

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2 Issue 35

The quick fix



Operation Jiffy Lube keeps vehicles moving
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Pump the water



Army, Iraqi leaders agree to water-sharing policy in Ninawa

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The man, the legend, the club



13th ESC Soldiers attempt to join Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

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Ramadan Kareem



Spc. Nazha Lakrik, an Arabic interpreter for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, says a prayer Aug. 26 in the Air Force Theater Hospital chapel at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Aug. 22 marked the beginning of Ramadan, the most holy month for members of the Islamic faith.

Ramadan is observed during the ninth month of the Islamic, or lunar, calendar. Muslims attempt to strengthen their spirit by abstaining from food, drink, sexual activity, becoming angry, smoking or any form of insincerity from sunrise to sunset.

Ramadan can be a trying time for Islamic Soldiers trying to adhere to Islamic teachings, but some Soldiers at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, have found ways to

SEE RAMADAN ON PAGE 3

Multi-National Corps – Iraq details drawdown plan

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. BRANDY M. OXFORD
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

BAGHDAD – As Multi-National Corps – Iraq moves into the second phase of the drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq, it faces challenges ranging from the withdrawal of roughly 80,000 service members to the repair and retrograde of countless connexes in country.

Although MNC-I has just finished phase one of the safe and responsible withdrawal of equipment and personnel in Iraq – setting the conditions – it has moved into the second phase of the drawdown without pause, said Lt. Col. Tammie Pettit, the Multi-National Corps – Iraq logistics plans chief at an MNC-I sustainment conference Aug. 15 at Al Faw Palace ball room on Camp Victory.

“It’s been a lot of hard work



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Orthel, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) supply branch technician, presents the units’ plans for the four phases of the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq.

for a lot of people,” Pettit said. “We’ve done pretty well.”

Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown is commanding the responsible drawdown of the roughly 130,000 troops in Iraq to 50,000 by August 2010. Additionally, the number of civilian contractors in country is slated to be reduced to

roughly 75,000, Brown said.

Based on Brown’s directives, Pettit said MNC-I has planned to reduce the nearly 200 bases throughout Iraq to six multi-class supply support activity hubs—with roughly 20 smaller bases, called spokes—by September 2010, with complete

withdrawal by December 2011.

“None of this is negotiable,” said Pettit. “This is a mission we cannot fail.”

MNC-I teams inventory, repair and update items the U.S. military will transport to Afghanistan, Kuwait, other overseas areas of operation or back to the United States, and the items to be transferred to Iraqi control to support the enabling of Iraqi Security Forces as the U.S. withdraws, Pettit said.

“We’re really starting to prime the pump to get stuff moving out of here,” she said. “We’ll continue to support (Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan) where we can.”

She said phase two of the drawdown will build on the steps taken during phase one. In phase one, non-essential equipment was identified and in phase two, it will be retrograded, transferred or redirected to support other U.S. military priorities, Pettit said.

SEE PLAN ON PAGE 3

332 ESFS Blotter August 19 - August 25

LOST PROPERTY:

A complainant arrived at the law enforcement desk to report missing property. The complainant stated after work at approximately 8:30 p.m. Aug. 19, he returned to his living quarters and left the property outside unsecured. The complainant noticed the property was missing at approximately 5 a.m. 20 Aug. The complainant also relayed that his roommate saw the property outside their living quarters at approximately 8:30 p.m. Aug. 19.

LOST PROPERTY:

A complainant arrived at the law enforcement desk to report missing property. The complainant stated, she walked outside and found property #2 missing. The complainant stated she did not have a lock and chain securing property #2. The complainant stated Aug. 3 she noticed property #1 missing. The complainant stated the last time she saw property #1 was between July 30 and July 31. The complainant stated she placed property #1 in the middle compartment of her back pack and then placed it under her bed and did not notice that property #1 was missing until she looked for it again on Aug. 3.

THEFT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY/ACCOUNT COMPROMISE:

A complainant entered the law enforcement desk and reported a theft of personal property. A patrol conducted an interview with the complainant he lost his wallet containing \$50 in cash, two credit cards, his social security card and his user name and password to access his MWR SPAWARE account on Aug. 15 at the Main Laundry Distribution Center. The complainant stated he noticed his SPAWARE account in use since Aug. 15. The complainant provided written proof of SPAWARE phone records which added up to 158 minutes valued at \$6.32, all of which were calls he did not make. The complainant did not recognize any of the listed numbers from the printed phone records. The complainant was instructed to ensure his credit card companies were notified, and a fraud alert was placed on his accounts. The complainant was also instructed to contact SPAWARE for reimbursement for the lost phone minutes used on his account.

As the TOA's take effect, there will be an increase in thefts of property. Ensure you secure all valuable items that you own.

-Note from the Law Enforcement Desk

NIPR: 443-8602

SIPR: 241-1171

Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Chaplain's corner...

BY MAJ. PETER STRONG
BRIGADE CHAPLAIN
304TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

"Some people pay a compliment as if they expect a receipt."

-Frank McKinney

Today is a great day to say something nice to someone. How much effort do you think it will take? What effect do you think it will have? The worst thing that can happen is someone will say "Thank you" or "Are you feeling okay?" It might even be fun.

Most people underestimate the value of praise. Kind words cost nothing but mean everything. There is no better time than the present moment to affirm or encourage a person you know. Mark Twain said, "I can live for a month on one compliment." People are starving for sincere recognition of a job well done. Why not be the person who feeds the masses with

words that nourish the soul?

Some people are reluctant to say nice things to others. "No one ever said anything nice to me!" This is the wrong answer! Today, we can break the cycle of negativity. All we have to do is care enough to see the good in others.

How much does it "cost" to "pay" someone else a compliment? Don't be a tight wad when it comes to giving out words of affirmation! There is no need to be stingy. If you are the kind of person who hands out compliments like they are twenty dollar bills, loosen up the wallet, open up your purse. We have been given an endless supply of "twenties" so that we can give them out freely.

Don't worry about the receipts – smiles and lifted spirits should be sufficient.

Prayer of Praise

God, you are awesome. We praise you for your goodness, mercy and love. Help us to find the good in others just like you find the good in us. Amen.

The Weekly Standard

BY LT. COL. PAUL BIRD
155TH HBCT
13TH ESC INSPECTOR GENERAL



Many of us have heard the expression "set the standard." Do you know what that really means? In ancient times, Soldiers carried a flag in battle. The flag was called a standard or sometimes a guidon, because it was what Soldiers used to "guide-on." The flag remained next to the leader. Whenever a Soldier looked up in the confusion of battle and wanted to know which way he should go, he would look for the standard and move in that direction.

The standard was always out front. It showed how far the advance had gone. When the standard-bearer was injured and could go no further, he would plant the standard in the ground so that it would remain visible to everyone. After a victory, the standard was placed on top of the hill or top of the fort. This was called "setting the standard."

If the standard was allowed to fall, the Soldiers would think their leader had fallen. Making sure the standard stood was a very important job because it

gave hope to all that followed. When you think about it that way, the term "setting the standard" takes on an entirely new meaning. Setting or planting the unit's standard was so important to creating victory.

Some of you will be content just to see the standard. You will be one of those who realize there is a standard out there and you might want to get close to it from time to time. Other people will want to meet the standard. You will look up, find out where the standard is and move in that direction. You will reach the point where the standard is set and stop there. A few will pick up the standard and carry it farther. When you have travelled as far as you can, you will plant the standard in a new location and establish a new standard for others to achieve.

Those setting the standard are the leaders, the people who carry the organization forward.

Q-West (16th SB): DSN 827-6115 LTC Kyle Peterson	Joint Base Balad: DSN 433-2125 LTC Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)
Taji (10th SB/155 BCT): DSN 834-3079 LTC Timothy Norton/ LTC Paul Bird	MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)
Adder/Tallil (287th SB/ 41 BCT): DSN 833-1710	MSG Roy Thacker (NCOIC)
LTC Melanie Meier/ MAJ Jeffrey Copek	SFC Danilo Egudin
Al Asad (321st SB): DSN 440-7049 SFC Tamera Wynn	SFC Javier Cruz

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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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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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.

DRAWDOWN: MNC-I faces logistical challenges

PLAN FROM PAGE 1

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Orthel, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) supply branch technician, said he plans to reduce the number of SSAs in Iraq at the end of phase two.

Phase three will focus on safety operations, Pettit said. The retrograde of equipment not required to support the upcoming elections in Iraq will allow units to focus on enhancing route security, moving forward with the drawdown and supporting redeploying units, she said.

"Protection of the force will still be paramount during this drawdown," said Pettit.

Orthel said during this phase, the

13th ESC will further reduce the number of SSAs to a level that reflects the need for support equal to the number of troops on the ground.

Lt. Col. Lew Cureton, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) munitions branch chief, said he looks to the multi-national divisions to determine where to send munitions as they are packaged and moved out of the SSAs during the next phases of the transition.

"We can't really draw down until we have a good understanding of where that's going to be," he said.

He said he knows those locations will change throughout the drawdown and anticipates the groups will adapt accordingly.

Brig. Gen. Heidi Brown, the commander of the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq, discusses Multi-National Corps-Iraq's plans for the four phases of the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq.

Throughout Iraq, a large but innumerable amount of connexes filled with unused equipment and parts present a particularly large challenge in the drawdown, said Pettit. Units should look within themselves for the personnel necessary to expedite this process safely, she said.

"It's going to take everybody," she said. "There is a lot of work to do. The folks following all of us are going to have a really difficult job."



RAMADAN: Aug. 22 marks the beginning of the month-long observance

RAMADAN FROM PAGE 1

strengthen their faith during this time.

Muslims are required to pray five times a day. Because a mosque is not available on JBB, Spc. Nazha Lakrik, an Arabic interpreter for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, said she prays in her room or in the Air Force Theater Hospital Chapel near her office.

Spc. Linda Boyed, an Arabic

interpreter for the 555th Engineer Brigade, said Ramadan is a time for self-discipline, prayer and family.

"It is the right time to renew your relationship with God," she said.

Fasting can be physically challenging but for many members of the Muslim faith, fasting is spiritually rewarding.

God said everything you do is for you, but this month,

the fasting, is for Him, said Lakrik.

In areas where Islam is the dominant religion, work days are shortened to accommodate the celebration of Ramadan. In theater, many service members perform duties that are rigorous and indispensable, which may make fasting more difficult or even impossible for them.

Lakrik, a native of Essouira, Morocco, said fasting on duty

is not like fasting at home, where she sits down with her family and takes her time to eat and pray.

"During the iftar – the time for me to break my fast – I'm still working," said Lakrik. "But God said when iftar comes you have to eat, so I have to throw something in my mouth just to break my fast and keep up with shift change."

Spc. Fatima Benasser, an Arabic interpreter for the 13th

Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said Ramadan is a particularly trying time for Muslim Soldiers to be away from their families.

"Ramadan gives families a chance to gather and wait for the sunset and have a meal together," said Benasser.

The three-day celebration of Eid al-Fitr, which often includes feasting and gift-giving, begins Sept. 20, marking the end of Ramadan.

Legal rights for the Reserves and National Guard

Everything you need to know, from legal proceedings to staying employed

BY MAJ. BRIAN NOMI
CHIEF, LEGAL ASSISTANT
13TH ESC JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL



If you are a mobilized member of the Reserves or National Guard, you should be aware of some important legal rights and benefits.

First is your employment rights. It is illegal for an employer to discriminate against you or to take unfavorable action against you, because of your military service.

If you already have a job and are called to active duty, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects you. In order to be protected, however, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You must leave a civilian job for the purpose of service and you must give prior notice to the employer that you are leaving for that purpose.
- Your cumulative period of service, relating to that particular civilian employer, must not exceed five years. Certain categories of service are exempt from this five-year limit.
- You must be released from active duty under honorable conditions.
- You must make a timely application from re-employment after you complete your period of service (14 days after deployments over 30 days, or 90 days after deployments over 180 days).

Provided you meet all of these requirements, you are legally entitled to get your job back, as well as to be treated as if you had been continuously employed

for seniority and pension purposes. USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary service. A website with further information on this topic is: www.esgr.org.

Second are your rights under the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act. These were covered in detail in an earlier article. But to summarize, as a mobilized reservist, you have the following legal rights:

- You are entitled to a stay to halt legal proceedings while your military service affects your ability to go to court.
- Pre-active duty debts have their interest rates capped at 6 percent if your military service affects your ability to pay the loan.
- The SCRA protects Servicemembers against foreclosures of mortgages

With regard to USERRA and the SCRA, it is very important to give written notices and keep copies to prove that you invoked your rights. For example, you should give your employer a written letter along with your orders as early as possible before the deployment to protect your right to return to your job. And when exercising your right to the 6 percent interest cap with your creditors, provide written notice along with a copy of your orders, keeping copies of proof that you made the request. Documentary proof is the best way to establish in court that you did the right thing, should it ever be necessary to go to court.

Before or after a deployment a family would be well advised to take advantage of a Strong Bonds retreat. You and your spouse are put on orders and sent to a very nice hotel for a conference on how to

maintain a strong marriage. For more information or to find an event near you, visit www.strongbonds.org. This is one of the more pleasant benefits members of the Guard and Reserve can enjoy.

Be aware of your right to medical coverage under Tricare. After your active duty ends, you are still entitled to 180 days of transitional Tricare coverage under TAMP for free. Afterwards, you may elect to purchase Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) coverage, which costs \$81 per month for an individual, or \$253 per month for a family. If you don't have health insurance through your job, you should give this serious thought. Health care coverage for a family could easily cost \$1200 or more per month, depending on where you live. So TRS is a very significant benefit for reservists. For more information visit www.tricare.mil.

Finally, you are entitled to unlimited shopping at a base commissary or PX/BX. The shopping on base can sometimes offer savings, especially in the commissary which is subsidized and much cheaper than local markets.

The Reserve Officers Association has a website filled with useful information on other reserve benefits. It is well worth your time to look at www.roa.org. There are other organizations out there, such as the AUSA, MOAA, and others. Consider membership in an organization dedicated to protecting your interests as a reservist or member of the national guard!

For further assistance, please feel free to contact our office at DSN 318.433.2836. Building number is 7235 (the castle on Pennsylvania Ave.).

Operation Jiffy Lube keeps vehicles moving

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Two units from opposite ends of the U.S. join together in Iraq to help convoys roll out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq faster, by making minor repairs to the M1151 and Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles that would otherwise delay their departure.



Operation Jiffy Lube, a combined effort between the 514th Support Maintenance Company, out of Fort Drum, N.Y., and the 699th Maintenance Company, out of Fort Irwin, Calif., is the informal name of the units' new mission, which started as an evenings-only program roughly three weeks ago.

Staff Sgt. Jonathon Fields, with the 699th, said the idea came about during a meeting with all the key leaders of the company.

"Everyone was involved with this, from the company commander to the first sergeant, and everybody has been behind our idea," Fields said.

Second Lt. Jess Henry, with the 514th, said the units' main focus is to do quick-fix repairs for convoys coming through or assigned to JBB.

"The name came about because we work on small repairs and do quick fixes that don't take a lot of time on the vehicles," he said. "The 699th Maintenance Company and the 514th Support Maintenance Company are working together on this. The 699th is on site and the 514th is back at the repair site. You can really see the cohesion of the two units coming together."

In the few weeks since its inception, business has

been steadily increasing, said Fields.

"We have put up flyers around JBB to get the word out and when someone comes for maintenance, the Soldiers jump right on it to get the vehicle fixed," Fields said.

The units focus on fixing vehicles that would otherwise delay the starting time of a convoy when they are sent to a repair yard for minor maintenance.

"Our focus is to keep the Warfighters moving with a minimum loss of downtime," said Fields.

Spc. Doyle Zornes, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 699th and a Red Bluff, Calif. native, said convoys come from JBB, as well as other contingency operating locations.

"The units have found out we are here and we have been able to make their repairs on the spot," said Zornes.

Spc. Johnny Lowder, also with the 699th, and a Detroit native, said the team performs maintenance on the M1151 and MRAP vehicles only, but in its first few weeks, Operation Jiffy Lube is already building success stories.

"About two weeks ago, a vehicle came in for some electrical problems," said Lowder. "The doors wouldn't close – we got them going in 25 minutes and they were on time to go out with their convoy."

The work is not going unnoticed by others.

Spc. Valerie Callaway, with the 720th Convoy Security Company, out of Contingency Operating Location Adder in Talil, Iraq, said the Soldiers are doing a great job.



Pvt. Frank Rosales Jr., with the 699th Maintenance Company, out of Fort Irwin, Calif., and a Los Angeles native, performs preventative maintenance checks and services on an M1151 vehicle. Rosales is a member of the Operation Jiffy Lube team on Joint Base Balad.

"My vehicle was fixed right away," said Callaway. "They actually took the lights off one of their own vehicles and put it on ours to get us going."

Due to the current success of Operation Jiffy Lube, the units started performing the same services during the day, starting Aug. 24.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to provide the same kind of service and help these convoys out," said Fields.

Military police unit ends tour with force protection mission

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
MAJ. JOHN STRAHAN
555th Engineer BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The midday August sun bore down on the Soldiers as they dismounted from their armored vehicles. The warm breeze gave no relief from the 114-de-



gree heat.

"Remember, drink plenty of water," said the patrol leader. "We'll be walking seven kilometers today."

With final checks complete, Soldiers from the 266th Military Police Company moved out for another counter-indirect fire patrol.

The 266th MP Co. was recently attached to the 37th Engineer Battalion at Joint Base Bal-

ad, Iraq. This unit is the newest member of the 555th Engineer Brigade, out of Ft. Lewis, Wa., known as the Triple Nickel.

In the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Joint Base Balad earned the name "Mortaritaville," as it received indirect fire attacks consistently since U.S. forces first took control of the former Iraqi air base in 2003.

Shortly after becoming part of the Triple Nickel, the 266th MPs took on a force-protection mission. Through the continuous efforts of units such as the 266th, attacks against JBB have been reduced.

"Mortar and rocket attacks present a constant danger to personnel stationed here," said 1st Lt. John Hinton, a platoon leader with the 266th, and a Newport News, Va. native.

"Our patrols are designed to deny insurgents the ability to conduct attacks against the base. These patrols are also an opportunity for us to interact with the area residents."

The daily missions combine mounted and dismounted patrols, to give Soldiers the ability to investigate suspected launch sites

and look for possible caches of mortars and rockets. These patrols encompass the small villages and farm lands that surround the base.

"We walk for several hours and look for signs of a recent launch," said Sgt. James Reed, a Stanton, Va. native, and a first-platoon team leader. "Burn marks on the ground or trails leading into the brush are the type of things we check out."

Patrol locations and times are determined by intelligence analysis and local observations. Spc. Jesse Miller, from Montclair, Va., said he understands the necessity of these patrols.

"We get our information and act on it to deny the enemies indirect fire capability," said Miller.

The force protection mission is the final assignment in Iraq for this National Guard unit. Previous assignments included providing police training teams and convoy security operations.



Sgt. James Reed, from the 266th Military Police Company, stops to check a burn mark he discovered while on a foot patrol near Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Such burn marks in the ground are an indication of a possible rocket-launch site.

Although nearing the end of their deployment, the Soldiers of the 266th MP Co. embraced this last mission with commitment and dedication.

"We've been here for nearly a year and this is a good mission to end our tour with," said Miller.



Soldiers from the 266th Military Police Company conduct final communications checks before conducting a foot patrol near Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Vehicle company steps up, moves out

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. BEAU STEFKA,
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – On May 25, the “Hook and Book” Soldiers of the 1161st Transportation Company, a Washington National Guard unit out of Ephrata, Wash., arrived in Iraq as part of the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.



The 1161st, a palletized loading-system vehicle company, received a new assignment upon their arrival at the 10th Sust. Brig. The unit accepted the challenge to step away from their PLS vehicles and transition to using the M915 tractor trailers to haul loads in Iraq.

The 1161st serves more than eight locations in Iraq including Victory Base Complex, Joint Base Balad, Camp Adler, Camp Kalsu and Camp Cedar.

In the 1161st's first 60 days, it conducted more than 70 missions and traveled more than 40,000 miles, sustaining no injuries. Capt. Leslie Jines Jr., a native of Selah, Wash., and the 1161st's company commander, said safety is par-



amount in Iraq.

“Mission completion and safety of all Soldiers is my main goal for the 1161st

during this deployment,” Jines said.

“One hundred percent of the unit will be combat lifesaver qualified and physi-

First Lt. Erickson, a native of Hunters, Wash., and the second platoon leader for the 1161st Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, prepares his M915 tractor trailer for a convoy headed to Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

cally fit.”

First Sgt. David Luther, a resident of West Richland, Wash., is on his second deployment with the unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Building the team and mission accomplishment is my personal mission statement to my Soldiers,” Luther said.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Fisher, a native of Kirkland, Wash., is the unit's truckmaster and on his second deployment with the 1161st. He is in charge of ensuring all loads are checked and secured for every convoy leaving the 1161st motorpool.

Fisher also aids in mission preparation, monitoring missions while on the road and ensuring all departure and arrival times are met to keep the unit running on schedule.

“Basically, anything that involves our trucks and Soldiers comes through me,” Fisher said.

Operation Clean Sweep sweeps through JBB

BY SPC. JOHN STIMAC,
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Two units under the 80th Ordnance Battalion conducted base-wide cleanup for a project named Operation Clean Sweep at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to further the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq.



Members of the 514th Maintenance Company and the 699th Maintenance Company assisted units across JBB in keeping the base clean.

First Lt. Jeffrey A. Kromm, a platoon leader with the 514th, said his team is coordinating with all units on JBB to assist them with getting unwanted inventory out of Iraq.

“We help these units clean out their area of operations,” said Kromm. “Some of these surplus items have been here since 2003 and we coordinate what the units want to get rid of.”

The Soldier responsible for coordinating the actual removal of the containers is Sgt. Dajuan D. Jackson, an armament and repair specialist with the 699th.

“We gather parts that the units don't want on their property books and inspect them; if serviceable they are sent to the forward redistribution point; if not they go to the defense reutilization and management office to get dumped,” said Jackson. “I fill out a transportation movement request, set a date, make sure the move gets coordinated quickly and augment Soldiers from the 159th Seaport Operations Command.”

Sgt. Kenneth James, an ammunition specialist with the 23rd Ordnance Company and a Maple Hill, N.C. native, said dealing with hazardous materials is more challenging than other jobs, which is why he had to take the HAZMAT class here to perform his duty to standard.

“HAZMAT items have a lot of rules,” said James. “If they are not past their expiration date, they can

be moved to the corps storage area. If they are past the expiration date or damaged, they get palletized and taken to HAZMAT. We want to be careful with the HAZMAT items and take every precaution necessary because we are a guest of the nation of Iraq.”

Pfc. Jeremiah Carley, a supply specialist with the 514th, and his team assist and supervise units in the proper disposition of HAZMAT items.

“You have to know which HAZMAT items can go together in the same container and which ones can't,” Carley said.

Re-usable items are redistributed throughout JBB, said Kromm.

“We are redistributing what we can, and what we can't we are moving out of theater,” he said.

James said results are slowly being seen around JBB.

“I believe we're making an impact in regards to the drawdown,” he said. “The beginning is a long process, but after that it seems to be flowing smoothly.”

**NEVER LET
YOUR BUDDY**

Are you feeling depressed after the holiday season?
Stressed from working many late hours?

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

**FIGHT
alone**

Be Willing to Listen

Not all Wounds are Visible

Prevent Suicide.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

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

www.militaryoperations.com

Corrections

In the Aug. 26 edition of the Expeditionary Times, Spc. Michael V. Camacho should have been listed as a staff writer on the page two masthead.

The story titled “37th EN Battalion keeping streets safe” should have said 1st Lt. Jonathan McCloud, the platoon leader of second platoon, said the team can investigate and confirm IEDs without leaving their vehicles.

Financial management Soldiers support the team

BY 1ST LT. KATHERINE PALESKY
208TH FMC,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The “Blackhawks” of B Detachment, 101st Financial Management Company out of Fort Campbell, Ky., work hard to spread the wealth beyond the walls of Camp Taji, Iraq.

Since arriving here in January 2009, the financial management support

teams of B Det. have traveled to outlying joint-service stations, to provide financial support to areas without access to a finance office.

Each FMST is comprised of a cashier and a certifier. The team’s goal is to give service members in austere environments an opportunity to receive casual pay, load money onto their Eagle Cash Card, deposit money into their Savings Deposit Program accounts, cash checks or submit pay inquiries.

B Det.’s FMSTs service JSS Istiqlal, Old Mod, Ur, Apache, Shield and Sadr City. For many service members at these

locations, the FMSTs offer the only opportunity to obtain cash and have their personal pay questions answered.

Spc. Josh Lee, of Memphis, Tenn., said he is proud to serve Soldiers throughout Iraq.

“Just having cash in their pockets lifted their morale,” said Lee. “I’m really grateful for having a hand in that.”

Along with raising Soldiers’ morale, finance missions help service members with basic needs. Spc. Xinyu Bi, a native of Reading, Pa., and a cashier for the FMST, said casual pay enables Soldiers to purchase goods such as shampoo,

toothpaste, and other items necessary for daily living – a luxury often taken for granted.

Cpl. Daniel Valoaga, a native of Fort Riley, Kan., said answering service members’ questions about their leave and earnings statements helps ease their minds, allowing them to focus on the mission at hand.

The members of the FMST are proud to support Soldiers, said Lee.

“Overall, these missions have kept me on my toes and made me realize that life has so much more to offer, especially if you do your part,” he said.

110th Quartermaster receives awards

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. MICHAEL SYNER,
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – The 110th Quartermaster Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, received its end of deployment awards in a ceremony held

Aug. 8 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. The brigade’s senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching, as well as the battalion command team and the company leaders, shook the hands of the departing Soldiers and thanked them for their service.

Col. Mark E. Drake, 10th Sust. Bde. commander, pinned medals, including Bronze Stars and Army Commendation medals, on Soldiers. He expressed his appreciation for their hard work.

“You have all done a great job,” said Drake. “That is something I cannot tell you enough.”

Cpl. Janet Sonntag, section sergeant

Col. Mark E. Drake, the 10th Sustainment Brigade commander, awards the Bronze Star Medal to a Soldier of the 110th Quartermaster Company Aug. 8 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. The company finished its tour in Iraq and will soon return home.

with the 110th and a Philadelphia native, said the award ceremony made her feel appreciated.

“It’s great getting this award,” Sonntag said. “It means that the Army appreciates what we do, and it also means that we are finally going home.”

Lt. Col. Robert J. Dixon, commander of the 260th CSSB, also expressed his appreciation to the company for their hard work and dedication.

“I am proud of each and every one of you,” he said.

Drake concluded the ceremony with a safety brief, warning the Soldiers of the difficulties of transitioning from

deployment to home.

“It would be terrible if you made it through an entire year in Iraq without a single death, only to return home and

lose someone,” he said. “Do not become a statistic, and remember that a battle buddy is not just for while you’re deployed. Take care of each other.”



Laos native gains US citizenship

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JASON SMITH AND
MAJ. GREG ATWOOD,
620TH CSSB
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A Soldier whose journey toward citizenship started with fleeing Laos in 1979, became a United States citizen in a ceremony Aug. 6, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Spc. Vilay Yang was born in Laos shortly before his family fled to Wausau, Wis., to avoid repercussions for assisting U.S. forces in Laos by showing them how to use terrain to their advantage in combat.

He joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2002 as a chemical



operations specialist, then reclassified as a unit supply specialist for his current deployment to Camp Victory, Iraq. He was

flown to Camp Arifjan for his naturalization ceremony.

“I remember when he first applied for naturalization,”

Spc. Vilay Yang displays his U.S. Citizenship certificate, given to him during a ceremony held Aug. 6 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

said Capt. Crystal Tate, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 620th Combat Services Support Battalion commander. “I watched it unfold for him.”

Yang said he desired citizenship in order to further his military career and gain additional rights. He has a daughter, and foster parents in Wisconsin who are proud of his newly-acquired citizenship, he said.

“It made me feel happy and relieved to finally get my citizenship after 10 years of effort,” he said.

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Soldiers GT improves FAST

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Blackjack Education Center continuously offers a three-week fundamental academic skills training class to all service members stationed here at



Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to help them raise their general technical score on the armed services vocational aptitude battery.

Iris S. Hollis, the education services officer at the center, said FAST classes are available at no cost to Soldiers and cover reading, mathematics, language and computer skills.

“Specifically, the FAST program aims to improve job performance, prepare Soldiers for more advanced schooling, increase re-enlistment options and enhance (Soldier) trainability,” said Hollis.

The program uses pre and post diagnostic testing to gauge students’ progress, she said.



Second Lt. Jess B. Henry, component repair platoon leader for the 514th Support Maintenance Company and an instructor for the fundamental academic skills training class, assists Spc. Jared M. Edmond, an Avenger crewmember for the 33rd Air Defense Artillery, with a word problem during the FAST class Aug. 25 at the Blackjack Education Center here at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

FAST is comprised of 42 lesson books that break down the test, said Thomas M. Sasko, local program manager for the center.

The diagnostic test given at the beginning of the program identifies students’ problem areas and shows which

lesson books will help them improve, said Sasko.

Second Lt. Jess B. Henry, the component repair platoon leader for the 514th Support Maintenance Company and an instructor for the FAST course, said a couple of his Soldiers wanted to

go through the FAST course, but the wait to get into a class was roughly 45 days at the time.

“I called them up and asked what it took to be an instructor here, so we could get one more class and get our Soldiers through,” said Henry.

The bench marks of the program are determined by the individual because the Soldiers come into the class with a good idea of their goals, said Henry.

Having a high GT score – above 110 – can open doors for Soldiers, allowing them to commission through Officer Candidate School, or re-enlist with better terms, to name a few.

The next FAST class begins Sept. 4 and runs through Sept. 24. Applications are available at the Blackjack Education Center.



Battlefield Circulation

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), meets with Lt. Col. Douglas H. Stubbe, commander, 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and 1st Lt. Elizabeth H. Cal, platoon leader, CRSSP yard, Aug. 25 at Camp Victory, Iraq. Wentz got on the ground with his battalion commanders during recent battlefield circulation to gain a better understanding of their situations and processes during the drawdown.

U.S. Army photo by Naveed Ali Shah

Do you have a story idea?

Contact us at:

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Fighter pilot requests permission to buzz the tower of inequality

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Representative Bella Abzug once said, “Women will not simply be mainstreamed into the polluted stream. Women are changing the stream, making it clean and green and safe for all – every gender, race, creed, sexual orientation, age and ability.”



Soldiers and Airmen gathered to celebrate the anniversary of women’s suffrage at the Women’s Equality Day Luncheon Aug. 26 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Women’s Equality Day legislation was introduced by Abzug and established in 1971 by President Jimmy Carter, and honors the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote Aug. 26, 1920.

“It’s an important day,” said Master Sgt. Scott Shockley, the equal opportunity adviser for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), “and we want to get people out to celebrate that.”

The event, sponsored by the 13th ESC EO office, featured a poem reading by Capt. Neola Alston of the 49th Transportation Battalion and a performance by the Provider Chapel Inspirational Dance Team.

The keynote speaker for the day was Air Force Maj. Gina Sabric, the chief of flight safety for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter pilot.

“It’s kind of a big thank you to the women who have come before us,” said Sabric, a Tobyhanna, Pa., native.

In her speech, Sabric spoke about the history of women in the U.S. military.

“We have served in every major conflict since the Civil War,” she said.

Sabric said women were not officially allowed in the military until 1901; therefore early involvement was in an unofficial capacity.

In 1942, women first began flying in the military as Air Force service pilots. Sabric said she owes her



Air Force Maj. Gina Sabric, an F-16 pilot with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, speaks on the history of women’s right to vote and women in the military, particularly as pilots, during the Women’s Equality Day Luncheon Aug. 26 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

career to those women.

“It’s that generation prior to me that has let me do the great things that I have done today,” she said.

In 1995, two years after the ban on women fighter pilots was lifted, Sabric became the fifth female fighter pilot in the Air Force. She has since flown more than 1,800 hours and served in Operation Allied Force, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.

There were challenges in the beginning, said Sa-

bric, but things are now equal in the aviation world.

“It’s about performance, not about gender,” said Sabric.

Roughly 30 service members took part in an essay contest held by the EO office in observance of Women’s Equality Day. At the end of the luncheon, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commander of the 13th ESC, presented certificates of achievement to the writers of the top three submissions.

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WOMEN'S EQUALITY ESSAY WINNERS

Listen To Your Mother

By Spc. Sarah E. Green

After over seventy years of struggle women won the right to vote because a young man listened to his mother.

Harry T. Burn was born on November 12, 1895 to parents James LaFayette and Febb King Ensminger Burn. He was raised in Niota, Tennessee on his family's farm, Hathburn. He graduated from Harvard Banking Seminar, and in 1919 was elected to Tennessee's State House of Representatives. He was just 22 when elected, making him the youngest member at the time. He really shook things up when he became the deciding vote to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment in the last state needed to amend the Constitution.

The Nineteenth Amendment was proposed in June of 1919 and sent to the states to ratify. It needed thirty-six of the forty-eight states to amend the Constitution. By July of 1920 thirty-five states had ratified it and it was being sent to a voting session in Tennessee in August. If Tennessee did not ratify it, the future of the amendment looked grim as the other twelve states did not seem remotely interested in giving women the right to vote.

In Nashville it was the War of the Roses. The suffragists had taken to giving yellow roses to their supporters to wear. The anti-suffragists favored red roses. Even in the legislature they were showing their colors by wearing the flowers on their lapels. Just looking at the flowers on August 18, 1920, it did not look good for the Suffragists.

Harry Burn was proudly wearing his red rose. His voters were divided on the issue and he had been getting telegrams and letters regularly regarding the amendment. The most important message came from his mother though.

"Dear Son: Hurrah and vote for suffrage! I notice some of the speeches against. I have been watching to see how you stood but have not notice anything. Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification. Your Mother"

This message he tucked behind his red rose. He decided that if the vote was close he would follow his mother's advice. The day of August 22nd, the House was voting for the third time and they were deadlocked at forty-eight to forty-eight. Harry Burn rose to vote and shocked everyone present when he voted in favor of ratification. The anti-suffragists were so enraged they chased him until he found his only salvation climbing out a third story window.

Later in life when asked about the vote, he told people that his mother had been college educated and well versed in what was going on around the world, yet could not vote. However, men in his community who could not even read were able to do so.

The Nineteenth Amendment was signed by the Tennessee governor on August 24th and two days later became a part of the Constitution. Women were allowed to vote in all elections, finally, after a long fought fight.

Harry Burn was well-known in his community and others all his life, holding prominent positions in both politics and as a banker. When he died of a heart attack, February 19, 1977, he was still most renowned for that one vote he made when he was a young man of twenty-four. Voting women everywhere are in his debt, because for that very important decision he listened to his mother.

Sources

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The Struggle for Equality

By Spc. Sharon Taylor

Throughout the early history of our country, women were regarded as inferior in comparison to men. Many changes however, have been made that allow women to have the same rights as all American citizens. Many superb and courageous women have fought to gain those equal rights. When reminded of the stepping stones that women took in this country for equal rights, the names of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton run through my mind. These lionhearted, strong women began one of the highest regarded women's equal rights movements in the United States.

During the 1872 presidential election Anthony, a teacher and women's rights activist, casted what was then an illegal vote. The casting of this vote led to her arrest and charge of a \$100 fine. Aware of the consequences she would have to face Anthony's fearlessness was a very commendable and selfless act in the movement to gain equal rights for women. After her arrest, she made a speech in which she quoted the Preamble to the United States Constitution. Anthony would accentuate that "It was we, the people, not we, the white male citizens, nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed this union". Alongside her partner, Stanton, she was able to form and participate in a number of different associations for the equality of women. Together Stanton and Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. These, along with many other perseverant women began the movements that eventually led to the adoption of the 19th Amendment.

After many years of struggle, the 19th Amendment was ratified and added to the United States Constitution on August 18, 1920. This amendment granted all American women the right to cast their vote. The addition of this amendment was a landmark to all those who participated in the long evolution of women's rights. A new era where women were able to voice their opinion had officially begun.

The sacrifices made by all the women who participated in the women's equal rights movement helped pave the way for the female political figures in our country today. Women such as Sandra Day O'Conner, Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice and Sarah Palin, are a superb example of the difference gaining voting rights for women has caused our country. Sandra Day O'Conner has left her mark on women's history by becoming the first female Justice of the Supreme Court. Hillary Clinton has influenced and provided much change to our country by serving as the First Lady and as Senator of New York. Clinton was the first First Lady elected to serve in the United States Senate and the first woman elected throughout New York. Clinton is now also serving as Secretary of the State. Condoleezza Rice served as the 66th Secretary of the State and was the first African American woman to serve in that office. Sarah Palin served as Governor of the state of Alaska and was the Republican candidate for Vice President in 2008. The achievements made by these women all began with the ability to vote.

The history of our country has indeed changed. During the times of our founder's for women's rights, the thought of such achievements being conquered by women was obscure. The valiant works of women such as Elizabeth Stanton and Susan B. Anthony changed our country and our world. Without the ability to vote women's opinions in the political world may have never been expressed. Women of today owe a great deal of gratitude to those who fought to gain women's voting rights.

Army, Iraqi leaders agree to water-sharing policy in Ninawa

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS
2ND BATTALION,
198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION
Q-WEST, Iraq



—Local Iraqi leaders met with the 16th Sustainment Brigade deputy commander and the Q-West mayor to discuss water policy and enforcement at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq Aug. 15.

Mukhtars, or leaders, from five villages, along with representatives from the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and local government met in the base mayor's conference room and hammered out an agreement in which Iraqis will take responsibility for enforcing the share-the-water policy, which guarantees water to Coalition forces as well as surrounding communities.

"Our goal for this meeting was to get Iraqi authorities to commit to enforcing the long-standing water-sharing policy," said Lt. Col. William B. Smith, Jr., the Q-West Mayor with the 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, from the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Smith, a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., said he was encouraged by the meeting.

"We received verbal commitments from all the key leaders and will wait to see what happens," said Smith.

Water availability is understandably a significant issue in this desert country.

Iraq is suffering its fourth consecutive year of drought and faces another low harvest. The "shamal," a northwest-

erly wind descending from the mountains bordering Turkey, has been especially severe this summer, flooding the country with oceans of dust that linger for days.

Iraq relies heavily on the two great rivers of ancient Mesopotamia—the Euphrates, which meanders from Turkey through Syria, and the Tigris, which flows south from Turkey—but river levels have dropped over the past years, partly due to hydroelectric dams in Turkey.

The mayor cell water team operates and maintains the Al-Qayyarah pump house at the Tigris River, which provides water to many communities in the province as well as to Q-West. Two pipelines pull water from the site, a 16-inch line for Q-West and a 12-inch line for the city of Al-Qayyarah and surrounding communities.

During the last month, Q-West received roughly one one-hundredth of the water it needed, said Capt. John E. Satterfield, director of public works with the 2-198th CAB and a Midway, Ga., native.

"To sustain operations, Q-West requires less than one-tenth of the water pumped daily when the pump house is operating at normal capacity," said Satterfield. "The rest belongs to the Iraqis."

The share-the-water agreement stipulates local Iraqis may draw from the 16-inch pipeline as much water as they need from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., after which they must close their taps, allowing water to flow unhindered to Q-West from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Furthermore, the agreement limits the size of taps to one inch in diameter.

Historically, during the

hottest months — May to September — water delivered from the pipeline decreases dramatically because of increased demand from agricultural activity and day-to-day life support.

In spite of that, there is conspicuous consumption of water in Ninawa Province. During a recent leader's reconnaissance, Smith observed lush gardens, neighborhoods in Qayyarah where tall sunflowers towered amid waist-high grass. Members of the 2-198th CAB found wheat fields wa-

tered by boom irrigation, locals washing cars at high noon and garden hoses spilling water that barely puddled before evaporating.

These oases thrive—many of them miles from the Tigris River—on water siphoned, often without permission, from taps in the 16-inch pipeline.

The Qayyarah officials and the village mukhtars discussed who was responsible for the situation.

"We have explained to the people a thousand times that they can take as much as they need during the day, but not to take the water at night," said Qayyarah Mayor Salih Nasa, through a translator.

When Salih asked why Coalition forces no longer prevent infractions, Smith reminded him the role of Coalition forces has changed since the January 2009 Security Agreement.

"This is an Iraqi civil issue and Iraqis must enforce their own policies," said Smith. "I want to make this very clear — we are going to leave Iraq. Our intent is to leave this base in good condition for the Iraqi Army and Air Force to use.



An Iraqi interpreter, standing waist deep in lush grass, observes with Lt. Col. William B. Smith Jr., the Q-West, Iraq, mayor, an unauthorized pipe tapped into the 16-inch pipeline supplying water to Q-West during a recent leader's reconnaissance of the pipeline in the Ninawa Province of northern Iraq.

This is your country, your base."

"The Iraqi Army supports the share-the-water policy, but there must be consequences for violating it," said Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Khalid Subhi Muhammed, a civil affairs officer with the 7th Brigade. "Here is what we must do, and we must do it through the Iraqi legal system, not through the Coalition forces."

Muhammed laid out a simple, direct plan: warn all the people that if they do not abide by the share-the-water policy, they will be punished. After a warning, fine and jail everyone who violates the policy.

Gen. Khalil Hassan Aluk, the Al-Qayyarah police chief, agreed to the plan.

"I will speak with the mukhtars and shaykhs of every village, and they will speak to the people and tell them they must remove the illegal taps and abide by policy," said Aluk. "I will also send a message to all the imams."

Lt. Col. Eric Fleming, deputy commander, 16th Sust. Bde., emphasized the importance of an Iraqi-led solution

to the issue.

"The most significant outcome of this meeting was the empowering of the local government officials," said Fleming. "In the past, they leaned on Coalition forces to be the heavy hand and enforce Iraqi law."

Fleming said the meeting was an important milestone in the transition of the region.

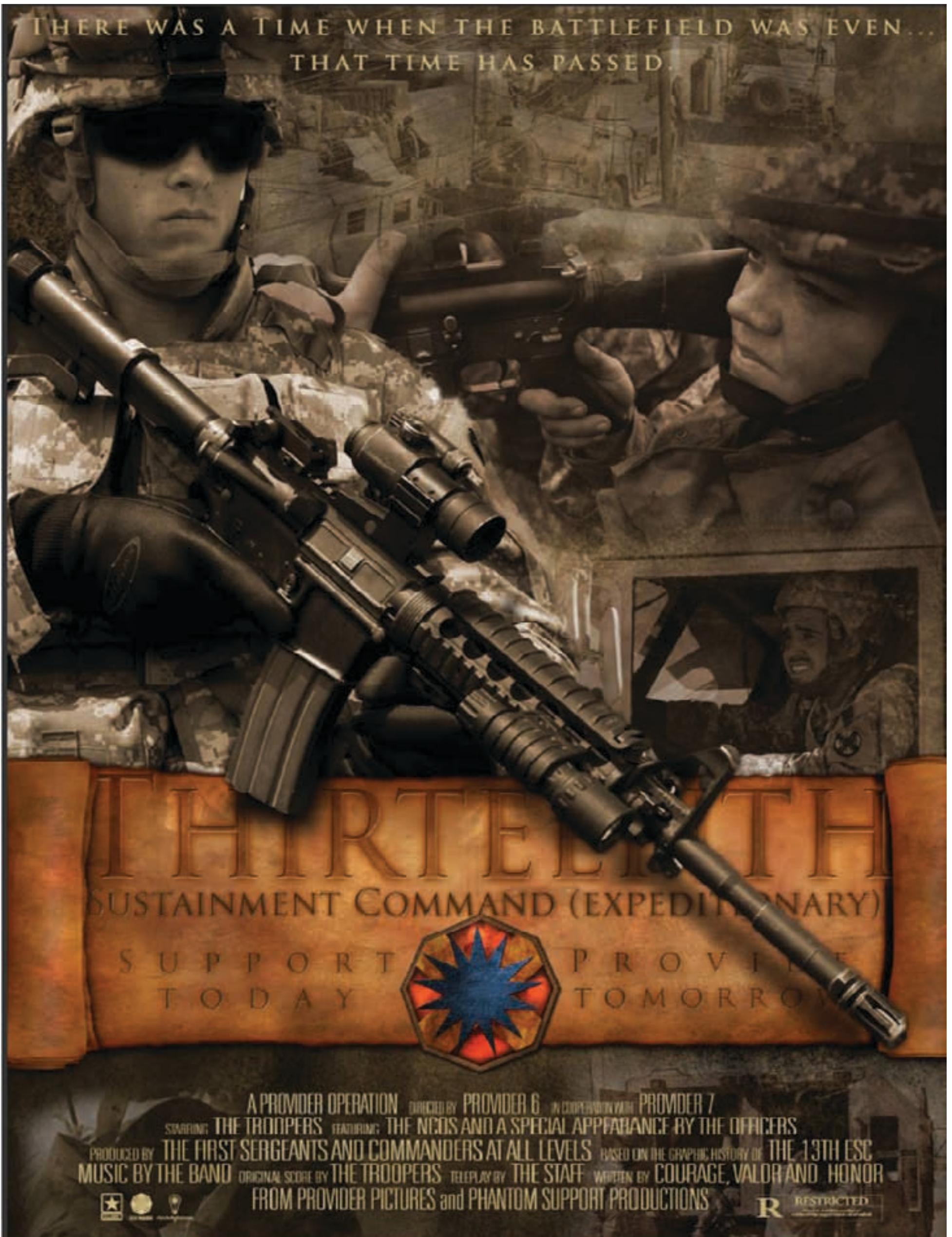
"The Iraqis agreed to conduct patrols on the pipeline and enforce Iraqi law by arresting those that illegally tap the line," said Fleming. "The mayor of Al-Qayyarah stated that he had the power to impose fines and that he would do so if an Iraqi judge found them guilty of breaking the law. This is a major step forward in the local population taking responsibility for their own country. We did not have this a year ago."

Dr. Muhammed Ismail Ahmed, a liaison for more than 50 villages in the province, said he agreed with Fleming. A general practitioner with a medical degree from the University of Mosul, Ahmed said he sees the issue of water-policy enforcement as a challenge to the legitimacy of the local Iraqi government.

"The people are asking how their leaders will deal with this," said Ahmed. "There must be follow-through on the decisions made during the meeting."



During a recent reconnaissance of the water pipeline in the Ninawa Province of northern Iraq, elements of a force protection company discovered this boom sprinkler set up to irrigate a harvested wheat field near the 16-inch pipeline that supplies raw water to Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Numerous such fields use water tapped illegally into the 16-inch pipeline, taxing the water supply to the base.



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Personal security team Soldiers

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — The gray Opal flipped over twice on main supply route Tampa and came to rest on its wheels. An Iraqi woman lay on the ground next to the vehicle, her husband sitting behind it with head injuries. Villagers gathered around the vehicle, trying to help.

The Soldiers of the 16th Sustainment Brigade's personal security team were on a mission, roughly 20 miles north of Joint Base Balad, when they saw the accident.

Staff Sgt. Michael Shaw, a medic with the 16th, and Sgt. David Miller, a Sacramento, Calif. native and combat lifesaver, treated and stabilized the woman while other members of the team provided security.

"It was obvious that she sustained a head injury during the rollover, so they put a neck brace on her to prevent further damage," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Garcia, the PST's noncommissioned officer in charge. "My medics then put her on a spine board and we transported her to a nearby Iraqi police checkpoint

where she could be transported to a medical facility for treatment."

The mission was one of more than 70 performed by the 16th Sust. Bde. PST since they deployed in July 2008. The 23 Soldiers on the team have traveled more than 15,000 miles from Habur Gate, on the northern border of Iraq, to Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

As their 15-month deployment comes to an end, Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, command sergeant major for the 16th, praised their efforts.

"These HOOAHs have performed exceptionally well, covering over 20,000 miles on some of the most dangerous roads of Iraq," said Spencer. "The brigade command team would not have been able to travel the battlefield and make timely decisions without this team's efforts. Bottom-line, this team has been a combat multiplier for the 16th Sustainment Brigade and our mission would have been greatly degraded without them."

The 16th, based out of Bamberg, Germany, was preparing for its 15-month deployment to Iraq, and leaders were beginning the process of building a personal security team for the brigade commander and command sergeant major.

Soldiers from different units and different vocations — welders, truck drivers, supply clerks, fuelers,

radio repairers, machinists, air conditioning repairmen, mechanics and ammunition specialists — competed for slots on the brigade team.

"A sustainment brigade doesn't doctrinally have a personal security detachment assigned, so all of the Soldiers were pulled from units within the brigade, each bringing their own unique specialty to the table," said Spencer. "When forming the team, I knew it needed to be heavy with mechanical skills, but a medic, supply sergeant and a communications expert would also be critical."

Spencer issued the same warning to all Soldiers trying out for the PST in March 2008.

"I intend to put you in harm's way, five days a week," said Spencer. "If you don't want to be here, get out."

Candidates were selected in April, after a month-long training process in which only 28 of the original 40 Soldiers remained.

"The initial screening criterion was simple; a focus on the basics, which included weapons, combat lifesaver class and physical fitness proficiency," said Spencer. "Initially, I had about 40 Soldiers who competed for a spot on the team. After the first (Army physical fitness test), six-mile ruck march, IV training, range and additional weapons training, there were 28 Soldiers remaining. Eventually, 24 were



Courtesy photo

Personal security team members Spc. Abdur Khan and Cpl. Evan Fay pull security Dec. 17, 2008 during a non-lethal engagement in Jaddilah Soflih, Iraq. Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, also with the 16th, met with an area leader after delivering school supplies, toys and a swing set to the village school.

ers prepare for mission's end



Spc. Abdur Khan pulls security as 16th Sustainment Brigade leaders meet with Iraqi Army leaders from 7th Brigade, 2nd Division, Nov. 29, 2008 at Contingency Operating Location Hawk, an Iraqi Army compound within Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

Courtesy photo

selected to be on the team for the Knights' first combat operation."

The Soldiers selected were outstanding, said Garcia, a native of Davenport, Iowa.

"I think it speaks volumes that the brigade command sergeant major would select a Soldier to provide security for him and the brigade commander," said Garcia. "Let's face it; their lives are at stake when they go outside the wire."

Security operations are an opportunity for some Soldiers to refresh or improve their Soldiering skills, or to get away from routine, said Sgt. Shawn Burton, who volunteered to join the 16th's PST.

"I don't function well in the rear," said Burton, a native of Bakersfield, Calif. "I function better in a deployed environment. Things are so much simpler here."

The PST's mission is not always about security, however.

During one humanitarian mission in December 2008, PST Soldiers took time to spread some good will in Iraq, taking candy, clothes, toys and a homemade swing set to Iraqi children at a nearby village.

"The first time we went out there to Jaddilah Soflih, those kids had nothing," said Garcia. "I called my wife in Germany and told her about the kids and how I wanted to do something for them. My wife immediately started a donation box in my daughter's third grade class. Before long, the entire third grade followed suit and donated several boxes of toys and clothing."

The unit wanted to make the children smile, if only for a short time, said Sgt. Nicholas Nipitella, a PST vehicle commander.

"We did it for the kids," said Nipitella. "They don't have much and we'll do anything we can do to put a smile on their faces for a little bit."

The team has escorted several VIPs during battlefield circulation missions including Multi-National Force - Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson,



Courtesy photo

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, also with the 16th, award Spc. Henry Charles, a personal security team member and a native of Virginia Beach, Va., a Combat Action Badge Dec. 12, 2008 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. PST members earned the CABs during a battlefield circulation mission in November.

The PST's work has saturated Iraq. Sgt. Evan Fay, vehicle operator for the brigade's command sergeant major, developed several modifications to the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles that have been implemented throughout MNF - I. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, visited Q-West and was given a detailed brief about some of Fay's safety and efficiency improvements to the MRAP.

"It's about improving your foxhole and thinking outside the box," said Fay, a native of Milpitas, Calif.

Training has been the driving force behind the team's success.

Prior to deployment, the PST was certified in the modern army combatives program -levels 1 and 2, combat lifesaver course, executive protection, weapons training, battle drills, convoy operations and convoy live-fire exercises.

Spc. Brandon Tillery, a native of Mount Vernon,

Ill., and a PST communications specialist, is responsible for ensuring the team can communicate while on missions.

"This has been a very challenging, but fulfilling assignment for me," said Tillery. "It has given me the opportunity to do and see things that I would have never had the chance to do before I joined the team."

Spc. Jeromy Westphalen, a vehicle operator and recovery specialist, said his work allows him to uphold a promise.

"I made a promise to my grandfather about three months before he passed away," said Westphalen. "I told him that I would serve my country."

Garcia said he and his Soldiers have formed lasting bonds over the last 18 months.

"I have had the pleasure of watching these guys develop not only as a team, but into men," said Garcia. "They excel in a combat environment. If I have to leave the wire, it will be with my men."

Schoolmates find friendship during deployment

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. MICHAEL SYNER,
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The U.S. Army has hundreds of thousands of Soldiers in its employ, which makes the story of Sgt. 1st Class Tina D. Hudson and Sgt. 1st Class Sonya D. Jones a lucky roll of the dice.

Both Hudson and Jones attended Asheville High School, in Asheville, N.C., and both played basketball, and are now roommates while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Special Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

The roommates said they do not remember seeing each other in their adolescence, but their family members know each other.

“My oldest sister, Vanessa, is friends with Sonya’s mom and dad,” said Hudson.

They did not know each other prior to the deployment, only after becoming roommates.

“I got to the unit in December 2007,” said Jones. “She got there in March 2008. I didn’t really know Tina then. We didn’t work together and never re-



Sgt. 1st Class Tina D. Hudson and Sgt. 1st Class Sonya D. Jones, both natives of Asheville, N.C., and Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Special Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, exchange jokes and stories in their room.

ally saw each other.”

Hudson overheard Jones talking with someone about her leave plans and heard Jones mention her hometown.

“I heard her mention Asheville, so I asked her if that was where she was from,” said Hudson.

After further discussion, the details of their families’ relationships came to light, along with their shared academic background.

Jones joked about the one-year difference in their graduation dates.

“(Sonya’s) old,” said Jones. “She graduated before me.”

JBB Fire Department gives fire-prevention tips

BY SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Electrical fires are the most common type of fire reported at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, but can easily be mitigated, JBB Fire Department officials said.

Proper use of electrical cords and adapters would reduce the number of electrical fires on JBB, said Air Force Master Sgt. Randall Swisher, assistant fire-prevention chief at the JBB Fire Department.

“Misuse of cords and adapters, such as negligent placement or daisy chaining, are common causes of electrical fires in the (containerized housing units) and the workplace,” said Swisher.

Also, wiring and power strips can short out and cause fires, said Sgt. Joshua McGinnis, with the 23rd Ordnance Company. It is important to use the approved power strips and electrical adapters, he said.

Only National Electric Code or Under Writers Laboratory-approved electrical cords and adapters may be used inside containerized housing units, according to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) fire-

prevention guide.

Ninety-nine percent of fires on JBB are put out by fire extinguishers, making them the primary form of defense against fires, said Swisher.

“It’s very important that fire extinguishers are checked monthly,” he said.

Regular checks ensure functionality of extinguishers in the event of a fire emergency.

“A lot of it is common sense,” said McGinnis. “As long as you have power strips and plugs with (NEC) ratings, that’s a major thing right there.”

The JBB Fire Department offers fire-safety classes to facilitate fire safety and prevention. This information is invaluable, said Swisher.

Safety Check Tips

- Ensure power strips are approved
- Do not daisy chain power strips
- Regularly check fire extinguishers
- Use common sense

Oregon 4th graders give Soldiers a lift

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. CORY E. GROGAN
41ST IBCT

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Members of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, of the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Bri-



gade Combat Team, got a big morale boost Aug. 18 when they received care packages put together by last year’s fourth graders from Albany Christian School in Albany, Ore.

B Company is based out of Corvallis, Ore., and is serving on a convoy-security and force-protection mission until the spring of 2010.

Some of these Soldiers visited the fourth-grade class at Albany Christian during the last school year. They gave gifts and answered students’ questions before leaving for their deployment to Iraq.

The students decided to return the favor.

Stephanie Looney, a fourth-grade teacher at Albany Christian, arranged for her students to put care packages together for the Soldiers.

Pvt. Tyler Scholander, a native of Albany Ore., from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, from the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, holds up stuffed animals from the care packages he and other members received in packages sent by 4th graders from Albany Christian School Aug. 18. The Soldiers visited Albany Christian to ask questions and give gifts to the students prior to mobilizing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Funds were raised through a school auction, where Jeremy and Lydia Kudlo, of Albany, donated enough money to help make the project happen.

The Soldiers were full of praise for Looney, the Kudlos and the fourth-grade students as they opened their care packages, and their faces lit up when they saw the items inside.

Pfc. Sam Wagner, an Albany native, was especially excited with the microwave popcorn.

“I love popcorn and I haven’t found a use for my microwave yet so I’m very thankful for this,” said Wagner.

Staff Sgt. Brian Chytka, convoy commander and an Albany native, said the gifts served as a connection to the world outside of Iraq.

“It is great that this could be arranged to give some of my younger Soldiers the opportunity to connect with the kids,” said Chytka. “A lot of (Soldiers) who come over here are focused on the Army and they forget about everybody back home that is supporting us.”

Pvt. Tyler Scholander, of Albany, Ore., said he was thrilled to get the care packages.

“This is great,” he said. “It’s definitely nice to know people back home care. This is the kind of stuff that gets us through the deployment, and we just want to say thank you.”

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

The Strong and Ready Warrior Succeeds

STORY AND PHOTO BY
LT. COL. RENEE ROUSE
304TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – For the first time since 2006, Sgt. Joshua Fouch of Anaheim, Calif., passed the Army physical fitness test – a direct result of the Strong and Ready Warrior program.

The program, which is based on four pillars of well-being, enabled Fouch to participate in 5 km runs on Joint Base Balad, lose more than 60 pounds, earn his promotion to sergeant, further his education and tend to his spiritual well-being, he said.

“I changed my eating habits,” Fouch said. “I no longer eat everything on my plate, I eat slower and I stop when I am full. I can now eat everything I want, just in controlled quantities and I work out one hour each night.”

The four pillars of the Strong and Ready Warrior program focus on Soldiers’ bodies, minds, spirits and emotions. The program was the brainchild of Lt. Col. Norman B. Green, commander of the 304th Sustainment Brigade out of Riverside, Calif., and Capt. Peter Strong, a chaplain from Seattle.

Fouch said he achieved positive outcomes in all four pillars, something he struggled to do at home.

“I couldn’t get a steady routine because I had to deal with family and friends,” Fouch said. “I didn’t make myself the priority. Here, there is more time to focus on me, with very few distractions.”

Green, a Houston native, said he had a two-fold vision for the brigade when he arrived in theater. He said he wanted his Soldiers to accomplish their missions and ensure they all succeeded in at least one of the Strong and Ready Warrior pillars. Green wanted each Soldier to have a significant life enhancement to show at the end of the deployment.



Sgt. Joshua Fouch, of Anaheim, Calif., from the 304th Sustainment Brigade, crosses the finish line at the Christmas in July 5 km run at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Since he has arrived in theater he has lost more than 60 pounds and been promoted, goals that were contracted by his commitment to the Strong and Ready Warrior Program.

Before joining the program, Fouch had been flagged for being overweight and failing his APFT. He said he now participates in five km fun runs on JBB and weekly brigade runs.

He also takes classes online and participates in regular Bible studies, he said.

At the 304th’s Soldier Appreciation Day in July, several Soldiers were honored with a 304th Strong and Ready

Warrior T-shirt for accomplishing their contracted goals while in theater.

Fouch was one of those Soldiers.

Other accomplishments noted by 304th Soldiers who were contracted through the program included: participation in sports, completing military schools, completing college courses, significant financial investments and achieving the maximum score on the APFT.

Morphis makes maximum contribution

BY SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Although many service members donate platelets at the hospital here at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, one Soldier has reached his maximum allowance.

Warrant Officer David C. Morphis, a native of Victorville, Calif., and a command food-service technician with the 304th Sustainment Brigade, donated platelets for the 24th time this year – the maximum number of donations allowed in 12 months.

Deployment time constraints prevent most service members from reaching 24 donations in a year, but Morphis said he has a history of consistent donation.

“I used to donate blood regularly when I was in the states,” said Morphis. “I enjoy doing it because I know that my blood goes many different ways. In fact, out

here they only take platelets, because platelets last longer.”

Morphis said when he goes home, he will not be able to donate for a while.

“Platelets are a small cell in the blood,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas A. Jordan, the officer in charge of the aphaeresis team, with the 301st Medical Squadron out of Carswell, Texas. “Without platelets, we’re not going to have a big survivability rate.”

Jordan, a native of Misquite, Texas, said no blood type is needed more than others, which is why platelets are not blood-type specific. However, the hospital does keep the donations labeled by blood type, he said.

Service members can come to the hospital and sign up to donate.

“We offer incentives,” said Jordan. “You can get a T-shirt.”

Morphis received a shirt, but that is not why he donated platelets.

“I’m not a doctor; I’m not a nurse,” said Morphis.

“At least my platelets can do some good as far as helping people heal.”

Morphis said when he went to donate, he reclined in a comfortable chair for a hour and a half and watched a movie while waiting for the process to finish. The satisfaction he felt from the use of his donations encouraged him to donate the maximum number of times.

“I can’t tell you how many times I have come in and they said, ‘They used your platelets this week,’” said Morphis. “It felt like I did something very good.”

Jordan said individuals who come to the hospital to donate seem excited.

“I see people that can’t wait to do something to serve,” said Jordan. “It’s rare to donate a great deal due to the length of deployments.”

Morphis said he would donate more if he could.

“When I reached that point it was nice, because it felt like I accomplished something big that I’ll remember,” said Morphis. “If I could donate more, I would continue to donate until I left. But since there is a limit, it is nice to reach it.”

No One Shoots Alone

Treat every weapon as if it is loaded.
Handle every weapon with care.
Identify the target before you fire.
Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.
Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

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

SAFE Summer

ARMY SAFE STRONG
BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS



Sergeant Audie Murphy Club



Audie Leon Murphy was a legend in his own time, a war hero, movie actor, writer of country and western songs, and poet. His biography reads more like fiction than fact. He lived only 46 years, but he made a lasting imprint on American history.

Audie was born on a sharecropper's farm in North Texas on June 20, 1924. As a boy, he chopped cotton for one dollar a day and was noted for his feats of derring-do and his accuracy with a gun. He had only 5 years of schooling and was orphaned at age 16.

After being refused enlistment during World War II in both the Marines and Paratroopers for being too small (5'5") and underweight (110 lbs), he enlisted in the U.S. Army a few days after his 18th birthday. After basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced training at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Audie was sent overseas. He was assigned to the famous 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division where he fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany.

He earned a battlefields commission for his courage and leadership ability as well as citations and decorations including every medal for valor that America gives. He was also awarded three French and one Belgian medal. Lieutenant Audie Murphy was the highest decorated soldier in American history. Discharged from the Army on September 21, 1945, Audie went to Hollywood at the invitation of movie star James Cagney.

He remained in California for the rest of his life and was closely associated with the movie industry, both as an actor and a producer. He acted in 44 films, starring in 39 of them. His best known film was "To Hell and Back," adopted from the best selling book of his war experiences by the same name. Most of his movies were westerns. In 1955, Audie Murphy was voted the Most Popular Western Actor in America by the Motion Picture Exhibitors. Audie wrote the lyrics to 16 country and western songs, the most popular of which was "Shutters and Boards," written with Scott Turner in 1962. The song was recorded by over 30 pop singers, including Jerry Wallace, Dean Martin, and Porter Wagoner. He was an accomplished poet; unfortunately, only a few of his poems have survived.

In 1950 Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patchers") of the Texas National Guard and served with it until 1966. He was a Mason and a Shriner and belonged to several veterans organizations. Audie Murphy was killed in a plane crash on a mountain top near Roanoke, Virginia on May 28, 1971. Fittingly, his body was recovered 2 days later on Memorial Day. Audie could very well be the last American war hero. He was the greatest combat soldier in the 200 year plus history of the United States.

13th ESC Soldiers attempt to join Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – "Audie Leon Murphy was a legend in his own time," begins the biography recited by the three candidates at the board for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Aug. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The noncommissioned officers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) recited the biography in front of a panel of sergeants major from all over the Iraqi theater, from Camp Speicher to Camp Taji.

The club was established in 1986 at the 13th ESC's home in Fort Hood, Texas. Carrying on the tradition, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, the senior enlisted adviser for the 13th ESC, said he held the board during this deployment to challenge his Soldiers.

"The most important quality a candidate needs to have is confidence," said Joseph. "It's not about

knowing the answer, the Soldier also needs to be able to maintain military bearing throughout the process."

The situation-based questions required Soldiers to do more than simply memorize and quote regulations. The NCOs described theoretical courses of action for situations they could encounter as leaders.

Staff Sgt. Aileen Lynn, a platoon sergeant with the 89th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Bri-



Sgt. Christine Moreno, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic from the 10th Sustainment Brigade, displays the technique to properly clear an M16A2 rifle during the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Sergeant Audie Murphy Club board Aug. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

gade from Fort Eustis, Va., said her entire career has been a stepping stone leading to this board.

"I've been getting ready for this board my whole NCO career," she said. "The last six weeks I really buckled down. I learned regulations and just reviewed what I knew about my Soldiers."

The difficulty of the board is increased by the rapid-fire questioning, but Lynn said the hardest part was not knowing what to expect.

Two of the three candidates, including Lynn, overcame the challenges they faced to be recommended for induction into the prestigious club.

Joseph said, "There is always room for improvement, and one NCO will have to come back when he's better prepared, but overall the Soldiers did very well. I was impressed by their knowledge and expertise."



Staff Sgt. Aileen Lynn, a platoon sergeant assigned to the 89th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, deployed from Fort Eustis, Va. Lynn is one of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s newest Sergeant Audie Murphy Club members.



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter: Sgt. Anthony H. Gomez, a Chicago native, is a light wheel vehicle mechanic assigned to 70th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.



Sgt. Christine Moreno, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic from the 10th Sustainment Brigade, became one of the newest members of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Aug. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier of the Quarter: Pfc. Greg Procopio, an Atlantic City, N.J., supply clerk, with Headquarters, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th SB.

159th Seaport Operations Company opens Sergeant Audie Murphy Club study hall

BY SGT. KEITH S. VANKLOMPENBERG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Attaining membership in the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is no easy task, which is why Soldiers from the 159th Seaport Operations Company started a weekly study hall to help prospective members prepare for the selection process at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Saturday was the first official day of the study hall,

which was a basic orientation to familiarize Soldiers with the requirements of the club, said Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Thompson.

Induction into the club – open to noncommissioned officers from corporal to sergeant first class– requires Warfighters to memorize vast amounts of information verbatim, said Thompson, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge and headquarters platoon sergeant with the 159th.

Thompson said the study hall will work like a practice board so Soldiers can learn what to expect and gauge their progress.

During selection, service members perform facing movements and disassemble and reassemble their weapons while answering situation-based leadership questions and reciting Sergeant Audie Murphy’s biography, as well as the Soldier’s Creed, NCO Creed and Army song, Thompson said.

Thompson became a member of the SAMC in May.

“If I want others to go forth and be productive, as an NCO I need to strive to be the best I can be and lead from the front,” he said.

He praised the candidates for their hard work.

“I applaud them for just the

effort,” said Thompson. “It was hard for me.”

First Sgt. Charlie McKenzie, with the 159th SOC, who was inducted into the SAMC as a sergeant first class in 1997, said he found the board exceptionally challenging as well.

“It was one of the toughest boards of my military career,” he said.

McKenzie, an Atlanta native, said membership is invaluable as a leader of Soldiers.

“It gives the opportunity for good NCOs to be excellent NCOs,” he said.

McKenzie said the study hall will assist Soldiers in memo-

rizing necessary literature as well as break down areas of Army leadership manuals and regulations some NCOs might not fully understand.

Thompson said the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club brings together the Army’s most knowledgeable NCOs to create a network of experts junior Soldiers can depend on.

“At the end of the day, for me, it’s all about taking care of Soldiers,” said Thompson.

For more information on the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club study hall, contact Sgt. 1st Class Thompson at (318) 483-4018 or email frederick.thompson1@iraq.centcom.mil.



SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.
E-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



JOINT BASE BALAD, IRAQ



Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

Ask! Act! Intervene!

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME

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

Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, kissing, inappropriate sexual contact or touching, or attempts to commit these acts).

Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

There are two types of reports available

RESTRICTED REPORTING: Allows a service member who is sexually assaulted to disclose the incident to specifically identified personnel including Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs); Unit Victim Advocates (UVAs); Healthcare Providers; or Chaplains. Reporting to any of these personnel will allow you to receive medical treatment, a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE), advocacy services, counseling, and legal services without triggering an investigation (can change to an unrestricted report at later date).

UNRESTRICTED REPORTING: Allows a service member who is sexually assaulted to receive: medical treatment, a SAFE, advocacy services, counseling assistance, and legal services. Unrestricted reporting triggers command notification and investigative process (cannot revert to restricted reporting). All members of JBB are eligible for this option.

<p>Joint Base Balad: 443-7272</p> <p>24/7: 443-9001</p> <p>Enter #159 at the prompt</p>	<p>Army: 433-2527 or 43-DSARC</p> <p>24/7: 443-9001</p> <p>Enter #122 or 135 at the prompt</p>
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Six legs are better than two

BY SENIOR AIRMAN ALYSSA C. MILES
U.S. AIR FORCES CENTRAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD – The security of those living and working within the International Zone here can be attributed to the safety measures put into place by the servicemembers who use their two legs to patrol the streets daily, and one member who patrols on four.



Tech. Sgt. Eric Mendez, military working dog handler deployed as a Joint Expeditionary Tasking Airman attached to the 143rd Military Police Detachment here, and his seven-year-old German Sheppard, Jaso, have patrolled the IZ during the last three months. While the duo's primary mission is explosive detection and suspect apprehension, they may also be called upon to provide immediate response to incidents or accidents that occur within the IZ until the Iraqi army arrives.

"Every day is a little different," said the Woodhaven, Mich., native. "We go to various incidents - from assaults to traffic accidents."

Sgt. Mendez and Jaso teamed up more than a year ago at their home station, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

"We have a good relationship," the sergeant said. "We had to build rapport - just like you do with any new relationship. We've been working pretty well together for the past year."

Jaso has proven to be a good wingman to Sgt. Mendez.

"Jaso and I have responded to several assaults in progress," Sgt. Mendez said. "Having Jaso with me has de-escalated situations without further incident. We've conducted several explosive sweeps of areas after indirect fire attacks in the IZ. Doing this ensured the safety of emergency response personnel and U.S. Coalition Forces."

In addition to his furry companion, Sgt. Mendez's



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Eric Mendez (left), military working dog handler assigned to 143rd Military Police Detachment, and his K9 partner, Jaso, conduct open area sweeps while Army Sgt. Steven Mariani (right), 143rd MPD investigator, provides security here Aug. 6. The joint team assists Iraqi police with securing and policing the International Zone in central Baghdad. Sergeant Mendez, a native of Woodhaven, Mich., and Jaso are deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Sergeant Mariani is deployed from the 26th Military Police Detachment at Fort Hood, Texas, and is a native of Keller, Texas.

back-up here consists of Soldiers deployed from the 26th Military Police Detachment out of Fort Hood, Texas. Sgt. Mendez is officially assigned to the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, which is the parent unit that oversees JET Airmen in Iraq. He said he believes the security of the forward operating bases within the IZ is sustained by the cooperation of both the Air Force and the Army.

"It's a combined effort," Sgt. Mendez said. "We definitely have different points of view, but we work together to complete the mission."

Army Sgt. Steven Mariani of Bedford, Texas agrees.

"The best part of the deployment is working with the Air Force and being able to see how they do business," said Sgt. Mariani. "There are always stereotypes amongst us in the differ-

ent branches. Working along with the Air Force, all the stereotypes go out the window. We're all here working on the same mission, and we're here to accomplish it."

Sgt. Mariani is also satisfied with the effect the Army and Air Force's efforts are having on the local Iraqi authorities.

"Every day we work together with the Air Force is another day closer to the Iraqis taking over the International Zone, which will eventually have us all back home with our families," the Army sergeant said.

With his responsibilities here wrapping up, Sgt. Mendez will be taking the best part of his job back home with him.

"I love animals, and being able to take one to work every day is the best job for me," he said.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Eric Mendez, military working dog handler assigned to 143rd Military Police Detachment, and his K9 partner, Jaso, conduct an area sweep here Aug. 6, 2009. Sergeant Mendez and Jaso assist Iraqi police with securing and policing the International Zone in central Baghdad. Both the dog and handler are deployed from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. Sergeant Mendez is a native of Woodhaven, Mich.

JBB Airmen, Soldiers host health fair for Iraqi children

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Airmen and Soldiers hosted a Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team-initiated health fair for local Iraqi children at the Oasis Dining Facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Aug. 22.

More than 30 children from the surrounding Salah ad Din province interacted with servicemembers while learning about basic first aid, the role of emergency medical professionals, and nutrition and hygiene skills.

The health fair marked the first time local kids were brought to JBB for a medical outreach program.

"The event served the purpose of educating the

children in the hopes they will disseminate the information to their families," said 1st Lt. Emanuel Pierre, Task Force 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion civil military operations officer. "We also see this as an opportunity to cultivate good sentiment between the Iraqi people and coalition forces."

Maj. (Dr.) David Carnahan, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group chief of medical staff, said his crew is working hand-in-hand with the local community to establish and maintain working relationships with their Iraqi counterparts.

"In the past, our doctors would work alongside Iraqi doctors in treating injured host nationals (at the Air Force Theater Hospital here)," the major said. "As the violence decreases in the area, we don't have that kind of working relationship anymore. In order to maintain the rapport we've built, we need to come together in non-hostility related events such as this. We are trying to support the Iraqi healthcare system

by not undermining it, but helping where we can."

The goal was to teach useful health skills, but the event organizers also built in time for the children to have fun. When the kids first arrived at the DFAC, they got to check out static displays of medical emergency vehicles and some even tried on firefighters' gear. Then, after the briefings and lunch, they spent the afternoon enjoying sporting events and games at the west side gym.

The six- to 14-year-old participants weren't the only ones having a good time at the event.

"We love being with the kids and having them here on our base," said Sgt. Maj. Kellyanne Oneil, Task Force 1st Medical Command senior clinical sergeant major. "You could see everyone smiling and having a great time. It takes (the military members) away from the madness for a little while. Besides having fun, we hope the information and instruction we are exposing them to will ultimately make them safer."

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

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

Last week's answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What marked the first time since the Revolution that the U.S. accepted direct financial aid to fight a war?
2. What Bill Murray Ghostbusters term did Persian Gulf Warriors use to describe being hit by chemical weapons?
3. What was the first war the U. S. took part in that was partially financed with lottery dollars?
4. What modern vehicle was invented to circumvent trench warfare?
5. What opportunistic country declared war on Japan five days before its surrender in 1945?

1. The Persian Gulf War 2. Slimed 3. The Revolutionary War 4. The Tank 5. The Soviet Union

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)

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

LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday

1500 Gilbert Chapel (H-6)

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday

1000 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155)

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)
 2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

Sunday

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Thursday

1100 Air Force Hospital

Mon., Wed., Fri.

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Monday-Friday

1130 555th Engineer Bde. (Bldg. 7200)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Saturday

0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER - Friday

1230 Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday

1900 The Shack

Saturday

1900 The Shack

GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday

0900 Provider Annex

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 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. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midget Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Open Court Volleyball: Monday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Fri., - 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jui-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7	EAST REC- REATION CENTER Karaoké: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8	H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday- Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	H6 FITNESS CENTER P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	WEST REC- REATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	WEST REC- REATION CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday, -	CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.

UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 9/02/09

2009 US Open: Men's and Women's Opening Rounds, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Los Angeles Angels @ Seattle Mariners (JIP), Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Boston Red Sox @ Tampa Bay Rays, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 Milwaukee Brewers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 9/03/09

2009 US Open: Men's and Women's Second Rounds Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 San Francisco Giants @ Philadelphia Phillies, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 Atlanta Braves @ Florida Marlins, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/xtra

Friday 9/04/09

College Football: South Carolina @ North Carolina State, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 2009 US Open: Men's and Women's Second Rounds, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College Football: Oregon @ Boise State, Live 5:15 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 9/05/09

NFL Preseason: Dallas Cowboys @ Minnesota Vikings, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 College Football Primetime: Tulsa @ Tulane, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Dodgers (JIP), Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Tigers @ Tampa Bay Rays, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 Big Ten Football: Akron @ Penn State, Live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 9/06/09

2009 Cowboys Classic: BYU @ Oklahoma, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
 NASCAR Nationwide Series: Degree V12 300 (Atlanta Motor Speedway), Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2009 Kickoff Game: Alabama vs Virginia Tech, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 2009 US Open: Third Round, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 9/07/09

Big 12 Football: Colorado State @ Colorado, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Pep Boys Auto 500, Live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Sunday Night Baseball: San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 9/08/09

2009 US Open: Men's and Women's Fourth Rounds, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Cincinnati @ Rutgers, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/xtra
 2009 US Open: Men's Fourth Round/Women's Quarterfinals, Live 6 p.m. AFN/sports

Arts & Entertainment

“The Go-Getter,” go get it Another reason to fall in love with Zooey Deschanel

By SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“The Go-Getter” is an artsy independent film with love ‘em or hate ‘em characters who suck you into a story about a road trip to self-discovery. The film starts off slow but peaks perfectly for the hopeless romantics

out there.

The movie begins with Mercer (Lou Taylor Pucci) heading out West to find his brother to tell him about the death of their mother. He heads out in a car he stole from Kate (Zooey Deschanel), who he befriends through phone conversations on the cell phone she left in the car. He continues his journey, meeting his brother’s friends and co-workers, who help him realize life isn’t quite as

he imagined it in his head. He soon realizes his search for self discovery may not be out West at all.

The movie is filmed with quick cuts and shaky handheld shots that occasionally add to the feelings of anxiety Mercer feels on his road trip, but, more often than not, seem unnecessary. The camera feels almost like an unneeded character. He’s on this road trip to discover himself, so it shouldn’t feel like he’s being filmed by another character.

The film style only slightly detracts from a movie in which the characters reign supreme. The side characters are a little over the top at times, but Pucci (“Thumbsucker”) does a fabulous job as Mercer, a 19-year-old who is full of nerves and curiosity about what kind of man he is. He plays the role with just the right amount of awkwardness and peculiar charm. Jena Malone (“Saved”) makes Joely, Mercer’s childhood friend, a completely despicable

character who uses her sexuality for power. Deschanel’s (“Eulogy”) Kate is perfect. She gives the character cuteness, humor and enough charisma to make anyone fall in love. This is Deschanel at her best. I wanted to watch this movie again just to see her one more time.

The actors receive solid help from the setting as well as the soundtrack by M. Ward (of the band She & Him with Deschanel). The music gives the film a great road trip soundtrack that adds to Mercer’s search for his brother and himself. The soundtrack has a Western tinge which complements the big Western landscapes the movie presents.

“The Go-Getter” is filmed in a way that people may or may not enjoy, but ultimately, it is the charisma of the characters that draws audiences to this movie. Hopeless romantics who enjoyed “Garden State” should definitely look into this film.

Punk rock is alive and well!

By SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



The summer before my senior year of high school, I broke the tape deck in my Ford Explorer. It still played, but I couldn’t eject the

tape, so I was stuck listening to the same thing for months. The tape was a homemade transfer of Operation Ivy’s album “Unity.”

Best summer ever!

If you aren’t familiar, Operation Ivy was a short-lived punk band in the ‘80s. They broke up years before I ever heard

them, but their collection of catchy, unforgettable ska-based punk songs pretty much solidified me as a punker for life.

After the breakup of Op Ivy, members Tim Armstrong and Mark Freeman formed another band you may have heard of. If you don’t know Rancid, you don’t know punk.

If you do know Rancid, you probably have a good idea of what to expect from their latest album, “Let the Dominoes Fall.”

If you’re expecting close to 20 short songs with upstroke electric guitars matched against reggae organ sounds, you’re right, for the most part. The standard Rancid sound we’ve grown to love is

there, but there are a couple of surprises as well.

My favorite track on the album, “New Orleans,” is one of these surprises. Guitarist Lars Fredrickson sings lead on this song and somehow adds simple folk melody to his signature smoker’s scream. Armstrong comes in on the chorus and his baritone speak-sing style fills out the sound nicely.

Overall, I was impressed with the singing on this album. Harmonies and gang vocals sound polished without coming off as over produced.

The big shocker in this album comes right after “New Orleans” with a track called “Civilian Ways.” Acoustic guitar,

dobro, ukulele and mandolin provide the setting for a song about a Soldier’s struggle with life after war. I wondered if this was even the same band.

That’s when they bring you right back into familiar territory with “The Bravest Kids,” a track that would have been equally at home on the band’s hardest, fastest album, “Rancid (2000).”

The rest of the album moves smoothly between classic Rancid and old school Americana.

If you’re anything like me and you’ve become jaded after numerous letdown albums from your favorite bands, you’ll be pleasantly surprised with “Let the Dominoes Fall.”

OFFICER SPACE



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, Sept. 2

5 p.m. I Love You Beth Cooper
8 p.m. Public Enemies

Sunday, Sept. 6

2 p.m. Final Destination
5 p.m. The Collector
8 p.m. G-Force

Thursday, Sept. 3

5 p.m. Bruno
8 p.m. Post Grad

Monday, Sept. 7

5 p.m. G-Force
8 p.m. Final Destination

Friday, Sept. 4

2 p.m. The Collector
5 p.m. Final Destination
8:30 p.m. Final Destination

Tuesday, Sept. 8

5 p.m. Final Destination
8 p.m. The Collector

Saturday, Sept. 5

2 p.m. G-Force
5 p.m. Final Destination
8 p.m. The Collector

Wednesday, Sept. 9

5 p.m. The Collector
8 p.m. G-Force

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army Pvt. Albino Mendoza III

U.S. Army Sgt. Matt Wedemeyer, from Tucson, Ark., assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, leads physical training for Iraqi Security Forces from the 1st National Police Division, at Contingency Operating Location Loyalty, near Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 19.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Coney

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer John Wallingford, from Pasadena, Texas, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, inspects construction of the new Al Mashroo School, near Kalsu, Iraq, Aug. 20.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Vorhees

Members of Iraq's Wasit Federal Police Brigade prepare to move into a building during Military Operations in Urban Terrain training, at Contingency Operating Location Delta, in southern Iraq, Aug. 19. U.S. Soldiers with the Federal Police Transition Team provide the instruction.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Luke P. Thelen

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul De Lemos, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 48th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team covers the course of events with Iraqi soldiers from the 48th Iraqi Army Brigade, Light Mortar Battery, prior to a live-fire training exercise, at Al Siniyah Air Base, in Al Siniyah, Iraq, Aug. 18.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Luke P. Thelen

An Iraqi soldier from the 48th Iraqi Army Brigade, Light Mortar Battery, ducks as a 120 millimeter mortar fires a round and a U.S. Soldier from the 48th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team, stabilizes the emplacement, during a live-fire training exercise, at Al Siniyah Air Base, in Al Siniyah, Iraq, Aug. 18.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Luke P. Thelen

Iraqi soldiers from the 48th Iraqi Army Brigade, Light Mortar Battery, compute firing data as mortar teams set up their emplacements during a training exercise, conducted by U.S. Soldiers from the 48th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team, at Al Siniyah Air Base, in Al Siniyah, Iraq, Aug. 17.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

27 students graduate from Iraqi National Defense College

BAGHDAD – The National Defense College held its third graduation Aug. 19, with 27 students, including two brigadier generals, earning a masters' degree in National Security Studies in the one-year program.

The ceremony, held at the National Defense University auditorium, recognized the students who attended from various government ministries and the Kurdish Regional Government. The course gives flag-level and strategic civilian decision makers a higher-level education in the field of leadership. The course began Sept. 16, 2008. The two previous courses graduated 13 and 18 students respectively and the selection for the fourth course is in progress.

The ceremony was followed by the inauguration of a library presided over by the Iraqi chief of Defence. Italy contributed to the project with a donation of about 700 books to the Military Centre for Strategic Studies.

Among the various high civilian and military authorities that attended the ceremony were the Iraqi Minister of Defence, Mohammed Abdul Kader Al Obeidi; Chief of Staff of Iraqi Joint Forces, Gen. Babakir Zebari; U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, NATO Training Mission - Iraq Commander, and his Deputy, Italian Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli.

The NDC Dean, Staff Maj. Gen. Ali Mohammed Mahmud Al Faraj, said the study at the National Defence College has given the students the capability to criticize and analyze the texts and deduct its positive aspects.

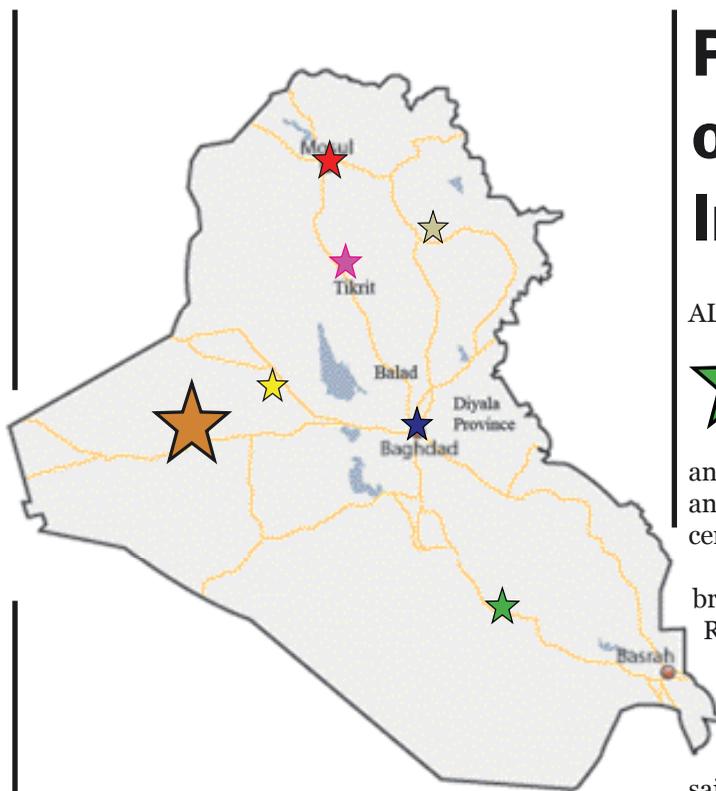
Helmick also addressed the audience and he praised the graduates for their achievement. "It is a pleasure to be here today to address the new leaders of tomorrow," he said. "The education you received here at the National Defence College is priceless. We can buy all that is needed to provide security but this solid education is stronger than guns and bullets.

"No one – and I say again no one – can take your education away from you or destroy it," he added. "Education is a never-ending commitment and what you have accomplished over this year is very, very special. You are part of the leadership that will lead Iraq through difficult times – and there will be difficult times – but you have the skills now to navigate through these difficult times." Helmick also thanked Spinelli and the NTM-I for their assistance in the program.

The three best students were awarded prizes for outstanding performance during the course.

Detainees released in Fallujah

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Marines from Multi National Force - West facilitated the release of 32 detainees from U.S. custody, and also transferred three detainees, who



were wanted pursuant to a valid warrant, to Iraqi Police custody Aug. 23, in Fallujah.

MNF-W followed a detailed release process to ensure the security of the people of Anbar and the safety of the detainees were not in jeopardy following the release. Marines from MNF-W coordinated with the Iraqi Police to transfer all detainees who were wanted pursuant to a warrant; other detainees were released near their place of residence. Prior to release, detainees participated in a public release ceremony where an oath of good citizenship and renouncement of violence was administered. Individuals were then welcomed by their family and friends.

In accordance with the Security Agreement, U.S. and Iraqi authorities coordinate to ensure the safe and orderly release of detainees held in U.S. custody or the transfer of detainees who are wanted pursuant to a valid warrant. The Security Agreement is an agreement between two sovereign nations, Iraq and the U.S., and shows U.S. commitment to Iraq built on absolute Iraqi sovereignty.

Ninewah Commandos arrest two suspected assassins

TIKRIT, Iraq – Elements of the 7th Regional Commando Battalion, with U.S. force advisors, arrested two suspected terrorists on Aug. 21, during an operation in the Ninewah province.

The Commandos arrested the suspected terrorists with a warrant issued by the Central Investigative Court of Karkh.

The men are suspected of assassination attempts and explosive attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. forces in Ninewah.

Pedestrian bridge opens in southern Iraq

AL KHIDR, Iraq – After 25 years of neglect the community of Al Khidr, population 50,000, received a boost to its quality of life with the opening of a new covered pedestrian bridge.

The bridge, spanning the Euphrates River and linking both sides of the city of Al Khidr in Muthanna Province, was dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 18.

The construction of the \$360,000, 132-meter long bridge was managed by the South District of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"This bridge will provide a critical service to Al Khidr residents who suffered for a long time from the old, unsafe and unreliable pontoons bridge," said Kamil Majhool Nino, deputy director general of Al Muthanna Roads and Bridges. "We consider this project the start for more projects for this area. Together we will build this country."

In his opening speech, Al Muthanna's Governor Ibrahim Salman Al Mayali said he was delighted to be there standing among his people and friends to open the bridge project that connects the two banks of the Euphrates River.

"Thanks to our friends the Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their support in building and completing this project and other projects which directly benefit the people of this province," said Al Mayali.

The idea for this bridge was first proposed by the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee in 2007 as a way to aid the community by linking two sides of the city with a safe pathway for pedestrians.

"The committee recognized the difficulties and hazards the citizens of Al Khidr endured to simply cross this river," said Muthanna PRT Lead John Kuschner. "This footbridge will now make crossing the river routine, safe and easy."

Although safety and convenience are very important, Kuschner said there were other factors considered in the design of the bridge.

"The committee also had the foresight to include a water pipe and a conduit for electrical wiring in the design of the bridge to improve the standard of living of people on both sides of the river," said Kuschner. "So this bridge now provides multiple benefits to thousands of citizens in this city and its surrounding area."

Maj. Sinlan Morrow, a PRT engineer and member of GRD's South district, said the pedestrian bridge may not have happened without the persistence of the Iraqi contractor and local leaders and officials.

"This project would not be possible without the efforts of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for identifying the need and funding the requirement; the local leaders and government officials for their support and oversight; Logal Company for Commerce Constructing, for their commitment to meet their contractual obligations, and to our team of Iraqi engineers for project quality assurance," Morrow said.

"What is important to learn from this is that there was a commitment by one local Iraqi company, that said that they could do it – and they did just that," said Morrow.

"This bridge is obviously an impressive feat of engineering, but it is also an excellent example of what can be accomplished when the elected officials from Muthanna work together with the PRT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and implement much-needed projects on behalf of the citizens of this province," said Kuschner.

Basrah SWAT arrests suspected terrorist in southern Iraq

 BAGHDAD – A Basrah Special Weapons and Tactics team, along with U.S. force advisors, arrested a suspected terrorist linked to numerous insurgent networks in Basrah province on Aug. 20.

The SWAT team was operating under the authority of a warrant issued by the Basrah Court.

The suspect has allegedly served as a high ranking official for numerous terrorist groups operating in the area. The suspect is also wanted for alleged attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and civilians.

Iraqi Special Operations Forces' 9th Battalion arrests alleged cell leader and two cell members

 AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Iraqi Special Operations Force's 9th Battalion personnel arrested a suspected terrorist cell leader and two other cell members on Aug. 16.

The suspects, arrested in accordance with Central Investigative Court-issued warrants, were allegedly involved in IED attacks, murder of innocent Iraqis and attacks against Iraqi Security Forces in the area.

The arrest of these individuals will disrupt the terrorist group's activities and possibly lead to future arrests, improving the security of Iraq.

Iraqi nursing students receive training from US Army

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – U.S. Army medical Soldiers have been partnering with Iraqi medical staff at the local Azadi Hospital in Kirkuk province, Iraq, to share their knowledge and provide training.

First Lt. Teresa Weber, a physician assistant with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, with

assistance from several 2nd BCT medics, taught a class on trauma assessment for nursing students at the Azadi Hospital, Aug. 18.

"This is a vital skill for nurses to know, because if a mass casualty situation happens, there are always going to be more nurses than there are doctors," said Weber. "Nurses are going to be expected to step up and do what a doctor normally would if there aren't any around."

Although the nursing students who attended the training are preparing to graduate at the beginning of September, they were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn from Weber.

"This is the first time we have received such a class from the [U.S.] Army," said Farhad Ali, a nursing student at Azadi Hospital. "I would like to get them all the time."

"Although this class was basic, I expect that I will need to know these skills in the future, because I will be working in an emergency room," he continued.

Throughout the course, Weber used a trauma dummy to illustrate to the nursing students how to evaluate patients brought the hospital, and how to perform the basic life-saving functions involved in opening airways, controlling bleeding and keeping blood flowing in a patient.

Following the demonstrations, Weber gave the students an opportunity to ask questions, and some even gave a few suggestions on how they might handle a trauma situation.

"I was really impressed by how much they knew," Weber said.

"Heck, if you want to teach us a class, let us know," she joked with the students.

After finishing the class, several students expressed their desire to learn more from Weber prior to graduating from their nursing course.

"I would really like to see her come out again," said Farhad.

Based on input from the students, Weber said she plans to teach additional classes on treating fractures, which she is hoping to do before this class graduates.

Iraqi Special Operations Forces arrest three suspected terrorists in Khaladiyah

 AL ANBAR, Iraq – Elements of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces arrested a suspected terrorist plus two others who attacked ISOF Soldiers while serving a warrant on August 24. Another attacker was killed.

The targeted suspect was arrested in accordance with an Ar Ramadi Criminal Court warrant. The individual is suspected of killing a senior Iraqi Police Officer, taking part in the recruiting of terrorists and providing a suicide vest for an attack against Iraqi civilians.

During the arrest of the warranted individual, who is a local Iraqi Policeman, the unit came under fire from multiple directions. In accordance with Iraqi rules of engagement, the ISOF responded with appropriate force. This resulted in the death of one attacker and the wounding of another. One Iraqi Soldier was also wounded. Two of the attackers were taken into custody after the attack.

The arrest of these individuals will disrupt the terrorist group's activities and possibly lead to future arrests improving the security of Iraq.

Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Hosts Budgeting Conference for Iraqi Ministries

 BAGHDAD – More than 40 Iraqi national attendees at the Defense Resource Management Institute's Resource Management and Budgeting Conference received attendance certificates from the Iraq Security Assistance Mission here Aug. 19.

Conference participants came from the Iraqi Ministries of Interior, Defense and Justice, along with the Counter-Terrorism Bureau. The conference was a nine-day event designed as a follow-up to a conference held here in Aug. 2008 that focused on general resource management for the ministries and bureaus.

At Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq's request, the August conference concentrated on life-cycle costing, effectiveness analysis and project management. The conference also facilitated inter-ministerial discussions on the budget preparation and execution process as well as the Government of Iraq's ability to efficiently and effectively manage public resources. To achieve these ends, the conference introduced the attendees to international best-practices in resource management for government entities.

Stephen Hurst, senior lecturer with the Defense Resource Management Institute, which developed the curriculum, said, "We bring all these ministries together in one room where they can sit and talk to each other. There is a huge interaction that is likely as important as what we are presenting."

He added, "There are no 'tests' in this seminar. We present relevant concepts and then the break into groups to tackle related practical exercises."

DRMI Senior Lecturer Louis Morales said, "We came here to share international best practices that the Iraqis can then use to shape and adapt to their own culture. They decide what to use and what not to use."

Morales added that this year's iteration includes many more case studies in project management and budgeting.

"We added an Iraqi-unique scenario to the case studies so participants could better relate to what we were teaching," Morales said.

MNSTC-I's efforts in training and mentoring its Government of Iraqi partners represents a vital step towards ensuring Iraq's self-sufficiency for the future.

Tikrit Emergency Response Battalion arrests suspected terrorist

 TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers with the 4th Emergency Response Battalion, with U.S. forces advisors, arrested a suspected terrorist on Aug. 22, during an operation in the Salah ad-Din province.

The suspected terrorist was arrested with a warrant issued by the Salah ad-Din Court of Appeals for suspicion of directly facilitating kidnappings and murders in the province.

The soldiers entered the suspect's residence and, arrested the individual without incident.

Phantom Support



U.S. Army Photo by Pfc. Michael Syner

Sgt. Nicole S. Carroll, native of St. Louis, and a member of the 110th Quartermaster Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, received a medal from 10th Sustainment Brigade commander, Col. Mark E. Drake, and was inducted to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, an exclusive club to honor noncommissioned officers who have acted in a manner consistent with the actions of Audie Murphy.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Michael Syner

Command Sgt. Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching, the senior enlisted adviser of the 10th Sustainment Brigade, speaks to Soldiers of the 659th Maintenance Company, 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, who fall under the 10th Sust. Bde. He urged the Soldiers to find something productive to do in their off-time, such as furthering their education.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Helga Colbert

Spc. Myra Vance (left), a casualty liaison specialist from Perry, Ga., assigned to the 510th Human Resources Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, gets help with a financial issue from Spc. Charles Yurtin, a Lebanon, Pa. native and customer service specialist with the 828th Finance Management Detachment, 208th Finance Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bridgette L. Fleming

Spc. Matthew Van Hoose, a petroleum specialist for D Company 949th, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, and a native of Gilbert, Ariz., assists with the setup of a weapons range at Contingency Operating Location Hammer. Soldiers from D Co. 949 BSB, 89th Trans. Co., 317th Maint. Co. and 110th Quartermaster Co. were given the opportunity to qualify with the M19, 40 millimeter grenade launcher and the M2, .50 caliber machine gun.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Edward Monell

The mission never ends even during a sand storm. Spc. Jonathan Cabrera, a supply specialist from Brooklyn, N.Y., works to resupply critical water points throughout the work and living areas of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade at Camp Taji, Iraq.