

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2 Issue 34

A place to rest  
your head



JBB opens new respite  
for service members  
Page 4

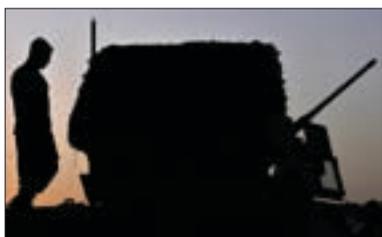
The general  
makes a stop



377th Theater Sustainment  
Command commander  
visits JBB

Page 9

Securing the route



37th Engineer Battalion  
keeping streets safe

Page 12-13

## Army's top enlisted in Iraq visits last of surge Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT.  
KEITH M. ANDERSON, UPAR  
16th Sust. Bde.  
Public Affairs

HABUR GATE, Iraq — Multi-National Force - Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson visited Soldiers of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, one of the last units in Iraq serving a 15-month deployment, Aug. 12 and 13.

The 16th Sust. Bde., a Bamberg, Germany-based unit, is responsible for logistics operations in northern Iraq. The unit arrived in Kuwait July of 2008

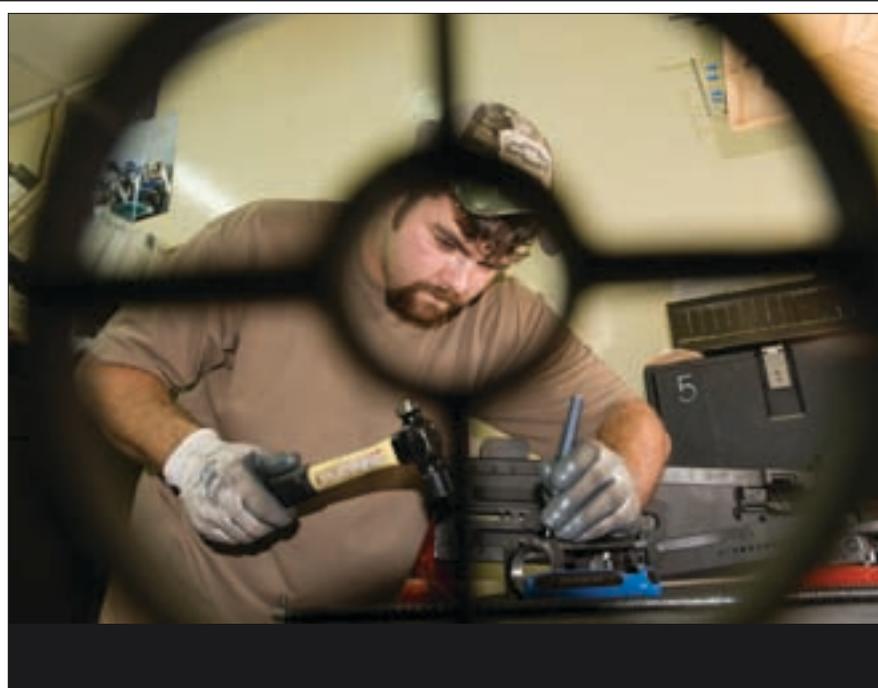


just 12 days before the Aug. 1, 2008, deadline that ended 15-month deployments.

Wilson, escorted by the 16th's Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, first visited Soldiers at

Multi-National Force - Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, tours the shopping district of the town of Zahko in northern Iraq, to see the progress made and to get feedback from local leaders. Wilson was in the area to visit the Soldiers of Logistics Task Force - A, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, at Habur Gate, a convoy staging facility on the Turkish border near Zahko.

Contingency Operating Location Q-West Aug. 12, where he toured some of the base's new facilities, including the combat  
**SEE TOP ON PAGE 11**



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

### Target acquired!

Rodger D. Clemment, from Anniston Al., and a Department of the Army employee at Anniston Army Depot, services an M2 .50 caliber machine gun at the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's Small Arms Support Center on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Clemment, who is the shop supervisor, usually sits behind a desk but when a large number of weapons come in, he lends a hand to make sure the weapons get back to their Soldiers.

Since May of 2005, the Soldiers and civilians working here have done more than simply fix weapons for the one or two problems they were brought in for; each time a weapon is serviced, it is carefully inspected for anything the operator might have missed.

To date, the facility has repaired more than 30,000 weapons, issued at least 8,700 more, while maintaining an inventory of nearly 600 weapons-replacing weapons which can't be repaired.

Part of the support center's mission includes installing special Army-mandated modifications to certain weapon systems — such as an upgrade for the M2 that gives it a manual safety on the weapon's back plate.

## Troops give to bring troops home

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANDRIA J. ALLMOND  
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The pint-sized bags of cloudy, yellow liquid may not look like much, but the fluid inside them has proved to be a life-saving substance to injured servicemembers.

"Platelets heal; I've seen it firsthand," said Lt. Col. Thomas Jordan, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron platelet aphaeresis chief. "I was here in 2006 when we first brought platelets into modern warfare by using them (at JBB). We noticed an increase in the survival rate compared to when we were using whole blood. They serve as the main factor in stopping bleeding and are used in any situation in which there is excessive blood loss."

Blood platelets have saved lives across Iraq, and the Air Force Theater Hospital here is the only supplier of this vital blood component to medical personnel in-country.

Half the collected clotting agents are kept at JBB, while the rest are shipped to other military installations throughout Iraq. On average, platelets have a shelf life of five days. Therefore, those used by U.S and coalition forces must be collected close to the fight.

"In the time it would take to collect the platelets, run the necessary tests and send them over here (from the U.S.) we would pass the five-day limit we have on using them," said Colonel Jordan, who has the sole discretion of extending the shelf-life of the platelets by two days, if deemed necessary.

If the total shelf life has expired, Colonel Jordan destroys the non-utilized platelets. But, the platelet aphaer-

**SEE HOME ON PAGE 11**

## 332 ESFS Blotter

### August 12 - August 17

#### PATROL RESPONSE/VERBAL ALTERCATION:

A complainant notified the law enforcement desk (LED) of a verbal altercation between 2 individuals. The complainant stated the subject was fired from his job earlier and was barred from the job site. The subject arrived at the LED and reported that he was unknowingly fired from his job, but he still had personal belongings at the job site that he wanted to retrieve. The complainant stated he wanted the subject to be removed from the location to prevent any future altercations. The subject requested to go to his living quarters to retrieve his belongings.

#### LARCENY OF UNSECURE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk (LED) and reported a larceny. The patrol arrived on scene and made contact with the complainant. The property was on the back of the gator he was operating while he was working. Upon his return to the gator he noticed the property was missing. The complainant stated that he advised his chain of command of the missing property and he conducted a thorough search of his work center and the surrounding areas with negative findings.

#### DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY/LARCENY PRIVATE PROPERTY/UNLAWFUL ENTRY:

A complainant entered the law enforcement desk (LED) and relayed a possible breaking and entering. The patrol arrived at the location and made contact with the complainant. The complainant stated that he returned to the location and found a dead bird hanging from his door knob. The complainant stated that upon entering the location, his belongings were thrown around and property was broken. The complainant stated after conducting a search of the location he discovered that property was missing. The complainant stated the location was locked and he does not have a roommate. The patrol relayed there were no signs of forced entry.

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SIPR: 241-1171

Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*"You can live a perfectly normal life, as soon as you realize your life will never be perfectly normal."*  
-Unknown

Do you remember when your life first stopped being normal? For most people, somewhere between infancy and adolescence, life took a series of strange and unfortunate turns and they have been trying to recover ever since.

No one makes it into adulthood without issues. Some people cover it up better than others, but the problems and their effects are still there just below the surface. We all want to appear normal but we are not! We have all been damaged, bruised and hurt. That is just how life is.

We want to be normal like everyone else but that is impossible. Why? Because no one else is normal either! (If you don't agree or understand, please re-read the previous paragraph.) Let's face it: life is tough and we have all been kicked around a few times. "Normal" got knocked out of us a long time ago.

Life rarely goes according to plan. The dreams we have growing up to be baseball players, ballet dancers, veterinarians, or rock stars usually don't come to pass. That is normal! If we are able to let go of our unrealistic expectations, there is hope for each of us.

It has been said that "Normal is just a setting on a washing machine." The closest thing to normal we have is a thing called "reality." Whether you are 18 or 81, we need to live in the now and make the best of it. That would be the normal thing to do.

#### A Normal Prayer

Dear God, I am anything but normal and I am far from perfect. If you can take me as I am and help me to become someone who is healthy and whole, I would really appreciate it. Thank you. Amen.

Submitted by Chaplain (Maj.) Peter Strong  
Brigade Chaplain, 304th Sustainment Brigade

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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10th Sustainment Brigade  
16th Sustainment Brigade  
287th Sustainment Brigade  
304th Sustainment Brigade  
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
555th Engineer Brigade

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## 13th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 13th 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.

## The Weekly Standard

SUBMITTED BY LT. COL. REGINALD HOWARD  
13TH ESC COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

*"If you can't apply the standard to everyone, you cannot apply the standard to anyone."*

Welcome to "The Weekly Standard," the 13th ESC Inspector General's weekly contribution to the "Expeditionary Times." Your IG team will continue

the information campaign initiated by our predecessor. Our goal is to help educate and enlighten the great Soldiers and leaders of the 13th ESC on the multitude of regulations, policies, and trends impacting our units every day. Along with several other outlets and events, the IG will utilize "The Weekly Standard" to address various topics on a weekly basis. You can expect to see information regarding such issues as promotions, nonsupport, awards, uniform policies, and many other "hot topics." We will also attempt to answer your questions

and welcome your input through our NIPR e-mail at [escig@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escig@iraq.centcom.mil).

I'd like to use this edition to briefly introduce you to your 13th ESC IG team. Our Soldiers not stationed on one of the below COLs can call the Joint Base Balad number to have their issue addressed. Our new team includes LTC Paul Bird of the Mississippi ARNG, 155th HBCT and MAJ Jeffrey Copek of the Oregon ARNG, 41st IBCT. They are a welcome addition to the 13th ESC IG team as they bring a wealth of knowledge about ARNG issues.

Our organization is comprised of eleven Inspectors General dispersed throughout the 13<sup>th</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: DSN 433-2125  
LTC Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)  
MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)  
MSG Roy Thacker (NCOIC)  
SFC Danilo Egudin  
SFC Javier Cruz

Q-West (16th SB): DSN 827-6115  
LTC Kyle Peterson  
Taji (10th SB/ 155 BCT): DSN 834-3079  
LTC Timothy Norton/ LTC Paul Bird  
Adder/Tallil (287th SB/ 41 BCT): DSN 833-1710  
LTC Melanie Meier/ MAJ Jeffrey Copek  
Al Asad (321st SB): DSN 440-7049  
SFC Tamera Wynn



## Fire Prevention Safety



- Only use NEC (National Electric Code) or UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved electrical cords/adapters inside CHU's.
- Avoid Daisy chaining power strips, this is a serious fire hazard.
- Avoid being messy; keep clothing items, paper, cardboard, etc. away from electric sources.
- No smoking inside tents, CHU's, buildings, or vehicles. Only smoke in designated areas and dispose of cigarette butts in proper containers.
- Gas or charcoal barbecue grills, when used, will be kept at least 50 ft from structures and outside of T-walls.
- Paper or cardboard will NOT be used to cover windows or openings in walls in any living or work area.
- Cooking inside tents and CHU's is Prohibited.
- Get to know your egress routes for living and working areas. Understand where your unit designated emergency evacuation area is located.
- Familiarize yourself and your battle buddies on the location and proper use of Fire Extinguishers in your respective areas.
- Coordinate with your Camp Mayor (Fire Warden) for a Fire Inspection of your living and work areas.

Report all safety violations to the Mayor office.

### ON THE WEB

**13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)**  
"Phantom Support"

<http://www.hood.army.mil/13sce/>



# Tuskegee ANG unit joins 332nd AEW

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANDRIA J. ALLMOND  
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Two hundred and forty members of the Alabama Air National Guard's 100th Fighter Squadron joined the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's operations group last month.

"Due to our high-speed training at home station, we were abundantly prepared for this deployment," said Lt. Col. Scott Patten, 100th FS commander. "We recently completed a Green Flag West (close air support and precision-guided munitions delivery) exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, and spin-up training at the Fort Irwin (Calif.) range, giving our pilots some real-world experience. Also, we have trained with servicemembers from Fort Benning (Ga.) and Ft. Bragg (N.C.), some of whom are currently deployed to JBB."

Originally named the 160th Fighter Squadron, the unit deactivated in 2007 in order to immediately reactivate as the 100th Fighter Squadron, a Tuskegee Airmen unit that fought in World War II.

According to the protocol of transferring legacy, the honors bestowed upon a unit are attached to its name, so when a unit takes on the name of a deactivated unit, they also acquire its history.

This deployment marks the first time the re-labeled 100th Fighter Squadron will serve under the 332nd Expeditionary Airlift Wing, a descendant of the original World War II Tuskegee unit, the 332nd Fighter Group.

"The 100th FS is proud to be the first Tuskegee Airmen squadron to be assigned to a Tuskegee Airmen group during this conflict," said Capt. Rich 'Sheriff' Peace, 100th FS F-16 pilot. "We look at this as a homecoming. We are also the first Tuskegee fighter squadron to fly and fight in a combat zone since World War II."

While this is the first time in Iraq for the 100th FS, the unit was stationed at JBB in 2006 under its previous nomenclature.

"We have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, 2004 and in 2006 prior to us arriving back in-theater as the 100th FS. So, we have a lot of deployment experience with this group. Most of these guys have been deployed six to eight times."

Like the historical squadron whose name and emblem they bear, the 100th FS pilots are flying in support and protection of their own.

"Day in and day out, we are taking off and supporting the group from the air, providing close-air support for the Air Force, Army and Marine troops here in Iraq," said Colonel Patten. "While the original Tuskegee Airmen escorted their guys in the air to protect them, we support our guys who are on the ground. If they get in trouble, we're going to be there to protect them."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Christopher Hubenthal

Lt. Col. Mitch Von Hoffman, with the Fighter Squadron, makes his way into the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon.

## JBB opens new respite for service members

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. LISA A. COPE  
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz and Air Force Brig. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commander, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, cut a ceremonial ribbon to signify the opening of Red River Place behind Freedom Chapel, during a ceremony

Aug. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Red River Place will be open 24 hours a day to provide service members a place to congregate, recuperate from the daily stress of their missions and relax.

"We're excited about it because it gives people another opportunity to relax and improve their quality of life while they are here on Joint Base Balad," said Air Force Lt. Col. F. Hodges Viccellio, deputy wing chaplain, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. "It's a great place to be, but it's also a hard place to be."

It was an engineering feat to get the trailers in and leveled, establish electricity and get everything running, said Col. Jeff Swanson, senior chaplain for JBB, also with the 332nd.

"Red River Place was named by Soldiers to honor the crew of a (Boeing) CH-47 (Chinook) helicopter that crashed and killed seven crew members on a mission here in Iraq (in September 2008)," said Swanson. "Their call-sign on that particular mission was Red River 44, and so this ministry center is named in their honor to continue their legacy of service to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines."

Red River Place is designed to provide a place for Soldiers to use the internet, watch a movie or gather to provide moral support for each other, said Swanson.

Red Cross workers built eight bookshelves for Red



Air Force Brig. Gen. Craig A. Fanklin, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Army Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Air Force Col. Jeff Swanson, senior chaplain for Joint Base Balad, bow their heads during the invocation at the opening of Red River Place Aug. 17 at JBB.

River Place and filled them with thousands of books donated by U.S. citizens.

The Red Cross also supplied the facility with care package items for service members, including drink mix, non-perishable food and hygiene items.

A mother from New Jersey made a special donation when she founded Operation Pillow, said Swanson. Her son gave her the idea when he served in Iraq, he said. New Jersey organizations generated four truckloads of pillows and the funds to have them delivered to Iraq.

The pillows line the tops of the bookshelves in Red River Place, so any service member who needs a soft place to lay their head can have one.

Swanson said he expects roughly 2,000 service members each month, with an increase as Red River Place becomes better known.

**The Dirty Dozen**

- ❖ Lack of Crew Coordination
- ❖ Complacency
- ❖ Distraction
- ❖ Exceeding Your Limitations/Abilities
- ❖ Indiscipline
- ❖ Fatigue
- ❖ Stress
- ❖ Peer Pressure
- ❖ Lack of Knowledge
- ❖ Lack of Training
- ❖ Lack of Leader Involvement
- ❖ Lack of Pre-mission Planning

-- Message from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

# 41st IBCT takes charge of security at VBC

BY SPC. CORY GROGAN,  
UPAR,  
41ST IBCT

BAGHDAD — Members of the Oregon National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team will play an important role in protecting service members over the next year at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.



An element from the brigade will be in charge of security, as well as the base defense operations center at VBC.

Col. Eric Bush, the BDOC commander, said the unit has a significant amount of responsibility because the bases they are in charge of surround the Baghdad International Airport, holding roughly 65,000 residents within a 45-mile perimeter.

"The base is a very important strategic hub for operations in Iraq," said Bush.

The 41st Brigade BDOC's responsibilities include monitoring and reacting to issues involving entry control points, watch towers, indirect fire and personnel trying to gather information about the base.

Lt. Col. Marty Mote, chief of staff for the BDOC, said the BDOC is in charge of physical security for all activities and people on the base, and that they are examining lessons learned while constantly looking for more efficient and effective ways to accomplish the mission.

"We have to maintain awareness at all times and use all of the systems at our disposal," said Mote. "There's a lot of communication and cooperation involved."

The human element is important in BDOC operations, as coordinating actions over large space is challenging, Mote said.

"It is imperative that communication is very clear and concise because misunderstandings can potentially result in very bad consequences," said Mote.

"Any other technology we have merely supplements that."

Sgt. 1st Class Darin Rhodes, battle noncommissioned officer for the BDOC said it is very important everyone working in the BDOC maintains a high level of awareness at all times.

"Whether it is a rehearsal or a real-world situation, everyone is always professional and focused," said Rhodes. "We have to react quickly and be able to stay calm in chaotic situations."

Lt. Col. Ken Nygren, the 41st's force protection and access control director for VBC, said the process of moving equipment on and off base is a huge job alone, because the pace at which people want to move is often faster than the pace allowed to maintain security. Everyone is working hard to maintain a balance between efficiency of movement and security, he said.

"We have a very talented group of people who work well together and our job is to synchronize their effort so things go smoothly," said Nygren.

# Command sergeant major strives to mentor Soldiers



STORY AND PHOTO  
BY SPC. CORY GROGAN,  
UPAR,  
41ST IBCT

BAGHDAD — Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, base defense operation center sergeant major for Victory Base Complex, lights up with pride when talking about his enlisted Soldiers.

Foesch, a Portland Ore. native, said he is the voice of the enlisted members and the commander, but taking care of Sol-

diers is the best part of his job.

"The Soldiers who are most likely to be in a situation where they need help are the lower enlisted guys and that's the bread and butter of the Army," said Foesch. "If we don't take care of those guys, we won't be able to do our mission."

Foesch said he believes deployments can and should be a positive experience for Soldiers.

Deployments are what individuals make them, he said. If the command creates a good climate, most people will improve.

Foesch said Soldiers need to know there are opportunities to keep themselves occupied and productive. Furthering their education and developing their bodies and minds are just a few, he said.

"I look at it as an adventure," said Foesch. "There's stuff that you never would have done if you weren't in the Army—some of it's not so great, but the vast

majority of it is really good stuff. We're doing stuff to help accomplish America's goals and to help make America and the world a better place."

Good leadership is the key element in developing young men and women into mature adults, Foesch said.

"Right now we're their mom and dad, and their brothers and sisters," said Foesch. "That's huge."

Foesch thinks the men and women from the 41st will be assets to their states when returning home because they have developed leadership and decision-making skills in this stressful environment.

Foesch has been in the National Guard almost 23 years, and said it has become a much more professional organization, where young enlisted Soldiers, as well as young and senior NCOs are capable of making huge decisions that used to be only in officers' sphere of influence.

"We're just cranking out a great product," he said. "The vast majority of our men and women are becoming wonderful citizens, who are great Soldiers and leaders."

Foesch went on to say, "I have nothing but the utmost respect for these (Soldiers) that are out there everyday with body armor on, carrying their weapons in very austere environments, having a positive attitude."

Foesch hopes people look at the sacrifices young Guardmembers are making to ensure everyone in the U.S. is safe.

"Truly, I feel like that is a part of this whole thing," said Foesch. "Everyone should be proud of them. I know I am."



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch of Portland, Ore., the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team's base defense operation center sergeant major for the Victory Base Complex, believes deployments can be a positive experience for Soldiers.



## SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: [expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil)



# Washington D.C. National Guard Protects and Serves 13th ESC

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – At the most basic level, Soldiers live, fight and sometimes die in close-knit fire teams. For one team, holding a life in their hands and protecting it is just another part of their job.

Roughly 60 percent of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is made up of National Guard and Reserve component Soldiers. However, one platoon of Guardsmen from the United States' capitol does not just sustain the fight; they protect and serve.

The 547th Transportation Company's second platoon, Washington D.C. National Guard, was tasked with providing a personal security detail for the commanding general of the 13th ESC during the unit's tour here at Joint Base Balad.

"Due to the law enforcement background of many Soldiers, during our initial train-up, our platoon was selected to provide the PSD for the CG," said 1st Lt. Connor Norris, the PSD platoon leader with the 547th Trans. Co., 49th Transportation Battalion.

During the unit's mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., they were augmented by Soldiers from the 155th Armored Brigade, Mississippi National Guard. Many of the Soldiers, from both Washington D.C. and Mississippi, volunteered for this deployment.

"We're like a small family now," said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Tarver, a platoon sergeant and augmented Soldier from the 155th, on his third deployment to the Persian Gulf region.

During their initial training, the newly formed PSD platoon focused on teamwork to accomplish their mission, said Tarver, a Poplarville, Miss. native.

"When we first met, we didn't know each other, but now we all work together pretty well," he said.

The platoon underwent training to learn how to protect individuals they refer to as the principle. They also trained on mounted and dismounted operations, reflexive fire, movement under fire and reacting under fire.



Allan Tiffany debriefs Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Soldiers with the Personal Security Detachment from the Washington D.C. Army National Guard's 547th Transportation Company, following Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle rollover training. The PSD and their principles – the commanding general, the deputy commander, and the command sergeant major of the 13th ESC – conducted the training together to get to know each other here at Joint Base Balad Aug. 17.

These myriad training events focused primarily on the principle.

"If something happens, it's everybody's job to react and to get the principle out; that is the mission," said Tarver. "These guys know it's all about protecting the principle, they know what that means."

In today's all-volunteer force, Soldiers consistently choose to stay in the Army despite the deployments, hardships and dangers of military life. The Soldiers of the PSD are no different in their values.

"I could be at Walter Reed if something were to go wrong here," said Spc. James Curtis, a truck driver with the PSD platoon from the Washington D.C. National Guard, who is on his second deployment. "I was lucky the first time. I thought to myself, 'Curtis you may not be as lucky the next time.' I hesi-

tated, but I decided to volunteer to go again anyway."

Curtis said he knows all too well the luck of war. He sees wounded warriors on a daily basis at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he is employed as a security officer. Every day he stands watch as Soldiers who have suffered the horrors of war go through the revolving door – some with wounds clearly visible, others whose pain is below the surface, but just as profound, he said.

"Working there makes me appreciate everything I have," he said. "That's why I decided to volunteer for this deployment."

The all-volunteer force is an environment conducive to the training and development of junior leaders in the PSD to be the future, senior leaders of the unit because they want to be here.

The unit works as a team, so day-to-day operations are often entrusted to the junior leaders, the sergeants and staff sergeants, Tarver said.

"I am very pleased with these guys," said Tarver. "They do a little bit of everything and they're really doing a great job."

Norris said he agreed with his counterpart.

"They're truly a great group," Norris said. "They just make my job easy."

Even with such a high-visibility mission, the officers, commissioned and noncommissioned, never lose sight of the future: those junior Soldiers who look to them for leadership. Curtis said he appreciates this commitment.

"I'm pretty impressed to be surrounded by so much experience," said Curtis. "We really came together as a family and I trust these guys."

## Do you have a story idea?

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# 402nd AFSB gets new commander

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush took command of the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Aug. 19, replacing outgoing commander Lt. Col. Joe L. Hart during a change of command ceremony at the unit's headquarters on Joint Base Balad.



Hart will be reassigned to the Pentagon where he will be the Assistant to the Director of the Army Staff.

Bush, a native of Tecumseh, Mich., holds a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Central Michigan University. He received his commission as a field artillery officer in 1987. He later completed the ordnance officer transition course in 1993 and the combined logistics officer advanced course in 1994.

The ceremony was teleconferenced back to Bush's home in Iowa, so his wife and two children could watch as he took command of his battalion.

Col. Brian R. Haebig, presiding officer at the ceremony and commander of the 402nd AFSB, praised Bush for his expertise and experience in his field.

"(Bush) is an ammunition expert



Col. Brian R. Haebig, commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, passes the 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB flag to Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush to symbolize the beginning of his command, at a change of command ceremony Aug. 19 at the unit's headquarters on Joint Base Balad.

and a great logistician," said Haebig. "He is experienced in training and combat. He knows his craft and he understands property accountability and the importance of velocity and retrograde."

All of these abilities will aid Bush as he assumes command of a unit that manages the largest property book

in the history of the Army, valued at \$17.2 billion.

In his speech, Bush quoted Henry Ford.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself," he said. "I'm confident that we, the 2nd battalion, will find that success ... as we move forward into history."

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4. Smoke detector is operational
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly



# Counter IED train-the-trainer

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th Brigade Combat Team, qualified at Debro Range for the counter-improvised explosive device Level III training Aug. 20, at Joint Base Balad.



C-IED Level III is a train-the-trainer program, which teaches Soldiers how to teach other Soldiers to be instructors for the C-IED Level II course. Level II training is a Multi-National Corps – Iraq requirement and provides important information to Soldiers who regularly go outside the wire.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Navejas, with the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Quick Reaction Force, said he assists the Task Force Troy instructors who run the range and helps them train new instructors.

"What we do out here is show them how to run an IED course and set up indicators as they are used outside the wire," said Navejas. "We also set up a scan lane for when individuals are conducting dismounted route sweeps."

Navejas said students drive through an instructor-engineered IED course designed according to the latest information from the area of operation to familiarize students.

"It is very important for individuals running outside the wire, whether they're running convoy

or area security operations, to notice indicators of IEDs and keep themselves and local nationals safe from the actions of insurgents in the area," said Navejas.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Hall, with the 107th Cavalry Regiment's B Troop, 2nd Squadron, said the training has made the overall mission safer. It has given the Soldiers a new view on current IED activity in their sector, he said.

"The training covers ... tactics, techniques and procedures we can use to counteract the enemy as well as the devices that we will find out there and the methods they will use to employ those IEDs," said Hall.

Maj. Derek Holland, the C-IED officer for the brigade staff of the 155th BCT, said it is his job to ensure the noncommissioned officers are trained to



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th Brigade Combat Team, listen to the instructor during the counter-improvised explosive device Level III training at Debro Range, Aug. 20 here on Joint Base Balad.

level III standards and ensure they, in turn, teach Soldiers C-IED Level II.

"The more people that get trained up on this, the more people that become trained instructors and can go back to their units and instruct their troops how to do the same thing; how to find things they didn't know that existed out there," said Navejas.

# Navy Customs speeding up redeployment process

By SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Going through customs can be a painful process for redeploying service members, but thanks to Sailors at Joint Base Balad, that process is a little bit easier.

The Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, D Company, works with redeploying units to provide customs inspections before they reach Kuwait, so service members can get home sooner.

“It cuts the work in half down in Kuwait,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Bridges, a native of Fort Ashby, W. Va. “With the number of people there, it’s a big deal.”

Bridges, a customs inspector with the Naval Reserves, said once a unit’s connexes have been inspected for contraband, they stay sealed until they reach their final destination.

“For the most part, if we inspect it here, they won’t (re) inspect it (in Kuwait),” said



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Petty Officer 2nd Class Jimmie Crockett

**Navy Customs inspectors provide an amnesty brief to redeploying Soldiers prior to inspecting the unit’s equipment for prohibited items.**

Petty Officer 2nd Class David W. Hartford, a native of Brunswick, Maine.

Hartford said customs agency employees in Kuwait sometimes randomly inspect 10 percent of a unit’s equipment, but mostly they simply verify that the numbers on the seals match those on the paperwork.

While the inspectors work to make the inspection process as quick and easy as possible, redeploying units can do their

part to make it go even faster, Bridges said.

Units should contact Navy Customs at 443-6411, and schedule an inspection for seven to 10 days before they are scheduled to fly out and provide a point of contact in case of scheduling conflicts or flight changes, said Bridges.

On the day of inspection, units should prepare at least 30 minutes in advance by pulling all equipment out of the connexes and making sure the

connexes are properly cleaned, said Bridges.

“Our main goal is to keep things sterile,” said Bridges.

Hartford said this also aids in pest control.

“It’s important to clean all the dirt and residue in the connex and tape up the vents to prevent critters from getting in,” he said.

Hartford said units often think the inspectors are just looking for contraband, but a large part of the inspection is to make sure no dirt or insects from Iraq make it to the United States as they could damage the ecosystem.

“Our goal is to protect the U.S. from harmful and intrusive entities,” said Hartford.

Bridges said units can either bring connexes and equipment to the B6 Navy Customs inspection center at JBB, located on All American Drive,

across from the PAX terminal, or arrange to have a team of inspectors work at the unit’s own site.

“The whole thing is customer service,” he said.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Petty Officer 2nd Class Jimmie Crockett

**Sailors from D Company of the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group perform full inspections of equipment and personal items for redeploying units so they do not have to go through a detailed inspection in Kuwait.**

## Reduction in force means reduction in ammo

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. JOHN M. STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 23rd Ordnance Company out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, continues to assist with the withdrawal of Class V ammunition at Joint Base Balad, as MNC-I prepares to make reductions for the responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment in Iraq.

The mission of the 23rd Ord. Co. is to provide ammunition support to 16 locations throughout Iraq for Coalition forces.

The unit’s executive officer, 1st Lt. Hunter J. Berg, said the ammunition is moving out of Iraq to Kuwait and Afghanistan.

“Basically, we are taking the (unnecessary) items out of our inventory here and sending it to somebody else’s,” said Berg.

In May, the 23rd completed the largest retrograde mission the Corps Storage Area has experienced in its six-year history. Second platoon leader, 1st Lt. Terrence S. Flanagan, said roughly 50 storage containers, both 20 and 40 foot connexes, were loaded and shipped to Kuwait, containing more than \$16 million of ammunition, reducing the Class V ammunition total in Iraq by nearly 20 percent.

Because of the new role of Coalition forces after the implementation of the security agreement and the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq, the need for this ammo has decreased.

This does not mean all the ammo is being shipped back to the U.S., however. Now, it is turned in by redeploying units leaving theater, inspected and sent to areas where the need for ammo is greater.

“The 23rd Ordnance Company maintenance section has also been doing its part by saving over \$68 million by consolidating and identifying bench stock items and returning them to the Class IX supply system,” said Flanagan.

After rounds are turned in by units, they are inspected, repackaged and sent to the pre-pull operators.



**Sgt. Scott T. Henne, the mini-berm noncommissioned officer in charge, and Robert L. Brooks, material handler, prepare ordnance to be shipped out of Iraq to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.**

The process of ammo being redistributed throughout theater starts with the pre-pull section, said Spc. Miciah Smith, a pre-pull operator and East Orange, N.J. native.

“We pick up the paperwork, pull the ammo that is on the paperwork, palletize and set it up so that each unit that requires ammo can get it,” said Smith. “Then we send it to the mini-berm where it is prepared and ready for shipping.”

Sgt. Jesse Payton, the 23rd’s turn-in section sergeant from Penn Lake, Pa., said if a unit has ammo they do not want, they turn it in to him. The useable ammo gets repackaged, and Kellogg, Brown and Root Inc. contractors determine if it can be kept. The ammo then goes into a connex and waits in the CSA for redistribution.

“We make sure that the counts of ammo are right and we deal with all kinds of ammo, from small arms to 2 3/4 inch rocket rounds,” said Payton. “The unserviceable rounds are shipped to a different post, to an explosive ordnance disposal team, where the rounds will get detonated.”

With the 23rd’s deployment drawing to a close in October, Berg said he is proud of his Soldiers’ work in Iraq.

“In my 19 years of service, these are the most hard-working Soldiers that I have had under my command,” said Berg. “My (noncommissioned officers) make my job easy. They are the ones that make it happen.”

# 377th Theater Sustainment Command commander visits JBB

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. JOHN M. STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command out of New Orleans, toured the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) logistic facilities and talked to leaders and Soldiers Aug. 20 at Joint Base Balad.

Following a meeting between Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Visot began his tour. The conversation was focused on the drawdown in logistic and personnel forces from Iraq in the next year.

One unit visited, the 80th Ordnance Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Wash., is preparing for a busy year due to, in large part, the ongoing drawdown.

The 80th's mission is to provide logistic support to Multi-National Corps – Iraq forces by operating major distribution activities on JBB at the corps storage area, joint distribution center, central receiving and shipping point and the forward redistribution point.

Additionally, the 80th provides maintenance as well as water and cargo handling support at contingency operating locations throughout the 13th's area of operation.

"We are trying to bring as much of the logistic assets on JBB home as possible to assist with the reduction of force," said Maj. Bryan W. Ryder, executive officer of the 80th, during his visit with Visot.



Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general, 377th Theater Sustainment Command, congratulates newly promoted Spc. Joshua Lytle, 910th Quartermaster Company, during a ceremony at the forward redistribution point warehouse Aug. 20. Visot came to JBB to tour the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) facilities and met its Soldiers.

Visot then toured the CRSP yard and talked to leaders of the 159th Seaport Operations Company out of Fort Story, Va. He also handed out several command coins to Soldiers at the CRSP yard for their hard work and dedication to the mission.

The visit was highlighted by Visot

pinning rank on three Soldiers from the 910th Quartermaster Company, out of Ardmore, Okla., who were recently promoted. He said he was glad to spend quality time with the Soldiers because it shows that senior officers have not forgotten what the Soldiers do in theater.

"I'll take a lot out of my visit to JBB," said Visot. "The most helpful part is recognizing the tremendous challenge that we have as logisticians. It helps to raise the situational awareness back in the states and helps me prepare for the next unit's scope of responsibility as they get ready to deploy into theater."

The day ended with a dinner in which Visot addressed the guests.

"The reward for all your hard work is being able to come home to your family and loved ones and knowing that you have made a difference in the sovereign country of Iraq," he said.

In keeping with the theme for 2009 as the year of the noncommissioned officer, Visot encouraged all NCOs to continue to coach, teach, mentor, train and lead.

"Recognize the importance of value each Soldier brings, and remember that each person has volunteered to enlist and that adds value to the Army," he said.



(Left to right) Maj. Michelle K. Donahue, 80th Ordnance Battalion, support operations officer, Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general, 377th Theater Sustainment Command, Lt. Col Chris Mohan, commander, 80th Ord. Bn. and 1st Lt. Spencer R. Taylor, Forward Redistribution Point accountable officer, 910th Quartermaster Company. Visot receives a brief from Taylor concerning accountable items at the FRP.



Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command out of New Orleans, and Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), greet members of the 13th during a logistics meeting at JBB Aug. 20

# Q-West Mayor enforces no cell phone order

By CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS,  
UPAR, 2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — Officials fired three Turkish vendors and an Iraqi interpreter, and expelled them from post for possessing contraband, at Contingency Operating Location Q-West Aug. 11.

Military police responded to a call from the business operations section of the Mayor Cell and began an investigation that revealed an apparent conspiracy to purchase and register an unauthorized cell phone.

Three Turkish nationals who had recently arrived at Q-West, convinced an Iraqi interpreter to purchase the phone, which they insisted was for business purposes only.

Cell phones are among contraband items listed in the Mayor's policy memorandums of prohibited items. The policy applies to all foreign nationals and Iraqis who work at, or visit Q-West.

Furthermore, the policy states U.S. Soldiers and Department of Defense personnel are "prohibited from selling, giving, transferring, holding, or purchasing these items for (local nationals or foreign nationals)."

Cell phones and other information storage and transmittal devices are strictly controlled because insurgents can use them against Coalition forces, said Capt. Bryan K. Sullins, intelligence officer for the 2/198th Combined Arms Battalion.

"Prohibiting such items helps us maintain security and operational secrecy," said Sullins, a native of Hernando, Miss.

The men attempted to register the unauthorized cell phone and, when ques-

tioned, discrepancies in their stories concerning where the cell phone was purchased exposed their dishonesty, said Capt. Allen Legere, a Gulfport, Miss., native and the officer in charge of Q-West retail operations. Legere, with the 2/198th CAB, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, out of Senatobia, Miss., is responsible for preparing all cell phone memoranda for vendors.

"It's a complicated story," said Legere. "(The interpreter) had a memo that allowed him to carry a cell phone for his job and he showed this memo to the manager of a convenience store on post that stocked cell phones. (The vendor) had an outdated memo allowing the sale of cell phones to Soldiers. The manager saw (the translator's) memo and assumed everything was okay."

The manager cooperated with military police, surrendering his memo along with 10 cell phones and nine memory cards to provost marshals. After examining sales logs, provost marshals verified the interpreter purchased the phone.

The vendor is not under investigation, according to the Provost Marshal's office.

"Basically, one cell phone caused them all to lose their jobs," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth E. Guess, a military police officer with the 2/198th CAB and a native of Nettleton, Miss. "Once they were found guilty, the badging office revoked their resident and work privileges, and none of them will be able to get a job with Coalition forces anywhere."

Lt. Col. William B. Smith, Jr., the Q-West Mayor, with the 2/198th CAB and a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., said he is concerned other local and foreign nationals may possess contraband. He has issued new memoranda clarifying the policy.

"These men didn't seem to realize the seriousness of their actions," said Smith. "Protection of Coalition forces and operational security are paramount. Such behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

# Sustainers learn to use MRAPs

By SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The military constantly fields new equipment to better serve the Warfighter, which requires adaptability and aptitude from the Soldiers who must learn how to use it.

Provider Soldiers are learning how to operate and maintain the latest in military vehicles here at Joint Base Balad.

The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle provides unprecedented protection from roadside bombs for the Soldiers who use them. With a consortium of new models now hitting the ground, Provider Soldiers are working hand-in-hand with civilian contractors to learn the ins and outs of their new ride.

"Through a 40-hour operator's course, Soldiers learn how to drive and

use the vehicle properly," said Lloyd Sherouse, an instructor at the MRAP site. Drivers are familiarized with operating the MRAPs in both day and night conditions, he said.

Almost 50 percent of all MRAP accidents are rollovers, caused by one of three things: maneuvers of the driver, road collapse and sudden impact. The MRAP operator's course works to mitigate the chances of a rollover by teaching Soldiers how to properly drive the vehicle.

"When they go out and do the road tests they drive on JBB, and if they can navigate through the streets of JBB, they can pretty much do the same out in the Iraqi community," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Colin Bergstrom, support operations officer, 80th Ordnance Battalion.

In addition to the operator's course, there is a 40-hour maintenance course to train mechanics on the MRAPs.

The 80th Ord. Bn. sends Soldiers to

be trained in MRAP maintenance and operations to provide support for units and convoys at JBB and out in the field.

At this time, roughly 35 percent of the maintenance personnel in the 80th have been trained in MRAP maintenance and operation, said Bergstrom.

Soldiers benefit from their civilian instructor's experience and expertise.

"The civilians teach the Soldiers new things that expand their knowledge and give them confidence while working on the MRAPs," said Bergstrom.

The MRAP repair team also addresses issues that may arise during convoys, from simply patching up a broken air conditioner to refurbishing a battle-damaged vehicle.

Convoys passing through Joint Base Balad can stop and receive repairs in order to return the MRAP to mission capable status, said Herb Brotherwood, Balad MRAP site manager.

During training, the Soldiers get on-the-job experience and learn how to fix

the MRAPs problems first hand with the assistance of the instructors.

"The (Soldiers) go out there like an augment work-force and assist them in their jobs, and at the same time they can put out more equipment because they have two people working on the same vehicle, rather than just one," said Bergstrom.

The MRAP site orders, repairs and installs whatever is needed to get the vehicle mission ready.

Repair time depends on the severity of the issue, but the MRAP site pushes to have the vehicle ready within 60 days, said Brotherwood.

"We go through all the Army channels to get parts," said Dwayne Wright, a resource production manager. "We'll go through the Forward Resource Point and get the parts we need to get those MRAPs running again."

"We're here for the soldiers and here to support the Warfighters," Wright said.

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**TOP FROM PAGE 1**

stress center, convoy support center, dental clinic and education center.

Wilson and Spencer then convoyed to Habur Gate to speak with the unit's Logistics Task Force - A, 16th Special Troops Battalion.

The small group of Soldiers at Habur Gate maintains one of a handful of points of entry into Iraq. Habur Gate is a convoy staging facility on the Turkish border near the Iraqi town of Zahko. It is the second busiest point of entry into Iraq and a hub for goods coming into the country from Turkey.

Wilson spoke with LTF - A Soldiers and leaders about the

difficulties associated with long deployments, including suicides and assaults, and the importance of Soldier care and leadership engagement.

"We have all kinds of things going on in the Army because someone didn't want to intervene," Wilson said.

Wilson said long deployments can be difficult for Soldiers, so it is important for non-commissioned officers to stay engaged in their lives.

"Why am I telling you all this?" Wilson asked. "Because I was once a private. I was once a sergeant. Every time you talk to a warrior, always go back and evaluate what you said."

Wilson said it is OK for

leaders to apologize to Soldiers if they are wrong or too harsh.

"The problem is that many leaders can't do that," Wilson said. "They think that it is a sign of weakness. Only egomaniacs look at themselves as being weak."

Wilson stressed the importance of putting Soldiers first.

"I'm where I'm at because of you," Wilson said. "If you lead with your heart you'll always be right."

This was the second trip for Wilson to Q-West and Habur Gate to visit the Soldiers of the 16th Sust. Bde.

"It's just reinforcement to him, as the senior enlisted adviser in Iraq, that we are stay-

ing engaged with our Soldiers and are continuing our mission," said Spencer. "The visit allows him to get a true picture of the status of our Soldiers and assess any changes in the operational environment."

While he was in the area, Wilson also visited with the deputy mayor of Zahko, Dr. Joqidarweash Basil. Basil is also the mayor of Dahuk, a nearby community.

The two discussed the construction of Zahko Emergency Hospital. The \$2.9 million facility, a Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq project, is slated for completion in October.

According to information from the GRD, the project was

initiated because many residents in Zahko cannot afford health care nor have access to it, and many existing facilities need renovated.

Wilson and Basil also discussed long-term relations in the largely Kurdish area.

"Our request is that (the U.S. Army) remains partners and friends," said Basil, through a translator.

Wilson also said he hoped to continue the great relationship the Army has with communities in northern Iraq.

"We hope that with the Strategic Framework Agreement, a long-term global strategic partnership with Iraq, that we'll have that relationship for a long time," Wilson said.

**HOME FROM PAGE 1**

esis lab ensures there are enough bags ready whenever they're needed.

"So many people are willing to donate because they want to do something to help their fellow servicemembers," said Master Sgt. Phillip Monk, NCO in charge of aphaeresis operations. "Their contribution goes right into action and is used right here to save lives."

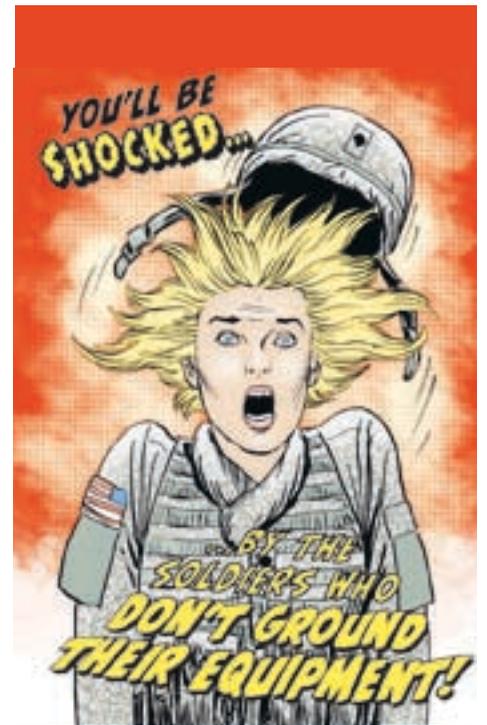
In order to meet the in-theater demands, the lab must collect approximately nine bags of platelets each day. This equates to scheduling 10 patients daily.

Since the AFTH provides the same quality of care regardless of nationality or combative status, platelets have also helped Iraqi citizens. The benefit of platelets, introduced by U.S. military forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom,

may have long-reaching effects even during peacetime. Colonel Jordan said he hopes the Iraqi people eventually start using platelets at their own hospitals.

"I truly believe (U.S. military forces) being here has allowed us the chance to set a good example to the Iraqi people, especially in how we view war," said Colonel Jordan. "The U.S doesn't believe in throwing our troops out there saying, 'Just get out there and fight.' We want to make sure our folks return home to their families. Platelets help our folks live, they help bring them home."

Senior Airman Brenton Swift, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft armament systems journeyman, watches as Staff Sgt. Michael Hebron, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron aphaeresis technician, monitors the needle insertion site during a platelet donation at the Air Force Theater hospital here.



# 37th Engineer Battalion

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers from the 37th Engineer Battalion's A Company, second platoon, put themselves in harm's way every day, giving the Iraqi population and Coalition forces peace of mind when they travel the roads surrounding Joint Base Balad.

Patrolling routes much slower than a standard convoy, the engineers on these route-clearance missions observe the terrain and villages for the most minute changes, which could indicate a possible improvised explosive device or ambush site.

"We try and collect as much as we can about the local population," said Sgt. 1st Class Chad Etzel, platoon sergeant of second platoon.

Etzel, a Houston native on his third deployment to Iraq, said his convoy has to move slowly enough to pick up every little detail.

"The little things merge into a big picture," said Etzel. "It might be that little thing that matters in the end."

First Lt. Jonathan McCloud, the platoon leader of second platoon, said the team can interrogate suspects and confirm IEDs without leaving their vehicles.

"We're not your traditional route-clearance team," he said.

McCloud said they have the technology and equipment, and his Soldiers have the skills and expertise to find IEDs, but still rely on other teams to analyze and disarm or dispose of more complex devices.

"We refer some expertise to EOD, just like everyone else."

McCloud said the Iraqi Army is taking a larger role in these types of operations, and their presence is building confidence in their ability to take control as Coalition forces execute the responsible drawdown of troops from Iraq.

"We may have the best equipment, but the human



A Soldier with A Co. prepares the turret on his vehicle before heading out to search for improvised explosive devices near

eye and knowledge of the local area is the most important thing," said McCloud.

Etzel said Soldiers rely on their instincts and eyes just as much as their Iraqi counterparts.

"There's no book on this," said Etzel. "You're not

going to be trained on this until you get on the ground and do it."

McCloud said on a recent mission he thought he saw some wire strewn across the road through his vehicle's optics system. The closer they got, the



Spc. Gregory Liggin, a combat engineer with the 37th Engineer Battalion's A Company, second platoon, loads the weapons system on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle in preparation for a route-clearance mission.

Pfc. Michael Joseph, a combat engineer with second platoon, washes the windows on his vehicle before the night's mission.



# Men keeping streets safe



near Joint Base Balad.

more he believed it was wire, until someone got close enough to see it without the optics. The supposed wire was actually just a stream of water, said McCloud.

His team made fun of him for days after the incident, he said.

Etzel said the teasing is how his Soldiers stay in the game.

“There are long hours of boredom broken up by seconds of pure terror,” said Etzel.

He said moments like McCloud’s phantom wire story occupy a very small fraction of mission time. Games and jokes are used to deal with the monotony of long missions.

“The intent is not to distract, but to keep us in the right mindset,” Etzel said.

While Soldiers in some vehicles pass the time by teasing each other, Pfc. Michael Joseph, a combat engineer with A Co., plays trivia games and tries to stump his battle buddies.

“You’ve got to have fun with it,” said Joseph, as he prepared his vehicle to go out on another mission. “It keeps us awake, keeps us thinking and keeps us vigilant.”



Pfc. Astain Dennis scans his sector for any signs of IEDs or a possible ambush, during a route-clearance mission near Joint Base Balad.



Spc. Gregory Liggins, a combat engineer with the 37th Engineer Battalion’s A Company, second platoon, prepares the unmanned turret on an MRAP before heading out to clear improvised explosive devices from routes surrounding Joint Base Balad.

# Soldier deals with deployment with pen and ink

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — One Soldier at Contingency Operating Location Q-West has used his art degree and training to fulfill a unique personal goal during his 15-month deployment: to create a graphic novel.

Spc. James L. Griffin, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, authored a pen-and-ink graphic novel, "The Warbling Cartel," for stress relief and artistic growth, he said.

"Part of my impetus for starting the book was because I knew I was going to be out here for a while and didn't want to let my artistic skills languish," said Griffin, a native of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, on his first deployment.



The graphic novel focuses on Clive Corvax, a character without a conscience. Corvax gets a conscience implanted in his right hand, but becomes weak and

hindered by it. Then he gets an aggressive and violent artificial intelligence implanted into his left hand.

Lead character Clive Corvax prepares to sever his 'conscience' in the climactic pages of "The Warbling Cartel," an unpublished graphic novel by Spc. James L. Griffin, with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade. Griffin finished the novel while deployed to Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

"And hi-jinks ensue," said Griffin.

Griffin graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Columbus College of Art and Design, a private college in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Army in March 2006.

"I had student loans and no real job experience," said Griffin. "Also, I wanted to see the world."

Griffin said, to him, deploying is about keeping a rhythm and stretching one's self.

"I started running cross-country more regularly since I've joined the Army,"

said Griffin. "I've done 10 km runs and the 5 km fun runs, and I'd compare this deployment to running. It's a challenge to keep your rhythm and it's a test of endurance, and I'm sure it'll feel great when we're finished."

He has accomplished more than he thought he could, Griffin said.

"I'd compare the emotional experience of this deployment to running farther than I'd previously thought possible," said Griffin. "This comic itself was more pages than any illustrated narrative work I'd ever done."

Griffin said he plans to publish the novel, but not without further input and blessing from co-writer and co-creator Jess Hogfoss, a former comrade who is now in the private sector.

"I met (then Spc.) Hogfoss back when we were both in the 1st Armored Division," said Griffin. "We hit it off almost immediately and bonded over new-wave and post-punk music as well as speculative fiction — all of which worked their way into the themes and aesthetics of the comic as we imagined it."

# Chris Barron and The Time Bandits rock Q-West

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. JOHN B. HERD, UPAR,  
2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — Chris Barron, former front man for the Spin Doctors and The Time Bandits, performed two shows at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq,

Aug. 10 and 11.

The band played a mix of Spin Doctors' classics, as well as songs from the Time Bandits' new album, "Pancho and the Kid." After the show, band members talked to Soldiers, signed autographs and handed out copies of the new album.

Soldiers from A Company, 2/198th Combined Arms Battalion, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit, also spent time with band members, teaching them about various Army weapons

and what Soldiers do in Iraq.

"It was a great experience for myself and my platoon to be able to share what we do with a great band," said Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Adams, the platoon sergeant with A Co., 2/198th CAB, and a native of Fulton, Miss. "For a short time we were able to forget that we were away from friends and family."

Band members said they enjoyed the opportunity to visit A Co.'s headquarters.

"I wish there was some way we could show our appreciation for the hospitality the troops showed us," said John Pahmer, the band's bass player. "I will be bringing a new perspective home to share with my friends and family."

Lead singer Chris Barron said he was also glad for the opportunity to visit Q-West and perform for Soldiers.

"I'm glad I had the privilege of being at Q West and witnessing the humanity, cooperation and esprit de corps," Barron said.



Chris Barron, former front man for the Spin Doctors and the Time Bandits, performs for Soldiers at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, Aug. 10. Barron said he was glad he visited Q-West and performed for the Soldiers. "I'm glad I had the privilege of being at Q-West and witnessing the humanity, cooperation and esprit de corps," Barron said.

# 'If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball'

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — It is the spirit of competition that drives Soldiers to test their limits and push themselves harder

than their peers in sports — continuing the legacy of dodgeball.

Teams from the units serving

at Joint Base Balad took part in the 80th Ordnance Battalion's Joint Base Balad Dodgeball Tournament in the East Circuit Gym Aug. 15.

"Dodgeball is a very coordinated game," said Staff Sgt. Terence Sparks, tournament coordinator with the 80th Ord. Bn. "You have to have good eye and hand coordination and be agile on your feet. You need cat-like reflexes, kind of like a cheetah."

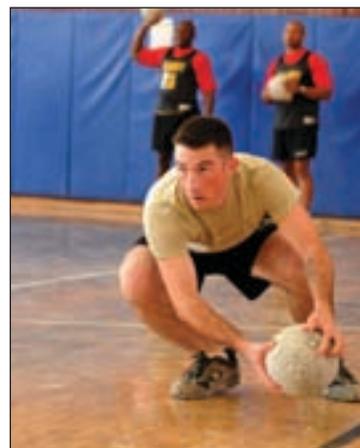
The tournament was held to give service members at JBB an afternoon to relax and enjoy their time during breaks from

their often stressful work weeks, said Sparks.

Sparks said dodgeball is a way for service members to decompress from day-to-day missions, spend quality time with their unit and build team cohesion, all while getting good physical training.

"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball," he said.

Of all the teams that participated in the event, it was the Average Joes from the 37th Engineer Battalion who took the trophy home at the end of the day.



"This is a fun game," said Pfc. Charles Carillo, a member

of the Average Joes. "It's a good morale boost and it makes being here better. It's a good thing they put together."

Spc. Allen Esposito, member of team "I'm On a Boat," of the 37th Engineers Battalion, grabs a rolling dodgeball during the 80th Ordnance Battalion Dodgeball Tournament held Aug. 15.

The 80th Ord. Bn. plans to hold other such events for the morale and welfare of JBB service members, to ease stress and keep them ready for the mission at hand, said Sparks.

# The 402nd says a 'Hart'-felt goodbye

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 2nd of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade held a farewell dinner to say good-bye to their commander, Lt. Col. Joe L. Hart, at the east morale, welfare and recreation center here at Joint Base Balad, Aug. 15.

The event featured a buffet-style dinner and dessert, after which many members and groups of his command spoke about Hart and presented him with parting gifts. At the end of the ceremony, members of the Ugandan Christian Gospel Fellowship performed a traditional dance entitled "Jesus the Lion of Judea" in honor of Hart.

Hart handed off his command to Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush, in a change of command ceremony held at the 2nd of the 402nd headquarters, Aug. 19. Before the ceremony, Hart was presented with a Bronze Star, the Army Combat Patch and was inducted by the United States Army Association of Quartermasters into the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin.

Induction into the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin is reserved for individuals who have served in the Quartermaster Corps for at least 10 years and have been approved by the Quartermaster General.

"He epitomizes the Army values and it's never about him, it's always about ensuring others are taken care of first," said Command Sgt. Maj. Alister V. Mason. "He always took the time to provide me with



Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Alister V. Mason presents Lt. Col. Joseph L. Hart with a painting of himself as a parting gift, at his farewell dinner at the Joint Base Balad east morale welfare and recreation center, Aug. 15.

the guidance, the leadership and the mentorship I needed."

In his final comments to his unit, Hart praised their efforts over the past year.

"I trusted each of you to get the job done, and that is exactly what we did as a team," said Hart. "I am proud of the fact that everyone had a position on the team and played like a first-round draft pick."

## Casualty liaison team to leave Ibn Sina Hospital

BY SPC. BRANDY M. OXFORD  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

BAGHDAD – Six Soldiers with second platoon, 623rd Casualty Liaison Team, 10th Sustainment Brigade, at the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Ibn Sina Hospital here are scheduled to move with the 10th CSH to Sather Air Base, Iraq, in September after the U.S. gives control of Ibn Sina to the Iraqi government.

Unlike many of the jobs tasked to the Iraqis, the 623rd's casualty liaisons perform military-specific tasks – facilitating the next-of-kin notification process, acting as a go-between for doctors and unit command staff, and initiating a patient case file at the hospital, said Casualty Liaison Sgt. Craig M. Smith, a

Springfield, Ill., native.

"By the nature of our job, it's more of a military function," Smith said. "They'll still have their own patient administration section, but next-of-kin notification is a lot different in the military than on the civilian side of things. We're the first step in the casing process whenever someone is injured in the line of duty."

Smith and five other casualty liaisons work one of three eight-hour shifts daily, with one person working at all times to keep their operation running 24 hours a day.

The liaisons submit reports through defense casualty integrated personnel systems to casualty and mortuary affairs, which Smith said is the most essential part of their job.

"That's how the family gets notified, by the reports that we generate," Smith said. "We're here to make sure the next-of-kin and the family are kept in the

loop if anything happens. That's really our main purpose."

Every chain of command in the Baghdad area calls regularly for status updates on their injured service members as well, he said.

"You see a little bit more than you'd expect when you are a paper pusher," Smith said. "It wasn't quite what I envisioned. I'm glad to be doing it."

He said he loves the job because he works in a trauma center in Baghdad and, even on the administrative side, his job gets as hectic as working directly with trauma-room patients.

"If everything's going fine, then we're not doing anything," said Smith. "If we're bored ... everybody's happy."

One of the liaison's greatest challenges is identifying patients who come to the hospital without identification tags or cards, especially if those patients are not accompanied by members of their unit and are unable to

speak, Smith said.

He said service members should take seriously pre-mission checks for identification materials, to prevent delays in their hospital processing and next-of-kin notification. Even without an identification card, dog tag information enables the liaisons to pull up service members' military and medical records from the military personnel office.

The liaisons will stay at Ibn Sina until the last patient has been transferred or released and control of the hospital given to the Iraqi government, he said. The 623rd CLT is scheduled to return to the United States in December.

Once the 10th CSH has transitioned out of Ibn Sina, the hospital will close pending renovations and reopening by the Iraqi government, Smith said.

The 10th CSH is scheduled to transition to Sather in September, said Col. Jeff Foe, the Multi-

National Corps – Iraq deputy surgeon. Foe said the hospital transition is one step in the process of the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Although the whole team may not leave for Sather at once, their scheduled September move is part of the responsible drawdown of forces directed by the security agreement, which requires the roughly 130,000 troops in Iraq to be reduced to roughly 50,000 by August 2010. Additionally, the number of civilian contractors in country is slated to be reduced to roughly 75,000.

Foe said the service members facilitating this transition work to make it as seamless as possible to further establish U.S. forces as good stewards in Iraq.

"This has been a very unique experience as we're giving back a hospital out of the International Zone to the government of Iraq," Foe said. "It's been a learning experience."

On the Web

16<sup>TH</sup> SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

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



**I WANT YOU**

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AREAS FOR FIRE HAZARDS**

# Soldiers work with local nationals

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Local nationals from areas around Joint Base Balad travel here every day to work with the Department of Public Works, enabling Soldiers to focus on their missions.

Soldiers of the 547th Transportation Company work alongside these local nationals up to three times a day around JBB.

The 547th is split into platoons which cover different areas of the base. One platoon works security for the Iraqi Free

Zone and recycling center, another does security for the commanding general, command sergeant major and VIP's, and checks meeting locations. The third platoon handles security for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at the DPW and the joint operations center.

"The overall mission is to in-process the local nationals, get them to their job site, escort them to their details and monitor them," said Sgt. Megan M. Jackson, a food services specialist with the 547th and escort for the DPW program.

Pfc. Daniel A. Jones, a light wheel mechanic with the 547th Trans. Co. and an escort for the program, said the Soldiers escort the local nationals to ensure their safety, as well as the safety and overall security of the base and equipment.



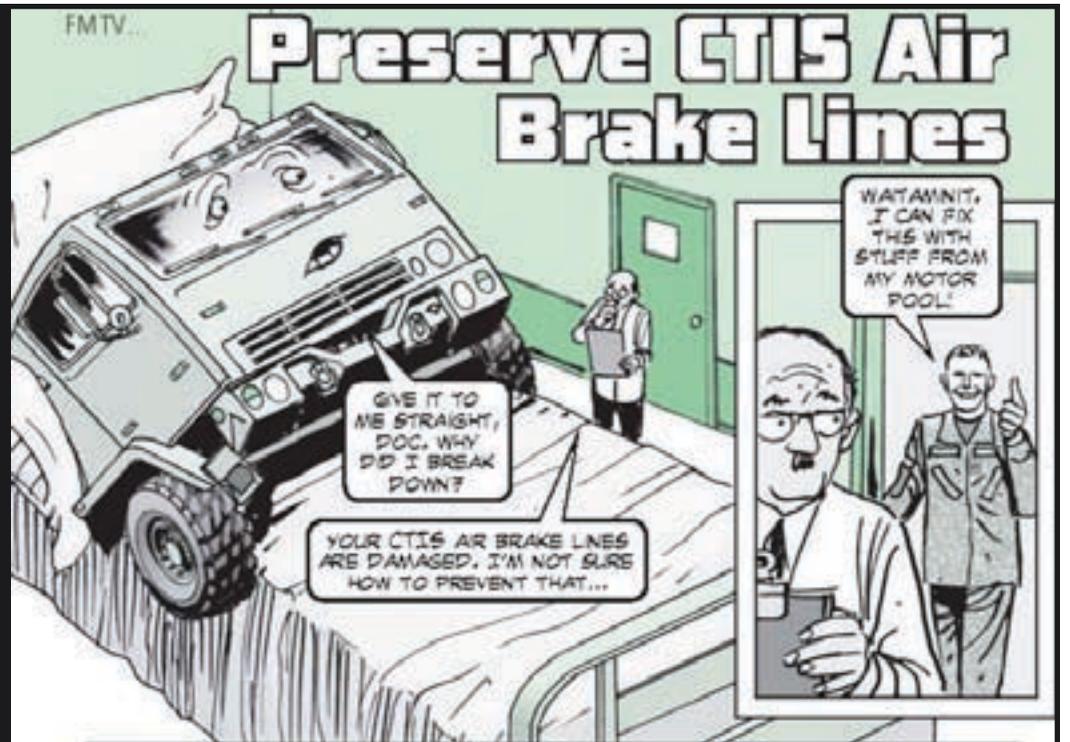
Spc. George W. Pope-Reyes, a signal system support specialist with the 547th Transportation Company, and Spc. Quentin Stewart, a motor transport operator with the 547th Trans. Co., wait for the local nationals they will escort for the Department of Works program Aug. 19 here on Joint Base Balad.

make a positive impression, despite the cultural barrier, said the 547th's 1st Sgt., Terrance Smith.

Jackson said she no longer worries about going outside the gate, or knowing what to expect. The job has increased her understanding of the Iraqi people and their culture, she said.

"I get to learn something out of my scope of area," said Jones. "I get to interact with the civilians."

# Maintenance & Supply Topic of the Week



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.

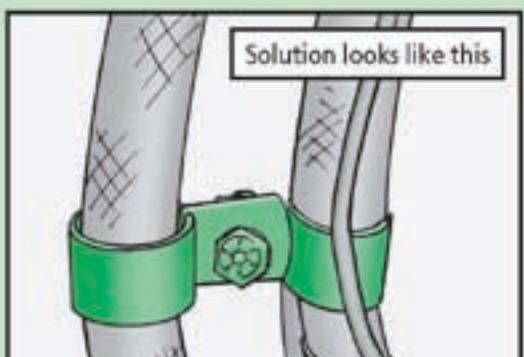
This fix is cheap, works on all FMTVs, extends the life of the hoses and cuts down on maintenance costs. Plus, the materials needed to do the work can be found in any motor pool.

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 5306-01-330-8490; 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.



# Army, Air Force save \$50 million for taxpayers

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As most U.S. forces in Iraq prepare for the largest strategic re-posturing of forces in 40 years, Task Force 586 has already started the process.

The Airmen of Task Force 586, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have been traveling throughout the Iraqi theater of operations, identifying, collecting and redistributing excess supply items since 2006.

“Our main task is to retrieve excess equipment from Army and Marine locations in Iraq,” said Capt. Rachel Ramos, officer in charge, Mobile Redistribution Team 4, TF 586.

Once excess is identified, the teams determine whether or not the material is in working condition. After the equipment is established as serviceable, it is issued to units in theater.

Reusing equipment which is already here on the ground is a cost effective measure as opposed to units ordering more material which will further clog up the supply system.

“Redistributing supply items and materials that are already in theater is much cheaper for everybody,” said Tech. Sgt. Vick Williams, the noncommissioned officer in charge of MRT 4. “It gets stuff that’s just sitting around into the hands of Soldiers who can use it.”

The Airmen of the MRTs endured austere living conditions in order to



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), addresses the officers, non-commissioned officers and Airmen of Task Force 586 before presenting them with certificates of appreciation in recognition of their accomplishments during their six-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. TF 586 identified, collected and redistributed \$50 million in excess supplies since February.

accomplish their mission.

“It was a rough mission, with the sandstorms and heat and bare-bones living conditions; it was tough,” said Ramos, a Texas City, Texas, native. “On top of the weather, some of these places didn’t even have female latrines.”

She said she tried to focus on the mission because she knew she faced

even more daunting challenges.

While the Airmen were stationed at Joint Base Balad, the MRTs would often pull back to back missions, leaving them little time to recover before heading outside the wire again.

“We were basically living out of a suitcase,” said Williams, a Melbourne, Fla., native. “After two weeks on mission, sometimes we’d be back less than three days before we’d go out again.”

Despite the harsh conditions, the unforgiving desert environment and magnitude of the mission, Task Force 586 identified, collected and redistributed more than \$50 million in excess supply items since February, said Ramos.

In Multi-National Division – Baghdad’s Victory Base Complex alone, \$23 million of excess has been identified in less than three months, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Morey,

the refit and redistribution chief with the 13th ESC.

The MRTs escalated their efforts to retrograde material out of the Iraqi theater, in anticipation of the draw-down.

“Through the next 12 months, the MRTs are going to try to move as much equipment out of theater as possible,” said Morey.

While the date for complete U.S. withdrawal from Iraq draws near, more troops and materials are being sent to their home stations.

As troops are redeployed out of Iraq for good, equipment which would previously have been inherited by their replacements is instead rerouted into the supply system. It is then either given to units which can use it, or retrograded back to units in the United States, said Morey, a Buschwell, Ill., native.

The retrograde of substantial amounts of equipment now, will free up transportation assets for troops and their assigned equipment later, he said.

“We want to mitigate the effects of a sudden pull-out as much as possible,” he said. “At the same time, we don’t want to leave our footprint in theater.”

As U.S. forces shrink from 130,000 personnel in theater to the August 2010 goal of 50,000 personnel, the MRTs will play an integral role in prioritizing equipment to send home.

“Everybody else is planning for the drawdown,” said Morey. “We’re already doing it. It’s an inglorious job, but they love doing it and they’re good at it.”



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presents Capt. Cedric L. Finnen, operations officer with Task Force 586, with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of the task force’s accomplishments during their six-month tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# 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: Hard

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

Last week's answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What war saw James Madison become the first U.S. president to command a military unit during his term in office?
2. What inscription on U.S. coins did Theodore Roosevelt try in vain to have removed?
3. What future U.S. president received the last rites of the Catholic Church after an infection following spinal surgery in 1954?
4. Who was the first president to appear on a U.S. coin?
5. How many U.S. presidents played a role in Vietnam's civil war?

1. The War of 1812 2. In God We Trust 3. John F. Kennedy 4. Abraham Lincoln 5. Five

## 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-Next 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)
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Mon-Fri	1130	555th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200
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### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday	1700	Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Training: Tue., Thu., - 8-10 p.m.	p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	CC Cross Fit: Monday- 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.	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., - 2 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: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
<b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 9 a.m. Spin: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaok: Monday- 9 a.m. Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m.	<b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 9 a.m. Spin: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaok: Monday- 9 a.m. Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m.	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaok: Monday- 9 a.m. Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m.	Monday- Saturday- 4:30 p.m. a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Saturday- 8 p.m.	Friday- 7:30 p.m. Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Saturday- 8 p.m.	
<b>WEST REC- REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., - 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST REC- REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., - 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	<b>H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	Friday- 8 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., - 8:10 p.m.	

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Wednesday 8/26/09

Texas Rangers @ New York Yankees, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Houston Astros @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Chicago Sky @ Los Angeles Sparks, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
New York Mets @ Florida Marlins, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Colorado Rockies, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports

### Thursday 8/27/09

New York Mets @ Florida Marlins, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Cincinnati Reds @ Milwaukee Brewers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Texas Rangers @ New York Mets, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 8/28/09

Philadelphia Phillies @ Pittsburgh Pirates, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
NFL Preseason - Week 3: Miami Dolphins @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Kansas City Royals @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Chicago White Sox @ Boston Red Sox, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 8/29/09

Los Angeles Dodgers @ Cincinnati Reds, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
NFL Preseason - Week 3: New England Patriots @ Washington Redskins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Oakland Athletics @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
NFL Preseason - Week 3: Green Bay Packers @ Arizona Cardinals, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports

### Sunday 8/30/09

NFL Preseason - Week 3: San Diego Chargers @ Atlanta Falcons, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Colorado Rockies @ San Francisco Giants, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
UFC 102: Couture vs Nogueira (Rose Garden Arena; Portland, OR), Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
D.C. United @ Chicago Fire, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra

### Monday 8/31/09

Columbus Crew @ New York Red Bulls, Live 1 a.m. AFN/xtra  
NFL Preseason - Week 3: Sunday Night Football: Chicago Bears @ Denver Broncos, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Indy Car Racing Series: Peak Antifreeze Indy 300 (Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, IL), Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/xtra

### Tuesday 9/01/09

2009 US Open: Men's and Women's Opening Rounds (USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY), Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Los Angeles Angels @ Seattle Mariners (JIP), Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra

# Arts & Entertainment

## “District 9” gives sci-fi a gritty update

By SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

“District 9” is an interesting blend of “Cloverfield,” “The Office,” and small remnants of “The Last Starfighter,” giving audiences less special effects and more storyline than expected from a summer movie.

The film takes place in Johannesburg, South Africa in a slum filled with alien creatures derogatorily known as prawns. Their ship landed, or hovered over the city roughly 20 years ago, and the inhabitants of the ship have been refugees in the government funded slums, known as District 9, ever since.

The story follows Wikus Van De Mer-

we (Sharlto Copley), a bumbling lackey for Multi-National United, sent in by the MNU to evict aliens out of District 9 and into District 10, a newly constructed housing development for the extraterrestrials outside of Johannesburg.

While Wikus conducts his eviction raid on District 9, he stumbles upon what he believes is a weapon and he begins to investigate the object. As he fumbles with the object, he sprays a liquid in his face that has altering effects on him, which in turn start the apartheid revolution in District 9.

The movie’s documentary-style filming along with the South African apartheid storyline creates a very realistic, and oddly familiar, environment which pulls in the viewer.

Writer-director Neill Blomkamp grew up in Johannesburg during South Africa’s apartheid, a period in which whites discriminated against blacks and “coloreds” who were of mixed descent, connecting the audience to the same tension between humans and aliens in this film.

The film style draws the viewer in but it is the acting that makes this movie work. Filming a movie in this style depends completely upon how real the actors make it. This film could have easily been a direct-to-DVD movie, but the emotions feel real, and the interactions between aliens and humans seem natural.

The special effects in this film were dead on. The filmmakers didn’t waste time overloading the movie with too

many effects and it paid off. The effects are seamless and limited, and Blomkamp also made the extraterrestrials gritty and dirty, which is a look aliens on film have been missing for quite some time. It also didn’t hurt that Peter Jackson (“The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King” director) – the new king of movie special effects – produced the movie.

Overall this film uses an interesting story about humans interacting with aliens to produce a great social commentary about apartheid in Africa. This movie is not for those seeking high-budget action films (Jason Statham fans beware), but if you’re interested in a thought provoking science fiction movie that looks great, then I suggest you watch this film.

## Pick it up at the PX... *The Fireman: Electric Arguments*

By SGT. KEITH S. VANKLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

I can only remember one time when I was excited for a new album by an old music legend.



Album cover to Fireman’s latest album ‘Electric Arguments’.

A few years ago Cat Stevens released an album under his new name, Yusuf Islam. It was his first all-new album since 1978. I rushed out and bought it the day it was released. Big mistake. With the exception of a beautifully dark cover of “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood,” the album was a complete letdown for me.

That said, when Paul McCartney’s collaborative album “Electric Arguments” was released last November, I didn’t rush to my local record store. This, it turns out, may have been an even bigger mistake.

I have to claim ignorance here and admit I hadn’t heard of The Fireman before. The Fireman is actually two men, Paul McCartney and producer, Youth. Electric Arguments is their third release.

The Fireman recorded each of the 13 tracks on “Electric Arguments” in one day – the result of improvisation and jamming, according to the group’s Web site.

One listen to the album and this is clear. Americana rock leads into soft melodic ballads, and then collides into dirty blues and Bono-esque anthems. No theme strings the songs together, but in this case, it really works.

It’s difficult to draw real meaning from any of the songs, yet the words sound great together. The Fireman juxtaposed instruments in shockingly interesting ways. “Is This Love,” combines native-American flute with ambient computer-generated tones and electric guitar soaked in reverberation.

More straightforward acoustic guitar based songs, such as “Two Magpies,” will please any fan of McCartney.

If you can imagine a daring combination of U2, The Black Keys and The Beatles, and can handle an album that constantly changes directions, pick up “Electric Arguments.”

Stay tuned for the next edition of “Pick it up at the PX.”

## PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

<b>Wednesday, August 26</b>	5 p.m. Post Grad
5 p.m. The Time Travelers Wife	8 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper
8 p.m. Public Enemies	
<b>Thursday, August 27</b>	<b>Sunday, August 30</b>
5 p.m. Bruno	2 p.m. Post grad
8 p.m. The Time Travelers Wife	5 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper
	8 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
<b>Friday, August 28</b>	<b>Monday, August 31</b>
2 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper	5 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince
5 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince	8 p.m. Post Grad
8:30 p.m. Post Grad	<b>Tuesday, September 1</b>
<b>Saturday, August 29</b>	5 p.m. Post Grad
2 p.m. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince	8 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper

# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Steven King

**U.S. Army Capt. Edward Park, attached to Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, walks to the Al Lewa Primary School opening with Nahiya Provincial Council Chairman Jassim Khalaf Mohammed, at Al Alam, Iraq, Aug. 6.**



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Steven King

**Street lights now glow where improvised explosive devices (IEDs) had severed the connection to the main power line, between the Tigris River Bridge and the Clemson Traffic Circle, at Al Alam, Iraq, Aug. 6.**



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kirk Worley

**Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 3rd Battalion, 18th Brigade, offload a truck of humanitarian-assistance supplies for residents of the village of Bulidish, in the Diayala Province, Iraq, Aug. 9. The soldiers delivered bags of wheat and rice, cooking oil, tea, gloves, wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, hammers, soap and detergent.**

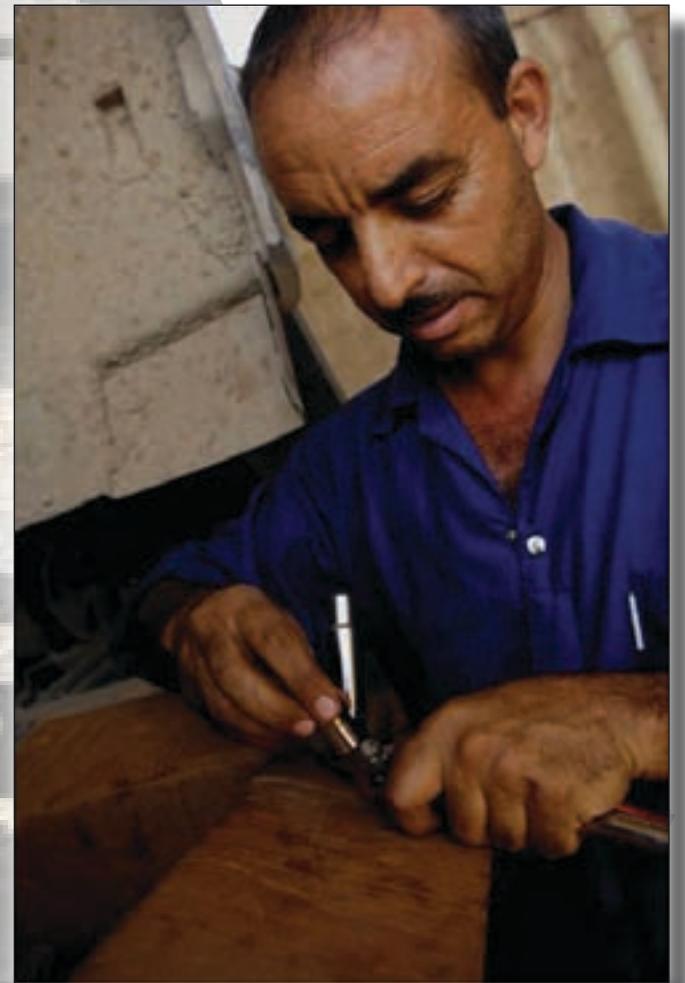


U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kirk Worley



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

**An Iraqi mechanic sifts through a pile of wrecked police vehicles, in search of spare parts at the Wadi Hajar police vehicle maintenance compound, in Mosul, Iraq, Aug. 10.**



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

**An Iraqi Police (IP) mechanic tests out new tools at the IP maintenance compound in the Wadi Hajar neighborhood of Mosul, Iraq, Aug. 10.**

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Multi-National Force-Iraq reduces number of Brigade Combat Teams

BAGHDAD- Iraq announced today the redeployment of a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) without replacement in kind. This brings the number of BCTs in country from 13 to 12 and is in keeping with previously announced Responsible Drawdown plan as directed by the President.



As part of the command's plan to responsibly draw-down U.S. forces in Iraq, the 2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division, will case its colors and return to Ft. Carson, Colo., later this month.

## Government of Iraq receives ownership of two U.S. Combat Outposts

DIYALA, Iraq – Two U.S. forces' combat outposts in Diyala province were officially transferred to Iraqi control, August 11.

Prior to their recent transfer to Iraqi ownership, these COPs were primarily used by U.S. forces assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, as well as their Iraqi partners, the 5th Iraqi Army Division.

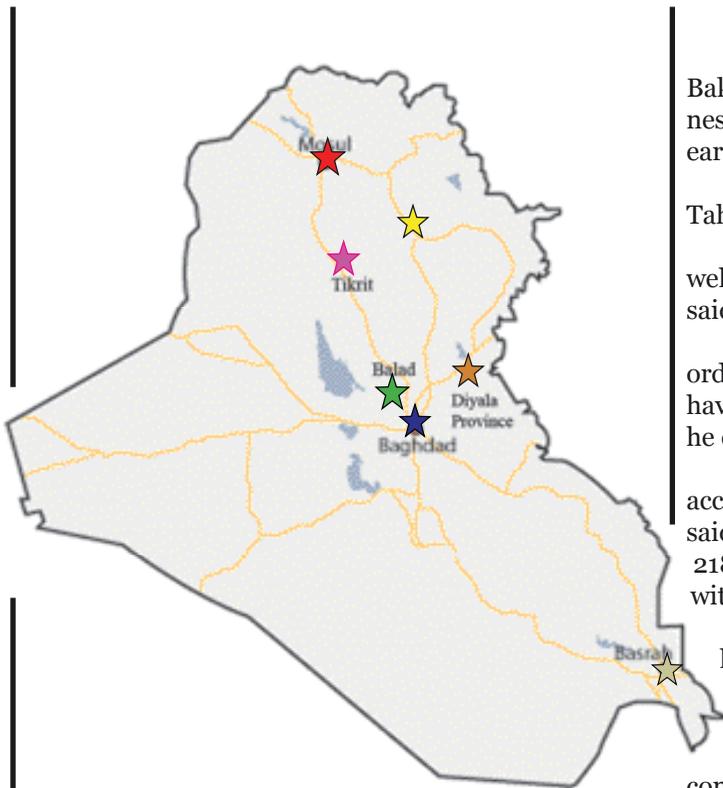
The first of the two COPs transferred was COP Key West.

Prior to becoming a military base, COP Key West was an agricultural high school. The facility was handed over to 3rd Battalion, 19th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division. Under its new owners, half of the facility will be utilized as the IA battalion's headquarters, while the rest will be given back to the ministry of education for future use.

"We've had a good partnership here," said Capt. David Jarzab, the executive officer of Company B, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., which has operated out of COP Key West since autumn of 2008. "Our partnership worked so well because of the IA battalion leadership. They were a pleasure to work with, and I feel very comfortable leaving this area to them."

The second of the COPs transferred was COP Milledge, an area carved out of four orchards owned by five farmers.

The COP Milledge handover was highlighted by a "passing of the key" ceremony, in which Maj. Jabar Ali Abdulla, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, accepted a large wooden key from Capt. Kevin Calmes, commander Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., attached to 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div.



"This is a great moment for our Army," said Maj. Jabar Ali Abdulla. "I present a special congratulation to all the soldiers in my elements and wish them well. Also, I thank and appreciate the efforts of the officers and non-commissioned officers of Battery B to maintain security of the region."

Sameer Al-Haddad, Secretariat of the Prime Minister of Iraq, was present at both ceremonies and signed the official documents handing the COPs to Iraqi ownership.

The two COPs were not the first to be handed over in Diyala province, according to Capt. Ian Davis, brigade engineer officer, 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. Of the 13 COPs the 1st SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., assumed responsibility for when the unit arrived in 2008, 10, including Key West and Milledge, have been closed or transferred to Iraqi ownership.

## Iraqi Police prove readiness, receive validation

CONTIGNENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – The Iraqi Police in the small Iraqi village of Bushariyah, in Kirkuk province, have detained 17 terrorists, participated in hundreds of raids and disabled improvised explosive device emplacements. They are just getting started.

For these IPs, their latest victory did not come on the streets; rather, it happened inside their station during a validation ceremony to recognize their hard work and dedication to security, August 11.

"Today is a great day," Capt. Fikrat Mustafa, the chief of the Bushariyah Station, said to the crowd at the ceremony.

The policemen of this station have made countless sacrifices, and have been committed to overcoming the obstacles that stood in the way of protecting the people, he continued.

"We will serve this country until we die," said Fikrat. "We will always be honest to the people."

Police leaders, including Maj. Gen. Jamal Tahir Bakr, the provincial police chief, were happy to witness their Bushariyah brethren receive their hard-earned validation.

"It is a great honor to present ourselves here," said Tahir Bakr.

The policemen of this station do their duty very well, and have complete loyalty to this village, he said.

They have had to train and prepare extensively in order to receive their validation, and in the process have become a very strong security force in this area, he continued.

To be an officially validated police station, it must accomplish every objective on a rigorous checklist, said 1st Lt. Kristofer Melton, a platoon leader with the 218th Military Police company, who worked closely with Bushariyah station during training.

"They had to know all the basic policing skills," he said.

The policemen were trained on how to conduct vehicle searches, secure a crime scene, perform detainee operations and various other tasks commonly practiced by IPs, he continued.

"They have definitely improved with the training," he said. "They were at a good point before, but I have noticed a difference. They are committed to learning how to be better policemen and always ask to learn more from us."

Now that they are validated, the policemen at the station will not meet as often with their U.S. counterparts, but they can still request training assistance from them in the future, according to Melton.

The station will continue to conduct operations with their Soldiers from the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in order to provide for the security of the local area, said Lt. Col. Andy Shoffner, the commander of 4th Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

This station is continuing to prove itself to be an essential part of security in this region, he said.

"This wouldn't be possible without you," Fikrat said of the U.S. military leaders.

"We as the police are getting better every day," said Fikrat. "Our eyes will stay open so nothing bad happens, and we will cooperate with the people."

## Residents return home to former insurgent stronghold

CONTIGNENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARRIOR, DIYALA, Iraq – Residents of Jiffra, in Diyala province, returned home Aug. 15, after three years of displacement.

The small village southwest of Baqubah was once a stronghold for insurgent groups, causing the residents of the village to flee for their safety.

A celebration for the returning 16 families was marked with music and dancing in the village.

During the celebration, residents thanked Iraqi and U.S. forces for their help in bringing safety back to the area.

Though there are still struggles in the village for some basic needs, Iraqi government officials promised during the celebration to immediately bring the

villagers water and work on other necessities.

"What a great day for Diyala," said 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, spokesman, Maj. Chris Hyde. "It's wonderful to not only see these people come home, but know that they would not have been able to do this if the security hadn't improved enough to for them to do so. I think it's a testament to the enormous improvements Iraqi and U.S. forces have collectively achieved in making the region and province a safer place."

## Iraqi, U.S. Air Force establish weather partnership

 KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq - The U.S. Air Force's 506th Expeditionary Operational Support Squadron weather flight and the Iraqi Air Force (IqAF) weather team established a foundational partnership at a signing here July 27.

This new agreement fills a crucial role in helping the Iraqi Air Force Weather Service's ability to sustain independent operations once American weather forces withdraw from Iraq in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

Previously, collaborations between the two units has been sporadic, but after a visit by the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force and the IqAF, these two teams now have an agreement in place in a joint venture to provide all flight weather briefings, observations and specialized support.

"This was a critical step in starting the first joint Iraqi Air Force and U.S. Air Force weather partnership," said Maj. Barry Hunte ITAM-AF weather advisor.

"This is a great day in the history of the Iraqi Air Force Weather Department and an important step in showing the weather department's progress," said Col. Salman, IqAF Weather Service director.

In addition to improved weather support for all aircrews, this strategic partnership creates a unique training opportunity for members of the IqAF Weather Service.

"All Iraqi weather officers have meteorology degrees," Hunte said, "however, none have had the opportunity to use their education to develop skills in aviation weather forecasts, observations or support flight operations."

Salman and Hunte will monitor the partnership from the Iraqi Air Operations Center, located at Victory Base Complex outside of Baghdad, to ensure a smooth transition to independent operations.

"As the Iraqi Air Force Weather Service grows in personnel, (we) will continue to look for more strategic partnering opportunities," Hunte said.

## Multi-National Force-Iraq and Iraqi Leaders Hold Discussions

 BAGHDAD – Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq, met with Iraqi Government and Kurdistan Regional Government leadership to lay the groundwork for dialogue and progress on security

issues concerning the disputed areas in Ninewa, Diyala and Kirkuk.

Odierno joined the ministers of defense and interior from the Government of Iraq, and the minister of interior and the command of the Peshmerga from the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Odierno called the talks an important step forward in creating a useful dialogue on the key issues of defining a joint security framework for the country's disputed internal boundaries. The group also discussed the topics of unity of command, coordination measures, force-level arrangements, effective intelligence-sharing processes, and efficient rule of law oversight.

"Today's meeting represents an important first step in working through the security issues in the disputed areas," said Gen. Odierno. "I was pleased with the positive and overall sense of cooperation. All parties are focused on improving security for all Iraqis."

## Iraqi Police train with their own working dogs

 MOSUL, Iraq – Chew toys and leashes in hand, Iraqi Police dog handlers and their working dogs arrived at Forward Operating Base Marez Aug. 16, to fine tune their skill in basic obedience and explosive detection techniques.

The class is part two of initial dog training that the Iraqi Police received earlier in the year. The focus for the IPs is to build a relationship with their dogs and refine basic canine obedience and explosive and narcotic detection techniques.

The initial training consisted of introducing the Iraqi Police to working dogs as a resource, something the IPs did not have until now. In the last month, they acquired military working dogs and created a K9 program to utilize these dogs in their everyday working environment.

"[The IPs] have a valuable asset now. A dog's nose is so much stronger than ours," said Navy Master at Arms 1st Class Matthew Nalley, lead instructor for the program. "I can't smell explosives when I'm walking down the road. These dogs can. If the IP have something that can give them an indication that something is wrong, it can go a long way to help them out."

The IPs and their dogs both showed excitement as they began the training session with basic obedience techniques. Each IP practiced getting their dogs to sit and stay in place. When the dogs performed, they were rewarded with a rubber chew toy and praise. Both handler and dog seemed to be catching on quickly.

"I was thoroughly impressed with the way they have responded to their dogs. The dogs that they have want to be loyal and work with their handlers," said Nalley, "You can definitely tell that they are building their relationship with their dogs."

The trainers use realistic training aids and walk dog and handler through a training lane, allowing them the opportunity to get hands on skills that will benefit them as they begin using these dogs in their daily work.

The training is event driven. The IP handlers walk through a scenario with their dogs as the class instructor observes. As issues arise, the instructor stops the handler and advises them on different techniques.

"We try to do some basic obedience and we plant some explosive training aids. We pay attention to what the dogs and handlers are doing during the training lane and give them advice on what they are doing if there are issues," said Nalley. "If there are no

issues during the training, we praise the teams for doing their job well. If there is something that we need to fine tune, we'll give them the direction that they need."

For these IPs, this is the start of a long working relationship with their dogs. When asked why he chose to get involved with the K9 program, one of the IP handlers said that he had an affinity to dogs and felt that it would be a valuable resource to help sustain security and prevent attacks in his community.

The overall goal of the program is to have a viable K9 program in the Iraqi Police that is sustainable and productive after U.S. forces have fully withdrawn from Iraq.

"We want to continue our partnership with the Iraqi Police so that they get the training that they need to sustain their program long after we are gone," said Nalley.

## Commandos arrest 2, continue run of success

 TIKRIT, Iraq – The 8th Regional Commando Battalion, with U.S. force advisors, arrested two suspected terrorists Aug. 14, during an operation in the Diyala province.

The individuals were arrested with a warrant issued by the Central Investigative Court of Al-Karkh for suspicion of attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. forces, kidnapping and murdering local citizens in Diyala.

The Commandos entered two separate residences and arrested the two suspected terrorists without incident.

In accordance with the Security Agreement, the U.S. unit was conducting a combined operation with Iraqi Special Operations Forces.

## ISF detain 3 suspects after rocket attack in Basra province

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION BASRA, Iraq – Iraqi Security and U.S. forces responded when explosions were heard near Contingency Operating Location Basra.

Multiple explosions of unknown type were heard near the military base. The Iraqi police along with Soldiers from the 50th Iraqi Army Brigade and 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, responded to the attack to conduct a joint investigation. The Iraqi Security Forces confiscated 16 rockets during the combined operation. The Iraqi Police detained three suspects who allegedly conducted the attack.

No casualties have been reported.

"The Iraqi Army in Basra was extremely quick to respond to the incident and is leading the joint investigation regarding the attack. These acts of violence endanger the lives of the citizens of Basra, and jeopardize the security of the province," said Maj. Matthew Cody, executive officer, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "The U.S. is fully committed to fulfilling the terms of the security agreement and U.S. Forces have an inherent right to self-defense and the authority to protect themselves. We will not tolerate such acts of violence against our Soldiers or the citizens of Basra."

# Phantom Support



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Lisa A. Cope

Commander of the 72nd Signal Brigade (Expeditionary), Lt. Col. Patrick W. Ginn, and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew I. Acome unfurl the 72nd SBE flag, signifying the beginning of their tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at the morale, welfare and recreation center at Joint Base Balad, Aug. 17.



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

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, command sergeant major, Multi-National Force – Iraq, visits with Soldiers of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, one of the last units in Iraq serving a 15-month deployment, at Habur Gate Aug. 13. The Soldiers of Logistics Task Force – Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde, maintain one of a handful of points of entry into Iraq.



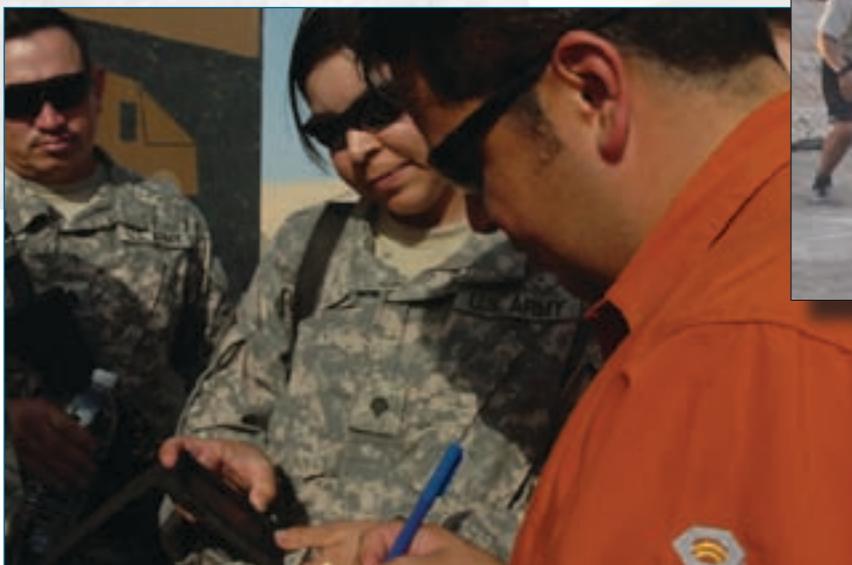
U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Tony W. Chaney from Anniston, Al., an employee with Anniston Army Depot, performs a technical inspection of M2 .50 caliber machine gun dropped off at the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's Small Arms Support Center on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 25. The facility, one of two in Iraq, can repair, or if necessary, replace weapons for Soldiers.



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

Sgt. Jose "Big H" Hernandez, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, runs to first base during the base softball championship at Contingency Operating Location Q-West Aug. 19. Hernandez and his team, the "Knights," defeated team "Witch Hunt" of the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, 22-18 to win the base title.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

Spc. Lariane Martinez, native of Taos, N.M., a driver with the 720th Convoy Security Company, New Mexico National Guard attached to the 41st IBCT, shares contact information with New Mexico's State Representative Ben Ray Lujan, 3rd District. Representatives from Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Mexico visited Camp Adder, Iraq, August 9 to check on the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division's special Advise and Assist mission. The representatives took time to chat about concerns and families, and pose for a photo.