenges these Soldiers go through. I always vowed to myself that never again would we as a nation treat of returning veterans like we were when we came back from Vietnam".

The USO program at DFW airport is all volunteers and made possible through their donations and the American people.

The program is broken down into two programs; "Operation – Welcome Home" and "Operation – Send Off." "I thought it was really cool that veterans like ourselves, volunteer their time and put forth all this effort into coming out and welcoming us home. That was really neat to see," said Chivers. Each operation gives special consideration to the individual needs of the service members.

"Operation – Welcome Home" is a volunteer meet and greet program that allows USO volunteers to park at the airport, free of charge and wait to greet the daily arrivals of service members from overseas. Staff Sgt. Leyla Oxford of Grandview, Wash said, "I think it makes the veterans feel good to know that we are appreciated for our sacrifices and also, for those Vietnam veterans, I think it gives them pride to give us the support that they didn't have returning from Vietnam." Oxford said. "The veterans of Vietnam are coming out to make sure what happen to them doesn't happen to us and that history doesn't repeat itself."

Chivers was headed home to Spokane, Wash. for her 15 days of R&R leave after nine months of active duty. As she boarded the bus in Dallas to take her to her connecting flight, she remarked, "When the veterans come out and show their support, we as American service members know and recognize their sacrifice here for us; as well as what they sacrificed for our freedom many years ago."

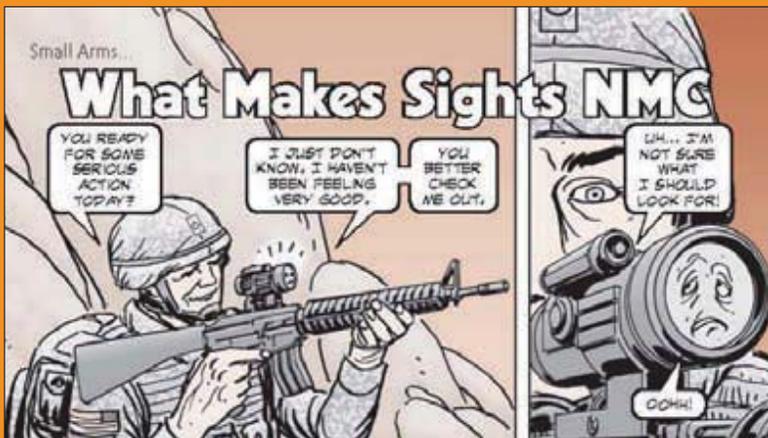


287th Sustainment Brigade, COB Adder
<http://www.287susbde.com/>



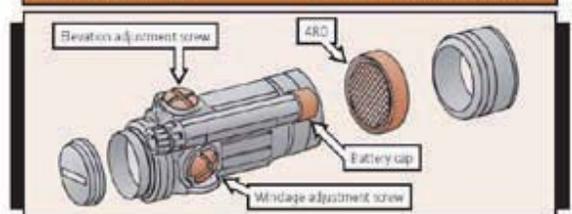
Topic of the Week Maintenance & Supply

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>



It's important to know whether your small arms sights—the M68, the M145, and ACOGM150—are up to the job. If the sights are seeing poorly, you have a poor chance of hitting the enemy. Here's how to tell if your sight is not ready for action:

- unable to mount an anti-reflective device (ARD) on it
- lens is heavily scratched or the view is otherwise obstructed
- loose or broken lenses
- moisture inside the sight
- unable to install battery cap cover
- internal red dot or chevron won't illuminate
- windage or elevation knob adjustments don't hold or knobs don't make a distinct click when you turn them



If your sight flunks even one of these checks, tell your repairman. When you clean your sights, use only acetone-free glass cleaner; NSN 6850-00-392-9751, and lens paper, NSN 6640-00-240-5851. Other cleaners can ruin the protective coating on the lenses.

Army Reserve Focuses on Shaping Force After Meeting New End Strength

BY DONNA MILES
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (June 1) - After reaching its new 206,000-member end strength objective a full year ahead of schedule, the Army Reserve has shifted its focus to shaping the force to ensure it has the proper mix of skills sets and experience levels, the Army Reserve chief told American Forces Press Service.

Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz lauded the Army Reserve's increase of more than 20,000 soldiers during the past three years. The Army Reserve exceeded its fiscal 2008 goals by recruiting more than 44,000 soldiers and re-enlisting more than 16,000 soldiers.

"Today I can report to you that your Army Reserve is in excellent shape," Stultz told the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee during a March hearing when the Army Reserve had reached 204,000 members. "That's up 7,000 this fiscal year on top of 7,000 last year," he told the panel. "We're growing at a tremendous pace, so recruiting is good, retention is good."

This trend put the Army Reserve on solid footing to achieve its authorized 206,000 end

strength a year before the 2010 target. It marks a stark contrast to three years ago, when Stultz assumed his post with a force of about 186,000 soldiers.

Stultz told American Forces Press Service he attributes this success to hard work and dedication by recruiters as well as efforts by reservists themselves. But he also pointed to the importance of recruiting and retention initiatives that supported the Army Reserve's manning strategy. These include the Army Reserve Recruiter Assistant Program, which rewards soldiers, family members and Army civilians who support recruiting and retention efforts, and the Critical Skills Retention Bonus, which helps to retain soldiers in specific job specialties.

Stultz called these incentives as important to the Army Reserve now as when it was growing its force.

"Some people out there might say we've met our end strength and the economy is bad, so we don't need to pay incentives to soldiers," he said. "I say that's not true. We might not need as many incentives to attract E-1s into the force, but I need them because I am continuing to shape the force."

This involves training – and especially, re-

taining – soldiers in shortage military occupational specialties and encouraging those in over-strength MOSs to retrain into under-strength ones.

The Army Reserve also needs to fill gaps at the noncommissioned officer, captain and major levels, Stultz said. Even after reaching its new end strength, the Army Reserve still is short almost 10,000 captains and majors, Stultz told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March.

The ultimate benefit of the increased Army Reserve end strength won't be immediate, because most of the newest reservists are junior enlisted soldiers, the general explained.

"It's an investment for the future," he said. "What we need now is to focus on growing our NCO corps and growing our captains and majors."

One way Stultz intends to do that is by recruiting more prior-service soldiers.

"The Marines say, 'Once a Marine, always a Marine,'" he said. "I like to say, 'Soldier for life.' We find a lot of soldiers out there who have left the uniform, but the uniform hasn't left them. And when we talk to them, they say they miss it. We're recouping some of them now."

Cash Bonus to Replace 'Stop Loss' for Deploying Guard Soldiers

BY STAFF SGT. JON SOUCY
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

ARLINGTON, Va., (May 29) – A new program that provides special pay for soldiers deploying past their end-of-service dates is set to take effect Sept. 1 for the National Guard.

The Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay program replaces the "Stop Loss" involuntary extension program and pays a cash bonus of up to \$6,000 to soldiers in units set to deploy who elect to stay in past their end-of-service date to deploy, said Col. Marianne Watson, Army National Guard personnel officer.

The bonus is not a lump sum payment, and the amount of the incentive depends upon when the soldier decides to extend his or her enlistment contract, Watson said.

The Army's Stop Loss program has been used since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks to extend soldiers in critical jobs past the end of their enlistment contract to deploy.

"If you agree to extend from 180 days to 365 days [prior to the mobilization date] we're going to offer you \$500 a month for each month that you're in a Title 10 [active duty] status," Watson said. For those who extend between 179

days and 90 days before the mobilization date, that rate drops to \$350 for each month on active duty.

Soldiers who elect to take advantage of this program would have their enlistment contracts extended for the length of the deployment plus 90 days, Watson said. However, to qualify for the incentive pay, soldiers must make it through the Soldiers Readiness Processing at the mobilization station.

Soldiers who have an enlistment contract that expires during the deployment and choose not to extend it still may have to deploy.

"We would take a soldier who could serve a minimum of six months boots-on-ground, plus still keep or maintain 90 days of reintegration," Watson said. "So a Guard soldier would go to mobilization station for two to three months, they would go to the deployment theater and they would do a minimum of six months boots-on-ground. Then they could come back, up to three months early."

To put it another way, Watson said, "anybody with a [contract expiration date] of mobilization day plus one year, we're taking to theater." But soldiers may rotate out of theater up to three months early, if need be, to have them take part in the 30-, 60- and 90-day reintegration pro-

grams prior to the end of their term of service.

"We said as a reserve component we still need to maintain that 30-, 60-, 90-day reintegration period," Watson said.

For unit commanders, the new policy provides a way to establish early-on their units' manpower needs for the deployment, Watson noted.

"The Guard program provides stabilization for units in the deployment window," she said. "Our goal is to stabilize the organization and lock in the formations for the commander as far out as we can, up to 365 days prior to the mobilization date."

For soldiers who extend their contracts past the mobilization plus the 90-day reintegration window, standard retention bonuses would apply.

Stop Loss affects just 1 percent of the Guard, and only for limited time periods, Guard officials said. The Army still retains the authority for future use of Stop Loss under extraordinary circumstances.

State personnel offices have more information.

National Guard Bureau website link, <http://www.ngb.army.mil>

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Sudoku

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

Level: Medium

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

Last weeks answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What two-word phrase did Todd Beamer famously utter, aboard United Airlines Flight 93?
2. What endangered creatures did Spain hope to rehabilitate by thoughtfully leaving deer and sheep carcasses lying around?
3. What hip-hop diva became the first woman to top 10 Grammy nominations in one year, in 1999?
4. What common fruit was on the verge of extinction in 2003, since its edible version contains no seeds?
5. What electronics outfit got its start in 1889 making Japanese playing cards called "Hanafuda"?

1. Let's roll 2. Vultures 3. Loupin Hill 4. The banana 5. Nintendo

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL

Sunday	0200	Air Force Hospital Chapel
	0630	Provider Chapel
	1030	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1100	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
	1400	Air Force Hospital Chapel
	1730	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
	2000	Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday	1100	MWR East Building
	1200	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1230	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
	1900	Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday	0900	Chapel-Nest Iraq/MWR East
	1030	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
	1400	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
	1900	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Wednesday	2000	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)

HISPANIC PROTESTANT

Saturday	1930	Provider Chapel
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LITURGICAL - Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian

Sunday	1500	Gilbert Chapel (H-4)
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SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday	1000	Provider Chapel
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CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday	1530	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
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LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)

Sunday	1300	Provider Chapel
	1530	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1900	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)

MASS

Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4) (Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)
	2000	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Sunday	0630	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
	1100	Provider Chapel
	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Thu	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Mon, Wed, Fri	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
Mon-Fri	1130	555 th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
Saturday	0930	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	1900	The Shack
Saturday	1900	The Shack

GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday	0900	Provider Annex
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For Further Information Please Call:

Gilbert Chapel:	443-7703
Provider Chapel:	433-2430
Freedom Chapel:	443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed.- 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu.- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m. 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thu., 8-10 p.m.	Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Salsa Class: a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Ping-pong tournament: Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.	Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tournament: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Tuesdays- 7:30 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furnman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.	Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Green Bean Karaoke: Sunday, Wednesday, Friday- 7:30 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Saturday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.	Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midget Toning Class: Tuesday, Thursday- 7 p.m. Game: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furnman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 8-10 p.m.
EAST EYE CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Open Court Volleyball: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Yoga Class: Monday, Friday- 6-7 a.m. Table Tennis: Saturday- 8 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Night	Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Salsa Class: a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Ping-pong tournament: Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.	H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Monday- 9 a.m., Wednesday- 4:30 p.m., Friday- 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Friday- 8 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Saturday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Monday	Sunday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tournament: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Green Bean Karaoke: Sunday, Wednesday, Friday- 7:30 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Saturday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.	Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Green Bean Karaoke: Sunday, Wednesday, Friday- 7:30 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Saturday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.	Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midget Toning Class: Tuesday, Thursday- 7 p.m. Game: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furnman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 8-10 p.m.

UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 6/10/09

2009 Stanley Cup Finals, Game 6: Detroit Red Wings @ Pittsburgh Penguins (If Necessary), Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
C2009 NBA Finals - Game 3: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Minnesota Twins @ Oakland Athletics, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 Stanley Cup Finals, Game 6: Detroit Red Wings @ Pittsburgh Penguins (If Necessary), Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 6/11/09

Seattle Mariners @ Baltimore Orioles, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Diego Padres, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
ESPN MLS Game of the Week: Chivas USA @ Houston Dynamo, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
New York Mets @ Philadelphia Phillies, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
Pittsburgh Pirates @ Atlanta Braves, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 6/12/09

Toronto Blue Jays @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 NBA Finals - Game 4: Teams TBD, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Philadelphia Phillies @ New York Mets, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
Minnesota Twins @ Chicago Cubs, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 6/13/09

Boston Red Sox @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Colorado Rockies @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Stanley Cup Finals - Game 7: Pittsburgh Penguins @ Detroit Red Wings (If Necessary), Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Oakland Athletics @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
Minnesota Twins @ Chicago Cubs, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
UFC 99 THE COMEBACK: Franklin vs Silva (Lanxess Arena, Cologne, Germany), Live 10 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 6/14/09

Boston Red Sox @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Chicago Fire @ D.C. United, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 NCAA Men's College World Series - Game 3: Teams TBD (Rosenblatt Stadium; Omaha, NE), Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 6/15/09

2009 NBA Finals - Game 5: Teams TBD (If Necessary), Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
St. Louis Cardinals @ Cleveland Indians, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
UFC 99 THE COMEBACK: Franklin vs Silva (Lanxess Arena, Cologne, Germany), Tape Delayed 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 6/16/09

Milwaukee Brewers @ Cleveland Indians, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
Los Angeles Angels @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Milwaukee Brewers @ Cleveland Indians, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

- Wednesday, June 10**
- 5 p.m. Fighting
- 8 p.m. UP
- Thursday, June 11**
- 5 p.m. UP
- 8 p.m. State of Play
- Friday, June 12**
- 2 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning
- 5 p.m. Crank
- 8:30 p.m. The Hangover
- Saturday, June 13**
- 2 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning
- 5 p.m. The Hangover
- 8 p.m. Crank
- Sunday, June 14**
- 2 p.m. The Hangover
- 5 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning
- 8 p.m. Crank
- Monday, June 15**
- 5 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning
- 8 p.m. Crank
- Tuesday, June 16**
- 5 p.m. The Hangover
- 8 p.m. Sunshine Cleaning

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

The Hangover



Two days before his wedding, Doug and three friends drive to Las Vegas for a wild and memorable stag party. In fact, when the three groomsmen wake up the next morning, they can't remember a thing; nor can they find Doug. With little time to spare, the three hazy pals try to re-trace their steps and find Doug so they can get him back to Los Angeles in time to walk down the aisle.



Sunshine Cleaning



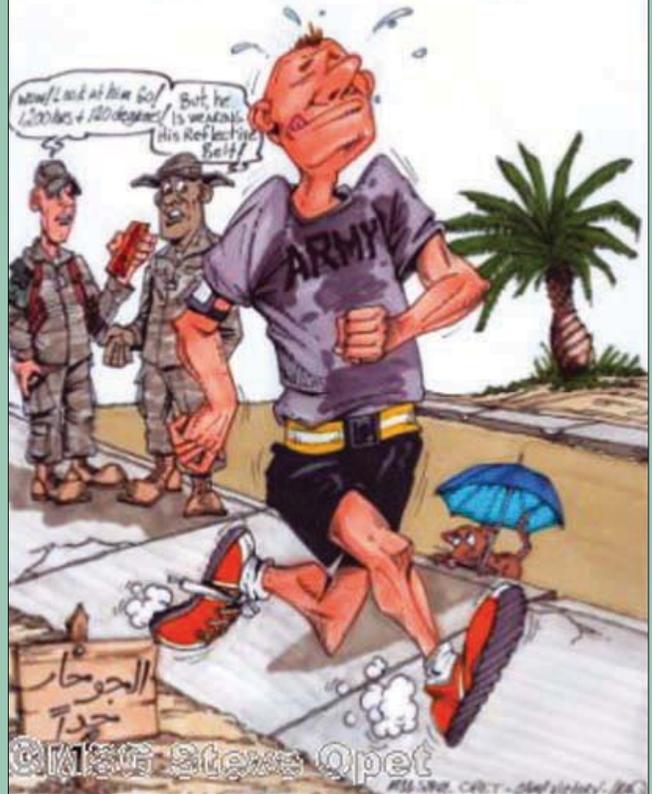
A single mom and her slacker sister find an unexpected way to turn their lives around in the off-beat dramatic comedy Sunshine Cleaning. Directed by Christine Jeffs (Rain, Sylvia), this uplifting film about an average family that finds the path to its dreams in an unlikely setting screened in competition at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. Once the high school cheerleading captain who dated the quarterback, Rose Lorkowski (Amy Adams) now finds herself a thirty something single mother working as a maid. Her sister Norah, (Emily Blunt), is still living at home with their dad Joe (Alan Arkin), a salesman with a lifelong history of ill-fated get rich quick schemes. Desperate to get her son into a better school, Rose persuades Norah to go

into the crime scene clean-up business with her to make some quick cash. In no time, the girls are up to their elbows in murders, suicides and other...specialized situations. As they climb the ranks in a dirty job, the sisters find respect for one another



Iraq according to Opet

Opet's Odyssey



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

US ARMY CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT

**FAITH
and
FIRE POWER!**



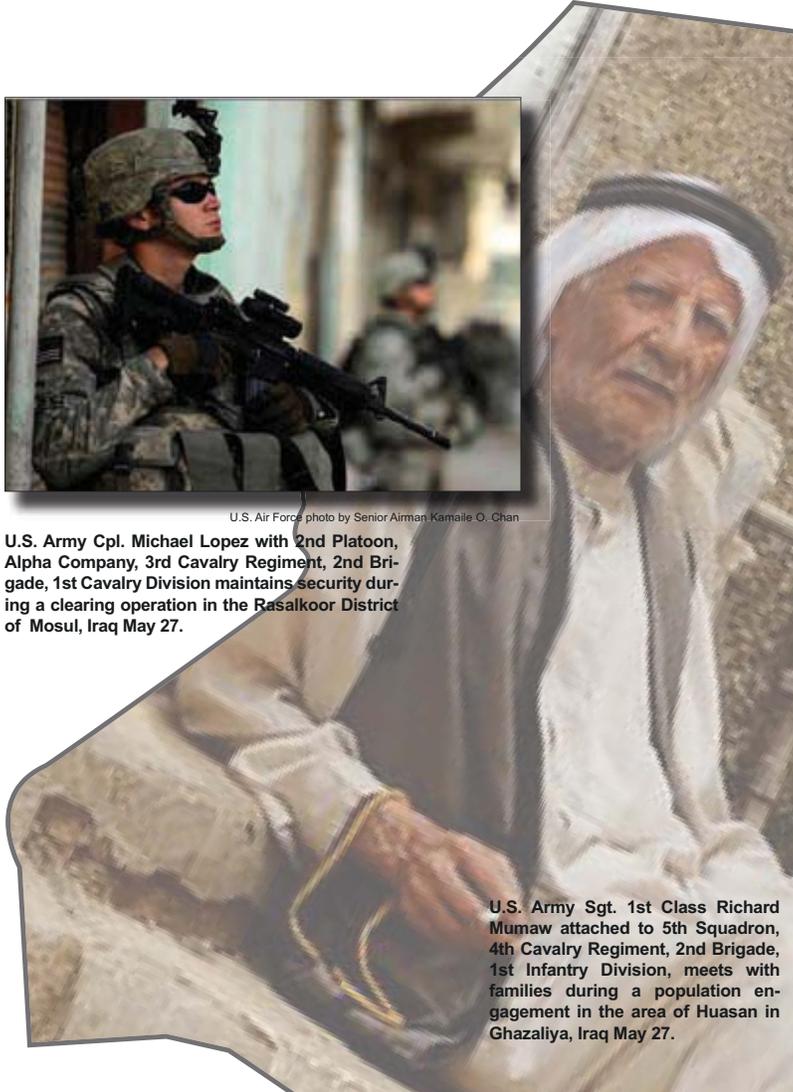
© Mark Baker 2008

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kamaile O. Chan

U.S. Army Cpl. Michael Lopez with 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division maintains security during a clearing operation in the Rasalkoor District of Mosul, Iraq May 27.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Mumaw attached to 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, meets with families during a population engagement in the area of Huasan in Ghazaliya, Iraq May 27.



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



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

An Iraqi soldier from 2nd Company, 43rd Brigade, 11th Unit, distributes humanitarian aid items to Iraqi citizens that live in their operational environment in Hamydiah, Iraq, near Joint Security Station UR, Iraq May 23.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kamaile O. Chan

Iraqi Police officers talk with an Iraqi man during a joint clearing operation in the Rasalkoor District of Mosul, Iraq May 28.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Coalition Transfers Badger Maintenance Facility to Iraqi Army

CAMPT TAJI, Iraq – In a step forward for Iraq, the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, has turned over the Iraqi Light Armored Vehicle Maintenance Center here to the Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Air Force Staff Gen. Naseer Abadi, deputy chief of staff, Ministry of Defense participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commanding general, MNSTC-I Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team.

The ILAV or Badger has an armored hull for protection against landmines, explosive devices and small arms fire. It carries a driver, commander and eight squad members.

In May 2006, a contract was signed to procure 495 Badgers and logistical support. The Iraqi Army and Iraqi Security Forces will use the vehicles.

“You should be proud today,” Salazar told the assembled audience. “This is a very capable vehicle. But with a great gift comes great responsibility. You must take care and maintain these vehicles.”

Iraqi Army Staff Maj. Gen. Muniem, deputy chief of staff for Electrical Mechanized Engineering, said that his staff is prepared to run the facility.

“We are ready to take care of this facility. We will repair and maintain our vehicles and keep them running strong,” Muniem said.

Interior Ministry Logistic Team Tours Balad Air Base Warehouse Operations

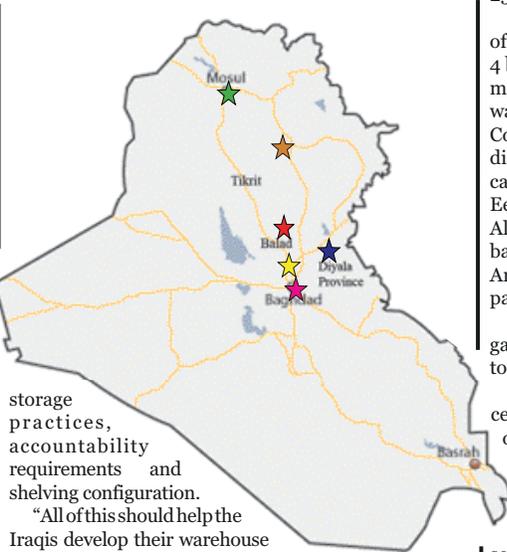
BALAD, Iraq – A team of logistic leaders from Iraq’s Ministry of Interior, responsible for supplying the rapidly growing 480,000 member agency, recently toured Joint Base Balad to view a large-scale warehouse operation.

The Iraqis toured the warehouse with their coalition logistics counterparts from the Ministry of Interior Training Team, directed by British Brig. Gen. Max Marriner.

“We wanted to give the Iraqis an opportunity to see first-hand the visual structure and operational tempo of a warehouse operation that is well-run, large and multi-faceted,” said Sam Blanchard, Logistics Program coordinator and advisor, who organized the trip for the group. The Balad warehouse contains more than 200,000 end-items for supplying the large air base operations and for meeting other air force requirements.

Lt. Col. David Sanford, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, briefed the Iraqis on the various warehouse functional areas. The team visited Warehouse operations, such as materiel management, small arms/mobility management, and hazardous materials handling.

Blanchard said the tour gave the Iraqi leaders valuable information on self-life rotation, safety measures,



storage practices, accountability requirements and shelving configuration. “All of this should help the Iraqis develop their warehouse operations for maximum capability and efficiency,” he said. “They need this type of operation for supporting a viable law-enforcement organization with the goal of providing a safe and secure Iraq.”

The Ministry of Interior has almost doubled in size in the past three years, creating a logistical challenge for supplying this growing force of police officers, he said.

“After this visit, our Iraqi counterparts have a new vision for the MoI warehouses in both their operational procedures and layout,” said Lt. Col. Kreg Custer, chief of the MoI-IT Logistics Capacity Branch.

Custer said the trip gives the Iraqi logistic managers “solid ideas and options for redesigning space to ensure maximum storage capacity and providing enhanced procedures to streamline processes for moving materials and supplies to the provinces and units that need them to carry out their missions. Both are essential to enhancing the logistical capacity of the MoI.”

Iraqi Minister of Defence, MNF-I Commander visit Diyala in the midst of major operation

DIYALA, Iraq – Iraqi and Coalition leadership came together May 23 to discuss current and future operations for the Diyala Province.

Iraqi Minister of Defence Abdul-Qadar Mohammad Jassim al-Mifarji along with Multi-National Force – Iraq Commander Gen. Raymond Odierno and Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby received an assessment briefing on the major operation being conducted in Diyala, “Glad Tidings of Benevolence II.”

The operation began May 1 and has led to the detainment of 301 persons for various crimes and the discovery of multiple weapons caches according to officials from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team,

25th Infantry Division.

Iraqi Soldiers found a large weapons cache south of Baqubah May 21 consisting of 307 mortar rounds, 4 boxes of mortar fuses, 11 boxes of Dishka rounds, 24 mine fuses and AK-47 magazines. The weapons cache was confirmed by members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The cache was discovered after Soldiers had found an additional 12 caches while clearing the towns of Al Bazania, Mula Ead, Ibrahim Al Mathkor, Al Naqib, Saed Mustafa, Al Bya’a, Saisbana, Al Gabaat, Old Saysabani, Kanbaru, Karim Al Nassir, Qaryat Al Hadaf, Ali Salem, Al Anbar, Nahar Ibrahim and Mahdi Alasward over the past two weeks.

During the major operation both ISF and Peshmerga forces worked together to clear areas in Diyala and to bring humanitarian aid to the people of the region.

On May 22, 100 families in the town of Horea received large bags of rice and other items during one of the many humanitarian aid missions that have taken place over the past three weeks throughout the province.

“Glad Tidings of Benevolence II” has been a very successful operation,” said Col. Burt Thompson, commander of Coalition Forces in Diyala, “With more than 26, 000 combined Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, some from outside the province, the ISF have cleared Diyala and are working hard to ensure they hold their gains.”

They have planned for and distributed humanitarian assistance packages and worked closely with Coalition Forces, the Provincial Reconstruction Team and the newly elected Government of Diyala on essential service and infrastructure improvement projects throughout the Province. “We still have a lot of work to do in Diyala, but we are making gains every day,” said Thompson.

Iraqi and Coalition leadership met on May 23 to receive a briefing on the status of operation “Glad Tidings of Benevolence II” in the Diyala province. Attending were the Iraqi Minister of Defense, Multi-National Forces-Iraq Commander Gen. Raymond Odierno.

Iraqi Army conducts refresher training with Coalition Forces

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq – 2nd Bn., 12th Bde., 2nd Iraqi Army Div 4th Pltn. conducted a series of training days with, A Co., 1st Bn., 67th Armor Regt., 2nd Bde. Combat Team, 4th Inf. Div. in east Mosul during the week of May 26.

In a round-robin style, 60 Soldiers over a three day period conducted refresher training and drills on basic soldier skills.

This training reinforces the tactics utilized by the Iraqi Security Forces in Ninewah province.

The 2nd Bn., 12th Bde., 2nd IA Div. operations officer said that plans were underway to send another two groups of Soldiers through the training within a week.

Training events like this place a key emphasis on Iraqi Security Forces utilizing the tools necessary to secure their own communities. With emphasis on Coalition Forces being out of Iraq’s cities by the end of June, the Iraqi Security Force sentiment is that these types of programs are essential for their continued professional growth.

Security Ministry Officials Discuss Human Rights Issues

BAGHDAD – Officials from the Iraqi Ministries of Defense and Interior, and the Counter Terrorism Center discussed human rights issues and teaching methods at the day-long “Human Rights Teachers Conference” held at the Ministerial Training and Development Center



May 27.

The conference was designed to facilitate a sharing of information and greater collaboration among those officials charged with human rights related training within security ministries and organizations. The participants discussed strategies for promoting a human rights culture, approaches to teaching, legal issues, research and development, case studies, and human rights priorities at the MoD.

Particular emphasis was given to the legal foundation of human rights in Iraq such as Executive Order 207. It regulates, for example, family visitation rights and family notifications when a person is detained.

“All personnel involved with detainee operations need to be familiar with the order so they can enforce it,” said Ms. Iman, MoD Human Rights director. “But they also need to be aware of the consequences for disobeying the order.”

The forum also provided participants with a chance to discuss ways to provide human rights education to government officials.

One proposal argued that it is best to focus on individuals who work closely with detainees such as wardens, criminal investigators and commanders. Increasing awareness for human rights at this level could have a quick impact according to this proposal.

Another proposal advocated that good human rights practices could save the lives of security personnel during military or detention operations.

Iraqi Army Staff Brig. Gen. Moaid Al Beati from the Center for Military Values, Principles and Leadership Development, said that he attended the conference to learn more about human rights so that the center can instill good principals in Iraqi soldiers.

The center employs a ‘train-the-trainer’ approach to disseminate critical knowledge and values down to the battalion level. The aim is to expose security personnel to best human rights practices and improve their interaction with Iraq’s citizens. As security operations are often joint efforts, it is important that the MoD, MoI and the CTC share common values and professional standards.

Over the next three months, various proposals will be studied and surveys will be conducted after which the course participants will reconvene and recommend the best course of action for teaching human rights in Iraq, according to Iman.

Iraqi Police investigators train on FOB Warrior

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq—The rule of law is the foundation of any free nation. Aristotle said that “law should govern,” and those in power should be “servants of the laws” nearly 2,500 years ago.

In the spirit of ensuring a fair application of its laws, Iraqi police officers responsible for investigating crimes travelled to Forward Operating Base Warrior May 23 to hone their unique skills and get new ideas on evidence processing.

“We want to improve our officers’ ability to investi-

gate crimes and crime scenes,” said Brig. Gen. Razaq Hussein, one of the head officers at the Kirkuk police academy and an instructor during the training.

The officers came from around the city and province to participate and improve their skills.

“This class can help increase their progress in the cases they are already working on,” explained Razaq. “We are helping refresh the lessons they learned at the police academy, and we are showing them new ways to assess cases and organize them.”

According to Razaq, officers working evidence on a daily basis sometimes have old habits that are hard to break, and new skills can improve their investigative work.

“They need to know to do the systems of investigating that we taught them every time they get a case,” Razaq said. “But, we are also teaching them new information. These classes are how we keep the wheels rolling.”

A major point of discussion during the course of the class revolved around proper crime scene investigating.

Brig. Gen. Awad, the commander of the Criminal Evidence Unit, explained to the policemen the need to keep the crime scene pure of any new material. He also went in more detail about videotape and photographing the scene and how to find hard evidence.

“If you follow the right steps, you will get answers,” assured Awad.

Awad also encouraged the policemen to stay current on the situations in their various cities and villages by reading cases that affect their areas.

For Maj. Ahmar Issad, a police investigator, the class was essential.

“You cannot finish an investigation without this type of training,” he explained. “Every investigator needs to know this; you will never catch and arrest a criminal without it.”

Issad, who graduated from a police academy in Baghdad in 1996, has been investigating crimes ever since.

According to him, a lot of training is required in order to become and remain an investigator.

Issad went on to explain that although the methods of investigating are nearly the same as when he first learned, technology has continued to improve.

For Issad, this was especially true when Coalition forces brought new equipment to the IP investigators that allowed them to gain a more detailed picture from crime scenes.

“You can find out exactly what happened while you are still standing at the crime scene,” he explained.

So, while the rule of law is not new, technology and techniques continue to evolve to ensure a fair enforcement of Iraq’s laws.

Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers deliver food in Kirkuk province

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq—Iraqi Police and Coalition forces helped the residents of Qushquaya, Iraq, May 29, by distributing more than 100 bags of food.

Iraqi Police from Dibbis, a town south of Kirkuk city, and Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, handed out tomatoes, beans and lentils in the village.

“The residents of this village are all workers,” explain the village mukhtar, Ali Mahmood Sayeed. “Since they were given this food, they can now use the money they make to buy something else that they need.”

The “Mustang” Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Bde. Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. were out to do more than just deliver food.

“We are trying to present a good impression to the

younger generation,” said Sgt. Jeremy Blister, an infantryman.

By doing these types of missions, he continued, Soldiers of Co. C are able to show these kids that the security forces are helping them.

This is the first time Qushquaya has received humanitarian assistance from security forces in nearly four years.

The residents hope that they will continue to help us in the future, said Sayeed.

“The youth don’t see politics; they see what is really happening,” said Blister. “This is how we are really helping Iraq.”

Although most of the residents did not speak much to the security forces, they were more than happy to flash a brief smile.

Joint security agreement for Mosul Dam

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Iraqi Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice toured the Camp Taji Theater Internment Reconciliation Center June 3 to survey facilities and review programs for detainees.



Minister Dara Noor al-Deen Baha’ al-Deen and deputy Posho Ibrahim Ali spoke with numerous detainees to assess their quality of life as the officials visited where the detainees eat, sleep, learn and recreate. The visit was the first trip to Taji for both MoJ members.

The objective of the tour was to familiarize the Iraqi officials with the Taji detention facility and discuss its future transition from Coalition custody to Iraqi custody. In accordance with the Security Agreement, Multi-National Force-Iraq will turn over the Camp Taji TIFRC to the Government of Iraq in early 2010. Once transition is complete, the Ministry of Justice will be responsible for operating and overseeing the Taji detention facility.

Joint Task Force 134 Detainee Operations is currently training Iraqi Correctional Officers to work at the facility, and JTF-134 is preparing a larger Correctional Training Center to give Iraqis administrative, logistical and operational skills needed to run a correctional facility entirely.

Justice Minister al-Deen recognized the need for more ICOs at Taji, and was pleased with the family visitation, healthcare and programs currently offered to the detainees there.

“It is very important to use Taji as a correctional center so the detainees can learn a skill and educate themselves to help their families and be productive citizens when they get released,” said the Minister of Justice through an interpreter. “We’re working hard to improve the life of the detainees and create more vocational programs.”

Some of the programs available to Taji detainees include computer instruction, education courses in civics, math, Arabic and English, and the Islamic Discussion Program. Joint Task Force-134 is working with the Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs to bring more vocational programs to Taji, including small engine repair, carpentry and masonry.

In accordance with the Security Agreement, JTF-134 is releasing or transferring all detainees in a safe and orderly manner. Many of the 3,668 detainees who have been released since Jan. 1 participated in the educational and vocational programs at the US-run detention facilities, and are better equipped to become a productive member of Iraq’s growing and prosperous future.

Camp Taji is located approximately 15 miles north of Baghdad.

Sustaining the Line



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the commanding general of Army Materiel Command, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally (both center) pose for a photograph with female Soldiers outside 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Headquarters during a visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq on June 4. The visit to JBB was part of a larger tour of the Middle East to meet with leaders in advance of the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alex Snyder



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Lewis

Spc. Andrew Hinshaw, Logistics Task Force – Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, checks weather conditions in the mountains near the northern border of Iraq using a hand-held meteorology device at Habur Gate, Iraq May 31. Communication Soldiers of LTF-A measures wind speed, temperature and altimeter readings, wind direction, cloud coverage, visibility, and current weather conditions at the remote Army convoy outpost, which allows aviation units to determine if it is safe enough to fly. The tests are done under the Army's Forward Area Limited Observation Program. The tests provide more accurate meteorological information to aviation units that conduct missions around the Habur Gate area near the Turkish border.

Texas Army National Guard Soldiers Spc. Leo Loeza, of Dallas, Texas, cleans an M-2 .50-caliber machine gun while Spc. Kevin Kryseski from San Angelo, Texas conducts preventive maintenance on a M240B machine gun at Camp Taji, Iraq. The Soldiers are gunners with Echo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade and performs weapon's maintenance to prevent malfunctions during convoy operations.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Teresa Witt



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Michael Syner

Staff Sgt. Daryl J. Starks, a native of St. Louis, Mo., and motor sergeant with the 21st Cargo Transportation Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, loads excess oil containers onto a pallet for movement from the Central Receiving and Shipping Point to the Supply Support Activity Center at Camp Taji, Iraq May 2.