

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2 Issue 44

Seeing Stars



Gen. Carter Ham visits JBB

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Art



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Service members rock JBB in talent show

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. RYAN L. TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Red Tail 5/6 Executive Council held a talent show in which service members sang, danced, played instruments and otherwise performed at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation east Oct. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Every service's mission is different, but a morale event such as the talent show unifies and shows service members they can work together as one, said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Alcocer, a superintendent with the 332nd Expeditionary Aero Medical Squadron and 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group attached to the 332nd Expeditionary Air Wing.

Talent shows are important because they showcase the talents throughout the military family, said Alcocer, a San Antonio native. They lift the morale of all individuals involved in the mission, he said.

"I sang 'At this moment' by Billy Vera and the Beaters," he said. "Singing and playing instruments runs in my family."

Alcocer said he practiced for a few months by singing karaoke at the H-6 Recreation Cen-



Pfc. Miguel A. Marrero, a support technician with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Fort Hood, Texas, performed his original song "Drop" during the talent show at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east Oct. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Marrero, a Jamaica Queens, N.Y., native, won third place at the talent show hosted by the Red Tail 5/6 Executive Council.

ter. He said when he walked to the stage, he believed the crowd wondered what an old, senior noncommissioned officer had to offer. Nobody knows what an individual can do until they have performed, he said.

Spc. Stephen L. Bray, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist

with the 248th Area Support Medical Company, out of Marietta, Ga., and a Kingston, Ga., native, said service members appreciate opportunities to showcase their talents. He said he wanted to display what is on the other side of the uniform.

"There is a lot of wonderful talent in the military," said Bray.

Bray played acoustic guitar and sang, "This Time," a song he wrote four days before the competition and practiced roughly six times, he said.

"I felt that I did pretty well even though I didn't win," said Bray. "To me, winning is in the eye of the beholder. Garth

SEE TALENT ON PAGE 2

US forces take proactive steps toward drawdown

STORY BY
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As the time for the responsible drawdown of U.S. equipment and personnel approaches, proactive steps in the movement of retrograde materials are everyday missions for units in the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"For south-bound traffic, the 13th ESC's number one priority is redeployment and retrograde cargo," said 1st Lt.

Randell Krug, chief movement supervisor with the 858th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion.

In June, units at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, took part in Operation Clean Sweep, a mass turn in of unused, excess equipment, said Capt. Daniel Simons, support operations planning officer with the 80th Ordnance Battalion.

"This was a way for us to clean up our backyard," said Simons, a Missoula, Mont., native.

Simons said within the past few months, mobile retrograde teams have traveled to the bases surrounding JBB, assisting

units with the transportation of retrograde materials from that site to JBB.

The MRTs use sustainment transportation movement requests to initiate the movement of trailers full of retrograde material, he said.

"A transportation movement request is a request to move a specific piece of cargo from point A to point B," said Krug, a Bad Axe, Mich., native. "A sustainment transportation movement request is the same, but more general. Instead of someone making a decision to move that specific container, they can point at it and say 'Alright, I want all this

stuff that we're not using or haven't opened in six months, that container that nobody knows what it is, I want it out of here.'"

Sustainment TMRs require much less paperwork, which allows for a quicker movement of retrograde materials that serve no use to the unit, said Krug.

With the closing of some contingency operating locations and units redeploying, there has been an increase in the number of retrograde assets moved to JBB, said Staff Sgt. Jay Towle, a theater back-

SEE RETRO ON PAGE 4

Balad Blotter October 21 - October 27

APPREHENDED PERSONNEL:

Complainant one telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a missing individual from Contingency Operating Location Speicher was on Joint Base Balad. The complainant said he received a phone call from complainant two earlier that day. Complainant two told Complainant one the suspect was not supposed to leave COL Speicher, and directed complainant one to contact the law enforcement desk. A patrol was briefed, dispatched and arrived on the scene and made contact with the suspect. The patrol transported the suspect to the law enforcement desk. The suspect declined to make a statement and requested legal counsel. The suspect was detained at the Provost Marshall office. Complainant two arrived at the law enforcement desk from COL Speicher and said via statement of complainant at roughly 7:45 a.m. Oct. 22 the suspect failed to report to work. Complainant two then went to the suspect's residence and noticed his assigned weapon and room key were unattended laying on the suspect's bed. Complainant two then recalled a conversation he had with the suspect about how homesick he was. Complainant two checked the Passenger terminal at COL Speicher. Complainant two said he contacted the personnel at the Pax terminal and observed a manifest going to Joint Base Balad in which was the suspect. Complainant two said he called the JBB Pax terminal and made contact with complainant one. The suspect was read his Article 31 rights via statement of suspect and said he did not wish to make a statement without a lawyer present. The suspect was released to complainant two via receipt for inmate or detained person.

LARCENY OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a larceny had occurred at her location. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The patrol arrived on the scene and made contact with the complainant who said, via statement of complainant, she noticed property missing from her location. The complainant said the last time the property was seen was Sept. 6 while she was conducting an inspection at the location. After further investigation, it was determined the property had been left unsecured while maintenance was being conducted at the location.

NIPR: 443-8602

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JBB puts talents on display

TALENT FROM PAGE 1

Brooks lost the Colgate Country Showdown and in my opinion, he is still one of the greatest performing entertainers on earth."

Pfc. Miguel A. Marrero, a 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) support technician with the 13th ESC out of Fort Hood, Texas, and a Jamaica Queens, N.Y., native, said loneliness is an issue in Iraq, and music can help service members share their thoughts and interact with each other. A talent such as music can help keep their minds focused, he said.

"(I) performed my original song called 'Drop,'" said Marrero, who placed third in the competition. "I have been doing music since I was eight years old and I wanted to show off my talent."

He said he practiced his event for two months before the talent show, and hopes more talent shows will happen in the future.

Talent shows lower stress, strengthen relationships in country and allow service members to have a good time, he said.

Alcocer said the competition was impressive.

"From comedians, magicians, rappers, bands, and singers as well as others; it was great," Alcocer said.

The show featured 21 acts, with Sgt. Marcus D. Lindsey, a logistics NCO and an Anderson, Ind., native and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dennis A. White, an assistant logistics officer and a Camby, Ind., native, both with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade-Task Force 38, out of Shelbyville, Ind., winning second place for singing "Can you stay in the rain?" by Boyz II Men a cappella.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 William S. Anderson, a medical evacuation pilot with 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation, out of Salem, Ore., and a Canby, Ore., native, won first place at the talent show for a combination magic and comedy skit.



Spc. Stephen L. Bray, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist with the 248th Area Support Medical Company out of Marietta, Ga., performed a song he wrote called "This Time," during the talent show Oct. 24 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Bray, a Kingston, Ga., native, said he has played guitar for roughly 11 years.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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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, with a secondary mission of providing a means for units at Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

Mental health: The pleasure path

BY CAPT. STEVE BRASINGTON
COMBAT STRESS CONTROL PSYCHIATRIST



Assigned to a Combat Stress Prevention Team, I teach alcohol and drug addiction prevention and treatment.

At the beginning of my seminar, I invited participants to view the first 45 minutes of the HBO documentary "Addiction." Medical experts reviewed common misconceptions regarding addiction that included believing patients needed to "hit rock bottom," before they could get better. The addiction experts noted that treatment works and it works best when introduced early in the course of illness.

Addiction was defined in the docu-

mentary as "wanting the wrong thing very badly." The age of onset was described as being between 18 years old and 25 years old with 95 percent of persons in treatment dating the initiation of excessive use prior to age 21.

Family dynamics included families reacting to lies and deception by feeling angry and distrustful.

Adolescent substance abusers spoke about the need to relieve boredom. Despite attempts to keep teens busy, adolescents rebelled against adult authority and negative parental messages by turning further to drugs.

Getting high or buzzed became a single response for any event, whether positive or negative.

Brain researchers emphasized that the impulse to use "came under the ra-

dar," before the individual had time to mount a defense. Images from functional magnetic resonance illustrated abnormalities in the addicted brain's reward center compared to the normal brain.

The brain's reward pathway was portrayed as having two key components: the "go system" and the "no system."

The go system referred to sub-cortical structures that operated below conscious thought. This rapid-reflex system set into motion behavior to satisfy cravings before an individual could weigh the consequences.

In contrast, the cortical structure participated in decision making and relied on deliberate thinking. In other words, the brain shouts "go," before the mind whispers "hold on, not so fast."

Once the person has satisfied the hunger to get high, the mind has time to consider the consequences and remorse may follow a reckless trip down the pleasure path.

This strong mixture of guilt and desire combine to form ambivalence. Part of the person loves the experience of drug seeking and drug using, but another part hates being out of control.

The result can be relapse. A relapse or slip is a return to use after a period of abstinence. A return of symptoms is part of chronic illness. Having a slip should be viewed as a feature of chronic illness, not personal failure.

Addiction does not reflect a character flaw or moral weakness. Addiction is a brain disease.

Combat Stress is here to assist you.

The Weekly Standard

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



Soldiers of all ranks socialize in various settings on and off duty.

Soldier social engagements and activities may include, but are not limited,

to military functions, religious services, sports events or any other off-duty gathering.

The engagements may build trust and confidence among Soldiers while strengthening unit bonds, but it can often lead to inappropriate relationships and/or negative perceptions.

It is important leaders enforce the Army's relationship standard to prevent inappropriate relationships or perceptions from occurring. The actions or bad intentions of a few Soldiers can result in career-ending consequences and severe damage to unit cohesion.

Prevention of an inappropriate relationship is a chain of command responsibility. Leaders must educate Soldiers about the rules and regulations prohibiting certain relationships.

Army Command Policy, Army Regulation 600-20, para 4-14b, prohibits such relationships between Soldiers of different ranks – different-gender and same-gender relationships – if one or all of the following situations occur.

- The relationship compromises, or appears to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command.

- It causes actual or perceived partiality or unfairness.

- It involves, or appears to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain.

- It is, or is perceived to be, exploitative or coercive in nature.

- It create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-35, "Relationships Between Soldiers of Different Rank," provides guidance and examples of relationships between Soldiers of different rank. The pamphlet further explains the policy contained in AR 600-20, paragraphs 4-14 through 4-16.

Leaders should encourage Soldiers to

review the references cited in this article to better understand and prevent prohibited relationships from occurring.

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Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

From the Joint Base Balad sexual assault response coordinator team: Be "SARC Smart," don't assume your partner will get the message without you having to say what you are feeling. Tell them how far you want to go, what you want and don't want to do, and when you want to stop. Be especially careful to communicate your limits and intentions clearly in such situations.

In all relationships, you have the right to set limits, feel safe and get support. You also have responsibility to trust your instincts and model respectful behaviors. Every person has the right to say no and change his or her mind. Call the JBB SARC at 443-7272 or contact via pager 443-9001, 159 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate or deployed-SARC; you may also call 433-7272 or 443-9001, 122/135 for assistance.

Coping with spiritual discouragement

BY CAPT. ULISESE MATAAFA
13TH ESC PLANS AND OPS. CHAPLAIN



Isn't it true that spiritual distractions cause most people to experience spiritual discouragement?

Job was a wealthy herdsman who used to live in the Arabian Desert. Job believed God took away everything he had. He lost his business and was forced to file bankruptcy. All of his children were killed in an accident and he got sick with a terminal skin cancer. His wife and best friends ridiculed

him for his secret sins that made God angry with him.

Aren't we lucky that you and I have never experienced what Job had been through? How would you cope if you were Job?

I am very thankful the challenges I have faced in life were incomparable with what Job experienced.

A friend gave me a bicycle in good condition. I added accessories that cost me more than \$80.

Unfortunately, someone stole the bike. I was so furious, angry and very discouraged because I lost my investment with the bike.

A week later, I recognized a similar bike with a different color. It seemed that someone repainted it to cover the original paint but the accessories looked familiar. I unlocked the lock with my key and sure enough it was my bike that someone stole and repainted.

I took the bike back with me and was still angry with the thief who messed with my bike.

Job was a righteous man and suffered worse calamities of life than most of us.

There are two suggestions from Job's painful experience that would help redeem spiritual discouragements.

First, avoid being spiritually distract-

ed. It means don't allow tiredness, laziness, a tendency to be a workaholic, etc. to take priority over your time with God.

Many people throughout history have experienced this eternal truth. They practice "more prayer, more power, and less prayer, less power."

To avoid being spiritually distracted, we need to make prayer a priority in life.

Job was not distracted with his troubles because he disciplined himself to become a prayerful man. He prayed for his children all of the time, for his friends who forsook him and his wife who gave him bad advice to forsake his faith in God.

A thousand pictures worth a few words

BY 1ST LT. DARRELL A. MELROSE
13TH ESC PUBLIC AFFAIRS



I had missed several opportunities to get this picture but when the opportunity presented itself again, I was ready. Two UH-60 Black Hawks flew directly overhead and then banked at the perfect angle. I quickly went for the digital camera in my cargo pocket.

I got the photos, briefly reviewed them and then, somewhat satisfied, I put my little camera away and continued walking. I didn't get far when I was stopped by an Army sergeant first class.

"Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" he asked.

"Sure, no problem," I said.

In short, he did not have a question after all, but instead wanted to inform me that it was against policy to take any photos at Joint Base Balad. I told him I didn't believe that was true, and that I am from the public affairs office and it was OK, because I know the proper procedures for getting photos cleared for use. He insisted he was right about the policy, so I thanked him kindly for his concern and beat a hasty retreat so we didn't have to beat that dead horse anymore.

Upon my return to the office, I related to my coworkers the story of being corrected on base photo policy. I thought they'd get a laugh out of it.

Instead, I was quickly subjected to my second lecture by a noncommissioned officer in less than 20 minutes. One of the staff sergeants chided me for pulling the "public affairs card." He said I should instead have informed the NCO that the policy is that photos are only prohibited in areas where signs are posted stating as much, such as the flightline.

So, liked a whooped puppy, I went back to my corner to think about what I had done.

I came to the conclusion that my staff sergeant was right in what he said. I know photography on base is permitted; after all, the public affairs office submits dozens of photos daily for publication.

I also realized, ashamedly, I did not know the policy or guidelines for base

photography. To cure my shame and ignorance, I went on a search for documentation of this mysterious policy.

My journey was short once I called the right person. Within no time I was back to holding my head high as a duly informed public affairs officer.

So as a service to the professional and amateur photographers on base who are out there recording history, or just enjoying a hobby, here are the photography guidelines for Joint Base Balad.

The following is a condensed list of photo guidance for use at Joint Base Balad Air Base. It is not intended to cover every aspect of the photography, but to give a general overview. For specific questions, please contact PAO.

- No photographs of the flightline are permitted without a specific Photo Authorization Letter granted by the public affairs office.
- No photos showing more than two aircraft in the same photo.
- No photographs of the tower with any other structure in the photo.
- No photography is permitted in the Air Force Theater Hospital to include:
 - No photos of injured patient or personnel;
 - No photos of Iraqis;
 - No photos should be taken at night on the helicopter pad.
- No photos of battle damage of any sort.
- No photos of aircraft with its avionics panel open or in the cockpit.
- Broad aerial imagery of the airfield is prohibited.
- No photos showing force protection measures.
- No photos showing ID badges or controlled area badges.
- No photos of specialized equipment on top of hardened aircraft shelters.

- No photos showing HAS numbers.
- In photos, do not allow the association of mission-critical capabilities with specific locations or visually identifiable features of critical equipment, such as aircraft accessories, pods, communication equipment, etc.
- No photos of the undercarriage of Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles.
- No photos of service members out of regulations or uniforms worn improperly.
- No photos of computer screens displaying classified or secret information or any object with the red classified sticker on it.
- Photos taken on the flightline are for official use only. Photos distributed to any non-Department of Defense audience, such as news media, Alumni news letters, civic groups, Facebook, MySpace, personal web pages, etc., must be cleared by the public affairs office at Balad, not a home station PA unit.
- All official Air Force photos must be reviewed by the responsible public affairs office for security and policy compliance before releasing to the public. The 332 Air Expeditionary Wing PA is

responsible for security and policy review of official photos taken on Joint Base Balad and will coordinate, as needed, with operational organizations. Security and policy review is not required for photography used for official use only, which will not be released to the public.

Photography of the following topics is prohibited at all times, unless directed by a competent authority: human remains, detainees, prisoners, special operations personnel or equipment, classified material and the cockpits of aircraft.

Photography of medical patients must be in accordance with U.S. Central Command and U.S. Air Force policy.

Photography of Ilyushin IL-76 freighters is prohibited unless directed by Air Mobility Command PA or headquarters USAF.

Personal photography of panoramic views of the flightline is strictly prohibited.

Photographers must adhere to each location's security guidance regarding photos of any equipment or facilities on the flightline. This letter does not authorize the holder to take photographs of accidents or mishaps on the flightline.

US forces move excess materials out

RETRO FROM PAGE 1

haul coordinator with the 49th Trans. Bn.

Towle, a Lewiston, Maine, native, said, "You never know how much (material) you've deployed with until you have to send it home."

JBB serves as a central logistical hub for the surrounding bases, said Capt. Timothy Ratliff, also a theater backhaul coordinator with the 49th.

"The cargo will be consolidated on those smaller (COLs), moved here to JBB," he said. "JBB is where they're going to stage it for its final movement to Kuwait."

Convoys of the 593rd Sustainment Brigade go north to drop off cargo and supplies for deployed units, said Ratliff. The retrograde materials are loaded onto the flatbeds prior to their return south, he said.

"As the yards fill up, we request more (trucks) from the 593rd to come up and pull those down," said Ratliff. "They'll

send up what they call 'dead heads,' which are empty trucks that aren't bringing anything north, to pull the backhaul south to those locations."

The Iraqi Transportation Network has assisted with the movement of retrograde materials, said Ratliff.

"ITN is playing a major role in helping us draw down as well, by moving commodities mainly down to Tallil, which is a much shorter and easier trip for 593rd to make," said Ratliff, a Junction City, Kan., native.

Ratliff said the ITN moves non-sensitive items and cargo according to the limits of its contract. The ITN will move cargo to COL Adder where it is downloaded and uploaded onto vehicles to be moved in convoys with the 593rd back to Kuwait, he said. ITN frees military assets, making the trip from Kuwait and back in only a day, said Ratliff.

Ratliff said to take a proactive approach to the responsible drawdown, actions must be taken now.

"Now is the time to start getting this junk in here, getting this stuff on TMRs, bringing it into the yards and moving it south because ... the further we move into the drawdown, the less time we're going to have to move all this stuff," said Ratliff. "The goal is to start early now, that's what Clean Sweep is; to start a year out from when the final phase of (strategic reposturing of equipment and personnel) is suppose to be winding down."

Once in Kuwait, the cargo is processed and its final destination is determined, based on where the military has determined that equipment is needed, he said. It may be sent back to its home station, redistributed to a deploying unit or pushed up to Afghanistan, said Ratliff.

Ratliff said, "As we ramp up and increase the intensity of the drawdown, more and more of the cargo here is going to be going to Kuwait as we move toward our goal of going down to 50,000 troops."

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Camp Taji -
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COL Q-West -
318-827-6101

Al Asad Air Base -
318-440-4103

COBL Speicher -
318-849-2501

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724th Trans. Co. reflects, looks forward

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – April 9, 2004, Soldiers with 1st Platoon, 724th Transportation Company out of Bartonville, Ill., were ambushed as they traveled across Iraq on a refueling mission during their deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, then called Camp Anaconda.

The 724th Trans. Co. lost two Soldiers that day, Sgt. Elmer Krause and Spc. Gregory Goodrich. A third Soldier, Pfc. Keith “Matt” Maupin, was taken prisoner. The unit returned to Iraq for the first time since 2004, Sept. 29, 2009 to Contingency Operating Location Speicher.

Staff Sgt. Craig V. McDermott, the senior transportation movement request manager for the 90th Sustainment Brigade out of Little Rock, Ark., then Spc. McDermott, was on his first deployment, serving as a crew-served gunner for the 724th Trans. Co. in 2004. He was also in the convoy April 9.

McDermott, a Taylor, Mich., native, who is now on his third deployment to Iraq, said the worst part for him was not knowing what was going on outside his truck and the fear he felt for his fellow Soldiers.

“The guys that are there with you are family, and all you know about is what is going on in your truck, especially when you are separated like we were,” said McDermott.

In 2006, at that time Sgt. McDermott, chose to return to Iraq as the noncommissioned officer in charge of a convoy support team with the 336th Transportation Brigade.

“It was my choice, and I was actually looking forward to being here,” said McDermott, “to get a little more access to information that you don’t get back home. Specifically, at that time, if there was anything new on Matt, Sgt. Maupin.”

Maupin was promoted three times while he was missing, making him a staff sergeant.

First Sgt Christopher L. Haines, with the 724th Trans. Co. and a Washington, Ill., native, was also with the 724th in 2004, and has returned with the unit for this deployment.

Maupin’s remains were located March 29, 2008, shortly after Haines found out the unit would return to Iraq. While this brought some closure to the survivors of the April 9 attack, some questions still remain about the incident, he said.

“I would just like for them to account for one more, one more missing American (KBR, Inc. contractor Timothy Bell) from that day,” said Haines. “Then I will be able to be at peace.”

Haines said he was impressed with the courage and perseverance his Soldiers showed on their last deployment.

“We knew we had a mission the next day,” said Haines. “The commander came down and talked to us, Capt. Jeff Smith, asked for volunteers to go out on the next mission. Every one of us ... raised their hand and said ‘we are going out.’ It stayed, you know, in our hearts and weighed heavy on us when we rolled out the next day, still not knowing the whereabouts of two of our Soldiers and what had happened.”

Maj. Sean F. Counihan, commander of the 724th Trans. Co., and a Norwich, Conn., native, said Iraq has changed since 2004 and so has the mission.

“We have a dual mission,” said Counihan. “We are doing convoy recovery



Staff Sgt. Craig V. McDermott, the senior transportation movement request manager with the 90th Sustainment Brigade out of Little Rock, Ark., and a Taylor, Mich., native, visits a memorial T-wall painting Oct. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, as a tribute to the Soldiers from the 724th Transportation Company who died as the result of an April 9, 2004 convoy attack.

security, so we are pulling security for recovery missions for KBR (Inc.), and we are also doing line haul missions. It is a viable mission and it is one that we have been training for, for the last six months.”

Haines, who was a sergeant first class and a platoon leader for the unit in 2004, said the mission was different on the last deployment.

“Last time we were here, we came under the premise of being a fuel transportation unit that brought petroleum and we ended up escorting KBR (Inc.) civilian fuelers throughout the mission,” said Haines.

Counihan said he would like his unit to take from the loss of those three Soldiers that, even though the enemy ac-

tions have decreased since the last deployment, the Soldiers need to remain vigilant and not become complacent.

“It gives them more of a sense of urgency toward the training environment, and ... when they get ready to go out on a mission,” said Counihan. “So if something good does come out of what happened, that is it.”

Haines said he is proud of his unit’s endurance, despite losing Soldiers in the past, and looks forward to the successful completion of its new mission in Iraq.

“We endure, the unit has endured,” said Haines. “That is just one chapter, it does not define who we are. Coming back over shows that we are still professional, we are here to do our job and we are answering the nation’s call again.”

Ordnance companies transition at Q-West

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. ROB STRAIN
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – The 351st Ordnance Detachment relinquished authority to the 163rd Ordnance Detachment during a ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center Oct. 27 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

In the past 10 months, the 351st Ord. Det. has been responsible for the ammunition supply point here, and has set the standard for the 163rd to follow, said Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander of the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“Today’s Army is the best trained,

best led and most capable in our Army’s history, and this unit is a prime example of this,” Dockery said during the ceremony. “Every Soldier in the 351st can be proud of the work they put in during this deployment.”

The detachment has safely moved more than 3,700 tons of ammunition and 1.2 million pounds of explosives, and accounted for nearly \$20 million of ammunition during its tenure here, said 1st Lt. Randall Holmes, commander of the 351st.

“You were still able to maintain your professionalism and improve on your military professional development,” Holmes, a Leesburg, Va., native, said to his Soldiers.

He said the 351st Soldiers took advantage of every type of military course offered at Q-West, as well as college and correspondence courses, which led to the promotion of nearly half of the detachment’s Soldiers.

“That’s because of the work you

First Lt. Randall Holmes, commander of the 351st Ordnance Detachment and a Leesburg, Va., native, and Sgt. 1st Class Gerald McIntyre, the detachment’s noncommissioned officer in charge and a Waynesboro, Pa., native, case the unit’s flag in preparation for redeployment back to home station during a ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center Oct. 27 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

did, your commitment to excellence,” Holmes said to the Soldiers.

Holmes said it can be easy to forget about the Soldiers running the ammunition supply point when everything is going smoothly, but food and water are not the only areas of logistics.

“In a combat zone you can make it weeks without food, days without water, but not one second without ammunition,” he said.

The 163rd Ord. Det. is an Army Reserve unit out of Irvine, Calif., and is commanded by Capt. Daniel Schilleci.

“This is what we’ve trained for, and



we have a huge mission ahead of us,” Schilleci, a Sherman Oaks, Calif., native, said. “Keep on task, maintain your discipline and keep your standards.”

Wagonmasters save taxpayers millions

STORY BY
SGT. MATTHEW C. COOLEY
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – The 15th Sustainment Brigade Wagonmasters, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), began Operation Clean Sweep at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, in mid October by finding \$2.9 million in excess equipment to reintroduce to the military supply system for reuse.

Army and Air Force personnel came together for the kickoff of the 15th Sust. Bde.'s program to rid Multi-National Division-North's units of unneeded equipment while saving the military time and money, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Adkins, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Clean Sweep representative for the 15th Sust. Bde.

The 15th, which is in charge of sustainment operations in MND-North, actually began Operation Clean Sweep at their home station, Fort Hood, Texas, Adkins said.

"We brought our program from Fort Hood to Iraq to support responsible drawdown," he said.

The program also helps units to reduce their footprint, he said, which should make it easier for them to leave Iraq when the time comes.

"We're getting ahead of the waterfall," said Adkins. "(Clean Sweep) takes weeks out of the process ... of moving."

The Clean Sweep team is made up of smaller teams that are assigned to individual companies. These help the company commanders to identify items the unit did not bring with them and are

not essential to the mission, he said.

"Basic supplies, components of items, repair parts, local purchase items – anything a unit has that's not required for their mission," he said. "Everything here was used at one point in time, but (the) mission changes and it becomes excess."

The extra equipment is separated by whether or not it is working or serviceable and then sent to Kuwait for further processing, or to another unit in Iraq that requested the particular item, said Adkins.

Adkins said the team processed 7,000 items during its first week at Q-West alone, though there is no way of knowing how many items will be placed back into the supply system or how much money will be saved when the operation is complete.

"We never know how much excess a unit has moved in on until we open the

containers," he said.

Even Soldiers at the lowest levels have a basic understanding of the importance of Clean Sweep.

"(We) make sure it gets back to the states and gets put back to use," said Spc. Cody Sharp, an A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms Brigade, force protection Soldier, and Thompson Falls, Mont., native.

HHC, 2/198th, a Mississippi National Guard unit, had \$270,000 worth of excess to turn in, said Spc. Phillip Sword, an HHC, a supply specialist with the unit and a Blue Springs, Miss., native.

Much of the excess was left by the previous unit and is no longer needed.

"We fell in on this ... and now we're trying to clean the place up," he said. "This makes it easier for another unit to close down this (base) when they come in."

37th Engineer Battalion inducts new NCOs

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 37th Engineer Battalion, 190th Engineer Brigade, held a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at 10 a.m. Oct. 24 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation east facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The 37th, out of Fort Bragg, N.C., inducted 73 NCOs at the ceremony.

These Soldiers are the next breed of NCO for the 37th Eng. Bn. and this event was held to recognize them, said Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne L. Durham, the command sergeant major of the 37th and a Henderson, N.C., native.

"The younger, newly inducted NCOs need to understand how important it is to be a noncommissioned officer," he said. "They have a new responsibility, and that responsibility is to be a leader."

This ceremony is recognition of the transition from young specialist to an NCO and leader, said Sgt. William S.

Wright, a team leader with C Company, 37th Eng. Bn. and a Gainesville, Fla., native.

"I want to continue my progression and pass the wisdom that my NCOs taught me on to my Soldiers, so they can become NCOs," he said.

These new NCOs need to learn not to be afraid to make mistakes, as long as they learn from them, said Durham.

"They are not going to be perfect, but they strive to be competent at everything they do," he said. "Good leaders learn from their mistakes and don't make the same mistakes twice."

An ideal noncommissioned officer is an NCO with strong intellect, physical presence, professional capabilities, high moral character and the ability to serve as a role model for subordinates on a day-to-day basis, said Command Sgt. Maj. Steven B. Winters, the command sergeant major for the 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team and a Fayetteville, N.C., native.

Noncommissioned officers act decisively according to the intent and purpose of their superior leaders and in



Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne L. Durham, the command sergeant major of the 37th Engineer Battalion, 190th Engineer Brigade and a Henderson, N.C., native, speaks at the 37th's noncommissioned officer induction ceremony Oct. 24 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation east facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The ceremony was held to recognize newly promoted NCOs.

the best interest of their organization, said Winters, the guest speaker for the event.

"It takes a special kind of Soldier to

be a noncommissioned officer," said Durham. "They have to be able to motivate, give purpose and direction regardless of the situation."

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Speicher preps for Operation Clean Sweep

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prepared for Operation Clean Sweep, set to

begin the first week of November at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq.

Operation Clean Sweep is an Army-wide initiative to turn in, repair, and redistribute supply items to best serve the needs of the Army.

As Multi-National Force-Iraq prepares for and executes the drawdown and relocation of equipment and personnel, Operation Clean Sweep facilitates the drawdown by identifying excess equipment and providing resources to rid units of their excess, said Maj. Jack Kredo, support operations officer, 267th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC.

“Units will bring in their excess, whether it’s in trucks or containers, it



Spc. Michael Salata, a unit supply specialist with C Company, 84th Engineers, 130th Engineer Brigade, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Todd Michael, a turn-in section specialist, with the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, inspect items at the Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq, supply support area in preparation for Operation Clean Sweep.

will be classified, shipped to Kuwait for onward movement to Afghanistan or back to the U.S. or transported to a warehouse for redistribution here in Iraq,” said Kredo, a Colorado Springs, Colo., native.

As the scheduled January elections near, MNF-I units are moving toward the drawdown while continuing to engage with their Iraqi counterparts.

While the majority of more than 130,000 troops and more than 100,000

contractors are scheduled to be out of Iraq by fall, 2010, the roughly 50,000 remaining personnel will require ongoing sustainment support, which will be provided in large part by units of the 13th ESC.

“These guys are setting conditions,” said Col. Larry Phelps, commander of the 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC. “We’re pretty excited about this.”

The coordinators anticipate the receipt of a lot of excess, but they are hoping to mitigate this by assisting units with the identification and turn in process, said Kredo.

Other units at COL Speicher will also be involved in Operation Clean Sweep.

The 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC, has already begun the turn-in process in preparation for Operation Clean Sweep.

Though the squadron has already identified and submitted \$6.3 million of excess, they expect to turn in an additional \$10 million in the course of the coming weeks, with the end result of the operation reaching \$60 million of excess equipment identified and turned in, said Capt. Marty Walton, logistics officer and a Peace Valley, Miss., native.

223rd Medical Detachment holds field sanitation course

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN L. TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers learned how to protect themselves from diseases, non-battle injuries and insects including spiders, and scorpions, and how to keep them out of food, water and clothing at a field sanitation course at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The 223rd Medical Detachment hosted the field sanitation course Oct. 19 through Oct. 22.

Diseases and non-battle injuries present additional risks to service members serving in combat zones, said Capt. Roberto Sanchez-Perez, the medical operations officer in charge with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas and a Humacao, Puerto Rico, native.

Sgt. Christina R. Marks, a 13th ESC food services specialist at Camelot, dining facility three, and a New Iberia, La., native, said she enjoyed the field sanitation training, which prepares Soldiers for field exercises, ensuring the health and safety of individuals while they are in the field.

As a cook, the training makes me more cautious and re-enforces hand washing by servicemembers, said Marks.

Staff Sgt. Misty M. Oppenheimer, the preventive medicine noncommissioned officer with the 223rd Medical Detachment out of Fort Carson, Colo., and a Bay

Springs, Miss., native, said she teaches the Soldiers how to inspect water buffaloes and water trucks so they have a safe, potable water source in the field.

Oppenheimer said she also teaches Soldiers to check food temperatures to ensure food is safe to consume.

The field sanitation team tests water for pesticides, metals and anything that could harm the Soldiers, said Oppenheimer.

The class informs Soldiers that they may be exposed to insects, spiders, centipedes, etc., which pose a medical threat, she said.

Permethrin, which helps repel flies and mosquitoes, is used to treat the standard-issue Army combat uniform, said Oppenheimer. They cannot treat the flame-resistant ACUs, she said.

Marks said she plans to pass the training on to her Soldiers to prepare them for sanitation risks.

“I just believe every unit should have a field sanitation team,” she said. “It is outstanding training, vital to the Army and to (maintaining) the Soldiers’ health.”

Oppenheimer said she has taught the field sanitation course for six years.

“I try to incorporate other things for the Soldiers to make sure they get as much hands-on training as possible,” she said.

Sanchez-Perez said when the 40-hour training course is completed, service members will be able to implement basic preventive sanitation techniques for water buffaloes, water trucks and field kitchens, and know how to treat uni-



Sgt. Christina R. Marks, a food services specialist at Camelot, dining facility three, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, and a New Iberia, La., native, inspects a water buffalo for rust during a field sanitation class Oct. 19 through Oct. 22 at the 223rd Medical Detachment at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

forms against pests.

He said the units should have a basic knowledge of preventive measures to minimize diseases and non-battle injuries such as hot-weather injuries, cold-weather injuries, vector-borne diseases and water-borne diseases.

Vector-borne diseases can include mosquitoes that transmit malaria or sand flies that transmit leishmaniasis, said Oppenheimer.

She said when she goes to other contingency operating locations, it helps her if the field sanitation team has done its job. This, in return, allows her team to do

its job effectively, checking soil, water and air samples, she said.

She said she expects the Soldiers to instruct their commanders how to check a facility’s level of sanitation, and whether or not that facility is safe for service members.

“I expect them to be able to go back to their units, and their commander, and be an active field sanitation member. I try to make that my goal, to educate these Soldiers as much as I can,” said Oppenheimer.

The next class is scheduled to be held Nov. 16 through Nov. 19.

1161st Transportation Co. works, trains hard

STORY BY
SPC. BREANNA EDEN
96TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Soldiers with the maintenance section of the 1161st Transportation Company, with the Washington Army National Guard, keep their hands greasy providing maintenance support to the 1161st Task Force Cougars.

The 1161st has roughly 150 vehicles and trailers. Sgt. 1st Class Tommy Million, the maintenance sergeant with the 1161st, out of Ephrata, Wash., said the section most often deals with flat tires and vehicle recoveries.

"With only 11 Soldiers assigned to the section, the maintenance team has a heavy workload," said Million. "The section is constantly working to overcome that challenge."

Since arriving at Camp Taji, the section completed 25 scheduled services as

well as 74 non-mission capable repairs per month on average, Million said. This equates to roughly 3,360 hours of labor, he said.

The maintenance section provided support to more than 120 convoys, said Million. It provides recovery support to the 1161st Trans. Co. as well as the 96th Transportation Company and 498th Transportation Company, he said.

Million said the mechanics participated in combat logistics patrols and enjoy training on the road.

In addition to completing counter-improvised explosive device level two training, combat lifesaver certification and recertification, the mechanics also completed a 40-hour Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected training class that focused on the electrical components and the unit maintenance repairs of the MRAP.

They also completed a two-day class sponsored by the 776th Maintenance Company, which allowed them hands-on experience with these vehicles. The

class itself consisted of MRAP recovery operations.

In an effort to share their skills, the maintenance section supplied Soldiers to help instruct a week-long bonding and welding class for Soldiers in the Iraqi Army. First Lt. Anthony Latham, the officer in charge of the Logistic Training Advisory Team for the General Transportation Regiment said the U.S. Soldiers taught the IA Soldiers Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety standards, including wearing eye protection, protective gloves and welding aprons while welding to protect them from sparks.

"The Soldiers from the GTR were taught the basic fundamentals of welding by the Soldiers of the 1161st maintenance section," said Latham, a Spokane, Wash., native. "This reach back to our home unit for support has been key in teaching specific skills, and it allows Soldiers the chance to get out and see how the Iraqis do business."

Fellow Soldiers from the 1161st un-

derstand the importance of the maintenance section and the customer service they provide. Sgt. 1st Class Jason Hunt, third platoon sergeant with the 1161st and a Priest River, Idaho, native, said the section has helped the unit's platoons out of some tough situations.

"The trucks that the company took over from the previous unit have been in country for a long time," Hunt said. "Maintenance has worked many times until (2 a.m.) or even (3 a.m.), fixing faults to help make trucks mission capable. The mechanics are always available to help out."

The maintenance Soldiers attend pre-mission convoy line-ups to ensure no last minute problems keep convoys from meeting their start times, he said.

"They have even fixed the AC and electrical problems just minutes before the convoy had to roll out the gate," Hunt said. "The drivers of the 1161st are lucky to have a maintenance section that is so knowledgeable and dedicated to the success of the mission."

Chaplain assistants conduct monthly training at JBB

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Chaplain assistants with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, held a monthly training session at which members participated in role-playing scenarios and exchanged ideas Oct. 28 at the Provider Chapel annex.

Master Sgt. Michael I. Bair, 13th ESC command noncommissioned officer in charge of chaplain assistants, said he provides advice to the command chaplain about issues and provides training for all chaplain assistants.

"My job is to give mentoring and training to all brigade and battalion chaplain assistants," said Bair. "The meetings enable us to provide mentoring time, provide fellowship amongst the chaplain assistants and reinforce their particular skills as a chaplain assistant."

Bair, a Fredericksburg, Va., native, said he enjoys helping people and being a chaplain assistant gives him the opportunity to give back to Soldiers.

"We have a unique opportunity to protect our right of freedom of religion by assuring Soldiers have opportunities



Sgt. Matthew F. Carpenter, chaplain assistant with the 90th Sustainment Brigade and a Portales, N.M., native, and Master Sgt. Michael I. Bair, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) command noncommissioned officer in charge of chaplain assistants and a Fredericksburg, Va., native, take part in a role-playing exercise during the chaplain assistant training class Oct. 28 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

to practice their faith," he said.

Spc. Michael P. Robbins, 13th ESC garrison chaplain assistant and a Vincennes, Ind., native, said he oversees the three Army chapels on JBB, making sure services are available to various faiths and managing events at Provider Chapel.

"I coordinate events at the chapel and chapel annex and negotiate time frames for the events, but the worship services take precedence over all the other events and services that we provide," he said.

Robbins, who also previously conducted this training, said the event defi-

nitely helps and is a good tool.

"This helps us re-engage the skills that we learned in advanced individual training and allows us to be fresh and more effective," he said.

Bair said the chaplain assistants have a unique job in the Army.

"I started off my Army career being a chaplain's assistant for a light infantry unit that was constantly in the field," he said. "We are like a commander's staff all rolled into one. We provide the logistics, movement and the protection of the chaplain."

Bair said they shape the environment for religious support.

"CAs do a lot of the grunt work so that chaplains can spend more time with Soldiers," he said.

Robbins said chaplain assistants are thrown in a lot of different situations.

"This job has its ups and downs," he said. "It is a wonderful feeling knowing that you have helped someone. However, we also have to deal with other issues such as death or people dying and that is very tough to deal with."

"You have to be flexible. Whether it's helping Soldiers kick down doors to building bridges, we have to be where the troops are and that is our ultimate goal."

Check out the 96th Sust. Bde. online

See the Web site at:
www.96thsbde.com

332nd



13th



194th



90th



49th



402nd



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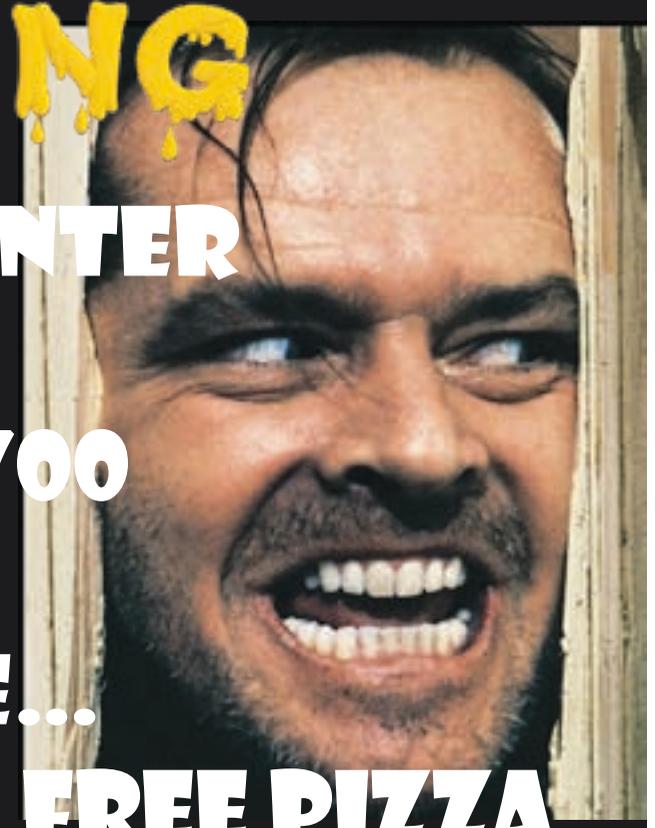
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Motor pool team maintains unit readiness

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHANNIS PARRIS
96TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 271st Human Resources Company Motor Pool Section, with the Special Troops Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has been condensed, but it is still going strong at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Although the motor pool originally consisted of 11 wheeled vehicle mechanics, three power generator equipment repairers, one automated logistical specialist and a motor sergeant, only five Soldiers remain.

Due to mission requirements and the lack of personnel in the unit, several mechanics were sent to other sections, including the Emergency Operation

Center, orderly room, supply section, Army postal offices and mobile postal missions.

The five remaining Soldiers maintain more than 25 pieces of equipment. These personnel perform annual services of all vehicles, some of them with no prior services, and correct all the deficiencies detected during technical inspections.

Even with few mechanics, the team completed the mission to standard, said Staff Sgt. Oscar Lopez, a shop foreman.

“It was hard work but we accomplished the mission, working hard and long days with a determined amount of mechanics,” said Lopez. “The mission was completed and up to standards ... The motivation helped us out through the days; they are just outstanding Soldiers and great team players.”

Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Alvarez, 271st motor sergeant and a San Juan, Puerto



Rico, native, said the Soldiers exhibited cohesion and team work.

“Demonstrating such qualities, these outstanding Soldiers performed

Spc. Adyel Aponte, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 271st Human Resources Company, Special Troops Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bayamon, Puerto Rico, native, repairs the chain of a forklift.

all their duties in an efficient, timely manner,” said Alvarez.

With professionalism, dedication and motivation, the team proved every task can be accomplished.

“All the Soldiers of the motor pool maintained a positive attitude in all the changes that they encountered during their time in Camp Liberty, remaining flexible and motivated at all times and making every mission a successful one,” Alvarez said. “All of their actions contributed to the extraordinary achievement of the section, maintaining an average readiness of 95 percent.”

Lion Airmen patrol outside to protect inside

STORY BY AIR FORCE
STAFF SGT. J.G. BUZANOWSKI
AFCENT COMBAT CAMERA TEAM

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Some Airmen keep their friends close and their enemies as far away from their base as possible.

Every day, the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron's force protection patrol Lions travel outside of Joint Base Balad to provide a security presence that aims to deter anyone who would do harm to the people who live and work here.

The Lions are the only Air Force defenders who conduct outside-the-wire missions specifically tasked with protecting an air base in Iraq or Afghanistan.

By patrolling the fields, farmlands and neighboring villages, it is more difficult for insurgents to get close enough to launch mortars or rockets at the base, said Capt. Lucas Hall, the officer in charge of the force protection patrol section.

“We've had a 52 percent reduction in indirect fire and a 40 percent reduction in small-arms fire at overhead aircraft since last year,” said Hall, deployed from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. “We're directly contributing to making this area of Iraq a lot safer with these patrols. It's all about denying terrain to our enemies.”

The Airmen have also captured myriad weapons caches and discovered numerous improvised explosive devices before they could be used against Coalition forces.

Hall said the program draws inspiration from Operation Safe Side, a Security Forces mission during Vietnam that called for Airmen to defend air bases in Southeast Asia.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael B. Keller

Airmen from the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Lions search a field during a force protection patrol Oct. 17 outside Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 532nd ESFS patrols outside JBB to provide a security presence intended to deter anyone who would do harm to the people who live and work here.

The patrols “provide a positive presence,” Hall said. The Airmen regularly talk to local Iraqis face to face, instead of just riding through villages in convoys – a practice consistent with their training in counterinsurgency techniques, Iraqi culture and basic Arabic language.

Tech. Sgt. Emmett Mack III, a squad leader, said Iraqis who live near the base are reassured by the patrols as well.

“They don't want violence in their villages and homes, so if we're friendly

with them, they're more likely to work with us,” said Mack, deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. “We talk to the locals and if they have needs that aren't being met, we work with the Army teams who are handling that aspect of the mission. But our job helps them as well as us.”

Senior Airman Brendan Cunniff, deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., has seen the effect of working directly with the locals during combat patrols. He is a turret gunner on his third

deployment to Balad, his fourth overall.

“We don't get mortared nearly as much as we used to,” Cunniff said. “A lot of that is because of these patrols. (Locals) see us every day and if people know you, they're less likely to want to see you get hurt.”

Force protection patrols are an essential part of the security plan at Balad, Mack said.

“We all have a mission to do,” he said. “Ours is to keep everyone safe so they can do theirs.”

Providers assist with redistribution of armor assets

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION CALDWELL, Iraq – The mass movement of equipment across Iraq for units leaving and coming to the country is a complex process involving the support and coordination of various elements.

“(Third Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment) is redeploying and we’re repositioning all the equipment down South for the (3rd Brigade with the 3rd Infantry Division),” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donnie Black, a mobility warrant officer with the 49th Transportation Battalion, 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The vehicles being redistributed were pushed to the Contingency Operating Locations D and E, said Black, a Sweet Water, Ala., native. There the 3/3rd ID will serve as an advisory assistance brigade in that region, he said.

To conduct the movement



Spc. Carl Raymer, a movement control supervisor with 858th Movement Control team and a Gladwin, Mich., native, and Sgt. Sean Ribbins, a movement control supervisor with the 969th MCT and a Belleville, Ill., native, check the serial number of a Humvee Oct. 26 at Contingency Operating Location Caldwell, Iraq. The serial numbers need to match the transportation requests before the equipment is loaded onto convoys bound to Contingency Operating Locations D and E.

operations, specialized units made up of three sustainment brigades with the 13th ESC were used, said 1st Lt. Randall Krug, a chief movement supervisor with the 858th Movement Control Team with the 49th Trans. Bn. The 15th Sustainment Brigade and 96th Sustainment Brigade tasked out their heavy equip-

ment transportation assets to move the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles from Caldwell, he said.

From the 90th Sust. Bde., inbound sustainment convoys bring supplies and leave with cargo. The 49th Trans. Bn. and their MCTs coordinate these convoys from other COLs to Caldwell.

“The complexity of the operation is due to the fact that all the cargo is not going to a single location,” said Krug. “So every detail needs to be checked to make sure all the cargo goes to the right destination.”

Ground operations are led by the MCTs and the 3/66 mobility advisers, who oversee the cargo, said Sgt. Sean Robbins, a movement control supervisor with the 969th MCT. The MCTs track, document and log all cargo leaving COL Caldwell, he said.

“We don’t touch the cargo or move the cargo,” said Robbins, a Belleville, Ill., native. “We make sure it gets onto the right trucks and goes where it’s suppose to.”

Robbins said the MCT in Caldwell coordinates with other MCTs overseeing inbound convoys from the other COLs. This coordination lessens the chance of congested roadways, he said.

“If the roadways have heavy traffic from passing two convoys, this will add even more time to the overall travel,” said Robbins.

With coordinating the convoys, the other major task is

generating the transportation movement requests to load and transport the cargo, said Krug, a Bad Axe, Mich., native.

“Whatever cargo is going, all the (serial) numbers have to match the ones on the TMRs,” said Krug. “If the cargo is loaded with the wrong numbers to track it, it can get frustrated and then lost in the system.”

“The trucks are loaded with what equipment we’ve designated to move. All trucks that come to Caldwell will leave with as much equipment as we can safely put on it. To not put something on a truck is a waste of available resource.”

Managing the paperwork for the convoys and tracking the equipment they carry presents the greatest challenge, said Spc. Carl Raymer, a transport movement supervisor with the 858th MCT and a Gladwin, Mich., native.

Once the trucks are loaded, they are staged and prepared for the next leg of the mission to COLs E and D, said Raymer.

Black said there have been no major delays in the operation, or incidents with the convoy movements.

General visits US Army Europe Soldiers at Balad

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Gen. Carter F. Ham, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, visited Soldiers Oct. 25 here at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Ham has visited Iraq before and, during this visit, he said the progress Iraq has made toward its defense is clear.

“I’ve had the chance to come back to Iraq several times over the past couple years,” said Ham, a 33-year Army Veteran. “Every time I come back I see dramatic change. What’s fundamentally different this time than ... several months ago is it’s very, very evident that the Iraqi’s are increasingly in charge and responsible for their own security. That’s only been possible because of the hard work and the sacrifice of hundred’s of thousands of American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.”

During this visit, Ham said he intended to meet his Soldiers, to try and hone in on their needs and gauge their morale.

He visited the 2nd Battalion, 159th Attack Reconnaissance, 23rd Ordnance Company, 72nd Expeditionary

Signal Battalion and the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“My visit this time, particularly here at Joint Base Balad, is to see U.S. Army Europe-based units, some of which are newly arrived, some like the 23rd Ordnance Company here are at the end of their deployment,” said Ham.

The general said he wanted to talk to the troops to gain first-hand lessons, to better serve U.S. Army Europe Soldiers and Families in the future.

“First of all, what do we need to do better to prepare future units for deployment?” said Ham, during a town hall-style meeting with the Soldiers from the 23rd Ordnance Company. “Secondly, what are the things that we ought to be doing better to sustain the Soldiers and their Families while units are deployed? And, thirdly, in preparing to receive units back into U.S. Army Europe, into Germany and Italy, when they come home, what are the things we need to do to make sure we’ve got the conditions set for their reintegration?”

Thanks to the town-hall dialogue, the general said he will take away lessons learned to further assist units during upcoming deployments and redeployments in support of Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.



Gen. Carter F. Ham, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, took questions during a town hall-style meeting with the Soldiers from the 23rd Ordnance Company Oct. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“This is a great discussion today with the 23rd Ordnance Company, who has accomplished a lot over the past 12 months that they’ve been in Iraq,” said Ham. “Understandably, as they get ready to leave Iraq and come back to Germany, lots of their questions were about the future of their unit and their community.”

Ham thanked the Soldiers with the 23rd for their hard work and dedica-

tion, and delivered a message to them and their Families.

He said, “I know their Family and friends are anxious to receive them in Germany. The Soldiers are ready to come home. They’re coming home with their heads held high, after accomplishing a great mission to very high standards, and I could not be more proud of all that this company has done.”

96th Sust. Bde. assumes



Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade and a Layton, Utah, native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs, the senior enlisted adviser to the 96th Sust. Bde. and a Roy, Utah, native, uncse the brigade's flag in a ceremony Oct. 14 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The 96th Sust. Bde. is replacing the 10th Sustainment Brigade and will provide support to Multi-National Division-Baghdad throughout the next year.

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. RICHMOND BARKEMEYER
96TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The 96th Sustainment Brigade made history Oct. 13 in a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq, officially marking the



brigade's entrance into Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The brigade, out of Salt Lake City, Utah, is taking command from the departing 10th Sustainment Brigade, out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Task Force Deadeye will spend roughly one year at Camp Taji, supporting Multi-National Division-Baghdad.



Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade and a Layton, Utah, native, speaks at a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 14 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Blue Diamond Battalion

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The 96th Sustainment Brigade's Special Troops Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), unveiled its colors in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 9 at Camp Taji, Iraq, officially marking the unit's assumption of responsibility here.

The Blue Diamond Battalion replaced the 10th Sustainment Brigade's Troops Battalion out of Fort Drum, N.Y., which arrived at Camp Taji in November 2008.

In a speech given shortly after the transfer was complete, Lt. Col. Sean Cannon, commander of the 96th STB and a Rexburg, Idaho, native, spoke highly of the outgoing unit.

"My staff and I have gained a great appreciation for the diligence of the Soldiers of this, our sister battalion, the 10th (Sust. Bde. STB) Gators," said Cannon. "I can assure you that each and every one of us is awed by

the ease with which you accomplished your daily tasks that we are now struggling to learn."

Cannon also spoke about how he plans to effectively deal with the challenges facing his battalion in the next year.

"The mission we face may change significantly from that of the 10th, particularly as we implement the responsible withdrawal," he said. "We will only get through the challenges by working together as companies and staff, both at the battalion and brigade level, sharing information and best practices, cross-training, maintaining open lines of communication, and most importantly, dealing with each other with an attitude of patience and more than a touch of humor on occasion. At the end of the day it's all about maintaining a good attitude and helping others, rather than thinking about ourselves."



Lt. Col. Sean Cannon, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade's Special Troops Battalion, Rexburg, Idaho, native, and Command Sgt. Major Christopher Beyer, the senior enlisted adviser to the 96th STB, uncse the battalion's flag in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 9 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The 96th STB replaced the 10th Sustainment Brigade's Troops Battalion, which arrived at Camp Taji in Nov.

authority at Camp Taji

The 96th assumed command over one brigade special troops battalion and four combat sustainment support battalions, a total of more than 3,800 Soldiers from 34 states, said Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sust. Bde. and a Layton, Utah, native. The brigade will provide logistical support to more than 120,000 people in Iraq, he said.

In a speech

given shortly after the transfer of authority was complete, Read thanked the outgoing brigade and promised to maintain the high standards set by the 10th Sust. Bde. Muleskinners.

Read also challenged his Soldiers to lead by example, live the Army values and “make life-changing goals that leave a legacy that they and their families will be proud of.”

Col. Mark Drake, commander of the 10th Sust. Bde. and a St. Paul, Minn., native, also spoke during the ceremony, thanking his troops for their hard work in the previous year.

“All your efforts focused on the single objective to support and sustain the customer and you did that magnificently,” said Drake.

This is the unit’s first deployment to Iraq since it was reorganized as a

sustainment brigade in September 2008.

On July 5th, 2009, the newly formed 96th deployed to Fort Hood, Texas, for mobilization and deployment in-processing and training, achieving full mission capability in August 2009.

Shortly thereafter, the brigade traveled to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for theater-specific training.

Brigade combat patching ceremony

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Soldiers of the 96th Sustainment Brigade received their wartime shoulder sleeve insignia, commonly referred to as a combat patch, in a ceremony held Oct. 12 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The ceremony marked the first time the double diamond patch has been used during Operation Iraqi Freedom since the 96th Sust. Bde. was created in September 2008.

“I had never really thought about getting a combat patch,” said Spc. Jesse Flink, an administrative clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company and a South Jordan, Utah, native. “This is my first patch and my first deployment. I hadn’t thought about what a historical moment it is. It’s a big deal.”

Flink, who has been in the Army Reserve less than two years, said he attended the ceremony because he was excited to witness and participate in his first patching ceremony.

“They gave us a lot of good informa-

tion about who we are and why we’re here,” he said. “It’s not just about Utah; this patch has a lot of meaning.”

The shoulder insignia of the 96th Sust. Bde. is a white diamond and an overlapping blue diamond, both superimposed over a hexagonal patch with a khaki background.

The right shoulder-sleeve insignia

is awarded to personnel who were assigned, attached to, or under the operational control of a division-level or higher unit that actively participated in, or supported, ground combat operations against hostile forces in which they were exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, directly or indirectly.



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Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade and a Layton, Utah, native, returns a salute after receiving his combat patch from deputy commander Maj. Anthony Francia, a resident of Guam, in a ceremony Oct. 11. The 96th Sust. Bde. recently assumed control of support operations at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Spc. Araceli Balderaz receives her combat patch from Command Sgt. Major Vicki Briggs, the senior enlisted adviser with the 96th Sustainment Brigade and a Roy, Utah, native, during a patching ceremony Oct. 11. Balderaz, a Mcallen, Texas, native, is a support operations effects specialist with the 96th Sust. Bde.

For new US citizens, Soldier's Creed rings true

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. ROB STRAIN
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
LOCATION Q-



WEST, Iraq – The first line of the Soldier's Creed is one many Soldiers take for granted.

"I am an American Soldier," they say.

Spc. Yochanah Best, a paralegal specialist with the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said those words stuck out in her mind when she first joined the Army.

When she got to basic training and learned the Soldier's Creed, she said she thought to herself, "I am a Soldier – serving in the American Army, not an

American Soldier."

Best was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and eventually moved to New York, but she did not become a U.S. citizen until 2008.

"Once I became a citizen, I could truly say, 'I am an American Soldier,'" Best said.

Most people who come to the United States want to improve their lives, she said.

"We want to be a part of the American dream," said Best.

Second Lt. Felix Perez, the plans and operations officer for the brigade personnel section, said the process for Soldiers to become citizens is considerably smoother while deployed.

"It's easier and faster (than applying in the States)," Perez, a Lajas, Puerto Rico, native, said.

The whole process can take up to a year from the time Soldiers submit the paperwork, he said.

The average amount of time

is six months, said Best.

Perez said there are no time-in-service requirements for deployed active-duty Soldiers. However, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers must have at least one year of service to apply for citizenship, he said.

There are a number of benefits to citizenship, said Best, including social security, a U.S. passport and even some scholarships.

Perez said many military occupational specialties or advanced schools require a security clearance and without citizenship, Soldiers cannot get a clearance.

Aside from the tangible benefits, there are other, more personal reasons to pursue U.S. citizenship, said Best.

"It's a pride thing," she said. "It was a big step to the next part of my life."

Best encouraged every Soldier interested in becoming a



Spc. Yochanah Best, a paralegal specialist with the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (expeditionary), works on her computer Oct. 23 at the Soldier Services Center at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Best became a U.S. citizen last year and now helps other Soldiers through the process as a paralegal specialist.

U.S. citizen to apply while deployed, especially since the normal processing fees, which are nearly \$600, are waived.

For more information on becoming a U.S. citizen while deployed, see the unit personnel or legal office.

Sheriff Cell 17 takes care of convoy emergencies

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Convoys arrive at, depart from and pass through one of Iraq's primary logistics hubs, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, every day.

Sheriff Cell 17 serves as the emergency response cell for those convoys and any other convoy in northern Iraq, from JBB to Habur Gate.

Sgt. Charles B. Zamarron, a Sheriff Cell 17 battle noncommissioned officer for the 969th Movement Control Team out of Belleville, Ill., with the 49th Transportation Battalion, 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) works the night shift for Sheriff Cell 17 at JBB.

"The sheriff cell is a 911 contact-relay station for all convoys

incoming and out-going to JBB if anything should occur on the road, be it (improvised explosive device), (unexploded ordnance), small arms fire – any type of action that occurs on the main supply routes, we are contacted, and then we contact ... any personnel that they might need," said Zamarron, a Shiloh, Ill., native.

Service members who work in Sheriff Cell 17 work 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, to monitor the convoys as they travel through Iraq.

"My specific duty is to take care of the (radio transmitter operators) and make sure that they are doing their job to monitor the systems that we have," said Zamarron.

Zamarron said if any of the convoy commanders come in, it is his job to brief them on the latest intelligence and verify their call signs, start time, destination and number of personnel and vehicles.

Sheriff Cell 17 is one of the



Spc. Ryan McClure, a radio transmission operator at Sheriff Cell 17 with the 858th Movement Control team out of Belleville, Ill., and a Bridgeport, Ill., native, operates one of the tracking devices, the blue force tracker, in Sheriff Cell 17 Oct. 26 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

operations at JBB that is joint-service operated, he said.

"Teamwork is very important here at Sheriff 17," said Zamarron. "Everybody works in conjunction with everyone;

we've got a good rapport going with all the guys. As stressful as it can get, everybody seems to handle it very well. They are very knowledgeable; they have been trained up very well."

When an emergency arises, his team can usually handle it within 25 to 30 minutes, he said.

Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Martinez, a radio transmission operator at Sheriff Cell 17 with the 52nd Movement Control Team, said working with radios takes him out of his comfort zone because it is not equipment the Air Force uses.

Martinez, an Oklahoma City native, said he enjoys interacting with the convoys and the Army.

"I think it goes well as a joint task," he said. "I get to learn, myself, from the Army's perspective ... and then, hopefully, they get to learn from me."

One of the key things to remember if an incident should occur is to maintain military bearing and not panic, said Martinez.

"It is very important for you to stay calm," he said. "If you start freaking out, the convoy starts freaking out."

SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Cartoonists visit Q-West, draw stories from troops

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS
2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq — Five cartoonists and caricaturists on a tour sponsored by the United Service Organizations and the National Cartoonists Society entertained troops Oct. 20 at the main dining facility at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

Garry Trudeau, Jeff Keane, Stephan Pastis, Chip Bok and Tom Richmond spent two hours talking with and drawing for long lines of service members.

"We deeply appreciate visits like this," said Lt. Col. William B. Smith, Jr., mayor of Q-West and a Hattiesburg, Miss., native. "Their drawings entertained the troops, but they showed they cared by talking with the troops, by listening. This was a great stress reliever."

The five visitors were among 10 artists on a weeklong tour of bases in the region, said Jeremy Wilcox, tour manager out of the USO World Headquarters in Arlington, Va.

The trip began in Germany with visits to Ramstein Air Base, Rheinland-Pfalz, and the Wounded Warrior Center at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl. In Kuwait, the tour stopped at Camp Virginia, Camp Buehring and Ali Al Salem Air Base, and spent two days in Iraq, said Wilcox.

The 10 artists divided into two groups so the tour could visit as many bases as possible, he said.

"We try to make sure both groups have a balance of caricaturists and cartoonists so we can take advantage of everybody's strengths," said Wilcox.

Command Sgt. Major Perry Campbell, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms Brigade out of Senatobia, Miss., said the event lifted the spirits of the troops.

"Our Soldiers really enjoyed the cartoonists, and the entertainment was a great morale booster," said Campbell, a Senatobia, Miss., native. "I think most of them will be sending these drawings home to bring a smile to their families. Mr. Bok did a funny drawing of me that I'm going to send to my wife so she can laugh at it."

Bok, an editorial cartoonist from Akron, Ohio, said he wanted to come to Iraq for a long time.

"I wanted to embed early in the war, to actually see first-hand what it's really like over here, but I was unable," said Bok. "Instead, I sat in my office and read about it in the paper, on the Internet, (watched) it on the news. I am glad to come here finally. Being here makes it real, helps me understand the conditions on the ground."

Bok said he was grateful to bring cheer to the troops.

"Drawing satirical cartoons is pretty much a negative art," he said. "My job is to tear things down, so I am happy to

get the chance to give a drawing to make someone feel good."

One Soldier Bok cheered up was Capt. John L. Moore, the officer in charge of badging for the Mayor Cell.

"I enjoyed sitting down for a few minutes and talking to Mr. Bok," said Moore, of Caledonia, Miss. "He was very supportive of the military. I'm sending my family the drawing he did of me. My wife and kids will get a kick out of that. I had a great time and it was a great event."

Tom Richmond, a satirical illustrator for Mad Magazine, said he felt a strong conviction to participate in this tour.

"I had personal reasons for wanting to come," said Richmond, a native of Burnsville, Minn. "I wanted to give something back to people risking their lives in the service of our country. I can't give much, my time and talent, but I feel privileged to give what I can."

First Lt. Krishina Y. Turnipseed, billet-



Satirical cartoonist Tom Richmond, with Mad Magazine, draws a caricature of a Soldier Oct. 20 during a visit to Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Richmond was among five cartoonists and caricaturists who entertained troops at the main dining facility. Along with Richmond, Garry Trudeau, Jeff Keane, Stephan Pastis and Chip Bok spent from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. talking with and drawing for long lines of service members.

ing officer in charge for the Mayor Cell, said she waited an hour for the chance to meet one of the cartoonists.

"They were very popular, considering how long the lines were," said Turnipseed, from Starkville, Miss. "I think it was very generous that they came. They put themselves in harm's way to support us and it was a great event."

Jeff Keane, who draws "The Family Circus," a cartoon his father Bill Keane created, said it was important to show support for the troops.

"It's really a minor thing for a bunch of cartoonists to come work like this for people dedicating their lives for the country," said Keane, president of the National Cartoonists Society and a Laguna Hills, Calif., native. "Family Circus' is like a little bit of home, and I'm grateful to share it."

Drawing pictures of Jeffy, the character his father based on him, Keane said this entertainment tour was something of a family tradition.

"My dad went to Vietnam and did drawings for the troops and it stuck with me all these years, him doing that," he said. "So I was determined to follow his lead and in my role as president of the NCS, I gave this tour as much support as I could."

The cartoonists seldom see each other, so the tour was both a reunion and a time of fellowship, said Keane.

"Being a cartoonist is an isolated life, so having 10 days to be together with fellow cartoonists is wonderful," he said. "We hear all these incredible stories from the troops and we get together each night and share the stories we've heard. It's inspirational for us and we get a lot out of it."

This willingness to ask questions and listen to the answers pleasantly surprised Capt. J.J. Hatcher, officer in charge of the 2/198th CAB Mayor Cell water team.

"Jeff Keane was so personable," said

mal training.

"I am a much better writer than an artist," he said. "I see myself first as a writer. There's a saying in cartooning, 'Good writing will carry bad art, but good art will not carry bad writing.'"

Garry Trudeau, creator of 'Doonesbury,' said the tour directly relates to developments in his comic strip, especially in the recent story of longstanding character, B.D., now an Iraq War amputee.

"The story of wounded veterans is important to me, and that's been my focus" said Trudeau. "B.D.'s injuries gave me a relevant, respectful and creative way to enter the lives of wounded warriors. It may seem illogical, but it allows me to draw further attention to serious results of this war, such as the common traumatic brain injury. With B.D.'s rehabilitation in Veteran centers, I can describe the nature of the sacrifice some of our countrymen and women are making in our name."

Trudeau, a New York native, said doors opened immediately after he published the strip in which an explosion injures B.D. in the first battle of Fallujah.

"The day after B.D. got injured, the (Department of Defense) phoned and invited me to visit Walter Reed (Army Medical Center)," said Trudeau. "I guess they wanted to make sure that I described the rehabilitation process accurately, and the story of B.D.'s injuries has helped me earn people's trust. Visiting with wounded Vets, my goal is to entertain, using humor as a way to keep despair at bay, of making difficult subjects bearable. It's a challenge for a satirist, for mostly we cause pain; we don't describe pain. For my writing, this has been a rolling experiment in naturalism. This is a fantastic experience for me."

The tour is also field research for Trudeau, he said, to help him tell stories of service members.

"My characters are the tools of my craft and nothing more," Trudeau said. "I try to build them sturdy but I remain dispassionate about them. After all, B.D. loses a leg, which is an awful thing to do to a character but useful for what it allows me to explore and say. I do a fair amount of research in creating a country for my characters to inhabit and that's one of the reasons this visit is so important to me. Being here helps me achieve my ultimate purpose, which is to tell the stories of people sacrificing for us. I can ask questions and hear their stories."

Maj. John Herd, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation for the 2/198th Mayor Cell, said the event was the best he has seen in two deployments.

"The USO really sent us a great entertainment event," said Herd, a Florence, Miss., native. "This turned out to be more of a success than I anticipated. During my two deployments, one to Afghanistan and now in Iraq, this was the highest quality event I have experienced. The troops had the chance to spend one-on-one time with their favorite cartoonist, and the cartoonists focused on the troops, asking questions and really listening to the answers. This was a class act."

Hatcher, a Clarksville, Tenn., native. "While he was drawing, he asked about my family and about me. He asked me about my schooling and my military training, about my civilian job and how well my military training prepared me for the job I'm doing here. It was a good conversation, and I was surprised that he really seemed to listen. The whole event was great for morale. I'm sending the drawing he did of Jeffy home to my wife who loves 'The Family Circus.'"

Stephan Pastis, creator of "Pearls Before Swine," said the tour would have a powerful impact on his ideas and writing.

"Every experience you have affects you, and the greater the experience the greater the affect," said Pastis, a Santa Rosa, Calif., native. "This visit is going to have a significant impact on my writing. It gives me many ideas I would not have had otherwise."

Pastis said he left a nine-year career as a lawyer to become a full-time cartoonist, a career change for which he had no for-

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Craig Morgan, Chris Young electrify Holt Stadium

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Country music stars Craig Morgan and Chris Young, and Great American Country host Nan Kelley treated service members to a night of country music and hospitality Oct. 29 at Holt Stadium at Joint Base Balad.

The event was sponsored by Stars for Stripes, a non-profit organization that provides entertainment to internationally deployed troops.

Kelley, GAC host, said this was her first time in Iraq.

“We received a phone call from Stars for Stripes to do the show and it was a resounding ‘yes,’” said Kelley. “After that, Stars for Stripes did all the leg work.”

She said it was a privilege and an honor for the group to tour for service members.

According to Morgan’s Web site, the Stars for Stripes tour will visit military bases and hospitals in Iraq and Germany this month for a series of acoustic concerts by recording artist’s Morgan and Young.

The concerts were dedicated to Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Lilley and re-

tired Sgt. 1st Class Joseph L. Bowser.

Lilley, with the 343rd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base and a Roswell, N.M., native, was stationed in Baghdad in 2007 when he was injured in an attack during a convoy.

“Judy Sill from Stars for Stripes visited me in the hospital at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where I was recovering,” said Lilley. “She later called me and invited both myself and my father on the tour.”

Lilley, who was initially treated for his injuries at JBB, thanked all Army medics for saving his life the day he was injured.

Lilley said the concert was awesome and he had a good time.

“I told my dad he was crazy for wanting to come here, but he wanted to be a part of where I had been before and thank all the service members for what they do every day and what they had done for me that day,” said Lilley.

Bowser, who was injured at JBB in an indirect fire attack, rehabilitated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington for nearly two years.

Bowser, who had lost his leg during the attack, said he wanted to thank the medic who took care of him that day, but he never got the chance.

In an address before the concert,



Country musician Craig Morgan performs one of his hit singles during the Stars for Stripes tour Oct. 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Morgan is one of the artists performing a month long tour at bases and hospitals throughout Germany and Iraq.

Bowser lifted up his pant leg to show the audience the American flag on his prosthetic leg.

“All of you wear the American flag on your right shoulder, and this is now where I wear mine,” said Bowser.

The audience applauded his display. Spc. Benjamin R. Ferris, 49th Transportation Battalion, command driver and a Battle Creek, Mich., native, said he knew this would be a great concert.

“I follow both of these guys back home,” said Ferris. “I really started getting into Chris Young after ‘The Black Dress’ came out.”

Spc. Adrian Lee, facility manager with the 49th Trans. Bn. and a Tifton, Ga., native, said he was “tickled pink” to see these two perform here.

“I like both performers,” said Lee. “I’m waiting to hear ‘That’s What I Love About Sunday’ from Craig Morgan and ‘Drinking Me Lonely’ from Chris Young.”

Lee said he was glad that the concert was outdoors rather than inside the theater.

“It gave more people a chance to see the show,” said Lee.

Morgan, a 10-year Army veteran, said this was his sixth time in Iraq and he enjoys entertaining the men and women of the Armed Forces.

“I really want them to know we appreciate everything they do,” said Morgan. “Take pride in what you are doing and know that you are changing people’s lives.”

Young said this was his first time in Iraq and it has been an amazing experience for him.

“This trip has blown me away,” said Young. “I can’t thank the service members enough for what they do. Everyone here has been so hospitable to us. Lots of people have taken time out of their evening for us and it was an honor to play for everyone.”

Country musician Chris Young performs one of his new hits during the Stars for Stripes tour Oct. 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Young is one of the artists performing a month-long tour at bases and hospitals throughout Germany and Iraq.



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Dual citizen Soldiers deploy to Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. BETH GORENC
TASK FORCE 38

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

The Army National Guard is a melting pot of Soldiers from different units, different parts of the state and sometimes different parts of the country.

Task Force 38, out of Shelbyville, Ind., took this one step further, incorporating Soldiers from different parts of the world for its Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

The newest American citizen in Task Force 38, Spc. Soaimaile Vaitautolu, gained dual citizenship July 6 during the unit's mobilization training.

"I became a citizen to serve the country," she said. "It's a good feeling to now represent the U.S. Army as a whole."

Originally from American Samoa, a U.S. territory in the Pacific Ocean, Vaitautolu visited the United States as a child and moved to the states in 2000 for college, she said.

Vaitautolu, now a Franklin, Ind., resident, relocated to In-

diana after college to work at Camp Atterbury, Ind., as an Army Reservist. While living there, she re-enlisted into the Indiana National Guard and began the process of becoming a U.S. citizen.

That process included an interview, a U.S. Constitution and government test, fingerprinting and swearing in as a citizen.

Another Soldier familiar with the citizenship process is Spc. Manthan Patel, a TF 38 supply specialist who gained his dual citizenship May 5.

Originally from Mumbai, India, Patel immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 2006, he said.

"I miss the country I was born in and spent my youth in, but there are a lot more opportunities for jobs and education in the U.S.," said Patel. "The dreams you dream in India are actually (within) grasp in the U.S."

Taking advantage of those opportunities, Patel joined the Indiana National Guard shortly after arriving in the states.

"I joined the military because I thought it would be a good learning experience and the training would be fun," he said.



Although dual citizenship was not necessary to become a Soldier, Patel became an American citizen to gain a security clearance for his Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment with Task Force 38, he said.

Patel said he plans to visit his family and first country of residency during his deployment leave.

"I feel special to have access to both countries," he said.

Much like Patel, Spc. Irina Muchler, born in the Ural region of Russia, said she was excited to take advantage of America's opportunities.

For Muchler, being a Sol-

Army National Guard Spc. Irina Muchler, Task Force 38 supply specialist, loads meals, ready-to-eat in the back of a Humvee during mobilization training May 30th at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Throughout training and the deployment to Iraq, Muchler worked to ensure Task Force 38 Soldiers had the proper supplies needed to complete their missions.

dier was a childhood dream she could not accomplish in Russia. By law, only males could join the Russian military, so she said she put her dream on hold.

She moved to the United States in 2002, but it was not until 2007 that Muchler realized her dream of being a Soldier and joined the Indiana National Guard, she said.

"I can't believe I'm in the United States Army," she said. "For me to be (a U.S. Soldier) ... It means so much."

In 2008, shortly after Muchler joined the military, she gained her citizenship and became the first Russian-American in her family, she said.

"I like American law and politics," she said. "I'm proud to be a U.S. Army Soldier."

Muchler said her son plans to carry on what she started and

join the U.S. military when he is older.

Spc. Michael Wagner also followed in his family's footsteps when he joined the military.

Wagner, TF 38's human resources specialist, was born in Offenbach, Germany, but moved to the U.S. in 1982 when his mother married a Soldier stationed overseas, he said.

"I joined because my stepdad was in and the benefits were good," said Wagner. "You get to travel and see different places, do different things and meet unique individuals."

Even though Wagner became a citizen in 1996, he said his family brought Germany with them when they moved to the states and he upholds dual citizenship in both countries.

Wagner said he plans to maintain the German-American lifestyle by continuing the U.S. military career he started in 2003, but he plans to open an authentic German restaurant in Indianapolis when he returns from his deployment with Task Force 38.

"The whole family has traditional German meals, holidays, etc.," he said. "But I feel like an American on the days I put on a uniform."

Deployed Soldiers stay connected

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. ROB STRAIN
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING

LOCATION SPE-

ICHER, Iraq –

Soldiers with the

264th Combat

Sustainment

Support

Battalion

at Contingency

Operating Location Speicher, Iraq, strive to remain connected to their friends and family back home.

The 264th CSSB out of Fort Bragg, N.C., began their deployment in May and recently became a subordinate battalion under the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

The Soldiers with the 264th have already spent roughly six months in theater and continue to focus on their mission while also maintaining an open line of communication with loved ones, said Spc. Larry D. Wesley Jr., the battalion's chaplain assistant and a Chester, Pa., native. This ensures Soldiers

maintain a balance between their professional and personal lives during deployment, he said.

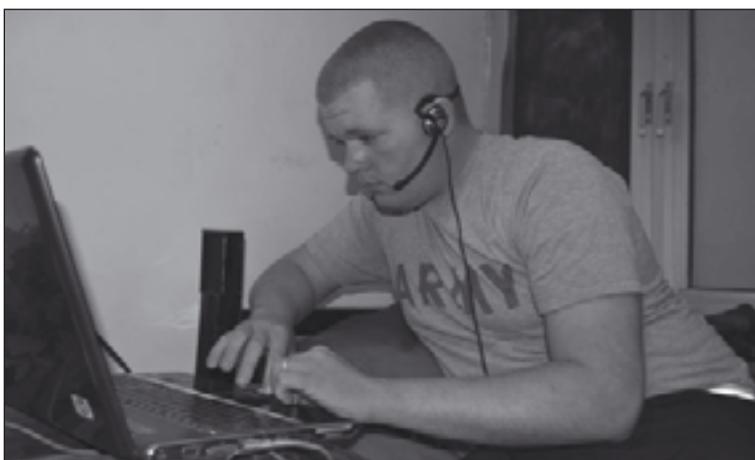
Separation from family and friends is difficult and communication is the key to maintaining these relationships, he said.

Sgt. Adrian Doerfer, a human resources specialist from Colorado Springs, Colo., said he uses Internet voice and e-mail services to stay in touch with his family and friends.

"With today's technology, it is much easier to stay in touch," said Wesley.

The major instant messaging services provide customers with the ability to not only type instantly back and forth, but also to make free or inexpensive calls via the Internet, he said.

Staff Sgt. Adrian Davis, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, said he uses instant messaging and an Internet phone service to stay connected to his family. These services allow him to remain in the comfort of his living area while talking on the phone and they also provide



Pfc. Jacob Sirry, a mechanic with the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and an Elizabethtown, N.C., native, chats on the computer in his living area after work hours.

Soldiers the opportunity to see loved ones via Web cameras, he said.

"Staying connected to family and friends is essential and can serve as an immediate morale booster," Wesley said.

Pvt. Jacob Sirry, a mechanic from Elizabethtown, N.C., said he enjoys the privacy of having these services in his room.

"Being able to talk to my wife serves as daily motivation, giving me something to look forward to after work," he said.

"(It is) definitely a bonus to talk on the phone without having to wait in line."

He said it is often cheaper to use Internet services than to go to the phone center.

The technology provided to Soldiers in combat zones offers immediate convenience, Wesley said.

"Staying connected to family and friends from the luxury of their own personal living area is definitely a privilege that Soldiers appreciate," he said.

Do you
have a
story idea?

Contact
us at:

expeditionarytimes@
iraq.centcom.mil

Sudoku

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

Last week's answers

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

Level: Hard

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What physicist's last words were not understood because his nurse did not speak German?
2. What 10-year old began earning his bad reputation by throwing puppies off the Kremlin walls in 1540?
3. What socialist writer's last words were: "Last words are for fools who haven't said enough?"
4. What French explorer was murdered by his crew after he spent two years failing to locate the mouth of the Mississippi?
5. What 1938 pact caused Winston Churchill to utter: "We have sustained a defeat without a war?"

1. Albert Einstein's 2. Ivan the Terrible 3. Karl Marx's 4. Robert La Salle 5. The Munich Pact

JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL - Sunday

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel 0930 Provider Chapel
 1030 Freedom Chapel (West side) 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)
 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel 1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
 2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL - Sunday

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

CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

0900 Chapel- Next Iraq/MWR East
 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562) 1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

Wednesday

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel

LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday

1700 Provider Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday

1000 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON) - Sunday

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

MASS - Saturday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
 2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

Sunday

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Thursday

1100 Air Force Hospital

Mon., Wed., Fri.

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Monday-Friday

1130 555th Engineer Bde. (Bldg. 7200)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Saturday

0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER - Friday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER - Friday

1230 Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday

1900 The Shack

Saturday

1900 The Shack

GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday

0900 Provider Annex

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.	p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	CC Cross Fit: Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m.	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
EAST FIT-NESS CENTER Open Court 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	EAST REC-REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Sundays: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8	H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday, Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 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.	H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	WEST REC-REATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	WEST FIT-NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday, -	CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.

UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 11/04/09

Los Angeles Lakers @ Oklahoma City Thunder, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Atlanta Hawks @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Bowling Green @ Buffalo, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 11/05/09

Miami Heat @ Washington Wizards (If MLB is Not Necessary), Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Washington Capitals @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 2009 World Series - Game 6: Teams TBD (If Necessary), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Dallas Mavericks @ New Orleans Hornets (If MLB is Not Necessary), 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 11/06/09

College Football Primetime: Virginia Tech @ East Carolina (If MLB is Necessary), Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2009 World Series - Game 7: Teams TBD (If Necessary), Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 Chicago Bulls @ Cleveland Cavaliers (If MLB is Not Necessary), Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra

Saturday 11/07/09

NHL Philadelphia Flyers @ Buffalo Sabres, Live 3:30 AFN/xtra
 NBA Friday: Cleveland Cavaliers @ New York Knicks, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
 College Football Primetime: Boise State @ Louisiana Tech, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 San Antonio Spurs @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 11/08/09

2009 Fed Cup - Final: USA vs Italy - Day 1: Rubber 1, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2009 Fed Cup - Final: USA vs Italy - Day 1: Rubber 2, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/xtra
 MMA Strikeforce: Fedor vs Rogers, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/xtra
 HBO World Championship Boxing: Chad Dawson vs Glen Johnson II, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 11/09/09

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Dickies 500 Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
 WGC HSBC Championships: Final Round, Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 Sunday Night Football: Dallas Cowboys @ Philadelphia Eagles, Live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 11/10/09

NHL on Versus: Los Angeles Kings @ Chicago Blackhawks, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Monday Night Football: Pittsburgh Steelers @ Denver Broncos, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA New Orleans Hornets @ Los Angeles Clippers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Arts & Entertainment

‘Inglorious Basterds’: stellar despite subtitles

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



If you go into this movie expecting a whirlwind thrill ride along the lines of “Reservoir Dogs” set in Nazi Germany, you are among the many disappointed moviegoers who were less than impressed by a Quentin Tarantino flick approaching three hours in length full of subtitles and a compelling storyline.

Walking out of the theater at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, I heard numerous complaints, summarized by, “10 minutes of gunfights and two hours of for-

eign language is not my idea of a good movie.”

In my opinion, the movie was stellar. A completely developed plot and characters who, while over the top in many ways, were extremely well developed.

The opening scene was vintage Tarantino and compares well to “Kill Bill.”

The action scenes are gritty and grisly, and what at first blush seems to be a side story to the main event, turns into the pivotal story arc almost seamlessly.

In many historically set movies, writers feel constrained by historical events and outcomes, often mas-

saging their plot to reach the desired outcome predetermined by fact. I was truly impressed by the utter disregard for history in the plot of “Inglorious Basterds.”

The previous sentence may sound like thinly veiled sarcastic contempt, but I was truly very pleased that this movie took a historical setting and created a completely original story within that setting.

If you like movies like “Kill Bill,” “The Godfather,” parts one and two, and basically any movie with violence spread intermittently in a cinematic experience, you’ll enjoy “Inglorious Basterds.”

By contrast, if you want to turn your

brain off, enjoy some action and cringe with terror at the idea of reading subtitles, or, shake with obstinate incomprehension at the mention of a long movie with a well developed plot, then stay far, far away from Tarantino’s latest masterpiece.

I’ve been giving a lot of high ratings lately, which is odd, but it shall continue. “Inglorious Basterds” rates 9 out of 10 on my movie scale.

One last piece of advice regarding this movie: Don’t, under any circumstances purchase this movie from any local sources. Roughly half the movie alternates between German and French. Subtitles tend to be less than helpful when they’re in Russian.

Know thy enemy better than thy friend

BY SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



As we prepare to enter the ninth year of the war on terror, drawing down troops on one front while building-up forces on another, the

question that haunted us after September 11, 2001, looms large yet again.

Why? Why did they do this?

In “Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror,” world renowned author and historian Bernard Lewis delivers an eloquent and concise explanation of the root causes of the Islamic world’s hatred of the West.

With his tenured insight into Middle Eastern culture and history, Lewis provides one of the most thorough yet succinct histories of the region I’ve ever

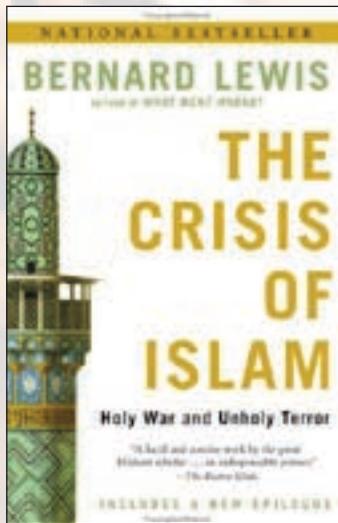
read. From the crusaders to the Soviets to the Saudi Kings to the rise of modern terrorists, Crisis covers it all in less than 200 pages.

Four maps of the region through the ages are also provided for the reader’s reference.

The initial concept for the book came in the form of an article published in the New Yorker in November 2001, during the aftermath of 9/11.

In his opening chapter, “Defining Islam,” Lewis writes about the relationship between Islam and Christianity.

“For most of their joint history, they



have been locked in combat, but even in struggle and polemic they reveal their essential kinship and the common features that link them to each other...” he wrote.

Finding and highlighting key theories with expression such as this makes Crisis a worthwhile read.

In another chapter, “Satan and the Soviets,” Lewis illustrates in relatively few words how the events of No-

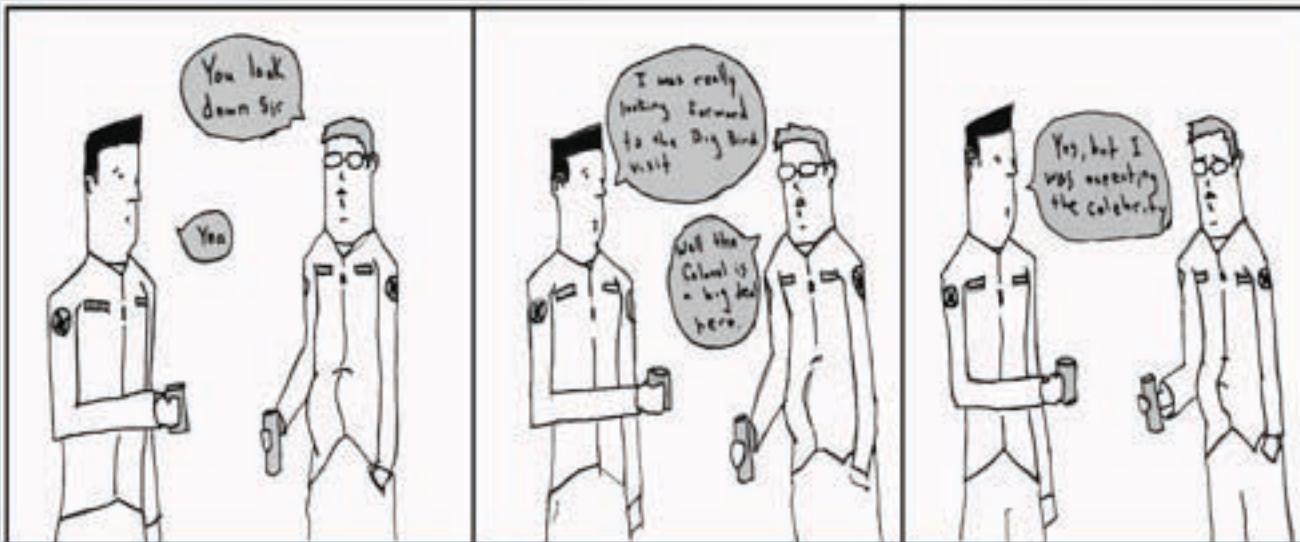
vember 1979, including the raid on the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the attack on the American Embassy in Pakistan, and the beginning of a prolonged hos-

tage situation at the U.S. Embassy in Iran, were a result of “better” relations between Iran and the U.S.

Lewis serves as a guide for the reader through Islamic history, tying together events which would have otherwise gone unconnected. He notes the profound double standard in the Middle East. When a Western nation or Israel kills civilians, Muslims across the continent are distraught, yet, when Muslim’s kill other Muslims, they remain eerily silent, as if their protest has vanished.

Though nonfiction, Crisis reads like a storybook, thus engaging the reader despite its tiny, wall to wall text and Lewis’ habit of rambling. This short, informational book is a must-read for any young military leader who plans to continue a career in the military, because it is far too important to know thy enemy.

OFFICER SPACE



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, Nov. 4

5 p.m. Gamer
8 p.m. Inglorious Basterds

Thursday, Nov. 5

5 p.m. The Stepfather
8 p.m. Sorority Row

Friday, Nov. 6

2 p.m. The Informant
5 p.m. Halloween 2
8:30 p.m. This Is It

Saturday, Nov. 7

2 p.m. Gamer
5 p.m. This Is It
8 p.m. The Informant

Sunday, Nov. 8

2 p.m. The Informant
5 p.m. Halloween 2
8 p.m. This Is It

Monday, Nov. 9

5 p.m. This Is It
8 p.m. The Informant

Tuesday, Nov. 10

5 p.m. All About Steve
8 p.m. Halloween 2

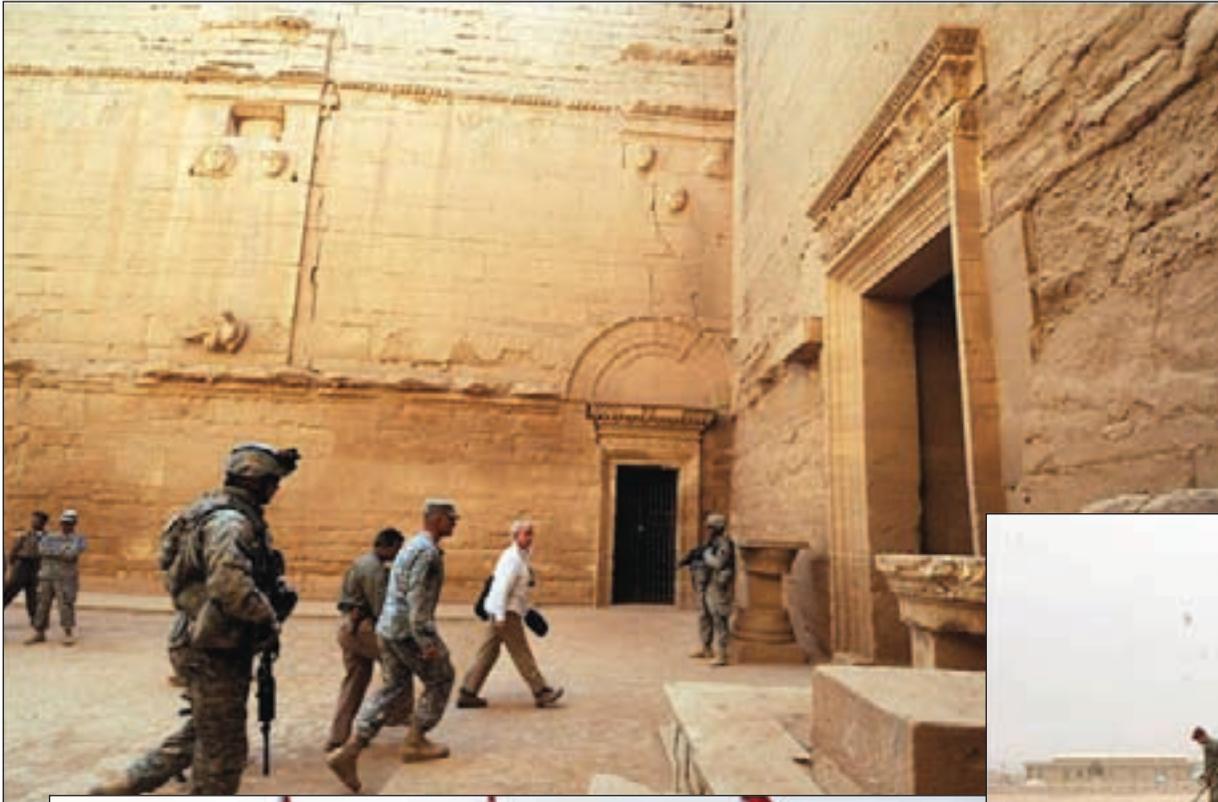
Wednesday, Nov. 11

5 p.m. The Informant
8 p.m. All About Steve



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

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



U.S. Army Gen. Robert Caslen, commanding general of Multi-National Division - North Iraq, tours the ruins of Athar Oct. 16, near the town, of Al Hadr, south of Mosul, Iraq.



U.S. Air Force photo by Spc. Jesse Gross

Iraqi Soldiers attend an Iraqi Army bomb disposal school and learn how to detect mines with metal detectors Oct 22 in Besmaya, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Tarnish D. Pride

The Iraqi Army commander of troops leads Iraqi Soldiers in a pass and review during the Karkh Area Command Strike Team graduation ceremony Oct. 19 in Baghdad, Iraq. The graduation culminates a six-week course of vigorous, specialized instruction including bomb handling and dif-fusion, urban combat techniques, and military operations.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. All Hargis

An Iraqi Soldier, assigned to the 2nd Iraqi Army Division, fires at paper targets on a range Oct. 10 at Combat Outpost Fortitude, in Mosul, Iraq. The range was the final station during a Combat Life Saver competition.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha R. Ciaramitaro

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Vinglas from Concord, N.C., attached to the 305th Psychological Operations Company, 17th Fires Brigade, speaks with an Iraqi Soldier Oct. 9, while out on a joint foot patrol through Al Quannah, Iraq. The patrol was conducted to assess the Iranian influence in the community.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

US Army signs more than \$30 million HR system to Iraq

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Minister of Defence, Abdul Qadr, accepted the Human Resources Information Management System Oct. 19 from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

HRIMS, a personnel and payroll database, enables refined lifecycle management of functions for the ministry's military and civilian workforce. HRIMS also integrates biometric data and is a cornerstone for the MoD bank expansion and modernization initiative.

"Facilitating payroll, accounting for personnel, confirming personnel identities via HRIMS when linked to direct deposit will significantly remove the opportunity for corruption," said U.S. Navy Capt. Gregg Pelowski, ITAM-MoD director. "The impact and influence of HRIMS to enable effective management of modernized Iraqi armed forces will become more apparent in the years ahead, particularly due to Iraq's budget challenges."

U.S. Army Maj. Erica Clark, HRIMS project manager, praised the professionalism and dedication of her Iraqi partners.

"Our success over this three year period was clearly due to the shared vision and engagement of the Iraqis and our team at MNSTC-I," she said.

Corps employees deliver gifts, smile, friendship

BASRA, Iraq – Goodwill ambassadors from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South district brought more than gifts during an Oct. 4 visit to the children at Sant Efram kindergarten in Basra, they brought smiles and friendship.

"We are very happy today to see you here in our church and kindergarten," said Imad Aziz Al Banna, Mons Bishop, Vicar and Regional of Kardinal for Chaldean Church in Basra and South of Iraq Chaldean Archdiocese. "Today is very special for us and for these kids. We really thank you for your help and support."

Navy Lt. David Daigle, project engineer and Provincial Reconstruction Team liaison with GRS's Basra Area Office, said he was inspired by the sight of a Catholic bishop and a nun who had dedicated themselves to Iraq's future and who encouraged the children to expand their spiritual beliefs, whether they were Islamic, Christian or Catholic.

"It was fascinating to see the children in an environment that encourages the freedom of religion," said Daigle.

Daigle said he hopes their presence has a positive impact on the lives of the Iraqi children.

"I came here and wanted to leave Iraq knowing that I made a difference," he said. "Sometimes it is hard to see a direct impact, but when my time is dedicated to helping a child, the impact is in the smile that I get in return. I often think of the hardships that Iraq has had over the last couple of decades. We want the freedom and democracy that we are here



to protect to provide for a land of the free and these children (to) grow up safe, secure and healthy. I hope our sacrifice here has made the future of Iraq free from another war."

Art Davey, construction representative with GRS's Basra Area Office, was one of the ambassadors.

"I was honored to be one of the goodwill ambassadors, given the opportunity to share a little time and express our deep adoration for these young people who hold the hope and the future of Iraq in their destiny," said Davey.

"To see the many smiling faces and sense the appreciation of the Bishop, the teachers, and the young boys and girls was truly a rewarding experience that will mark a highlight of my tour in Iraq."

Davey said that he had a couple of very brief photo opportunities, but actually interacting with the children, bringing useful things to the school and possibly making a difference has been a touching experience for him.

"Seeing the children's smiles was awesome," Daigle said. "I tried to think of something I could have done to make them smile and remember us. I wish I was able to communicate with them a funny story or fairy tale to make them all laugh. I guess I would just tell them that we are happy to be here."

Cavey said his personal slogan is "quality continues."

"I hope the memory of this visit from the Corps of Engineers military and civilian workforce will shine on as a light unto the way forward for these future leaders, he said. "These kids will grow, take up the responsibilities to continue the work to develop Iraq, and improve the quality of life for the people. This is not a destination, it is a journey. My hope is that they seek and maintain a desire to continually improve."

Al Banna said he appreciated the time the engineers took with the children.

"Although this is not the first time that the Army Engineers send toys, soccer balls and school supplies to our kindergarten, but it's the first time they visited us," said Al Banna. "We're very excited to meet those great people who support us."

Ministry of Defence holds conference on Iraqi national strategy

BAGHDAD – Under the patronage of the Iraqi Minister of Defence, the first scientific conference on Iraqi national strategy was held Oct. 18 in the National Defence College Hall at the Cultural Center.

Staff Lt. Gen. Jasim Duhe Hussein, Iraqi Army deputy chief of staff for training, took part in the event among other Iraqi officers. Italian Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli, deputy commanding general of NATO Training Mission-Iraq, and Brig. Gen. John Wootton, chief of the Division of Training Educational Doctrine Advisors, were also present. The MoD invited NTM-I in accordance with its security force training agreement with the Government of Iraq.

Staff Maj. Gen. Jassim, NDU commander, introduced the guest speakers, two Baghdad University doctoral researchers, Nasear Noori and Hazzin Al-Shumary. The two professors gave lectures in which they highlighted the importance of having a national strategy for Iraq based on a scientific approach.

This strategy, Noori said, must be instrumental in building a civil and democratic country in accordance with the international rules and procedures, where political partnership overcomes all divisions and dangerous rivalries.

"We should forget about dictatorship," he said.

Al-Shumary said national integration is the key in its many aspects and approaches: economical, political, scientific and regional. But in the end, he said, what matters is to put the people at the center of all concerns. Only by doing so, the internal critical ethnic and political divisions and controversies can be solved, he said.

This conference was intended to be the first in a debate to shape the future national strategy of Iraq.

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

Other cooperation projects for NATO in Iraq are out of country training courses for Iraqi nationals at NATO schools as well as National Police training led by Italian Carabinieri and at Ar Rustamiyah, the Iraqi military academy along with the Joint Staff College and Command College.

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

Sadr City opens new water treatment plant

SADR CITY, Iraq – In what is considered to be the largest reconstruction effort the United States has undertaken since the Marshall Plan following World War II, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in Iraq including construction of roads, schools, military facilities and oil production infrastructure.

The most essential of these projects are those that provide the basic amenities to the Iraqi people to include water and electricity.

According to the State Department, in the early post-war period, the number of Iraqis with access to potable water dropped to 5.5 million.

Thanks to the reconstructions efforts in the area of water reclamation, as of July 30, the State Department estimates that more than 21.2 million Iraqis have access to potable water.

One such critical problem area, identified early on in the reconstruction efforts, was in Sadr City.

Sadr City, near Baghdad, is home to more than two million Iraqis. The city was built under the direction of Saddam Hussein as a massive urban community to house the thousands of rural Iraqis migrating to Baghdad in search of jobs. The city had undergone decades of neglect under Saddam's regime in even the most basic areas, including adequate potable water.

Although the city received its water from two existing water treatment facilities, the total potable water provided residents amounted to less than 46 liters, or 12 gallons, per capita per day.

"The new plant location came as a result of a government study on water pressure and supply," said USACE water expert, Simeon Francis, the former technical expert on the water plant project. "There was simply not enough water to Sadr City from the Kharkh and Shark-Dihjilih Water Treatment Plants. It was then determined that a new water treatment plant was needed near Sadr City."

The Sadr City R3 Water Treatment Plant was intended to increase the quantity and quality of potable water to Sadr City and the surrounding area of Baghdad.

The new facility ties into the existing raw water supply piping and included the construction of a water treatment system, water storage facility, a pumping station to pump treated water from storage to the existing distribution system and ancillary facilities such as an administration building, laboratory and an emergency power system.

Project engineers said the modern water treatment process incorporated in the plant is designed with a filtering system that far exceeds the World Health Organization standards.

Completed just more than a year ago, the \$65 million water treatment plant is designed to treat and purify water from the nearby Tigris River and provide Sadr City residents with potable water. The goal of the water treatment project is to provide hook-ups to residences in 68 of the 79 city sectors.

The Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources said the water treatment plant is producing between 3,200 and 4,000 cubic meters of potable water per hour, which equates to 25 million gallons of water a day. At full capacity, the plant can produce more than 6,000 cubic meters of water per hour.

Col. Dan Anninos, commander of the Gulf Region District, who is charged with completing the Sadr water treatment project, calls the facility a major success for U.S. reconstruction efforts and the residents of Sadr City.

"The Sadr City Water Treatment Plant is a vital community asset that supplies quality drinking water to over 500,000 residents and increases the estimated 46 liters of water per-capita per-day to approximately 200 (liters)," said Anninos. "This is a project we can all be proud of knowing that it was built by the hands, hearts and minds of our employees for the citizens of Sadr City. The facility today is well maintained and it is being utilized as it was intended. This plant has the capacity to service thousands more citizens and I am confident over time it will."

Sustainability was also factored into the construction of the water treatment plant. Under the terms of the agreement, the contractor is to provide training on the operations and maintenance of the facility, provide the consumables for running the plant and provide op-

tions for future plant expansion.

The plant employs more than 140 local Iraqis for the operations, maintenance and administration of the facility.

Since 2003, the United States has appropriated more than \$50 billion for reconstruction projects in Iraq.

Since the 2004, inception of the Corps' Gulf Region Division based in Baghdad, more than 5,300 reconstruction projects, at a construction cost of \$9.1 billion have been completed and 500 projects are ongoing or planned.

"In 2009 alone, the corps completed 325 projects valued at nearly \$1 billion," said Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, commander of the Gulf Region Division. "Some of the projects completed were: 41 school projects, 20 village road projects, 25 water distribution projects, 21 electric distribution projects, 12 police stations, 7 court projects and 2 military command centers.

"These projects are providing electricity, clean water, transportation, police and fire stations, medical care and educational opportunities to the people of Iraq—things many of us take for granted."

Anninos said the goal is to empower the Iraqi engineers.

"We can all be proud of this work and the thousands of other reconstruction work the Gulf Region District has completed over the years," Anninos said. "We have put Iraqis to work, we have assisted in coaching and training and mentoring this nation's many engineers so that they can take control and re-build their nation, one brick at a time while all along greatly improving the quality of life of the Iraqi citizens."

In the public works and water sector, since 2004, the Corps of Engineers has completed nearly 800 projects generating around 1 million cubic meters per day of safe, potable water from corps projects alone. These projects have provided water and sewage to millions of Iraqi citizens—many of whom did not have these services prior to the war.

Iraqi government begins management of high-frequency radio band

BAGHDAD – The Government of Iraq began managing the high-frequency radio band throughout the country Oct. 23.

Multi-National Force-Iraq transferred that responsibility after a months-long process that included training, fielding of management systems and development of Iraqi procedures for utilization of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

In accordance with the Security Agreement, both parties formed the Frequency Management Joint Subcommittee in January to address any issues regarding frequency management.

Dr. Hiyam Al Yassiri, ministry of communications, and Rear Adm. David Simpson, director of CJ6, Multi-National Force Iraq, co-chairman of the sub-committee, oversaw the development of Iraqi spectrum management capacity to allow the transition of the high-frequency band to the Iraqi government.

Each band has different commercial, government and security uses and will need different procedures to accommodate all of the Iraqi user groups.

The sub-committee is now working on the transition of both the very high-frequency and ultra high-frequency bands with the ultimate goal of turning over management responsibilities for all frequencies to the GoI.

In May, U.S. forces conducted frequency management training for GoI personnel in various ministries. The purpose of the training was to establish a cadre of individuals capable of staffing a Communications and

Media Commission and for ministries that depend on radio frequencies as a critical resource. The training produced GoI staff capable of training and certifying future spectrum and frequency managers.

"The radio spectrum is a limited natural resource for every nation," said Simpson. "Governments must balance domestic needs and international responsibilities as they manage their spectrum resources. The demand for radio frequency use is on the rise and will continue to grow in the foreseeable future. Iraq's Communications and Media Commission and Ministry of Communications are committed to preserving the equities of Iraqi citizens. This talented Government of Iraq team of engineers, technicians and managers are ready to serve Iraq as stewards of the Nations spectrum resources consistent with international treaty obligations and with due regard for the rights of neighboring nations."

ISF arrest father, son on suspicion of terrorism

TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. forces advisers, arrested two men suspected of terrorism in the Salah ad-Din province under the authority of warrants issued by the Government of Iraq Oct. 16.

The ISF entered the suspect's residence, secured the house and positively identified Diyah while clearing the building.

After collecting evidence and interviewing others in the house, the ISF identified and arrested Farhan.

The ISF arrested Diyah Adib Hassan Albu Nassir in his home in Bayji with a warrant issued by the Federal Appellate Court of Salah ad-Din. Nassir's son, Farhan Diyah Adib Hassan Albu Nassir, was found in the home and arrested after it was determined there was also a warrant for his arrest.

Diyah is suspected of funding insurgent activities for terrorist organizations in northern Iraq.

Ministry of Defence holds first female info.assurance class

BAGHDAD – The Ministry of Defence held the first female information assurance class Oct. 19 at the Ministerial Training and Development Center.

Nineteen female employees from the MoD learned basic access functions of the Internet and how to keep the workplace secure.

Hadi Nima, director general of Communications for MoD, gave opening remarks and stressed the importance of security on the Internet in the workplace.

As a result of the train-the-trainer program with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq personnel, an Iraqi instructor taught the class for the first time.

Zaid Tarq, who is an MoD engineer, said he was excited about teaching his first class.

"I feel confident to teach the class because this is part of my specialty," he said.

Tarq has been with MoD for six months. He taught students about the security of transporting information from the Internet, classifying information and different levels of security. The instructor concluded his lesson with how to protect the security of the Internet from natural and manmade threats.

The two-hour class ended with a presentation of certificates to the students. All employees of MoD must attend the course to get the password to access the Internet.

Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Traei Calcedo



Soldiers with the 1218th Transportation Company, 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, look on as instructors from the Al Asad Air Base medical team provide instruction on how to properly give a fellow Soldier intravenous fluids.



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer

Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, and a Layton, Utah, native, answers questions in an interview with CNN reporter Mohammed Jamjoom in the Supply Support Activity yard Oct. 15. He said the SSA yard handles a wide variety of items that will be shipped either to another area of Iraq, to Afghanistan, or back to the United States. It was one of four key sites at VBC that Read visited with the CNN camera crew and Brig. Gen. Paul Wentz, commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



U.S. Army photo illustration by Capt. Ralph Dempsey

The first major electrical storm of the season passed over Joint Base Balad Oct. 23. The rain combined with a dust storm to create muddy rain. Several exposures were unusable because of mud on the lens and camera. The lighting and lightning reflected in the airborne dust to create a pink fog to the camera



US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Hause

Spc. Jordan Malubay, a radio and communications security repairer from Seattle, Wash., sprints the final quarter-mile of the Fort Lewis Half Marathon held last month at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. Malubay, a Soldier with the 659th Maintenance Company Backbone, out of Fort Bragg, N.C., attached to the 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, is just one of many who have started to seriously compete in the races around VBC.



US Army photo by Spc. Lisa A. Cope

The Army Materiel Command Band's rock ensemble, Raw Materiel, plays a concert, Oct. 24 at the outdoor swimming pool at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.