

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 26

SAVING MONEY



Coalition MRTs Work To Save Tax Dollars

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FLYING SCHOOL BUS



Alaskan C-23 Sherpa pilots travel the Iraqi airways delivering personnel and goods

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KNIGHTS NCOs SPEAK OUT



NCOs highlight leadership, Soldiers during Year of the NCO

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Wounded warriors return to Iraq

HERO'S HWY

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

Wounded warriors pose for a photograph by "Hero's Highway," a walkway which connects a helicopter landing pad to the emergency room at the Air Force Theater Hospital, Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. The Soldiers, who were wounded in combat, returned to Iraq as part of Operation Proper Exit, a pilot program initiated by the Troops First Foundation and sponsored by the USO.

Iraqi logisticians, 3^d ESC leaders discuss operations

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. ALEX SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Iraqi Army and 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) leaders from across Iraq met here to discuss current and future operations of Iraqi Army supply and maintenance systems June 23.



The first ever combined

“periodic Logistics Training and Advisory Team (LTAT) review” was a critical event in the ongoing partnership between the 3^d ESC and Iraqi Army logistics units. It was intended to facilitate improvements to their supply and maintenance systems.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d ESC commander, hosted the IA Director-Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Staff Maj. Gen. Muniem, along with 22 members of his team to include five Iraqi general officers, IA third line mainte-

nance commanders, and their U.S. Army counterparts.

“This will help set the stage

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Staff Maj. Gen. Muniem, the Iraqi Army Director-Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commander of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), listen to a briefing at Camp Taji, Iraq, June 23. The briefing was part of a meeting between 3^d ESC officials and Iraqi commanders designed to aid Iraqis in developing their supply and maintenance system.



332 ESFS Blotter

June 18 - June 24

VEHICLE MISHAP:

A vehicle driver entered the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle mishap occurred. Security forces made contact with the driver and assisted him in completing an AF IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant. The driver stated he and vehicle operator were at the location when his vehicle got stuck on loose gravel. The reporting party, operator and witness attempted to move the vehicle when a rock kicked up and caused damage to the second vehicle.

THEFT OF SECURE PRIVATE PROPERTY:

A reporting party entered the law enforcement desk to report a Larceny. Security forces were briefed and responded. SF arrived on scene and made contact with the witness who stated via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant he was conducting an inventory of empty rooms left by outgoing soldiers and discovered a room was pried open and the property was missing. The witness stated he last checked the location last week and the property was still on the floor.

MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION:

A driver entered the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle collision. The driver stated via AF Form 1168 Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant while attempting to depart his location when he accidentally placed the vehicle in neutral thinking he was in reverse and rolled the vehicle forward into a barrier

MAJOR VEHICLE COLLISION:

The vehicle operator radioed the law enforcement desk and reported being involved in an collision. Security forces arrived on scene and requested a major vehicle collision investigator due to disabling damage. The vehicle operator stated via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Witness/Complainant at approximately 2100 hours while driving north of Pennsylvania Avenue at a rate of twenty-five miles per hour (25 MPH), the front passenger-side tire blew out causing him to lose control of the vehicle and jump the curb crashing into traffic barriers.

NIPR: 443-8602

SIPR: 241-1171

Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil



332 AEW Installation Safety Gram June 2009



SAFETY BELT USAGE?

JBB Traffic Safety Policy Section 2.) A. states that: "All JBB personnel in a moving motor vehicle must ensure operability and use of installed occupant protective devices IAW DoDI 6055.4." It is the responsibility of the driver to inform passengers of safety belt requirement. It is the responsibility of the senior person in the vehicle to enforce the safety belt use for all passengers. All

Right Here, Right Now

BUCKLE UP!



personnel operating or riding as a passenger in a tactical vehicle are required to wear a Kevlar helmet. We must keep in mind that the roads here on JBB are narrow and when tactical vehicles are occupying the roadways with us, the potential for a vehicular mishap elevates. This in addition to fatigue, heat, stress, complacency and other attitudinal concerns all play contributing roles and could be disastrous. So again, "Please Wear Your Seatbelts"

"What you should know about Emergency Eyewash Stations"

1. Must be identified and within a 10 second walking distance
2. Must have a 15 second continuous flow
3. Must have an unobstructed path of travel and be located on the same level as the hazard (No stairs, doors, ramps etc.)

Note: The first 10 to 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous substance, especially a corrosive substance, are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may cause serious injury. "Safety=Discipline" If you have any questions contact 443-8149 or 6023



EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3rd ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally

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- 10th Sustainment Brigade
- 16th Sustainment Brigade
- 287th Sustainment Brigade
- 304th Sustainment Brigade
- 321st Sustainment Brigade
- 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

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

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

Chaplain's Corner

The Desert Experience: An Invitation to Intimacy

I miss my wife. I miss catching the fragrance of her hair when it is being blown by a calm summer breeze; I miss the sound of laughter from the kids over some mutually shared joke; I miss the aroma of toast and fresh coffee on Sunday mornings when I'm not rushing around trying to get ready for work. I'm describing a snapshot of the intimacy I share with my wife and family – something that has developed over the years we've been together.

But now we are half a world apart and I'm here in a desert place, longing for the day when we can be reunited. Yet it is in the desert place that true intimacy has a chance to flourish, like a desert wildflower rising from the sands after a spring rain.

It was in the desert place that Moses learned intimacy with the living God. Psalm 103 says that God revealed His ways to Moses, but only His deeds to the people of Israel as they wandered for 40 years in the wilderness. In other words, Moses was asking God, "Who are you?" But after years of getting to know Him in the desert, Moses had the privilege of experiencing God like no other human being before him.

Just like Moses, it is in the context of this desert experience in Iraq that we have an opportunity to cultivate intimacy with the One who invites us to spend eternity with Him. The question is do we have eyes to see and ears to hear the invitation? Will this desert experience turn out to be just like any other ordinary year in our lives, or will it be a time when we really grow? The invitation has been given but the choice is ours

By CH (MAJ) Joe Hammel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment

ONE YEAR AGO THIS WEEK



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

A military tactical vehicle, traveling north on Pennsylvania Ave, materializes from the severe dust storm that occurred on Joint Base Balad July 1, 2008



"The Weekly Standard"



Chain of Command

"Leadership is solving problems. The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

- General Colin Powell

Do you have an issue for the Inspector General? The first question you will be asked is whether you have discussed the issue with your chain of command. IG regulations and policies encourage Soldiers to first discuss any complaints, allegations, or requests for assistance with the commander, chain of command, or supervisor. The IG will always reinforce the chain of command and be careful not to undermine it by simply accepting an issue. IGs encourage Soldiers to use their chain of command but do not require it. IGs must maintain a clear distinction between being an extension of the commander and their sworn duty to serve as fair, impartial, objective fact finders and problem solvers. At the same time, IGs must be sufficiently independent so those requesting assistance will continue to do so, even when the complainant feels the commander may be the problem.

So do you have an issue for the IG? Ask yourself the following questions.

- What do you want the IG to do for you?
- Do you have any supporting documentation?
- Have you requested assistance from any other source or agency?
- Have you given your chain of command an opportunity to address the problem?

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

Airman watches daughter's birth thanks to JBB's Red Cross

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The American Red Cross station here has a "Legacy Room" that is used for private viewing of special events in servicemembers' family-lives, and it was reserved June 17 for one special occasion: an Airman deployed here witnessing the birth of his daughter.

Tech. Sgt. Nathanael Farrington, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster, said he called the ARC station here to inquire if they had a private area with webcam communication for the purpose of viewing the special event. The Red Cross informed the sergeant of the Legacy Room, which was made for such events, and that requests like his were top priority -- something Farrington was very happy to hear.

"The fact that I was able to experience Madison's arrival from half a world away puts me at a loss for words," Sergeant Farrington said. "It turns what could be a stressful situation, filled with the suspense of not knowing what's going on, into a profound, life-changing event that I can experience with my wife."

Not surprisingly, it was very hard for Farrington when he found out he would be deployed here during his wife's due date.

"My wife (Kristen) and I had mixed feelings," he said. "Obviously, I wanted to be with her during this momentous event. I knew ... that this pregnancy would be easier with two parents at home to take care of our two boys, and help Kristen around the house."

"As difficult as it is, knowing what she's going

through at home, we both see this separation as a special and somewhat unique chapter in our family story," added the Scottsdale, Ariz., native deployed here from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

"We have an extremely vibrant emotional bond; I can't wait to laugh and cry with her when we see our baby girl," he said.

"The need exists to help servicemembers feel connected with their families at home," said Mary Messina, JBB ARC team leader and senior station manager. "We help servicemembers 'be there' for the birth of their children. They have coached their wives through as long as 22 hours of labor."

"When no special event is scheduled, we reserve the room on an hourly basis for folks just visiting back home," added the Saint Robert, Mo., native deployed here from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

After Kristen was induced, Farrington entered the Legacy Room to view Madison's birth via webcam. Impressed with the treatment he received, he said the whole experience was "perfect," and is extremely grateful for the AMR's support.

"Because of the privacy and comforts provided in the Legacy Room, and because of the care of Red Cross personnel, I was able to stay connected with Kristen continuously over the 10-hour labor," he said. "They even delivered me dinner and breakfast meals so I wouldn't have to miss any potentially crucial parts of the event!"

"After Madison was born and measured, my demeanor blossomed into grateful pride," Farrington added. "I was able to use the DSN phone in the Legacy Room to make some phone calls to excited grandparents and great-grandparents in Arizona. That was exceptional!"

Ms. Messina said the Red Cross station here



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Nathanael Farrington, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster, takes a picture with his wife Kristen and his new-born daughter Madison here June 17. Farrington used the Legacy Room at JBB's American Red Cross station to watch his wife give birth to their third child. A native of Scottsdale, Ariz., Farrington is deployed here from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

is the only one in-theater that offers this special service; she hopes the ARC will have the capability available elsewhere in the future.

"This service is available to all military and Department of Defense civilians here," she said. "We have even had some servicemembers come from outlying forward-operating bases to view special events like graduations, birthday parties, anniversaries, even sitting around the table at Thanksgiving on one occasion."

"The way the staff embraced my family and I during this time made me feel not like I was in a concrete building in a war zone thousands of miles from my wife and daughter, but like I was at my grandparents' house and as involved as I possibly could be in my daughter's arrival," Farrington concluded.

For more information or to reserve the Legacy Room, servicemembers can call DSN 433-2522 or come by Building 7460 to schedule a time.

Aeromedical evacuation: Coalition forces care for bombing victims

BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. MICHAEL LAND
AND SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA LOCKOSKI
506th AEG Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq -- The bright pink soccer ball was clearly out of place on the flightline here June 22.

However, it was in just the right place to begin the healing process for a 9-year-old girl atop a stretcher being carried on board a Turkish Air Force C-130 to be aeromedically evacuated to Ankara, Turkey. She was the first of the 11 litter patients in all who were moved from ambulances up the ramp into the cargo aircraft.

Overall, U.S. and Turkish Airmen, U.S. State Department officials at the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team, and Turkish Red Crescent Society medical responders helped coordinate and facilitate the flight for the injured victims of a June 20 suicide truck bombing in Taza District, south of Kirkuk city.

The ball was among the gifts, including stuffed animals, that Airmen gave children as they waited in the ambulances before driving on the parking apron.

In the wake of the bombing, the health minister of Iraq's Kurdistan region asked neighboring countries to provide aid for wounded victims

following the explosion that left more than 80 people dead and more than 255 people injured.

In all, the Turkish government, PRT officials, including an assigned Army civil affairs battalion, Coalition forces including 506th Air Expeditionary Group Airmen, and the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, plus provincial leaders and relief workers stepped in to provide support.

The success of the aeromedical evacuation was made possible only thanks to the tremendous cooperation, extraordinary flexibility and rapid reaction of those involved, said Martin Aversa, a governance section head with the PRT. His sentiments were echoed by a local leader.

"Very great support, even from the first day," said Kirkuk Province Police Maj. Gen. Abdul Rahman Yousif Turhan as he stood at the plane's ramp door. "(Coalition forces were) the first out to give us support: water, food, security; lights to allow people to work (at night)," he said.

"This aerial evacuation demonstrates the close cooperation shared by coalition forces at Kirkuk Air Base with our Iraqi and Turkish partners," said Col. Eric Overturf, 506th AEG commander, as he watched the team effort. "No one on this ramp is argu-

ing about politics or who to blame or who should get credit; they are just working together to help those in need."

Riding in the first Iraqi ambulance entering the base was Walide Abulah Tawfiq, who was responsible for managing the transfer of patients from Kirkuk General Hospital. After checking on his patient, who was on a gurney in the back, he said many of the victims flying out to Turkey suffer from broken and fractured extremities; some are in critical condition, and most are accompanied by family members.

Before the ambulances pulled up to the aircraft's open cargo door, Airmen, Soldiers, relief workers and aircrew helped unfold and stage stretchers to trans-load the patients and reconfigured the aircraft.

Among them was Staff Sgt. Steven Reed, who has been here less than a week and is assigned to the Kirkuk PRT's mission-support element.

"I'm adding my contribution to the fight against terrorism," he said. A volunteer on this hot day, the Ypsilanti, Mich., native said he likes helping others.

Prior to the patients' loading, the Turkish aircrew and 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Airmen downloaded three cargo



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Eunique Stevens

Airmen from the 506th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron assist a Turkish Air Force C-130 aircrew prepare the aircraft for patient transport June 22.

pallets with 12 tons of relief supplies, including tents, blankets, kitchen equipment, food parcels and medical supplies. Many of these items were taken to the gate and handed over to a delegation from Taza, headed by its mayor.

OPERATIONS Continued from page one

for the next six months of our partnership and set the conditions for future Iraqi Army logistics success," said Lally. "We had good discussions and a great exchange of ideas," he added.

Leaders toured U.S. supply and maintenance facilities at Camp Taji, Iraq. Commanders were also briefed on the U.S. Army supply systems and maintenance, including the processes for turning in unserviceable and excess items for repair and reissue.

One observation shared by LTAT members was that in the past, Iraqi commanders were known to stockpile spare parts and supplies, even if they were not needed or could be used by other units, said 3^d ESC ISF chief Lt. Col. Billy V. Hall.

"Success is getting that item to the customer because they need it to complete their mission," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doll L. Scott, an accountables officer with the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

During the tour, U.S. officials stressed the importance of preventative maintenance for Iraq's large number of vehicle fleets for which repair parts are often scarce. At one facility, Iraqi commanders were shown a chart comparing the cost of a routine humvee oil change— about 20 dollars— with the nearly \$12,000 needed to replace an engine if that oil change was neglected.

Lally said the maintenance and supply companies have come a long way in getting



Iraqi Army officers and officials from the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) tour a maintenance facility run by the 776th Maintenance Company at Camp Taji, Iraq June 23. The tour was part of a meeting between 3^d ESC officials and Iraqi commanders designed to aid Iraqis in developing their supply system.

their Soldiers equipped and trained. His counterpart, Muniem, thanked the 3^d ESC for putting together the meet-

ing and expressed interest in meeting again in the coming months.

"There is one thing that is

very clear to me," Muniem said. "These new procedures will help me to build my branch (of the Iraqi Army)."

The Mobile Redistribution Team saves taxpayer dollars

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. RAY K. RAGAN
123RD MPAD, 3^d ESC
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT SECURITY STATION LOYALTY, Iraq – As part of the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq, leaders are presented with a

number of challenges. One of these challenges is, 'what do we do with all this stuff?'

Excess property found on installations is diverse and often includes repair parts, obsolete computers, office supplies, and literally the kitchen sink. Often, the excess inventory is not thoroughly inventoried or orga-



U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael J. Sander discusses with U.S. Army 1st Lt. Felipe T. Barrera the container inventory and progress of the Mobile Redistribution Team at Joint Security Station Loyalty, Iraq June 1.

nized. Units are faced with the time-consuming and daunting task of inventorying the supplies individual-

ly—one piece at a time. The U.S. Air Force and Task Force 586 working jointly with the 3^d Sustain-

ment Command (Expeditionary) fielded four Mobile Redistribution Teams to overcome this problem.

MRTs travel to where the excess inventory is located. They sort through the excess, determine what has value and what is still usable. They also determine what is scrap. Then, the teams organize the excess into shipping boxes and send it to the appropriate location for further processing and reallocation.

"It's zero pain," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael J. Sander, describing the ease in dealing with excess inventory for requesting units. Sander, the MRT 1, officer in charge said there is no paperwork required for a unit requesting the MRT to sort their excess property. The unit requests the MRT

through the 3^d ESC. The 3^d ESC then sends the mission to an MRT and the MRT arrives at the location to handle and process the excess inventory.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Felipe T. Barrera, Operations Officer, Support Operations Reset and Redistribution Section, 3^d ESC, said, "It's been totally positive (the reaction to the MRTs); of course that's our goal with the upcoming responsible drawdown."

"Up to three years ago, these items stayed behind or sometimes ended up in a burn pit, because there simply wasn't a good means to redistribute them," said Sander. "The MRT is to make sure it (excess inventory) ends up back in the supply chain and tax payer dollars are effectively utilized."



On the Web

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND
(EXPEDITIONARY)

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

Q-West Knights tackle water woes

BY CW3 MARTY SABLE
UPAR, 181ST BSB,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Sustainers from multiple units combined efforts to re-establish water flow at Contingency Operating Base Q-West after sand, gravel and debris clogged the cistern that collects water for the remote logistics base in northern Iraq.

Soldiers from the 181st Brigade Support Battalion and 158th Maintenance Co., and civilian contractors, cleaned the cistern and re-designed the inlet pipe on the lift station pumps in May 2009.

The re-design was required because large amounts of sand, gravel and debris from the river bottom were sucked into the cistern and entered the delivery pumps.

“The reason we designed these new U-shaped

foot valves is so the lift station pumps do not suck the sand and gravel straight off the bottom of the river and deposit it into the cistern,” said 1st Sgt. Dane Case, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 181st BSB, and water operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Q-West Mayor’s Cell.

The combined mission of the Seattle, Wash.-based 181st BSB water section, the Q-West Department of Public Works and civilian contractors has allowed the Qayyarah pump house to remain in full operation, delivering over 115,000,000 gallons of water to the base since December 2008. Q-West has also had a record 69 straight days of water flow from the pump house to the base during that same period.

Ingested gravel previously damaged one pump, and the bearings of another. After a previous modification to install filters, the main pump house was still not able to maintain a sustained flow to the base. Even after installation, filters on the delivery pumps were still being plugged with sand and gravel which re-

quired the system to be shut down and cleaned every two or three hours.

“With the new inlets it cuts down how much sand and gravel gets into the cistern, which in turn will help on how often we have to clean the cistern,” Case said.

Since the 181st BSB took over Mayor Cell operations in late November 2008, Soldiers and contractors at the pump house have maintained and improved the capabilities of the pump house by installing three new lift station pumps, installing two new delivery pumps, repairing an existing delivery pump and upgrading the electrical system at the pump house.

Leaders expect that continued improvements such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning for the electrical room and the installation of one more new lift station pump will provide years of sustainable water supply to the base and surrounding community.

On average, the base receives more than 16 million gallons of water a month from the pump house.

287th Sust Bde begins MRAP Rollover Training

BY MSG. CARL MAR
287TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Knowing what to expect and how to react during a vehicle rollover were the learning objectives of the 287th Sustainment Brigade’s Mine Resistant Ambush

Protected Vehicle Egress Training here May 29.

The MET class trainer – a replica of an MRAP MaxxPro chassis – was delivered to the 287th Sust. Bde. in early May. It was co-located with the brigade’s humvee Egress Assistance Trainer facility to allow Soldiers to train on both systems.

The MET class was conducted in two phases, said Brandon Kerschner, a civilian contractor, who teaches the course and is a native of Killeen, Texas. The first phase consisted of classroom training and practice drills; in the second phase, students used the trainer to apply what they learned in two accident scenarios – a 90-degree side rollover and a 180-degree rollover.

“We’re trying to familiarize Soldiers to what it feels like when a rollover occurs and give them the tools to get safely out of the vehicle. If they do have a rollover, they’ll be able to fall back on their training,” said Kerschner.

Because they’ve experienced it here, they’ll know what to do during and after the rollover, how to secure things and how to get their equipment and fellow Soldiers out, he said.

According to Kerschner, the MET training is not available in

the United States and in only a few places overseas. “Five prototypes were built. The demand for the training was so great all of them were fielded. Three of them are in Kuwait. The other two are in Afghanistan. There are also three production models in Iraq. The one here is production number one and the other two are at Taji and Al Asad. Production models are also being fielded in Afghanistan,” he said.

First Lt. Matthew J. Gilpin, 287th Sust. Bde. assistant operations officer and a native of Cherryville, Kan., is the program manager for the MET training. Until plans for air conditioning at the training site are implemented, he said, the classes are held early in the mornings to avoid the summer heat.

“Right now we’re running from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the morning, four classes a day, six days a week. Sunday is a reset day for us, when we do periodic maintenance on the equipment,” he said.

To date, it’s been easy to keep every class filled. The 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) determined who needs the MET training, Gilpin said. “My plan is to follow the 3rd ESC guidance, which is for every driver, truck commander, gunner or anyone who rides in an MRAP go through this training.”

Among the first group of Soldiers to go through the MET trainer was Spc. Adam Ortiz, a driver for Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion 133rd Field Artillery Regiment and a native of El Paso, Texas. Having experienced a “very bad” rollover accident before in civilian life, he said the training should make him more cautious while on the road.

“The instructors teach Soldiers

what to do in case of a rollover. It’s going to help having a feel for what might happen, how to get out of

the seat belts and knowing all the safety issues. I’m better prepared now,” he said.

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>

SAFETY



BE VERY SAFE WITH GRENADES

THREE SOLDIERS WERE INJURED IN IRAQ—ONE LOSING HIS ARM—WHEN ONE OF THEM REMOVED TAPE FROM THE SAFETY DEVICE OF AN MK 141 FLASH BANG.

THAT ACTIVATED THE MK 141 AND IT EXPLODED.

GRENADE LECTURE TODAY

IT PAYS TO BE READY SAFE WITH GRENADES.

TURN IN MK 141 FLASH BANGS

NOTE WHITE BAND

THE MILITARY NO LONGER USES THEM

NEVER TAPE A GRENADE

NEVER REMOVE TAPE FROM A GRENADE

FIRST OF ALL, THE MK 141 IS AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. IF YOU STILL HAVE MK 141S, TURN THEM IN.

SECOND, NEVER TAPE THE SAFETY LEVER OR SAFETY PIN OF ANY HAND GRENADE AND NEVER BEND, TAMPER, MOODY OR ALTER IN ANY WAY THE SAFETY PIN OR SAFETY LEVER.

THE SAFETY LEVER AND SAFETY PIN ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP YOU SAFE. IF YOU MESS WITH THEM, YOU TAKE AWAY YOUR PROTECTION.

IF YOU EVER ENCOUNTER A TAPED GRENADE, DON'T REMOVE THE TAPE. NOTIFY YOUR LOCAL ANVCO SPECIALISTS.

DoD Announces Transferability Options For "Post 9/11 GI Bill"

COURTESY OF
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON (June 23) -- The Defense Department announced its policy for transferring educational benefits to the spouses and children of service members under the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," which takes effect Aug. 1, 2009.

"This is as it should be in a volunteer force where families also serve," said Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy Bill Carr. "Transferability of GI Bill benefits is the most requested initiative we receive from our service members, and we believe it will assist us in retaining highly qualified military personnel."

Career service members on ac-

tive duty or in the selected reserve on Aug. 1, 2009, and who are eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," may be entitled to transfer all or a portion of their education entitlement to one or more family members. To be eligible, service members must have served in the Armed Forces for at least six years, and agree to serve four additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

Service members with at least 10 years of service, who by DoD or service policy are prevented from committing to four additional years, may transfer their benefits provided they commit for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.

Additionally, to maintain proper force structure and promotion opportunities, temporary rules have

been developed for service members eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2009 and Aug. 1, 2012. Depending on their retirement eligibility date, these service members will commit to one to three additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

The services will provide further implementation guidance. Beginning June 29, 2009, eligible service members may make transfer designations by visiting this Web site: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>. The full transferability policy is available at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/DTM%2009-003%20Post%209-11%20GI%20Bill.pdf>.

Service members may be eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill" if they served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged.

Based on the length of active duty service, members are entitled to a percentage of the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning. Members not on active duty may also receive a monthly living stipend equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents, and to an annual \$1,000 stipend for books and supplies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," and determines eligibility for education benefits. Further information on eligibility, benefit levels, and application procedures can be found at their Web site, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Washington Guard General Visits Highlanders

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The Assistant Adjutant General of the Washington Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Gordon B. Toney, visited Washington State Guardsmen deployed to Iraq May 29.

With each stop, he made time to chat and shake hands with every guard member he encountered.

During his visit to Iraq, Toney

visited Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment. He sat and enjoyed breakfast with the infantry Soldiers, while giving some words of advice to Soldiers getting ready to the end their tour in Iraq.

"We really want to give thanks for all that you do here and your service to your country and to the Washington Army National Guard," he said.

He also gave his pledge to do everything he could to ensure the state provides support and assistance with employment, mental health and Family reintegration services to each and every Soldier.

Toney also expressed his thanks

to the Families of the 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. for their service and sacrifice during their deployment.

"Make sure all of you pass along our thanks to your Families as well, for their support of all of you during your service here in Iraq," Toney said.

Toney capped off his visit with a tour of the motor pools and a visit with each convoy escort company.

Staff Sgt. Jose R. Abarca, from Puyallup, Wash., of Bravo Company, 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., assisted in giving the general a tour of his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle and discussed the services and assets the medical

MRAP can provide on the battlefield.

"I met General Toney before in 2005 and this last tour when we left. I think that meant a lot to the Soldiers to see him there sending us off," Abarca said.

Toney completed his tour with a ride in one of the convoy escort vehicles. Toney ended his visit by giving a few general's coins to recognize Soldiers for excellence. He also left the Soldiers of 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. with a few words of wisdom.

"Stay strong and finish strong," Toney said. "I know this was a long haul, but finish out strong."



101st Finance Det. mission accomplished

BY SGT. JERMEKA WILLIAMS
UPAR, DELTA DET., 101ST FM CO.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq - Delta Detachment, 101st Financial Management Company will head home to Fort Campbell, Ky., this summer after 14 months in Iraq.

Cashiers from the unit disbursed more than \$76 million in checks and Eagle Cash Card sales for Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and contractors. They collected more than \$64 million in contributions from Soldiers for the Savings Deposit Program, ECC loads, and debt repayments.

The Financial Management Support Team cashiers conducted 94 missions providing remote finance support in camps or forward operating bases to Soldiers and civilians who don't have access to a large base

finance office.

The Camp Liberty Finance Office of the 101st FM Co., was the first to start the Eagle Cash Agent stored value card here, a card program that fund Class A paying agents via a special ECC to reduce the amount of cash on the battlefield.

The customer service section processed more than 9,600 pay inquiries, resolving Soldiers pay issues within a 72 hours period. In addition, they gave weekly redeployment briefings to units within the Multi-National Division- Baghdad and Multi-National Corps-Iraq, providing Soldiers with knowledge of their pay entitlements.

The processing section uploaded 645 military pay cycles accurately and efficiently, maintaining an accuracy rating of 99.31 percent during the deployment. The kiosk technician successfully maintained and provided daily support for 16 Eagle Cash kiosks throughout the Victory Base Complex.

The finance detachment conducted their duties under the 208th FM Co.



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Quartermaster Co. completes mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. MARIA GAFF
UPAR, 590TH QM Co.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 590th Quartermaster Company from Fort Drum, N.Y., a field service company deployed here in March 2008, transferred its authority to the 855th QM Co., from South Bend, Ind., June 12.

Both QM Co.'s mission in Iraq is provide both shower and laundry services as well as operating a clothing repair shop supporting Coalition forces based in 10 different locations throughout the Iraqi theater.

Capt. Amy Saal, a native of Elkhart, Ind., and 1st Sgt. Antonio Martinez, a Philadelphia native, will hand the reins to the 855th QM Co., Capt. Robert Phelps, a New Castle, Ind., native and company commander, and 1st Sgt. James Walkowski, a native of South Bend, Ind.

These locations are often dangerous but despite the adversities, the 590th QM Co., successfully accomplished their SLCR mission.

One Soldier in the unit said the services of the SLCR team provided great contributions to the welfare and morale of the Soldiers they supported. Without their support, the Soldiers would not have been able to perform their duties and accomplish their own combat missions, said the Soldier.



Pfc. Rex Cox, a native of Alvarado, Texas, Spc. Hayley Bartlett from Napa, Calif., and Pfc. Brian Owens, a Los Angeles, Calif., native, Soldiers from the 590th Quartermaster Company, conduct an inventory of their assigned equipment at Camp Liberty, Iraq June 12.

As the 590th QM Co.'s mission ends and the 855th QM Co. begins their mission to Soldiers in the field, Soldiers will continue to receive the same quality service from the incoming unit.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES

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COB Adder Seabees improve Coalition bases, End mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH SUST. BDE.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq –

The U.S. Navy Seabees' Detachment India IV, Amphibious Construction Battalion-2, conducted their end of tour awards ceremony here June 13.

While working with the Army's 14th Engineer Battalion, the Seabees were instrumental in construction improvements to the Coalition base facilities in southern Iraq. Their improvements included, berthing, showers, air conditioning units, power generation and operation buildings, and construction improvements at Al Qurnah, Basrah Operating Center, Forward Operating Base Minden, Old State Building,

Naval Base, Eastern Barracks, Mahawil, FOB Delta, Umm Qasr, Joint Security Station Five, Camp Ur and COB Adder, Iraq.

Petty Officer 2nd class Tingler, construction elec-

trician and resident of Norfolk, Va., said, "I think my most memorable experience was working at FOB Minden. I did the electrical for 23 tents. It was most rewarding to see my fellow Army personnel's faces when the job was finished. I knew they would reap the benefits of our hard work."

Lt. Col. Darien Peter Helmlinger, battalion commander, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, said he was proud to serve with the Seabees.

"It's been an honor working with you," he said, "by improving our Soldier's

and give the Soldiers what they need to operate successfully."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Luffy, a Navy engineer, said his most memorable experience was building Mahawill up.

"The build started with an empty lot of nothing but rock surrounded by T-walls," he said. "At the end it was utterly amazing, air conditioned - some rooms even had a good stock of desks and chairs constructed from the good will of our crew during off-duty hours."

Unfortunately, the Army unit they built the compound for were given new orders two weeks after completion. Luffy was given a great surprise when they moved to the detachment's next mission at FOB Minden. "The exact same group of Soldiers we worked for at Mahawill were waiting ever so anxiously for their hero Seabees at Minden," Luffy said.

"The job was just as gratifying as that of Mahawill, but to know that this time our Army brothers-in-arms would be there for at least six months left me feeling satisfied."



The U.S. Navy Seabees Amphibious Construction Battalion-2, Detachment India IV, serving with the 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, poses for a group shot before their end of mission awards ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq June 13.

quality of life and building up bases, you've enabled them to interdict insurgents, get out into the towns and find caches. You've put forth a tremendous effort to support the 14th Eng. Bn.,

New post office dedicated to fallen postal Soldiers

BY SPC. KRISTINA HELLER
UPAR, 16TH STB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Postal Soldiers here dedicated a new Army Post Office in memory of Soldiers who worked in postal operations and sacrificed their lives while in service to their nation.

Two years ago, a bronze plaque hung on the wall of the Camp Liberty post office which was dedicated to postal soldiers and civilians who had died in the line of duty. That post office no longer exists, but the original plaque was preserved.

Through the efforts of Capt. Matthew Fecteau of the 4/18th Postal Platoon, 16th Sustainment Brigade, personnel used the original plaque to dedicate the newly-built post office on Balad to fallen Soldiers and civilian contractors who gave their lives in service to their country.

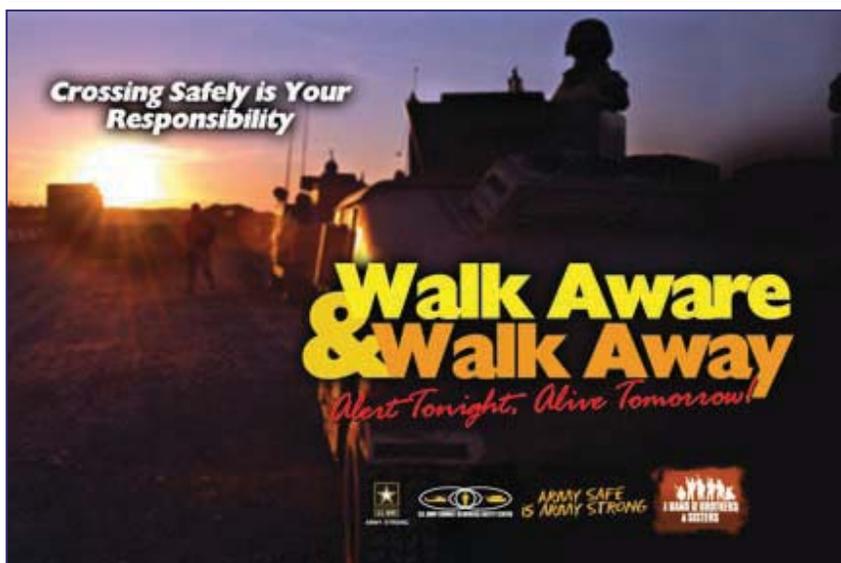
Fecteau said the dedication is a great way to honor fallen comrades and to show appreciation for their sacrifice. These nine brave service members and contractors were sent out on numerous missions to provide postal support to Soldiers throughout Iraq's theater of operations and made the ultimate sacrifice. Whatever the price, postal operations are vital to completing missions successfully, and Soldiers depend on the mail for contact with their loved ones and for taking care of important business back home.

The new post office, located on Pennsylvania Avenue, will stand as a reminder of the accomplishments of not just these nine brave men and women but also the commitment of those who continue to make sure that all postal missions are successfully completed.

The plaque lists the names of postal heroes:



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



Alaska's Sherpas sustain Coalition forces across Iraq

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –Twenty-eight Alaska Guardsmen, flying C-23 Sherpa aircraft, deliver cargo and transport service members around Iraq every day to sustain Coalition forces.

The C-23 Sherpa is the primary cargo aircraft in operation by the Army, used specifically for intra-theater support missions. The unit motto, *Semper Turpis—Always Ugly*—is emblazoned on Company F's crest, a direct reference to the aircraft affectionately known as the Minivan with Wings, the Flying Salmon and the Flying School Bus to pilots and crew.

Despite its boxy-appearance and small stature, the men of Co. F, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment (CSAM) insist their Sherpas get the job done.

"Our ability to rapidly react to urgent requirements helps to ensure the war fighters have the tools they need to accomplish their combat mission," said Maj. Robert A. Seymour, commanding officer, Co. F, 1st Bn., 207th Avn. Regt.

"If you need to move something across Iraq right now rather than next month, you call the C-23s," said the native of Anchorage, Alaska. "We're the FedEx within the theater."

On average, every month the unit's 10 Sherpas transport approximately 3,600 passengers and deliver over one million pounds of cargo, everything from rotor blades to mail to medical supplies to MREs, or Meals Ready to Eat, said Sgt. Coley C. Foster, a flight engineer from Wasilla, Alaska.

"It's a great job," he said. "At the end of the night, you can always count up the number of people and the amount of cargo you moved, and that's definitely a sense of accomplishment."

Foster said it's a mission the aviators are familiar with. The Guards-



From left to right, Spc. Misieli L. Taufaetau and Spc. William J. Elliott, both flight engineers from Anchorage, Alaska, Company F, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, load cargo onto a C-23 Sherpa transport aircraft at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 20. The C-23 aircraft are operated exclusively by Army National Guard units.

men of Co. F, 1st Bn., 207th Avn. Regt. perform missions throughout the state of Alaska, an area almost four times the size of Iraq. They respond to emergencies, transporting sled dogs, snowblowers and supplies to villages and units who are often only accessible by air.

"Our mission's pretty much identical (here)," said Warrant Officer Ross A. Wise, a C-23 pilot from Eagle River, Alaska. He said the biggest difference, for men and machines, is dealing with Iraq's summer heat.

As Coalition forces continue to drawdown, pulling out of cities in anticipation of the June 30 deadline, Wise said he believes they've been making more trips to outlying bases and then back to hubs like Joint Base Balad. And while it's an event the Guardsmen were eagerly anticipating, he said it's not the most rewarding aspect of their job.

"The main reason I fly a Sherpa," he said, "is to keep our troops off the streets of Iraq. That's one of the



Spc. William J. Elliott, a flight engineer from Anchorage, Alaska, Company F, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, secures cargo inside a C-23 Sherpa transport aircraft at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 20. The C-23 is used in theater for transporting passengers and cargo.

core things I love about this job. To hear what (Soldiers) go through just to get from Balad to Baghdad—a 20 minute flight to us."

Seymour agreed, adding that every pound of cargo or person they move by air doesn't need to be pushed out by a military ground convoy.

"Our crews take great pride in

the knowledge that their hard work helps reduce the need to send their fellow Soldiers into harm's way," Seymour said. "That is a great motivator."

Fewer than two dozen C-23 Sherpas are still in service with the military today, and all are operated by state National Guard units like Co. F, 1st Bn., 207th Avn. Regt.

On the Web

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

Athletic NCO pushes Soldier care

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Sgt. Erica Rinard, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, 16th Sustainment Brigade, said Soldier care is an important facet of leading Soldiers.

“Soldier care is the key to being a good NCO; gain the respect of your enlisted personnel and, only if they show you the same respect, in turn, will you have succeeded as a good NCO,” said Rinard. “I look to all my leaders and mentors, even the ones that fail, so in turn I know what makes and breaks the ‘Backbone of the Army.’”

Sgt. 1st Class John Lee, Rinard’s supervisor and motor sergeant, Co. C, 1st Bn., 185th Ar. Regt, said she is always there for other Soldiers.

“Sergeant Rinard helps others in the section by being a sounding board for the Soldiers,” Lee said. “She is always willing to lend an ear or shoulder. She takes the time to be a leader, mentor and friend. Her dedication to work inspires others to do their best and strive for excellence.”

Rinard, a Victorville, Calif., native who works as a tank mechanic at Fort Irwin, Calif., and an Active Guard Reserve Soldier said many NCOs have shaped her career and made her who she is today. She also credits her grandfather.

“I’ve met a number of extraordinary NCOs that have made an impact on my life, but hands-down it would have to be my adoptive grandfather Lynch, a former staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, who served in World War II was a member of a bomber crew that was shot down behind en-

emy lines and held captive as POW,” Richardson said. “Till his passing in 2007 he remained an active retired member of the Air Force. To have served and continued to serve after retirement to me justifies honor and valor to one’s country.”

The athletic NCO said she brought her competitive drive with her into the military.

Rinard accomplished a personal goal when she won “best overall” in a bodybuilding contest judged by Billy Blanks, creator of Tae Bo, held at COB Speicher, April 25.

“It was a personal accomplishment, I was out to beat myself and no one else,” said Rinard after the contest.

Rinard said the Army’s Year of the NCO was about living up to the NCO Creed.

“It is my duty to know and recite the NCO Creed, word for word, either from memory or read,” said Rinard. “It is a requirement of an NCO, and to be honest with you, I don’t remember it line for line, but I do know how to live it. And that there is what it takes to be a leader. If an NCO can live and abide by that simple task then every year is NCO Year.”

She said she has also learned to be flexible in her Army National Guard career.

Rinard entered the Army as a unit supply specialist, but worked as an assistant retention NCO at her first duty assignment. She volunteered for a deployment and crossed trained to work as a motor transport operator, then took a job as a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic when she returned from the deployment. She now works as a Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced (SAMS – E) clerk.

“I’ve been able to adapt to the constant change of learning new work-related traits not pertaining to my MOS,” said Rinard.

For one NCO, leadership is about responsibility

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Cynthia L. Richardson, support operations transportation non-commissioned officer in charge, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, believes leading Soldiers is about responsibility.

“NCOs embody responsibility — responsibility for themselves, for the Soldiers under their care, and for the repercussions of the decisions that they make daily,” said Richardson, a native of Martin, Tenn.

Richardson said her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Richardson, was instrumental in her growth as an NCO.

“My husband tutored me in one of the biggest responsibilities of an NCO — taking care of Soldiers,” Richardson said.

She said to care of Soldiers, you have to get involved in their lives.

“A couple of years ago, one of my specialists was going through a tough divorce,”

Richardson said. “He was doing a lot of drinking, showing up late for drill, and taking dangerous chances with his life. I sat down with him and talked to him about what he was going through and how it was affecting his health, his life, and his military career. He got his life back together and has turned out to be a great NCO.”

Richardson said an NCO not only has to be responsible for their Soldiers, but also responsible for themselves.

“During my career, I have been placed in areas of responsibility that



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Sgt. Erica Rinard, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, California Army National Guard, assigned at the time to the 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, greets Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, California Adjutant General, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq Feb. 19.

Rinard said not to worry about things, but to enjoy life.

“You can plan life to the fullest and stress over your shortcomings when those goals are never met,” said Rinard. “I’m a firm believer that you never know what’s going to happen

in life, and that the best thing to do is live life to the fullest and embrace all negative and positive impacts that may come. Even though the negative seems to outweigh the positive in most cases, ‘What else are you going to do?’”

required completion of duties without supervision,” Richardson. “I have always prided myself in completing and going beyond the requirements of my assignments without having to have constant supervision.”

This deployment has been a different kind of challenge than her previous deployment to Iraq in 2003, Richardson said.

“This deployment has not been as physically demanding as my previous deployment, but the mental and emotional stressors have been greater,” Richardson said. “The last time that I was here, the Iraqis were our enemy. Now, we are striving to be friends with them.”

Richardson said that the Army isn’t for everyone.

“Be willing to give it your best effort,” Richardson said. “If you are not willing to use your own time to be the best Soldier that you can be — physi-

cal training, education, etc. — then it is a waste of your time and the Army’s time.”

Richardson, who plans to retire within the year and just passed a national certification for medical coding, said that you should never stop striving to improve yourself.

“I am not finished yet; there is never a time to stop learning or trying new things,” Richardson said. “Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t; you can do anything if you invest the time and effort.”

Richardson had one last piece of advice for new NCOs.

“Before you take on the role of an NCO, be sure that you are capable of taking care of Soldiers and are willing to take responsibility for the decisions that you make on their behalf,” Richardson said. “Consider all the repercussions for your actions.”

WOUNDED WARRIOR

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – It was the third charge, the third explosion of a roadside bomb that took off his leg.



The last time Sgt. Christopher A. Burrell was in Iraq he was pulled from a burning vehicle in Sadr City, a neighborhood in Baghdad.

A tourniquet applied by another Soldier saved his life, but a nurse here at the Air Force Theater Hospital had to break the tragic news—his left leg was gone, taken by an explosively formed projectile.

Now, almost a year and a half later, and after months of rehabilitation and physical therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Burrell returned to Iraq with five other amputee combat Veterans as part of Operation Proper Exit.

“I don’t remember much, but I remember my nurse,” Burrell said, remembering the incident, which occurred Dec. 2007. “Shelly. She was an angel, there to comfort me when I was in a difficult spot.”

A pilot program sponsored by the Army and

the Troops First Foundation (USO), Operation Proper Exit allows Soldiers wounded in combat to return to Iraq. The goal of the program is to give these Soldiers an opportunity for closure, and to see the progress made in securing and stabilizing the country, Burrell said.

“It kind of helps you heal mentally and emotionally, to close that chapter in your life so you can move on,” he said. “The progress that’s been made—it shows that we made a sacrifice but it was for a reason.”

The six amputee combat Veterans, who were accompanied by civilians with the Troops First Foundation, toured the Air Force Theater Hospital here, speaking with medical personnel. Most of the Soldiers received some kind of treatment here before they moved to Germany for further medical care.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jamal Hogan, a nurse, said he remembered providing medical care for two of the Soldiers himself during a previous deployment in 2007.

“It’s awesome,” he said with a smile, hugging one of his former patients. “To know that people made it—he’s alive, walking around. That means a lot to me.”

Following the hospital tour, the amputee com-

bat Veterans participated in a town hall-style meeting which began with a standing ovation of approximately 200 Soldiers here at a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facility.

After telling the audience their own personal war stories, the Veterans fielded questions which ranged from how they dealt with physical recovery to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to their long-term goals. Sgt. Robert Brown, who lost his right leg to sniper fire in September 2006 in Ramadi, Iraq, said he was training to qualify for the U.S. rowing team at the 2012 London Paralympics games.

Toward the end of the meeting, a young Soldier stood up and asked them, with everything they’ve experienced, if they would be willing to return for another tour in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Every one of the amputee combat veterans nodded.

“Sure, we’d go back,” one of them said. “We’re here with you right now, aren’t we?”



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

Sgt. Robert Brown, retired Staff. Sgt. Bradley Gruetner, and Sgt. Christopher A. Burrell, Soldiers wounded in combat while deployed to Iraq, walk through “Hero’s Highway” at the Air Force Theater Hospital before returning to Camp Victory after a visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Brown, Gruetner, and Burrell, and three other Soldiers had the opportunity to return to Iraq and to visit the places they once served.



Wounded Warriors returning to Iraq during Operation Proper Exit to honor their personal sacrifices, are photographed with deploy-

SOLDIERS RETURN TO IRAQ



Six wounded warriors receive a brief on the history and significance of the "Hero's Highway" at the Air Force Theater Hospital, Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. The Soldiers, most of whom were amputees, were part of Operation Proper Exit.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman



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

Proper Exit, a program sponsored by the Army and Troops First Foundation which allows wounded soldiers to return to Iraq and see the changes that have transpired due to wounded Service Members at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Sgt. Christopher A. Burrell answers a question during a town hall-style meeting at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Burrell, an amputee, returned to Iraq as part of Operation Proper Exit, an event designed to allow wounded Soldiers an opportunity for closure and to see the progress made in Iraq.



Wounded warriors Sgt. Brandon Deaton and Sgt. Christopher A. Burrell sign the "Warriors Wall," a place where soldiers passing through the hospital can sign their names and leave comments, during a tour of the Air Force Theater Hospital on Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Deaton and Burrell, both wounded in combat in Iraq, were among a group of six Soldiers given an opportunity to return and see the changes that had happened since they first left.

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

Staff Sgt. (retired) Bradley Gruetzner from Palestine, Texas, is greeted by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general after arriving at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Gruetzner, who was wounded in combat on Nov. 15, 2006, was given the opportunity along with six other wounded warriors to return to Iraq and visit locations they had served at, seeing for themselves the changes that have transpired due to their personal sacrifices.



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



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Sgt. Christopher A. Burrell talks with medical personnel at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Burrell was wounded by a roadside bomb in Sadr City, Dec. 2007, and was subsequently treated here before being flown out of country.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Retired Staff Sgt. Bradley Gruetzner answers a question during a town hall-style meeting at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Gruetzner, an amputee, returned to Iraq as part of Operation Proper Exit, an event designed to allow wounded Soldiers an opportunity for closure and to see the progress made in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Staff Sgt. Kenneth J. Butler and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jamal Hogan, a nurse, talk during a tour of the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 25. Butler, an amputee wounded in combat, was once one of Hogan's patients in 2007.



Senior leaders from the Tennessee Army National Guard visited service members in the 776th Maintenance Company and 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion leaders during a visit to Camp Taji, Iraq May 27. (From left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Breece, the Tennessee Army National Guard senior enlisted leader; the 776th Maintenance Company leaders 1st Sgt. Gary Peters and Capt. Stacy Kunz; Brig. Gen. Terry "Max" Haston, the Tennessee Army National Guard Assistant to the Adjutant General; 419th CSSB's Lt. Col. Kristan L. Hericks, battalion commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Swanson, battalion senior enlisted leader.

"Max" visits Taji's Tenn. Guardsmen

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. STACY KUNZ
UPAR, 776TH MAINT. CO.,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Terry "Max" Haston, the Tennessee Army National Guard assistant to the adjutant general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Breece, the Tenn. ARNG senior enlisted leader, visited Soldiers from the 776th Maintenance Company here May 27.

After traveling thousands of miles, Haston and Breece were greeted by the 776th's higher headquarters command team consisting of Col. Mark Drake and Command

Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching, both of Fort Drum's 10th Sust. Bde. Also attending the visit were the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion command team of Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Swanson.

During the visit, Haston and Breece were briefed by Drake and the brigade headquarters staff which described the support provided by the 10th Sust. Bde., and 419th CSSB to thousands of troops within Iraq. The briefing provided Haston and Breece overview of current support operations within the Iraqi theater.

While the primary purpose of the visit was to meet directly with Tennessee Guardsmen, it also provided Haston current information useful to Tennessee Soldiers slated to return to Iraq in the future.

Additionally, Haston and Breece received information about the maintenance support record achieved by the 776th Maint. Co., thus far. The 776th Maint. Co., command team of Capt. Stacy Kunz, a native of Smyrna, Tenn., and 1st Sgt. Gary Peters, a native of Telford, Tenn., were very proud to hear Col. Drake relate the achievements of the 776th as the "best maintenance company within the brigade."

Upon completion of the brief, Haston and Breece were escorted to the 776th Maint. Co., area where nearly 200 troops awaited them, addressing and complimenting them on the exceptional and outstanding service provided by the 776th Maint. Co., Soldiers – supporting the safety and readiness of thousands of troops operating within Iraq.

Breece, the senior enlisted lead-

er in the Tennessee Guard, fielded questions and provided useful information to his fellow Soldiers and NCOs pertaining to policy updates, advancement, pay, benefits and career issues, as well as updating the troops on changes that had occurred since leaving home.

After addressing those on-hand, Haston and Breece toured the 776th Maint. Co.'s, eight-acre maintenance support area. There, they saw maintenance bays improved by members of the 776th Maint. Co. The achievements and operational details of the unit were further explained and illustrated during the tour.

Haston and Breece's visit ended with a dinner with Soldiers, where they learned about the perspectives on the 776th's Maint. Co., mission.

On the Web



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



Transporters wrap up tour in Iraq

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



Soldiers of the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, get staged for their final convoy after a year-long deployment to Camp Taji, Iraq June 5.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers from the 1538th Transportation Company conducted their final mission on June 5, wrapping up a successful 12-month deployment and marked

the end of their deployment with a transfer of authority ceremony here June 25.

The last official mission for the Elkhart, Ind., unit was one routine and uneventful. However, it was bittersweet to some members going "outside the wire."

"It was an honor and a privilege," said Sgt. Robert Neiswender, a Scottsburg, Ind., native.

The team participating in the final mission consisted of Neiswender,

1st Lt. G. Elizabeth Brown, an Indianapolis native, Sgt. 1st Class Marion Siebenthal, a Madison, Ind. native, and Sgt. Michael Varesi, a Columbus, Ind. native.

During their tenure, the unit provided cargo transfer, line haul support, and convoy security to units throughout Iraq. The Soldiers of the 1538th Trans. Co., conducted a wide variety of missions to include command and control of the Taji central receiving shipping point, security

escort missions of both military and civilian fuel trucks from the movement control team yard to the bulk fuel farm, and transportation of all classes of supply throughout theater.

"Without transporters, there are no bullets and beans," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Kabay, a North Liberty, Ind. native.

Capt. Phillip Anderson, 1538th Trans. Co. commander and Plainfield, Ind. native, said he is very

proud of the Soldiers' accomplishments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and all the sacrifices they have made throughout this deployment.

The 1538th Trans. Co. Soldiers safely transported more than 12 million gallons of fuel, 541 tons of equipment, and drove more than 130,000 miles without a single accident. These Soldiers will return home to Indiana in the summer of 2009 after accomplishing their mission here.

On the Web

Task Force Muleskinner

10th Sustainment Brigade




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

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>

M240H Machine Gun

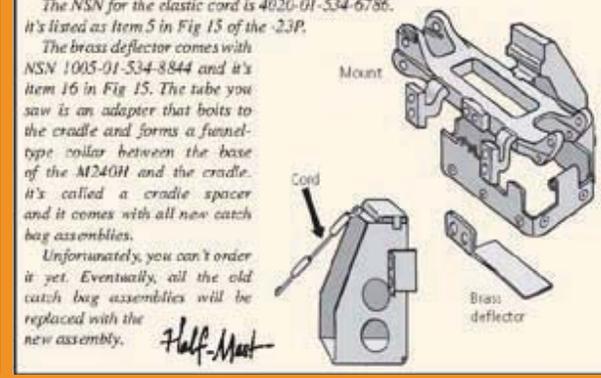
Where Do I Find M240H Info?



Dear Half-Mast,
We are starting to mount the M240H machine gun on our UH-60s and we are having trouble finding info on the M240H's mount. The elastic cord that holds the ammo can on the pintle mount sometimes flies off and we don't know how to order a replacement. Plus, we've seen on other units' M240Hs a brass deflecting tube that fits where the brass bag attaches. How do you get the tube?

SGT J.P.

Dear Sergeants J.P.,
The TMs for the M240H mounts are TM 9-1005-262-13 and TM 9-1005-262-23P. They're available on the LOGSA ETM site: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/online.cfm>
The NSN for the elastic cord is 4020-01-534-6786. It's listed as Item 5 in Fig 15 of the -23P.
The brass deflector comes with NSN 1005-01-534-8844 and it's Item 16 in Fig 15. The tube you saw is an adapter that bolts to the cradle and forms a funnel-type collar between the base of the M240H and the cradle. It's called a cradle spacer and it comes with all new catch bag assemblies.
Unfortunately, you can't order it yet. Eventually, all the old catch bag assemblies will be replaced with the new assembly.



Half-Mast

'Thunderbolt' strikes at boxing smoker

BY SGT. SAMUEL CURAMENG
UPAR, 1ST BN., 185TH ARMOR REGT.,
16TH SUST. BDE.

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE SPEICHER, Iraq** — Spc. Ray Davis, wheeled vehicle mechanic, Charlie Company "Thunderbolts," 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, 16th Sustainment Brigade, won the heavyweight boxing "smoker" here June 5.

The smoker consisted of Soldiers and civilians who chose to compete in an amateur exhibition boxing match. The fighters trained with boxing coaches who taught proper

techniques and conditioning programs.

Davis, a native of San Bernardino, Calif., and in his first deployment with 1st Bn., 185th Ar. Regt., competed to help cope with the loss of his grandmother last year.

"I wanted to do it for my grandma," said Davis. "She was everything to me; I would always remember her saying, you can accomplish anything no matter how hard it may be."

Davis knew this was something he had wanted to do for a long time. Davis had only a month to train for the fight. His training each night began late in the evening right after a long day at work.

"I would find myself training up to three times a week," said Davis.

"Sometimes it was hard, having to go to work the next day. I would always be really sore from working out."

Davis, who had no prior boxing experience, trained with boxing coaches who showed him the basic and advanced techniques used against an opponent in a ring. Davis emphasized how hard the training was.

"I thought it was just getting in the ring and landing solid punches, but I soon learned that that wasn't just it," said Davis. "I had to learn to lead my opponent to expose himself so that I could land a solid punch."

On the day of the event, the main gym at COB Speicher was filled with a line of people which formed

around the perimeter of the facility. The ring was lit with bright lights, and all the seats were filled with cheering Soldiers and civilians.

Davis fought a Soldier from another base, the fight lasted three rounds and was filled with thunderous cheers from the fans.

"I want to dedicate my fight to my grandma; without her words of encouragement, I don't know if I would have been able to pull it off," said Davis.

Davis is extending his tour in Iraq, joining the next unit to relieve 1st Bn., 185th Ar. Regt. He plans to pursue the next boxing match sometimes later this year.

Comedians perform at COB Q-West

BY MAJ. SCOTT K. COOLEY
UPAR, 181ST BSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq** — Soldiers lounged poolside, and soaked in some comedy, during a comedy show here June 11.

Los Angeles-based comedians George Grey, Bruce Jingles, and Joey Medina performed for

more than 160 Soldiers, Airmen and contractors during the opening of the "Mirage" base swimming pool.

Grey, Jingles and Medina discussed topics with Soldiers, like the National Guard, relationships and the non-alcoholic beer at Q-West.

"God-bless the National Guard," said one comedian. "The only place you'll find a 50-year-old private."

Travel delays kept the group in Q-West for couple extra days, so they gave an encore performance

at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex the following evening.

The extra time gave the comedians a chance to do some driver's training on the M1117 Armored Security Vehicle. They also spent some time at the pool, as well as just hanging out and talking with Soldiers.

"It was a perfect evening for the show, and it was definitely good for a laugh," said 1st Sgt. Walter Posch, first sergeant, 181st Brigade Sup-

port Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade. "We should have more shows here."

Posch, on his second deployment to Iraq, and a native of Rainer, Ore., said he appreciated the repaired pool facility.

"It's a very nice facility," Posch said. "There has been a lot of hard work that has gone into restoring the pool, volleyball courts, grounds and stage, and it has made this a very nice facility to hold events like this."

Goodbye Iraq, hello Ft. Hood

BY SGT. BEAU R. STEFKA
UPAR, 10TH SUST. BDE.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - The 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion transferred authority to the 260th CSSB June 9, assuming the sustainment and distribution mission here.

Lt. Col. Gregory Koller, commander of the 553rd CSSB and

Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando McMurry, the senior enlisted non-commissioned officer passed their roles and responsibilities to 260th CSSB's Commander, Lt. Col. Robert Dixon and Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight Williams.

"After the 553rd's 15-month deployment to Iraq, each and every Soldier throughout the ranks will have a high level of pride and confidence to take back to their families and friends patiently waiting for their return to Ft. Hood, Texas," said McMurry, a Ruston, La.,

native.

The 260th CSSB's Chaplain, Capt. Sean Facchinello, a Richmond Hill, Ga., native, said, "This will be this battalion's best deployment because things are moving forward here in Iraq from where they have been in years past. We are now able to focus on teaching and training the Iraqi people and Soldiers, instead of having to spend so much time on fighting and combat."

Koller, a Mobile, Ala., native said, "This deployment for the

553rd CSSB is a complete success, and by success I mean, the Soldiers got the work done that was asked of them. Taking units underneath your command that normally don't belong to you is a tough challenge. Each unit comes in at different levels and each has its own expectations and goals. As a commander, it is my responsibility to take each unit and develop them in the direction of the battle plan. It was a great honor working with each and every professional in my command. Leopard 6, out!"

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Sudoku

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

Level: Medium

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

Last weeks answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What modern vehicle was invented to circumvent trench warfare?
2. What congressional award was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker the first woman to receive?
3. What California city did the last Pony Express ride end in?
4. What nation issued the five-dollar bill found in Abraham Lincoln's pocket when he was shot?
5. What brave-hearted Scottish patriot led soldiers to a defeat of the English at the Battle of Cambuskenneth in 1297?

1. The Tank 2. Medal of Honor 3. Sacramento 4. The Confederate States of America 5. William Wallace

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL

| | | |
|--------|------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | 0200 | Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| | 0930 | Providor Chapel |
| | 1030 | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 1100 | Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) |
| | 1400 | Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| | 1730 | Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4) |
| | 2000 | Air Force Hospital Chapel |

GOSPEL

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

CONTEMPORARY

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

HISPANIC PROTESTANT

| | | |
|----------|------|-----------------|
| Saturday | 1930 | Providor Chapel |
|----------|------|-----------------|

LITURGICAL - Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian

| | | |
|--------|------|----------------------|
| Sunday | 1500 | Gilbert Chapel (H-4) |
|--------|------|----------------------|

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

| | | |
|----------|------|-----------------|
| Saturday | 1000 | Providor Chapel |
|----------|------|-----------------|

CHURCH OF CHRIST

| | | |
|--------|------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | 1530 | Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) |
|--------|------|----------------------------|

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)

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

MASS

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

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

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

ISLAMIC PRAYER

| | | |
|--------|------|-----------------|
| Friday | 1230 | Providor Chapel |
|--------|------|-----------------|

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

| | | |
|----------|------|-----------|
| Thursday | 1900 | The Shack |
| Saturday | 1900 | The Shack |

GREEK ORTHODOX

| | | |
|--------|------|----------------|
| Sunday | 0900 | Providor Annex |
|--------|------|----------------|

For Further Information Please Call:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Gilbert Chapel: | 443-7703 |
| Providor Chapel: | 433-2430 |
| Freedom Chapel: | 443-6303 |

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Swim Lessons: | Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m. |
| Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. | 5-6 p.m. |
| Tue., Thu., 6:30 p.m. | Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: |
| Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. | Sat., 8-10 p.m. |

EAST EYE-NESS CENTER

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 4-ball tourey: | Sunday- 8 p.m. |
| Open Court: | Sunday- 8 p.m. |
| Volleyball: | Monday- 8 p.m. |
| Sunday- 6 p.m. | Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. |
| Aerobics: | Monday- 8 p.m. |
| Mon., Wed., 5:30-6:30 a.m. | Yoga Class: Monday, Fri.- 6:7 a.m. |
| Table Tennis: | Tuesday- 8 p.m. |
| Monday, Fri.- 6:7 a.m. | Tuesday- 8 p.m. |
| Step Aerobics: | Monday, Wed., 5:30 p.m. |
| 9-ball tourey: | Wednesday- 8 p.m. |
| Friday- 8 p.m. | 5:30 p.m. |
| Conditioning Training Class: | Thursday- 8 p.m. |
| Mon., Wed., 7:30 p.m. | Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. |
| Fri.- 7:15- 8 p.m. | Brazilian Jui-Jitsu: Monday, Wed., 8-9 p.m. |
| Abs-Aerobics: | Night: |

Friday- 8 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Chess & Dominoes: | Monday, Wed., 8 p.m. |
| Tourney: | Friday- 8 p.m. |
| Salsa Class: | Saturday- 8:30 p.m. |
| 6 p.m. | 6 p.m. |
| Poker: | Tue., Thu., 7-8 p.m. |
| Saturday- 7:30 p.m. | 8-10 p.m. |

EAST REC- REATION CENTER

| | |
|--|--|
| Spin: | Monday- 9 a.m. |
| Monday- Sat- 4:30 p.m. | Monday- Sat- 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon., Wed., 2 a.m., 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m. | 9 p.m. |
| Swing Class: | Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday- 8 p.m. | 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. |
| Table Tennis: | Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday- 8 p.m. | Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday- 8 p.m. | Tue., Thu., 2 p.m. |
| 5 on 5 Basketball: | Saturday- 8 p.m. |
| Monday- 8:45 a.m. | Tue., Thu., 7-8 p.m. |
| Power Abs: | Monday- 8 p.m. |
| Monday, Tue., 8 p.m. | Friday- 9 p.m. |
| Friday- 9 p.m. | CC Cross Fit: Monday- |

Saturday- 10:30 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Cross Fit: | Monday, Wed., 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. |
| 8-ball tourey: | Tuesday- 2 a.m. |
| Ping-pong tourey: | Saturday- 8:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. | 8:30 p.m. |
| 8-ball tourey: | Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday- 8 p.m. | Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m. |
| Guitar Lessons: | Thursday- 7:30 p.m. |
| Furman's Martial Arts: | Thursday- 7:30 p.m. |
| Game tourey: | Thursday- 2 a.m. |
| Enlisted Poker: | Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. |
| Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. | Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. |
| Officer Poker: | Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. |
| Squat Competition: | Saturday- 8:30 p.m. |
| Saturday- 8 p.m. | Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Wed., 7:30 p.m. | 5 on 5 Basketball: |
| WEST REC- REATION CENTER | Green Bean Karaoke: Sunday- 7:30 p.m. |
| 3 on 3 basketball tourey: | Saturday- 7:30 p.m. |
| 6 on 6 volleyball tourey: | Ping-pong tourey: |

Tuesday- 8 p.m.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Foosball tourey: | Tuesday- 8 p.m. |
| Body by Midgett Toning Class: | Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. |
| Jam Session: | Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. |
| 8-ball tourey: | Wednesday- 8 p.m. |
| Wednesday- 8 p.m. | Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. |
| Guitar Lessons: | Thursday- 7:30 p.m. |
| Furman's Martial Arts: | Sun., 1 p.m. |
| Gaston's Self-Defense Class: | Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m. |
| Open court basketball: | Thursday- 7 p.m. |
| Open court soccer: | Monday, Wed., 7:30 p.m. |
| Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: | Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. |
| Floor hockey: | Monday, Wed., Fri.- 8-10 p.m. |

UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 7/1/09

Minnesota Lynx @ Atlanta Dream, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Los Angeles Angels @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Detroit Tigers @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 San Francisco Giants @ St. Louis Cardinals, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 7/3/09

Seattle Mariners @ New York Yankees, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Milwaukee Brewers @ Chicago Cubs, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Baltimore Orioles @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Chicago White Sox @ Kansas City Royals, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 7/4/09

Seattle Mariners @ Boston Red Sox, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 Los Angeles Dodgers @ San Diego Padres, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
 Baltimore Orioles @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN prime pacific
 Houston Astros @ San Francisco Gian, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Tampa Bay Rays @ Texas Rangers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra

Thursday 7/2/09

Philadelphia Phillies @ Atlanta Braves, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Houston Astros @ San Diego Padres, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Philadelphia Phillies @ Atlanta Braves, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 2009 Wimbledon, The Championships: Ladies' Semifinal (Wimbledon, England, Live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 7/5/09

MLS Game of the Week: D.C. United @ Columbus Crew, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Arizona Diamondbacks @ Colorado Rockies, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Baltimore Orioles @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Atlanta Braves @ Washington Nationals, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 7/6/09

Tampa Bay Rays @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Detroit Tigers @ Minnesota Twins, Tape Delayed 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Arizona Diamondbacks @ Colorado Rockies, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 7/7/09

Oakland Athletics @ Boston Red Sox, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Florida Marlins @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2009 Tour de France - Stage 3: Marseille - La Grande Motte, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday, July 1 5 p.m. Battle For Terra 8 p.m. The Soloist | Saturday, July 4 8 p.m. X-Men: Wolverine |
| Thursday, July 2 5 p.m. The Soloist 8 p.m. The Proposal | Sunday, July 5 2 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen 7 p.m. X-Men: Wolverine |
| Friday, July 3 2 p.m. X-Men: Wolverine 5 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen 8:30 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen | Monday, July 6 5 p.m. Star Trek 8 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen |
| Saturday, July 4 2 p.m. Star Trek 5 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen | Tuesday, July 7 5 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen 8 p.m. X-Men: Wolverine |

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

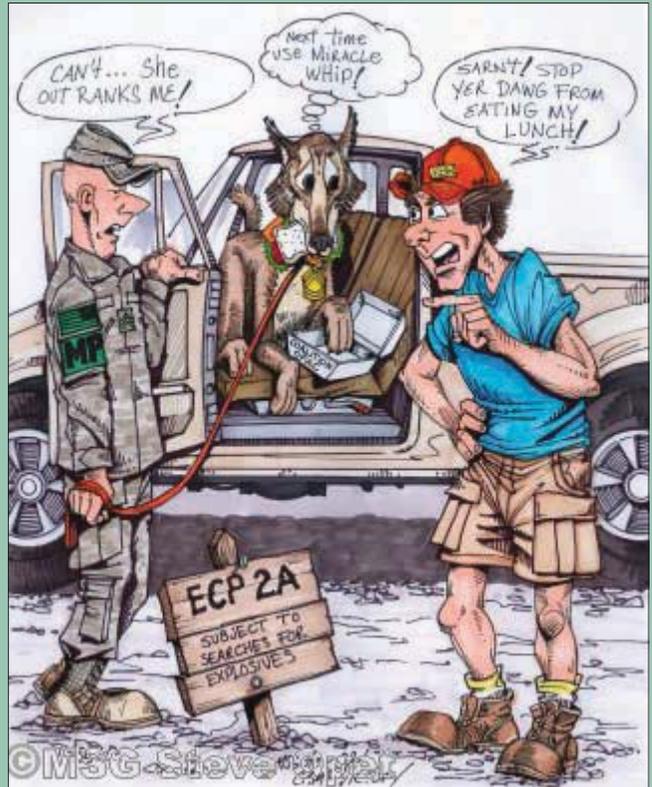
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN



The battle for Earth has ended but the battle for the universe has just begun. After returning to Cybertron, Starscream assumes command of the Decepticons, and has decided to return to Earth with force. The Autobots believing that peace was possible finds out that Megatron's dead body has been stolen from the US Military by Skorpinox and revives him using his own spark. Now Megatron is back seeking revenge and with Starscream and more Decepticon reinforcements on the way, the Autobots with reinforcements of their own, may have more to deal with then meets the eye.



Iraq according to Opet



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips
Army Sgt. Laurence Cameron, left, administers intravenous fluids to a military working dog with Army Sgt. James Harrington south of Baghdad, Iraq June 20.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coney
A humvee for the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, is off-loaded at Forward Operating Base Delta, Al Kut, Iraq June 17.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sergeant Ali E. Flisek
Iraqi children hold up leaflets they received during a humanitarian assistance mission in the village of Abu Fayad, Diyala Province, Iraq June 15. More than 2,000 pounds of rice, flour, sugar, and cooking oil were handed out to 150 families.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James Selesnick
U.S. Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, watch a combative match held during Fight Night, a once a week competition held at Joint Security Station Loyalty, eastern Baghdad, Iraq June 12.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Foreign Language Center Teaches Critical Language Skills to Police

BAGHDAD, Iraq – As Iraq continues to partner with U.S. forces to train, man and equip its police forces in accordance with the Security Agreement, the Baghdad Police College plays a tremendous role in this training and professionalization of the Iraqi Police Force.

Part of this training is to give the members of the police force important language skills to ensure that they have all the tools needed to be successful. The English Language Center is a major part of this critical training.

Currently the Baghdad Police College has two classrooms dedicated to English language training, with a capacity of 36 students each. There are plans to add another classroom with a 30-student capacity. Ten English language instructors have been assigned to provide this valuable language training. Although English is the only language being taught at this time, there are plans to add courses in Kurdish, Turkish, Farsi, German and French.

“The English language is the international language,” said Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Dr. Jassim, director of the Baghdad Police College. “Giving our officers this new capability will ensure they are able to operate in a global environment.”

Microgrants prove successful following assessment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – Iraqi residents in Kirkuk province use microgrants issued by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to jumpstart businesses or renovate old ones.

First Lt. Daniel Braud, a platoon leader in 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, paid a visit June 16 to inspect six Iraqi businesses who received the grant money.

Braud, whose unit is partnered with provincial leaders in southeastern Kirkuk province, met with several businessmen to see what improvements were made with the money they received.

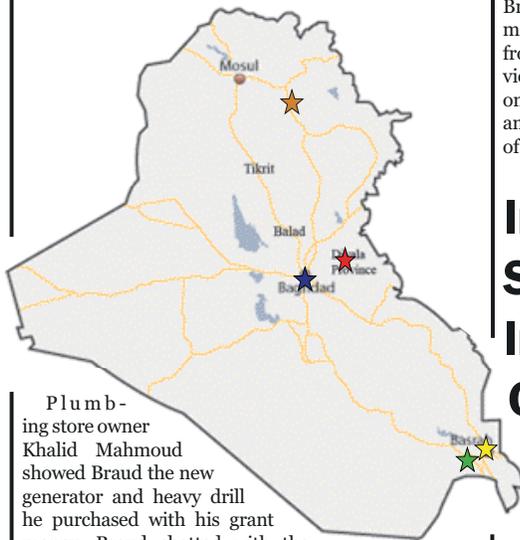
“We pay up to \$5,000 per microgrant, and each recipient must own a business or be in the process of starting a business,” Braud said. “We have strict rules on how the money can be spent.”

Braud said most businesses use the funds to make improvements to the quality of the business by painting walls, installing air conditioners to make it more comfortable for patrons or buying generators for electricity.

Braud, accompanied by Iraqi Police from Daquq, travelled through a busy Kirkuk marketplace and stopped at a small tire shop where the owner purchased a new mounting machine, and was followed by a visit to an electronics store owner named Abdul Al Rahman, who had bought two printers for his store.

When Braud stopped at Asad Fasil Asad’s satellite and cell phone repair store, he noted the new shelves and freshly painted walls.

“These are the kinds of improvements I like to see,” Braud said.



Plumbing store owner Khalid Mahmoud showed Braud the new generator and heavy drill he purchased with his grant money. Braud chatted with the businessman for a few minutes before returning to the busy streets.

The next stop, a clothing store owned by Morad Ayad, was brightly lit with colorful lights and an orange and white tiled ceiling.

Ayad, who was unsure how to continue his business, heard the U.S. was issuing microgrants. He turned in an application and was approved.

“I am a poor man and this shop helps,” Ayad said. “It helps me to support my family, and that makes me very happy.”

Braud’s final stop was to the Al Barka market shop, a small convenience store owned by Ali Husain who purchased a new generator for his business. Husain said he feels his shop is successful due to a large customer base, and he has been able to hire at least seven employees.

“I’m very glad to get the money to start my store,” Hussein said. “I had no money to start a store and the microgrant really helped me.”

Husain, like many other shop owners Braud talked to that day is thankful he has a successful business and can support his family.

Joint Combat Outpost transferred to Iraqi Ministry of Youth Activities in Diyala

DIYALA, Iraq – Joint Combat Outpost Blackfoot in central Diyala province was transferred from U.S. Coalition forces control to the Iraqi Ministry of Youth Activities in the city of Khalis June 15.

The transfer was one of six closures currently scheduled to occur over the next two weeks throughout the Diyala province.

The COP was occupied by both Coalition and Iraqi Security forces prior to the transfer.

The newly acquired space will serve as an administrative headquarters for the youth ministry in the region and will also house a school for local children.

“This event represents another bold step forward for

the region and people of the province,” said 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division spokesman Maj. Chris Hyde. “The metamorphosis of this site from a military base focused on security and preventing violence, to the location of a school and center focused on youth activities and education, marks an important, and certainly significant, step forward in the evolution of a nation.”

Iraqi Ammunition Supply Point Improves Storage Capabilities

SHAIBAH, Iraq -- The Iraqi Army Shaibah Location Command opened its new ammunition supply point here June 3. By renovating existing facilities on the Shaibah Logistics Base to build the ammunition supply point, project costs dropped from \$6,000,000 to \$690,000.

Although managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, local contractors actually completed the construction work, which was of benefit to the local economy.

The ASP improves ammunition storage requirements and explosives storage capabilities in support of the Iraqi Army’s 14th Division and Shaibah tenant organizations. The renovated facility includes an entry control point, two large hardened ammunition bunkers, two warehouses, six shipping containers surrounded by hardened barriers, a full fence perimeter with wire and lighting, six guard towers and living quarters for the Iraqi Army staff.

This ASP is the first construction project to be completed for the Shaibah Location Command. The facility is expected to lead to safer and more efficient ammunition support operations for the Iraqi Army units involved in the counter-insurgency in southern Iraq.

Patrol Ship ‘Fatah’ Arrives in Iraq

UMM QASR, Iraq – Highlighting a procession of the Iraqi Navy, and escorted by three MI-17 helicopters, the latest addition to the fleet, Patrol Ship “The Fatah” arrived at port here June 21.

Fatah is the first of four ships contracted from the Fincantieri Shipyard in La Spezia, Italy and is being designated as the flagship of the Iraqi Navy.

The 34-member Iraqi crew sailed the Fatah here from La Spezia, completing a 5,100-nautical mile, 26-day voyage. The journey brought the ship through the Mediterranean Sea, transiting the Suez Canal and eventually navigating around the Arabian Peninsula.

Abd Al Qadr, Iraq Minister of Defense, began his remarks by conveying the Iraqi prime ministers’ pleasure with receiving the first of four vessels that will provide a protection capability of the Navy during the coming years.

“We have carved out these naval vessels from the food of our people, so you have to protect them, take

care of them and provide maintenance for them. I repeat it is provided to you, rather building schools or hospitals or other things, in order to have all the protection for your people and sons of your people," Abd Al Qadr said.

Abd Al Qadr added, "I remind you this is with the support of the Government of National Unity and the Iraqi parliament to develop our armed forces and assume full independence for protecting Iraq's land, airspace and waters."

Maurizio Melani, Italian Ambassador to Iraq announced, "The Iraqi fleet has been enriched by this vessel and it has the duty to defend the territorial waters and the natural resources of Iraq. The capability is extremely important to the prosperity, wealth, stability and security of Iraq."

Melani added, "Together with its partners with the European Union and NATO, Italy wants to support the capacity building of Iraq in the security field. I congratulate you for this achievement and I would like to stress the solidarity and support to the country of Iraq."

The Naval Advisory and Training Team for Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq will continue to help train the Iraqi naval force. MN-STC-I's goal is to develop a capable-and-responsive force, properly organized, trained, equipped, stationed, and sustained with appropriate procedures in place to support naval forces conducting maritime security operations in the region.

Police Primacy and Rule of Law in Iraq Dominate Press Conference

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Police primacy and rule of law were the main topics of U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mike Milano's Pentagon Press Conference held here June 8 in the new Combined Press Information Center.

Milano, the deputy commanding general of Department of Interior Affairs for Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq, leads an organization of advisors, trainers and mentors to the Iraqi police forces. This critical role is in direct support of the Security Agreement that was signed between the United States and Iraq and went into effect on Jan. 1.

The Iraqi Ministry of the Interior is developing institutional capacity to acquire, train, develop, manage, sustain and resource themselves, in order to be able to better provide for the internal security of Iraq. Milano's direct responsibility is to ensure that Coalition advisors to these Iraqi police forces give the Iraqi police forces the tools and guidance necessary to be able to completely handle Iraq's internal security mission on their own.

"What we and the Iraqis are striving for is a condition known as police primacy," Milano said. "Under police primacy, the Iraqi police forces have primary responsibility for internal security, under civilian control, in accordance with the Iraqi constitution and consistent with the rule of law."

As of now, the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi police share responsibility for internal security. When the police have the primary role of internal security and the army has responsibility for border security, police primacy will have been achieved.

There is still much work to be done in spite of the significant improvements to get the police forces where they need to be.

"The ministry has made significant improvements in fighting corruption and implemented several initiatives, but we're not finished with this effort," Milano said. "The

MOI court system is adjudicating increasing numbers of cases, but they can do better. The MOI detention center inspection regimen is improving, but needs increased capacity. And logistics systems are materializing, but we can do better supporting MOI forces in the field."

Like any fledgling democracy, Iraq has tough decisions to make.

"The reduced Iraqi budget has caused us to address some tough choices with our MOI colleagues," Milano stressed. As we help them validate and prioritize their needs, the aim is to ensure the smartest, most effective application of resources, ours and theirs. The true beneficiaries of our efforts, of course, are the people of Iraq. I'm proud to be able to assist in their steady transition to a peaceful, stable and democratic society."

Sustainment theme at Gulf Region Division women's business seminar

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Sustainment contracting was the focus of a Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq women's business seminar here June 20.

About 35 Iraqi businesswomen attended the half-day event sponsored as part of a continuing series of meetings for the Women's Advocate Initiative.

"Our goal is to encourage and support Iraqi businesswomen to be more involved in the execution and management of construction and in non-construction projects," Richard Hancock, GRD director of programs, told the audience.

Many of GRD's contracts are awarded to small, Iraqi-owned businesses. The focus of the Women's Advocate Initiative is shifting from construction projects toward ongoing sustainment as building activities wind down.

Andy Scharein, a program manager in GRD's Operations and Maintenance section, encouraged the audience with the potential value of sustainment contracts.

"Normally, (operations and maintenance) is where a lot of money can be made, because a construction project may last a year and a half while building a facility, but for 10, 20 or 30 years or more, that facility will need to be cared for," Scharein said. "And 5-10 percent of what that facility cost, is generally what we think it takes to take care of it. So over time, it (means) stable employment, and good money to be able to do these kinds of efforts."

Mohamad Husam, deputy program manager for GRD's Operations, Maintenance and Sustainment program, presented a history of GRD's experience with 133 Primary Healthcare Centers constructed across Iraq, and how maintaining these facilities could mean business opportunities for Iraqi women. To jump start that process, GRD has committed to performing maintenance on 17 of the completed Primary Healthcare Centers, which could be good news for women-owned businesses.

Four Iraqi businesswomen briefed the audience about the success of their projects arranged through GRD contracts. Hancock noted these projects were operations, maintenance, and capacity development work for Primary Healthcare Centers.

Azza Humadi, program manager for GRD's Women's Advocate Initiative, said the woman contractors completed their work at the Primary Healthcare Centers ahead of schedule and the opportunity to present summaries of their work to the audience was part of her program to develop leadership skills.

"We always try to focus on new ideas and new ways to encourage women to enter fields that they have never entered before so that they will have wider fields to be

involved in," Humadi said.

The keynote speaker at the seminar was Iraqi Member of Parliament Safiya Talib Al-Suhail, who has a long history of promoting the rights and status of Iraqi women. Suhail told the audience that regarding the advancement of women in Iraq, education is everything.

"The most important thing is to change the thought processes about how to improve women to develop their capacity and be involved more in this society," Suhail said. "It is important to know how to educate and train women to be involved in this process of development. But the major support for these training forces, and of the educational courses (now) is a team from outside Iraq; not the Iraqis. It is also important to allocate the funds to support women and to improve their skills in this process (by having) an Iraqi strategy. It's about time to have our own strategy and have our government involved in this directly."

Prior to implementation of the Security Agreement, the women's business seminar topics have discussed the nuts and bolts of doing business with the Americans and Coalition partners operating in Iraq - how to find the announcements, how to register with the contracting office, how to bid and write proposals, how to perform the work, the production of progress reports, and so forth.

The women's business program began in 2005, and so far has directed \$500 million to Iraqi businesswomen who perform service or construction contracts for various Coalition forces and agencies operating in the country.

Umm Qasr naval project vital to Iraq security

BASRAH, Iraq - As part of a comprehensive plan to develop the Iraqi navy's capabilities, the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is partnering with the Government of Iraq by managing a \$53 million pier and seawall project at Umm Qasr.

Funded by the GoI, the new project in southern Iraq will provide the Iraqi navy new port facilities as it continues to expand its military naval capabilities, according to Navy Lt. j.g. Daniel Gutierrez, Gulf Region South district's Umm Qasr Pier and Seawall Resident Engineer.

It includes a 210-meter main pier, two smaller piers, and facilities for power, water and fuel distribution.

The project is vital for security in Iraq, according to Iraqi Col. Ahmed Jasim, the commander of the Umm Qasr Navy Base.

"The completed pier and fueling facilities will support new naval vessels being purchased by Iraq," said Jasim. "Together, the new facilities and supported patrol vessels will significantly increase the Iraqi navy's capacity to secure the vital port infrastructure and seaways in Iraq's territorial waters, which are critical to Iraq's security and continued economic development."

On average, the project provides jobs for about 80 local workers daily.

"We consider this a critical project due to its military and economic importance for our country," said Jasim. "We are very pleased the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is involved because USACE has a very good reputation in overseeing such work."

The Umm Qasr pier and seawall project is 15 percent completed and expected to be finished by the end of this year.

As Iraq strives to build a secure, stable and self-governing nation, the Gulf Region Division has completed hundreds of projects in the transportation and communication sector. Since 2004, GRD has completed eight port projects throughout Iraq.

Sustaining the Line



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

Lt. Col. Tommy H. Baker, commander, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, presents Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, with the colors in a case with a plaque and his battalion's coin, as a token of appreciation for the support and mentorship the brigade provided the unit, during a 16th Sust. Bde. commander's conference at the brigade headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 16. The Soldiers of the 30th CSSB completed a 12-month deployment in Iraq. The 16th Sust. Bde., based out of Bamberg, Germany, is currently on a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Beau R. Stefka

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gerald Kuruc, a native of Bridgeport, Conn., assigned to the 317th Maintenance Company from Bamberg, Germany, received the Samuel Sharpe Ordnance Excellence Award for his dedication and hard work during Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10 working as a battalion maintenance officer with the 553rd and 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalions at Camp Taji, Iraq June 6. Kuruc said, "It is great to be appreciated by my superiors and the Ordnance Corps. I feel like I am really making a difference in the Army's maintenance program."



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

Dr. Ashton B. Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics, is briefed by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general during a visit to the 3rd ESC headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, June 25.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua Dunklee

Pvt. Logan Garten, a native of Great Falls, Mont., and member of the maintenance team conducts maintenance checks on a 350 GPM fuel transfer pump at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. The pumps, located throughout VBC, and part of the 639th Quartermaster Company fuel farm are maintained by Soldiers like Garten, a chemical quartermaster engineer.