

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 29

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

Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Reserves, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, command sergeant major, 395th CSSB, uncase their battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq July 11. Soldiers from the 395th CSSB, based out of New Haven, Conn., took operations command and control from the 30th CSSB, from Humbolt, Tenn., who wrapped up a 12-month deployment after conducting over 1,000 convoys-more than 2.9 million convoy miles stretching from Habur Gate, in northern Iraq, all the way to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

# Portland Soldiers participate in new MRAP training, prepare for Iraq roads

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. ALEX SNYDER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, an Army National Guard unit from Portland Ore., are participating in special drivers training in Kuwait in advance of the unit's convoy security mission in Iraq.



The training is designed

to get the Oregon Soldiers familiarized with vehicles which are not readily available for training in the states.

The training was implemented by the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in June and is intended to help reduce vehicle rollovers in Iraq.

"These MRAPs are a new ball-game for all of us," said Sgt. Brandon C. Christopherson, a driver with Btry. A, and a resident of The Dalles, Ore. "Everyone is doing a really good job learning them."

The training is broken

See MRAP TRAINING, Page 5



A Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle rolls down the highway during vehicle training near Camp Buehring, Kuwait July 8. In June, the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) initiated special vehicle training for two brigade combat teams deploying to Iraq.

## 332 ESFS Blotter

### July 9 - July 15

#### **911 CALL/FIRE RESPONSE:**

A reporting party notified the law enforcement office of a fire via 911. Security forces were briefed and dispatched along with the base fire and medical team. SF arrived on scene and made contact with Fire Rescue-10 and requested back-up to assist with evacuation. SF relayed the LEO all military working dogs were evacuated from the location and accounted. SF initiated evacuation of all non-essential personnel in law enforcement office and the ambulatory station. Fire investigators terminated response. Investigation revealed the cause of the fire to be an electrical malfunction from an air conditioning unit.

#### **LARCENY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY:**

A victim entered the law enforcement office and reported his bicycles missing. The victim stated that he secured them together, but did not secure them to a stationary object. The victim further stated a Ugandan Guard had seen two personnel load the bicycles into a truck.

#### **LARCENY OF UNSECURED PROPERTY:**

A victim telephoned the law enforcement office and reported she was missing her iPod and other personal effects. Security forces arrived on scene, made contact with the victim and assisted her in completing an AF IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant. The victim stated as she set her property on top of her backpack with a pair of blue surgical scrubs. The victim was dispatched to assist with a surgical procedure, placed her dirty scrubs in a laundry bag and closed her backpack. The victim noticed her property was missing when she returned to her housing unit.

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# HEAT CAN

# KILL!

#### Prevention Works

- Hydrate! Drink plenty of water to replace the fluid you lose when you sweat.
- Hydrate early – don't wait until you feel thirsty. During exertion your body needs water long before you feel thirsty.
- Maintain good eating habits – don't try low calorie diets while training in a hot environment.
- Remind your buddy to drink. Refill your canteens at every opportunity.
- Monitor your urine output. If it is dark, then you need to drink more water. If, after rehydrating, you are not urinating, then consult medical staff.
- Eat enough food to maintain salt intake. Table salt may be added to food, but salt tablets are not recommended.
- Avoid drinking more than 1.5 quarts of water per hour or 12 quarts per day.
- Many medications and some nutritional supplements may make you more susceptible to heat illness. Ask the medical staff about medications you are taking and how they may affect you in the heat.



#### Notify medical staff if you:

- are dizzy or having trouble walking.
- have a headache.
- are nauseated or vomiting.
- are feeling very tired or weak.
- are confused, or if your buddy notices you are "acting strangely."
- are sick or were sick yesterday.
- are on any medications that may affect you in the heat.

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>rd</sup> ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally

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287th Sustainment Brigade  
304th Sustainment Brigade  
321st Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
555th Engineer Brigade  
402nd Army Field Support 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>rd</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

*"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die."*

**-G.K. Chesterton**

Acts of courage are not limited to those who serve in the military. In fact, every day, ordinary people demonstrate great bravery in thousands of unseen ways. Standing up for the truth, speaking out against injustice, reaching out to the homeless, caring for someone with HIV/AIDS, putting on the uniform of a police officer or fireman - all these actions are examples of courage under fire.

The essence of courage is overcoming our fears. A coward when confronted with fear will turn and run away. A hero faces his or her fears and does what needs to be done, no matter what the cost. In a physical sense, this could mean facing the possibility of serious injury or death. But, there is also moral courage. And sometimes this is even more challenging.

It has been said that it is easier to die for a cause you believe in than to live for it. Moral courage is rooted in a strong belief system. When a person speaks out or takes a stand, we admire them for having the "courage of their convictions."

Every person should be ready to die for something. This could be for your spouse; for your children; for your principles; for your nation. At the same time, every person should be ready to live for something as well. Noble ideals such as freedom, justice, and equality should stir our hearts with passion.

Courageous people have integrity. They have conviction. And most of all they have the ability to stare death in the face and not blink.

### Prayer for Courage

*Dear God, give me the courage to be like David and stand up to the Goliaths in my life. Amen.*

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

## HOOAH OF THE WEEK



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

Sgt. Juan S. Pastrana is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, for being selected as this week's "Hooah of the Week." Pastrana, from Orlando, Fla., and property book noncommissioned officer in the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC G-4, is recognized for his work in making sure the unit prevention leaders were properly trained and urinalysis quality control was met to standard.

### 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"

### Evaluations and the Redress Program



Inspectors General often receive complaints regarding evaluation matters. During the preliminary analysis of every complaint, the IG must determine if the matter is appropriate for action. Normally, complaints concerning evaluations are not appropriate for the IG to address. The governing regulation, Inspector General Activities, AR 20-1, paragraph 8-3b (3) states "Inspectors General will not normally investigate or conduct investigative inquiries into allegations when the Army has an established means of redress." Soldiers must use the prescribed redress method before the IG can help. Once that occurs, the IG is limited to reviewing the redress process to ensure that the Soldier was afforded due process.

AR 623-3, Evaluation Reporting System, paragraph 6-3, requires the commander to look into alleged errors, injustices, and illegalities of evaluation reports. The issues can be brought to the commander's attention by the rated individual or by anyone authorized access to the report. The regulation provides regulatory guidance on two specific avenues of redress. The first is the Commander's Inquiry which is normally done before the evaluation is filed into the rated Soldier's OMPF. The second avenue of redress is the Evaluation Appeal which is done after the evaluation is filed and is both more difficult and time consuming. Once the evaluation is filed in the OMPF it is considered to be administratively correct, prepared by the proper rating officials and an objective judgment of the rated individual by the rating chain.

Take interest in your evaluation. That includes the initial and follow-up counselings to ensure you and your rater know what is expected. If you perform up to and exceed expectations the evaluation will take care of itself.

By Sgt. 1st Class Tamera Wynn  
3<sup>d</sup> ESC Inspector General

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.

Joint Base Balad (304th SB): DSN 433-2125  
MAJ Lee Kemp (Command Inspector General)  
MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)  
SFC Aaron Loos (NCOIC)  
SFC Danilo Egudin  
SFC Javier Cruz

Q-West (16th SB): DSN 827-6115  
LTC Kyle Peterson  
Taji (10th SB): DSN 834-3079  
SFC Tamera Wynn  
Adder/Tallil (287th SB): DSN 833-1710  
LTC Melanie Meier  
Al Asad (321st SB): DSN 440-7049  
LTC Timothy Norton

# A hero's angel

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The emergency-room trauma call and the medical staff's immediate action upon his arrival is only a memory to her now; sitting quietly at the bedside of her brother-in-arms, she carefully takes his hand, thanking him for his service and assuring him she will not leave his side until he's ready to go home. He is a critically injured combat casualty, and she is Army Sgt. Jennifer Watson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the casualty liaison team here.

Although a somber scene, it is not an uncommon one for the Peru, Ind., native, who in addition to her primary duties throughout the last 14 months, has taken it upon herself to ensure no U.S. casualty passes away alone. Holding each of their hands, she sits with them until the end, no matter the day or the hour.

"It's unfortunate that their Families can't be here," said Watson, who is deployed here from Fort Campbell, Ky. "So I took it upon myself to step up and be that Family while they are here. No one asked me to do it; I just did what I felt was right in my heart. I want them to know they are heroes."

"I feel just because they are passing away does not mean they cannot hear and feel someone around them," she continued. "I talk to them, thanking them for what they have done, telling them they are a hero, they will never be forgotten, and I explain my job to them to help them be at ease knowing the family will be told the truth."

In general, Watson explains to the patients that the CLT works within the patient administrative department here, acting as a liaison for all military and civilian patients in-theater and initiating the casualty notification process to the patient's next-of-kin.

Upon their arrival at the Air Force Theater Hospital, Watson speaks with each combat casualty getting as accurate information as possible about the incident. Once the doctor gives their diagnosis and severity of the patient's injuries, Watson and her team complete and send

a Defense Casualty Information Processing System folder report to the Department of the Army or the patient's respective service so that their next-of-kin can be notified.

"I make sure we tell their Family everything they want to know, so they know everything that's going on," said Watson. "We'll tell the Families everything that is going on with their family member ... so that they don't have any questions."

Furthermore, once the initial report has been sent, the CLT and Watson make hourly rounds to the intensive-care ward or unit to check on the patient's well-being, or, for the more critical patients, to check on their stability.

"We are constantly communicating and making sure the Family knows everything we know," said Watson. "We want to put the Families at ease and let them know that everything is being done for their loved one. From the moment a service member is brought in through Hero's Highway, they are never alone."

Each month, the AFTH, the equivalent of a U.S. Level-1 trauma center, treats more than 539 patients; more than 101 are trauma cases in the emergency department. Although Watson can never predict if and when her fellow brothers or sisters in arms may need her, she is always available here.

"The hospital staff is wonderful," said Watson. "They know how important it is for me to be there with them and if they know it's time, someone will come and get me no matter where I'm at."

"I see it as a form of closure, not just for me, but for the Families so that they know that somebody was there with their son or daughter," she added. "My heart goes out to every patient that comes into the hospital, especially my wounded in action Soldiers. I feel like everyone who comes through the door is my brother or sister."

Not surprisingly, Watson's dedication to duty and her hard work have not gone unnoticed. She has touched the lives of all she has come in contact with, to include the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander, Col. Mark Mavity.

"Sergeant Watson's story is one of the most compelling here in the med group," said Mavity. "She is a Soldier's Soldier who combines an unparalleled level of compassion and commitment to our most grievously wounded warriors with amazing professionalism each and every day."

**Army Sgt. Jennifer Watson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the casualty liaison team, stands in Hero's Highway. Patients brought via helicopter to the Air Force Theater Hospital passes through Hero's Highway.**

"What is truly incredible is that she is a personnelist by training, but with the heart of a medic who has taken it upon herself to hold the hand and keep a bedside vigil with every mortally wounded Soldier who has spent their last hours within the AFTH," contin-



**Army Sgt. Jennifer Watson reflects on her last 14 months of service as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the casualty liaison team. The CLT works within the patient administrative department, acting as a liaison for all military and civilian patients in-theater and initiating the casualty notification process to the patient's next-of-kin. In addition to her regular duties while deployed here, Watson has held the hand of each critically wounded U.S. casualty, sitting at their bedside to ensure that if they passed away, they would not pass away alone or without knowing their sacrifice and service would never be forgotten.**

ued Mavity. "She will not let her brave brothers or sisters pass alone. This is a heavy burden to bear and at great personal emotional cost to Sergeant Watson, but she is unwavering in her final commitment to these Soldiers. You don't have to look any further than Sergeant Watson to find a true hero."

"Angel" and "hero" are only two of the many titles Watson has been given since arriving at JBB; although she is appreciative of the kind words, she remains humble.

"I am far from an angel," said Watson with a smile. "I just do what is in my heart. I guess for me, I think about the Family and the closure of knowing the Soldier did not pass away alone. To say I'm a hero ... no. The heroes are my guys who come in (through Hero's Highway)."

Reflecting on her time here, Watson said she is extremely thankful for the opportunity she has had to work side-by-side with the Air Force.

"The staff of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group has done an amazing job since I have been here," she said. "They are incredible. They have done procedures and saved the lives of the most critically injured Soldiers, and have been some of the most professional people I have ever worked with."

"I want the Families to know that their service member was a hero," Watson concluded. "They made the ultimate sacrifice, but before they passed on, they received the best treatment, and the staff did everything they could -- they were not in pain and they didn't die alone."



# MRAP TRAINING Continued from page one



**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.*

**DO YOU HAVE CONSENT?**

"Consent" means words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved shall not constitute consent.

**Sexual Assault Reporting Points of Contact**

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-  SFC Raul Garza, TF 449  
[raul.garza@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:raul.garza@iraq.centcom.mil)  
483-2722
-  CPT Alison Bergstrom, 49th Trans Unit Victim Advocate  
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433-2323
-  LTC Valerie Evans or SFC Turshandah Cole, 402 AFSB,  
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**I.A.M STRONG**  
**INTERVENE! ACT! MOTIVATE!**  
Help eliminate sexual assault from our military



Soldiers of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, a National Guard unit from Portland, Ore., wait to move out during MRAP drivers training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait July 8. The training is designed to familiarize Soldiers with the vehicles they will use for their mission in Iraq.

into three phases and allows Soldiers to become familiar with the vehicle gradually. The final phase of training takes place on a 22-kilometer stretch of road outside Camp Buehring.

As part of the training, Btry. A is receiving instruction from the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC noncommissioned officers brought to Kuwait from throughout Iraq. Many of the NCOs conducting the training are in units completing missions very similar to what Soldiers of Btry. A will be performing.

Christopherson said the training is a good opportunity and will result in a smoother transition to the mission than what he experienced on his last deployment.

"It's a big confidence booster," Chris-

topherson said about being able to train with MRAPs.

"I feel pretty comfortable so far with all the instruction they've given us," said Spc. Travis M. Brunner, a driver with Btry. A and a resident of Forest Grove, Ore. "The instructors have a lot of knowledge on it (the MRAP)."

While Brunner said he has experience driving large vehicles, he sees many of his fellow Soldiers benefiting from the training.

Overall, Christopherson said he believes his unit is ready to assume its mission in Iraq.

"We're practicing for the big game right here. Everyone's anticipating it. Everyone's excited," Christopherson said. "This unit is very confident in its abilities."



The patch of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tigard, Ore., as seen on the shoulder of a Soldier from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, an Army National Guard unit from Portland, Ore., at Camp Buehring, Kuwait July 8.



**On the Web**

**3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND  
(EXPEDITIONARY)**

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

# DVD Classroom now at Barron Network University

BY SPC. SEAN DILLARD  
UPAR, 16TH STB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq —The Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University donated DVDs to Barron University to enhance the Soldier's learning experience.

The videos are interactive classrooms which allow students to follow established lesson plans. Stu-

dents can write notes, take quizzes, interact with labs and even review picture lessons.

"The DVDs are a great source of information. They give you more of a hands-on approach when doing the demos and labs. It also helps that I can hear the lecture instead of just reading it," said George Gallaway, outside plant technician.

The DVDs were essential due to the speed of the internet in Iraq.

"Computer emergency response team provides courses free of charge through the internet," said Chief

Warrant Officer 3 Dannie Walters, Bravo Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade. "The only problem is that in this bandwidth challenged environment at Q-West, the courses often took a long time to download to the point of utter distraction for students."

Lessons on the disks cover training in networks, security and Cisco certified network associate routing and switching. Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians are able to use these DVDs to pursue certifica-

tions in various networking careers.

Students may receive a free copy of these video classrooms at no charge, valued at more than \$5,000.

Signal corps warrant officers are encouraged to participate. There are a number of courses available for warrant officers to advance in their line of work to include officers outside the signal branch.

For more information on Barron University and the test center contact Walters at [dannie.walters@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:dannie.walters@iraq.centcom.mil).

# Coalition leaders, Al Ghizi Shaykhs met to discuss CMO

BY SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT  
287TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — Kansas based Army National Guard command and civil military operation leadership introduced four Al Ghizi tribal shaykhs to incoming Coalition

CMO leaders during a luncheon here June 30.

Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th Sustainment Brigade CMO chief and Master Sgt. Alexander Parker, 287th Sust. Bde., CMO noncommissioned officer in charge invited Shaykhs Ali Mohammed Manshead, Tayseer Mohammed Manshead, Nabeal Mohammed Manshead and Mahmoud Abdullah Hacheam to meet the new CMO leaders to streamline

the 287th Sust. Bde., transition and allow Coalition units to sustain relationship with the tribe.

Representing the new COB Adder command team were Lt. Col. Alan Shumate, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Special Troops Battalion commander, COB Adder garrison commander and Command Sgt. Major Lauro Obeada, and CMO chief Maj. Gretchen Decker.

The luncheon began with introductions and pleasantries. Afterwards, Shaykh Ali presented Col. Robert Schmitt, 287th Sust. Bde. commander and Shumate with gold necklaces and rings as a sign of "enduring friendship."

During lunch, the discussion included the withdrawal of troops from Iraqi cities and keeping with the Security Agreement, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army troops will now

escort all future CMO missions. The group also discussed the possibility of future CMO missions.

"We hope to do many more missions," Lt. Col. Michael Eastman, 229th FA Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div., deputy commander and CMO chief said to Tayseer. With a few hundred troops to supply the manpower and access to the necessary finances, Eastman looks forward to assisting COB Adder's Provincial Reconstruction Teams in economic development, governance and humanitarian relief.

Towards the end of lunch, Shaykh Ali expressed his pleasure with being invited to dine with Schmitt and meeting the new CMO leadership. "On behalf of my family and my tribe, you and I are one," he said to Schmitt. "We look forward to working with you," Ali said to the rest of the group.

"This has been a great opportunity to visit, have lunch and introduce the newcomers to our friends from the Al Ghizi tribe," said Schmitt. "I know they will continue to maintain the positive relationship we have with them."

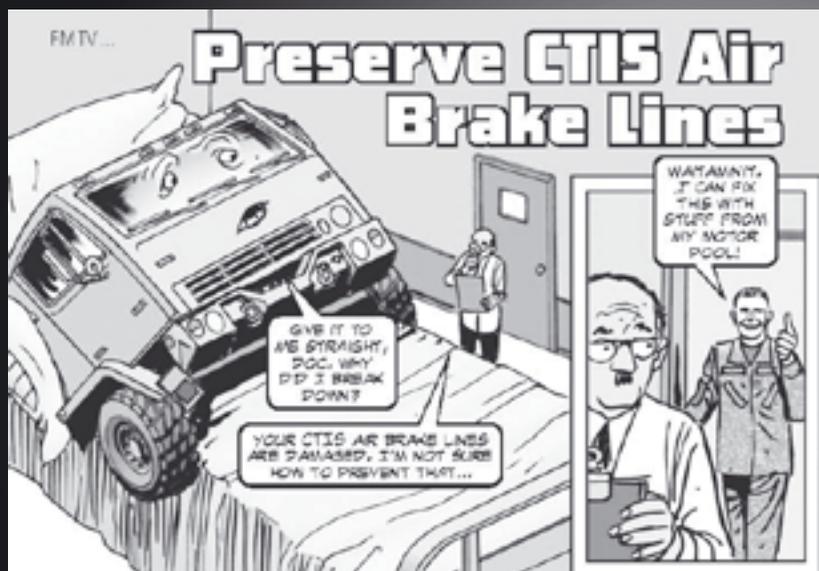
Eastman and Shumate expressed similar sentiments. "This has been a great opportunity to continue the relationship we have with our Iraqi partners," Eastman said.

"The luncheon went very well," Shumate said. "It was good to have the opportunity to build relationships and maintain the friendship the 287th leadership began."

Other Coalition partners present were from the 229th Field Artillery Regiment who will manage all CMO operations in Maysan, Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces. Those leaders included Eastman and Command Sgt. Major Hector Font.

## Safety Topic of the Week

# SAFETY



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

Dear Editor,

While servicing our FMTV, I noticed that the front CTIS air brake lines had been damaged—even punctured! This happened because the brake lines rubbed against each other whenever the steering knuckle assembly turned.

Unnecessary breakdowns or early replacement of these lines can be easily avoided using my solution that was approved by the Army's SMART program.

This fix is cheap, works on all FMTVs, extends the life of the hoses and cuts down on maintenance costs. Plus, the materials needed to do the work can be found in any motor pool.

First, cut the zip ties that hold the ABS cable. Then install two 5/8-in wide nylon-coated loop clamps, NSN 5340-00-725-5280. Interconnect these clamps with each other at the top of the CTIS main lines using bolt, NSN 5308-01-330-8490; washer, NSN 5310-01-359-8806; and nut, NSN 5310-01-429-7239.

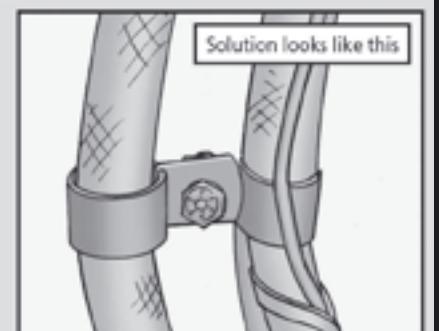
It's all right if you don't have these exact NSNs. The important thing is that the parts fit snugly and have a protective coating on them so they don't chafe the lines.

Also, make sure the hose clamps are the same diameter as the hoses to avoid slippage. Finally, secure the ABS cable back to one of the CTIS hoses with a zip tie after installing the clamps.

SSG J.E.B.  
137th QM Co.  
Iraq

Editor's note: This tip extends the life of your FMTV's CTIS air brake lines. Thanks, Sergeant Bascovsky.

PS  
END



## Tennessee Guardsmen hand reins to Connecticut Reservists

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers of the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, wrapped up a 12-month deployment cycle here and welcomed Soldiers of the 395th CSSB, an Army Reserve unit based out of New Haven, Conn., during a transfer of authority ceremony here at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex July 11.

The “Conquer” Soldiers of the 30th CSSB, based out of Humbolt, Tenn., a subordinate unit of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, an active duty unit based out of Bamberg, Germany, will assist in logistics operations in northern Iraq.

“This transfer of authority demonstrates the continuing commitment of the United States to achieve

a free, democratic and secure Iraq,” said Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sust. Bde. “Command Sgt. Maj. (James E.) Spencer, (command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde.), our ‘Knight’ Warriors and I are honored to have had the opportunity to serve with the ‘Conquer’ Soldiers. We welcomed you into our brigade last October, and it is our pleasure to be able to see you off.”

“Your battalion’s achievements during this rotation have been absolutely remarkable,” Pitts said. “I would just like to say, ‘job exceedingly well done!’”

Lt. Col. Tommy H. Baker, commander, 30th CSSB, thanked his Soldiers for the work they had done during the deployment.

“Providing command and control for the largest battalion within the 16th Sust. Bde., and the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has been both tough and challenging,” Baker said. “We have conducted over 1,000 convoys spanning more than 2.9 million miles and

stretching from Habur Gate (on the Turkish border in northern Iraq) all the way to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. We have sustained the entire Multi-National Division – North with vital logistics for the past ten months. We could not have done this without the dedication of all the Soldiers standing here today.”

Sgt. Don Burkeen, driver, 30th CSSB, and native of Sharon, Tenn., received a combat action badge during the deployment after his convoy came under small arms fire during an enemy attack in January.

Burkeen said that he was proud of all he’d learned during the deployment, but he was proudest that all his Soldiers and that member of his team were coming home.

“I’m going home, my gunner is going home, and the two Soldiers... are going home,” Burkeen said.

Burkeen’s gunner, Staff Sgt. Patrick Reilly, a native of Clarkesville, Tenn., agreed with Burkeen.

“It means we did our job,” Reilly said.

Baker and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry L. Tidwell, command sergeant major, 30th CSSB, cased their battalion colors during the ceremony and formally relinquished authority to Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander, 395th CSSB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, command sergeant major, 395th CSSB.

“30th CSSB, you have left us big shoes to fill, and we are honored to step into them as your successors,” said Dockery. “When each of us took our oath to join the Army, we started on an individual course, a course that has led us here, to Q-West, as a family, an Army of one. We have been called upon to complete the next part of our nation’s mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 30th CSSB’s mission is complete and their footprints will guide us and allow us to improve upon the foundation they’ve built.”

The “Rock Steady, Support Ready,” Soldiers of the 395th CSSB will begin their 12-month deployment to Q-West.

## JTF Eagle Soldiers earn Combat Patch

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Holiday celebrations gained additional significance for Joint Task Force Eagle service members after receiving their combat patches for Operation Iraqi Freedom in a ceremony here July 4.

Coalition members assigned to the 37th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, N.C., 887th Engineer Company (Support) from Fort Campbell, Ky., and Air Force 732d Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Detachment 6 earned their combat patches. The JTF Eagle is authorized to wear the 20th Eng. Brigade (Combat) (Airborne) patch, a higher headquarters of the 37th Eng. Bn., and the 887th Eng. Co. (Support).

Receiving the combat patch on the 4th of July held special meaning to those in the ceremony. JTF Eagle Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Behnke from Fort

Bragg, N.C. shared his feelings on the occasion.

“It was neat that the day that we celebrate our nation’s independence is the same day we donned the combat patch that symbolizes our commitment to the fight for freedom,” said Behnke.

Donning the combat patch is familiar to many members of JTF Eagle who are Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, or both.

“Even though this is my third combat patch the ceremony had meaning for me again,” said Capt. Aaron Williams, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Eng. Bn. “I was proud to be a part of the formation with the Soldiers of my company.”

While there are a number of returning Veterans participating in the ceremony, for many, this ceremony is still their first. To these service members the combat patch denotes the wearer has met, firsthand, the challenge of having their abilities and training tested in the reality of deployment.

“The combat patch shows those with who has

experience,” said Spc. Matthew D. Butler, HHC, 37th Eng. Bn. from Looneyville, W. Va. “It shows who has met challenges of deployment and can effectively teach from first-hand experience not just training experiences.”

In his address to the Soldiers of JTF Eagle, Lt. Col. Paul Huszar, commander of JTF Eagle – 37th Eng. Bn., a native of Akron, Ohio and Sebring, Fla., describes why this milestone of deployment is so significant.

“That patch represents the Soldiers who have come before you, some who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It represents the sacrifices that you, your friends, and families willingly undertake on behalf of a grateful nation,” he said. “It represents your battle buddies to your left and right with whom you will form bonds that may very well last a lifetime. And it represents the blood, sweat, and tears you will devote to the success of our mission and care of each other, that we now dedicate ourselves to over the course of this next year together.”

## Sgt. Maj. branch manager briefs senior NCOs

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Sgt. Maj. Gabriella Russum briefed senior noncommissioned officers on the changes

to the sergeant major/command sergeant major management system here June 23.

The sergeants major branch assignment manager from the Army’s Human Resources Command, Russum discussed with a roomful of senior enlisted leaders the

transformation the sergeants major branch was undergoing in order to meet the changing needs of the Army.

“I came over to talk to senior leaders about future concepts about command sergeant major management,” Russum said. “We want them to be aware of the constant changes to the environment that we’re in.”

The information was particularly important for promotable master sergeants, she said, who are the most affected by the new management system.

The biggest change—and the most controversial, she admitted—was the initiative to drastically alter the pro-

motion system itself. Previously, a promotion board selected senior NCOs for promotion and identified others as alternates to attend the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The former strategy of Train – Select – Promote will transform into a new Select – Train – Promote strategy starting with Sergeants Major Course Class 60, which is slated to begin in August 2009. Under this system senior NCOs must be selected and then successfully complete training and a background screening at the academy before they are eligible for promotion, she

explained.

In addition, Russum discussed an initiative to change the selection process for command sergeants major. The Army, she said, wants to place a greater emphasis on experience in a command position, as opposed to administrative.

It’s a particularly touchy subject, she said, especially for those senior NCOs who were planning to attend the academy soon. While SMC Class 60 will be filled by the existing brigade/battalion command selection process, the qualifications are different. Only command sergeants major and sergeants major who possess the req-

uisite skills and experience to fill an operations sergeant major or command sergeant major position will be selected.

However, she said that once this strategy was fully implemented, command sergeants major who finish their time in a certain position will become a sergeant major again, and can compete again for another command sergeant major position.

Russum regularly makes trips like this one to visit and speak with senior noncommissioned officers. She said it was important for them to stay informed on the changes to the future management of their career field.

# Iraqi, Coalition Engineers' Partner for Bridge Training

BY CAPT. VANESSA BOWMAN  
36TH ENG. BN. PAO,  
555TH ENG. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Presi-

dent John F. Kennedy once said, "There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction." Nearly 50 years later, the Soldiers of 50th Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC) embody these words by performing tasks previously untried by engineer bridge units in Iraq.

During the last six years of Operation Iraqi Freedom, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Coalition and U.S. Armed Forces Engineers have built and maintained the bridges that enable Iraqis to work toward leading normal lives.

When the 50th MRBC from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., arrived in Iraq in December 2008 they faced a less familiar war than their predecessors. Increased security and stability in the country enables the Operational Environment Owners to center their focus on improving the strength of Iraqi Security Forces through partnerships. Because of this the 50th MRBC knew they could not spend the next 12 months building bridges without also focusing on training the ISF as well.

In April 2009, a group of 20 Army Engineers spent 10 days teaching construction and maintenance of Mabey and Johnson Bridge to Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 5th IA Field Engineer Regiment. The two weeks of instruction culminated in a joint

bridge repair. One month later, another group of Soldiers from the 50th MRBC set out to teach more Iraqis, but this time near Tikrit with the 4th IA FER.

Led by Staff Sgt. Jason Peace, section sergeant with the 50th MRBC 'Pirates' Soldiers moved to Tikrit with two interpreters and three Soldiers from the 5th IA FER who were educated during the first block of instruction.

"We taught them everything, from site layout, construction, and deconstruction," explained Peace. "Our goal is to teach them everything we know."

Fighting through the heat and several sand storms, IA Soldiers constructed a 40 meter stretch of bridge within their joint compound.

"We gave them several classes and were hands on during the first days of the build. But, near the end the Iraqi Officers and NCOs were in the lead of the operation," said Sgt. Mootaz Al-Sultani, 50th MRBC.

During the course of constructing the bridge, Soldiers from both armies shared opportunities to bond. Many 50th MRBC Soldiers sat down to breakfast and lunch meals with their Iraqi counterparts each day. In addition to Soldiers sharing meals, leaders from the 50th MRBC were invited to dine in the Officers Mess Hall. Meals included rice, chicken, flat bread, and ended with tea and stories of bridges built in the United States and across Iraq. Many Iraqi Officers were Veterans of the Iran Iraq War, and had many stories to tell about their experience building improvised bridges.

At another point in the training, the crane and hydraulic excavator, used to move extremely heavy steel I-beams called transoms, experienced



U.S. Army Photo by 2nd Lt. John Cook

The Mabey and Johnson bridge was constructed for training for Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment and 50th Multi-Role Bridge Company, who gathered to commemorate and celebrate the accomplishment by "proofing the bridge."

mechanical trouble. Immediately, the operation became a hands-on mission.

"The IA were really driven and our Soldiers were excited for the training too," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Collier, 50th MRBC. "We wouldn't let broken equipment stop work so we used all the Soldiers on site, Iraqi and American, to move bridge pieces by hand. It was a great team building moment for the entire group out there."

Once the bridge was constructed Soldiers, from both sides, celebrated the accomplishment by proving the bridge's strength by driving the heaviest vehicle available over it; a practice called proofing the bridge.

Training with the Soldiers from

the 4th IA FER culminated in a joint mission to the Al Fatah Bridge. Once on site, IA officers and leaders from the 50th MRBC inspected the bridge for any deficiencies.

Second Lt. John Cook, a 50th MRBC platoon leader said "IA Soldiers performed the routine repairs American Soldiers do and replaced some broken pieces of deck on the bridge."

The 50th MRBC plans to continue their partnership with the 4th and 5th IA Field Engineer Regiments. By including Iraqis during missions, they hope to prepare them to successfully maintain their own bridges and eventually their own bridge unit.




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# Fiscus takes reins of the 1st Bn, 402nd AFSB

BY SUMMER BARKLEY  
402ND AFSB PAO

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Lt. Col. Paul R. Fiscus assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in a ceremony here July 8, pre-



sided by Col. Brian R. Haebig, the 402nd AFSB commander.

Fiscus assumed command from Lt. Col. James S. Moore, who held command for one year.

Moore thanked Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, Army Sustainment Command commander and Haebig for, "having the trust and confidence in me and giving me the opportunity to command."

Moore also thanked the battalion leadership, staff, Soldiers, civilians and contractors.

"We have been down a challenging road this year," Moore said. "We have a long list of dedicated military, DA (Department of the Army) civilians and contractors who have provided unwavering support to the Warfighters in this theater."

Haebig said that by his count, Moore commanded the largest battalion in the United States Army and said that one of Moore's great-



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

Col. Brian R. Haebig, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander, passes the colors to incoming 1st Battalion, 402nd AFSB commander, Lt. Col. Paul R. Fiscus during a change of command ceremony July 8, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

est qualities is his ability to visualize and plan for the future.

Haebig praised the "historical mark" Moore has made for the battalion and cited the recent battalion's recognition of the Distinguished Units of the Quartermaster Regiment presented by Brig. Gen. Jesse R. Cross, the Quartermaster Center and School commanding general and the 50th Quartermaster General, just three weeks ago.

"It [the DUOR] is a legacy you and your team shall cherish for the rest of your life," Haebig said. "James, you've done well!"

Haebig said Fiscus is a warrior



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

Leaders from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade conducted a change of a command ceremony for the 1st Battalion, 402nd AFSB between Lt. Col. James S. Moore to Lt. Col. Paul R. Fiscus at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 8. Other senior logisticians present were from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary): (From left to right) Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC commander; Moore, outgoing 1st Bn., 402nd AFSB commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr. 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC command sergeant major; and Col. Cheri A. Provancha, 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC support operations officer in charge.

who is experienced in training and combat; Fiscus last assignment was Army G-4 where he gained experience and understanding of sustainment logistics.

"And, most importantly, he understands what great capability the Army Materiel Command has as the beginning and end-all of the Materiel Enterprise," he said.

# Vietnam veteran re-enlists in Iraq

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Hershel L. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee, Ala., has been serving in the Army for 39 years; thirty-seven have been with the 158th Maintenance Company, Alabama Army National Guard.



Mayfield decided that it was time again to re-enlist the Guard and continue to serve his country for two more years.

"Everything I do today is done with the next generation in mind and how I can influence them to do the same for their nation," said Mayfield.

Mayfield joined the Guard, re-classifying as a light-wheel vehicle me-

chanic with a desire to continue serving his country as a Soldier. He thanks his wife of 30 years and his children for supporting him throughout his mili-

tary career.

"It is a way of life and they've learned to live in it," said Mayfield. His Family has dealt with his absence due to three deployments

and numerous training events.

"I joined the military because the base was adjacent to my home, and in order to have freedom, some-

one has to do the job," said Mayfield. "It also provided me with benefits that no other civilian job has."

Mayfield re-enlisted to serve for another two years while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10.

Mayfield has served a total of 39 years in the service; two years as an infantryman on active duty and 37 years with the Alabama National Guard. During this period, he was deployed to Vietnam in 1969, Kosovo in 1996, and most recently to Mosul, Iraq in 2008.



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Martonio Patterson

Capt. Irvin Morris presents Sgt. 1st Class Hershel L. Mayfield, 158th Maintenance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, with a certificate of re-enlistment at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East, Iraq July 7. Mayfield, a native of Tallassee, Ala., has been serving in the Army for 39 years - 37 have been with the 158th Maint. Co., Alabama Army National Guard.

# 5th IA Field Engineer Regiment and JTF Eagle partner to complete Diyala project

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CAPT. VANESSA R. BOWMAN  
37TH ENG. BN. PAO

FORWARD OPERATING  
BASE GHALIBIYAH, Iraq  
– As Iraq commemorated  
Sovereign Day, Iraqi  
Army Soldiers and  
Coalition members



of Joint Task Force Eagle partnered and completed the joint construction of a new operations center in Diyala province.

JTF Airmen from 732d Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Detachment 6, Soldiers from the 555th Engineer Brigade and the 5th IA Field Engineer Regiment trained on carpentry skills during interior renovation of two hard-stand

structure and building of two additional Southwest Asia huts that serve as office and living space at the new Diyala Operations Center.

The 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division 'Arctic Wolves' Commander Col. Burdett K. Thompson and Lt. Col. Paul S. Sarat, deputy brigade commander recognized Coalition Soldiers with certificates of achieve-

ment for their part in the construction project. Sarat presented the certificates in a ceremony at Joint Base Balad July 3. The 'Arctic Wolves' serve as the operation environment owners for the area.

"For dedication and support to your superb construction efforts on Forward Operating Bases Lion and Cruz," read Thompson's citation. "You are recognized for performing your duties in an exceptional manner and your skills were instrumental in the construction successes on both FOBs."

Since the security agreement directed drawback of Coalition forces from specified Iraqi cities, engineer Soldiers have been engaged in construction efforts to create work and living spaces outside city areas to continue partnership operations. The DOC supports the intent of the security agreement and is tangible evidence of continued successful partnership between U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces.

The first phase of construction on at the DOC started Jun. 7. This phase included renovation of the interior of existing buildings to improve electrical wiring, build interior partitions for office space and construct meeting rooms. Immediately upon completion of the first phase on

Jun. 15 IA Soldiers were able to occupy the buildings.

The second phase that was finished Jul. 1 resulted in the construction of the two SWA huts. Designed to serve as either open bay office areas or living space the SWA huts provided the opportunity for 5TH IA FER Soldiers to train on carpentry, a building skill that is less common than masonry in Iraqi construction.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Mark S. Donnithorne, commander of Det 6, from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska and assigned to the 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron said the DOC construction was a good challenge for the Det 6 team.

"Twenty Det 6 Airmen worked on the project," said Donnithorne. "At this site the Detachment had to make sure the materials were right for the project and finalize layout to ensure that the needs of the DOC were met by coordinating through the multi-national partners."

Facilities such as the DOC increase operational capabilities and integration of the IA with their coalition partners as well as with local efforts such as the Sons of Iraq. These dedicated facilities are critical as the ISF expand their lead in securing peace and stability in Diyala.



Airmen from 732d Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Detachment 6, Joint Task Force Eagle prepare to receive their certificates of appreciation at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 3.

On the Web



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

# Soldier, civilian united by green thumbs

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

— A splash of green. It's the first thing that strikes a visitor when they see Chief Warrant Officer 3 David M. Craig's containerized housing unit—a splash of green in a sea of uniformity.

Every other containerized housing unit, or CHU, looks the same: whitewashed, little rooms entombed by walls of crumbling green and brown sandbags, dirt and concrete t-walls. But Craig's CHU is different, flanked and surrounded by verdant gardens—a splash of green.

A support operations officer with 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from Fort Knox, Ky., Craig said he took up gardening in Iraq for the challenge, and to help cope with stress

from work and the deployment, which is the fifth of his military career.

"Evaporation's going to be your biggest enemy," said the native of Big Clifty, Ky. The soil here is not very good at retaining water due to the heat, a challenge Iraqi farmers must contend with, he said.

Taking a cue from his Iraqi counterparts, Craig, who was gardening since he was a child, designed and built his own pots with an underground irrigation system—PVC pipes with holes drilled at intervals. A layer of rocks and sand at the bottom helped to drain water when it did rain.

Craig said he went around the base looking for decent soil, and eventually found it when someone was digging out trenches.

"And believe it or not, the soil underneath where the trash collects is rich in nutrients," he said. Lettuce, coffee grounds and banana peels were layered into the soil to provide even more nutrients for the plants.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 David M. Craig, a support operations officer, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), poses with part of his garden at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 10. The native of Big Clifty, Ky., grew approximately 20 different kinds of vegetables in his gardens during his 15-month deployment.

Squash, green beans, radishes, cucumbers, carrots, corn, peppers and watermelon were just some of the vegetables Craig said he was able to grow. Aside for sunflowers, though, decorative flowers proved too delicate to the heat.

Craig spent an hour and half every day watering his plants, he built nets to keep away birds, and used soap

dish water and water mixed with cayenne pepper to kill insects.

John and Densie Allred of Harriman, Tenn., provided many of the gardening tools Craig needed. A veteran of the Navy, John said he knows the importance of a personal connection to America, especially for a deployed service member.

"We're very proud to have made friends with [Craig], and we plan to continue staying in contact and supporting him in the future," John wrote in an email.

The couple, who has their own garden, plans to support another service member when Craig returns to the U.S.

The most rewarding aspect of his garden, Craig said, are the vegetables he was able to grow and eat. He plans to harvest his corn and grill them during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

A civilian contractor will take custody of Craig's garden. A vegetarian, the civilian will use the plants to supplement his own diet. Craig said he couldn't hope to find a better person to bestow his garden to, and he's glad to see it will still be in use after he leaves Iraq.

"We hope other service members will follow his example and do the same," John wrote. "Gardening is rewarding and relaxing."

## 'Dark Knights' make firing range a safe place

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
16TH SUST. BDE.  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from the 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th

Sustainment Brigade, qualified on their M16 rifles at Sykes range here June 22-24.

The three-day training event was the last M16 qualification in Iraq before their redeployment to Bamberg, Germany.

The "Dark Knights" of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th STB, assumed range responsibilities. Capt. Russell Matusiak, range officer in charge, and Sgt. 1st Class Nancy Fisher, range noncommissioned officer in charge led Soldiers from HHC to help ensure the 16th STB Soldiers qualified on their assigned weapons.

In a three-day period, 78 Soldiers from the battalion qualified, as well as several Soldiers from attached



Soldiers from 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, take aim at their targets during a qualification range at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq June 22.

units. Qualification consisted of the new standards of the prone supported, prone unsupported and the kneeling unsupported positions.

"The elements posed a challenge for many Soldiers" said Staff Sgt. Natasha Dumig, tower NCO. "But even with all the gear, new shooting positions, and heat, the

Soldiers persevered and qualified."

The range began at 4:30 a.m., avoiding the summer Iraqi heat. Each day the temperature reached

over one-hundred degrees. Range safeties ensured the Soldiers at the range had shade as well as ice water, sports drinks and snacks to prevent any heat injuries.

"There was great feedback during the after action review that were conducted daily," said Fisher. "Soldiers said that they felt more confident in their firing capabilities after having a coach with each firer during the zeroing phase of the range. Several firers mentioned that the range was well organized and proficient."

There was one safety for every three firers to ensure everyone remained in the complete uniform and practiced muzzle awareness at all times.

"Overall, the qualification range was a success since there were no injuries or heat casualties and Soldiers improved their skills with their individually assigned weapons," said Fisher. "But mostly, the Dark Knights would never quit until the mission and task was complete."

# Texas Guardsmen

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

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Texas

Guardsmen here are set to return home in August following a nine-month tour of duty escorting logistics convoys around Iraq.



Task Force Avalanche, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment (Texas Army National Guard) primarily escorted fuel trucks from the Jordanian border to Coalition bases like Victory Base Complex in Baghdad. The Soldiers drove over 2.5 million miles escorting 55,000 trucks, which delivered 70 million gallons of fuel to support Coalition operations.

“We had a large part in keeping all the vehicles and generators running while we were here in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Mark L. Burkett, 2nd Bn., 142nd Inf. Regt. commander.

Many of the Soldiers deployed

to Iraq before. Burkett, a native of Canyon, Texas who was stationed in 2005 at Tallil, said the best part of this deployment was seeing all the positive changes which took place in Iraq.

“In 2005, it was the wild west. It was very difficult to move anything in from Jordan and to get it here in one piece,” he said. “It’s not quite like driving I-10 back in the States, but it’s getting closer. It’s getting a lot closer.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jose M. Orozco, a platoon commander with Bravo Company, said the difference is like night and day compared to his first deployment to Iraq.

“In 2004 and 2005 we were bombed nearly every day, every time we were outside the wire we found a (roadside bomb),” said the native of Hillsboro, Texas.

According to figures released by Multi-National Forces-Iraq, nationwide, attacks are at their lowest levels since August 2003, and the weekly average is 70 percent lower than it was last year.

The improvement in security affects how units like Task Force

Avalanche execute their mission, which Orozco said was the biggest adjustment Veterans such as him had to make.

“During previous deployments, pretty much, we owned the road,” said Capt. David Alderman, commanding officer, Co. B, in a previous interview. Coalition forces would often take control of intersections and not allow unknown vehicles to stray too close to their convoys, which was an unfortunate but necessary precaution at the time, he said.

Now Coalition forces share the road with Iraqis, not unlike how military convoys work in any other host nation.

“As we’re traveling, we’ll move over, allow them to bypass our convoys when it’s safe,” Alderman said. “In that way, we’re not hindering their movement and they’re not hindering our movement.”

Another facet of sharing the road with Iraqis includes partnering with the Iraqi Highway Patrol and the Iraqi Police, Burkett said. Task Force Avalanche worked

with police along their routes, provided medical care to Iraqi civilians injured in an accident, and even invited Iraqi Army officers to a Texas-style barbeque.

A police officer from Hillsboro, Texas, Orozco said he took particular pride in mentoring and getting to know his Iraqi counterparts. He said he had a lot of respect for what they did to help make Iraq more safe and secure.

Burkett enjoyed meeting Iraqis like the chief of police for Hit, a city in Anbar province. “He is the type (of person) that’s going to make Iraq a success,” he said.

The Soldiers of Task Force Avalanche, 2nd Bn., 142nd Inf. Regt. were mobilized with the 56th (Infantry) Brigade Combat Team in August 2008. Falling under the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas Army National Guard, the unit’s insignia is a distinctive olive drab “T” on a blue arrowhead.

They will transfer their mission to units from the Mississippi Army National Guard next month.



A Texas guardsman with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment refuels a humvee on a highway in western Iraq Feb. 15. The unit escorts fuel convoys from the Jordanian border to hubs such as Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Sergeant 1st Class Jose M. Orozco, from Hillsborough, Texas, takes a swing at a pinata during a Cinco de Mayo celebration at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq May 5. Every month, the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment celebrate a different cultural holiday.



# ready to go home



Texas Army National Guardsmen take a moment to sit and eat during a Cinco de Mayo celebration at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq May 5. Every month the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment celebrate a different cultural holiday.



Texas guardsmen with 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment relax while waiting for a mission briefing to start at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq Feb. 13. The unit is responsible for escorting fuel convoys from the Jordanian border to hubs such as Al Asad, where the fuel is then dispensed to smaller bases.



First Sgt. Joseph Scholari, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, shakes hands with an Iraqi policeman during a convoy from Camp Korean Village, Iraq, to Trebil Gate along the Jordanian border. Scholari remembered the Iraqi from a traffic accident; Soldiers from his unit were the first responders at the scene, treating injured Iraqis.



A Texas guardsman engages a target at a range outside Camp Korean Village, Iraq Feb. 14. Later in the day, Bedouin tribesmen were drawn by the sounds of gunfire, eager to scrounge for the brass in discarded shell casings.

# Northwestern 'Neighbors' partner for medevac training

BY SGT. DAVID ISAAC  
UPAR, 1ST BN., 161ST INF. REGT.,  
304TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Recently, two Pacific Northwest-based Army National Guard units partnered in Iraq for medical evacuation training at the Air Force Theater Hospital here.

Soldiers from the Seattle based Washington Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment and Oregon Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment from Salem, Ore., met far from their evergreen home stations in the sandy Iraqi desert to conduct the training.

Sgt. Brandon Names, a crew chief from Albany, Ore., called the training, "MEDEVAC 101." Names said the classes change and are tailored to the train based upon the unit's needs and requests. The training

typically includes aircraft familiarization and operation, loading and unloading patients from the aircraft and landing zone/pick-up zone set-up and operations.

On this night, the 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt.'s Highlanders reviewed the 9-line MEDEVAC request, information that flight medics need to know to prepare for receiving patients while en-route to the LZ, how to prepare a patient for movement on the aircraft, and loading and unloading of patients on the aircraft.

"People get excited when a helicopter shows up," said Sgt. Jason Westlund, a flight medic from Corvallis, Ore., borrowing a phrase from his platoon sergeant. He said the training was important and helps the flight crews and Soldiers on the ground work better together.

He added, "On one mission, we landed and the crew chief hadn't even opened the door when the litter team had the patient at the aircraft."

Names said the familiarization training helps avoid that kind of

confusion on the ground during actual missions.

Westlund added that the training exposes Soldiers who don't normally work around aircraft with what to expect — rotor wash, blowing dust and a lot of noise.

Sgt. Merissa Merlin, a flight medic from Portland, Ore., said the better ground medics and other Soldiers understand how to work around the aircraft the quicker the patient is taken care of.

Names agreed and said working together before the mission "is better for the patient."

"Because of this training, we're more in sync with the flight medics and know how they like to see patients prepped," said Spc. Matt Moeser, a Spokane, Wash., medic from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 161st Inf., Regt.

"Our missions take us outside the wire and between forward operating bases, so aero medevac is a very real possibility," said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Bennett, the Highlander medical platoon sergeant from Rathdrum, Idaho, who coordinated the training.

Bennett, who attended some military courses with Co. C, 7th Bn., 158th Aviation's senior flight medic said, "It's important to train with assets we'll see in a combat zone and at home in the state area of operations."

Names agreed, saying, "There's a good chance we could end up working together when we're at home."

"There's a definite Northwest personality that we identify with and it feels like working with home," said Westlund.

That Northwest personality includes an affinity for well-made coffee. To help bring a bit of home to Iraq, the Oregon Soldiers built a 'Cascade Coffee' in their morale, welfare and recreation area.

Merlin, an instructor, said working with other Guard Soldiers from the Pacific Northwest made it "feel like we're not so far from home."

Soldiers from C Co, 7th Bn., 158th Aviation Regt., arrived here in May; as the 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., will redeploy in a few weeks.

# Knight brings Ohio elementary school a special gift

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — For one Soldier of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade,

going back to her hometown on a rest and recuperation break involved more than visiting Family members and relaxing.

First Lt. Jennifer Dyrz, communication officer, 18th CSSB, visited Rock Creek Elementary School in Ohio, where she was a former student, in order to give third-grade students and her fourth-grade teacher Brenda Headley a special American flag. The flag was flown for one day at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East.

The Rock Creek, Ohio, native thanked the students for sending

care packages and correspondence during the holidays and for her unit support during the unit's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It was heartwarming to see how interested the students were about me and my Soldiers," said Dyrz. "I was able to give back to the students in the elementary school I attended when I was younger."

The students were able to watch a slide show presentation depicting how Soldiers live, interact and perform their duties and missions at Marez-East. The students also had the opportunity to interview Dyrz and ask questions about her experiences in Iraq. After the presentation, the third-graders followed Dyrz out to the flagpole to help raise the new flag.

"I was amazed how proud the students were of their country and the service members that protect our freedom. It is nice to see that there are people back home who care about Soldiers and who took interest in writing to us while deployed," said Dyrz.



Courtesy photo

First Lt. Jennifer Dyrz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, presented an American flag to the students at Rock Creek Elementary School students at Rock Creek, Ohio. The flag was flown over Contingency Operating Site Marez-East in Mosul, Iraq May 27.

On the Web



Task Force

Muleskinner





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

# JTF Eagle engineers constructs Bridge Training at Iraqi Army Engineer School

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers from the 4th, 5th and Headquarters Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiments partnered with Coalition Soldiers from the 50th Multi-Role Bridge Company, Joint

Task Force Eagle to train on Mabey and Johnson Bridge emplacement at the Iraqi Army Engineer School here July 3 to 13.

The IA Engineer School trains 400-500 IA Soldiers each rotation. The 50th MRBC 'Pirates,' a subordinate of the 555th Engineer Brigade, assist and instruct groups of approximately 20 to 30 IA Engineers during a ten-day classroom and hands-on bridge training.

"The 4th and 5th IA FER Soldiers we trained with before are helping to teach the Soldiers of Headquarters IA FER," said Staff Sgt. Jason Peace, 50th MRBC from Felicity, Ohio. "Teaching helps progress

their knowledge."

The combined IA and U.S. training team instructs, advises and assists the new class of IA Engineers on site layout, bridge set parts identification, bridge emplacement, inspection, repair and maintenance.

"During this block of instruction we are teaching them how to do the bridge site set-up," said Staff Sgt. Fernando Villa, 50th MRBC from Tucson, Ariz. "We are showing them how to do all the measurements for the pickets, rolling and leveling the site, and placing the ground beams that will support the bridge."

Facilitating the partnership consist of translating course materials, technical manuals, and training site instructions is by Sgt. Mootaz Al-Sultani, 50th MRBC crew chief and bridge park noncommissioned officer in charge. Al-Sultani, resident of Arlington, Texas, emigrated from Baghdad with his parents in 2000.

"During the classroom portion we pass out hand-outs that have been translated," he said.

Al-Sultani also coordinates logistics and scheduling with the IA FERs and the IA Engineer School.

Both Peace and Villa describe Al-Sultani as a critical part to the success of their mission.

"This training would not have happened without Al-Sultani," said Villa.

IA FER Platoon Leader 2nd Lt. Mohammed, another co-instructor, said the IA Engineer School's shortage of translated technical manuals and classroom aids requires the constant presence and assistance of translators. Al-Sultani's ability to simplify and translate the language and meaning of the material helps mitigate the challenge of teaching IA Engineer Soldiers, many of whom have very limited reading and writing skills.

"The classroom portion is the hardest because so many have trouble with reading and writing," said IA FER 2nd Lt. Hader, IA FER platoon leader and co-instructor.

Because of the challenges in the classroom the hands-on part of training is what both the instructors and students find the most useful.

"The hands-on part is much easier and when the Soldiers learn the most," said IA FER platoon leader

2nd Lt. Retha, who previously served as an enlisted Air Defense Engineer. "Even if the concepts that we are training are new, they are picked up very easily by the Soldiers when we get to the hands-on portion."

Peace, Villa and Al-Sultani get the IA Soldiers together at the end of the day to review the training and outline what the Soldiers can expect from the next day.

"Good job today getting the site laid out and the ground beams set," said Peace. "Remember what you did today because tomorrow you will see it in class."

The goal of the ten-day training is to enable the students to learn all the skills necessary to emplace, maintain, inspect, repair and remove a 15-meter span of Mabey and Johnson Bridge by themselves.

"It's amazing how fast they've caught on to the training," said Capt. John Davis, 50th MRBC commander, watching the IA Students take the lead on the independent practical exercise portion of the instruction. "It's great to see the IA Engineer Soldiers doing this on their own."

## NEVER LET

## YOUR BUDDY

## FIGHT

## alone

Are you feeling depressed? Stressed from working many late hours?

Stop by or call any Combat Stress Control centers located throughout Iraq and speak to a specially-trained combat stress management team.

Be Willing to Listen

Not all Wounds are Visible

Prevent Suicide.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

USACHPPM

TA-04-0107

# Transportation Soldiers make time for fun

BY 1ST LT. CHARLES YORK  
UPAR, 233RD TRANS. CO.,  
16TH SUST. BDE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Soldiers from the 233rd Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, took a break from their daily work load to participate in a company organizational day.

The Soldiers of the 233rd Trans. Co., drive heavy equipment transportor missions weekly. Finding time to participate in a company organizational day allowed the trans. Soldiers a chance to rest and take the opportunity to partake in team-building events.

The organizational day was a platoon versus platoon competition, which consisted of volleyball, kickball and ultimate football. The platoons battled their way in each event in order to obtain the most points

to ultimately become the company champions. Out of the events, kickball seemed to be the favorite, as the platoons talked a big game and taunted one another while showing their team spirit and motivation to win.

“I think that it is great that we found time to bring the company together for a little competition,” said 2nd Lt. James Crump, maintenance platoon leader, 233d Transportation Co., and native of Glasgow, Ky. “Now we will definitely know who the kickball champions really are.”

Kickball was not the only event that had the Soldiers talking. There was a mine field that had to be negotiated while blindfolded and also a challenge called the three-meter wall.

The three-meter wall was a test consisting of a piece of rope held by two Soldiers at chest height. The goal for one team was to pass over the rope from one side to the other. The task seemed easy, but at the end of the day only one team was successful at conquering the challenge.

The day ended at the main Mo-



Sgt. Joshua Garner, 233d Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, negotiates the “mine field” during the unit’s organizational day.

rale, Welfare and Recreation Center where the winners were announced. Out of the six platoons in the com-

pany, 4th platoon emerged victorious by beating every platoon they went up against in every event.

## Sustainment Maintenance Companies exchange reins

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. TIMOTHY OHLHAVER  
287TH SUST. BDE. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE ADDER, Iraq – The 542nd Maintenance Company from Fort Lewis, Wash., and the 546th Maintenance Company from Fort Polk, La., conducted a transfer of authority here July 10.

The 542nd Maint. Co.’s history dates back to 1941 during World War II. Since 1941, the unit has moved to many posts within the United States. To include this tour, the unit has been involved in several operations in Southwest Asia, to include Operation Desert Storm/ Shield (1991) and Operation En-

during/Iraqi Freedom (2003). OIF 08-10 is the first time in history all Soldiers assigned to the 542nd Maint. Co., deployed as a whole since 1941.

The incoming unit, the 546th Maint. Co., constituted in 1927, deactivated in 1945 and reactivated in 1947. Over the years, this unit has been designated intermittently as a maintenance, quartermaster and ordnance unit.

Lt. Col. David Whaling, 157th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander, said that the “542nd led the way in their field and Soldiers knew they could be counted on to do their jobs well.” He reinforced the expertise of the 542nd and challenged the 546th to “raise the bar even higher” during their tour.

The 542nd Maint. Co., completed a 15-month deployment.



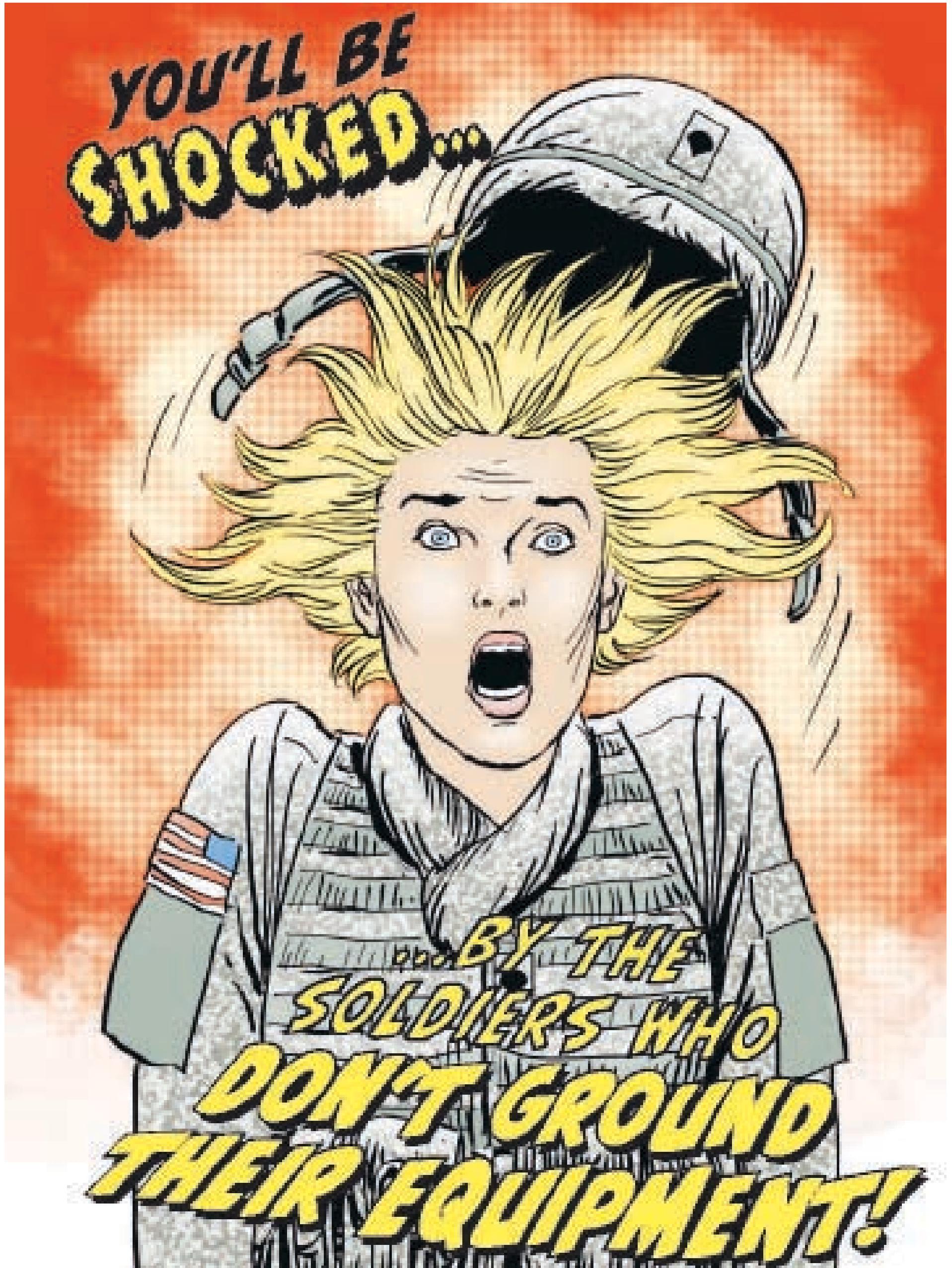
Capt. Ondrea I. Albert, 542nd Maintenance Company commander and 1st Sgt. James B. Rowell roll their unit guidon as a symbol of the completion of their duties at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq July 10.

On the Web



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





# Texas unit at home in Iraqi wilderness

BY STAFF SGT. JASON KENDRICK  
56TH BCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD – For the second time in four years, troops from a Texas National Guard unit finds themselves in the full time service to their state and nation supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For some Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, deployment to the Middle East bares a close resemblance to home station.

Known as the “High Plains Infantry”, the companies that comprise the battalion are primarily found in the high plains area of the panhandle of northwestern Texas. This part of Texas has terrain that is mostly flat with moderate elevation and has high winds and temperatures during the summer; no different than many parts of Iraq.

This time around, they secure and escort convoys of critical supplies, everything from beans and bullets to water and fuel across western Iraq in the famed Anbar province.

“Every single widget we use, from a slice of bread at chow to the fuel that runs our generators is brought in by ground convoy, and Texan Soldiers are the ones protecting it,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Link, 56th

IBCT operations officer of Mansfield, Texas.

These convoy missions can take several days to complete and when rolling on the road, can stretch for several miles from the lead vehicle to the truck pulling up the rear.

“This mission normally puts about 1,000 miles on each of our trucks,” explained acting platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Richard Shaver, of Arlington, Texas.

For Shaver, most missions normally last about four or five days, depending on execution times and cooperating weather. That’s five days of living out of a backpack, sleeping irregular hours, operating under the starry nights of western Iraq and sleeping in makeshift huts under the blaring desert sun.

Rolling out of the sprawling Victory Base Complex on the western edge of Baghdad, Soldiers escort more than 30 tractor trailer trucks and start heading west in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles.

“I like driving the MRAP because civilians [in smaller vehicles] tend to stay clear when they see a 25,000 pound truck coming,” said Spc. Timothy Stewart, a vehicle driver from Rock Port, Texas.

The convoy traveled more than 250 miles during the night, often times barely crawling along due to sub-standard road conditions.

Along the way, a vehicle breakdown increases the timeline and

prompts Shaver to say, “We might see daylight before we finish tonight boys.” Once everyone has pulled into their destination, they refuel all vehicles and prepare for another mission the next day.

After some rest and dinner, many of the Soldiers begin to prepare once again for a mission on the Iraqi roads.

Like any mission, it requires flexibility and capacity. On this night, the Soldiers are put on standby because of unfavorable road status, only to be given a “Go,” after many had relaxed and settled in for a nights rest on the camp.

“You absolutely have to be flexible in this mission, said Shaver. “We can go from being stood down and not moving to hitting an [start point] within an hour.”

Like the rest of the convoy, the platoon travels in elements: a security element for added safety and to warn fellow Soldiers on the mission, another element escorts the bulk of the semi-trucks with the supplies, and another team acts as maintenance recovery for vehicles that may experience problems ranging from transmission problems to something as innocuous as a simple flat tire.

“We operate in elements. Each element operates semi-independently of each other. Their tasks being completed can make or break a mission,” Shaver explained.

Along the route the recovery team

got a chance to exercise their skills as a fuel tanker had a tire blowout. The blowout caused the loss of two tires and both had to be replaced before the mission could continue.

On this night however, this would not be the only maintenance issue that these Soldiers would be faced with. A separate trailer had tire issues as well, including the loss of some of the highly important lug nuts used to keep the wheels on and rolling down the supply routes. After some controlled substitution amongst the contracted drivers of the fuel tankers, the mission, once again continued towards the Iraqi capital. There would be, however, one more breakdown.

This final breakdown happened along the supply route to Baghdad near Fallujah. This incident would test the patience of the recovery crew.

Un-able to self-recover, Shaver’s Soldiers wait hours on the outskirts of Fallujah in searing heat while maintaining security, protecting the vital fuel in the tanker and wait for addition recovery assets.

After the additional assets arrive, the convoy moves as they finally continue towards Victory Base Complex for some well deserved rest after hours on the road. Even on the most inhospitable terrain in Iraq and scorching temperatures, the High Plains Infantrymen complete their tasks with a unique pride of accomplishment.

## 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>



MRAP  
MaxxPro/Plus...

## Cost Saving Master Light Switch

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you about the master light switch for the IMG MaxxPro and IMG MaxxPro Plus vehicles shown in Fig 8-37.1 on Page 437 of TM 9-2355-106-24P and Fig 8-39.1 on Page 395 of TM 9-2355-319-24P-1.

My head did a double-spin when I looked in the TMs to find the switch. The switch's PN 3673425C1, CAGE 338X5, crosses over to NSN 5930-01-556-6299 and costs \$1,436.82!!!

What's interesting is we removed the switch in one of our unit's IMG MaxxPro. That switch had a sticker on it with NSN 5930-01-491-9893. This switch is identical to the original one, CAGE 19207, 59666, or 47P61, but only costs \$179.48 in FED LOG. That's a savings of more than \$1,200!

I would recommend units *not* order the switch shown in the TMs. Instead, order the switch that comes with NSN 5930-01-491-9893. It's a lot cheaper and does the job.

SSG J. A. O.  
54th Engr Bn  
Camp Striker, Iraq

Editor's note:

Thanks for the money-saving tip that will help other units out there.

# 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**

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

Last weeks answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What track favorite donned golden shoes to capture gold in both 200- and 400-meter 1996 Olympic sprints?
2. What country boasts the largest number of Catholics?
3. What was the B-17 long-range bomber nicknamed in World War II?
4. What British second lieutenant got the idea to fill a canister shell with musket balls and a charge of gunpowder?
5. What two countries claim two-thirds of the world's 2,000-plus registered saints?

1. Michael Johnson 2. Brazil 3. The Flying Fortress 4. Sir Henry Shrapnel 5. Italy and France

## 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	1930	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)
	1100	Provider Chapel
	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel

Thu	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Mon, Wed, Fri	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
Mon-Fri	1130	555th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200

### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

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

### ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
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### PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday	1900	The Shack
Saturday	1900	The Shack

### GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday	0900	Provider Annex
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For Further Information Please Call:

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

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<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.	p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: 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: 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. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm	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. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. WEST REC- REACTION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm	Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun.- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.
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## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 7/22/09

Chicago Cubs @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Tampa Bay Rays @ Chicago White Sox, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Minnesota Twins @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Seattle Mariners @ Detroit Tigers, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 Baltimore Orioles @ New York Yankees, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 7/23/09

Seattle Mariners @ Detroit Tigers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Boston Red Sox @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Cincinnati Reds @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Los Angeles Angels @ Kansas City Royals, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 San Francisco Giants @ Atlanta Braves, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 7/24/09

Chicago Sky @ Washington Mystics, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Minnesota Twins @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Pittsburgh Pirates @ Arizona Diamondbacks, Live 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
 Cincinnati Reds @ Chicago Cubs, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 7/25/09

Baltimore Orioles @ Boston Red Sox, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 New York Mets @ Houston Astros, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 San Francisco Giants @ Colorado Rockies, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
 Cleveland Indians @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Florida Marlins @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports  
 Cincinnati Reds @ Chicago Cubs, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 7/26/09

Atlanta Braves @ Milwaukee Brewers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
 San Francisco Giants @ Colorado Rockies, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 D.C. United @ San Jose Earthquakes, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Chicago White Sox @ Detroit Tigers, Tape Delayed 12 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 7/27/09

Chicago White Sox @ Detroit Tigers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Florida Marlins @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Indy Car Racing Series: Rexall Edmonton Indy, Live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 Quick Pitch: A Compilation of all the Great Fielding and Scoring Plays from Today's Games, Live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 7/28/09

New York Yankees @ Tampa Bay Rays, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Los Angeles Dodgers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

### Wednesday, July 22

5 p.m. Land Of The Lost  
8 p.m. Up

### Thursday, July 23

5 p.m. Up

8 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper

### Friday, July 24

2 p.m. My Life In Ruins

5 p.m. Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince

8 p.m. Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince

### Saturday, July 25

2 p.m. Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince

5 p.m. Imagine That

8 p.m. The Hangover

### Sunday, July 26

2 p.m. Imagine That

5 p.m. The Hangover

8 p.m. Harry Potter And The Half Blood Prince

### Monday, July 27

5 p.m. My Life In Ruins

8 p.m. Imagine That

### Tuesday, July 28

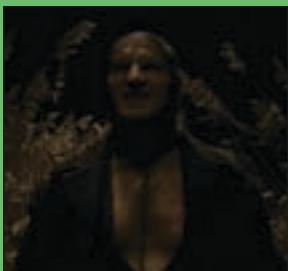
5 p.m. Imagine That

8 p.m. The Hangover

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

## HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE

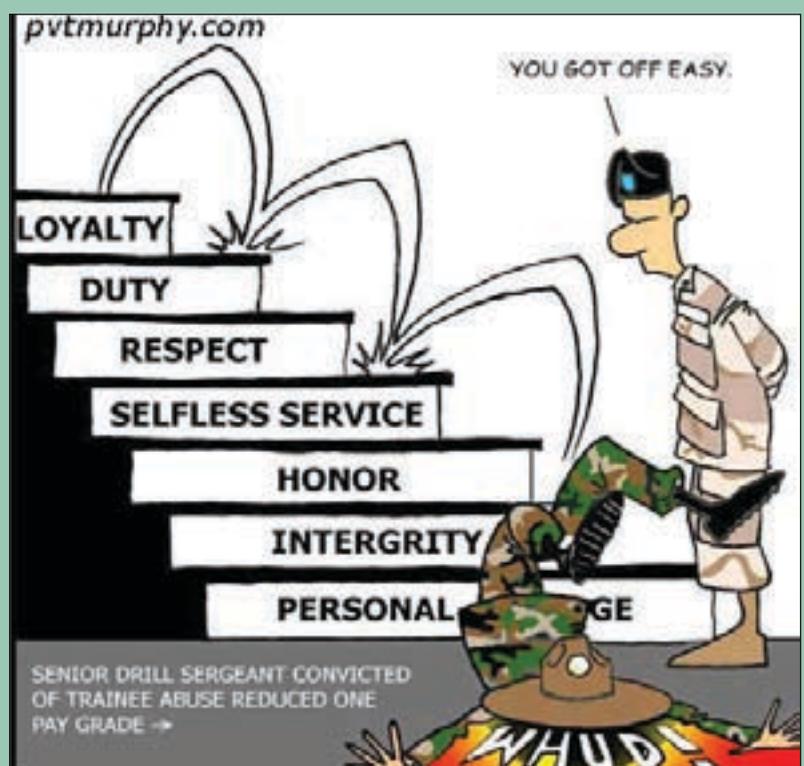
Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching. Together they work to find the key to unlock Voldemort's defenses and, to this end, Dumbledore recruits his old friend and colleague, the well-connected and unsuspecting bon vivant Professor Horace Slughorn, whom he believes holds crucial information. Meanwhile, the students are under attack from a very different adversary as teenage hormones rage across the ramparts. Harry finds himself more and more drawn to Ginny, but so is Dean Thomas. And Lavender Brown has decided that Ron is the one for her, only she hadn't counted on Romilda Vane's chocolates! And then there's Hermione, simmering with jealousy but determined not to show her feelings.



## Iraq according to Opet



## PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James Selesnick

An Iraqi soldier from 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, maintains security during a mortar demonstration, showcasing his combat skills on a live fire range in the Diyala province, Iraq July 8. U.S. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, train Iraqi soldiers to use the 120mm mortar system.



U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Edwin L. Wriston

A U.S. Air Force Airman of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, attached to the 93rd Military Police Battalion, conducts counter sniping operations in Abu Ghraib District, Baghdad, Iraq July 9.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Carmichael Yeppez

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Fischer, of San Diego, Calif., assigned to Bravo Field Maintenance Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is accompanied by Army Spc. Michael Detrick, of Detroit, Mich., left, and Spc. Nathan Ergenbright, of Linden Mich., outside the battalion's welding shop at Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq July 9. Fischer and his team are responsible for performing all metal work on the battalion's tactical vehicles.



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

Iraqi soldiers from 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, secure a mock prisoner during a demonstration, showcasing their combat skills on a live fire range in the Diyala province, Iraq July 8. U.S. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, train Iraqi soldiers.

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Iraqi military, government officials tour Camp Bucca TIF

**CAMP BUCCA, Iraq** — A delegation of 20 local Iraqi military and government officials visited and toured the Camp Bucca Theater Internment Facility July 9 to observe the care and custody of detainees.

During the afternoon tour, the delegation from the area surrounding the facility had the opportunity to see where the detainees eat, sleep, learn and recreate.

The objective of the tour was to familiarize the Iraqi officials with the Bucca detention facility and inspect the care and custody provided to detainees.

In accordance with the Security Agreement, Multi-National Force-Iraq is scheduled to close the Camp Bucca TIF in mid-September. In anticipation of the closure, detainees are in the process of being transferred to the Camp Taji and Camp Cropper TIFs.

Some of the programs available to Bucca detainees include computer instruction, education courses in civics, math, Arabic and English, and the Islamic Discussion Program.

According to Maj. John Oakley, executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment stationed at the camp, the delegation was very impressed with the facility and its programs.

Among the items of interest to the local officials also was the water purification, pumping stations and power generation plants at the camp. Those facilities are scheduled to be handed over by MNF-I to the local government in the future. Actions are currently ongoing to allow the citizens of Umm Qasr and Safwan to use the plants until the property is given back to the Government of Iraq.

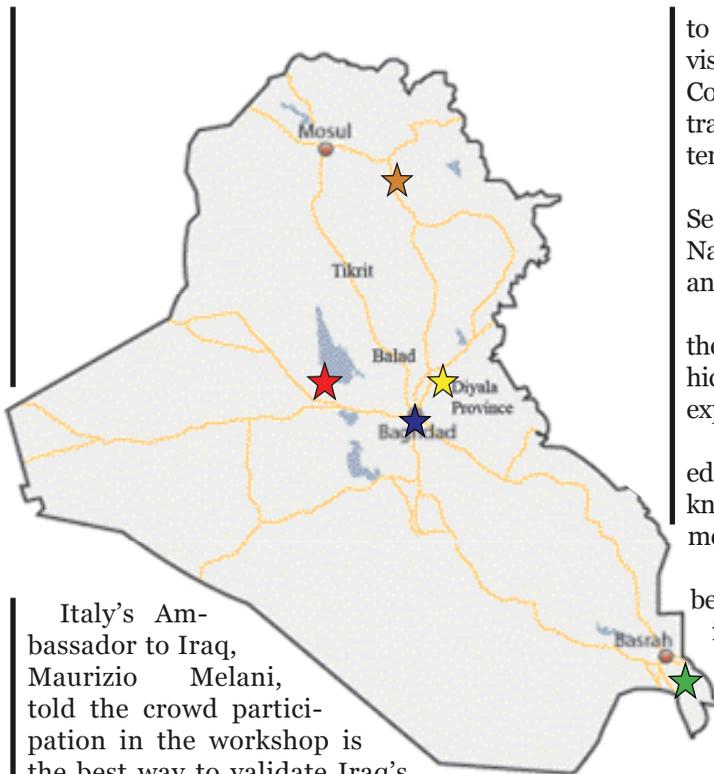
In accordance with the Security Agreement, Joint Task Force-134 is releasing or transferring all detainees in a safe and orderly manner. Many of the 3,890 detainees who have been released since Jan. 1, participated in the educational and vocational programs at the U.S.-run detention facilities and are better equipped to become a productive member of Iraq's growing and prosperous future.

Camp Bucca is a forward operating base along the Kuwaiti border near the port city of Umm Qasr, Iraq's southernmost city.

## Leaders Attend Iraq Human Rights Conference

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A 10-day conference on human rights began here July 12 to educate leaders in Iraq's military and government of the importance of human rights.

The conference is being attended by members of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice and the Red Crescent Organization, and is being held at the NATO headquarters.



Italy's Ambassador to Iraq, Maurizio Melani, told the crowd participation in the workshop is the best way to validate Iraq's human rights vision.

"In a country where hatred and revenge used to rule the day, a human rights law is a valuable guide with which to move forward," Melani said. "Human beings can't forget past mistakes and will remember for generations the suffering that was endured. Respect for human rights will help to reduce the bitterness."

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeff Julum, senior advisor to Iraqi Army on ethics and leadership development, said, "Our goal is to see Iraqis comfortable in growing their ethics practices. Increasing their professionalism in human rights will help to build a strong society."

"I couldn't be more proud of the work that the Center for Military Principles, Values and Leadership has done on this important topic," Julum added. "The purpose of this conference is to deepen the understanding of human rights in a civil society."

Melani spoke about the history of human rights around the world and the importance of Iraq committing itself to fully implementing the international standards set forth in The Hague in 1970.

Iraq Human Rights Minister, Wijdan Salim, also attended the opening ceremonies of the conference and is part of a larger focus on human rights throughout Iraq. She will be leading a symposium focusing on human rights here at the MoD July 20.

## U.S. Army Mechanics Train Iraqis on Humvee Maintenance

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — U.S. military advisors provided training in vehicle operation and maintenance with 22 new humvees purchased through the Iraqi Security Forces Fund program.

U.S. Army mechanics Sgt. Brian Coots and Spc. Jarrod Reinhardt, expertly explained the operations of the humvee to drivers and mechanics of the Warrant Service Team, which is part of Internal Affairs in the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

The training was arranged by Rule of Law advisors

to the Ministry of Interior from Iraq Training and Advisory Mission of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. The mechanics who conducted the training are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-5 Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The hands-on training was well-received, as Warrant Service Team members Sabah Salim and Murdhadha Nadhim both expressed appreciation for the training and gained new understanding about the vehicle.

Lt. Habeeb Majeed Dawood, deputy commander of the unit, said the training was very good since the vehicles were new to them. He said he appreciated having expert trainers instruct his officers.

Sgt. Coats said his students had very little knowledge at the beginning of the training, but now their knowledge is much broader. "Now they can talk to the mechanics and get things taken care of," he said.

Warrant Service Team members Mohammed Sa-beeh and Alaa Fadhil thanked service members for giving the course that provided such in-depth training and information.

The ITAM advisors and the military mechanics plan to continue the Warrant Service Team's training with classes on how to maneuver the vehicles in high stress situations.

## Micro-grants assist growing economy

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq** — As security improves in Kirkuk, the business community is better able to grow, but some small businesses need a little help.

U.S. forces issue micro-grants in sums of up to \$5,000 to assist Iraqi small business owners build or revitalize their businesses. Approximately 30 days after the micro-grants are issued U.S. troops follow up to assess the progress of these businesses.

First Lt. Daniel Braud, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, set out to review several micro-grants in the Iraqi city of Daquq, Kirkuk province July 7.

"After the micro-grants are issued, that isn't the last step," Braud said. "We need to verify the funds are being used in the manner that they [Iraqi business owners] stated on their applications and also check on the progress their businesses have made."

The first shop Braud stopped at was owned by Salar Ghazi Fauzi, who owns an automotive repair shop. According to Salar, the funds helped him purchase equipment to better run his business.

"I was able to buy an air compressor and generator," Salar said.

Salar explained the compressor allows him to use an impact socket wrench that helps remove bolts faster, which improves efficiency, and means more business. Additionally, the generator allows him to stay open longer because he is less reliant on public electricity.

Gahandai Kyiani Ghiden works as a real estate sales agent in Daquq. He was able to purchase fax machines and laptops in order to list the homes he sells.

“Now that the homes are advertised there is a better chance to reach potential buyers,” Gahandai said.

A cell phone store owner, Ali Abbas Muhsin, displayed cell phones and accessories from wall-to-wall. Ali used his grant to add a new floor and ceiling, and to purchase laptops used to activate the cell phones.

Ali explained that before receiving a grant his customers had to wait for him to get to a computer and activate their phones.

Micro-grants have helped shop owners in Daquq open shops ranging from shoe repair to window makers. “Getting the local economy up and running is an important part of stability in this region,” Braud explained.

While Braud was conducting his assessment, several Daquq residents approached him about applying for their own micro-grants.

“Many times they [Iraqis] will see the progress of their fellow citizens and want to take part as well, so we get approached about how they can take part in the program,” Braud said.

Braud said he will be accepting applications for micro-grants in a week or two.

## Military Academy Instills Leadership, Ethics, Values in New Officers

 AR RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – The Iraqi Military Academy here graduated 281 Iraqi Army and 86 Iraqi Air Force cadets July 14 from Basic Officers Commissioning Course 99.

The 12-month commissioning course paid special attention to leadership and ethics training while instilling the values and standards required of the future leaders of the Iraqi military. Additionally, the course syllabus covered tactics, weapons training, physical fitness, first aid, current affairs and geography.

The ceremony was attended by numerous Iraqi military dignitaries, including the Minister of Defence, Mohammed Abdul Kader Al Obeidi, the Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Gen., Abu Bakr Zebari, the Chief of Staff for Training, Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein Dohi and the Commander of the Academy, Maj. Gen. Majeed Hassan Zgaat. Many proud families were also present to witness the achievement.

In his speech, the Minister of Defence stressed that the future of the country is in the hands of the graduating cadets.

The new officer course starts in January 2010, and in light of lessons learned from the current curriculum, it will be three years in duration and specifically designed for cadets to get university degrees.

The academy was founded in 1924 by British forces. It was based on the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England and graduated its first class of Iraqi officers in 1927.

NATO Training Mission-Iraq has supported the academy since 2005. During the past four years, more than 2,500 cadets have graduated.

Since 2004, NTM-I has been training, mentoring and advising officers in the Iraqi Security Forces in order to assist the Government of Iraq in resuming its important place in the international community and to improve security of all Iraqi people with democratic security forces.

NTM-I mentors and supports the Iraqi National Defence University, Iraq National Defence College, and the Defence Strategic Studies Institute. Other cooperation projects for NATO in Iraq are out-of-country training courses for Iraqi nationals at NATO schools as well as Federal Police training led by Italian Carabinieri and at Ar Rustamiyah, the Iraqi Mili-

tary Academy along with the Joint Staff College and Command College.

NTM-I officers also provide mentoring and advice to the Prime Minister’s National Operations Centre, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Centre and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre.

## MNC-I reaches out to audience with Facebook, other social media

 CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Multi-National Corps – Iraq, the headquarters command for Coalition forces operating in Iraq, has forayed into social networking, with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and TroopTube accounts.

MNC-I’s Facebook page includes inside stories from around Iraq, as well as Soldier-produced narratives and videos about their daily lives and work. MNC-I’s Web masters also solicit reader responses to questions about the military, and they plan in the future to feature key leaders’ answers to reader-provided inquiries.

Links to MNC-I’s social networking sites are all accessible on its public Web page, [www.mnc-i.com/connect](http://www.mnc-i.com/connect).

### MNC-I social media links

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/MNCIraq](http://www.youtube.com/user/MNCIraq)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) keyword: Multi-National-Corps-Iraq

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MNCIraq](http://www.twitter.com/MNCIraq)

TroopTube: [www.trooptube.tv](http://www.trooptube.tv)

## MNF-I Commander meets with Iraqi, Kurdish forces in Diyala

 DIYALA, Iraq – Members of both Iraqi and Kurdish security forces met with Multi-National Force – Iraq Commander Gen. Ray Odierno, July 8, on Combat Outpost Cobra in the Diyala Province.

The meeting allowed all partnered forces to come together and discuss the current issues facing the province.

During the meeting, Army and Police commanders from both the Iraqi and Kurdish security forces discussed the significant progress being made in the area and the strong cooperation developing between all three forces.

Most recently, Soldiers and policemen from the different forces came together to conduct “Operation Glad Tidings of Benevolence II,” a combined military operation that began in May, and lasted well into June. The operation was the first time Iraqi Forces and Kurdish Forces joined together to plan and conduct a major operation.

Immediately after the meeting, Odierno received a briefing from the 5th Battalion, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, the U.S. Forces unit that operates out of the outpost and surrounding area.

Before leaving, Odierno presented coins to a few hand-selected Soldiers for their contributions to the mission and spoke to others on the importance of the region in which they work.

## Treating Trauma, Mission for Medical Training Course Grads

 BAGHDAD, Iraq – Fourteen Iraqi physicians and nurses graduated July 12 from the Trauma Training Course at Ibn Sina Hospital in the International Zone.

The Coalition, in coordination with the Ministry of Defense, has developed the Trauma Training Course for Iraqi Security Force physicians and nurses to better ensure high-quality medical care for Iraq’s security forces.

This course is designed to improve the ISF’s readiness to perform emergency medical care in the event it is needed.

“The Coalition would like to see continued success for the medical professionals at Ibn Sina Hospital as they continue this vital training. The medical expertise they’ve acquired from this course supports their efforts to provide expert medical care to the brave men and women of the ISF and ultimately to Iraq’s future security,” said U.S. Army Col. Bernard Dekoning, chief for Health Affairs with Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

## U.S. Air Force builds new Diyala Operations Center

 BAGHDAD (DIYALA), Iraq – After years of cooperation between Iraqi and U.S. security forces at the Diyala Operations Center, local ISF leaders and senior leaders of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division agreed to move the DOC to a new location outside Baqubah’s city limits.

In conjunction with the June 30 deadline for U.S. combat forces to move out of Iraq’s cities, the DOC, a combined Iraqi – Coalition base located within the Diyala Governance Center, needed to be moved outside the provincial capital. The relocation allows the CF to continue build relationships and work alongside the Iraqi Security Forces against insurgents and violent extremists.

“We had to move the DOC from its previous location to Forward Operating Base Lion, and we couldn’t get the infrastructure set up fast enough,” said Lt. Col Paul Sarat, the 1-25 SBCT’s deputy commander.

In order to rapidly build the much needed infrastructure for the new, combined, facility, the 1-25 SBCT looked to the U.S. Air Forces’ Detachment Six, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron. Personnel assigned to Det. Six are attached to the Army’s 73rd Engineer Battalion and Joint Task Force Eagle, at Joint Base Balad.

“The Airmen came in and in a matter of days had everything set up to be fully operational, [and] without any loss in continuity. They literally stepped in and took a bunch of empty buildings and turned [them] into a fully functional operations center.”

For their hard work and help keeping operations in Diyala running smoothly and maintaining the ability co-locate and cooperate between Iraqi and Coalition leaders, the Airmen of Det. Six, currently stationed and located at JBB, were presented with certificates of appreciation from Sarat on behalf of the 1-25 SBCT.

Addressing the Airmen before presenting them with their certificates, Sarat said, “It wasn’t just the buildings themselves you were building, it was the infrastructure of the Iraqi Army itself as it stands on its own feet and we fall into much more of a mentor role.”

# Sustaining the Line



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

Spc. Ezekiel J. Farley from Sneads, Fla., a member of the 37th Engineer Company from Fort Bragg, N.C., briefs Air Force Maj. Gen. Brian P. Meenan, director of CENTCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center, on the RG-31 Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle at the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 14. Meenan visited JBB tenant units, like the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters and the Redistribution Property and Assistant Team (RPAT) yard, for an orientation on Army logistic missions.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Timothy Ohlaver

The 157th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade conducted a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq July 1, after promoting 24 Soldiers.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Beau Stefka

Sgt. Maj. Aurelio Santiagocuevas, a native of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico and the senior logistics operations distribution noncommissioned officer with the 10th Sustainment Brigade participates in the 4th of July 10K Command Challenge Fun Run at Camp Taji, Iraq July 4.



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

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr., 3<sup>d</sup> ESC command sergeant major, stands among Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, Washington Army National Guard, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 15, after working together for nine months, captured one last group photo before the end of their deployment to Iraq. The platoon's mission was to serve as the personnel security detail for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC as well as protecting distinguished visitors to JBB.