

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 25

FLORIDA FAMILY TRADITION



Father, son support each other during deployment to Iraq
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SECURITY AGREEMENT COMMITMENT



776th Maint. Co. resets humvees for transfer to ISF
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RECOGNIZING Q-WEST'S FINEST



Knights highlight NCOs around the brigade
Page 12-14



Capt. Joshua L. Dalton, company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 259th CSSB Soldiers salute the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 17.

259th CSSB transfers authority to 80th Ordnance Battalion

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 80th Ordnance Battalion assumed authority from the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a transfer of authority ceremony here June 17.

The ceremony officially marked the end of a deploy-

ment for the 259th CSSB, who provided command and control to over 2,800 Soldiers and Sailors, representing 21 companies throughout its deployment. An Army Reserve unit from Denver, the 259th CSSB's commander was proud of her unit's accomplishments and thanked her troops for their hard work and dedication.

"To the men and women of the 259th CSSB, thank you for executing all of the many tasks that made our accomplishment possible," said Lt. Col. Marci D. Toler, 259th CSSB commander. "It

was the greatest privilege and honor to serve with each one of you while executing this logistical distribution mission."

During their combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 259th CSSB supported nearly 400 customer units, executed over 57 transportation movement requests per day and distributed more than 800,000 gallons of water per month to Forward Operating Bases Paliwoda, Caldwell, Normandy and Camp Ashraf supporting over 3,500 Coalition forces.

The 259th also completed more than 203 technical inspections and repairs for the M1114 humvees being transferred to the Iraqi Army.

"We left our job, communities and Families on June 1, 2008 to come together to train on our warrior tasks and battle drills," said Toler. "But more importantly, as we think back on that, we became a team, ready to accept and execute what was already laid out in front of

See **TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY**,
Page 5

332 ESFS Blotter

June 11 - June 17

LOSS OF UNSECURED PROPERTY:

A victim walked into the law enforcement desk and reported his property missing. Security forces assisted the victim in completing a written statement via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant. The victim stated he conducted a monthly inventory and was unable to locate the property. The victim conducted a sweep of the location and telephoned his other work section with negative findings. The LED initiated a BOLO (be on the lookout) for missing property.

MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION/GOV-TERRAIN:

Security forces telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a minor vehicle collision. Security forces were briefed and dispatched. SF arrived on scene and determined the collision to be a minor vehicle collision. The vehicle driver stated via AF IMT 1168 at approximately 2120 hours while conducting a flight line perimeter fence check he tried to avoid a small ditch but turned into another unseen ditch. The driver further stated he attempted to maneuver out of the ditch but was unsuccessful and did not want to cause further damage. All witness statements collaborated with the driver's.

PATROL RESPONSE/MEDICAL EMERGENCY:

A reporting party notified law enforcement desk via 911 and reported a medical emergency. Security forces were briefed and dispatched. Security forces arrived on scene and made contact with medical personnel who relayed the victim fell out of a bus sustaining injuries. Medical relayed the victim would be transported to the base hospital for further evaluation.

NIPR: 443-8602

SIPR: 241-1171

Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment



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

01 JUNE 09

3^d ESC FLIPL Report

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

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

Item	Description	Action	Cost
M4 Rifle, attachments	Soldier was unloading/securing equipment from his vehicle after returning from mission. Soldier failed to maintain positive control of his weapon while ground guiding a vehicle. The vehicle ran over his weapon and attachment in the process.	Soldier charged	\$1,812.24
M4 Rifle	Soldier laid his weapon on the tire of his vehicle. After loading equipment the Soldier forgot he placed his weapon on the tire and the vehicle moved out, crushing the M4 in the process.	Soldier charged	\$150.93(ECOD)
NVGs: AN/PVS-14	Soldier last saw his NVG in Jan 2009. Soldier conducted missions during Jan and Feb and does not recall seeing his NVGs while on mission. Platoon leader conducted sensitive items inventory in March and the NVGs were identified as missing	Soldier charged	\$1,920.90
5.56MM BALL ammo.	Vehicles were broken into and ammo was discovered missing when Soldier went to move the vehicles. Vehicles were said to have been properly secured.	No one charged	\$198.00
Multiple items	Equipment was destroyed by a fire. Investigation showed that no one was directly responsible for the fire.	No one charged	\$230,665.22

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

Corrections

- A sentence in the front page story of the June 17 Expeditionary Times "Sustainers, Shaykh reach out to Bedouin Families," was changed during the editing process and altered its meaning. The sentence should have read as "Soldiers have reduced rock throwing incident by children here over the last few months..."
- The cover photo caption of the same story was misidentified as "Staff Sgt. Michael A. Mendez ... speaks with tribal elders..." The correct caption should have read, "... greets a young boy from a Bedouin family..."
- Several sentences in the story "Historians meet to discuss history," was changed during the editing process and altered its meaning. The story is about a meeting between Coalition historians and the 44th Military History Detachment to begin planning the way ahead for future historians deploying in support of contingency operations by assessing the current collection procedures of the 44th MHD.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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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

"...bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

- Colossians 3:13

Many relationships fail because of the inability to embrace or forgive another. Forgiveness releases an individual of anger and resentment. Keep in mind holding grudges takes mental, emotional, and physical energy.

I often hear people say, "All I want is peace..." When you are reluctant to forgive someone, you take control of your feelings. When you hold hatred against another person, you are spending energy and effort that is unhealthy mentally, emotionally and physically. If you want peace, learn to forgive....

"My wagon is empty; I never know when I might have to go up a steep mountain." The quote can translate as a steep mountain is a circumstance that happens and is beyond our control; now all you need is energy to overcome the circumstance. However you don't have enough energy because the rocks from past events are draining your energy source.

Everything we place into the wagon must be carried. Any circumstance becomes added weight as rocks to the wagon. Some rocks can be hurt, pain, unfaithfulness, anger, mistrust, abandonment, low-self esteem, negative perspective of life. The longer the negative rock's stays in the wagon, the harder it is to love or forgive. Be careful, the wagon can hold hostage love and forgiveness.

What mental and emotional rocks are placing in your wagon? What rocks are in your wagon that needs to be unloaded before climbing the steep mountain? If you want peace, unload the wagon. Trust God to give you the strength to climb the steep mountains in life.

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

HOOAH OF THE WEEK



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

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, congratulates Staff Sgt. Alvin T. Porch, left, of Columbus, Ga., and Sgt. Monette A. Wesolek of Prescott, Ariz., for being selected "Hooahs of the Week" at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 18.

Porch, a support operations noncommissioned officer with HHC, 3^d ESC from Fort Knox, Ky., was selected Hooah of the Week for the week of June 11. He was recognized for his dedication and performance as the noncommissioned officer in charge for the 3^d ESC color guard, an additional duty.

Wesolek, a broadcast journalist with the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Arizona Army National Guard, was recognized for her efforts and work on a public service announcement on laser safety the week of June 18.

How to nominate a "Hooah of the Week"

Nominations must be turned in to Sgt. 1st Class Caprice Walker by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

For any questions, to request a nomination form or to submit a service member's name for nomination, e-mail: caprice.walker@iraq.centcom.mil.



"The Weekly Standard"



Inspector General Appropriateness

Not all complaints and issues brought to the IG are appropriate for action by the IG. Many can and should be addressed by other agencies or through the individual's chain of command.

In generalities, IGs do not recommend punishment, interpret law, establish command policy, exercise directive authority, or change established redress procedures. For example, there are procedures within AR 623-3 that address appeals procedures for evaluations.

As a rule, the following are specific items/topics that IGs do not address:

- EO complaints (with exception)
- Hazardous work conditions
- Criminal allegations (with exception)
- Soldier non-support of family
- Non-Army-related issues
- Redress available to DoD civilians

Additionally, local IGs do not investigate Army lawyers, other IGs (these are referred to next higher IG), nor special staff personnel (medical professionals, CID Agents, recruiters, chaplains) as these personnel are in a profession that is outside the IGs capability to investigate due to the highly specialized nature of that field. There are exceptions if the complaint is not related to their specialty. For example, a complaint that a doctor improperly used government equipment for personal gain is a violation of the Joint Ethics Regulation and is not directly related to the medical profession. Allegations of this type can be resolved by the local IG office.

By Lt. Col. Tim Norton
3^d ESC Inspector General

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.

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

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

Memorial honors fallen EOD Airmen

BY STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The explosive-ordnance disposal flight and 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing leadership here gathered June 7, to pay tribute to two fallen EOD comrades with the dedication of a memorial in their honor.

More than 30 Airmen gathered to honor Tech. Sgt. Anthony Capra and Senior Airman William Newman, both assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron EOD flight, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as EOD technicians here.

"Today we dedicated a memorial to two of our fallen brothers," said Tech. Sgt. Corey King, 332nd ECES EOD craftsman deployed here from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "I knew both of them, and I wanted something to honor their memory.

"I hope future generations who come through here, the junior EOD techs realize that these guys came here to do a job, they came here to get a mission done, they came here to help people and they paid the ultimate sacrifice," continued the Gwinn, Mich., native. "And although (Sergeant Capra and Airman Newman) may not be with us, their legacy goes on."

The memorial dedication ceremony was purposefully held on the two-year anniversary of Airman Newman's death June 7, 2007, and was held at 3 p.m., the time of Sergeant Capra's death, as a way to remember both Airmen.

Another fellow EOD technician who attended the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Matthew Rider, deployed here from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., was pleased to see the memorial dedicated to his fallen friends.

"We will never forget them," said Rider, a native of Warren, Ohio. "I'm honored to be here to see this memorial dedicated to them. They paid the ultimate sacrifice, and I hope everyone who sees it remembers them -- but is also reminded to not take life for granted. They will always be missed."

Overall, the EOD flight here worked collectively to design and complete the memorial. The memorial includes a concrete T-wall barrier with the words "Will and Tony's Place" on it along with the EOD crest. In front of the memorial are two cement stands, each dedicated to one of the fallen Airmen, with a plaque in the shape of a "dog tag." Surrounding the memorial is a cordon of empty mortar shells. Each aspect of the memorial represents something about the EOD career field in tribute to their fallen teammates.

"We decided together what we wanted it to look like," said King. "We wanted to honor their lives and their legacy. I think it does honor and justice to them."

Following the ceremony, those in attendance were able to come forward and pay their respects to Sergeant Capra and Airman Newman. As the gathering of Airmen began to dwindle, one Airman remained a bit longer with the EOD flight: Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief. Having shared the same career field with the fallen Airmen and those honoring them, the ceremony had a special significance for the command chief.

"Sharing a common career field with these two warriors makes this a little-more-special occasion,"



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

Two Airmen attend the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal memorial dedication ceremony here June 7. The ceremony unveiled a memorial dedicated to Senior Airman William Newman and Tech. Sgt. Anthony Capra, both fallen EOD Airmen who were deployed here. Airman Newman served here from December 2006 to June 7, 2007. Capra was deployed at JBB in 2008.

said Williamson. "It is unfortunate for all of us. It is a loss to all of us because it's not just a loss to their immediate Families, but to their Air Force Family and really to humanity at large with the loss of these two individuals.

"Both of these young men are heroes," he continued. "They volunteered to do a very tough job and they took on a very tough mission. They did it with expertise, they did it with pride. They knew what they were doing, they knew the risks that they were taking, and they did it anyway."

"This memorial will provide a lasting tribute for everyone who sees it from here on out as to the sacrifice these two Airmen made," he said. "It also goes beyond that; it serves as a visible reminder and an honor for all of those Airmen who have given their lives in the conflict over here. It is important that we remember our fallen war-

rriors over here -- that they are not forgotten because that's the worse we can do."

"I knew both of them personally," said Williamson. "I had the opportunity to speak with both of them at various points in their career. I do know that they both loved what they were doing. Both of them were wonderful patriots, wonderful people and wonderful Airmen.

"I thank the Families for the incredible young men that they brought into this life and that they raised," Williamson added. "It is a testament to them (Families) as well as the patriotism and desire to serve that was exhibited by these two warriors. They lived the words of our Airman's Creed: 'I defend my country with my life.' That is what these Airmen did and it is only fitting that we take a moment every now and then and we remember them."

Airmen execute Project Liberty at Camp Liberty

BY STAFF SGT. TIM BECKMAN
U.S. AFCENT Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Eighteen months ago officials created a plan to bolster the Air Force's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission by adding a new platform to the ISR inventory.

Now the Airmen assigned to the 362nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Detachment 1 here are charged with the task of standing up the new ISR mission using the newly configured C-12 Huron turboprop planes, designated MC-12W, as ISR platforms.

The program, called Project Liberty, involves Airmen operating the MC-12W aircraft out of Joint Base Balad and geographically separated Airmen gathering and analyzing the intelligence collected from here. The first combat sortie, flown June 9, was a complete success, according to all parties involved.

In a recent interview, Maj. Gen. Blair Hansen, the A2 director of ISR capabilities said, "this fight demands decisive information, surgical ISR, tailored to the level of the fight. This capability will give field commanders more important and timely

knowledge to make critical decisions. To be effective in counterinsurgency requires micro information fast, to both kill or capture terrorists as well as to protect our joint and coalition force and the civilian population."

More than 20 trained professionals, all deployed from Langley AFB, Va., work day and night behind the scenes to gather and analyze all the data and imagery the aircraft collects to provide forward-deployed ground forces with the real-time information to make key battlefield decisions.

"The purpose of Project Liberty is to provide intelligence directly to the warfighter," said Capt. Jeffrey Johnston, 362nd ERS Det. 1 commander. "We are providing daily support to the theater."

Johnston said the new ISR mission isn't exactly a new capability, but what is new is the concept of the platform and the fact that they are standing up new capabilities to the fight.

"It has been a tremendous amount of work, but we have the absolute best people to pave the way for this growing mission," said Johnston.

According to the detachment's superintendent, standing up a new mission like this isn't ever easy,



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacqueline Romero

Senior Airman Brandon Cochran and Staff Sgt. Nick Rasser, both imagery analysts for the 362nd Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Detachment 1, demonstrate processing data and imagery from an MC-12W aircraft here June 11.

but, thanks to the hard work of the Airmen, the gap has been bridged smoothly.

"There is a reason this team was handpicked to come here," said Master Sgt. Kyle LaLand, who is a native of Queens, N.Y. "I really think we are making a big difference for the guys fighting on the ground."

TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY Continued from page one

us.”

An active-duty unit based at Fort Lewis, Wash., the 80th Ord. Bn. will provide command and control of assigned or attached companies while deployed to Iraq. The unit has a rich history that dates back to its days as the 80th Ordnance Medium Battalion during World War II, for which it received three campaign streamers.

Designated the 80th Ord. Bn., in 1967, the unit serves as a multifunctional logistics battalion providing transportation, perishable subsistence, petroleum supply and ammunition support to active and reserve component units throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Lt. Col. Christopher O. Mohan, a Carthage, N.C. native and 80th Ord. Bn. commander, acknowledged that his unit has big shoes

to fill, but is confident the 80th Ord. Bn., will be up to the task.

“I’ll start by personally thanking Lt. Col. Toler and the rest of the Broncos of the 259th CSSB for setting the conditions for our success. You’ve successfully accomplished your mission and excelled in all areas of sustainment,” said Mohan.

“We’ve trained hard for this deployment and I’m confident that we’ll carry on the proud tradition of excellence established by the 259th CSSB and our predecessors.”

Lt. Col. Christopher O. Mohan, 80th Ordnance Battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Tincknell, 80th Ord. Bn. Senior enlisted leader, uncase their units colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 17.



602nd Maintenance Company receive End-of-Tour Awards

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

— Since their arrival on April 6, 2008, the 602nd Maintenance Company from Fort Hood, Texas, supported

Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10 by providing maintenance support teams throughout theater with direct maintenance support for the 304th Sustainment Brigade convoy security battalions and training of the 5th Iraqi Army Divi-

sion.

The company received honors June 8 from the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during their end of tour awards ceremony here.

After opening the ceremony with the national anthem and a prayer by 259th CSSB Chaplain (Capt.) Jason Haddock, of Denver, Colo., the 602nd Maint. Co., received their awards from the Battalion Commander, Lt Col. Marci D. Toler, from Greeley, Colo., and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Dobbs, from Denver, Colo.

Toler praised the company, whose mission she believed impacted the Iraqi

Army the most.

“As I recognize each one of you, I can’t tell you how immeasurably proud of you I am,” she said. “Each and every one of you are great leaders and I would be honored to come back and serve with you again.”

Toler and Dobbs presented nine Soldiers with the Bronze Star Medal, awarding heroic or meritorious achievement and service while engaged in military operations against an armed enemy or opposing force. Both the 602nd company commander, Capt. Rigo Valdez, from Eddinburg, Texas, and 1st Sgt. Curtis Spann, from Brandon, Miss., received the award.

Capt. Michael Hannah, of Nacagdoches, Texas, 1st Lt. Kinard Egleton, from Florence, S.C., Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lee Rowland, from Hampton, Va., Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Brown, from San Antonio, Texas, Master Sgt. Eric Moore, of Detroit, Mich., Sgt. 1st Class David Evans, from Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Wisor, of Clearfield, Pa, also received the Bronze Star Medal.

The Meritorious Service Medal was awarded to Sgt. 1st Class Richard Applewhite and Sgt. 1st Class Juan Bruno, both of Fort Hood, Texas. Following these decorations, the 259th CSSB awarded 150 Army

Commendation Medals and four Army Achievement Medals to the company.

Valdez expressed his thanks to the battalion and for their support throughout their 15-month deployment here.

“The most important thing to remember today is the Soldiers of the 602nd,” Valdez said. “You all have done great things. Even though our missions will change, don’t forget that we are all one big family. Make sure you continue to do what you did here and take care of each other.”

The 602nd Maint. Co. completed their tour and did their transfer of authority Friday.



On the Web

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

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

Finance 'High Rollers' holding it down

BY SGT. DANIELLE GORDON
UPAR, 208TH FM CO.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - The "High Rollers" of the 208th Financial Management Company from Germany provide most of the battlefield finance support to Soldiers and civilians throughout central Iraq.

Cpl. Son Nguyen, a 208th Financial Management Co. disbursing officer and a native of Atlanta, Ga., said, "It is too easy. I like my job and I make sure the Soldiers and DoD employees are taken care

of."

"We also provide support to our fellow comrades by ensuring their combat and noncombat entitlements are in effect on the date of arrival in a timely manner," he said.

A service member can receive a casual pay in the amount of \$350 under emergency conditions, and \$550 for rest and recuperation purposes. Both civilians and Soldiers can cash personal checks according to the policy and regulatory guidance.

The Eagle Cash Card program is another option to access cash from finance offices. This is a cash management tool designed to support the deployed U.S. military personnel and civilians.

Eagle Cash cards interface with an automated kiosk devices are located at convenient locations around a camp or base allowing enrolled cardholders self-service access to transfer funds directly from their checking or savings accounts. The card is used to purchase goods or services at the post exchange or base exchange, postal facility and concessionaires.

Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Simmons, the disbursing manager and resident of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said, "My job is very easy as long as you have the proper tools needed to get the mission a success. As long as the payments are done in a timely manner the vendor receives the money within 48 to 72 hours."

Check CHUsdays

Each TUESDAY Check The Following in Your CHU

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

This Simple Act Could Save You,

Your CHU and Your Buddy Too

Touched by 9/11, Soldier to become U.S. citizen

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq - After her aunt was injured during the attacks of Sept. 11, in New York City, Spc. Cindy Patricia Peters, an immigrant to New York City from Laventille,

Trinidad, joined the Army.

Peters, a water treatment specialist in the 574th Quartermaster Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, will become a U.S. citizen during a mass citizenship ceremony in Baghdad July 4.

"She was badly hurt, and I wanted to make my Family proud," she said. "I want to be a citizen for many

reasons," said Peters. "I (have lived) in New York City most of my life, and I know that I will have endless opportunities as a citizen. Life will become a lot easier; I will be able to do everything I want to do to better myself."

Peters, on her first deployment, said she is using her free time in Iraq to take college courses and hopes to retire from the Army and become a

registered nurse.

The mother of a two-year-old and Brooklyn, N.Y., native, had some advice for other Soldiers considering getting their citizenship.

"The advice I would give to a Soldier is 'don't waste any time'; the military offers your U.S. citizenship for free," Peters said. "Take advantage of every opportunity that is offered to you."

SAFETY

Safety Topic of the Week

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



Dear Half-Mast,
Those of us in the sandbox are glad to have MRAPs in our unit. But we really need more help with training and maintenance for this vehicle. Is there a solution for us outside of MRAP University and the MRAP contractor field service reps?

1LT D.H.

YES, LIEUTENANT D.H., THERE IS.

ALL AVAILABLE TRAINING MATERIALS AND TECHNICAL MANUALS FOR THE MRAP FAMILY OF VEHICLES ARE LOCATED ONLINE.

YOU CAN GET TO THEM IN THE DOWNLOADS AREA ON BORDNANCEU USING THIS LINK: <https://ordnanceu.army.mil/portal/index.php>

YOU'LL HAVE TO USE YOUR AKO LOGIN AND PASSWORD. JUST CLICK ON THE MRAP VERSION YOU HAVE AND SCROLL THROUGH THE INFO.

BY THE WAY, YOU WON'T FIND THESE COMMERCIAL MRAP TMS ON LOGSA'S ETM WEBSITE.



Filipino Soldier to become U.S. citizen

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Spc. Alejandro Macabalitao, gunner, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, came to the U.S. in 1996 to join his family and start a new life.



On his second deployment he will finally become a U.S. citizen

during a mass citizenship ceremony in Baghdad July 4.

"I want to become an American citizen because I'll be able to have the same freedom, liberties and opportunities as natural-born citizens," said Macabalitao, a native of Everett, Wash., and originally from Quezon City, Philippines.

Macabalitao said becoming a citizen made this deployment special to him.

"Becoming a U.S. citizen lightens the burden and separation from my family, friends and loved ones," Macabalitao said.

The avid outdoorsman and motorcycle rider said his decision to join the Army in 2004 was a natural one.

"All through my life I've been a military brat," Macabalitao said. "My father, brothers and sister were all in the military, so I thought it would be a good choice for me as well. And plus it helped me stay away from trouble and being up to no good."

Macabalitao credited his non-commissioned officers for mentoring him and helping him achieve what he has in the Army.

"At this point in time I cannot depict one particular NCO that has made an impact, because throughout my military career I've had several NCOs that have inspired me to become the person that I am today, both in my military and civilian life," Macabalitao said.

The deployment has been a special one, he said.

"This deployment has been a learning experience," Macabalitao said. "It has taught me how to be a stronger, more independent person, and it has taught me how to approach challenging situations."

Long Term plan leads to success

BY PFC. MICHAEL SYNER
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Military operations are only as successful as the planning that goes into them. Without long-range planning, coordinating missions between different units would be next to impossible.



The 10th Sustainment Brigade maintains a section devoted to long-range plans.

The brigade plans section's primary missions are to provide plans for the unit, track the subordinate units' capabilities and time remaining in theater, maintain awareness of upcoming events and movements all the while ensuring information matches with the brigade's higher headquarters, the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"We try to do frequent trips to Joint Base Balad to have face-to-face meetings with the 3^d ESC," said Capt. Damonica C. Ray, a brigade planner and Memphis native.

The coordination with other units is the most critical part of their job.

"Our priorities are constantly shifting," said 1st Lt. Shameice K. Fischer, a plans officer with the 10th Sust. Bde., and Mililani, Hawaii native. "We have to be able to note what is going on with the different

units, and plan around their capabilities."

That aspect creates the need for constant updates on the units' capabilities, a task that falls on Sgt. 1st Class Todd S. Dunmire, a plans noncommissioned officer, and native of Hurst, Texas.

"We do bi-weekly pull-downs from the 3^d ESC," he said, "and constantly check with our units to make sure that their numbers match ours."

Veteran NCO wants to make a difference

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Staff Sgt. Matthew J. Fischer, a squad leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Washington Army National Guard, is on his third deployment to Iraq and continues to mentor Soldiers here.



"This deployment has been different from my previous two deployments in many ways, mostly due to the fact that I am serving this deployment with the National Guard," said Fischer, a native of Marysville, Wash. "Though I am no longer a full-time Soldier, com-

ing on this deployment has really helped me grow even more as a leader."

Fischer said he is able to share his experience with many of his Soldiers.

"With the National Guard, I have been working with many Soldiers who, before this deployment, have never lived the Army life, day in and day out," said Fischer. "With that I have been able to teach them a lot and share my experiences with them in a way that they really respect."

For Fischer, being an NCO is about being an example for Soldiers to emulate.

"Being an NCO, to me, means that you are a person of knowledge, strength, and direction, upholding the highest standards of our military," Fischer said. "Trusted by others not only to lead the way, but to mentor, encourage, and motivate

Soldiers to always exert their best qualities. Being an NCO means that taking the hard right over the easy wrong is never a question that lingers in your mind. Being an NCO is being the example."

Fischer said that you must be willing to follow to lead.

"Really ensure that you understand what it means to be a leader, and the difference between what a leader is, as opposed to 'being in charge,'" said Fischer. "Never forget, you cannot effectively lead without first knowing how to follow."

Two NCOs with very different leadership styles shaped Fischer the most, he said.

"My platoon sergeant during my first deployment was an 'old school' NCO who cussed at me almost every day," Fischer said. "However, he never failed to ensure that I learned from my mistakes nor did

he ever let me quit or give up when I was feeling lost or inexperienced as a squad leader. As harsh as he may have been, he cared tremendously that I learn and grow as a leader."

"My squad leader through the beginning of my first deployment, and a close friend after, had a much more personal style of leadership," Fischer said. "He taught me through his actions how to really know each and every one of my Soldiers and learn their individual needs, strengths, and weaknesses."

Fischer, who plays the drums and hopes to someday be a musician, said being an NCO is a very important job.

"When I look back at my career, I think the thing I will remember most about being an NCO is that I was in a position to make a positive difference in somebody's life," said Fischer.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Father, son serve together by chance during Iraq deployments

BY SGT. ALEX SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Deploying to a combat zone often means spending time away from family and loved ones.

But for one father-son pair here, deployment meant seeing a lot more of one another.

“Since we’ve been here, I’ve seen him more in the last six months than I’ve seen him in the last two years,” said Staff Sgt. Steven W. Kemper about his son, Spc. Randy C. Kemper.

The father and son deployed with different units to different camps in Iraq; Steven deployed to Camp Victory with the 145th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, of Coleman, Fla., and Randy to Joint Base Balad with the 356th Quartermaster Company, of Orlando, Fla.

Yet they both managed to spend nearly six-months of their tour together.

Steven and his son first met in Iraq in December over the holiday for a short

visit. Two weeks later, however, Steven was permanently assigned to Joint Base Balad, where his unit has a small detachment of Soldiers.

Since then, Steven, a resident of Coleman, Fla., and Randy, a resident of Orlando, Fla., said they’ve managed to see quite a bit of each other – spending mealtimes together, participating in pool tournaments at the recreation center and working on a model 1932 Ford Phantom.

At home, Steven and his son often work on vehicles. Since the deployment, Steven said his son has become much more mechanically adept, which has created a bit of “role-reversal” for the two.

“He was always having to call me at home – ‘Dad, something’s wrong with the truck,’” Steven said. “Over here I call him – ‘come fix the generator.’”

Steven said when he found out his son was deploying to a combat zone he wasn’t too worried.

“We’re a team,” Steven said, noting that his other son is also in the military and deployed to JBB in 2007 and 2008.

“It’s a military family,” said Randy, who was in-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy

Staff Sgt. Steven W. Kemper (left) and his son, Spc. Randy C. Kemper, pose for a picture at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, March 7. By chance, both father and son were deployed to the same base.

spired to join the military by the service of his grandfather, father and brother.

“I’ve always wanted to join the military because of my father,” Randy said. “He’s my hero. I respect him greatly.”

Both father and son said they’ve enjoyed the last six

months together.

“It’s a one of a kind experience,” Randy said.

“We’ve gotten closer,” Steven said.

Steven said in his 28 years of military service – 18 of which he spent in the Navy – he visited to a lot of places, though there are

many places he’s simply forgotten about.

“I remember the Navy times,” Steven said. “I’d go out on a ship and be gone for six to eight months. I’d come back and forget about it. This? I’ll never forget about this. Family memories always last.”




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287th Sustainment Brigade train Summary Court Martial Officers

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
 ADDER, Iraq – The role of a summary court martial officers is not as it sounds nor is it a job that anyone wants to have, yet most commissioned and warrant officers above grade two in the Army are required to be certified in the job.

When an officer is appointed SCMO duty, they take responsibility for personal effects of a wounded, missing, medically evacuated or deceased Soldier or civilian. Their primary responsibility is verifying the effects belong to the Soldier or civilian and are then safeguarded, inventoried, and shipped to the Joint Personal Effects Depot located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Eventually the effects are delivered to the owner or heir.

Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Evans, 287th Sustainment Brigade mortuary affairs noncommissioned officer in charge and a native of Wichita, Kan., certifies personnel in the brigade for duties of a SCMO. Every Tuesday, Evans teaches several officers.

“The key tasks which they learn,” said Evans, “are knowing where to



Second Lt. Aaron Freed, a platoon leader with 66th Transportation Company, 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, counts post exchange pogs as 1st Lt. Lucas Hamilton, executive officer for Alpha Battery, 167th CSSB, prepares to list the number of pogs and their value.

look for a Soldier’s personal effects, correctly identifying those items and listing them on the proper forms. It’s also important that they adhere to a tight timeline. They have 72 hours from the time they’re appointed as SCMOs to when they must personally deliver the personal effects to the Mortuary Affairs Collection Point. They’re also responsible for securing what they collect. A noncommissioned officer is appointed to assist the SCMO with these tasks.”

The proper inventory and shipment of a fallen Soldier’s personal effects returns all property to the Family in a timely manner while preventing any damage to the property which could cause additional grief.

Evans, a national guard member, and a detention lieutenant in his civilian career with the Sedgwick County, Kan., Sheriff’s Office and director of program and services at the Sedgwick County Detention Center, draws his detention center expe-

rience to advise students how to conduct thorough searches for personal effects.

Soldiers who have roommates are more liable to hide expensive or precious items, Evans said, “Hold all the books you find upside down and fan through the pages. Something will probably fall out, whether it’s jewelry, money or receipts. Sometimes you’ll find an area that’s been cut out just in the inside pages and something small is stored there. Check the cuffs and seams on all clothing; with little effort, they’re popular places to hide small and thin objects.”

At the end of each class, students perform a “GO or NO GO” practical exercise of correctly identifying items in a foot locker. Remembering the instructions which Evans provided earlier, they fanned through books, gingerly felt clothing seams, tested electronic equipment, and shook them for rattles, and listed everything they found – including items which were hidden.

“The test was a good eye-opener,” said 2nd Lt. Aaron Freed, a platoon leader with the 66th Transportation Company, 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “It really backed up what was taught in the class. I hope I never have to be a SCMO, but if I need to be, I’ll be ready.”

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

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>.



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

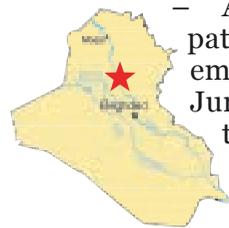


		SGT Al-Tale Baghdad 23 Oct 06	
Badri Hamze Tikrit 6 Nov 04		Major Gilbert IVO Al Taji 27 Nov 06	
Jeffrey Ake Al Taji 11 Apr 05		South African 4 Baghdad 10 Dec 06	
Neenus Khoshaba Baghdad 17 May 05		Adnan Al-Hilawi Baghdad 3 Mar 07	
Abbas Naama Baghdad 27 Sep 05		UK 5 Baghdad 29 May 07	
Hussein Al-Zurufi An Najaf 3 Dec 05		Michael Chand Al Amarah 17 Aug 07	

259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducts patch Ceremony

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A combat patch ceremony held June 6 for the 259th Combat Sustainment



Support Battalion from Denver, Colo. in their Headquarters' Company area, replacing with the 304th Sustainment Brigade patch had great significance for the Soldiers as they have no brigade representation back at home.

Lt. Col. Norman B. Green, brigade commander for the 304th from River-

side, Calif., proudly presented each Soldier with his unit's patch.

Lt Col. Marci D. Toler, from Greeley, Colo., commander of the 259th CSSB, expressed that the patch was meaningful because they have been one of Green's subordinate battalions since their arrival in theater.

During the ceremony, Green acknowledged all the major contributions, such as overseeing the Central Receiving and Shipping Point, the Container Repair Yard, the Forward Redistribution Point, the Iraqi Transportation Network, the Logistical Training Advisory Team, are some of the missions the 259th successfully accomplished



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kelly Anne Beck

since beginning their deployment.

The 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion was constituted on April 1, 1942 as the Headquarters

and Headquarters Detachment, 259th Quartermaster Battalion. After several redesignations and activations, it was inactivated in 1995 as part of an Army

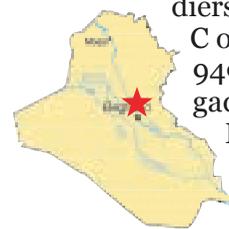
Soldiers from the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion stand in formation after receiving their combat patch from Lt. Col. Norman B. Green, the brigade commander of the 304th Sustainment Brigade, during their combat patch ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 6.

Reserve downsizing initiative. It was reactivated as a Pipeline and Terminal Operating Battalion in a ceremony at Fort Carson, Colo. on October 28, 2000. The battalion was transformed to a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in October 2006, and is located in Denver, Colo. In July 2008, the unit mobilized to deploy to Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operational Iraqi Freedom.

Sustainers certify in MRAP training

BY ANTHONY FOWLKES
UPAR, Co. F 949TH BSB
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMPTAJI, Iraq – Two Soldiers of Foxtrot Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion from Terrell, Texas, were



taught the Caiman Field Level Maintenance – New Equipment Training course on a Caiman Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle by civilian contractors during a five day course here.

The instructors utilized both classroom and hands-on training sessions.

The classroom portion consisted of an overview of Caiman operations where the students were taught how to maintain and troubleshoot the vehicle.

The hands-on training

consisted of an actual "tour" of the vehicle, to include an overview of its many systems, and how they operate the vehicle.

Soldiers and civilians were taught how to operate and troubleshoot the maintenance support device—a computer that diagnoses the vehicle's problem via attachment to the main vehicle data computer.

The students took a hands-on test to find and fix any faults on the vehicle. Most breakdowns with the vehicle, are caused by electrical faults, either through disconnected or loose wiring.

The course ended with a final exam consisting of a 35-question written test on the various specifications of the vehicle and situational awareness conditions to keep the vehicle operable after a Caiman is brought in for maintenance.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Travia Heath

Spc. Michael Quinto, a native of Wahiawa, Hawaii, loads a 20 foot container at the Central Receiving and Shipping Point. The container team has a very big part in the success of the CRSP yard and their mission accomplishment. He is currently deployed with the 21st Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

On the Web

16TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

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



776th Maint. Co. prepares M1114s for ISF

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. TREVOR WINTERS
UPAR, 776TH MAINT. CO., 419TH
CSSB, 10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – An Elizabethton, Tenn., unit has demonstrated commitment to the Security Agreement by fixing humvees being transferred to the Government of Iraq.



The Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle is the new, better-armored, more up-to-date vehicle used today on the battlefield, and they are gradually replacing the up-armored humvee.

The 776th Maintenance Company's Redistribution Property Assistance Team has gained an excellent reputation while working as part of an Army program established to reset humvees.

In less than half the time of the

prior unit, the current team has already exceeded the previous maintenance company's number of humvees restored and turned over. The company's desire, speed and proficiency of fixing vehicles have created quite a stir.

The RPAT's mission is to revitalize the humvees in preparation for transfer to the Iraqi Government. In order to be transferred, the vehicles must meet stringent maintenance standards.

To meet these standards, the humvees must be reset. This means all problems, great and small, must be fixed. Sometimes this could be something small such as fixing signal lights, or something more significant like fixing a transmission or engine. Recently the RPAT team completed maintenance on the 100th vehicle, while conducting maintenance on 20 vehicles per month.



Soldiers with the 776th Maintenance Company's Redistribution Property Assistance Team's effort to revitalize humvees for transfer to the Iraqi government, at Camp Taji, Iraq. (From left to right) Spc. Dexter Jones, a Bellbuckle, Tenn. native, Sgt. Steve Konig, a native of Summertown, Tenn., Spc. Jeffrey Bates, a Centerville, Tenn. native, Sgt. Nelson Hope, a native of Elizabethton, Tenn., Spc. Matthew Swinea, a native of Hohenwald, Tenn., Sgt. Michael Runions of Hohenwald, Tenn., Sgt. David Smith, of Summertown, Tenn., and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Long, a Chattanooga, Tenn., native.

Brig. Gen. Lally tours CRSP and bids farewell to 259th CSSB Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Fort Knox, Ky., toured the central receiving and shipping point and the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion headquarters building to evaluate improvements and procedures here June 7.

All cargo that arrives on base moves through the CRSP for distribution to units on JBB and other forward operating bases.

“He hadn't been down there in a while and he wanted to get the full brief to see what (has) been going on and see what the 155th (Inland Cargo Transfer Company) has done with their processes,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Dobbs, the senior noncommissioned officer for the 259th CSSB, from Denver, Colo.

After Lally's visit to the CRSP, Dobbs briefed the visiting commander at the 259th CSSB headquarters of the improvements made on their building since moving from the building next to the Blackjack Education Center to a building located near the post exchange.

Improvements to the headquarters included the addition of barriers placed strategically around and

between the headquarters buildings to minimize traffic flow cutting through the open area which leads to the civilian housing area behind the headquarters, Dobbs said. He also coordinated with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to set up lights around the headquarters area to minimize accidents.

“We turn (the lights) on every night because we have a lot of people walking back and forth to the PX, H-7 and H-5 (housing areas) through this area,” said Dobbs.

During Lally's visit to the 259th CSSB headquarters, he presented coins to Soldiers that according to Dobbs, “(worked) behind the scenes (and) have done a great job to support the battalion.”

Lally talked to the rede-



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally speaks with 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Soldiers about their redeployment during a visit to their headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 7.

ploying Soldiers about their accomplishments and their upcoming transfer of authority.

“I appreciate everything you've done for our nation

and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors,” Lally said. “I hope you are giving a good hand off (to) the guys coming in here behind you. Good luck!”

On the Web



10th Sustainment Brigade

Task Force

Muleskinner




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



*“No one is more professional than a
Noncommissioned Officer.”*

NCO believes in being a positive influence

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST,
Iraq — Staff Sgt. Walter J. Ashcraft believes a



noncommissioned officer should be a positive influence and care for their Soldiers.

“Being a noncommissioned officer is being a leader, a motivator and a person of positive influence for those around you,” said Ashcraft, a native of Tucumcari, N.M. “An NCO is an individual that cares for all Soldiers and strives to accomplish the mission.”

Ashcraft, a network systems switch operator and maintainer, Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, is on his second deployment to Iraq.

“I have seen a huge change from my first deployment to this one,” Ashcraft said. “During my first deployment, we were mortared on a daily basis. During this deployment the hostility has dropped and the morale of Soldiers I work with seems to be higher.”

This current 15-month deployment to Q-West, Iraq, has been an opportunity for him to grow as an NCO, Ashcraft said.

“This deployment has developed my leadership ability,” said Ashcraft. “I have been cross-trained on multiple communications systems. I helped prepare Soldiers with competition and promo-

tion boards by setting up mock boards and study groups at the company level. During my previous deployment, I was a private first class straight out of AIT (advanced individual training). I lacked experience and knowledge. I am a

staff sergeant now and I had time to learn and grow into a leader.”

Ashcraft said a good NCO makes a big difference to Soldier, and it made a difference for him.

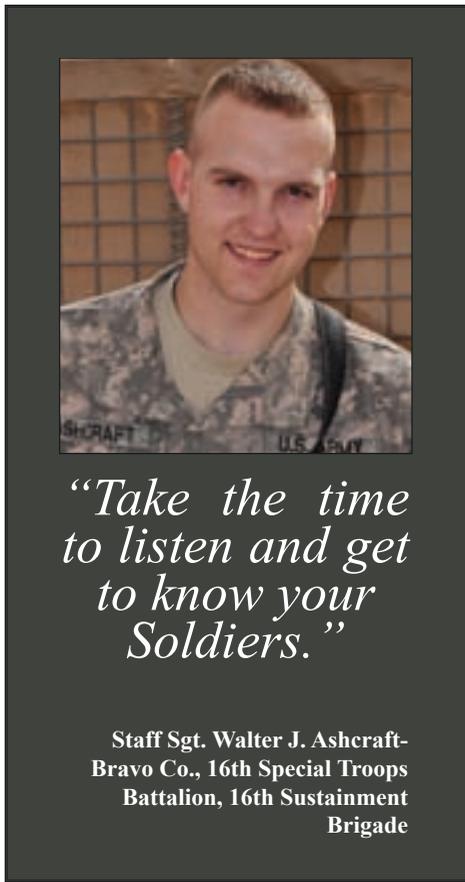
“The NCO that has made the biggest impact on my career is Sgt. 1st Class Delmar Olson,” said Ashcraft. “He has been a friend and a mentor since before I joined the military. He has always been there to give me advice and guidance. As I transcended from one rank to another he was always there to encourage me and help keep me going in the right direction.”

Ashcraft, who is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in graphic design, said he works to encourage his Soldiers to get military and civilian education.

“I feel that the best way to influence a Soldier is to lead by example” said Ashcraft. “I cannot expect my Soldiers to be motivated or show proper respect, if I disregard these attributes. One way that I have impacted Soldiers is by motivating them to work on military and civilian education.”

Ashcraft offered some advice to new NCOs.

“Take the time to listen and get to know your Soldiers,” Ashcraft said. “As an NCO, your leaders will be coming to you to take on more responsibility.



“Take the time to listen and get to know your Soldiers.”

Staff Sgt. Walter J. Ashcraft-
Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops
Battalion, 16th Sustainment
Brigade



There may be times when you feel lost or overwhelmed, but remember that you are not alone. Do not be afraid to ask questions and seek guidance from your peers, and leaders.”

The Noncommissioned officer is effective in any environment and proficient in all aspects of being a Soldier



*...essional than I. I am a
...er, a leader of Soldiers...”*



Alabama Soldier serves in third war

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE
MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — A lot has



changed since Sgt. 1st Class Hershel Mayfield was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee, Alabama, served 39 years with

the 158th Maintenance Company, Alabama Army National Guard.

He served one year active duty and remaining 38 years with the National Guard. During his service, he deployed to Vietnam in 1969, Kosovo in 1996, and currently to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mayfield became an infantryman and went to Fort Polk, La., in 1969, and was sent to Vietnam to serve under the 101st Airborne Division, where he conducted daily patrols throughout the jungle. Dur-

ing his one year deployment to Vietnam, he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Air Service Medal.

“Warfare and the enemy are different each time you deploy because of new equipment, different views on warfare tactics and strategies, and improved technology that is helping units to have higher survival rates,” said Mayfield.

Mayfield knew he wanted to continue serving his country as a Soldier and decided to join the National Guard, re-classing as a light-wheel vehicle mechanic.

“The base was adjacent to my home, I just got married, and in order to have freedom, someone has to do the job,” said Mayfield.

Mayfield believes that his experience has helped shape the Soldiers of the 158th Maint. Co.

“I was able to train, maintain, and transition Soldiers from the M14 to the M16A1, as soon as he arrived to his new unit,” he said.

Mayfield gives thanks to his wife of 30 years, Sheila, and his Family for supporting him throughout his military career and dealing with his absence due to three deployments and numerous training events.

“It is a way of life and they’ve learned to live in it,” said Mayfield.



Sgt. 1st Class Hershel Mayfield, a Soldier for the past 39 years, 158th Maintenance Company, 16th Sustainment Brigade, stands in front of his unit's sign.



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Guardisman NCO believes in education

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Wash-
ington Army National
Guard's Sgt. 1st
Class Christine Vi-
ene believes in mili-
tary education, and
has put her belief
into practice during
this deployment.



Viene, assistant plans and oper-
ations noncommissioned officer in
charge, Q-West Mayor Cell, 181st
Brigade Support Battalion, 16th
Sustainment Brigade, worked to
create an education center and ba-
sic NCO teleconference course on
post. She also took the lead in get-
ting sixteen instructors qualified to
teach a GT (general technical) im-
provement program.

"I was planning on continuing
my education when I got here,"
said Viene, a native of Tacoma,
Wash. "Unfortunately, there was
no education center, no counselors
or anything to speak of. When we
were tasked to get something to-
gether I was pretty excited, since
it was something that I had some
interest in and I knew it would be
of value to Soldiers."

Viene, who also serves as the
unit's medical readiness NCO, said

she is working toward a bachelor's
degree in nursing, and hopes to re-
tire someday as a sergeant major.

"I stay in the Army because I en-
joy what I do," said Viene. "Being
an NCO and taking care of Soldiers
is fulfilling to me."

At Q-West there are seven
classes being conducted that are
helping more than 140 Soldiers
improve their GT scores. The GT
improvement classes enable Sol-
diers to score higher on the Armed
Services Vocational Aptitude Bat-
tery (ASVAB), which enables them
to change jobs in the Army.

Viene also signed up college-
level instructors to teach courses,
and she coordinated with the Army
Continuing Education System
(ACES) and the Multi-National
Corps – Iraq education services of-
ficer to assign college counselors
and proctors from Central Tex-
as College and the University of
Maryland to the Q-West education
center.

The busy NCO wears many hats
at the base. She has served as the
coach for the 181st BSB and 81st
Brigade Special Troops Battalion
combined "2009 Sustainer Chal-
lenge" team. She coordinated in-
dividual weapons training and
ranges. She was the primary unit
trainer for litter carry and other
medical tasks. Viene also estab-
lished a medical training program
with medics to train 145 local na-



Sgt. 1st Class Christine Viene, assistant plans and operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Q-West Mayor Cell, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, shows the new Q-West Education Center to Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe (right), command sergeant major, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, in the foyer at the center at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 5. Also pictured: Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade; and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert G. Lane, command sergeant major, 181st Brigade Support Battalion.

tional workers on industrial first
aid and the automated external
defibrillator to help Iraqis under-
stand how to give first responder
care to each other.

"Teaching and mentoring Sol-
diers is so important because it

sets them up for success in the fu-
ture," said Viene. "It's just like rais-
ing your kids. You want them to
grow up having a good knowledge-
base they can expand on, so more
opportunities will be available to
them later on."

Veteran platoon sergeant says training is key to Soldiering

BY STAFF SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Sgt. 1st
Class Poe Liufau,
platoon sergeant,
Alpha Battery, 2nd
Battalion, 146th
Field Artillery Regi-
ment, believes in
the importance of
training and leading
Soldiers.

The Tacoma, Wash., native has
served in the Army since 1990, and
has been an NCO since 1992. This
is his third deployment.

Liufau said being a good NCO is
very simple.

"Be a leader, lead and train your
Soldiers, set the example and trust
them, but also verify," Liufau said.

Liufau said that it is important
to stay engaged with your Soldier,
even if that means giving up some

free time.

"I had a Soldier who needed a lot
of improvement in physical train-
ing and passing his APFT (Army
physical fitness test)," Liufau said.
"I took my personal time to coach
him and assist him in areas where
he need work."

Liufau said being a good NCO is
more than barking orders.

"An NCO is a leader who leads
by example and cares for his Sol-
diers, no matter what the circum-
stances may be," Liufau said. "An
NCO must provide purpose, direc-
tion, motivation and accomplish
the mission, which involves coach-
ing and mentoring."

But Liufau said being a good
Soldier is the same for everyone.

"Be a good follower, listen, learn
and ask for guidance to better your-
self," he said. "Be a hard worker."

In his free time Liufau said he
likes to go camping with his wife
Yvette, and his four children: Quee-
na, Renae, Eric, and Matthew.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. J.D. Stanley

Keeping communication going

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Carey, a native of Farmingdale, Maine, secures the strands of the internet protocol router cable for organizational and safety purposes June 3. Carey is in the process of upgrading the brigade's network in the 10th Sustainment Brigade to allow users efficient lines of communication. Carey serves as a system control center operator/maintainer with Bravo Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sust. Bde.

Q-West chaplains introduce VTC counseling for couples

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Chaplain (Maj.) James Boulware, brigade chaplain, 16th Sustainment Brigade, is helping couples work on their marriages, despite being thousands of miles away from each other.



He started a program that allows Soldiers at Q-West to see and talk to each other using a video teleconference, and conduct a two-way counseling session. The chaplain's office offers couples within the brigade who are seeking to strengthen their marriages and work through marital problems.

"This program brings couples together, allowing discussion between chaplains and couples," said Boulware. "The benefit is that couples actually have the opportunity to re-

ceive counseling together."

The program offered by the Liberty Chapel has a chaplain with the Soldier and a chaplain with the spouse at his or her home station.

"This form of counseling also gives the chaplains an opportunity to hear from both spouses, instead of just one," said Boulware. "Having another chaplain on the other end allows individual counseling on both ends to be in sync."

One Soldier said that the VTC was an excellent opportunity to

strengthen his marriage.

"It has helped me understand that it's OK to seek help in dealing with relationship issues and life in general," said a Soldier currently deployed to Q-West. "That sometimes you need guidance from an outside source in order to overcome the issues at hand. It's finding an understanding and a mutual respect as a couple, and when you're able to talk it out and give each other a chance to grow that you'll find a way to smile again."

Jarvis sings away his time in Iraq

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Spc. David L. Jarvis, a communications specialist attached to the Joint Airborne Battle Staff, assigned to Bravo Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, from Bamberg, Germany, furthers his personal growth by improving his musical career during his spare time here.



Jarvis, a Witherbee, N.Y., native, and Music Business Institute graduate, is working to develop his own independent label, ZEN BABY, and has what he likes to call a "combat studio" set up in his containerized housing unit to record music during his off time.

"That is what I've always wanted to do," Jarvis said. "Not only promote myself but get other new musicians out there."

Jarvis was inspired to make his own studio after reading the book "Ray Charles: Man and Music." He has helped friends record and promote their demos in his studio.

"Here is a guy that went blind and could have gone any number of ways but persevered, was tough, was his own businessman and built a multi-million dollar recording studio and record label," Jarvis said. "I model what I'm doing now after what he did."

Jarvis uses internet social networking to post his music so anyone can listen. He also likes to get feedback from his fans so he can see what they like or don't like about his songs. He has more than 2400 fans and friends on his site.

Jarvis has recorded for smaller independent labels and internet labels. One of his songs, Paper Train, was picked up by MTV for their show "Road Rules." Through the large promotion of his music, he was invited to join the Record-

ing Academy which allows him to be a voting member of the Grammy awards and automatically gives him a seat to watch.

Jarvis bases his style of music to what he calls "the root of American music." He includes delta blues, old style country and some pop including the Beatles, the Doors and R.E.M.

Jarvis attributes his love of music to his grandfather, who was multi-talented and played many stringed instruments to include the banjo, piano and guitar. Jarvis' grandfather passed away when he was five, leaving behind a closet full of musical instruments. When Jarvis picked up one of the six string guitars in his junior high school year, he didn't know he was learning a craft that he would continue for the next 29 years.

"There wasn't much else to do in a little dinky mining town," Jarvis joked. "I was too young to drink beer and ride around as (that) was

popular back then."

Jarvis played concerts in his hometown from his junior high school year until he reached his mid-twenties. During that time, Jarvis started working with a high school friend, Todd Jones, who had a band with three of his brothers. Jarvis still keeps in touch with Jones and continues to bounce musical ideas off him.

Now, Jarvis plays during open mic night at Sami's Café here. Every first and third Tuesday of the month, he sings and plays his guitar to get back into his music and "blow the rust off" his guitar.

Jarvis is currently working on a demo and hopes to have it done by the time he redeployes. His goals are to help younger people with their music through his label and play some shows before he leaves.

"I play for the troops," Jarvis said. "I'm always looking for something new to express in a different way."



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Saiyont S. Francis

Sustaining the climb!

Sgt. 1st Class Rudolfo Pena, from Victoria, Texas, a Soldier with Bravo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, presents Private Slaam Hasseen, an Iraqi Army guard, a framed self-portrait of Hasseen at the Castle Gate entry control point in Camp Taji, Iraq, to establish a better camaraderie to help facilitate the force protection mission. Hasseen, one of four IA guards at Castle Gate ECP, works with the Soldiers of Co. B, 949th BSB, 10th Sustainment Brigade and have a vital role in the day-to-day operations of the ECP that the Coalition forces manages.

Transporters bring favorite past time to Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. G. ELIZABETH BROWN
UPAR, 1538TH TRANS. CO.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Corn-hole toss, a favorite mid-western U.S. game, has become a popular past time for the Indiana National Guard Soldiers based here.

Soldiers from the 1538th Transportation Company gather each week for a tournament of corn-hole toss at the company Morale, Welfare and Recreation building here.

"While growing up in Montana, I played lots of horse shoes. The game of corn-hole (toss) reminds me a lot of those days, but without the complications of finding a place to build horse shoe pits," said 1st Lt. Colin Curry, a native of Billings, Mont., with the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Corn-hole toss games are frequently seen at most Indiana family picnics and other family-oriented events.

"I look forward to getting home and building a set of corn-hole boards

to bring out during family functions and barbecues," said Curry.

Corn-hole, or corn hole toss, is similar to the horseshoe game except a wooden box is used with corn-hole platforms and corn bags are thrown instead of horseshoes and metal stakes. Each contestant take turns pitching their corn toss bags at the corn-hole platform until a contestant reaches a score of 21 points. Each hole scores three points, while landing on the platform scores one point.

"This weekly, simple game allows Soldiers to have a break from the normal day- to-day life here as well as a connection to home while serving in Iraq," Sgt. Lynn D. Ellyson, native of Indianapolis said, "I know it may be hard for some to believe, but our activities are very limited here. Therefore, playing corn-hole and introducing it to others here from different states is fantastic. This simple game has boosted morale and helped many Soldiers relax in hard times."

"It was the first time I ever played and I had a blast," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donald Dillon, a Johnson City, Tenn., native, and the maintenance officer for 991st Trans. Co. "You can be competitive or just



Col. Mark E. Drake, 10th Sustainment Brigade commander and a native of St. Paul, Minn., enjoys a game of the bean bag: corn-hole toss with Soldiers at Camp Taji, Iraq.

have a good time. It helps ease the stress and promotes a good environment."

The Soldiers of the 1538th are scheduled to return to Indiana in the summer of 2009.

Protect your Eyes

SAFETY TIP:

- Class IIIb Green Lasers can cause severe or permanent eye damage.
- Never aim at a person's face.

Use for EOF purposes only

Sustaining the Line
3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

IP receives QM Co. assistance, help provide aid to local Iraqis

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. ERIK OBERG
UPAR, 639TH QM Co.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - The 639th Quartermaster Company, an element of Montana Army National Guard from Libby, Kalispell and Havre, Mont., have a unique mission building Iraqi civil capacity one vehicle at a time.

Soldiers from the 639th QM Co., who manage the class I (subsistence) yard, teamed up with Soldiers from the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division to supply humanitarian items to Iraqis.

An escort of Iraqi Police arrived at the class I yard with 10 vehicles where the 639th QM Co. Soldiers loaded the supplies into their vehicles for distribution to local Iraqis needing aid and resources.

Items included wheelchairs, school text books, lumber, cinderblocks, clothes and basic food staples.

While the quartermaster Soldiers did not travel to the local villages, the class I yard Soldiers manages the equipment and provide support by loading and unloading containers and performing material handling.



Sgt. Marcus McDowell, a native of Helena, Mont., with the 639th Quartermaster Company loads a pallet of cinderblocks under the watchful eye of an Iraqi Police commander at Camp Victory, Iraq.

On the Web

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

Maintenance & Supply

Topic of the Week

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

IRAQ	
Baghdad	@us.army.mil @iraq.centcom.mil DSN 312-822-7756, 312-987-5133, ext. 4325/4324
Balad	@mcs.army.mil @us.army.mil DSN 312-987-5133, ext. 6271/6283
Mosul	@mcs.army.mil @us.army.mil DSN 312-987-5133, ext. 5859
Q-West	@iraq.centcom.mil @us.army.mil DSN 312-827-4255
Tikrit	@mcs.army.mil @us.army.mil DSN 312-987-5133, ext. 2560/2562

AFGHANISTAN	
Bagram	@us.army.mil @mcs.army.mil DSN 312-987-5133, ext. 2415
Kandahar	@s-inc.com DSN 312-841-1531
Salerno	DSN 312-851-1125
Sharana	@afghan.swa.army.mil @s-inc.com DSN 312-851-0052
Sharana	@s-inc.com @s4-inc.com DSN 312-987-5133, ext. 1483, or DSN 312-841-3014

Speicher Guardsmen wins base boxing match

BY 1ST LT. DAVID TALIAFERRO
UPAR, 1ST BN., 185TH ARMOR REGT.,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Spc. James Small, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, fought his way to victory during the base “smoker” boxing match here



June 5.

Sore muscles, buckets of sweat, and hours of time in the gym have been part of the daily routine for Small, a gunner in a convoy security unit, and a native of Hacienda Heights, Calif.; and his trainer, Spc. Federico Jimenez, a truck commander, and a native of Carlsbad, Calif.

Small has spent his free time in Iraq training for, and participating in Speicher boxing smokers, while

Jimenez assisted in coaching the entire Speicher boxing team—including Small. Small is 2-0, with two knockouts.

“Being in shape has always been important to me, and the competition makes it that much more rewarding,” said Small.

Jimenez was not allowed to participate as a member of the boxing squad because of his experience as a licensed boxer. But Jimenez would

not be denied an opportunity to contribute.

“Although I am not in the ring fighting, at least I can take pride in the fact that the guys I train are going in there and coming out on top,” said Jimenez.

The most recent boxing event was a victory for the base boxing team as it pummeled its competition from Forward Operating Base Summerall, winning the majority of the 12 bouts.

Sustainment brigade warrant officers participate in Balad’s first warrant officer 5K run

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the Joint Base Balad’s Warrant Officers Association hosted the first Warrant Officer Association 5K Fun Run here June 6.



The 304th Sustainment Brigade had three warrant officers who participated in the run: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dana Ahl, of Anaheim, Calif., Chief Warrant

Officer 2 Mary Ann Southwick, of Newcastle, Wash., and Warrant Officer David Morphis, of Victorville, Calif.

Southwick said she joined the Army in 1993 and has been a warrant officer since 2006. She was a staff sergeant prior to her making the decision to become a warrant officer.

When asked why she became a warrant officer, she said, “To make a difference. As a warrant officer you are empowered and you can say what you want and people will listen. She added, “I knew I was good at my job, had information to share, could provide the right an-

swers and people respect that.”

She said she received a great deal of job satisfaction as a warrant officer because she has the ability to “look out for people,” as a human resource technician.

When asked if she would recommend the warrant officer programs to other Soldiers, she said, “As long as you are good at what you do, I would not hesitate to recommend it.”

According to Field Manual 6-22, p. 3-12, warrant officers possess a high degree of specialization in a particular field in contrast to the more general assignment pattern of other commissioned officers. In

a wide variety of units and headquarters specialties, warrants provide quality advice, counsel, and solutions to support their unit or organization. They operate, maintain, administer, and manage the Army’s equipment, support activities, and technical systems. Warrant officers are competent and confident warriors, innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. Their extensive professional experience and technical knowledge qualifies warrant officers as invaluable role models and mentors for junior officers and NCOs.

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<https://crc.army.mil>

OWN the EDGE
Composite Risk Management

U.S. ARMY
<https://crc.army.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

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

Last weeks answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What famous document begins, "When in the course of human events...?"
2. What current branch of the U.S. military was a Corps of only 50 Soldiers when World War I broke out?
3. Who said: "I'm the president of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli"?
4. What was a gladiator armed with, in addition to a dagger and spear?
5. What 20th-century conflict was dubbed the "forgotten war" despite 54,246 U.S. deaths?

1. The Declaration of Independence 2. The U.S. Air Force 3. George Bush 4. A net 5. The Korean War

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL

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

GOSPEL

Sunday	1100	MWR East Building
	1200	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1230	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	1900	Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday	0900	Chapel-Near Iraq/MWR East
	1030	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
	1400	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
	1900	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Wednesday	2000	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

HISPANIC PROTESTANT

Saturday	1900	Provider Chapel
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LITURGICAL -Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian

Sunday	1500	Gilbert Chapel (H-6)
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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-6)

MASS

Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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(Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)

	2000	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
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Sunday	0830	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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	1100	Provider Chapel
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	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
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Thu	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
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Mon, Wed, Fri	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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Mon-Fri	1130	555th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200
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JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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Saturday	0930	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
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PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	1900	The Shack
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Saturday	1900	The Shack
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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., Sat., - 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., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.	Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m. 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	p.m., 8:30 p.m. Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. MACP Level 1: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. WEST REC- REATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 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. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8:30 p.m.	Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
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UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 6/24/09

Philadelphia Phillies @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Diego Padres @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Minnesota Twins @ Milwaukee Brewers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Wimbledon, The Championships: Early Round Coverage Day #3, Live 2 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 6/25/09

Chicago Cubs @ Detroit Tigers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Colorado Rockies @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 Wimbledon, The Championships: Early Round Coverage Day #4, Live 2 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 6/26/09

New York Yankees @ Atlanta Braves, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas Rangers @ Arizona Diamondbacks, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 Wimbledon, The Championships: Early Round Coverage Day #5, Live 2 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 6/27/09

New York Yankees @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
Kansas City Royals @ Pittsburgh Pirates, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Colorado Rockies @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN prime pacific
Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Red Sox @ Atlanta Braves, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
Minnesota Twins @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 6/28/09

New York Yankees @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
New York Red Bulls @ Columbus Crew, Live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Deigo Padres @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 6/29/09

New York Yankees @ New York Mets, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Houston Dynamo @ L.A. Galaxy, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Cincinnati Reds @ Cleveland Indians, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Francisco Giants @ Milwaukee Brewers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 6/30/09

Colorado Rockies @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
New York Mets @ Milwaukee Brewers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Wimbledon, The Championships: Ladies' Quarterfinals, Live 5 p.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, June 24

5 p.m. Earth

8 p.m. The Taking of Pelhem 123

Thursday, June 25

5 p.m. The Taking of Pelhem 123

8 p.m. Earth

Friday, June 26

2 p.m. Battle For Terra

5 p.m. The Proposal

8:30 p.m. The Proposal

Saturday, June 27

2 p.m. The Soloist

5 p.m. The Proposal

8 p.m. Angels And Demons

Sunday, June 28

2 p.m. The Proposal

5 p.m. Battle For Terra

8 p.m. The Soloist

Monday, June 29

5 p.m. Angels And Demons

8 p.m. The Proposal

Tuesday, June 30

5 p.m. The Proposal

8 p.m. Angels And Demons

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

The Proposal



Sandra Bullock stars in the romantic comedy *The Proposal*, as a Canadian immigrant who creates a demanding and difficult work environment for her subordinates at the office. When the news arrives that she's about to be deported to the Great White North, she rushes into a marriage of convenience with her young assistant (played by Ryan Reynolds) to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring.



Battle for Terra



When the peaceful inhabitants of the planet Terra come under attack from humans in search of a new home, the friendship between a human pilot and an alien girl may hold the key to

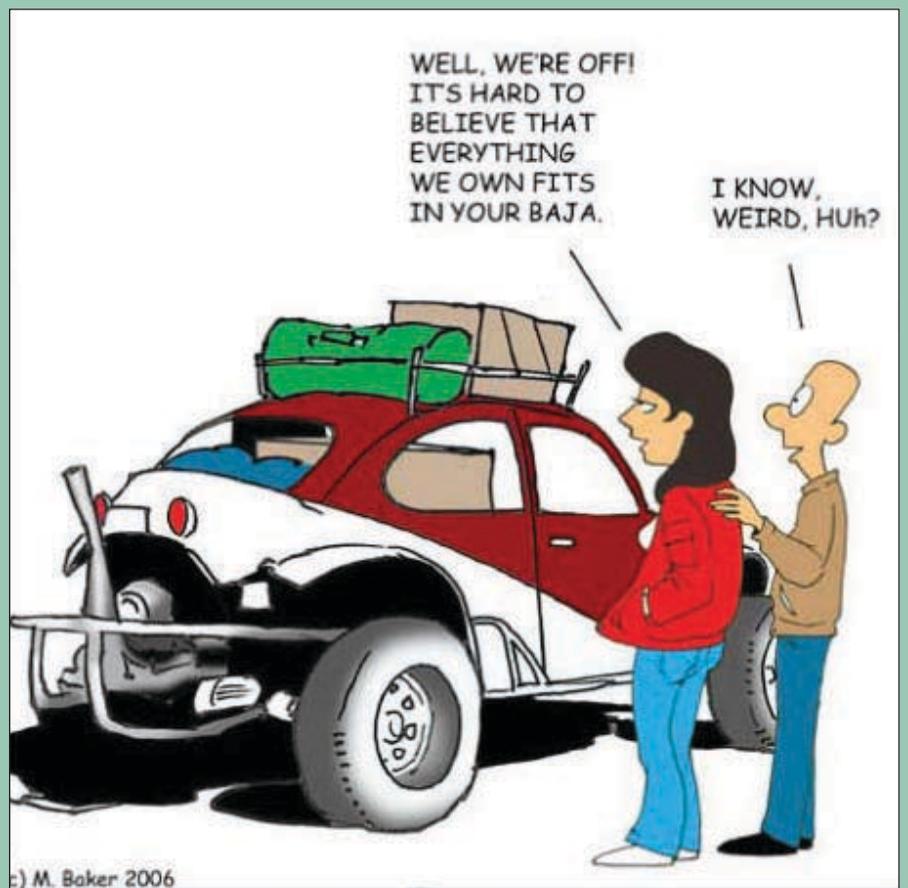
saving both races. Mala (Evan Rachel Wood) is an alien girl living on the planet Terra. The Terrians are gentle race of extraterrestrials that have no need for war, and harbor a deep respect for nature. When Earth's natural resources began to dwindle, the human race established colonies on Venus and Mars. Although that solution worked temporarily, tragedy struck when the colonies on Venus and Mars attempted to declare independence from Earth, and all three planets were destroyed in the ensuing war. Now, humankind's only hope for survival is to reach Terra. The few remaining humans have developed a machine that will make Terra habitable for them yet poisonous for Terrians, and while the human council is dedicated to finding a peaceful means of coexisting with the Terrians, the villainous General Hemmer (Brian Cox) is fast losing patience. When heroic human fighter pilot Lt. Jim Stanton (Luke Wilson) crash-lands on Terra while chasing Mala into uncharted territory, the empathetic alien girl saves his life, and an interspecies friendship is forged. But time is running out for both the humans and the Terrians, and when General Hemmer stages a military coup d'état, the stage is set for a battle that threatens to destroy both species.



Iraq according to Opet



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carmichael Yopez

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Brewer assigned to the 12th Brigade, 2nd Training Army, 2nd Division, Military Transition Team, a native of San Jose, Calif., checks a target to help an Iraqi soldier zero his weapon during an M-16 rifle qualification course at Al Kindi Base in Mosul, Iraq June 11.



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

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Wilfredo Sototorres from Yauco, Puerto Rico, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, passes out books to students during the grand opening of the newly renovated Al Alam Kindergarten School in Al Alam District of Tikrit, Iraq June 11.



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

An Iraqi soldier controls the line to receive food during a humanitarian aid food drop in the Al Qasr District of Mosul, Iraq, June 10. Iraqi soldiers distributed more than 400 bags of food to residents in the Al Qasr neighborhood.



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

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Lechner with the 12th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, Military Transition Team, makes site corrections on an M-16 rifle during marksmanship training at India Base in the Al Kindi District of Mosul, Iraq June 11.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Army Corps renovates sports club

BASRAH, Iraq — Ten years ago, Shatt Al Arab sports club in Al Tanoma city in east Basra was an old building.

“Shatt Al Arab sports club was a really unusable building, all the walls and ceilings were in very bad condition, but now everything looks new thanks to the U.S. Army Engineers efforts,” said Lateef Khalf, the sports club administrator.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, invested \$300,000 to reconstruct the four-decade-old facility.

Khalf said the renovated facility provides a place for about 750 members – providing an opportunity for neighborhood residents of different ages to work out and enjoy an array of sports training.

“It’s great to see all these young Iraqis spend part of their time in sport activities and develop their sports abilities through this sports club,” said Khalf. “We hope to make this club training grounds for many Iraqi Olympians in the future.”

James Mills, the Basra Area Office resident engineer who oversaw the project for the Gulf Region South district, said the renovated sports club offers many amenities.

“The rehabilitation work included a new rubberized outdoor surface, new bleachers, new stadium lights, sun shade, new locker rooms, showers and two restrooms,” said Mills.

Mills also said the facility provides the citizens of Basra a modern stadium to host and watch sporting events like football (soccer), basketball, volleyball and Tae Kwon Do, as well as other sports.

The project renovation began in September 2008, and was completed in April.

At the peak of construction, the project renovation provided jobs for about 50 local workers a day.

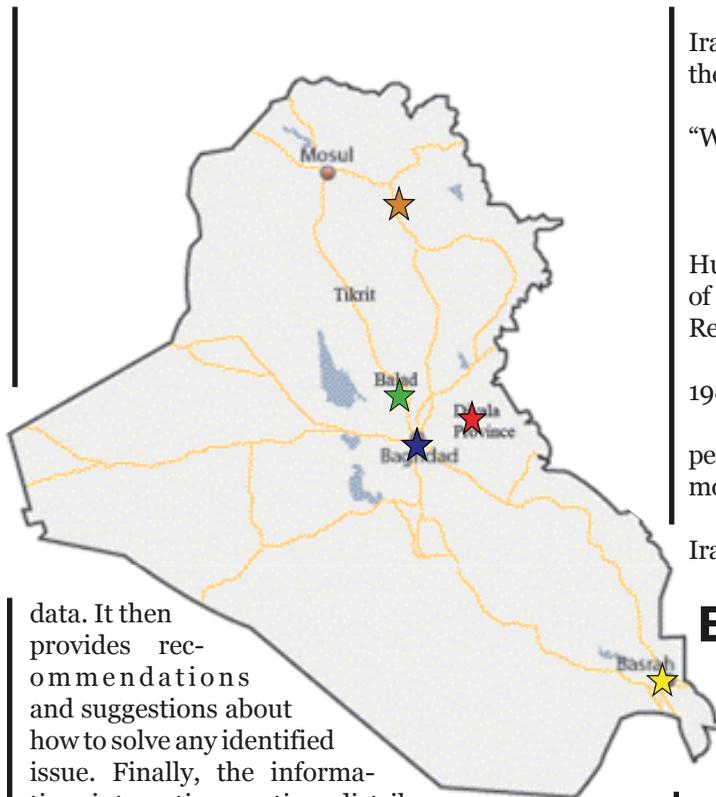
The Basra Area Office is currently managing an additional 19 projects worth approximately \$110 million.

Center Provides Lessons Learned to Improve Iraqi Army Performance

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Since its inception, the Lessons Learned Center, or LLC, has focused on how it can help the Iraqi Army better its performance in defending the nation.

Fulfilling a key element of the US-Iraq Security Agreement, the LLC collects and analyzes what Iraq Army forces have learned from previous missions and then uses that information to recommend improvements to those forces. This has helped improve both the units’ professionalism and the security they provide the nation.

There are three main sections to the LLC. The collections section is responsible for visiting units to collect information in a detailed and organized method. This section detects issues and problems in units during tactical training. The analysis section receives reports from the information collectors and studies the



data. It then provides recommendations and suggestions about how to solve any identified issue. Finally, the information integration section distributes the reports. This section also ensures the units are acquainted with their critical issues.

To date, the LLC has completed 54 reports. Critical issues that have been identified and resolved include check-point procedures, recruiting, and the imposing law plan. Sites visited include An Nasariyah, Balad, Mosul, Zakhu, Dahuk, Taji, An Numaniyah, Iraqi Special Forces, Basra, and Habbaniyah.

The center aims to play a vital role in the Iraqi Army, bringing decision makers the critical information the Iraqi Army units need to ensure the continued safety and security of the nation and the Iraqi people.

Army Corps returns artifact to Government of Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In its continuing commitment to the implementation of the Strategic Framework Agreement, the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped return an Iraqi artifact to the Government of Iraq earlier this month.

The artifact – a 27-year-old bronze tablet built in the era of Saddam Hussein and dedicated to an Unknown Soldier – was turned over to the Iraqi High Tribunal for storage in its secure document storage facility in the International Zone. The turn-over was conducted in partnership with the Cultural Affairs Department of the U.S. Embassy, Baghdad.

The tablet resided outside of the Gulf Region Central District’s Residence Office on Freedom Compound in the IZ for a number of years. But the history of the tablet is a bit of a mystery.

“We don’t know how it got here, or who put it here,” said Capt. Chad Wendolek, the officer in charge of the GRC IZ residence office.

Wendolek said both he and his colleagues wanted to find a home for the tablet before they move to the Victory Base Complex this summer.

“We know that this tablet is significant to the Iraqi people and we wanted to be sure we put it in the right hands,” Wendolek said.

Judge Arif Abdul-Razzaq al Shahin, president of the

Iraqi High Tribunal, said he was deeply appreciative of the Corps decision to return the artifact.

“We are happy to have the tablet,” said al Shahin. “We want to be sure that we preserve our history.”

The inscription on the tablet reads:

“The Unknown Soldier Monument

has been constructed in the era of President Saddam Hussein, secretary general of the National Leadership of the Baath Arab Socialist Party, the President of the Republic

Amanat of Capital Baghdad 1402 Islamic Calendar 1982 AD”

“We will put this tablet on display so that other people can see it,” said al Shahin. “The tablet will be a monument for many generations to come.”

The artifact will be on display at the Museum of the Iraqi Genocide, which is scheduled to open in July.

Base Transfer Ceremony honors fallen warrior, recognizes bright future

BALAD, Iraq – U.S. Soldiers lowered the American flag and Iraqi Soldiers raised the Iraqi flag to signify the change of Forward Operating Base Paliwoda into the Iraqi-led Balad Joint Coordination Center during a ceremony near Balad, Iraq June 15.

“This ceremony represents the formal transition for the role of our partnered security forces,” said Lt. Col. David Hodne, the commander of 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division said. Hodne’s Soldiers ran the base until the transfer ceremony.

The squadron has been preparing to transfer the FOB to the Government of Iraq since the implementation of the security agreement, according to Capt. Benjamin Seibert, the squadron’s assistant operations officer.

“We have been preparing for this since early January. We spoke to many of the local government officials, the mayor of Balad, the JCC director, Iraqi Army commanders and city council members who all had a say in the future of the base,” Seibert said.

U.S. Forces had used the base, initially known as FOB Eagle, since 2003. FOB Eagle was renamed FOB Paliwoda in 2004, in memory of Capt. Eric Paliwoda who was killed there during a mortar attack in January 2004.

After Hodne and the local officials signed a memorandum for the base transfer, the crowd moved out to the flagpoles and Paliwoda memorial plaque. When the Iraqi flag was fully raised, Hodne removed the weather beaten plaque. He will send it, along with the last U.S. flag flown over the base and a letter from the Balad JCC director, to the Paliwoda family in recognition of Eric Paliwoda’s sacrifice and service to his nation and also for the people of Iraq.

Combined U.S., Iraqi patrol strengthens partnership

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – As part of the Security Agreement signed between the United States and Iraq on Jan. 1, all operations conducted within Iraq must be led by Iraqi Security Forces with U.S. forces in support. That includes regular security patrols, which serve to support stability in a village or town and also serves

to strengthen the bond between Iraqi Security and Coalition forces.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry teamed up with Iraqi Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 47th Iraqi Army Brigade and made the drive to Gumbaltar for the patrol June 8.

According to 2nd Lt. Christopher Freeman, a fire support officer with 1st Bn., 8th Cav Regt., the purpose behind the patrol was more than just to show partnership between the IA and Coalition forces.

"We meet and greet the residents of Gumbaltar to find out how we can help," Freeman said. "But, it is also an opportunity to observe how the IA function."

Soldiers from 3rd platoon, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. have been working with the 1st Bn., 47th IA Brigade since 2nd BCT arrived in Kirkuk and, according to Freeman, part of that partnership has been training the IA to operate on its own.

"The relationship between us [Coalition forces] and the IA has come around and gotten better," Freeman said. "By going on these patrols we can find out how to support each other with better training."

Freeman said his unit has been involved in training the IA on conducting vehicle searches, clearing buildings, and setting up traffic control points, with the goal of helping the IA perform these tasks on their own.

"We want them to be successful in order to protect their fellow Iraqis," Freeman explained. "They [the IA] have indicated they truly care about their population and show that by better coordinating security with the Iraqi Police and recognizing the benefits of our training."

It was the first combined patrol for Lt. Mehvan Islam Hussein, a personnel officer with the 1st Bn., 47th IA, who was optimistic about the partnership.

"This is my first time on patrol with U.S. forces, but I feel it is very useful in building our confidence and hope it continues," Mehvan said. "It also helps by showing the population that the Iraqi Army is here to help them."

Mehvan also stated that the benefits of training with U.S. forces will help them fulfill these duties once U.S. forces are gone.

The village [Gumbaltar] is primarily Turcoman and many of the soldiers in the 1st Bn., 47th IA who operate in this area are Arab, this will build their trust in them, Mehvan said.

According to Freeman, the combined patrols and training with the IA will continue, and already he has recognized an increase in their abilities.

"They [IA] are well on their way to functioning on their own," Freeman said.

Joint Committee Conducts Third Meeting

 BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Joint Committee conducted its third meeting June 11, to discuss progress on the implementation of the U.S. - Iraq Security Agreement.

The co-chairs of the Joint Committee, Iraqi Minister of the Interior Jawad Al-Bulani, U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, and Commander, Multi-National Force Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, led the discussions.

This meeting reinforced the strategic partnership between the U.S. and the Government of Iraq by discussing accomplishments and topics of mutual concern re-

lated to the on-going successful implementation of the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

Minister of Interior Bulani and Gen. Odierno praised the efforts of all committee members working to resolve issues during these important and critical days for Iraq. Hill stated the Joint Committee process demonstrates the commitment of both sides to implementing the Security Agreement and overcoming problems.

Committee members reported on progress made in their individual areas of responsibility. Highlights included the return of over 100 bases and the safe and orderly release of over 3000 detainees since the implementation of the Security Agreement. Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, director, Multi-National Force Iraq Security Agreement Secretariat, noted that the Joint Committee has achieved great strides in improving U.S.-Iraqi relations since implementing the Security Agreement in Jan. 2009.

U.S. Soldiers to teach air assault to ISF

 FORWARD OPERATING BASE GABE, Iraq – In the past, the U.S. military planned and executed air assault missions for Iraqi forces.

Now, Iraqi forces are taking the steps needed to plan and execute their own missions with assistance from U.S. Special Forces and 10th Combat Aviation Brigade crews and aircraft.

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's 2nd Battalion partnered with U.S. Special Forces June 1-2 to teach air-assault operations to Iraqi Special Operation Forces.

"In the past, it was U.S.-led operations with a few Iraqi forces," explained Lt. Col. Lee Shepherd, 2nd Bn., 10th CAB commander. "Then it was a 50/50 mix of U.S. and Iraqi forces. Now, it's progressed to Iraqi forces in the lead and us providing some support."

Recently, Shepherd and key members of his battalion, along with U.S. Special Forces Soldiers, sat down with an Iraqi Special Operations Force commander in the Diyala province to explain the first steps of planning an air assault mission.

"This was the 'shake hands' portion and to show what capabilities we can provide," Shepherd said. "We briefed them on 'Air Assault 101,' the basics. We said 'this is what you need to have and know in order to be successful in an air assault.'"

Although the briefing was basic, the ISOF commander said he and his Soldiers benefited from the training and expertise of the American Soldiers.

"They showed us the importance for ground troops to understand the coordination needed with aviation troops," explained Col. Abed Al Meer Kasem Muhammad, Diyala province Iraqi Special Operations Force commander. "These are the basics, and we learned a lot from the briefing."

Muhammad expressed his desire to gain the experience to allow his troops to perform air assault missions on their own.

"I'm eager to get my soldiers to start the practical training. The sooner we learn these skills, the sooner we can rid this area of terrorism and the sooner we will have peace," Muhammad said.

This isn't the first time Shepherd's battalion has worked with Iraqi forces. The two partnered in the past to perform many missions with the Pathfinder Company, a unit which is part of the 10th CAB. Shepherd said they have seen an improvement in Iraqi forces' capabilities and that the Iraqis are taking the lead in providing security.

"When we first arrived in country, we worked primarily with the U.S. forces on air assault missions. Iraqi forces were on the mission but purely in a supporting

role," Shepherd explained. "As the months passed, it became more of a partnership on the mission. Now, each mission is becoming primarily Iraqi forces, with a small contingent of U.S. forces. As we conduct this training now, we are working so that in the coming months, missions can be Iraqi-planned and led with very little, if any, U.S. ground force involvement."

As the U.S. military prepares to withdraw and the Iraqi government takes control of securing their own country, Shepherd believes that air assault is a viable tactic that the Iraqi forces can learn and use. He said it is a step in the right direction for Iraqi security.

"We are helping to build the capacity for an Army to lead itself, sustain itself and protect itself," Shepherd explained. "We are training them to rapidly travel across the battle space and strike an insurgent cell or an extremist cell when they do not expect it, where they do not expect it. If we can train the Iraqi forces to do that on their own, they can police their own country, they can protect their own country. The violent extremists cannot hide, because they will be found and they will be defeated."

Kirkuk Humanitarian Mission Successful

 KIRKUK, Iraq – Children at the Shoriesh Orphanage in Erbil, Iraq received much needed items during a humanitarian mission by Iraqi Army and Coalition advisors.

The humanitarian mission is an example of the ongoing partnership between the Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces and the people in the effort to improve the overall condition of Iraq as agreed to in the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

Carrying out the May 26 mission were members of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq ITAM-Army Logistics Military Advisory Team, Kirkuk Regional Training Center Advisory Team, Logistics Training and Assistance Team, Military Professional Resources Incorporated and the Iraqi Army Locations Command at Kirkuk K-1.

Clothing, toys and school supplies were donated by the advisors' friends and families from the United States. The success of the mission underscores the cooperation between Coalition forces, the Iraqi Army and local communities.

Planning for the mission started over tea, when an LMAT advisor and his interpreter discussed the issue of orphaned children in Iraq.

Once the project was approved, members of the team began collecting donations from friends and family across 10 states.

After several months of collecting donations, the team travelled to the orphanage in Erbil. The orphanage was selected by Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Younis Al-Zabari, commander, K-1 Locations Command and local interpreters, because it was new and struggling to become established.

The humanitarian mission was coordinated with soldiers of the U.S. Army 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and U.S. Army Maj. Juan of the 25th Infantry Division's Regional Reconstruction Team. The team provided escorts while the Iraqi Army maintained overall security.

The facility houses 63 orphaned children and others in need from the community.

Zaeto Tahir, manager of the facility explained, "This facility houses not only children, but all those who are in need of assistance. No person in Iraq should be without a home," he said.

After the tour, the children sang songs to express their gratitude.

Sustaining the Line

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, senior noncommissioned officer of Multi-National Corps – Iraq, speaks to NCOs at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 5. Grippe discusses issues the Army is facing in Iraq and said, “Take care of each other.” He said, “It starts with individual responsibility and leadership to holistically take care of these issues.”



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith M. Anderson



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leonard Sparks

Soldiers from the 503rd Maintenance Company stands in a formation for the awards ceremony to begin while in supporting the 10th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Liberty Iraq.

(From left to right) Roger Singleton, contractor; Maj. Roger Jackson, engineer, 16th Sustainment Brigade; Col. Martin B. Pitts, 16th Sust. Bde., commander; Lt. Col. Tommy Baker, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander; and 1st Lt. Michael Savelle, LOGCAP officer, 30th CSSB; cut the ribbon to officially open the new Convoy Readiness Center at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 17.



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



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nicole Duyon

Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Wilt, Senior Human Resources noncommissioned officer with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion catches and releases a fish at a pond located on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq June.