

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2 Issue 37

## Drawdown in progress



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## Border support



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## A day at the pool



Warfighters compete in Labor Day raft race

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# Service members remember 9/11

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – On Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush said, “Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward—Freedom will be defended.”

Even after eight years, most service members say they can remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when the attacks happened.

“I was in history class watching a movie on the TV,” said Spc. Thomas A. Richards, a machinist and metal fabricator, with the 514th Maintenance Company out of Fort Drum, N.Y. “I was shocked because I thought I was watching a movie and then found out it was CNN.”

Service members observed a moment of silence at 8 a.m. at Holt Stadium, many of whom participated in the Air Force Half Marathon earlier that morning.

Richards, a Dutton, Ala. native, was one of these. He said the events of 9/11 were one reason he joined the military.

The run was a meaningful and fun way to remember 9/11, he said.

Spc. Craig W. Hodges, also a

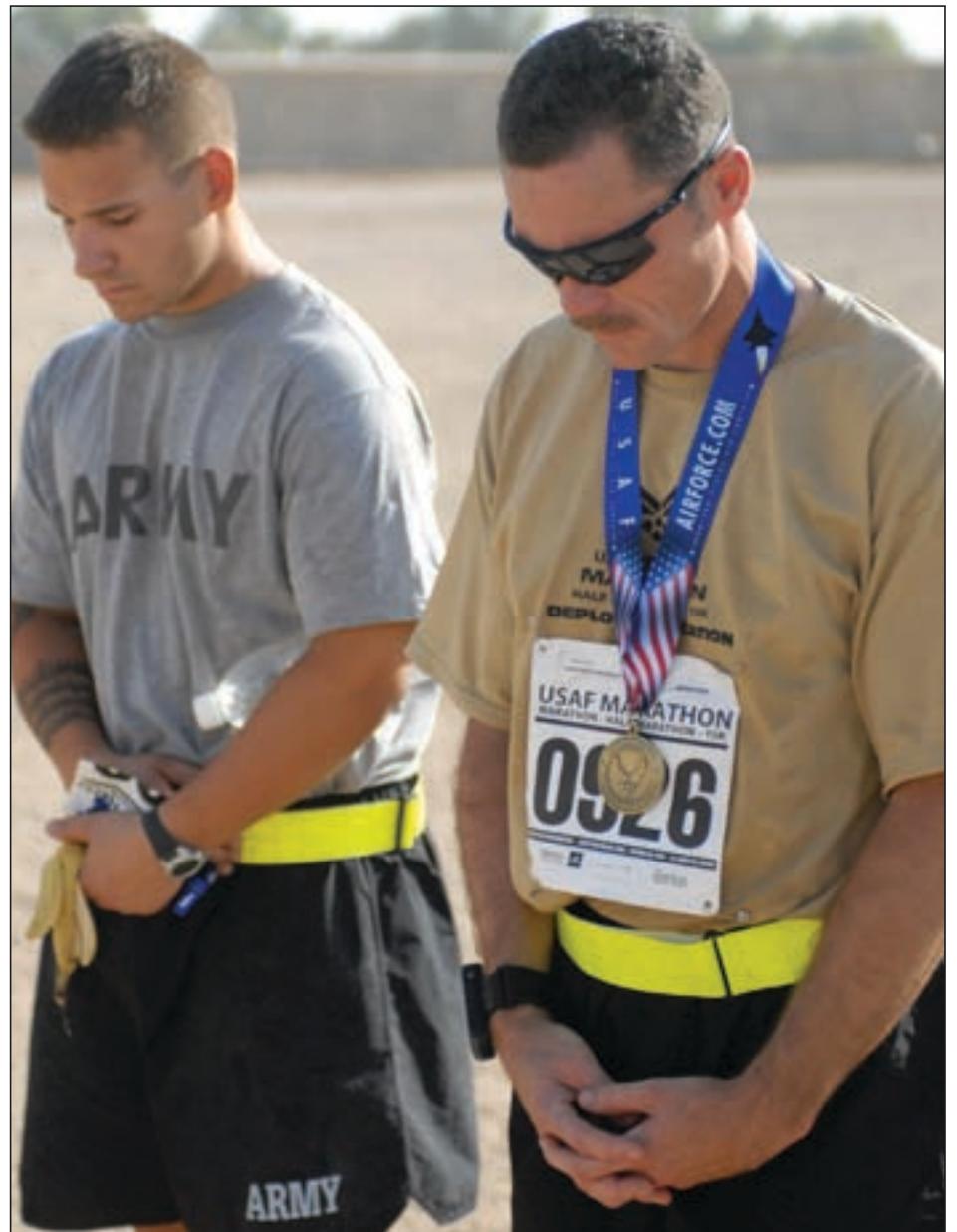
metal worker and fabricator with the 514th, and a Shelbyville, Ind. native, who ran the half marathon earlier that morning, was in high school when the attacks occurred. Watching the events of that day and knowing the number of lives affected, and ended, motivated him to join the Army, he said.

Hodges said when not deployed, he and his family spend time together on Sept. 11.

Richards said his family barbeques and spends time together as well.

“Everybody needs to remember the people who lost their lives,” said Richards.

**Spc. Thomas A. Richards and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Troy L. Feuston, both with the 514th Maintenance Company out of Fort Drum, N.Y., bow their heads during a moment of silence Sept. 11 here on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**



# AF Half Marathon keeps memory running

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Roughly 600 runners participated in the Air Force Half Marathon Sept. 11, at Holt Stadium on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Peter F. Galan, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the reception, replacement, return to duty, rest and recuperation, and redeployment/casualty operations in the finance operations cell for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Staff Sgt. Travis Donmoyer, a technical engineering NCO for the 13th ESC, trained together for two months to prepare for the half marathon.

Galan, a Wittier, Calif. native, and Donmoyer, an Annville, Pa. native, completed the 13-mile run in 1 hour 49 minutes.

Galan said they have a similar running pace and push each other to be better.

“We said we were going to finish together and we finished together,” said Galan.

Galan and Donmoyer started running together in January, mostly 5Ks, and started training for the half marathon in July.



**Runners take off from the starting line at 5 a.m. Sept. 11, during the Air Force Half Marathon at Holt Stadium on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

They began with smaller distances of 2 to 3 miles and gradually worked their way up to the full distance, said Donmoyer.

“A good way to motivate each other is talking smack,” said  
**SEE RACE ON PAGE 2**

## Balad Blotter

### September 3 - September 8

#### MAJOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle accident at a location. A patrol arrived on scene and determined the accident to be a major vehicle accident. The operator stated that while driving on Victory Loop heading North, the steering column failed to operate and forced the vehicle into Bldg 3930/DRMO Fence line. The damage to the vehicle consisted of the windshield cracking in 20 places, the front bumper being severely dented, the undercarriage leaking fluid and the vehicle was not operational. The damage to the property consisted of 30 feet of fence line and five steel posts.

#### LARCENY OF UNSECURED PRIVATE PROPERTY:

A complainant entered law enforcement desk and reported a larceny had occurred at a location. The complainant stated he left the location at 8 a.m. and was not sure if he locked his room door. The complainant returned to the location at 5 p.m. and noticed that it was unsecured. The complainant opened the door and noticed that property was missing with no signs of forced entry.

#### ASSAULT:

A victim entered the law enforcement desk and reported that an assault occurred at a location. The victim stated that he entered the location and the subject began to verbally abuse him. The subject grabbed the victim's left wrist and shirt and pushed him.

#### HELPING HAND:

A complainant called the Defender Control and reported having one white male, in a tan flight suit, detained for not having a restricted area badge. The patrol advised the subject of his Article 31 rights. The subject acknowledged his rights and agreed to make a written statement. The subject said he was unaware of the restricted area badge procedures and was unaware he was supposed to be brandishing his RAB on his person while within the restricted area.

NIPR: 443-8602  
SIPR: 241-1171

Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

# Chaplain's corner...

By MAJ. PETER STRONG  
BRIGADE CHAPLAIN  
304TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE



"What I am looking for is a blessing not in disguise."  
-Jerome K. Jerome

Some people wouldn't recognize a blessing if it came up and hit 'em over the head with a 2"-by-4". If blessings appear to be disguised, it is only because we are not able to see them for what they are. Blessings are simple acts of God intended to bring joy and delight to the receiver. The beauty of a flower, the song of a bird, the warmth of the sun – these are all gifts that remind us we are loved and cared for.

Why do you think blessings are so hard to see? Are they dressed in camouflage? Do they hide behind trees and under bushes? Of course not. Most of the

time they are standing out in broad daylight for all to see. Breathe in, breathe out. You are blessed. Stand up. Go for a walk. You are blessed. Sleep in peace at night. You are blessed. Enjoy the privilege of living in freedom. You are blessed.

I once knew a person who when asked, "How are you?" always responded with the words, "I'm blessed!" That was irritating to hear. It sounded kind of preachy or holier-than-thou. It was a little too chirpy for my taste. But it was true.

Right now you may not be feeling very blessed. You are having problems with your health or your finances. A relationship may be on the rocks. You feel downhearted and discouraged. Do not despair. Take a moment to think of the many blessings you do have. You may be surprised to discover the list is much longer than you think. Remember, you may not feel blessed but that does not change the fact that you are blessed.

How are you? "I'm blessed!" Yes, you are. We all are.

## MARATHON: A race with a little extra meaning for service members

#### RACE FROM PAGE 1

Galan. "It's all in good fun and it keeps us going."

At 8 a.m., while some participants were still running, a Sept. 11, 2001 remembrance ceremony, including prayer and a moment of silence, was held at Holt Stadium.

Galan said he was already serving when the Pentagon and World Trade Center were attacked.

"I was on my way to Kuwait for a rotation when the towers got hit," said Galan.

Donmoyer said the attacks contributed to his decision to join the military.

"I enlisted in the Army exactly a week after 9/11," said Donmoyer. "I don't think anyone out here can say it doesn't mean something to them."



# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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

13th ESC G2, Security Manager  
Lt. Col. Angelo Williams, 13th ESC  
[angelo.williams@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:angelo.williams@iraq.centcom.mil)

13th ESC PAO, Managing Editor  
Maj. Raul Marquez, 13th ESC PAO  
[raul.marquez@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:raul.marquez@iraq.centcom.mil)

13th ESC PA NCOIC  
Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson, 13th ESC  
[joel.f.gibson@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:joel.f.gibson@iraq.centcom.mil)

13th ESC Staff Writer  
Spc. Naveed Ali Shah, 13th ESC  
[naveed.alishah@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:naveed.alishah@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Commander  
Capt. Brad Sinkler  
[bradley.sinkler@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:bradley.sinkler@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD First Sergeant  
1st Sgt. Aangi Mueller  
[aangi.mueller@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:aangi.mueller@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Production Editor  
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Fafoglia  
[robert.fafoglia@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:robert.fafoglia@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Layout and Design  
Sgt. Jayson A. Hoffman  
[jayson.hoffman@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jayson.hoffman@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Photo Editor  
Sgt. Keith VanKlombenberg  
[keith.vanklombenberg@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:keith.vanklombenberg@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Copy Editor  
Spc. Brandy Oxford  
[brandy.oxford@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:brandy.oxford@iraq.centcom.mil)

139th MPAD Staff Writers  
Sgt. Ryan Twist  
[ryan.twist@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:ryan.twist@iraq.centcom.mil)

Spc. John Stimac  
[john.stimac@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:john.stimac@iraq.centcom.mil)

Spc. Lisa A. Cope  
[lisa.cope@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:lisa.cope@iraq.centcom.mil)

Spc. Michael V. Camacho  
[michael.camacho@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:michael.camacho@iraq.centcom.mil)

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304th Sustainment Brigade  
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
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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.

# The Weekly Standard

## Shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service or combat patch

By SGT. 1ST CLASS DANILO EGUDIN  
155TH HBCT  
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



Lately, the Inspector General's office has addressed a few issues regarding the wear of the shoulder sleeve insignia - former wartime service or combat patch. Since 1945, the intent of the wear of the combat patch has been to denote Soldier's participation

in combat operations with large echelon deployed units, as directed by the Secretary of the Army.

Commanders are reminded the selection of which combat patch to wear is strictly the decision of the Soldier. There will be no mandatory wearing of a particular unit's combat patch. Soldiers are authorized to wear the combat patch they have earned through previous deployments or they can elect not to wear one at all.

A deployed unit - company or higher - will wear their unit's SSI as the SSI-FWTS. This is true regardless of whether the headquarters element deploys and regardless of the number of changes to the unit's alignment or operational control during the period of deployment.

When echelons below company-level deploy, members of these units will wear the SSI of the lowest echelon

deployed unit - company or higher - in their new deployed chain of command as their SSI-FWTS.

When there is no intermediate unit - company or higher - in the deployed chain of command, deployed Soldiers will wear the SSI of the senior Army command in the theater as their SSI-FWTS.

To order a Soldier to wear a specific combat patch is a violation of the Army Regulations.

References: AR 670-1, MNF-I Memo 11-1, dated July 2009 and ALARACT message 055/2007.

Joint Base Balad: DSN 433-2125  
LTC Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)  
MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)  
MSG Roy Thacker (NCOIC)  
SFC Danilo Egudin  
SFC Javier Cruz

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

## Corrections

In last week's (Volume 2, Issue 36) article, "Chaplain, unit cope with loss," Chaplain Yates is from the 1-82nd Cavalry, not the 41st Special Troops Battalion.



# Legal Matters: Supporting family members

By MAJ. BRIAN NOMI  
CHIEF, LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
13TH ESC JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL



Many deployed service members or their families encounter problems dealing with the legal obligations of financial support. This article outlines some of the rules governing this subject.

Every husband or wife is legally required to provide support to his or her spouse and children. Different states have different rules on the exact amount of support.

Spousal support is usually not ordered at all in state court unless the marriage has lasted more than 10 years, or there are other compelling reasons to grant it, such as a disabled spouse who cannot work. But child support is mandatory for every parent. Even if you did not intend to become a parent, and even if your partner lied to you about using birth control, you are legally obligated to pay child support. As a very general rule, my experience is that lower-ranking enlisted will pay roughly \$300-\$400 per month per child, under state law.

Service members who experience marital difficulties, or who have become parents - knowingly or not - should seek legal guidance on support to their family members.

The Army has a specific set of rules controlling family support. These are found in Army Regulation 608-99, chapter 2. Soldiers and especially commanders should have a basic grasp of this regulation.

According to the regulation, where there is an agreement between the spouses, or a court order governing support, the Soldier must obey the agreement or order. The regulation is punitive, and this is one of the few situations in which a commander can give a lawful order to a Soldier to pay a private debt.

Most often, however, a marital dispute has just arisen, and there is neither an agreement nor a court order. In such cases, the Soldier is required to pay an amount equal to the basic allowance for housing II - WITH. This amount is not the same as full BAH, and is generally roughly 70 percent of the full BAH a typical Soldier receives. To find the amount in any given year, do a Google search of "2009 Non-Locality BAH Rates." You will quickly find the chart - it is at the top of the Google search results. The amount the Soldier must pay is listed under the "BAH RC/T - With Dependents" column. For example, in 2009, an E-4 must pay \$681.90 - an amount lower than the actual BAH WITH received by any E-4.

The Soldier must pay family support even if the supported spouse is having an affair, refusing to return

phone calls and even if the supported spouse is a really bad person. Only a battalion commander or higher can excuse this payment, and then only under certain legal grounds.

Multiple family members involve another rule under AR 608-99. For example, if the Soldier has other family members that are legally entitled to support, then each only receives a prorated share of that support. So if a Soldier has two children from a prior relationship, and then is married and has another child with his current spouse, the Soldier has four family members who are entitled to support. In this case, the current spouse and child would only get one-half of the \$681.90, for a total monthly support of \$340.95.

There are some exceptions to this rule. There may be no support due if:

- (1) the Soldier's spouse is also on active duty in the military;
- (2) the family members live in government housing on post;
- (3) the income of the supported spouse exceeds that of the Soldier;
- (4) the supported family member is in jail;
- (5) the Soldier has been a victim of abuse.

There are other exceptions as well, such as where the spouse does not have custody of the couples' children. These are found in AR 608-99, paragraphs 2-14 and 2-15.

Finally, a Soldier can comply with

AR 608-99 by directly paying the rent or mortgage, or other essential utilities (electricity, gas, and water, but not cable or phone bills).

The Air Force has no set guidance on family support, but it does require its members to provide a reasonable amount of support to family members. Navy and Marine Corps personnel should consult with their own Judge Advocate General representative for further information.

Family support is a troubling issue for service members and their commanders. Here in Iraq, the problem often arises because the family members back home complain to the Inspector General or the rear detachment commander. Legal Assistance is here to offer speedy help on this subject. We will provide a written opinion to each service member immediately, on the spot. Clients are seen on a walk-in basis and usually get the opinion within 30 minutes of visiting our office. This written opinion is helpful in clarifying the rights and obligations of all parties involved in a dispute about family support.

Legal Assistance can help. Be sure to bring in all relevant documents for your appointment. For further assistance, please feel free to contact our office at DSN 318.433.2836. Building number is 7235 (the castle on Pennsylvania Avenue). Office hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

# Shakin' with the shaykh

## Oregon National Guard joins in pre-Ramadan feast

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLEN  
41ST IBCT,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCANIA, Iraq – Members of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, with the Oregon National Guard, went outside the wire to participate in a pre-Ramadan feast hosted by a local resident

Aug. 19.

Ali Jadaan, a local shaykh and con-

tractor in Scania, invited the command staff of A Co., including Capt. Charles Ellis and Lt. Mark Major, to a feast prepared by his family.

"There was a lot of food, a lot of variety," Ellis said. "It was definitely harvest time with all the fresh fruit there. It was very nice."

The guests tasted meat and rice wrapped in grape leaves, soups, pickled vegetables, flat bread, dates, fresh fruits and vegetables.

"(Ali) tries to do this with every new command," said Maj. Dale Coparanis,

the 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion public affairs officer, who also attended the feast.

The relationship between Scania and Ali is a complimentary one. Each provides the other with a service it needs.

Ali's contracting company built the firing range, a trash removal system and burn pit, and guard towers. The contractors take care of maintenance, repair the barriers and clean and service the motor pool areas. Ali and his workers also built the local marketplace.

Ali's relationship with the military is beneficial to the company's mission, Ellis said.

"Ali provides an Iraqi insight for us," said Ellis. "He is able to locate parts and materials on the Iraqi economy that we could not otherwise find. He does on-the-spot details."

A Co. provides quick reaction to the surrounding area for rocket and mortar attacks. They respond to incidents outside the base, often collaborating with Iraqi Army and Police, protecting the villages from possible attacks and providing security and safety to people in the area.

The means are different but the goal is the same: improving Iraq.

"I was impressed. They are very eager to help us," Ellis said. "They want to help get their nation built and on the right track. I think in a few years you aren't even going to recognize Iraq anymore. It will improve that much."



Ali Jadaan, a local contractor in Scania, welcomed members of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, with the Oregon National Guard, into his home for a pre-Ramadan feast. The feast was also an invitation for the new command of A Co. to sit and socialize.



Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, with the Oregon National Guard, provide security during a pre-Ramadan feast hosted by Ali Jadaan, a local contractor, in Scania, Iraq.

# VTC helps troubled couples

By SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – As video conferencing programs such as Skype grow in popularity, military marriage counselors are implementing them as a means of connecting and counseling separated couples.

For one half of couples serving in Q-West, Maj. James Boulware, 16th Sustainment Brigade chaplain, a Radcliff, Ky. native, said he helps them bridge the distance and manage deployment stress with VTC.

"The strength of the VTC is that you're bringing the couples together and it's a big difference," said Boulware. "It brings a reality to the counseling."

Couples with a deployed component sometimes

reach a point in their relationship where issues get in the way of their deep feelings for their spouse, he said.

Boulware said communication works on three levels: body language is a strong indicator of the speaker's feelings and thoughts; tone shows signs of emotional state; words convey a message but have the least depth in the overall process. When all three levels are present, communication operates more effectively.

The VTC counseling involves both partners, and a chaplain on either side. In this way, the chaplains can act as mediators and advisers while observing each partner.

"We do marriage counseling in the rear and hold a Strong Bonds Seminar which addresses some issues, but sometimes the damage has already been done," said Boulware.

Without the proper tools to communicate in the

course of a year, couples can fight instead of growing in their relationship, he said.

Doing the marriage counseling via VTC allows couples a present-time conversation, visually as well as verbally, said Capt. Gregory Jackson, chaplain of the 16th Sust. Bde. rear detachment, and a Crystal Spring, Miss. native.

The VTC allows couples to address issues at the point when both couples are ready to seek immediate counseling, said Jackson.

Marital issues can negatively affect service members' jobs and emotional states, but there are always ways to help them through their difficult times and keep them strong, said Boulware.

"It now becomes: we deploy, we work with the Soldier and then it's a smooth transition into the redeployment stage where you can work with that couple," said Boulware. "This allows us to start the process earlier."



## Give a Shout Out!

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# 287th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers teach Iraqi officer candidates at Camp Ur

STORY AND PHOTO BY MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
287TH SUST. BDE.,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION ADDER, Iraq – Through a new informal partnership between the 287th Sustainment Brigade and the Iraqi Military Academy Nasariyah-Camp Ur, Iraq, two officers and their team taught Iraqi officer candidates battlefield skills Aug. 22.



Lt. Col. Tony Divish, commander of the 287th Special Troops Battalion, and Lt. Col. Tony Randall, executive officer of the 287th Sust. Bde., worked with Staff Maj. Gen. Ahmed Abadi Chilab, commander of the IMAN, to train the cadets.

“I want my cadets to be trained to U.S. standards,” Chilab said. “Part of the way this can be accomplished is for American Soldiers to participate in giving quality instruction to my cadets.”



Iraqi officer candidates arrive at their Camp Ur, Iraq, classroom to receive instruction on level I counter-improvised explosive device operations Aug. 22.

Davish, a native of Wamego, Kan., said he sees the support he is providing as an important contribution to the Iraqi people, and the security forces who protect them.

“This partnership is important,” said Divish, “because it gives us one more avenue of supporting the Iraqi Army. I am pleased and honored that my unit was asked to participate in educating Iraq’s future military leaders. I see this mission as an investment in people that will pay dividends forever.”

Randall said the informal partnership between the 287th and Iraqi forces was formed with long-term goals in mind.

First Lt. Matthew Gilpin, the 287th Sust. Bde. assistant operations officer, and a native of Cherryvale, Kan., delivered the first lesson to the IMAN cadets, which was instruction in level I counter-improvised explosive device operations. Gilpin said the class focuses on recognizing emplaced IEDs, as well as types and triggering methods used in Iraq.

“I believe the class went well,” he said. “Any time we can share information with the Iraqi Security Forces, it’s a good thing. If we want Iraq to have full control over their national sovereignty, they need to understand today’s topic due to the present security climate here in Iraq.”

## 80th reaches out to help units with amnesty day

BY SPC. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 80th Ordnance Battalion sponsored a base-wide amnesty day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 12, at the turn-in yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Amnesty day was a jump start to Operation Clean Sweep, assisted by a team, which coordinates with all units on JBB to assist in removing unwanted inventory from Iraq.

Capt. Daniel A. Simons, the support operations plans officer in charge of the 80th, said the amnesty day was the brainchild of the unit’s commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Mohan, and Maj. Michelle K. Donahue, the unit’s support operations officer, who looked to the future and recognized a need for such an event.

“We want to reach out to all the units and say that ‘we want to help you out,’” said Simons, a Missoula, Mont., native. “Some companies didn’t even want to wait till Sept. 12. They wanted to start sending their unwanted inventory items now.”

According to a release by the 80th Ord. Bn., amnesty day offered all personnel on JBB an opportunity to turn in any supply item – excluding personal demand and medical items – ranging from ammuni-

tion to unwanted Meals Ready to Eat. Water and bulk fuel were not accepted, according to the release.

Simons said the items could not be on the units’ property books.

“These items will be logged properly into the supply system and if anyone is in need of them, the items will go to that unit,” said Simons. “If they are junk, they will go to the defense re-utilization and management office to get dumped. The object is to make sure it gets turned in the right way in order to save the taxpayers money.”

The 80th Ord. Bn. tasked Soldiers to carry on this new mission and ensure it is functional on all sides by Sep. 12.

Sgt. 1st Class Diana Southard, the 23rd Ordnance Company Headquarters platoon sergeant, and noncommissioned officer in charge of the amnesty day operation, said the coming days hold a lot of training on basic supply functions for the Soldiers tasked with this mission.

A forklift moves excess supply items – including bedding, generators, reams of recyclables – at a base-wide amnesty day hosted by the 80th Ordnance Battalion Sept. 12 at the turn-in yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Vehicles line up to turn in unused supply items – excluding water, personal items and bulk fuel – at a base-wide amnesty day hosted by the 80th Ordnance Battalion Sept. 12 at the turn-in yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“In the next few days we will hit the crawl/walk phase,” said Southard, a Nedford, Ore., native. “After the first operation, we will be able to tell how soon the team will hit the running phase. With the good NCOs I have seen in this group, I have lots of confidence this is going to be a success.”

Simons said the group conducted a dry run prior to the 12th as part of their training.

Amnesty day was a direct response to the call for the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment in Iraq by Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Southard said the mission is one of the most proactive operations of the drawdown.

“It not only supports the winning of hearts and minds of the Iraqi people to see that they are gaining control of their nation and we are not leaving a mess for them to clean up,” said Southard, “but we are also showing our family and friends back home that we are, in fact, withdrawing troops and equipment in the most responsible way.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah

# Maintenance Soldiers take on stress

BY SPC. PHILANTHIA RELF  
395TH CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq



– Soldiers from the 158th Support Maintenance Company, 395th Combat

Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade,

like many deployed Soldiers, have had to find ways to deal with combat stress.

Combat stress is the mental, emotional or physical tension, strain or distress resulting from exposure to combat and combat-related conditions. When Soldiers face too much pressure and too many demands, their stress may elevate to dangerous levels.

Staff Sgt. Johnny Hill, the equal opportunity representa-

tive with the 158th, helps Soldiers deal with daily issues and stress by taking time to talk and give advice to the ones who ask for help.

“I tell them to get a routine exercise program going, and eat well-balanced meals along with seven to eight hours of sleep,” said Hill. “Also, stay in touch with family members and loved ones.”

Hill’s advice is in line with many professional stress-man-

agement courses of action, but other Soldiers in the maintenance company have their own ways of coping.

“I handle stress by listening to music, playing basketball, communicating with family and friends, and surrounding myself with positive people,” said Spc. Elise Minor, with the 158th’s recovery team.

Other Soldiers, like Staff Sgt. Richard Cross, also with the 158th’s recovery team, deal

with stress spiritually.

“I attend church and pray daily,” said Cross. “I try to do the right thing. I read the Bible, which has helped me cope with stress for the past 10 months of this deployment.”

Stress and deployments go hand in hand. If stress becomes a problem, however, Soldiers are encouraged to seek help through their chain of command, chaplain, or health advisers.

## 1161st receives combat patch

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. OSHAWNA TACKETT  
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The wide-spread assortment of Soldiers with the 1161st Transportation Company, from Ephrata, Wash., came together to receive their combat patch Aug. 29 at Camp Taji, Iraq.



The Soldiers, who fall under the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, received the 10th Sust. Bde.’s patch to wear on their right shoulder as a symbol of their service to the mission—the transportation of materials and personnel around Iraq.

Spc. Michelle Kickland, a transportation specialist for the 1161st and a Richland, Wash. native, said earning a combat patch was a long-standing goal for her.

“I was in a non-deployable unit before,” Kickland said. “I joined the 1161st so that I would be able to deploy and have the honor of wearing a combat patch. I am really excited to have the 10th Sustainment Brigade’s on my right shoulder.”

The company is composed not only of Soldiers from the 1161st, but also the 1041st Transportation Company out of Spokane, Wash., and a number of Inactive Ready Reserve Soldiers.

The unit arrived in Iraq in May and immediately sent first platoon to support the logistics mission at Victory Base Complex.

The 419th CSSB Commander, Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks, from Irvine, Calif., requested the 1161st CSSB receive the 10th Sust. Bde. combat patch. The 1161st commander, Capt. Leslie Jines, from Selah, Wash., also pushed for this.



Lt. Col. Kristan Hericks, battalion commander for the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and an Irvine, Calif. native, places a 10th Sustainment Brigade combat insignia patch on the sleeve of 1st Sgt. David Luther, the first sergeant for the 1161st Transportation Company, and a West Richland, Wash. native, during the 1161st Trans. Co.’s patching ceremony, as Capt. Leslie Jines Jr., commander of the 1161st, looks on.

“I want the entire unit – the 1161st and the 1041st combined – to be able to wear the same combat patch when we go home,” said Jines. “It will aid in unit cohesiveness. We want to have a part in the lineage and history of the 10th SB.”

The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem. Then, as Hericks walked through the formation and placed the patch on each Soldier’s sleeve, a brief history of the 10th Sust. Bde. was recited.

After all Soldiers received their combat patch, Hericks spoke about the meaning behind the brigade’s patch.

The ceremony ended with a few words from brigade Command Sgt.

Maj. Allen G. Fritzsching, from Houston.

“Through the combat patch, you are now bonded as a band of brothers and sisters,” Fritzsching said. “You are now written into the history of the 10th Sustainment Brigade. I am very proud of what it stands for.”

Soldiers from the 1161st are proud to wear the 10th’s patch.

“I feel there is a lot of history and prestige in the 10th Sustainment Brigade,” said Sgt. Mathew Lathrop, an operations sergeant for the 1161st and a Bellingham, Wash., native. “I am going to wear the patch with pride and honor.”

## Knights step up to NCO challenge

BY SGT. RUBEN CARPENTER  
UPAR, 10TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION HAMMER, Iraq – The “Knights” of A Detachment, 9th Financial Management Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., have demonstrated their pledge to setting the standard, working together and leading from the front.

During this, the year of the noncommissioned officer, NCOs worldwide are urged to rededicate themselves to the bedrock principles of the NCO, and the 9th FM Co. is no exception.

Soldiers’ illnesses and leave depleted the unit’s manpower, pushing the Knights to quickly transition personnel in order to continue providing financial management services.

Sgt. 1st Class Amy Smith, of Dupont, Wash., served as disbursing agent and detachment sergeant at Contingency Operating Location Hammer, while Staff Sgt. Nicole Loritts, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., journeyed to Joint Security Station Loyalty to perform duties as a disbursing agent as well.

The arrival of 1st Lt. Travis Martin, a Rentham, Mass. native, stationed at JSS Loyalty, Sgt. Ruben Carpenter, a Chesapeake, Va. native, and Pfc. Reginald Garner, a Mobile, Ala. native, and stationed at Victory Base Complex, immediately provided assistance with the detachment’s transition.

Sgt. Alex Morrison, a Houston native, and Spc. Willie Smith, an Atlanta native, will soon assist the team at JSS Loyalty as they close finance operations there.

Capt. LaTonya James, commander of A Det., and a Biloxi, Miss. native, said cross-training the unit’s various departments allowed for easier transitions in the past two months.

“Faced with adversity from the onset of this deployment we have banded together to accomplish all tasks,” James said. “The training program implemented in the past has enabled the Soldiers to seamlessly transition between various military pay and disbursing positions. This is a direct reflection on the training and direction provided by the NCOs, and our Soldiers’ eagerness to excel.”

# Do you have a story idea?

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# Rapid Equipping Force improves capabilities

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – When commanders see a shortcoming in their unit’s capabilities during a time of war, time is of the essence.



“It’s better to have the 70 percent solution quickly, than to have the perfect solution when it is too late to matter,” is the motto of the Army’s Rapid Equipping Force,

said Lt. Col. Donald Phillips, the team chief of REF Forward Iraq, at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

Phillips said the REF, out of Fort Belvoir, Va., works to fill capability gaps for units on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing them with commercial and government off-the-shelf products to enhance survivability, improve force protection and increase lethality.

“Our mission is to rapidly provide capabilities to Army forces through current and emerging technology, in order to improve operational effectiveness,” said Phillips, a Kalamazoo, Mich., native.

Phillips said the REF began in 2003 at the direction of the vice chief of staff for the Army. The initial effort was to provide a robot that could investigate the caves of Afghanistan. After the success of the mission, the REF expanded to provide battalion and company-level solutions in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since 2003, the REF has answered the call of Soldiers on the ground, providing necessities including enhanced optical and imaging equipment, and medical equipment. Perhaps the most recognizable piece of equipment the REF has created is the Rhino, a counter-improvised explosive device measure found on almost every Army tactical vehicle.

“All these ideas come from Soldiers,” said Glenn Clark, senior logistics analyst for the REF, out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq. “We just try to make them a reality.”

Not to be confused with the rapid fielding initiative, Phillips said, the REF deals with units at the brigade, battalion and company level, and fabricates and distributes equipment only in limited quantities.

Roughly two weeks ago, REF provided a unit in the 16th Sustainment Brigade with a video and power management system for the PAS-13 thermal imaging sights of the crew-served weapons in their convoy vehicles. Phillips said the original PAS-13 system required Soldiers to keep their faces near the scope of the weapon in order to scan their sectors and the Soldiers were looking for a better option. That’s when the REF team fabricated a system that put a monitor inside the turret, so gunners could more easily utilize the optics.

“Once it’s developed, the hard part is done,” said Clark, a native of Port Antonio, Jamaica, and retired Army chief warrant officer four.

After the REF provides Soldiers with a limited supply of test units, they look for feedback so they can make improvements and deal with any shortcomings, Clark said.



Courtesy photo

A Soldier tests out a PAS-13 thermal imaging monitor, developed by the Army Rapid Equipping Force.

“The best person to test it is that private who actually has to put it into operation,” he said.

Phillips said units with a request for the REF need to fill out a 10-liner – a request and authorization form similar to the Operational Needs Statement. He said commanders can get the information they need from the REF’s Web site, <http://www.ref.army.mil>.

“If you need us, we are here,” said Clark.

Clark said the REF comprises experts in engineering, logistics and informational technology, but it is only one part of the solution to enabling the Warfighter.

“The next big idea is going to come from the guy working in the motorpool,” he said.

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# Water is more precious than fuel

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLEN  
41ST IBCT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SCANIA, Iraq – Lt. Col. Gavin Heater, commander of the 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and two Soldiers specializing in pumps, filters and filter separation, visited a water treatment plant Aug. 19 just outside Scania Base, Iraq.

“We wanted to find the local resources outside the base,” Heater said. “We are going to at least try to understand their process. We want to find out how they produce water and how they can produce water more efficiently.”

Two facility workers, trained by the Hilla Water District, showed Heater the equipment they had and how they cleaned and filtered the water with it. They also explained the cleaning and filtration process they use.

“They showed us equipment that was more modern than they used to have and some equipment that needed some work,” said Heater.

The facility, built by Coalition forces in 2004, has three holding tanks for water and two smaller tanks for chlorine dilution.

The water filtration process begins with water from the Hilla and Euphrates Rivers. It is then pumped into tanks and treated with diluted chlorine.

After the water settles, it is filtered through a gravel and clay media and pumped out to the six villages the facility supports.

Workers said the power running the motors is unpredictable. It is on a two-hours-on-two-hours-off schedule. When the town needs more water pressure or water production, workers turn on a generator.



Lt. Col. Gavin Heater, commander of the 287th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class Marty Waybright, a water purification specialist with the 287th CSSB, discuss with one of the facility workers ways to make the water treatment facility outside Scania Base, Iraq, more effective and efficient Aug. 19. The facility, built by Coalition forces in 2004, uses a chlorine dilution process to purify the water pumped in from the Hilla and Euphrates Rivers.

With a greater need for water in the summer, the workers struggle to do the maintenance as needed, Heater said.

“We imagine they are pushing water that isn’t quite clean when they are in a bigger production mode,” Heater said.

Heater’s three-man team discussed different ways to clean the water, including a coagulant to bind the impurities, which allows filters to extract more solid particles from the water.

They also mentioned reverse osmosis, a process used on Scania Base.

“We don’t want to change their process,” Heater said. “We need to make sure that what we teach them is something they can sustain, something that is a reasonable cost for them. We’d like to teach them a cleaner way to handle water production, we just don’t know how long that can be supported. We would like to bring the two gentlemen onto this base to show them how re-

verse osmosis works.”

A barrier around the facility to reduce dust collection on the filters and in the pumps was also discussed as a short-term solution to producing cleaner water more effectively.

“Water is such a critical resource around here,” Heater said. “It’s really almost more important than gasoline. They need it for their farming; they need it for their livelihood. These guys have a critical job.”



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# Refueling unit offers helicopter oasis

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
STAFF SGT. JEFF LOWRY  
*TASK FORCE 38,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

BAGHDAD –The Soldiers who refuel vehicles in Baghdad do not climb over walls like a racecar pit crew, but they do maneuver around six-foot cement T-walls protecting the forward arming and refueling points here.

The FARPs serve Army aviation units throughout Iraq, giving commanders time to complete their mission assignments, said Sgt. 1st Class Chip Berg, the riflestock FARP non-commissioned officer in charge with E Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Assault Helicopter Bat-

talion and a London, Ohio, native.

"A FARP expands the combat power of an aviation task force," said Berg. "It gives the commander the flexibility in his mission assignments. It buys him time."

Like pit crew members, every refueling Soldier has a specific job –refuel the helicopter, man the fire extinguishers, and run the fuel trucks that pump the petroleum.

Berg praised his Soldiers for their efficiency.

"Fortunately, with the crew I've got, they know what their jobs are," said Berg. "You don't have to direct them and tell them what to do. They know where to go, and they know what to do."

Though Berg refers to his Soldiers as his crew, he does

not compare them to a racecar pit crew.

"Our times savings aren't in seconds; our time savings are in minutes," he said.

In Army aviation language, the risky process of refueling helicopters with the engines on and the blades still turning is known as a "hot fuel."

"I consider this the second most dangerous job in aviation; the first is flying those birds," Berg said.

The risks of hot fueling are mitigated by Soldiers maintaining situational awareness, said Spc. Thomas Masters, an aircraft refueler with E Co. and a Galloway, Ohio, native.

"Just pay attention to everything, and what's going on around you," Masters said. "As long as there are no sparks and the aircraft doesn't catch on fire, then we're good to go."

In addition to safety concerns for the aircraft, its crew and the refuelers, passengers present a different set of safety concerns.

"What I worry more about are the passengers," said Sgt. Robin Saylor, an aircraft refueler attached to the company and a Eugene, Ore., native.

Passengers leave the aircraft and head to a safe area behind T-walls before the refueling begins.

Saylor's son is a Soldier on his



Oregon National Guard Sgt. Robin Saylor, an aircraft refueler with E Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, an Ohio National Guard unit, and a Eugene, Ore. native, replaces a hose after refueling a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on Aug. 24 in Baghdad.



Oregon National Guard Sgt. Robin Saylor, an aircraft refueler with E Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Assault Helicopter Battalion, an Ohio National Guard unit, and a Eugene, Ore. native, finishes fueling a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Aug. 24 in Baghdad.

way to Iraq soon. She said her maternal instincts take control when looking after passengers during the refueling process.

"My son could be on that bird," she said. "My brother is a contractor, so he could be too."

Berg reiterated the importance of safety in his unit's mission.

"As long as we're efficient and safe, we're going to get the job done and they're going fly away," he said.

## EMT-Basic course opens doors

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TESSIE RANDLE  
*UPAR, 910TH QM Co.*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Hard work and dedication paid off for four Soldiers from the 910th Quartermaster Company, out of Ardmore, Okla., who completed the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Course at the Jamison Combat Medical Training Center Aug. 31 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The Soldiers who successfully completed the 110-hour course, condensed into 28 days, included: Sgt. James Kirk, of Roff, Okla.; Staff Sgt. Steven Southerland, of Moore, Okla.; Sgt. 1st Class James Calvert, of Houston, Miss.; and Sgt. 1st Class Tessie Randle, of Hamilton, Miss.

Completion of this course was the first step in opening doors to advancement, said Kirk. He works at the forward redistribution point on JBB as the shift non-commissioned officer in charge.

As a civilian, he works for a company in Millcreek, Okla., where he helps with the production and distribution of material for concrete and asphalt companies.

"I took the class to help with my promotion points, but I realized that I have a possibility to change careers once I get home because of this class," Kirk said. "I just know that I have some options now."

The EMT course is especially rigorous, with a typical attrition rate of roughly 50 percent. The class started with 24 students, and 14 graduated—Kirk was one of these.

The course prepares students to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation techniques, use the automated external defibrillator, treat medical emergencies, give oxygen and transport patients.

Those who graduated received a certificate and a personal stethoscope.

At the end of the course, Soldiers were required to take the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians certification exam. While some of the graduates

did not pass the registry on their first try, they will have the opportunity to take it again.

The 910th QM Co. commander, Maj. Darrin T. Husmann, an Edmond, Okla. native, commended the four Soldiers on a great accomplishment.

"We are very proud of these Soldiers and what they have accomplished," he said. "My hat goes off to them."

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on page 20**

# Combined arms battalion convoys throughout Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A Soldier stands in the gunner's seat of a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle and scans the area in search of enemies or improvised explosive devices.

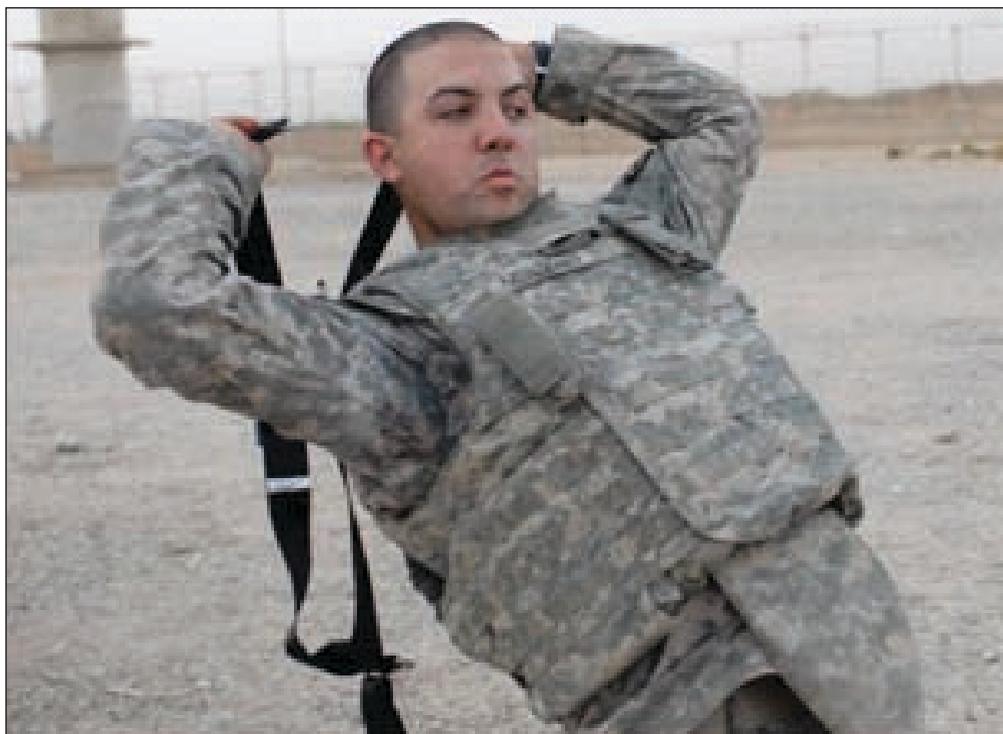


He is one of many stationed at Joint Base Balad with B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry, out of Poplarville, Miss., conducting convoy security for vehicles and supplies moving throughout Iraq.

"The overall mission is to provide combat logistics patrols going to and from different bases around Iraq," said Spc. Steven C. Smith, a gunner with the unit and a Jackson, Miss., native. "Basically, it's a convoy escort, making sure trucks and supplies get where they're going and back safely."

Staff Sgt. Michael W. Slaybaugh, assistant convoy commander for third platoon, and a Walla Walla, Wash. native, said the unit is there to protect Kellogg, Brown and Root, Inc. employees and keep supplies moving.

"We conduct pre-combat checks



**Spc. Randy J. Ladner, a gunner with B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Combat Action Brigade, out of Poplarville, Miss., puts on his harness in preparation for a convoy mission Sept. 5 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The unit performs convoy security missions throughout Iraq.**

and pre-combat inspections and make sure our vehicle is ready all the time," said Slaybaugh.

Smith said he keeps his truck maintained, makes sure his fellow Soldiers have everything they need and stays fit and mentally strong to prepare

himself for success.

"I prepare for a mission by keeping my truck cleaned," said Smith. "I like everything organized. I talk to people back home and just sit down and clear my head to get my mind right."

He said on convoys he tries to be

mindful of the potential for danger.

"I just make sure I find the bombs before they find us," said Smith.

Slaybaugh, who deployed with the 81st Brigade Combat Team out of Washington, but extended his deployment an additional six months to work with the 155th CAB, said he keeps focused on the mission, studying it every day. He said he reviews the mission with his troops every time they go outside the wire.

"These guys all have similar problems back home but you have to keep focused," said Smith. "You got to remind yourself complacency kills, and every time you go outside the wire you have to remind yourself that just because you were safe last time doesn't mean you are safe this time. Every mission is different; every street is different; every turn is different; you try to keep that in your head."

Slaybaugh, who has been in Iraq for 11 months, said combat readiness ensures successful missions. To ensure this readiness, Soldiers check all equipment, weapons, vehicles and gear before they leave.

Slaybaugh said these Soldiers have adapted to their mission, a mission they take great pride in.

"You always want to do your best," said Smith. "The better we do things, hopefully it will make it easier on the unit coming behind us."

## 49th Trans hosts ladies' night for spiritual needs

BY SPC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 49th Transportation Battalion hosted a ladies' prayer dinner Sept. 6, in the Audie Murphy room of the Oasis Dining Facility, to give Christian females at JBB a chance to gather and focus on their spiritual needs.

The event featured a performance by Christian dance group Holy Hands, a performance of the song "You're My All In All," a viewing of the video presentation "The Touch" and guest speaker Air Force Capt. Regina O. Samuel, chaplain for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a Florence, S.C., native.

Samuel has a Master of Divinity degree in homiletics and worship from Turner Theological Seminary and is enrolled in the Doctor of Education program in organizational leadership, with a focus in diversity, at Argosy University in Denver.

Samuel spoke about dealing with issues and focused her sermon on Mark 5:21-43 – a passage of the

**Capt. Regina O. Samuel, chaplain for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, speaks to the women of Joint Base Balad during a ladies' prayer dinner Sept. 6 in the Oasis Dining Facility.**

Bible in which Jesus heals an ill woman, and the only passage in the Bible in which Jesus refers to anyone as his daughter:

"And he said unto her, 'Daughter, thy faith has made thee well. Go in peace and be whole of thy plague,'" quoted Samuel.

The video presentation "The Touch" was a dramatization of Mark 5:21-43 and added a visual aid to Samuel's speech.

Capt. Carlos Molina, chaplain for the 49th Transportation Battalion, coordinated the event. Molina's wife, Alba Santana, is a women's ministries leader at their church in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. "(My wife) taught me that I need to do these things for my Soldiers," said Molina. "So I'm honoring my wife in doing this event for (the women of JBB)."

The ladies' prayer dinner also gave the Christian women of JBB the opportunity to meet women of



similar faith and share fellowship.

"Throughout Christ's ministry on Earth, (God) constantly exalted women to their rightful place in society," said Molina. "One of the foundational messages of the Bible is the restoration of the relationship between men and women."

On the Web



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



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# Mississippi Guardsmen

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS  
2ND BATTALION, 198TH COMBINED ARMS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — Mississippi Army National Guard members conducted a convoy security mission Aug. 24 from Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, to Habur Gate, a crossing point on the Turkish border.



Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, out of Greenwood, Miss., have escorted civilian supply trucks across northern Iraq since the battalion arrived in July, but the Habur Gate run is their favorite mission, they said.

“Habur Gate is a great change of scenery,” said Pfc. Quentin L. Wright, a turret gunner with 1st Platoon, B Company and a Kosciusko, Miss., native. “It is some of the prettiest country I’ve ever seen. The mountains, trees and grass are a lot nicer than the flat desert south of here. It’s more like a little vacation spot.”

This was the consensus in B Company.

Habur Gate is a crossing point on the Turkish border of Iraqi Kurdistan, an autonomous federal entity in northern Iraq populated mainly by Kurds. The site offers a commanding view of a bridge over the Habur River, which flows through the Iraqi town of Zakhu and empties into the Tigris River where the borders of Turkey, Iraq and Syria meet. On the Iraqi side, Bekheir Mountain overlooks the border check point. Across a fertile valley on the Turkish side, rolling foothills break against the Taurus Mountain Range.

Coalition forces maintain a convoy support center and vehicle staging area here. A four-story, marble-sided building with an atrium just beyond the main

entrance, the CSC used to be a shopping mall serving the heavy traffic crossing the border, said 1st Lt. Nathan J. Lewis, executive officer of Logistical Task Force A, a 16th Sustainment Brigade command and control node overseeing Habur Gate support operations. Thousands of civilian vehicles pass through the customs facility daily, said Lewis, a Burke, Va., native.

“Our mission is to support the convoys that come through,” said Lewis. “We oversee basic life-support, such as billeting, food, communications and medical support.”

The Habur Gate CSC, which some visiting Soldiers call the Habur Gate Hotel, offers a number of services. In addition to housing LTF A’s headquarters section, the building contains a kitchen with a dining area, a medical aid station, a post office, a full-size gym, a shoppette, an Iraqi-owned and operated gift store, a phone and Internet center, a military communications facility and spacious balconies with views of the surrounding mountains. Moreover, a plentiful water supply allows leisurely showers to road-grimed Soldiers accustomed to 3-minute combat showers at Q-West.

“Doing convoy security is a good mission,” said Staff Sgt. Jimmy L. Gibbs, a squad leader and truck commander with 1st Platoon, B Co. “We get away from base, see the country. We’re out there, we’re on our own and we can deal with that.”

A typical convoy security unit like first platoon conducts two types of convoy security missions: a “turn-and-burn,” in which the security shuttles a convoy to a destination and returns the same day, and a “RON,” in which the Soldiers remain all night.

“The company has changed a lot since we deployed,” said Gibbs, a Drew, Miss., native. “The squads have gotten tighter because they work on their own togeth-

er. The squads are competitive in a good way because everyone tries hard to be the best at convoy security.”

The growing tactical and technical competence results from rehearsal and repetition, said 1st Lt. Nathan W. Hughes, 1st Platoon leader and a Batesville, Miss., native.

“We run the same missions regularly, and we’re getting pretty good at it,” said Hughes. “The amount of planning is not too heavy. But when we take over a new mission, the planning takes a lot of time and effort. We might spend three or more days, depending on how much time we have, planning a new mission.”

Even with meticulous planning and methodical preparation, these missions pose inherent risks, such as severe weather, breakdowns, accidents and the chance of hostile contact.

B Co. mitigates these risks with thorough equipment checks and maintenance procedures. Soldiers conduct battle drills to prepare for all possible enemy situations.

They also benefit from having equipment designed for the mission, such as the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle.

First Platoon experienced hostile contact three times in August, once by small-arms fire and twice by improvised explosive devices. However, the Soldiers said they remain confident in their training and equipment.

“We’ve had good training, and we have some of the safest equipment available. We are well-prepared for this mission,” said Spc. Robert E. Bowen, the 1st Platoon medic and a Grenada, Miss., native. “For instance, the second time we had enemy contact, the IED wounded an Iraqi civilian driver. We all handled the medical evacuation without issues. For me, it was a muscle memory thing. My hands did their business,



Gun trucks with 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, Mississippi Army National Guard, out of Greenwood, Miss., near Habur Gate, a crossing point on the Turkish border, where Mississippi Guard members conducted a convoy security mission Aug. 24 from Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, to Habur Gate.

# make the Habur Gate run

and I didn't think about it as I was applying battle dressings to his wounds."

## Rolling out

The mission began early in the evening when 1st Platoon reported to the company briefing room.

To verify the convoy roster and conduct a sensitive items check, the assistant convoy commander, Staff Sgt. Larry Nix of Grenada, Miss., called Soldiers' names alphabetically, who in turn held up their identification cards and tags while reciting their weapons' serial numbers.

Roll call finished, the Soldiers gathered their equipment and headed to the company motor pool, where they made final preparations for the mission.

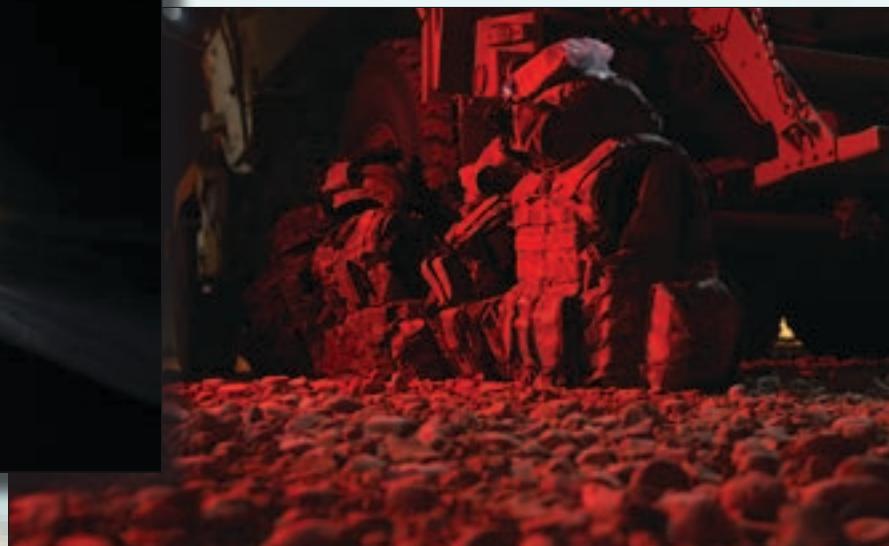
While the convoy commander, Hughes, reviewed the latest intelligence reports with his truck commanders, everyone else conducted preventive maintenance checks and services on all equipment and vehicles.

Machine gunners performed function checks on their weapons, and drivers started their engines to warm the vehicles, also checking their vehicle radios by establishing communications with battalion headquarters and adjacent units.

Meanwhile, the truck commanders conducted pre-



**Convoy security gun trucks of 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, Mississippi Army National Guard, out of Greenwood, Miss., refuel during a long mission. The Mississippi Guard members conducted a convoy security mission Aug. 24 from Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, to Habur Gate, a crossing point on the Turkish border.**



**The helmets and improved outer tactical vests of Soldiers in 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, Mississippi Army National Guard, out of Greenwood, Miss., sit staged beside Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles.**

combat checks and inspections on their vehicles, Soldiers and equipment.

Finished with these tasks, the Soldiers lined up their gun trucks by the motor pool gate in the order of movement they would maintain during the mission.

From there, they went to the firing range, where the gunners test-fired their turret-mounted machine guns, after which the trucks proceeded to the CSC.

The Q-West CSC provides a range of services to incoming and outgoing convoy security units. Also known as the Convoy Logistics Patrol Yard, the CSC has a maintenance facility, a billeting area, a dining facility, showers and latrines, a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, and a laundry facility, to support incoming and outgoing CLPs from throughout Iraq, said Sgt. Crystal Capps, the day-shift team leader, with the 1174th Transportation Company, with the Tennessee Army National Guard, based in Memphis.

Toward one end of the CSC yard stands a tall, tin-sided frame building, the Convoy Readiness Center. A spacious hall for convoy briefs, the CRC contains bleachers arranged around a battle drill table and a projection screen.

Here, the convoy commander presented the mission brief to his Soldiers.

After a prayer with the battalion chaplain, the platoon filed out the back door

of the CRC, passing through the snack room. In here, the 1174th Soldiers keep shelves stocked with snack foods and refrigerators full of drinks. The 1st Platoon Soldiers walked back to their vehicles with arms full of snacks and drinks for the mission.

Final communications and sensitive items checks finished, the convoy motored to the civilian CSC, where they linked up with semi-trailer trucks, also known as "white" trucks, as opposed to "green" military trucks.

Roughly five hours elapsed from the pre-mission roll-call to when the taillights of the last vehicle shone briefly on the Q-West guard who closed the main gate behind the convoy. Every light of every vehicle shined – creating a long, glowing snake across the desert. "This mission allows us to see the country, keeps us busy, and makes the time go by quicker," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan A. Parks, a truck commander.

## Mission Complete

Parks and fellow members lounged on the wide, dining-area balcony of the Habur Gate CSC. They had arrived roughly an hour earlier.

After servicing their vehicles, they came to the CSC, stowed their gear on bunks in the communal sleeping quarters and walked to the dining area for breakfast.

Stomachs full, they made small talk, gazing at the rugged Turkish mountains casting long, morning shadows along the Habur River valley.

Parks, of Grenada, Miss., who deployed to Afghanistan in 2006, served in a force protection company that provided security for Camp Eggers, Kabul.

"This is a better mission than I had during my last deployment," said Parks.

Sgt. David J. Peterson, a native of Pleasanton, Calif., is one of numerous Soldiers who extended their deployments to serve with the 2/198th CAB. Peterson's first Iraq deployment was in 2005.

"This mission is a lot safer than it used to be, that's for sure," said Peterson. "Where before we didn't trust the Iraqis, now we treat them as partners in protecting their own country. We don't see them as enemies, and this has improved the way local Iraqis treat us. For the most part, they understand that we're not here to take over their country, that we want to leave the country better than when we came. There are growing pains, yes, but we want to set them up for success."



**In the early morning, a Turkish trucker sleeps in front of his truck at Habur Gate, a crossing point on the Turkish border. Mississippi Army National Guard members with 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, out of Greenwood, Miss., conducted a convoy security mission Aug. 24 from Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, to Habur Gate.**

ing point on the Turkish border. The Mis-

# New businesses spark local economy, support Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – A new Iraqi Based Industrial Zone supply shop is scheduled to open Sept. 17 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.



The shop is an IBIZ and Army, Air Force Exchange Service supported vendor that will sell office supplies, furniture and other related items.

Capt. Allen Legere, the IBIZ and retail officer in charge, with the 16th Sustainment Brigade, and a Gulfport, Miss. native, said military units with field ordering officer money and Department of Defense contractors will be the main customers.

“For some of these items it is easier to spend cash and get the product right away instead of going through the supply chain,” said Legere.

Legere said the program is geared toward assisting Iraqi-based companies to jump-start the local economy.

To open a store, potential owners present a business plan to IBIZ, Legere said.

The proposal then goes to the base planning board for approval. If the board approves the proposal, a memorandum of understanding and a one-year land-use agreement must be signed by the business owner, said Legere.

Saban Kuc, owner of the supply shop named Yagiz, and the Superior Shopping Center at Q-West, said it took him roughly three months to get the shop built and running.

Kuc, also known as C.J. to his patrons at Q-West, said the plan for the supply store was approved in only one month by the IBIZ team.

“I have been here for five years and opened the Superior Shopping Center in 2007,” said Kuc. “Lots of customers were wanting supplies and they like my



Pfc. Carla Clark and Spc. Antonio Johnson, both Clarksdale, Miss. natives, with the 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, out of Senatobia, Miss., browse the new supply shop for supplies.

prices, so I decided to open up Yagiz.”

Legere said the store has already received an order from the mental health facility here, which included everything from monitors to couches and chairs.

Although the shop is not officially open, Kuc said customers are welcome to shop now.

Kuc said he plans to open a bowling alley at Q-West in the near future.

“I like to take care of the Soldiers,” said Kuc. “Doing business is all about trust and being honest with the Soldiers.”

He also said he wants to expand to other bases, including those in Afghanistan.

“I want to help the Americans have some of the same services and businesses that are offered on Q-West,” said Kuc.

## JBB Knights of Columbus practice charity

BY LT. COL. RENEE A. ROUSE  
304TH SUST. BDE.,  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

– The Knights of Columbus Round Table donated a wheelchair and walker Sept. 3 to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



The JBB Knights of Columbus Round Table was modeled off the stateside Catholic men's fraternity, The Knights of Columbus, which is based on pillars of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

The organization at JBB was founded in 2008 and is sponsored by the Saint John Bosco Council 11762, out of Lakewood, Wash.

Member Phil Mort, an Em-

mitsburg, Md. native, purchased the medical equipment the Knights donated to the hospital. Mort works for the USAF 332nd Expeditionary Combat Support as a backhoe driver.

Sgt. 1st Class David Wenner, with the 304th Sustainment Brigade, the Round Table coordinator for the Knights, and a Riverside Calif. native, said the group's goal was to assist

local nationals in need of medical equipment.

“It was their intention to ensure that local nationals utilized the assisted walking devices because medical equipment is always available to Soldiers,” he said.

Wenner said he has been a fourth-degree Knight for 18 years and became a Knight of Columbus when he was 18-years-old, following in his

grandfather's footsteps.

Fourth degree is the highest degree of the order, he said.

The Knight's primary purpose is to foster a spirit of patriotism and to encourage active Catholic citizenship, said Wenner.

The Knights meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m., in the Gilbert Memorial Chapel at the H-6 housing area.

## Are you ready for some football?

Looking for 20 second Football shout outs - and a singer to perform the National Anthem.

Think you have what it takes?

Run this hot route idea through your chain of command and have them contact 1st Sgt. Aangi Mueller.

POC: 1SG Aangi Mueller Email: aangi.meuller@iraq.centcom.mil Phone: 483-4601

# Army, Air Force engineers drop hammers to teach

BY SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARHORSE, Iraq – Soldiers and Airmen from the Fort Bragg-based 37th Engineers Battalion are helping the Iraqi Army take a big step toward self-sustainment by teaching them new engineering techniques during a project at Galibiyah scheduled to end Sept. 21.

Galibiyah is home to the Iraqi Army's 5th Field Engineer Regiment. The Vertical Construction Platoon, 37th Eng. Bn., helped the Iraqis build their tactical operations center there.

"Working in partnership with the 5th FER, we taught them to build a Southwest Asian hut, which is basically just a wood-frame build," said 1st Lt. Courtenay W. Cullen, the Vertical Construction Platoon leader, with the 37th Eng. Bn.

The electricians, plumbers and carpenters of the platoon could have finished the construction in roughly a week, but they constantly pause to teach and train their Iraqi counterparts, said Cullen, a Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., native.

"Not only do they learn how to build with our tools, but they are learning how to lead a construction site," she said. "They learn our leadership style, the way we manage a project, and that we rely on the noncommissioned officer corps in order to (supervise the project)."

The Army and Air Force engineers teamed up, bringing different sets of knowledge and expertise to the project.

"Everyone brings their own expertise and it's great," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Jaganathan, a structural journeyman assigned to the Air Force's 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, ordinarily attached to the 37th.

"We're just trying to teach them a way to do it, not the way to do it," said Jaganathan, a Washington native.

Joint partnerships help build the capacity for the Iraqi Army to execute operations in support of the Iraqi Security Forces and the government of Iraq, said



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kenneth Sherburne

Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph Jaganathan, a structural journeyman assigned to the Air Force's 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, attached to the 37th Engineers Battalion, reviews the floor plans to the Tactical Operations Center with Iraqi Army Lt. Kusave through his interpreter, Adhay, during a Joint/Coalition operation. Soldiers and Airmen from the Fort Bragg-based 37th Eng. Bn. are helping the Iraqi Army take a step toward self-sustainment by teaching them new engineering techniques scheduled to end Sept. 21 during a project at Galibiyah, Iraq.

1st Lt. Chad M. Livingston, military transition team leader, 37th Eng. Bn.

"Building relationships of trust, of genuine partnership, will go a long way to helping each other in the future," said Livingston, a Lee's Summit, Mo., native.

As the U.S. moves ever closer to the complete withdrawal of forces from Iraq, projects such as these play

a big role in getting the Iraqi Security Forces on their own two feet, a fact highlighted by Brig. Gen. Robert A. Harris, commanding general, 194th Engineer Brigade.

Harris said, "Even though the faces come and go, the processes and standards stay the same. So by teaching them now, they will benefit far into the future."

**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**

U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army National Guard, ARMY SAFE & STRONG, BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

# Warfighters compete in Labor Day raft race

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Service members gathered to show off their creativity, ingenuity and athleticism at the Labor Day raft race Sept. 7 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“It was a good excuse to get out of the office for a bit on Labor Day,” said Capt. Sarah Bobell, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, who sponsored the event.

Competitors could use water bottles,

duct tape, 550 parachute cord and one broom stick to build rafts for the day's events.

The race challenged teams of four in a 100-meter race from one end of the pool to the other and back. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines made up the 17 teams that competed in the race.

The race consisted of three qualification heats with the fastest teams moving on.

Teams with elaborate raft creations were not able to get the same speed from their vessels as teams with more simple, aerodynamic boats.

“We got last, but it was still fun,” said

Senior Airman Jason Venable, an aircraft egress technician with the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron and a Denver native, whose team built a large raft resembling a manta ray spearing a goat.

The top six teams from the initial heats moved on to the finals where the action grew in intensity.

After multiple disqualifications



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah

Air Force 1st Lt. Ryan Miller and 2nd Lt. Tiffany VanDenBroeke of the Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing speed to the finish Sept. 7 at the Joint Base Balad Labor Day Raft Race. The team of engineers took first place in the race, but was later disqualified for illegal play during flag handoff procedures.

for teams who used more than the authorized supplies and whose team members outside the pool touched their raft, a winner was chosen.

“You don't follow the rules, you don't win,” said Spc. John Ferguson, a technical engineer with the 37th and Jasper, Ala. native, whose team of engineers were declared the raft race champions. “I don't feel bad about taking the win because of a disqualification. We played by the rules and ended up on top.”

After the race, the votes for best theme,

best design and the raft that could hold the most passengers were tallied and the winners were given T-shirts.

Another group of engineers from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron won for best theme with their pirate ship.

A team of Sailors, all chief petty officer selectees, won for best raft design.

The prize for the raft that held the most passengers was given to the “Dixie Storm Docs” of the 1-155th Infantry Battalion aid station here.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith S. VanKlompberg

Air Force Staff Sgt. Noah McKenzie, an emergency management craftsman with the Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, pulls his raft through the pool at the Labor Day Raft Race Sept. 7 at Joint Base Balad.



80<sup>th</sup> ORD BN and 102<sup>nd</sup> QM CO  
Present : 10 October 2009

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Joint Base Balad



ARMY  
TEN-MILER



- REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPANTS AT: All MWR Fitness Centers
- REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **1 OCTOBER 2009 !!!!**
- TROPHIES WILL BE GIVEN TO 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE FOR MALES AND FEMALES
- LOCATION: HOLT STADIUM
- TIME: 0445
- T-Shirts available for the first 1000 registered participants.

POC: CPT Allen @ 483-4316 or allen.charles@iraq.centcom.mil

# Eagle Tactical Athlete Program brought to Iraq

BY CAPT. CHARLES ALLEN  
102ND QM Co.



During pre-deployment training in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-11, several officers, noncommissioned officers, and Soldiers of the 102nd Quartermaster Company, out of Fort Campbell, Ky., were selected to participate in a University of Pittsburgh

fitness study.

The study was part of the development of a program called the Eagle Tactical Athlete Program and is based on the principals of functional fitness.

The program focuses on teaching unit leaders how to develop fitness programs that will condition and prepare tactical Soldiers for the rigors of a high-tempo combat environment.

Crossfit and P90X are popular offshoots of this concept. These fitness systems have gained great credibility

among service members, police officers and firefighters, groups whose lives potentially depend upon their functional level of fitness.

The UPITT study and implementation of ETAP at Fort Campbell also placed heavy emphasis on injury prevention. They incorporated active and/or dynamic stretching techniques, recovery through balanced exercise applications and proper nutrition practices. Each Soldier who attended the course received a trainer's certification.

Each exercise or combination of exercises incorporates large, multiple body-part movements. Each movement engages core muscle groups and often requires a significant application of balance, focus, accuracy and explosiveness.

When these exercises are applied within the rotation of a circuit, aerobic endurance becomes a lead factor in the successfulness of completing each round. These developed and combined fitness qualities are required by every tactical athlete.

ETAP can be integrated into unit fitness programs and

is highly adjustable to ensure a unique variety of challenging and effective workouts. Functional fitness sessions can be integrated with the required Army Physical Fitness Training events and can help Soldiers overcome plateaus.

ETAP workout sessions are also great team-building tools. Group workouts allow Soldiers to compete against themselves and team members. They are able to time and rate exercise turnover and always elicit group support and encouragement.

Ingenuity and improvisation are also key ingredients in the effectiveness of each workout session. ETAP is designed so common items found around the unit area or motor pool can be used as exercise equipment. Objects such as tough boxes, tires, sledge hammers, sandbags, duffle bags and ropes can, and should be incorporated into each workout.

Armed with ETAP fitness concepts, 102nd QM Soldiers reap the benefits of increased APFT scores, enjoying a new challenge and a variety of workouts.

## Command shares suicide prevention experience, answers questions

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Three senior leaders shared their experiences with suicide prevention and answered questions from service members during an open-forum suicide prevention meeting at the east Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center Sept. 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Col. Thomas L. Anderson, the officer in charge of the 55th Medical Company Combat Stress Control, Col. Knowles Atchison, the deputy commanding officer for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Maj. Saul E. Cardona, the chaplain for the 13th ESC, shared their thoughts on the topic.

Individuals who have suicidal or harmful thoughts, usually exhibit behavior that signals the feelings they are experiencing, said Anderson. Giving away treasured or personal possessions and loss of interest in normal activities can be signs a person is experiencing depression or having suicidal or harmful thoughts, he said.

"Pay attention to people's behavior," said Anderson. "If they seem out

of the ordinary, don't be afraid to question them. The more you talk about it, the less likely it is to occur."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan L. Hudson, the officer in charge of supply and services for the 13th ESC and a Los Angeles native, said he attended the meeting to learn more about suicide prevention and how to help his Soldiers cope with depression.

He said the open-forum style was effective, as it allowed people to open up, ask questions and express their opinions without regard to rank.



Col. Knowles Atchison, deputy commanding officer of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Maj. Saul E. Cardona, chaplain for the 13th ESC, listen to Col. Thomas L. Anderson, the officer in charge of the 55th Medical Company Combat Stress Control, as he shares his professional experience with suicidal thoughts and tendencies, and depression.

"I learned that above all, we are all human beings," said Hudson. "No matter what race, creed, color (or) background you are, we all have the same issues and we are just trying to get through life."






VIEW YOUR PHOTOS ON PROVIDER COMMON:

- CLICK THE START MENU AND GO TO RUN
- TYPE IN:  
\\BALAFSV1\ZNO3\PROVIDER\_COMMON
- CLICK THE PAO FOLDER
- CLICK 13TH ESC PHOTOS FOLDER
- PHOTOS ARE ORGANIZED BY THE DATE OF THE EVENT

# Gamers raise awareness of suicide prevention

BY CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS  
2ND BATTALION,  
198TH COMBINED ARMS

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq

Soldiers brought awareness to suicide and suicide prevention by participating in an evening video game competition Sept. 4 at the outdoor theater at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

Sponsored by the Q-West Morale, Welfare, and Recreation directorate, the event brought together four teams of two. The winning team received a \$25 gift certificate donated by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

Maj. John B. Herd, the MWR director, with the 2nd Battalion 198th Combined Arms, 16th Sustainment Brigade, served as the master-of-ceremonies for the event.

"We believe that such group activities reduce the conditions that lead to suicide by bringing Soldiers together," said Herd, a Florence, Miss., native.

Four two-person teams, two for an undercard and two for a main event, battled against the computer in the Xbox 360's "Gears of War 2," a popular third-person shooting game.

The winners of the undercard team were Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw, the public affairs chief and a Garden Grove, Calif. native, and Spc. Kammal J. Peterson, the brigade personnel specialist, both of Headquarters and Headquar-

ters Company, 16th Sust. Bde., out of Bamberg, Germany.

The main-event winners were Spc. Daktaryaie D. Fox, a Kuscusko, Miss. native, and Spc. Kelby Cheney, a Vancouver, Wash. native, day and night radio operator for the Base Defense Operations Center, respectively, 2-198th CAB, out of Senatobia, Miss.

The contestants unanimously agreed such games improve morale.

"Video games relieve stress, and they're a great way to spend free time with friends," said Fox.

Shaw, nearing the end of a 15-month deployment, said he enjoys the social aspect of video gaming on a network.

"Before this deployment, I really didn't play video games that much, but when my friends and I started playing

this game with networked computers, we could all be in our own room, talking to each other through the head set," said Shaw. "It basically turned into people talking smack every day, even at work. It was just so much fun to talk about."

The event was the brainchild of Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell, 2-198th CAB, Mississippi National Guard and a Senatobia, Miss., native.

"Recently, I was listening to some Soldiers bragging about how good they were at this game, so I got with the MWR director and urged him to have a competition," said Campbell. "We need to encourage any uplifting activity that brings Soldiers together for good fellowship, whether it's a video game, or sports competition or some other group activity."

# US, Spanish forces aid 13 Baghdad bomb victims

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

## JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq

Doctors at the Air Force Theater Hospital here assessed and treated 13 Iraqis who suffered eyesight-threatening injuries from the Aug. 19 bombing in Baghdad's Red Zone.

The hospital staff also arranged aeromedical evacuation for 10 of the patients to Torreon Military Base, Spain, where they were transferred to Hospital Militar to receive more intensive, prolonged care.

"Our role in this was to be a supporting factor by getting the patients from point A to point B," said Maj. (Dr.) David Carnahan, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group chief of medical staff. "In the meantime, we were assessing the needs of our patients. We performed surgeries that needed to be done immediately in order to maintain vision, as well as treated non-eye injuries that needed attention."

The bombing was one of the deadliest since U.S. combat troops began withdrawing from Iraqi cities June 30. Those injured in the blast were treated at nine Iraqi medical facilities near the Red Zone,

and then transported to the nearby U.S. military-operated Ibn Sina Hospital.

Those victims who moved on to AFTH were examined by Maj. (Dr.) Kurt Andreason, an ophthalmologist with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron, who determined which patients needed continued care in Spain.

"Unfortunately, this is the kind of thing we have learned to expect in this environment -- (improvised explosive devices) and fragment wounds," said Andreason. "We are a trauma facility that treats individuals and then moves them on to the next echelon of care."

According to U.S. military policy, Iraqi civilians are treated at American facilities if their wounds may result in the loss of life, limb or eyesight. For some of the victims, though, the medical care meant much more.

"After having this experience at the (AFTH), I believe the relations between Iraq and the United States are going to move upward," said Ahmed Thamer Sabe, one of the patients who was treated here. "It is going to be a great success in the future too."

"This helps in building the relations between the Iraqi government and the United States government for sure," said Hamza Rdah Moshin, another bomb victim who received care at the AFTH.



Maj. (Dr.) Kurt Andreason, the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron ophthalmic surgeon, examines an Iraqi patient's eye Aug. 31 at Joint Base Balad. Andreason was the sole ophthalmologist providing care for 13 wounded Iraqis who suffered injuries from an Aug. 19 bombing in Baghdad.

**TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM**

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

# Sudoku

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

**Level: Hard**

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

Last week's answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What problem did Leonardo da Vinci, Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and General George Patton have in common?
2. For what magazine did Hugh Hefner serve as circulation manager while he was raising money to launch Playboy?
3. What was the first living creature ever ejected from a supersonic aircraft?
4. What trade was Greek philosopher Socrates trained for?
5. To whom did Mahatma Gandhi write for advice on diet and exercise?

1. All were dyslexic. 2. Children's Activities magazin. 3. A bear, in 1962. 4. Stonecutting. 5. Charles Atlas

## JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

### TRADITIONAL - Sunday

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

### GOSPEL - Sunday

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

### CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

0900 Chapel- Next Iraq/MWR East  
 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155) 1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

### Wednesday

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel

### 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)

### 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

### 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

### 1230 Provider Chapel

### 1900 The Shack

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting 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. 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.
<b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Volleyball: Sunday- 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	<b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30 p.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	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday- Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 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.	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. 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. <b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	<b>WEST REC- REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.	

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Wednesday 9/16/09

Colorado Rockies @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Los Angeles Angels @ Boston Red Sox, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Cleveland Indians @ Minnesota Twins, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Thursday 9/17/09

Wednesday Night Baseball: Los Angeles Angels @ Boston Red Sox Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports  
 UFC Fight Night Live: Diaz vs Guillard (Cox Convention Center; Oklahoma City, OK), Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Wednesday Night Baseball: Colorado Rockies @ San Francisco Giants, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Kansas City Royals @ Detroit Tigers, Live 8p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 9/18/09

ESPN College Football Primetime: Georgia Tech @ Miami, Live 2:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Cleveland Indians @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Thursday Night Baseball: Los Angeles Angels @ Boston Red Sox, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 9/19/09

Detroit Tigers @ Minnesota Twins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Boise State @ Fresno State, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Boise State @ Fresno State, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/xtra

### Sunday 9/20/09

Mayweather/Marquez (Episode 1), Tape Delayed 2 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Mayweather/Marquez (Episode 2), Tape Delayed 2:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Mayweather/Marquez (Episode 3), Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Mayweather/Marquez 24/7 (Episode 4), Tape Delayed 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 UFC 103: Franklin vs Belfort, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra

### Monday 9/21/09

Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Buffalo Bills (JIP), Live 12:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Sunday Night Baseball: Chicago Cubs @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Sunday Night Football: New York Giants @ Dallas Cowboys, Live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports

### Tuesday 9/22/09

NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series: NHRA Nationals (Concord, NC), Tape Delayed 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Monday Night Football: Indianapolis Colts @ Miami Dolphins, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 New York Yankees @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 p.m. AFN/xtra

# Arts & Entertainment

## Your 'Final Destination' should be anywhere this movie isn't playing

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



The fourth installment of the "Final Destination" series makes a better sleeping pill than it does a thriller. It's just like the others in the series, but with worse acting and worse special effects.

The film starts with a group of 20-somethings at a race car event, and Nick O'Bannon (Bobby Campo) has a premonition of the death of everyone in the stadium. He freaks out and drags his three friends and a few random stragglers out of the stadium. They survive the horrific accident that follows, only to discover they are now on the run from Death's

plan. They believe that if they stop the next person in line from dying, they will survive their brush with Death.

Acting was definitely not the strong point in this movie. Not that anyone was under any impression that it would be, but this movie has acting that is laugh-out-loud terrible. Shantel VanSanten, who portrays Lori, is the worst. She never, at any point, appears as though she is showing emotion. She just seems to be reading her lines.

Nick Zano, who plays Hunt, the arrogant, rich kid, is just annoying. He's like Steve Stifler ("American Pie"), but not funny. O'Bannon and Haley Webb, who plays Janet, were mediocre at best, but stand-outs in this gore-tastic bust.

Everyone likes a little cheese in their horrors—a la

Bruce Campbell—but this was worse than cheese.

It was just boring.

Although this film was made for 3D viewing, Iraq has a few limitations in its theaters. However, 3D effects would not have saved this movie. In 2D, the effects were bad, and everyone in the theater could see exactly where the jump-out-of-your-seat 3D was supposed to be; it was simply predictable. A bunch of useless shots to make people fly out of their seat, in the likeness of "My Bloody Valentine" (2009).

Overall, this movie is like watching a half-hearted remake of the original. Not that the original was a masterpiece, but it had actual entertainment value. If you like uninteresting horror sequels with terrible acting, this is a film for you, but you'd be better off with the original.

## 'Ghost Wars': Not light, enlightening

BY SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



As the War in Afghanistan gains prominence, more and more questions arise. Why are we there?

How did Osama bin Laden get there? When did this war really start?

In the 2004, Pulitzer Prize-winning, non-fiction saga, "Ghost Wars: The secret history of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001," Steve Coll answers all these questions with the depth and knowledge of a veteran reporter.

For those unfamiliar with the history of the region, he provides startling insight on the inner workings of the region's governments and the relationships they built with the U.S., often through Central Intelligence Agency intermediaries.

Even for those who may have an understanding of the recent history of Afghanistan, the book is full of gems of wisdom. Coll shows time and again how some of the biggest events in the struggle between terror and the secret Soldiers fighting it were behind closed doors, far from the public eye.

Coll's book is not simple, but neither is Afghanistan. For the Soldiers and leaders who will fight this war, an

understanding of its inner workings is imperative to winning the hearts and minds of a people scarred by decades of civil strife, which was fueled by a half dozen foreign entities, including the U.S.

"Ghost Wars" begins with the riots in November 1979 at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan and ends with the assassination of the leader of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, Ahmed Shah Massoud, Sept. 10, 2001. In between, Coll addresses the CIA's often awkward alliance with Saudi Arabian and Pakistani intelligence agencies during the Soviet incursion into Afghanistan, the rise of the Taliban, and the events that led up to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on

the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Coll provides every detail imaginable, giving the reader the feeling of being a fly on the wall in some of the most secret meetings to take place in the last 30 years.

Ghost Wars' intricacies may sometimes leave the reader feeling lost, with detail so great, it can become mundane and almost tedious to read. Nonetheless, for the patient reader who possesses a penchant for knowledge, Coll provides a rich story full of disaster, intrigue and murder.

The best part: it's nonfiction and the consequences of every action are apparent today.

## PVT. MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

#### Wednesday, Sept. 16

5 p.m. All About Steve  
8 p.m. The Ugly Truth

#### Thursday, Sept. 17

5 p.m. The Ugly Truth  
8 p.m. Orphan

#### Friday, Sept. 18

2 p.m. Aliens In The Attic  
5 p.m. Whiteout  
8:30 p.m. Whiteout

#### Saturday, Sept. 19

2 p.m. The Hurt Locker  
5 p.m. Whiteout  
8 p.m. Funny People

#### Sunday, Sept. 20

2 p.m. Whiteout  
5 p.m. Funny People  
8 p.m. The Hurt Locker

#### Monday, Sept. 21

5 p.m. Aliens In The Attic  
8 p.m. Whiteout

#### Tuesday, Sept. 22

5 p.m. Funny People  
7 p.m. The Hurt Locker

#### Wednesday, Sept. 23

5 p.m. The Hurt Locker  
8 p.m. Aliens In The Attic



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Edwin L. Wriston



U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Steven DeWeese of the 1-150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, from Bluefield, W.Va., out of Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, shakes hands with a local man during a humanitarian-aid mission in the village of Yusifiyah, Iraq, Aug. 28.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Canaan Radcliffe

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Bland, an explosive ordnance disposal technician from EOD Company 61, points out ways to acquire fingerprints from a phone used in an improvised explosive device, to Iraqi EOD Policemen at Contingency Operating Location Warhorse, outside of Baqouba, Iraq, Aug. 27. The Sailors teach counter IED investigative techniques including evidence gathering and evidence photography.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Canaan Radcliffe

Iraqi police officers patrol the streets while U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Combat Division, follow up on micro grants issued throughout the city of Dibbis, Iraq, Aug. 28.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Canaan Radcliffe

U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Lesperance, from Fort Hood, Texas, Battalion Commander for 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, presents a validation plaque at the validation ceremony for the Iraqi Police station, in Hawija, Iraq, Sept. 3.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Canaan Radcliffe

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Carl Yeaney, assigned to the 218th Military Police Company, out of Fort Campbell, Ky., instructs Iraqi Police officers on how to properly fire from the kneeling position, during AK-47 range training, in Mammah, Iraq, Aug. 30.

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Clothing and toys collected for children of female prisoners

**BAGHDAD** – Hundreds of children in Iraq's prison system received new clothes, shoes and toys Sept. 3 thanks to the efforts of some caring U.S. military personnel, citizens and organizations in the United States.

U.S. Navy Master at Arms Chief Hector Villanueva, the lead adviser for Tribal Affairs with Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Anita Francis, with Law and Order Task Force, collected clothing, shoes and toys to distribute to these children who stay with their mothers in Iraq's prisons.

"Many times, when you have a woman convicted of a crime and put into prison, there are young children who must be taken care of," said Villanueva. "The fathers [often] don't have the ability to take care of them, so the Iraqi prison system allows the children to stay with their moms in prison."

These children are in need of clothes and other basic necessities and this is where the collection efforts come in to help. Many individuals and organizations in the United States have helped by collecting clothes, shoes and toys and sending them to Iraq to be distributed to these children. The Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute out of New York, along with the Hylant Group from Dublin, Ohio and the Credit Suisse Group, PJ Arthurs, out of Chicago were the largest donors of the supplies.

Efforts like this build a continued trust and bond with the Iraqi people, Villanueva said.

"This is not an Army program or a government program," Villanueva said. "This is the work of individual soldiers and sailors who care about the Iraqi people and wanted to make a personal difference."

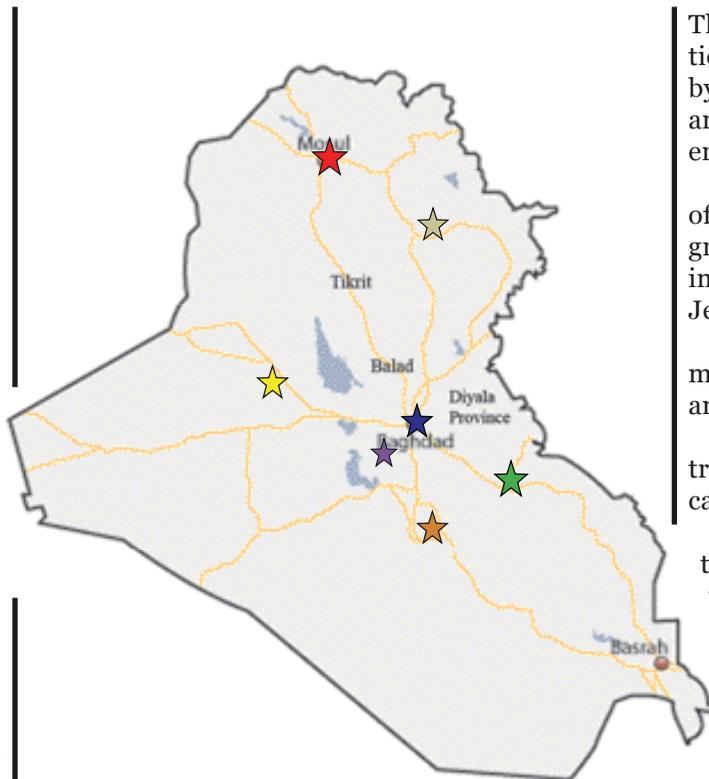
## Iraqi Airmen learn to put 'Eyes in the Skies' for security observation

**AL KUT, Iraq** – A U.S. Airman devoted time the week of Aug. 30 to ensure Iraqi military officers understood how to observe suspicious activity from the sky using ground-based equipment.

Tech Sgt. Paul Valenzuela, an enlisted adviser from Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force, trains Iraqi airmen in the art of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Valenzuela said the training is important because the security of the Iraqi people relies more and more on the Iraqi military being able to watch from above what terrorists may be doing on the ground.

"The biggest thing that they're learning to do is just providing protection for their borders," Valenzuela said. "Iraq's kind of a big country and they don't have that many people to spread out for border patrols. ISR is able to look at a wide area and give them real live-time coverage (observation) of that area."



Training on this system is vital, as it will permit the Iraqis to better protect their borders.

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Hameed, ISR officer and engineer working at King Air Squadron 87, said the equipment the Iraqis use assists in providing security where there previously was none, and he is grateful for the Air Force's assistance.

"Sergeant Valenzuela is a good adviser – he has always given us the support we needed to help us get where we are now," Hameed said. "I feel like I am helping my country to improve ourselves -- supporting our country to stand on its own. I am proud to serve in the Iraqi Air Force. I think we have a great future."

By training the trainers, the instruction U.S. airmen, such as Valenzuela, conduct here will continue helping Iraqis secure their borders against hostile intruders long after he is gone.

## Mosul reconstruction cell hosts Ramadan dinner

**MOSUL, Iraq**—To promote an understanding of Islamic faith and Muslim culture, and in celebration of Ramadan, the Mosul Reconstruction Cell hosted a dinner for MRC staff and Mosul city reconstruction leaders Sept. 2.

For Muslims across the world, Ramadan is the holiest of all months on the Islamic calendar. Ramadan is the month the Prophet Muhammad received his revelations from Allah through the angel Gabriel, which he later wrote down as the Quran. It is a time of self-reflection, fasting, prayer and charity. Spiritual growth comes from refraining, not only from food as Muslims fast from sunrise until sunset during the holy month, but from any sinful thoughts, words or deeds.

Each evening of Ramadan, after sunset, Muslim's break their fast. The opportunity for U.S. forces to celebrate this with their Iraqi counterparts gave the American attendees a unique cultural experience.

The attendees visited and snacked on dates, a tradition traced back to Muhammad. This was followed by an evening prayer for the Islamic worshippers and, finally, a meal of rice, lamb, flatbread and other traditional Iraqi dishes.

Yaseen Aziz, an MRC special adviser and a native of Sulaymania in Iraq's Kurdish region, who immigrated to Greenville, S.C., in 1997, said fasting during Ramadan is similar to fasting in Christian and Jewish religions.

"The only difference," Aziz said, "is Ramadan is more than fasting from food. It is fasting from drink and activities."

Aziz said the celebration dinner was a chance to trade information and help the Iraqis and Americans learn from each other.

"It is essential to understand each other's cultures, how they pray, how they fast. It shows a type of care and love for each other, a key point in building relationships," he said.

Attendees included Iraqi municipality, public works and engineer reconstruction leaders, as well as Brig. Gen. Robert Brown, deputy commanding general of support, Multi-National Division-North, 25th Infantry Division, and Lt. Col. Fabian E. Mendoza, Jr., 130th Engineer Brigade commander.

Lt. Col. Chad R. Walker, MRC officer in charge, 130th Eng. Bde., said his team wanted to honor the Iraqi culture and heritage and pay their respects to the Iraqi reconstruction leaders and engineers his team has worked so closely with since the 130th's arrival in country.

"Being part of this celebration is very significant," Walker said. "We are bridging the gap between religions, cultures and nations."

Walker's team plays a critical role in aiding the reconstruction efforts in Mosul and Ninawa province. Working directly with Iraqi government officials, the MRC helps develop, coordinate and execute a wide variety of projects to rebuild essential services and improve health and welfare for local citizens.

Master Sgt. Wade E. Christensen, MRC non-commissioned officer in charge, 130th Eng. Bde., has worked with local officials to provide garbage trucks and dumpsters for a large scale clean-up of Mosul. He said hosting the Ramadan dinner was a great way to show the Iraqi people the U.S. forces embrace the Iraqi culture and respect the way they conduct business.

"This event allowed the major players in reconstruction to break bread together, talk about issues and build relationships," Christensen said.

MRC leaders said they hope the Ramadan dinner helped facilitate greater awareness and respect between two very different cultures as their partnership in reconstruction continues to improve the quality of life for residents of Mosul and Ninawa province.

## Detainees released from US custody

**AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – Marines from Multi National Force - West facilitated the release of 19 detainees from U.S. custody and transferred one detainee to Iraqi Police custody

Sept. 6, in Ramadi, Iraq.

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 the detainee who was 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.

## US Army donates computers to Kirkuk College of Science

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – For the last seven years, the same computers at the Kirkuk College of Science have endured countless classes of students pounding away at their keys, altering their software and smudging their screens. This is more than a lifetime for a computer, and their age has begun to show.

But teachers this year won't have to worry about trying to install new software on the outdated systems, or think about whether their compact disk drives will last through the semester, because Aug. 26, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, donated 50 new computers to the college.

"Our department really depends on computers," said Akmed Chalak, a computer networking teacher at the school. "We have been using very old computers, because we didn't have any choice, but with these new computers, the students will be able to work with modern equipment."

The school has been working with a limited budget and, because of the high cost of new computers, they have not been able to purchase but a few new computers each year.

"Each year we bought a couple [computers] from the local market," said the vice-president of the college, Dr. Najdat K. Moosa. "But, with these new computers, we will be able to replace nearly all of the old ones in our lab."

Roughly two months ago, representatives from 2nd BCT visited the college and school administrators there brought them to the computer labs and explained how difficult it was to conduct classes and provide labs with the outdated systems.

"One of the issues was that the old computers couldn't install new software," said Cpt. Aziz Noorali, a representative from Forward Operating Location Warrior's Human Terrain Team.

By using funds from 2nd BCT's Commander's Emergency Relief Program, the brigade was able to purchase the computers for the school.

"We wanted to make sure to get them there before classes started," said Noorali.

"The students are going to be very excited when they come into class and see these new computers," said Najdat.

As the computers were being brought into the new computer lab, Akmed and his fellow computer teachers took the time to set one up and test it out.

"Yep, these are best computers you can get," said Akmed, with a smile as he watched the system turn on.

With a new school year about to begin, the importance of these computers was obvious to Noorali, he said. The students and others like them are the future leaders of this country; they are getting their education and they are going to go out, find jobs and make a difference, he said.

"Helping students out...I love it," he said.

In addition to bringing the new computers, a representative from the brigade, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Krumholz, the civil affairs economics officer for the brigade, also delivered a memorandum of agreement from the University of Arizona, showing the university was interested in forming a partnership with the Kirkuk College of Science.

This partnership will allow both schools to share ideas, their curriculum and recent publications, said Krumholz. In the future, it might even allow for the exchange of faculty and students.

Krumholz said the new computers will provide the students at the Kirkuk College of Science better access to the Internet, allowing for the two schools to share ideas more efficiently.

Schools in the area are scheduled to open, following summer vacation, between the beginning of September and the beginning of October.

## School project inspires hope in Iraqi children

 QADISIYAH, Iraq – For the Iraqi people who grew up in Qadisiyah, Iraq, without an education, the opportunity to prevent that future for their children is just around the corner.

"Most of the people in this area missed the opportunity to go to school and learn as children. We want our children to have a better-educated future," said Ali Jalab Hasson, Al Hamza district mayor and civil engineer with the Qadisiyah Education Department.

That dream of a better education is just months away, as the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq helps with the construction of the Al Hasan Al Basri school. The \$1.1 million project is being managed by the Division's Gulf Region South district and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.

"The Al Hasan Al Basri modern two-story facility will be the source of pride for Al Hamza residents," Hasson said. "All the people here wish to provide a good education for their children and that is what this school is going to do."

The school project in Qadisiyah province would improve the quality of education for more than 800 students.

"Most of the schools here are old and in need of windows, doors and bathroom repairs," said Hasson. "When completed, this school will be the first modern facility since 2003 in the area that meets international health and safety standards."

Amjad Khnteel, the GRS project engineer, said the new school will feature many amenities.

"The project will include 12 classrooms, an administrative area, library, potable water system, communication system with Internet capabilities and a fire alarm system," said Khnteel.

Khnteel also said the project will benefit the local community.

"About 25 Iraqis are currently working on this project, which helps create much-needed opportunities for employment of the local populace and enhance the economic situation of Al Hamza district and surrounding communities," Khnteel said.

The school will also provide permanent jobs for Iraqis when it is completed.

"Approximately 20 local Iraqis, including headmaster, teachers, administrative assistants and guards

will work at the new facility when it's open by end of this year," Hasson added. "That number is expected to grow once it's fully operational."

The school construction project is 15 percent complete and expected to be completed in December 2009.

## River Police Protect Iraq's Waterways

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi River Police conducted operations on the Tigris River Sept. 1 in Baghdad to practice their skills in keeping Iraq's waterways safe from terrorists.

The mission of the river police is to provide search and rescue, safety patrol and counter-smuggling operations along the waterways of Iraq. Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq advisers, mentors and trainers help the river police accomplish this mission.

There are two advisers at the River Patrol. One is responsible for teaching waterborne operations, how to pilot the boats, and how to use the boats to conduct the operations found in the mission statement. The second adviser is a highly skilled and qualified dive instructor and he is responsible for the dive training. These advisers have teaching certifications required to conduct operations in search and rescue, safety patrols and counter smuggling in a river environment.

Iraqis here received train-the-trainer instruction to give them the expertise they need to visit each Iraqi province to disseminate river-boat patrol techniques to their own units.

There are 22 boats in the Baghdad Training Center. There are four different designs of boats used in this training. They are used for regular operations and also have different designs and capabilities. These boats can be used to respond to missing person reports as well as engage in the recovery of drowning victims.

The biggest success the U.S. advisers have seen with the Iraqis is their ability to grasp these complex river patrol techniques and apply them to their own curriculum.

Despite some maintenance issues, which are pervasive across Iraq, the Iraqis do a good job of keeping these boats afloat and running, said one U.S. Army adviser.

There will be more train-the-trainer courses conducted by U.S. advisers and attended by the Iraqi river patrol trainers. This cooperation is a large part of the success of the Security Agreement between the two countries and sets the stage for future training.

## Combat team returns largest US base in eastern Anbar to Iraq

 AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Regimental Combat Team 6 returned Camp Baharia and nearby Combat Outpost Castillo to Iraqi control Sept. 2.

Camp Baharia, near the once restive city of Fallujah, was the largest remaining U.S. base in Anbar, east of Camp Ramadi.

"It has been an honor for my Marines and other Coalition forces to have supported the Iraqi Security Forces. This transfer of authority is a major example of the Iraqi Security Forces' progress," said Col. Matthew A. Lopez, commanding officer of RCT-6.

Iraqi officials will discuss whether to maintain a military presence on the base or to demilitarize the area and return it to its pre-war function as a tourism site.

# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Edward J. Monell

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade's Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sean Pullease from Fort Pierce, Fla., uses his expertise to install a very small aperture terminal satellite system on the 419th Combat Service Support Battalion Supply Support Activity infrastructure. Pullease is the officer in charge for the Combat Service Support Automation Management Office.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rex Tran

Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Ayala, a native of Lake Forest, Calif., from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, reenlists into the U.S. Army Reserve. Staff Sgt. Ayala, who is currently stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq, chose to reenlist at Victory Base Complex, in Baghdad, Iraq.

Spc. Brandon Hubbard, from Moses Lake, Wash., with 1st Platoon of 1161st Transportation Company, is one of three maintenance Soldiers assigned to 1st Platoon where he helps maintain 20 M915 trucks, 35 M872 trailers, two M923 5 Tons, and the M984 Wrecker.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jamie Nova

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a memorial ceremony Sept. 2 at the unit's Joint Operations Center here at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The ceremony honored Oregon National Guardsmen, Sgt. Mark D. Werner and Pfc. Taylor D. Marks, with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who died Aug. 28 after a roadside bomb struck their convoy.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Raul Marquez



U.S. Army photo by Capt. William A. Thompson

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Smith, a native of Jonesville, S.C., HHC, 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, prepares to inspect a Soldiers weapon to ensure it is clear. Smith served as the small arms fire officer in charge during the training event.