

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 27

## REMEMBERING IRAQ



Highlander Vet says Iraqi kids are the Future  
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## MISSION SUCCESS



Speicher's Trans. Companies execute complex mission  
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## SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIP



IA, Sustainers continue to share ideas to improve IA DFACs  
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# Holiday Pizza for Patriots Page 17



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy

Staff Sgt. Dino A. Lonegro, a force protection noncommissioned officer from the 181st Brigade Support Battalion and resident of Seattle, Wash., accepts a pizza at a Joint Base Balad, Iraq dining facility Saturday. The pizzas were donated by Uno's Chicago Grill and delivered to deployed service members in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of "Operation Pizza Surge."

# Adder FM CO leads Iraq cash management initiative

BY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – A Kansas National Guard brigade is implementing an Army program

to improve the Iraqi dinar by encouraging Soldiers to immediately stop spending U.S. cash on the local economy here.

Part of the 287th Sustainment Brigade's marketing plan is to encourage Soldiers to convert their U.S. dollars

into Iraqi dinars when purchasing items from the local vendors in an effort to make Contingency Operating Base Adder the front runner for the cash management initiative by Oct. 1.

The initiative to reduce U.S. currency in Iraq is part of the responsible drawdown of Coalition forces in Iraq.

"Our goal is to strengthen the Iraqi dinar, make it a world currency and stabilize their economy," said Capt. William H. O'Briant, the 287th Sust. Bde. financial management support operation officer in charge.

"One of the ways to do that is to reduce our footprint by

getting the U.S. dollar out of Iraq."

The intent is to leave Iraq better than we found it and enhance confidence in their banking infrastructure, said 2nd Lt. Lisa A. Pilker, the 287th Sust. Bde. financial management support operations officer.

The exchange rate for the dinar is currently 1,170 Iraqi dinars to one U.S. dollar.

O'Briant said when Soldiers use the dinar it builds trust for the Iraqis in their own currency. He said it shows Iraqis their currency is worth something, and they will start relying on it more instead of the U.S. dollars.

"It is a hassle to get 1,170 dinars for every one dollar. Soldiers don't want to carry it around or do the math conversion," Pilker said. "They need to understand the plan is to give Iraqis the assurance that once we do leave theater, the Iraqi economy can sustain itself."

Pilker said they come up with creative ways like posters and multi-currency exchange locations to send the message out to Soldiers that converting their money is helping the finance mission and reducing the amount of

See CASH TRANSITION, Page 7

## 332 ESFS Blotter

### June 24 - June 30

#### **LARCENY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY:**

An individual entered the law enforcement office and reported a larceny. The victim stated via AF IMT 1168/ Statement of victim he had last seen property, a television, on Feb. 20 when he placed it in storage. The victim stated when he returned he discovered property was missing. He further stated he conducted a search of all appropriate areas with negative findings.

#### **MINOR VEHICLE COLLISION:**

A vehicle operator entered the law enforcement office and stated a vehicle collision had occurred. An Airman assisted the vehicle operator in completing an AF IMT 1168 Statement of Complainant. The operator stated while pulling out of H-7 housing, a bus drove into his driving path. The operator further stated he swerved and hit a T-wall barrier.

#### **LARCENY OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:**

A victim entered the law enforcement office and reported a Larceny had occurred. The victim stated via AF Form 1168 Statement of Complainant he last had possession of his property, a helmet with ACU cover, on June 26 at 0400 hours. The victim further stated a search was conducted with negative findings.

#### **LARCENY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY:**

The victim entered the law enforcement office and reported a Larceny had occurred. The victim stated via AF IMT 1168 Statement of Victim he last had possession of his property, a laptop, June 28 at 1600 hours. The victim further stated when he and his roommate departed their residence they secured the room. He then stated upon returning June 29 at 0600 hours he noticed the blinds had been damaged and property missing.

**NIPR: 443-8602**

**SIPR: 241-1171**

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## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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10th Sustainment Brigade  
16th Sustainment Brigade  
287th Sustainment Brigade  
304th Sustainment Brigade  
321st Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
555th Engineer Brigade

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

## Chaplain's Corner

*"Does't thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."  
- Benjamin Franklin*

Today is the most important day of your life. It may be clothed in the ordinary but it glistens with the spectacular. Just like a diamond hidden in the earth, so is this day, waiting to be discovered and brought to the light for all to see.

There are many people who go through life in a daze; they wander aimlessly just hoping to make it from one day to the next. For them life is boring, it lacks purpose, it has no spark, no sizzle, no passion. On the other hand there are people who treat life as an amusement park, seeking only to be entertained and occupied with mindless pursuits.

Unless we live with purpose and intentionality, we will find ourselves at the end of our lives regretting the wasted days of youth and the squandering of our precious years. Life is too short, time is too valuable, people are too important for us to let this happen.

The Bible tells us to treat each day with special care: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom," Psalm 90:12. Let us apply ourselves to make the most of the time we have been given. And if you don't like what you are doing with your time, keep digging, your diamond may be close at hand.

### Prayer for Time

*Dear God, I am sorry for the hours I have wasted. I know I cannot get them back but I would appreciate it if you could give me some new ones to work with. I will do much better this time. Amen.*

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

## HOOAH OF THE WEEK



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

Maj. Chad M. Nangle (left) and Capt. Nyoka L. Gee (right) are congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected "Hooahs of the Week." Nangle, plans officer, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC from Fort Knox, Ky., was selected "Hooah of the Week" for June 25. Nangle was recognized for developing the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC responsible drawdown plan. Gee, "Hooah of the Week" for July 2, is from Portland, Ore., and is the trial counsel for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC. Gee is recognized for creating and conducting a six-hour legal training course for company grade officers.

### How to nominate a "Hooah of the Week"

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

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



## "The Weekly Standard"

### Uniform Standards



Uniform standards and policies have become a hot topic as of late. The policy that covers uniform wear in theater is MNF-I Memo 11-1 (May 2009), Annex R, MNF-I Uniform Wear, Appearance, Conduct and Standards. It applies to all U.S. military personnel, DoD Contractors, and U.S. DoD civilian personnel assigned, attached, TACON, OPCON, ADCON or TDY to Iraq and/or MNF-I. On any given day, personnel can be seen violating this policy. Some people may not know what the uniform policy is. For others, it is simply a lack of discipline on the part of the individual or their leadership.

What many people don't realize is the policy is meant for safety as well as for looking like a member of a professional and effective military force. Take the reflective belt for example. We wear it for safety because drivers of vehicles don't have the advantage of effective street lights to aid in their situational awareness. And a properly worn reflective belt will make you stand out and decrease the chances of an accident. Another common violation is wearing ear phones which are prohibited outdoors. A Soldier can't hear alarms and may not know to take cover and could subsequently become a casualty.

Ignorance is not an excuse. The Uniform Policy can be found on the JBB web portal under "References." Please take a moment to review the policy...it may just save your life.

By Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Loos  
3<sup>d</sup> ESC Inspector General NCOIC

Our organization is comprised of nine Inspectors General dispersed throughout the 3<sup>d</sup> 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.

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

# U.S. servicemembers withdraw from Iraqi cities, move to main installations

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Under the Security Agreement signed between Washington, D.C. and Baghdad, Iraq officials in November 2008, U.S. servicemembers were to withdraw from Iraqi cities, villages and localities by June 30, and, some moved onto main installations such as Sather Air Base, Iraq and JBB.

Col. Sal Nodjomian, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander who relinquished command June 30 when his year-long rotation ended, said JBB is capable and ready for the influx of servicemembers and equipment.

"JBB is perfectly situated for this withdrawal, both geographically as well as in capacity," he said. "We are centrally located in north-central Iraq, and we have outstanding facilities and infrastructure and are capable of taking on new mission sets."

Nodjomian, a northern Virginia native deployed here from Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon, said JBB expected the drawdown and started planning for it months ago.

"We came up with our own forward-operating-base collapse plan where we started analyzing all of our systems: water, electrical, power generation, dining-facility capability and billeting; all of the important items required for base-life support, and we recognized ... we are in a position where we can take on a significant amount of new missions without having any degradation to our own mission," Nodjomian explained.

Overall, Airmen here have been assisting with the drawdown throughout the region and performing missions to decrease the overall footprint of forces in Iraq.

For example, the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Construction Team 6, based at JBB, has assisted in closing down three FOBs so far in the Diyala and Salah ad Din provinces, said Capt. Matthew Albers, 732nd ECES CT 6 chief of operations.

"We are supporting the Army by disconnecting their assets to be redistributed to other locations in Iraq or, in some cases, Afghanistan," Albers said.

"Additionally, we are constructing Southwest Asia huts throughout the region, which are simple semi-permanent wooden buildings that can be used as billeting or work space to temporarily house Army units as they transition out of the cities ... and redeploy to other areas," added the Houston native deployed from Elmendorf



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Josh Benauro

Airmen from the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Construction Team 6 pull cable to connect Southwest Asia huts with generator power recently at Combined Operation Location Cruz-Morris, Iraq.



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

Airmen from the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Construction Team 6 receive a convoy brief in preparation for a tactical resupply mission to bring additional Airmen and construction materials to a job site at Forward Operating Base Bernstein, Iraq June 27. The team is constructing five Southwest Asia huts there to support the bed-down of Soldiers who are withdrawing from the inner cities of Iraq in accordance with the U.S.-Iraqi Security Agreement signed in November 2008, which states servicemembers are to withdraw from Iraqi cities by June 30. Additionally, the 732nd ECES CT 6 Airmen will correct electrical and plumbing safety issues.

Air Force Base, Alaska.

"This mission has certainly been effective," he continued. "In our region, we have directly supported the withdrawal of several thousand Soldiers from local cities."

Logistically, Albers said the process can get chaotic at times when the team is trying to schedule closure of facilities and support construction of temporary replacement facilities at the same time.

"For example, you may close one DFAC (dining facility) down at breakfast and transport its generator to a different installation to power up the DFAC you finished building the night before so that the new DFAC can be open for lunch, ensuring no Soldier misses a meal," Albers said. "There is always a lot of coordination and hard work involved, but our Airmen do an outstanding job of making the process as seamless as possible."

As for JBB, the installation is ready for the influx of servicemembers and assets associated with the June 30 withdrawal and ready to take on new challenges.

"By executing JBB's FOB collapse plan, I think we are right where we need to be in terms of the Security Agreement," Nodjomian said. "We are getting out of the cities and getting back into a much-smaller footprint while still maintaining our operational capability, but also honoring the agreement that was made between (the U.S. and Iraq)."

However, JBB is not the only main installation affected; Sather AB in Baghdad is undergoing construction projects to create more housing and work space for the servicemembers that have moved out of the cities, the International Zone and FOBs. In particular, the 10th Combat Support Hospital is being relocated from the IZ to Sather AB in accordance with the Security Agreement.

"With the reduction of battlefield injuries, the 10th CSH is reducing its manpower by 33 per-

cent and the other 67 percent is being moved out of the IZ to Sather," said Army Chief Warrant Officer Mohammed Badal, 10th CSH facilities manager.

The 10th CSH is a level-3 medical facility that has surgical care, which is a capability Sather does not have, said Chief Badal, who is a native of New York City deployed to Sather AB from Fort Carson, Colo.

The 819th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron is building more facilities to house the influx of troops and medical equipment. Once the facilities are built, the 10th CSH will be able to continue level-3 medical care to support Baghdad and its surrounding areas, he added.

"I see the drawdown as a positive outlook for servicemembers and the Iraqi people, because it is another step forward in turning the country over to them," said Badal. "It's another step that shows us that we may be going home soon, and it shows the country of Iraq is becoming more stable."



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Benauro, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation, air-conditioning systems NCO-in-charge, cuts wood in preparation for construction of a 20-foot by 40-foot Southwest Asia hut in the Diyala Province recently.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

## ONE YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

### A MEETING OF THE STARS

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Gen. Charles C. Campbell, commanding general of the United States Army Forces Command, visit with Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general of 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC headquarters here July 10, 2008.**

# Indiana Guard Soldiers bid farewell

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. BRETT J. MONROE  
1538TH TRANS. CO., 419TH  
CSSB, 10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's 1538th Transportation Company from Elkhart,

Ind. recently celebrated the end of their mission here.

The celebration was punctuated with farewell remarks from Col. Mark E. Drake, the 10th Sustainment Brigade commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Allen Fritzsching, the 10th Sustainment Brigade senior enlisted leader.

Drake praised the unit's accomplishments while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The 1538th has done great work; you've made a name for yourselves and taught me a few things in the process," said Drake. He said as a reminder to



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Brown, a Greenwood, Ind. native and Staff Sgt. Tien Do, a native of Indianapolis, both with the 1538th Trans. Co., supervises the barbecue grills during the 1538th Trans. Co., 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade's farewell celebration at Camp Taji, Iraq.

the men and women of the 1538th to take care of each other in the coming months, to be safe when they get home, and to take their time reintegrating into family life and everyday activities.

"Things have changed – don't think they haven't. You have changed, your spouse has changed, your children have changed – you cannot come home and take

everything over," he said.

As part of redeployment training, the Soldiers have received briefings reiterating this fact, and many of the unit's Soldiers have deployed prior and know firsthand the challenges of reintegration.

"You can't just walk back in like you were never gone," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Miller, a resident of

Rome City, Ind. Miller has deployed previously and his wife Allison is also a sergeant in the Indiana National Guard. "I know the kids have changed and she's been in charge," said Miller, echoing Drake's guidance to the Soldiers.

Drake and Fritzsching both spoke to the troops and presented the unit with a snowshoe-shaped plaque, commemorating their part in 10th Sustainment Brigade history.

The snowshoe represents the brigade's lineage as a former part of the 10th Mountain Division of World War II fame and the 10th Sustainment Brigade's first operational deployment in Iraq.

"We've had a unique part of history here with the Army's transformation," said, Capt. Phillip C. Anderson of Plainfield, Ind., and commander of the 1538th Trans. Co. "We've been a part of the 10th Sustainment's history, the 38th Infantry Division's history, and the first unit to wear the new patch

of the 38th Sustainment Brigade," said Anderson.

The unit ended their day with a barbecue and games, to include the corn-bag toss game, a past time favorite.

Cpl. John St. Germain, from Elkhart, said, "This has been a really great evening, everyone getting together like this."

Spc. Nathaniel Weyrick, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the unit from Falconer, N.Y., unveiled a song, "We're the 1538th" he wrote and recorded for the unit. The song had elements of the Soldier's Creed and esprit-de-corps. "It took me 14 hours to record it," said Weyrick about his five-minute composition.

"I was excited when I heard he was working on a unit song," said 1st Lt. G. Elizabeth Brown, an Indianapolis resident and the unit's executive officer. "Not every unit gets to have their own song."

The 1538th Trans. Co. re-deployed to Camp Atterbury, Ind., at the end of June.



3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
(EXPEDITIONARY)

On the Web

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

# Being an NCO is about 'LDRSHIP'

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Staff Sgt.



Michael Rada Toyco, a squad leader from the 70th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, was nominated by his leadership as an outstanding noncommissioned officer.

Toyco, a native of Abilene, Texas, on his third deployment to Iraq, took some time to share his thoughts about being an NCO in the Army.

"An NCO is a leader that Soldiers look up to," Toyco said. "Most of my

Soldiers look up to me as a role model. I continue to encourage them to be better than I am. I continue to challenge them, whether physically or in their decision making."

An NCO has to have the experience and expertise to accomplish the mission and care for Soldiers, Toyco said.

"An NCO is someone a young individual looks up to for guidance, not just in their military careers but personal life as well," Toyco said. "Along with that, an NCO is a professional individual who has experience and possess the capability to share these experiences with others which help them achieve success."

Toyco leads a squad in Iraq, and is grateful that he has the experience from his previous deployments.

"I can honestly say that this deployment has been tough, and com-

pared to my past deployments, this one has been the longest," he said. "On top of that, I'm faced with the great challenge of safeguarding a squad of eight individuals and ensuring that they stay focused to live another day and make it home."

But overall, Iraq is a much safer place, Toyco said.

"I feel that the country is now much safer than it used to be," he said. "More security checkpoints have been established throughout main supply routes and alternate routes, and there have been a decrease of attacks on Coalition forces."

Toyco said he tries to learn from all his NCOs.

"I've tried to allow every NCO to impact my career," Toyco said. "I strive to examine every leadership style I've encountered and draw

the positives and negatives of each NCO's character."

Being a good NCO is as easy as "LDRSHIP," Toyco said.

"Live by the NCO Creed and the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage," he said.

Everyone can be successful in the Army, Toyco said.

"Always strive for success and never be afraid to try out something new and fail, as long as you learn from it," Toyco said. "The military is a great organization with one goal, success."

Toyco and his wife Jennifer have three children. Toyco, who entered the military in 1999, plans to stay in "until they tell me I have to leave," 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>

### IT'S A LIFE AND DEATH ISSUE



**SAFETY**

Dear Editor,

There are enough unavoidable deaths in war that we don't need to lose Soldiers or civilians to avoidable ones. We lost a gunner in a vehicle rollover that would have been avoided if night vision goggle safety had been used.

In a nutshell, a patrol approached a convoy in blackout and the patrol leader made the decision to go to blackout and don NVGs. Although the patrol halted for a moment, at least one HMMWV driver did not have time to halt and properly don NVGs because they were still in their case. Instead, the assistant vehicle commander held their NVGs over the face of the driver while they attempted to retrieve the driver's NVG from the case. As a result, the driver was disoriented and rolled the vehicle over killing the gunner.

What was the tipping point that made this practice unsafe? Well, it could have been:

- the driver had to use goggles other than those assigned to him.
- the driver did not allow time for his eyes to adjust to the optics.
- the driver did not stop the vehicle to put the goggles on and the commander did not order a momentary halt.
- the patrol leader did not realize that every element in his convoy was not ready to change over to goggles.
- the driver was not prepared for night operations and should have had the NVG at the ready.

I'm very concerned about this death and don't want it to happen again. Help me spread the word.

K.W.

Transportation Branch Safety  
Pc Eustis, VA

*Editor's note: Thanks, Sir, for this extremely important message. Commanders, ensure every Soldier under your command has been trained to use night vision goggles and that this training is documented on their driving record. Give refresher training often.*

## Deployment is a life changing experience for one new NCO

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Sgt. Ashley Dawn Gochmour,



a military police non-commissioned officer, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, said this deployment has changed her.

"This deployment has been a life changing experience," said Gochmour, a native of McEwen, Tenn., on her first deployment to Iraq. "There is nothing to me more satisfying than putting on my uniform each and every day to serve my country

from overseas. This is my first deployment and this experience has taught me (the) true meaning to being a Soldier and noncommissioned officer."

Gochmour said she has learned what it truly means to be an NCO.

"I will remember earning the respect and confidence of my Soldiers by ensuring their welfare and striving to always accomplish the mission," Gochmour said. "It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment to lead Soldiers. Leading by example and leading from the front is what it means to me to be an NCO."

The deployment taught her a lot, but she has also learned from her NCOs, Gochmour said.

"Every NCO I have served with

over the past five years has had an impact on my career, both positive and negative," said Gochmour.

"NCO's ranging from my peers to senior leadership have molded me into one of the Army's future leaders. Their guidance has instilled the Army Values into the core of who I am, and in turn I have passed those values on to my Soldiers."

Gochmour said she was able to help one of her Soldiers.

"A Soldier in my squad excelled above and beyond most of his peers except in health and fitness," Gochmour said. "The Soldier lacked motivation and confidence to lose weight and pass the APFT (Army physical fitness test). Under my guidance, his motivation and confidence has

reached its peak. He was able to pass his APFT and cut his body-fat percentage in half within a certain time period."

Gochmour said there are many reasons to join the Army, but service is the most important.

"Enlist for a purpose, such as the simple pride in serving your country," said Gochmour. "Remember that purpose and let it drive you toward success in the military."

Gochmour, who enjoys spending her free time outdoors or going horseback riding with her husband, Erik back home, said she plans to finish her bachelor's degree in business management while she is in the military and continue to grow as a leader.

## Army cooks get out of the kitchen

BY CAPT. NATALIA MERCEDES-  
WILLIAMS

UPAR, 18TH CSSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE  
MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Being a Soldier

in Iraq means being flexible and adapting to ever-changing mission requirements.

For some of the cooks of the 506th Quartermaster Company, that means working outside of the kitchen here, far away from pots and

pans.

"The most difficult part is to learn to transition from one MOS (military occupational specialty) requirement to another one, because each one of them has unique characteristics and aspects in order to accomplish each mission," said Staff Sgt. Madeh Lincoln, a native of Staten Island, N.Y., working with the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's transportation office. "Having staff time at a battalion level is a great opportunity for my career as a noncommissioned officer."

Spc. Danny Mason, a food service

specialist who is working as a transportation specialist said he appreciates getting to see another perspective of the Army's role in Iraq.

"I have learned how to be proficient in container management, convoy tracking and snapshots, as well as convoy briefings, which are not related to my primary MOS; thereby providing me another picture on how missions are being conducted in theater," said the Portsmouth, Va., native.

Mason said he was also able to receive more professional development than he would normally get

cooking for Soldiers.

"Working in the battalion's transportation office also gives me the opportunity to receive mentorship from noncommissioned officers on a regular basis, and it is shaping me and my career in order to accomplish my future endeavors in the military," said Mason.

Sgt. Billy Hassell, battle desk NCO, 18th CSSB, and a native of Virginia Beach, Va., said cooks can accomplish any mission.

"Food service specialists learn and conquer any MOS we get placed in," he said.

## Noncommissioned officer is "jack of all trades"

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE  
SPEICHER, Iraq — For Staff Sgt. Jeremy Mendoza, battle noncommissioned officer,



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, 16th Sustainment Brigade, being a NCO means being a "jack of all trades."

"Not only does an NCO have to be competent in a variety of skills like land navigation, first aid, basic rifle marksmanship and their military occupational specialty, an NCO has to wear many hats as well," said Mendoza. "An NCO is a mentor, teacher, disciplinarian and at times, a friend."

The San Jose, Calif., native has served in the Army for the past 15 years — thirteen of those years as an NCO.

"I've had the privilege and honor of working alongside some of the finest NCO's in the U.S. Army and California Army National Guard," he said. "I have also had the opportunity to

train and develop some of America's best and brightest young men and women."

This is Mendoza's second tour in Iraq and fourth deployment overall. The veteran NCO said that Iraq has moved in the right direction since his last deployment.

"The last time I was here in Iraq was in 2006-07, and I have noticed a significant change for the better," said Mendoza. "U.S forces are scaling back and Iraqi forces are taking the lead on security. Iraq's infrastructure has improved from the last time I was here. And, the Iraqi government is taking a pro-active part to Iraq's political and economic future."

Mendoza said this deployment has allowed him to gain experience in battalion operations, which has made him a well-rounded NCO.

After this deployment, Mendoza plans on returning to San Jose City College to complete a degree in administration of justice.

Mendoza does have advice for Soldiers joining the Army today:

"Learn, follow, and live by the Army Values and Warrior Ethos, and you will never be wrong."

## CASH TRANSITION

Continued from page one

U.S. dollars in Iraq.

She said when Americans visit other countries they're expected to use local currency.

If Soldiers do not want to deal with exchanging their money for dinars, they can use their EagleCash cards with local vendors on base.

"The cash management system is very possible here in Adder because we can implement changes by maximizing the use of EagleCash cards," Pilker said.

EagleCash cards are a cash management tool designed to support U.S. military personnel deployed in combat zones or on peace-keep-

ing missions. The program uses cards that can be loaded with funds linked to the Soldier's state-side bank account and then used like a debit card here.

O'Briant said the EagleCash card is another step to implementing the new cash management transition at Adder. He said the intent with the EagleCash card is no one should need cash.

"It's rewarding for Soldiers to be able to do something that will help stabilize the Iraqi economy in the long term, this is a small piece of a bigger puzzle," O'Briant said.

**Do you have a story idea?  
Or have a Shout-out to  
your service member?**

Contact the Expeditionary Times  
[expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil)

# TF 1-161 Gulf War Veteran gives insight on Iraq's future during his final days in a familiar land

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
**CAPT. MIKE VINCENT**  
 UPAR, HHC 1ST BN., 161ST INF.  
 REGT., 304TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — “Go Long!” called out one member of the Washington National Guard’s Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment as they broke out a football for a five-hour layover at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

As the Soldiers of Co. C awaited mission instructions, the convoy commander, Staff Sgt. William Stanchfield, of Tacoma, Wash., sat in his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle planning their return trip to Joint Base Balad. With the long line of contractors’ trucks in sight, he studied his global positioning system map and verified his frequencies. As the staging line got longer, he waited for the last truck to line up to signal they were ready to move.

Iraq is far from anything new to Stanchfield. He is one of only a handful of Soldiers in 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. that saw combat during the first Gulf War. He first served in Iraq as an M1A1 tank driver with the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment assigned to the 1st Armored Division from 1990-1991.

“The first Gulf War was a war,” Stanchfield said. “It was what I envisioned as what a war was going to be with the Iraqis. During that war, once we got over the berm, the Iraqis wanted nothing more than to get away from us.”

Stanchfield recalled a time he was under attack during the Gulf War.

“In ‘91, we were about 200 miles inside of Kuwait on the second day of the attack. We were waiting for something to happen when we noticed about six to eight prisoners



Staff Sgt. William B. Stanchfield, from Tacoma, Wash., assigned to Washington National Guard’s Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, listens while Staff Sgt. Ray E. Chumley, of Bellingham, Wash., discusses the company’s next convoy mission at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

waving pieces of red clothing to signal their surrender. I thought it was peculiar, but I discovered that their officers weren’t wearing anything white so they could not surrender,” he said.

He added, “So, I was put in charge of guarding these Iraqi prisoners, not with the .50 cal, but with the tank itself. The sound of the .50 firing didn’t scare them, but the sound of the M1 terrified them. So, I sat there with my tank running, guarding the prisoners with the tank. I noticed that one of them had a gangrenous leg injury from the air bombing. So, our medic treated his leg. The look on this prisoner’s face at the little aid we provided him,

I think made a drastic change on the impression of what Americans were to this Iraqi Soldier.”

Stanchfield is an avid student of history and holds an advanced degree. As a Soldier with first-hand experience from which to draw upon, he provides a unique perspective into the harsh reality that faces the Iraqi people and the new hope that rests in the Iraqi children.

“The adults won’t change. But the key to breaking the past is the future of Iraq—the children. The kids are the solution to the problems here in Iraq. When you treat the children well in any tribe, you treat the tribe well, and with the tribe comes the government and then the country,” he said.

Stanchfield recalled an experience in 2004 working outside of Victory Base in Baghdad.

“We came across this Iraqi kid that had stepped on a nail and the injury had become infected and abscessed,” he said. “But, this kid had no shoes. Being a registered nurse, I was able to drain the abscesses and treat the wound, but with no

kid. After finding the right size, I treated this kid and saw him every so often and he got better. Now he and his family know there is one American that cares for him. Now, that child, the future of Iraq, will carry that experience with him forever.”

Stanchfield’s driver also illustrated the key to Iraq is with it’s the children.

Spc. Chris B. Fisher, of Vancouver, Wash., remembered an event that he feels did more to win the war than anything he has ever done.

“In 2006, I was deployed with the Strykers out of Ft. Lewis, Wash., and we were in-charge of this village,” Fisher said. “There was this kid we called ‘Gizmo.’ Gizmo had Downs Syndrome and we would see him all of the time standing out in front of his house waving at us. We would always wave back.” he said.

He adds, “One day, we tossed him a soccer ball as we were patrolling the town. The other kids quickly took it from him. So, the next day we made a plan to get him another soccer ball. We cordoned his house, got a squad together and gave the soccer ball to Gizmo and escorted him back to his house so he could secure the ball. His family seemed to be really touched by this.”

“Its stories like this and other little acts of kindness that are going to make us successful here in Iraq,” Stanchfield said. “The Iraqi people are survivors and they will survive this too. I wish them all the best.”

This was Stanchfield’s last deployment as he plans to retire upon the end of his final enlistment. He said his future plans after the deployment are going to Europe with his wife Sharri and visiting their grandchildren. He will continue his service to his country as a registered nurse working at the Veterans Hospital in Seattle, Wash.

**“The look on this prisoner’s face at the little aid we provided him, I think made a drastic change on the impression of what Americans were to this Iraqi Soldier.”**

Staff Sgt. William Stanchfield  
 Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment

shoes, it would be a waste of time; it would just get more infected. So, I gave twenty dollars to my interpreter to buy shoes in town for this

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# NCOs need to look to the left

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE  
MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Sgt. Guillermo Martinez Quintana, a native of Mayaguez, P.R., says that every noncommissioned officer needs to look to his left.



“As a leader you will need to be confident on your abilities to lead our future generation of Soldiers that more than ever seek guidance from their leaders,” said Martinez, redeployment movement NCO for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

“When the road seems tough and the task too overwhelming, look to your left and remember that every Soldier in your section is depending on you to lead them.”

The veteran Soldier, who has served in Puerto Rico and Korea, and deployed to Egypt, Kuwait and now Iraq, said an NCO has to have a diverse skill set to be a true leader.

“It means to be a leader that influences the people around him to improve and excel,” he said. “A leader should inspire others to walk that road full of challenges and build resilience in his subordinates. A leader is a person of patience, understanding and versatility in our diverse Army, who is always able to adapt to the changing combat operational environment.”



Sgt. Guillermo Martinez Quintana (right), a native of Mayaguez, P.R., stands with an Iraqi and an Iraqi child for a photograph during a recent goodwill mission to a village nearby Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq. Martinez, redeployment movement noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, said this deployment has helped him to get to know himself, and who he is as a leader. “This deployment has tested my resilience in every aspect,” Martinez said.

Martinez said a leader has to put his Soldiers first.

“Being a noncommissioned officer requires one to sacrifice his personal needs for his Soldiers’ and for the overall welfare of the unit,” said Martinez.

Martinez said a good NCO shaped his career early on.

“During my time in his unit, I was a young private without a clear

path on my military career and didn’t know what being a professional Soldier was all about,” he said. “Sgt. 1st Class Tavai took time from his daily duties as a first sergeant to coach me and mentor me on what being a Soldier is all about and what the Army expects from me as a professional. He represented everything that a leader should be, a person of character, values

and a person who genuinely cared for Soldiers.”

But the thing Tiava did that really made the difference was to see Martinez not just as one Soldier among many, but as a capable individual.

“Most importantly, he took the time to know my weaknesses and strengths so he could develop me as a professional Soldier,” he said.

Martinez said he challenges his Soldiers to strive above and beyond their everyday missions.

“I coached and mentored a Soldier to win four company-level boards and the battalion Soldier of the Quarter board, which qualified her to represent the battalion at the brigade level,” he said. “I helped develop three Soldiers in my squad to become noncommissioned officers.”

This deployment has helped Martinez to get to know himself, and who he is as a leader, he said.

“This deployment has tested my resilience in every aspect,” Martinez said. “I have been challenged more mentally and spiritually than prior deployments. This has been a very important phase of my life in which I have grown as a person and learned the importance of not judging others but helping them grow. I realized that as a leader you are either part of the problem or part of the solution.”

Martinez, who entered the military in 1998, has a wife, Amelia, and a son, Denzel.

The avid surfer and martial artist said he wants to someday follow in the family tradition and complete a degree in the medical field.

## Ambulance teams treat locals, maintain good relations

BY SGT. ALEX SNYDER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — When it comes to maintaining good relations with Iraqis, foot patrols and humanitarian aid-type missions may come to mind.

But for a handful of Soldiers on Joint Base Balad, helping maintain these good relations comes without ever leaving post.

They are members of the ambulance platoon of the 215th Area Support Medi-

cal Company, a group of 14 Soldiers who provide emergency response service to all of Joint Base Balad. When they’re not responding to emergencies on base, they’re often called to the base’s entry control points to treat local Iraqis seeking medical attention.

At the ECPs, the ambulance teams provide “tail-gate medicine” — medical aid for a wide range of injuries and ailments.

“We’ve run the gamut,” said Staff Sgt. Michael E. Crone, the assistant platoon sergeant for ambulance platoon. “Pretty much anything you see in medic training, we’ve seen here.”

For the most serious injuries — those involving the potential loss of life, limb or eyesight — the patients are rushed to the base hospital. Everything else is treated at the gate or, on occasion, the base clinic.

For these ambulance teams, treating an Iraqi is no different than treating anyone else.

“A life is a life, and that’s how we’ve always considered it,” Crone said.

At JBB, many Iraqis still come to the Coalition base for help, even when local clinics are available to them, said 1st Lt. Amber D. Anderson, the platoon leader for the ambulance platoon

and officer in charge of the emergency response center here.

“Their health care is improving vastly, but it is not up to American standards,” said Anderson. To help fix this, Anderson said her unit partnered with local Iraqi doctors — many of whom have received no formal training for more than two decades — to increase the quality of their care.

Many of the patients the ambulance platoon treats are children, and many have suffered from moderate to severe burns — often as a result of accidents involving cooking fires or kerosene heaters, unit Soldiers

said.

Anderson said tending to the needs of the children is very important. “The children are the ones that are going to be taking over this country,” she said, “and we’ve got to take care of them.”

Spc. Paul R. Rieger, a medic with the ambulance team, said he thinks his unit’s work has an impact on the safety of other Soldiers’ missions by encouraging Iraqis to help the military accomplish its goals in Iraq.

“It wins the hearts and minds of the people,” Rieger said.



## Yellow Ribbon Program can help Vets reach educational goals

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. ALEX SNYDER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

For some Veterans, achieving one's educational goals recently got a little easier.

Earlier this month, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced partnerships with more than 700 institutions of higher learning across the U.S. as part of the Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, that aims to help cover

additional costs associated with pursuing a college-level education.

The list of participating institutions includes Ivy League universities such as Harvard, Yale and Columbia.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the VA may cover an eligible Veteran's cost of tuition up to the maximum charged by an in-state, undergraduate program at a public, degree-granting institution.

But what if the Veteran wants to enroll in a graduate or doctoral program? What if a Veteran is an out-of-state resident or wants to attend a private school? All of these are situations in which the Post-9/11 GI Bill may not

cover all the program costs, leaving the Veteran to make up the cost difference by applying for financial aid, grants, scholarships or taking out loans.

Under the Yellow Ribbon program, however, degree-granting universities may voluntarily enter into an agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help make up the cost differences of a Veteran's education program.

The institution may elect to pay any amount of the difference up to 50 percent, and the VA says it will match those contributions.

Institutions may extend the benefit to any number of eligible students (includ-

ing all) and may choose to award benefits to certain levels of education. For example, an institution could choose to award \$1,500 for undergraduates, \$1,000 for graduate degrees and \$0 for doctoral students.

An institution may also choose to extend different benefits to different schools within their university, and the number of students those benefits are extended to may also vary. To illustrate, an institution could extend \$2,000 to 10 students attending the school of public health and \$1,000 to all students attending the school of general studies.

Under the agreement with the VA, institutions must extend the benefits to eligible Veterans on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To qualify for the Yellow Ribbon Program, Veterans must be eligible to receive the maximum benefit of the Post-9/11 GI Bill – that is, a Veteran must have served a total of three years (36 months) on Title 10 active duty orders or have been discharged from active duty for a service-related disability after at least 30 days of service.

For a complete list of participating institutions, visit: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/CH33/YRP/YRP\\_List.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/YRP/YRP_List.htm)

For an overview of all GI Bill benefits visit: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

## On the Web

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



## Transportation Soldiers adapt to ever-changing mission

BY 1ST LT. KAILEY VILCHES  
UPAR, 70TH TRANS. CO.,  
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 70th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, have adapted to ever-changing mission requirements here.

The transportation Soldiers from Mannheim, Germany, normally operate M915 line-haul tractors and other heavy equipment during missions. Originally, the company prepared and trained to deploy to Al Asad Air Base, to execute a line-haul mission transporting fuel. However, in September 2008, the 70th Trans. Co., relocated to COB Speicher and its mission changed dramatically.

Instead of operating as a traditional medium transportation company, the 70th Trans. Co. is tasked in multiple ways requiring the line platoons to have separate mission focuses.

The company's 3rd platoon is the only section remaining that transports various classes of supply to the supported bases around COB Speicher. The platoon is also tasked to escort third country nationals, meaning non-Coalition and non-Iraqi

civilians such as Turkish truck drivers, carrying fuel and water on COB Speicher. They also oversee the handling of fuel at the base fuel farm and the delivery of food products to the dining facilities on post.

In addition to its multiple taskings on COB Speicher, the platoon also has a detachment of several personnel on Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, tasked in heavy equipment transporter (HET) recovery.

The secret to the platoon's success is the junior leaders, said Staff Sgt. David McAllister, 3rd platoon's platoon sergeant.

"Junior leaders being able to make sound decisions at a moment's notice on their own with little to no supervision from higher is paramount, as most missions are spread out, numerous and too extensive to be directly overseen by the platoon leader or myself," said the St. John's, Mich., native.

He explains how the size of the platoon's mission poses unique circumstances in managing personnel. After relocating to COB Speicher, the platoon increased in numbers from 40 to 60 Soldiers to meet all the required taskings. They recovered additional personnel from the two line platoons in 70th Trans. Co., as well as a 12-person detail from a sister company, the 233rd Heavy Equipment Trans. Co.

Every two months, the 12-person detail from 233rd Trans. Co. (HET) and two squads from the

See TRANSPORTATION,  
Page 11



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 70th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, haul supplies to Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The transportation Soldiers have adapted to ever-changing mission requirements.

# Sustainers discuss APO closures, future human resources operations

BY SGT. ALEX SNYDER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The future of postal operations in Iraq during the drawdown of Coalition forces was among the topics discussed at a human resource conference here June 11.

The conference, hosted by the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was designed to give human resource specialists a chance to network and discuss fu-

ture operations.

According to a plan by the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, the Iraq theater will see a significant reduction of Army post offices mirroring a decline in troop numbers and base closures beginning in the spring of next year.

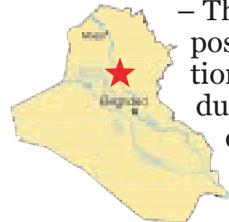
“Our goal is to responsibly drawdown with as minimal an impact as possible on postal service to our customers,” said Capt. Linda A. Bass, the human resources operations center plans officer for 3<sup>d</sup> ESC.

APOs that remain open but service significantly fewer troops may see a reduction in the number of mail delivery flights, said Chief

Warrant Officer 3 Thomas McArthur, the chief of plans and policies with the 14th Human Resources Sustainment Center, a unit that provides human resource oversight in U.S. Central Command countries.

“The frequency of mail (flights) might decrease, but the mail is going to continue to come in,” McArthur said.

The conference also discussed changes to the way human resource units are deploying. Proposed changes to Field Manual 1-0, Human Resources Support, which is undergoing a review and revision process, was also discussed.



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## Joint Base Balad

### Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME

It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, kissing, inappropriate sexual contact or touching, or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

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### Sexual Assault Reporting Points of Contact

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MSG Rita Cossio, 3d ESC <a href="mailto:rita.cossio@iraq.centcom.mil">rita.cossio@iraq.centcom.mil</a> 433-2527, Pager 443-9001 Ext 122	SFC Raul Garza, TF 449 <a href="mailto:raul.garza@iraq.centcom.mil">raul.garza@iraq.centcom.mil</a> 483-2722
MSG Lance Gross, 555 <sup>th</sup> Eng Bde <a href="mailto:lance.gross@iraq.centcom.mil">lance.gross@iraq.centcom.mil</a> 483-2503	CPT Alison Bergstrom, 49th Trans Unit Victim Advocate <a href="mailto:alison.bergstrom@iraq.centcom.mil">alison.bergstrom@iraq.centcom.mil</a> 433-2323
SSG Damon Walker, 51st ESB, <a href="mailto:damon.walker@iraq.centcom.mil">damon.walker@iraq.centcom.mil</a> 318-483-2217	LTC Valerie Evans or SFC Turshandah Cole, 402 AFSB, (312)987-5130 Opt 1 ext. 6432 /4561 <a href="mailto:valerie.g.evans@mmcs.army.mil">valerie.g.evans@mmcs.army.mil</a> or <a href="mailto:turshandah.cole@MMCS.army.mil">turshandah.cole@MMCS.army.mil</a>

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## TRANSPORTATION

Continued from page ten

line platoons rotate in-and-out of the section. There are no breaks in the operational tempo of the mission and its multiple taskings, so 3rd platoon is literally a body in motion with its distinct areas in a constant state of movement.

“I have just learned to be flexible at all times, keeping track of the multitude of missions occurring simultaneously, which Soldiers are where, and who is best qualified for certain taskings,” said 1st Lt. Evan Cooney, platoon leader, 70th Trans. Co., and a native of Dallas, Texas.

His biggest challenges come from not only needing to train incoming Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, but also getting the veteran ‘core’ of the platoon to adapt to a changing group dynamic, he said.

“It is extremely difficult to build and maintain with your Soldiers being constantly rotated in and out; you just have to be inventive and adaptive, using the complexity of the mission to bring forth togetherness and pride,” said Cooney.

Spc. James Blanton, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator from Cordova, Ala., said he was surprised by the different requirements and standards for picking up and dropping loads of cargo on the various supported bases.

“It’s like getting dealt a wild card,” he said. “It was an adjustment before; always needing to work with new people and face new requirements, but now it comes naturally.”

The mission requires a lot of coordinating with various channels and organizations to include civilians, gun truck escorts and Soldiers at other bases who manage the yards where loads are dropped and picked up.

“It’s necessary to do a lot of networking and really put effort into building relationships with the various personnel you have to work with,” said McAllister, the busy platoon sergeant. “In understanding that, it’s easy to see how the platoon has managed to come together and form a common sense of unity.”

There are many challenges, like rotating personnel and ever-changing missions, but Soldiers in the platoon said they have a dynamic that gets the job done.

“It’s harder but it works; the Soldiers coming over from 233rd HET really bring some interesting character to the group,” said Spc. Christina Causer, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator from Osceola, Pa.

The transportation company is currently serving in the eleventh month of its deployment to COB Speicher.

# Sustainers partner to improve

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP UR, Iraq – Sustainers visited an Iraqi Army dining facility to observe the IA food operations and service here June 20.

The visit was part of a continued partnership between the Iraqi Army and 287th Sustainment Brigade to improve the quality of food served to the IA and to ensure the quality continues after the drawdown of Coalition forces.

The food service team from the brigade toured two IA dining facilities, one for enlisted soldiers and one for officers.

“We invited the IA to Adder to show them what we do regarding food service and how we protect our service members,” said Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, the senior food service noncommissioned officer in charge for the 287th Sust. Bde. “Now we are coming out to

their dining location and checking on how they do things and to see if they are implementing some of the things they learned from us.”

The team found the IA dining facility manager implemented new processes from their visit to COB Adder, Wilson, a resident of Satanta, Kan. said. The IA now has a cook’s mount, which is a time for dining room managers to inspect the cooks before their shift begins for open wounds, cuts or illness that may cause cross contamination to the food, said Wilson.

“There are a lot of precautions we advised them to take like ensuring the cooks are clean and their uniforms are clean because they are handling food that everyone will be eating,” Wilson said. “If someone is sick they can send them to medical before they start cooking and make others sick.”

One of the major differences on how the facilities are run was seen during the tour of storage facilities, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank M. Merryman, a food service

technician, 287th Sust. Bde. He said the U.S. Army keeps 7-days of food on-hand while the IA only has food for the next day in stock because of limited electricity and cold storage availability.

Another difference is the IA has separate dining facilities for enlisted Soldiers and Officers. The food is prepared differently and officers are served at their tables while enlisted are served buffet style.

“There are a lot of things that are different than how we do it but that doesn’t mean they’re wrong, it’s just different,” Merryman, a resident of Rustburg, Va., said. “It was an honor to see how their process works.”

The visit allowed the 287th Sust. Bde. food service Soldiers to share ideas on how to improve sanitary conditions.

Wilson said because their facilities are older and do not have sneeze guards to protect the food on the service line. He suggested putting plastic wrap in the front of

the food divider to provide a barrier between the Soldiers and the food.

“It’s a make-shift sneeze guard,” Wilson said.

They have most of the rooms set up for proper care of the food but in one room they have automotive supplies which could cause cross contamination of food, Wilson said. Wilson also made the suggestion to move the stuff to a different building, which frees another room for food storage and keeps the food safer.

“They (IA) have made great steps in taking better care of the food, cleanliness of their facilities and providing better precautions so that their Soldiers don’t get sick,” Wilson said. “I have enjoyed the experience of working with the Iraqi Army and hope to visit again in the future.”



An Iraqi places plastic wrap over the food service line as a make shift sneeze guard after the food service team from the 287th Sustainment Brigade suggested it would provide a more sanitary environment for the Soldiers visiting the Iraqi Army Enlisted dining facility at Camp Ur, Iraq June 20.



An Iraqi prepares food in the Iraqi Army Officer dining facility during a visit from the 287th Sustainment Brigade food service team at Camp Ur, Iraq June 20. The visit allowed the 287th Sust. Bde. to observe the Iraqis dining facility procedures and make quality control recommendations.

# Improve Iraqi Army food service



An Iraqi serves an Iraqi Soldiers at the Iraqi Army Enlisted dining facility during a visit from the 287th Sustainment Brigade food service team at Camp Ur, Iraq June 20.



Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, the senior food service noncommissioned officer in charge, talks to Mohamad Aoda, Iraqi Army dining facilities manager, about ways to improve the Iraqi Army Enlisted dining facility during a tour at Camp Ur, Iraq June 20.

# Quartermaster Co. repair Soldiers' clothing

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. LEONARD SPARKS  
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Need rank sewn on, holes in your uniform repaired, new Velcro for your pockets, or maybe even your Kevlar cover fixed?



The South Bend, Ind., 855th Quartermaster Company opened the 10th Sustainment Brigade's Clothing Renovation Shop here June 13 and can help.

The shop's primary goal is to provide various mending repairs to zippers, buttons and Velcro on the Army Combat Uniforms, mechanic coveralls, flight suits and other military gear without charging a fee.

"We have the capability to repair damaged uniforms and save Soldiers money," said Col. Mark E. Drake, the 10th Sustainment Brigade commander. The Taji Renovation shop could save Soldiers \$15 on average, per visit.

The shop accepts bulk turn-ins with coordination prior to turn-in and gives units located in remote bases the opportunity to get their clothing repair needs met.

First Lt. Stephen Ralston, a native of Niles, Mich., and officer in charge said, "Being able to repair Soldiers' uniforms and provide a good turnaround time for them is a great opportunity."

He said their standard operating procedures for the turn-around of uniforms are four days; however, depending on the work load, this high-speed team wants to have clothing back to the Soldiers within one to three days.

The 855th QM Co., has a set system of handling the items they receive.

"Soldiers come in and fill out the paperwork, tell us what they need done to their clothing. We bag it, tag it, and then make any alterations needed to the clothes," said Spc. Nikki Reynolds, a native of Lebanon, Ind.



(From left to right) First Lt. Stephen Ralston; Sgt. Frank Billingham; Spc. Nikki Reynolds; Pfc. Alysa Carter; Spc. Benjamin Wagner; and Spc. Anthony Cumming manage the Taji Renovation Shop at Camp Taji, Iraq. These Soldiers are currently deployed with 855th Quartermaster Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



(Photo above) Spc. Nikki Reynolds accepts Capt. Sara Zerr, a 10th Sustainment Brigade support operations officer ACUs for some clothing repair as Pfc. Alysa Carter (photo right), reads instructions to the ACUS before making alterations at Camp Taji, Iraq. The Soldiers are currently deployed with the 855th Quartermaster Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



10th Sustainment Brigade

## Task Force Muleskinner

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

## 5th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment Heroes get final honors

BY CAPT. VANESSA R. BOWMAN  
UPAR, 37TH ENG. BN.,  
555TH ENG. BDE.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHALIBIYAH, Iraq – The 37th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) - Joint Task Force Eagle joined their Iraqi Army partnership unit, the 5th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment and rendered final honors to three fallen heroes during a memorial ceremony here June 23.



Remembered were Iraqi Soldiers from the 5th FER who died from combat related injuries from a roadside bomb while conducting a routine route clearance mission in Diyalah province.

The memorial ceremony was an opportunity for members of JTF Eagle, the 5th Engineer Battalion and 5th Iraqi FER to remember their fallen heroes in the same spirit as they conduct operations, as partners.

Lt. Col. Paul Huszar, commander of JTF Eagle, spoke through an interpreter to those assembled about how the loss of the Iraqis 5th FER Soldiers sadden Coalition forces.

“Our hearts are saddened by the loss of your Soldiers like the loss of our own,” said Huszar. “They served valiantly to bring peace to their country.”



U.S. Army photo by Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Behnke

**5th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment, Joint Task Force Eagle and 5th Engineer Battalion remember fallen 5th FER heroes during a memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Ghalibyah, Iraq June 23.**

The memorial ceremony was closed by prayer offered by the 37th Eng. Bn., Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Behnke. Behnke prayed for the lost Soldiers, their families and the Iraqi partnership with Coalition forces.

“Though we come from different places we are one in partnership,” said Behnke. “Unify us in our effort as Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers continue our partnership to thwart attacks by insurgents.”



**New York Congressman Steve Israel shakes hands with Sgt. Laura M. Hier, a material management noncommissioned officer, 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, during a holiday luncheon at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq Dec. 21. Seated to her right is her husband, Cpl. Arthur H. Hier; the couple deployed together from Fort Drum, N.Y**

## Hier at Al Asad

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – There are approximately 20,000 dual military married couples in the Army today, where both partners make sacrifices in service of their nation.

To the Fort Drum Soldiers of the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion here, they were known simply as the Hiers, one of several hundred dual military married couples serving throughout Iraq.

Sgt. Laura M. Hier and Cpl. Arthur H. Hier, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 548th CSSB, from Fort Drum, N.Y., started dating in Korea in 2006. However, the couple's tours were set to end within a few months, and both Soldiers were to be reassigned to different units.

“We wanted to see where the relationship was going,” said Arthur, of Syracuse, N.Y. “We had the feeling that it was going to go far, if we let it go far.”

The couple took the plunge, married in Korea and then filed for joint domicile residence under the Military Army Couples Program. The MACP attempts to station married couples at duty stations within 100 miles of each other, and almost 80 percent of dual military couples are accommodated under the program, according to an article available on <http://usmilitary.about.com>.

However, the rules change when dual military married couples deploy overseas, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edwin Perez-Montalva, a human resource technician for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

While in the past co-habitation by men and women was prohibited in theater, Perez-Montalva, of Guanica, Puerto Rico, said an exception to that policy was made by Multi-National Corps-Iraq in 2005. Accord-

ing to that exception, if dual military married couples are deployed to the same base, then they may reside together.

“It is not a guarantee that just because you deploy with your significant other that you will be assigned to the same (forward operating base) doing the same job,” he said. A commander's intent, the availability of quarters and the mission will always take priority, he said.

Arthur said he was fortunate to get Laura reassigned to the same unit once they knew they were deploying to Iraq. Securing a containerized housing unit together was a simple exercise in paperwork, he said.

What paperwork dual military married couples might need to submit could vary from base to base, from unit to unit, and between services, Perez-Montalva said. The Hiers needed to submit a request with their unit, who then had to go through the housing office, which was managed by Marines with their own administrative requirements.

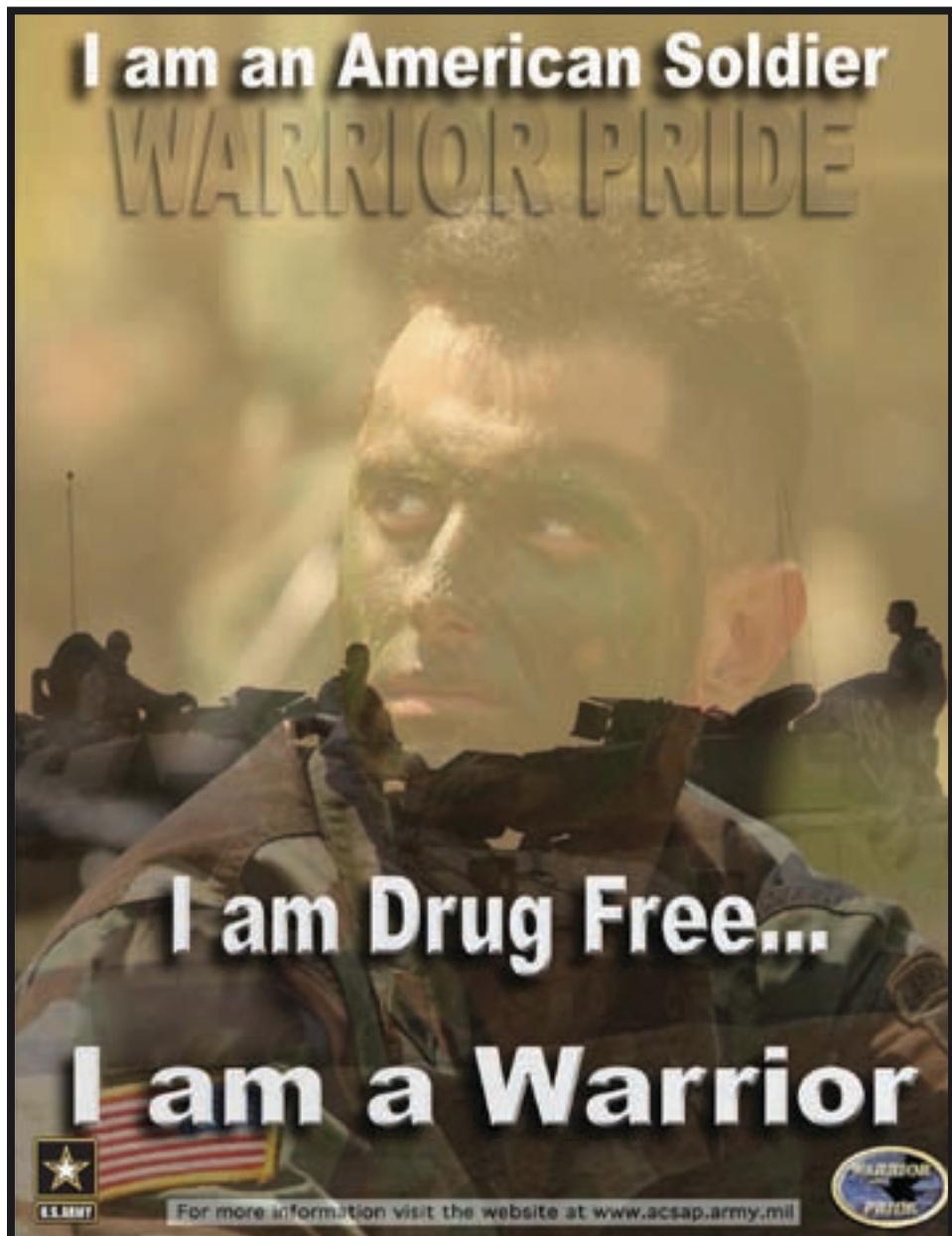
Perez-Montalva recommends that units scheduled to deploy should identify their dual military married couples as soon as possible. Couples should be identified on unit housing plans, especially once they are in Kuwait completing their final training prior to movement into theater.

However, Perez-Montalva said this is still not a guarantee that spouses will deploy together or even get assigned to the same base.

Although they do not plan to reenlist, the Hiers said they are proud of their service. Their time in Iraq only strengthened their marriage, giving them another common bond.

Arthur's advice to other dual military married couples, especially if they happen to be living and working together, was simple.

“In order to deal with anything out here,” he said, “you got to separate from your work when you come back to your CHU. Don't take it home with you.”



# Windy City NCO wants to be part of history

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq —



“I want to be a part of history,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald White, squad leader,

51st Transportation Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

“I want to look back one day and have stories to tell my children and grandchildren that will last for generations,” White said. “I want them to be proud to say, ‘that is the stuff I am made of: I am my father’s child.’ When history is written and all is said and done, I want to be remembered.”

When the father of four daughters was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club during this deployment, it was an opportunity for him to inspire his Soldiers.

“My Soldier, Spc. Walton, said to me ‘Sgt. White, if you can make Audie Murphy after trying so hard, I can be a sergeant before I leave, or at least promotable,’” said White. “It is moments like this that let me know that Soldiers are watching. Soldiers do listen, as long as you



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

**Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, brigade command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Ronald White pose after White’s induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 21. Admission into SAMC recognizes outstanding noncommissioned officers who follow the example of Audie Murphy, one of the most highly decorated Soldiers in American military history.**

are doing, or have done, what you are telling them to do or be.”

White knows that Soldiers are willing to follow excellent leaders, not only from his Soldiers, but from his

own experiences as a Soldier. White said that when he transitioned from the Marines to the Army in 2003, his first sergeant, who used discipline and an infantry mindset, taught him that genuine care

for the Soldiers was the right leadership and mentoring he needed to focus on.

“First Sergeant Judd showed me how to balance the hard line of discipline with compassion,” White said. “He taught me how to display a stern, unwavering demeanor, yet speak to and treat Soldiers with dignity and sincerity. He was a senior NCO who gave, and sacrificed, more than me daily, without regards to his personal comforts. He put his Soldiers’ needs first. He was a leader who held us to the standards, but never stood above us. He set the bar for me and gave me the tools to reach the top.”

To White, the first sergeant possessed the qualities a leader must have and he applied them to his own style of leadership, something that has helped the Chicago, Ill., native, shape his Soldiers’ careers.

“A Soldier of mine in a previous unit, Spc. Nava, had an outlook on the military that was negative,” White said. “He looked forward to getting out, but he was deployed with me and later assigned to my squad. As I spent more time with him I realized it was not him, but the influences of his negative peers that had him ready to get out.”

White said he took the Soldier under his wing.

“I began to continuously mentor him and show him

how he could use his Army career to achieve his future goals,” said White. “Later, after I left the unit, I got an e-mail from Sgt. Nava thanking me for taking the time to get to know him and show him a different way of thinking. He is just another reason why I continue to serve.”

His concern for Soldiers and their well being can be seen in his leadership philosophy.

“As noncommissioned officers, we have the opportunity to assist in molding well-rounded Soldiers for the future of our Army and Corps, and we have the opportunity to transform these young, motivated minds into productive members of society, the leaders of tomorrow,” said White.

White eloquently expressed the function of the NCO.

“It is the job of the NCO to take the mission and Soldiers given to them and teach, educate, advise and mentor each young mind through in-depth leadership engagement,” he said.

“This will fortify the legacy and bond between Soldiers and NCOs, like so many noncommissioned officers that have come before us have done, carrying on the traditions of camaraderie and esprit de corps our honored profession of arms was built upon.”

## The “Fighting Fifth” transfer authority to 37th Engineer Battalion

BY CPT. VANESSA R. BOWMAN  
UPAR, 37TH ENG. BN.,  
555TH ENG. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — 555th

Engineer Brigade bid farewell to one unit and welcomed another as the 37th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) assumed authority from

the 5th Engineer Battalion here in a transfer of authority ceremony June 26.

The change marks the end of a successful 15 month deployment by the 5th Eng. Bn. Headquarters, Forward Support, 515th, 55th, and 509th companies from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. as well as for the engineer companies assigned to

the ‘Fighting Fifth’ that include the 63rd Combat Support Company from Fort Benning, Ga., the 87th Sapper Company from Fort Hood, Texas, the 561st Horizontal Engineer Company from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and the 571st Sapper Company from Fort Lewis, Wash.

Highlights from the 5th Eng. Bn. deployment include interdiction of over 300 Improvised Explosive Devices and 132 Unexploded Ordnance; repair of more than 225 craters; denial of 150 culverts; and sanitization of more than 240 kilometers (150 miles) of road during the course of more than 14,000 hours on route clearance patrols covering a cumulative distance of more than 300,000 kilometers (189,000 miles) of road. Additionally, the battalion maintained all military bridges north of Baghdad;

constructed more than 47 Southwest Asia huts; and constructed more than 24 kilometers (15 miles) of combat trails.

Lt. Col. Joel R. Cross, the commander of the 5th Eng. Bn., thanked Col. Randy L. Fofi, the commander of the 555th Eng. Bde., for his confidence. Cross indicated that the brigade’s support and the discipline of his team were essential to the overall battalion mission success.

“Thank you for the trust and confidence you gave us,” said Cross. “Discipline was the foundation of our unit’s success. Leaders enforced standards and ensured Soldiers were fit in mind, body and spirit.”

This transition of authority ceremony marks the beginning of the 37th Eng. Bn.’s third deployment, making the unit from Fort Bragg,

N.C. a familiar presence in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Lt. Col. Paul Huszar, the commander of the 37th Eng. Bn. — Joint Task Force Eagle, was here last year as the brigade S3 of the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne), which served as the theater engineer brigade prior to the 555th Eng. Bde. assuming that responsibility. Huszar, who calls Akron, Ohio and Sebring, Fla. his native cities, said his unit is ready to build on the strong Iraqi partnership already established and to take that partnership to the final goal of a successful and independent Iraq.

“Now is not the time for many words, but action,” said Huszar. “We are ready to assist our Iraqi partners. Our goal is not to do this same ceremony again next year. Our goal is to complete the mission.”

# Pizza Delivery in Iraq?

BY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Thousands of pizzas were served to Soldiers during the 4th of July celebration here Saturday.

“It feels great to be able to serve a dish well known back home,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tiffany L. Alexander, the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) food service technician advisor. “Whatever we can do to make the Soldiers feel like they are back home, we are pleased to do it.”

Approximately forty 3<sup>d</sup> ESC food service Soldiers worked in the four dining facilities to prepare and serve 1,350 individual-pan Uno’s Chicago Grill pizzas.

The pizzas were donated by a non-profit organization, Pizza 4 Patriots, and delivered by DHL Worldwide Express.

DHL delivered 28,000

Uno’s Chicago Grill nine-inch personal pizzas throughout various hubs in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of “Operation Pizza Surge.” JBB was one of six locations in Iraq to receive the pizzas for service members.

“I really appreciate this pizza and send my thanks to all the patriotic people back home that gave us this opportunity to enjoy this delicious pizza,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Fischer, liaison noncommissioned officer for 10th Sust. Bde.

“I think its great the dining facility (here) offers special holiday meals,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dino A. Lonergo, force protection NCO from the 181st Brigade Support Battalion. “The Soldiers are all away from home and this pizza makes it a little easier.”



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

Balad DHL Worldwide Express workers unload a shipment of frozen pizzas at Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 29. The pizzas were part of “Operation Pizza Surge,” as 28,000 pizzas donated by Uno’s Chicago Grill and Pizza 4 Patriots. Partnering with DHL, the pizzas were delivered to Iraq and Afghanistan for deployed service members to enjoy during the 4th of July celebration.



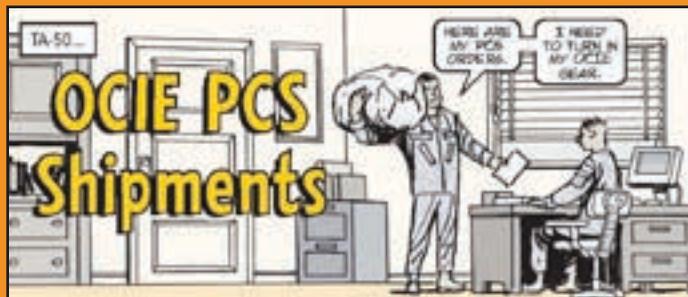
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy

Sgt. Kenneth E. Schimmels, first cook with the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment and resident of Newton, W.V., cooked the pizzas donated by Uno’s Chicago Grill and help serve service members at the dining facility during the 4th of July celebration at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Saturday.

## 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>



All Soldiers now retain some Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) when they PCS. What you keep depends on the type of unit you are moving to. The first step to determining which equipment you keep for your PCS is to download your clothing record from the AKO MY CLOTHING link: <https://www.usa.army.mil/wcfe/page/290892>

Table with columns: NAME, SERVICE, UNIT, ADDRESS, PHONE, FAX, EMAIL, etc. It lists various items and their shipping status.

Table with columns: IN GENERAL, WEATHER, PCS TRANS, ETS TRANS. It lists various items and their shipping status.

PCS TRANS (Y) + ETS TRANS (Y) = Take item when you move and do not return to CF when you leave Army  
PCS TRANS (Y) + ETS TRANS (N) = Take item when you move but turn item in to CF at end of service  
PCS TRANS (N) + ETS TRANS (N) = Item will be turned in to CF prior to moving

Text box: "You may ship OCIE at government expense as Professional Books, Papers, and Equipment (PPPE). Keep OCIE separate from other household goods and lock the OCIE in a duffel bag or container. Make sure the transportation office and the mover know you are shipping OCIE as PPPE." Includes a comic-style illustration of a woman's face.

Text box: "IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RETAIN, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CENTRAL ISSUE FACILITY." Includes a comic-style illustration of a woman at a desk.

On the Web



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



# Washington Guard NCO shares experience

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — “Take a deep breath and drive through it.”

That’s the advice from Staff Sgt. Selina Joy Wadsworth, a squad leader, of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

The force protection noncommissioned officer from Bellingham, Wash., doesn’t literally “drive through it” in a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle, though, but she never gives up.

“Take the good with the bad, as anyone would with any type of job,” said Wadsworth. “Each person is going to come to a moment in their Army career where they will want to get out and quit, but do not base it on one single moment, or one single assignment. Don’t be too quick to give up on what you have worked for.”

Wadsworth, who is on her second deployment, said all-in-all, her fourteen-year career has been positive.

“There have been a number of

bad or frustrating moments in my career; however, there have been far many more magnificent challenges and opportunities that outweigh any of the negative ones,” Wadsworth said.

Wadsworth said she was grateful for all the mentorship and guidance she’s gotten in her Army career.

“I would have to say that nearly every NCO that I have worked for has made an impact on my career, whether positive or negative,” Wadsworth said. “I’d say that the greatest leader that I had was back in my active duty unit. He showed me what it meant to be a leader and told me that to be the greatest type of leader is to be the one that you would want to lead you. I have held strong to that idea and always been a leader to my Soldiers that I would want leading me.”

She said you can’t always tell if you’ve made an impact on a Soldier, but there have been a few times where she got some positive feedback.

“I only know of a few times where a Soldier has written me a card and let me know how my service has impacted their service, and each time it has impacted my own career in such a great way,” he said. “I was told that through my leadership and work ethic, it had renewed a Soldier’s sense of

pride in serving and that I was the main reason that the Soldier reenlisted and continued to stay in the Army.”

Being a good NCO requires a study time, Wadsworth said.

“I would advise a new NCO to attend Warrior Leader Course as soon as possible, which just touches the surface of all the information that a new sergeant needs to know,” Wadsworth said. “Find a leadership manual, I have a few different ones, and continually read about what it means to be a leader, what different type of leadership styles there are and what a leader needs to know and do. Lastly and most importantly, find a senior NCO to talk with and be your mentor.”

Throughout her career, the camaraderie has been important to her, Wadsworth said.

“It seems like only yesterday I was pinned my sergeant stripes, and now I have my staff sergeant, but to look over the short time that I have already been an NCO, I’d have to say that I will always remember how hard I worked for my Soldiers and how amazing my squad has worked even harder for each other,” said Wadsworth. “I clearly remember one moment while out on patrol I wrote and gave the mission’s operational order and saw each person doing the work that needed to get done. It

was amazing to know that I had that type of influence to be able to set Soldiers out to accomplish a mission.”

She has noticed some changes in Iraq this tour, from the last time during 2004 to 2005 when she was at what is now Joint Base Balad, Wadsworth said.

“While for the most part the country is basically still the same, the Iraqi military has greatly improved,” Wadsworth said. “The Iraqi Soldiers were simple farmers, working a few days out of the week as a Soldier in barely much of a uniform, with hardly any equipment. Today, looking at the Iraqi Army while we are out on missions, they have come (far) leaps and bounds with uniforms, equipment and training.”

This deployment has gone by much more quickly than the previous deployment, Wadsworth said.

“This deployment has been fast, much quicker than I even thought it would,” said Wadsworth. “I have been challenged and been given an incredible opportunity to be responsible for a squad of 16 Soldiers. Being a medic on my last deployment, I was responsible for their medical needs, but this deployment I am responsible for every aspect of mission readiness, day-to-day needs and overall, the success of the squad and platoon.”

SAFE SUMMER  
NO ONE BURNS ALONE

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG  
I BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

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

Remember, Army Safe is Army Strong!

Use high-SPF sunscreens.  
Apply sunscreen liberally, the more, the better.  
Reapply sunscreen every two hours.  
Skin cancer risk.

U.S. ARMY  
ARMY STRONG

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS SAFETY CENTER  
<https://safety.army.mil>

# Sudoku

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

Level: Medium

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

Last weeks answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What pro-sport gives its participant an 87 percent chance of suffering brain damage?
2. Who saw his crew dine on wormy biscuits and rats on his fourth voyage to the New World?
3. What Russian cleric was poisoned, shot and finally drowned on December 30, 1916?
4. What Persian Gulf general called his young majors in charge of combat operations *Jedi Knights*?
5. Which two nations, constitutionally barred from military actions, sent money to support the Allied Coalition against Iraq in 1991?

1. Boxing 2. Christopher Columbus 3. Rasputin 4. Norman Schwarzkopf 5. Germany and Japan

## JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

### TRADITIONAL

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

### GOSPEL

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

### CONTEMPORARY

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

### HISPANIC PROTESTANT

Saturday	1900	Provider Chapel
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### LITURGICAL -Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian

Sunday	1500	Gilbert Chapel (H-6)
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### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday	1000	Provider Chapel
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### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Sunday	1300	Provider Chapel
	1530	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	1900	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

### MASS

Saturday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
		(Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)
	2000	Freedom Chapel (West Side)

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

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

Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
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### PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	1900	The Shack
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Saturday	1900	The Shack
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### GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday	0900	Provider Annex
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For Further Information Please Call:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed.- 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat.- 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu.- 7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat.- 8-10 p.m.	Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m. 1: Friday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	p.m., 8:30 p.m. Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. WEST REC- REACTION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.	Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8:10 p.m.	Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun.- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
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## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Wednesday 7/8/09

Los Angeles Dodgers @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
New York Yankees @ Minnesota Twins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Baltimore Orioles @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 Tour de France - Stage 4: Montpellier, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
Atlanta Braves @ Chicago Cubs, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Thursday 7/9/09

Cincinnati Reds @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Texas Rangers @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 Tour de France - Stage 5: La Cap d' Adge - Perpignan, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ New York Mets, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 7/10/09

Kansas City Royals @ Boston Red Sox, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports  
San Diego Padres @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 Tour de France - Stage 6: Gerone - Barcelona, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 7/11/09

Oakland Athletics @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 2:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Milwaukee Brewers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
New York Yankees @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 Tour de France - Stage 7: Barcelona - Andorre Arcalis, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
St. Louis Cardinals @ Chicago Cubs, Live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Sunday 7/12/09

Cincinnati Reds @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
UFC 100 Countdown, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
UFC 100: Lesnar vs Mir, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Columbus Crew @ Chicago Fire, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
New York Yankees @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 10:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

### Monday 7/13/09

St. Louis Cardinals @ Chicago Cubs, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Milwaukee Brewers, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
UFC 100: Lesnar vs Mir, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
UFC 100: Lesnar vs Mir, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Tuesday 7/14/09

UFC 99 THE COMEBACK: Franklin vs Silva, Tape Delayed 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2009 Home Run Derby, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
2009 All-Star Legends & Celebrity Softball Game, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

**Wednesday, July 8**

5 p.m. The Soloist

8 p.m. Angels And Demons

**Thursday, July 9**

5 p.m. Star Trek

8 p.m. Transformers: Revenge Of  
The Fallen

**Friday, July 10**

2 p.m. Dance Flick

5 p.m. Ice Age:Dawn Of  
The Dinosaurs

8:30 p.m. Ice Age:Dawn Of  
The Dinosaurs

**Saturday, July 11**

2 p.m. Drag Me To Hell

5 p.m. Ice Age:Dawn Of  
The Dinosaurs

**Saturday, July 11**

8 p.m. Terminator Salvation

**Sunday, July 12**

2 p.m. Ice Age:Dawn Of

The Dinosaurs

5 p.m. Dance Flick

8 p.m. Drag Me To Hell

**Monday, July 13**

5 p.m. Drag Me To Hell

8 p.m. Ice Age:Dawn Of  
The Dinosaurs

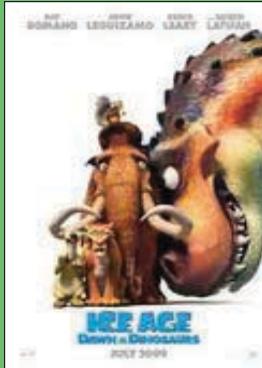
**Tuesday, July 14**

5 p.m. Terminator Salvation

8 p.m. Dance Flick

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

### Ice Age:Dawn Of The Dinosaurs



After the events of Ice Age: The Meltdown, life begins to change for Manny and his friends: Manny and Ellie, having since become an item, are expecting a baby, which leaves Manny anxious to ensure that everything is perfect for when his baby arrives. Diego is fed up with being treated like a house-cat and ponders the notion that he is becoming too laid-back. Sid begins to wish for a family of his own, and so steals some dinosaur eggs which leads to Sid ending up in a strange underground world where his herd must rescue him.



### Dance Flick



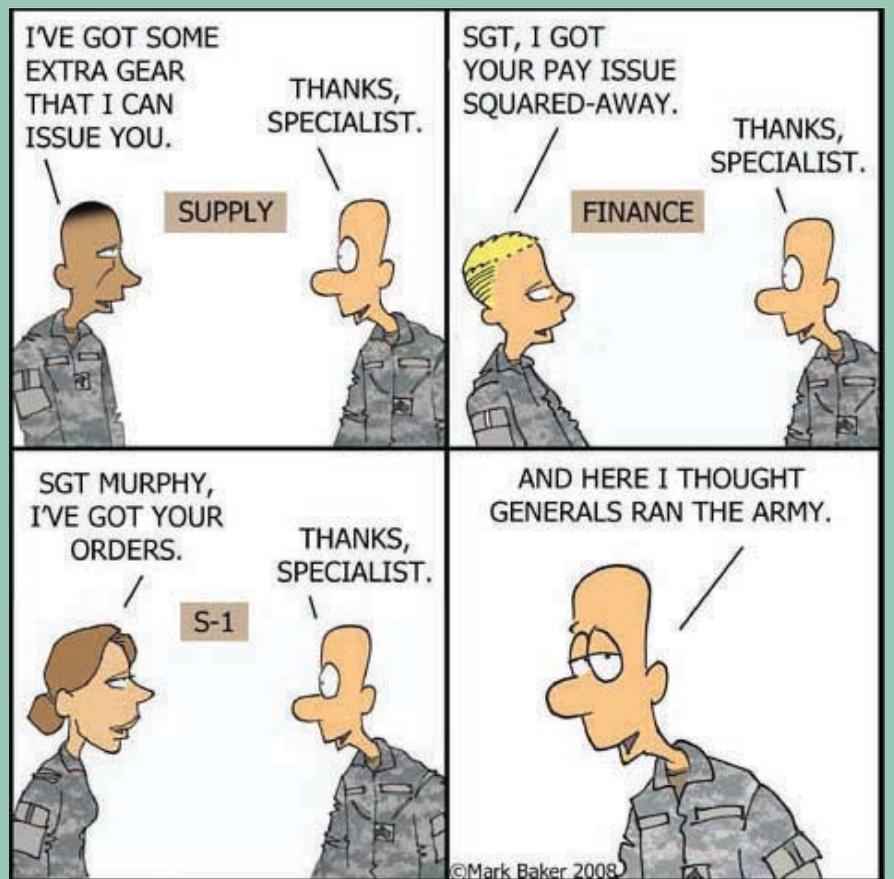
A privileged white girl from the suburbs moves to the inner city and attempts to perfect her notoriously clumsy dance moves in this parody of popular dance movies. Damon Wayans Jr. and Craig Wayans star in a comedy co-written by Shawn, Keenen Ivory, Marlon, Craig, and Damien Wayans, who also directs.



## Iraq according to Opet



## PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chrissy Best

**U.S. Army Sgt. Lawrence Nez of Thoreau, N.M., with Charlie Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment (2/8 INBN) and an interpreter, teach the Iraqi Emergency Response Brigade (ERB) how to thoroughly and correctly search a vehicle, at Shiabah Training Facility, Basra, Iraq June 25. Charlie Co, 2/8 INBN conducts ERB training focusing on searches and crime scene investigation techniques.**



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

**U.S. Army Pfc. Christopher Cannon of Oklahoma City, Okla., with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment (2-5 Cav.), 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, puts together an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) called the Raven to provide an aerial view of the area in support the Iraqi Army near Joint Security Station UR, June 22.**



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

**An Iraqi leader visits with U.S. Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and points out where the construction is scheduled to begin near Joint Security Station UR, Iraq June 23.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sergeant Ali E. Flisek

**U.S. Army Spc. Brennan Cope and his K-9, Knut, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, perform a bomb sweep prior to the start of the Ba`Qubah Transition Day Ceremony at the National Police station in Ba`Qubah, Iraq June 25. The ceremony celebrated the security transition of Ba`Qubah from Coalition forces to the Iraqi Security Forces.**

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Baqubah ceremony highlights transition in security in Diyala

DIYALA, Iraq – A ceremony to celebrate the transition of security in the cities from Coalition forces to Iraqi Security Forces was held in Baqubah June 25.

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials in the Diyala province along with Coalition leadership from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team and the 25th Infantry Division.

During the ceremony Diyala governor Abd-al-Nasir al-Mahdawi spoke of the transition in security and the efforts by many to gain and hold stability in Diyala. Former Diyala Governor Ra'ad, Brig. Gen. James Nixon deputy commanding general for operations 25th Infantry Division, and Col. Burt Thompson, commander of the 1/25 SBCT also spoke about progress in the province and goals for the region.

The ceremony, which included a dinner for the guests, was one of two being held in Diyala in the days leading up to the June 30 deadline for U.S. combat forces pull out of Iraqi cities, villages, and communities. On June 29, a transition ceremony is scheduled to occur in another city in Diyala province, Muqdadiah, which will focus on the progress made towards peace and stability in that community and region.

"This event certainly displays the high degree of cooperation made by the Iraqi Security Forces and the Coalition in recent history," said, Maj. Chris Hyde, 1/25SBCT public affairs officer. "The Iraqi Army and Police Force have improved dramatically in their ability to provide security for the people and communities of the province. As Coalition forces pull out of the region's cities, we leave the people of Diyala in the strong, capable, and energetic hands of the Iraqi Security Forces."

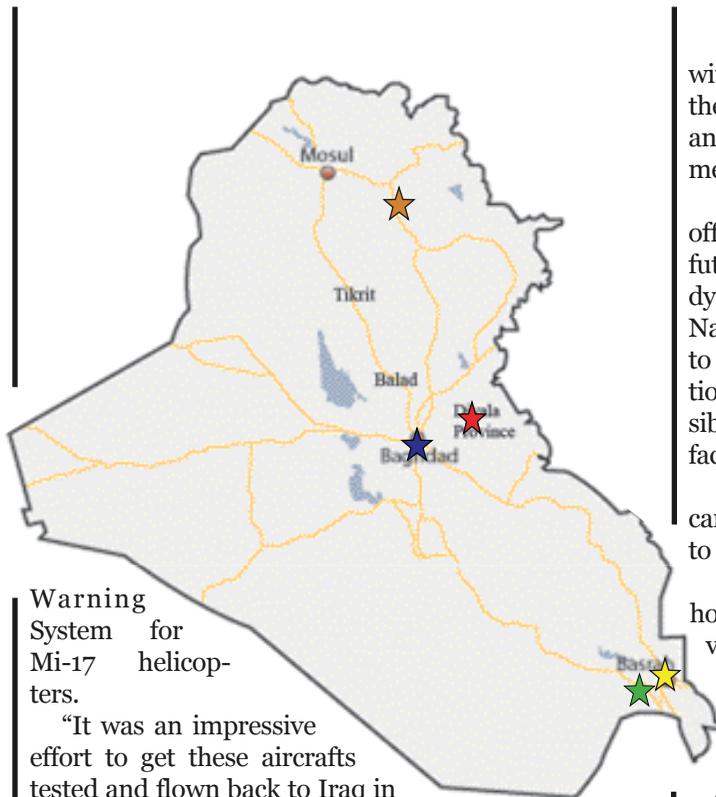
## Acceptance testing completed on Iraqi helicopters

BAGHDAD – Two Mi-17 helicopters returned June 14 from Amman, Jordan after undergoing aircraft modifications and upgrades to Mi-17/171 multi-role helicopters for use by the Iraqi Air Force.

The Iraqi Air Force accomplished the helicopter upgrades by establishing a team which represented members from Jordan, Germany, U.S. and Iraq. The helicopter upgrades were necessary to enhance the multi-role capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force and to support the mission of counter terrorism. The upgrades improved the on-board Missile Launch Detection System and Flare Dispenser, and the Internal Communications System.

The acceptance testing team consisted of members from Headquarters Iraqi Air Force Baghdad, Iraqi Air Force Squadron 15 and the Coalition's 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron from Taji, and the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force from Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Douglas Goodlin, director of Operations, 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron said he was impressed with the multi-national effort involved in getting the Iraqi Air Force the much-needed Missile



Warning System for Mi-17 helicopters.

"It was an impressive effort to get these aircrafts tested and flown back to Iraq in good order," Goodlin added. "You had U.S. pilots and crewmembers, Iraqi pilots and crewmembers, U.S. and Iraqi maintenance personnel, U.S. and Iraqi headquarters contracting personnel, ARINC American contractors, Jordanian contractors and workers and the personnel at Marka International Airport."

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Jasem Mohammed, 15th Sq. Instructor Pilot said, "The new ICS system will improve greatly coordination inside the aircraft between pilots and the rest of the crew, while the improved flare system will protect the aircraft against enemy threats."

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christopher Saffel, 721st Air Expeditionary Ammo Advisor added, "The new AAR-60 Missile Warning Countermeasure System loaded with M206 IR aerial flares is head and shoulders above previous Mi-17 Countermeasure Systems. The automatic setting reduces need for visual confirmation of threats and allows for immediate countermeasure deployment to defeat detected threat."

Prior to flying the helicopters to Jordan, MNSTC-I, ITAM-AF conducted a 10-day course for 16 Iraqi operators and maintainers in Amman, Jordan. These efforts provided specialized training on the operation, setup and troubleshooting of the necessary systems. It will take approximately 12 months to complete the \$14 million upgrade costs for the 10 aircraft.

In fulfillment of the U.S.-Iraq Security agreement, MNSTC-I, ITAM-AF will continue to train and advise the Iraqi Air Force to develop a capable-and-responsive force, properly organized, trained and equipped to sustain the growing responsibilities of the air force.

## MoHR official tours Camp Taji TIFRC; observes care and custody of detainees

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Iraqi Minister of Human Rights and a member of parliament on human rights committee visited and toured the Camp Taji Theater Internment Reconciliation Center June 24 to observe the care and custody of detainees.

Minister Wijdan Salim and Shatha al-Abbousi spoke with numerous detainees to assess their quality of life as the officials visited where the detainees eat, sleep, learn and recreate. The visit was the first trip to Taji for both members.

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

Minister Salim was pleased with the facilities, health-care, programs and family visitation currently offered to the detainees there, but expressed one concern.

"This is a really great facility, very nice and clean hospital with advance equipments and a good family visitation program in place. Everything looks nice inside the buildings." She added, "The only thing that concerns me is that the Iraqi teachers, clerics, and social workers are contracted by an American company. Who will take care of the educational and vocational programs when Taji is turned over to the Government of Iraq?" She continued, "I hope the programs stay in place to help the detainees."

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

In accordance with the Security Agreement, JTF-134 is releasing or transferring all detainees in a safe and orderly manner. Many of the 3,763 detainees who have been released since Jan. 1 participated in the educational and vocational programs at the US-run detention facilities, and are better equipped to become a productive member of Iraq's growing and prosperous future.

Camp Taji is located approximately 15 miles north of Baghdad.

## Tuz Joint Communication Center focal point of the "Way Ahead"

FORWARD OPERATING BASE BERNSTEIN, TUZ, Iraq – As concern over Tuz's security situation dwindles, efforts to improve the police station and Joint Communication Center are redoubling.

Workspace improvements will lead to better functionality, according to Lt. Col. David Snodgrass, Deputy Commanding Officer of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, who visited the Tuz JCC June 21.

"This place can serve as the single point of contact for all emergency services," said Snodgrass, "and the ISF are ready, willing and able to take over."

Construction has begun on a new building, which will be located in the Tuz Mayor's Compound. In the meantime Soldiers from the Hurricane Platoon of the brigade's Special Troops Battalion are leading the efforts to enhance the police station, where the JCC is currently housed.

Maj. Mohammad Fadhel Aziz commands the Tuz JCC and has been partnering with the platoon

for several weeks. The platoon acts in an advisory capacity, training the Iraqi officers on the most current communications technology and ensuring good data flow between all emergency services branches.

“Maj. Mohammad continues to do amazing things,” said Lt. Col. Chris Stenman, Commander of the STB. “His vision doesn’t stop with the new building – he looks beyond the troubles in Iraq to the peace there will be tomorrow. Through his guidance and direction, we have made a great deal of progress. This is the way ahead.”

Renovations to the JCC and Tuz Police Station are bringing money to the neighborhood. Mohammad has hired local contractors to immediately enhance the station’s appearance, including painters to give the building a quick pick-me-up.

Yuldar Mahmoud, one of the contractors who has been working at the JCC for the past week, makes his living painting walls in the Tuz area.

“I will go anywhere to paint, but this is right (around) the corner from my home.

I can walk here,” said Yuldar, whose family depends on his painting business as their sole source of income.

These changes are possible because of the much-improved security situation in Tuz.

“This is a special place, because it’s the one place in Iraq where everyone is living and working together in peace,” said Snodgrass. “Whenever someone tells me Kurds, Arabs and Turcomen or Sunni and Shi’a can’t get along, I tell them, ‘Look at Tuz.’ We’ve got a lot of good partnerships – we need to continue on this path.”

## 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 at 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.

## The “Silo” begins its transition

 FORWARD OPERATING BASE BRASSFIELD-MORRA, SAMARRA, Iraq – U.S. Forces met with a Salah ad-Din provincial director general June 20 to discuss the transfer of Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora back to the citizens of Iraq.

FOB Brassfield-Mora, known by local Iraqis as the ‘Silo,’ will be transitioned from U.S. forces back to the citizens of Samarra. The meeting between Bahaa Naja Ali, the director general of seeds and grains, and Lt. Col. Sam Whitehurst, commander, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, was the first step forward.

The landmark meeting helped to begin planning the removal of U.S. Forces from the Silo.

“It is important that the (next) unit realizes that they need to be out of the Silo by early 2010. The issue is very important to agriculture in Samarra,” said Lt. Col. David Snodgrass, deputy commanding officer, 3rd Inf. Bde Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div.

Snodgrass attended the meeting to get information for the brigade to plan the future location for the battalion there, and to assist in the transition. Promoting agricultural development is one of the brigade’s main efforts and returning a major grain storage area back to the Iraqi government will greatly assist local farmers.

The goal is to turn over the entire base, but this won’t happen overnight. Parts of the base will be sectioned off by T-wall barriers and returned to the city of Samarra to begin reconstruction of the grain storage areas. One of the first areas to be turned over consists of three buildings and a scale that remains from when the silo was operational.

“This place is in a key location for local farmers to turn in their grains,” said Bahaa, explaining the impact the return of the silo will have on local agriculture. The Samarra silo is one of the main storage areas for wheat and other grains harvested in the province.

# Sustaining the Line



Capt. Emily P. Rentschler, from Durham, N.H., and incoming company commander for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade addresses the HHC Soldiers for the first time during a change of command ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq June 17.

U.S. Army Photo by Maj. James Brown



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

Sgt. David A. Wright, fuel point noncommissioned officer in charge, 574th Quartermaster Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, explains the operations of the Logistics Task Force Sykes fuel farm to Col. Martin B. Pitts (left), commander, 16th Sust. Bde. at Contingency Operating Base Sykes, Iraq June 27. The 30 Soldiers of LTF Sykes, 574th QM Co., manages an operations center, Class I yard, motor pool, and a bulk and retail fuel farm.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Amanda Tucker

Senior Executive Service Ty Hughes, the deputy general counsel for Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. is briefed by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commanding general of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during a visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq June 26.



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

A DHL Worldwide delivery service truck loaded with pizzas for Soldiers from Uno's Chicago Grill, a Boston-based restaurant chain, pulls off the tarmac at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq to deliver the pizzas to cold storage July 1. Uno's has partnered with the non-profit organization "Pizzas 4 Patriots," to deliver 28,000 pizzas to Soldiers in war zones to help them celebrate Independence Day, July 4. DHL is a participant in the mass delivery, dubbed "Operation Pizza Surge."



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

Col. Martin B. Pitts, brigade commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, ties a green safety streamer to the 51st Transportation Company's guidon during a ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 30. This is second safety streamer awarded to the Mannheim, Germany-based trans. co., who assumed their mission July 12, 2008, and are on a 15-month deployment.