

# The Expeditionary Times

*Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq*

Vol. 3 Issue 10

January 27, 2010

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

## Heavily armed



96th Sustainment Brigade  
recovers munitions at  
Camp Taji

Page 5

## Craftsmen



Soldiers work together at  
Allied Trades

Page 8

## Road trip



Mississippi Guardsmen  
convoy all night, work all day

Page 12-13



## Haitian American Soldier reacts to homeland disaster Page 4

DoD photo by Fred W. Baker III

A girl peers through the legs of U.S. Army Soldiers who form a human chain to secure the distribution of humanitarian aid Jan. 19 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The 82nd Airborne's 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, provided security for the distribution point out of its make-shift forward operating base.

## 301st Chemical Co. provides security for US officials at Baghdad University

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

BAGHDAD – Soldiers with the 301st Chemical Company, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team went on a personal security detail mission Jan. 17 to Baghdad University, in Baghdad, where they provided an escort service for three U.S. Department of State officials.

The team was at the university's architecture department to escort Susan Harville, Henry Bisharat and Mehmed Ali, all state department officials, to discuss the U.S. government's involvement in Baghdad's upcoming Urban Historic Pres-

ervation Conference.

Staff Sgt. Anthony W. Faul, shift leader for Raven 31 with the 299th Chemical Company attached to the 301st Chem. Co. and a Mayesville, Ky., native, said the team usually has a show time an hour and a half before the mission to do a brief and prepare the vehicles.

In the mission brief, they discuss how to navigate through traffic and avoid possible threats on the map, Faul said.

"I tell them to be aware," said Faul. "We go over actions on contact, the rollover drills and I have the team read the rules of engagement before going out on the mission."

He said he makes sure all drivers know their routes before they go out on their mission, escorting officials generically re-  
**SEE PSD ON PAGE 4**



Members of the 301st Chemical Company out of Morehead, Ky., provide security for Henry Bisharat, Susan Harville and Mehmed Ali, all U.S. Department of State officials, Jan. 17 at the architectural department at Baghdad University, in Baghdad. The state department officials met with an Iraqi ministry member Jan. 17 to discuss U.S. involvement in the upcoming Baghdad Urban Historic Preservation Conference.

## Balad Blotter January 15 - January 22

### **STRAY ROUND:**

A victim called the command post and reported a stray round. It connected her to the Joint Defense Operation Center and she relayed all pertinent information. A patrol was briefed, dispatched, arrived on the scene, and made contact with the victim who said, via Air Force Form 1168 Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant, she was in bed on the computer when she heard a round come through the roof of her room and land on the floor. She saw the round on the floor and was not injured.

### **LARCENY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY:**

A complainant walked in to the Law Enforcement Desk and reported a larceny had occurred. The Eagles' Nest was briefed. The complainant made contact at the LED, where he was assisted in writing a statement. The complainant said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant, his bike was taken from outside of his location sometime between 2 a.m. and 3:45 a.m. Jan. 20. He said he will return to the LED with pictures of the bike.

### **STRAY ROUND:**

KBR Inc. security telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk and reported a stray round. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The complainant said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant, while inside Bldg 4297, room two, he heard a loud pop. The complainant went to the hall to investigate and found a small hole and a pyramid-shaped item on the floor along with drywall dust. The complainant notified KBR security. No injuries were sustained by the complainant.

### **LARCENY OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:**

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk and reported he noticed property was missing from AMC Housing/D-89 transient housing. The complainant said, via Air Force Form 1168/Statement of Complainant, he last saw the property Jan. 9, when he arrived at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The complainant further said, when the base was put in uniform posture two, he discovered property missing. The complainant said, after conducting the sweep, the property was still missing. The complainant said the serial number and temporary receipt for property are in Baghdad. The complainant said while staying in AMC Housing he has had three roommates.

NIPR: 443-8602  
SIPR: 241-1171  
Email: PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

# Combat Stress: confidentiality

BY NAVY CAPT. STEVE BRASINGTON  
COMBAT STRESS CONTROL PSYCHIATRIST



Cyber-technology has provided a new way to connect people separated by oceans, deployments and life's problems.

Imagine that Joey learned his wife Jo-Elle had been playing house with Jake back home because Joey's sister Facebook poked her brother with the scandalous details.

Joey posts a Facebook comment saying, "My old life as I knew it is pretty much over."

Not contacting Joey for clarification, Joey's family grows alarmed by what he might do.

In particular, Joey's mother called the rear cadre, reporting her son might hurt himself.

Next, the cadre signaled downrange that Joey's name should be on the suicide interest list.

Downrange, the Soldier explained to his first sergeant that he was done with his unfaithful wife Jo-Elle. Joey declared that he was going to file for divorce while he was deployed. He said he was just glad he did not have any kids with her.

Joey never said he wanted to die. However, he did post a message that started the buzz his command followed.

Specifically, Joey's commander invited him to go to combat stress for a safety evaluation.

Joey cooperated with the referral, but his platoon leader had said in front of everyone that Joey was excused from mission prep to spend the morning at the combat stress clinic.

Joey understood his commander needed to know that his mind was focused on the mission.

At the evaluation, Joey explained to the therapist that he never wanted to hurt himself. He insisted that he had too much to live for to let Jo-Elle

ruin his life. Joey completed the assessment and returned to full duty.

When Joey's information passed from the therapist to the commander, the commander had the same obligation to protect the privacy of the data as the psychotherapist.

Basic protected health information includes Joey's full name, date of birth, home address and social security number. It includes anything that can specifically identify the individual. Any written or electronic memos containing such protected health information, should be deleted or destroyed when it is no longer needed.

If the commander possessed any data with Jo-Elle's telephone number or address on it, then this, too, must be treated as protected health information by the commander, and unauthorized personnel must not be allowed to see it.

Some information disclosed to the therapist by Joey was considered confidential, meaning it was spoken with the confidence that it would not be repeated outside the treatment setting.

While Joey was in the office for the confidential consultation, Joey was afforded privacy. Joey had privacy because another person was not allowed to peek in during the exam or listen to the discussion.

To be observed or recorded, you must first give your permission.

In general, sessions at the combat stress clinic take place behind closed doors, in private. Your records are either paper records that are locked up or are on security controlled electronic medical records.

We are combat stress. We protect your privacy and help maintain your command's confidence in your performance.

Ask us if you have questions or concerns about the limits of confidentiality. We are here to serve you and keep the military strong.

**Give a Shout Out!**  
Tell your family and friends how much you miss them.  
Send a brief message to: [expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil) Subject line: "Shout Out"

## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The contents of the Expeditionary Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and reviewed by the ESC G2 for security purposes.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 13th ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)

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

**13th ESC G2, Security Manager**  
(318) 433-2155

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**139th MPAD Photo Editor**  
Sgt. Keith VanKlompberg  
[keith.vanklompberg@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:keith.vanklompberg@iraq.centcom.mil)

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

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

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

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

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

### Contributing public affairs offices

15th Sustainment Brigade  
36th Sustainment Brigade  
90th Sustainment Brigade  
96th Sustainment Brigade  
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
194th Engineer Brigade

For online publication visit:  
[www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)  
keyword: Expeditionary Times

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

# The Weekly Standard: unit watch

BY MASTER SGT. ROY THACKER  
13TH ESC INSPECTOR GENERAL NCOIC



Deployments have left indelible marks on everyone. Stressors include changes in mission, injury or loss of a fellow service member,

family situations, long work weeks, feeling threatened by living within earshot of controlled detonations 24/7 and hearing gunfire from the towers. It's enough to turn your hair gray.

There are those in our force who eventually find themselves in need of just a little care and compassion. Leaders need to be cognizant of the signals and step in, in a conscientious and concerned manner, and provide members the necessary help.

Unit watch measures, often called suicide watch, are not overly focused on suicide at all. It's about intervention.

Intervention includes myriad activities, such as continuously observing the member; searching the member's belongings and living quarters for dangerous items and removing those items;

prohibiting access to alcohol and drugs; minimizing contact with people who could negatively influence the member's mental health; or ensuring further evaluation and treatment.

Such activities should never cross the line toward being hurtful or demeaning. Unit watch is not a tool for punishment.

These activities are meant to help service members and are not to be used as a means to retaliate, harass, to engage in improper search and seizure, or to commit any other activity that may be construed as approximating punishment. A unit watch does not include confinement, restriction or extra duty, all of which are punitive actions for violating military policies.

A memorandum of instruction by the United States Forces – Iraq surgeon explains management of unit watch programs in Iraq and provides instruction on the program's implementation. More information is available upon request from [roy.thacker@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:roy.thacker@iraq.centcom.mil)

Primum non nocere. "First, do no harm."

Joint Base Balad (304th Sust. Bde.): DSN 433-2125  
Lt. Col. Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)  
Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)  
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.): DSN 827-6115  
Lt. Col. Gary Davis

Adder/Tallil (3th Sust. Bde./41st IBCT):  
Maj. Andrea Shealy - DSN 833-1710  
Maj. Jeffrey Copek - DSN 833-5915  
Master Sgt. Marta Cruz - DSN 883-1710

Al Asad: DSN 440-7049  
Sgt. 1st class Alexander Arce

Taji (96 Sust. Bde./155 BCT): DSN 834-3079  
Master Sgt. Richard Faust  
Lt. Col. Paul Bird

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Sexual violence can occur in any type of relationship, but most perpetrators of sexual assault are known to their victims. Among victims ages 18 to 29, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the offender. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports, in 2000, six in 10 rape or sexual assault victims said they were assaulted by an intimate partner, relative, friend or acquaintance. Call the Joint Base Balad sexual assault response coordinator at 443-7272 or contact via pager 443-9001, pager 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, pager 122/135 for assistance.

# Chaplain's Corner: get better each day

BY LT. COL. GARRY LOSEY  
13TH ESC CHAPLAIN



We all have dreams that we want to reach and visions we want to put into action.

Sometimes we believe we do not have the talent or whatever it might take to reach these goals.

"Excellence is not out of reach. It is accomplished through deliberate actions, ordinary in themselves, performed consistently and carefully, made into habits, compounded together and added up over time," an unknown author wrote.

It takes constant work to achieve our dreams, visions, desires or goals. A young student, James Hughes, at Pulaski Academy in Little Rock, Ark., read the above quote on a test he was taking. After finishing the test, he wrote this response on the bottom of the test he had just completed.

"This quote somehow reminds me of a diamond. It begins as a lump of coal. Over thousands of years, it is subjected to pressure and heat until one day it becomes both the most valuable gem

in the world and the hardest to break. The pressure is habit, and the heat is dedication. Dedication makes it valuable and habit makes it almost unbreakable. Dead plants and animals, little things, make the coal, which time will turn into a diamond. In my life, little things that I can do for people may, eventually, make my diamond of excellence."

If you have not yet reached your dreams or you think that there is absolutely no way in this world that you will reach your treasured desires or goals, remember that it takes time to get where you want to go. Remember very few successes that come instantly bring lasting satisfaction. Time and effort make lasting results.

If you have not yet reached your dreams do not give up.

Keep pushing forward and see what happens. Keep a positive attitude, strong determination, and never give up until you have reached your goal.

Your goals are within reach, and later in life, when you look back, you will be surprised at your accomplishments and how high you have climbed. Take this young student's positive look at life and go out and accomplish great things.

## 80TH OD BN 'PHOENIX SUPPORT' COMBATIVES TOURNAMENT



**Who:** Servicemen/women of all military branches  
**Where:** east side, Main Gym  
**When:** Saturday, 27 Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. **first fight kicks off at 9 a.m.**  
• Registration forms must be received NLT than Friday Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. or first 100 competitors (walk-ins are welcome at the weigh-in but **NOT** guaranteed until weigh-in day).  
• Weigh Ins: Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. at 63<sup>rd</sup> OD CO HQ, bldg. 6856  
• POC: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Aaron Kao (483-4014 or [aaron.kao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:aaron.kao@iraq.centcom.mil))



### WEIGHT CLASSES

Flyweight - Male 125 lbs. & under, Female 131 & under  
Lightweight - (M) 140 lbs. & under, (F) 147 & under  
Welterweight - (M) 155 lbs. & under, (F) 163 & under  
Middleweight - (M) 170 lbs. & under, (F) 179 & under  
Cruiserweight - (M) 185 lbs. & under, (F) 194 & under  
Light Heavyweight - (M) 205 lbs. & under, (F) 215 & under  
Heavyweight - (M) 205 lbs. & up, (F) 215 lbs. & up  
**\*\*SINGLE ELIMINATION BOUTS\*\***

**\*STANDARD COMPETITION RULES\***  
**GRAPPLING ONLY**

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)  
"Phantom Support"

ON  
THE  
WEB



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

# Haitian American Soldier reacts to homeland disaster

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – When Sgt. Marinez Cadet saw news reports of a massive earthquake in Haiti Jan. 12, she immediately ran to the phone.

“I heard it on TV and called my dad to make sure everyone was OK,” said Cadet, a mail clerk with the 547th Transportation Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment

Command (Expeditionary).

Cadet is from Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, a city eight miles northeast of Port-au-Prince, the nation’s capital where, according to Associated Press reports, the earthquake has left an estimated 200,000 people dead and 1.5 million displaced.

Cadet, who moved to the U.S. almost 10 years ago, said her first thoughts were for the safety of her relatives, especially an uncle who lives in the affected area. After calling her father, she learned her uncle was safe, but some distant relatives were believed to have died in the earthquake.

“My second thought was, ‘I wish I could go there instead of being here,’” she said. “It’s hard to see your people going through that.”

Capt. Hyo Cho, the commander of the 547th Trans. Co. and an Ellicott City, Md., native, said Cadet was quick to find out how she could help and how her unit could assist the devastated nation.

“Most of what we have done is what everybody has done, just donate,” said Cadet.

Cho said Cadet made a generous donation to the American Red Cross and provided information to the rest of her

unit so those who were able could donate as well.

“You have to count your blessings and give what you’ve got,” said Cho. “We’ve got a lot of giving Soldiers here.”

Cho said her unit has also expressed interest in going to Haiti as part of the relief effort.

“If the opportunity arises, they are going to volunteer,” she said.

Cadet said even if she is not able to go to Haiti with the Army, she will find a way to go and be part of the relief effort.

“I’m definitely going,” she said.

## 301st provides safe trip for officials

PSD FROM PAGE 1

ferred to as principals.

“After we do rehearsals, we then stage, pick up the principals and head out to the venue,” said Faul. “We usually don’t go into the meeting, our main job is to go out with the officials and keep them safe.”

Sgt. Trent A. Ogden, tactical commander with the 301st Chem. Co. and a Sardinia, Ohio, native, said he is responsible for planning the routes to get to the venue.

“I plot the route on blue force tracker, send it to the shift lead and to the limo,” said Ogden. “The limo is what we call the vehicle that the principals are riding in.”

Ogden said they receive missions from the Regional Security Office, then plan the mission and routes accordingly.

“We take the principals from the (International Zone) to the venue and stage the motorcade so we can leave at a moment’s notice,” said Ogden. “When we arrive at the venue, we send an advance party to check the meeting room out, get the principals and guide them to the meeting room, then go back outside and deal with the motorcade.”

Ashur Elisha, an interpreter with the RSO, is a civilian contractor and a Surprise, Ariz., native, who has been in Iraq for seven years.

“I go out with the PSD teams and Army teams, handle all PSD movements and interpret with Iraqi and American diplomats,” said Elisha.

He said they take them to ministries in Baghdad and try to help rebuild the municipalities and schools to establish a rapport with the Iraqi’s.

Spc. Jonathon L. Scott, a driver with the 301st Chem. Co. and Vanceburg, Ky., native, said he has been on roughly



Sgt. Trent A. Ogden, a tactical commander with 301st Chemical Company and Sardinia, Ohio, native, and Ashur Elisha, an interpreter and a Surprise, Ariz., native, wait outside Baghdad University to provide security for three U.S. Department of State officials in Baghdad. The state department officials met with an Iraqi ministry member Jan. 17 to discuss U.S. involvement in the upcoming Baghdad Urban Historic Preservation Conference.

45 missions providing security for the state department officials.

“I like knowing that our job makes a difference,” said Scott. “When we go out on venues, they are doing their job and we are a part of it.”

Ogden said he was pleased with how smoothly the mission went.

“There were some vehicles that were in the way, so I had to dismount and direct traffic, but other than that, there were no problems,” said Ogden.

Ogden said he enjoys his job and gets to interact with Iraqi civilians, receiving good intelligence information from them and establishing good rapport.

“A lot of units don’t get to go out to the Red Zone and we get to go out quite often,” said Ogden.

Faul said traffic is the biggest concern when they go out on missions to Baghdad.

“We have to make sure our gunners are vigilant of all the people and the surroundings,” said Faul.

He said he has noticed a change in Iraq since the last time he was here.

“The biggest thing I have seen that is different is that the Iraqi’s are trying to take more control of situations,” said Faul. “To me, that is a good thing, that they are trying to take charge.”

## Correction

In the Jan. 13 edition of the Expeditionary Times, the article “Personal security Soldiers learn new routes, areas” should have said Staff Sgt. McArthur W. Jones Jr.

### Where do you read your Expeditionary Times?

For distribution, contact the 13th ESC PAO at Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Joint Base Balad :  
318-483-4603

Camp Adder:  
318-833-1002

Camp Taji:  
318-834-1281

COL Q-West:  
318-827-6101

Al Asad Air Base:  
318-440-4103

COL Speicher:  
318-849-2501

e-mail:  
[escpao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escpao@iraq.centcom.mil)

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

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

# 96th Sustainment Brigade recovers munitions at Taji

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CAPT. AMY FLORES  
96TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – In the past year, the military has begun preparing for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and equipment from Iraq, including the retrograde of millions of dollars worth of ammunition accumulated at the ammunition storage points.

Identifying, handling and safely moving ammunition around Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan requires considerable safety precautions, said Denise Batchelor, a quality assurance specialist with ammunition surveillance working under the joint munitions command. She said these responsibilities are primarily handled by JMC ammo logistics representatives and quality assurance specialists at the ammunition transition and holding points.

The 96th Sustainment Brigade oversees five such ATHPs and one ASP, said Capt. Gabriel Flores, 96th Sust. Bde. munitions officer and a San Antonio native.

“As part of the ongoing responsible withdrawal mission, the military is retrograding a particular anti-tank weapon – the M136 AT4 anti-tank rocket, which is the Army’s primary light anti-tank weapon,” said Flores. “Since U.S. occupation of Iraq began roughly 10 years ago, we have shipped thousands of AT4s into theater.”

He said the military discovered a shortage of the pins used to secure the AT4s for shipment as soon as it began to retrograde them.

“These transport safety pins, which are required by regulation to move the AT4s, have been absent in theater since about 2008 and, so far this year, the orders through U.S. Army tank-automotive and armaments command have not produced the correct-sized pins – bringing the overall movement of this high-value weapon to a screeching halt,” said Flores.

An inventory of Camp Taji real estate revealed a warehouse on the Iraqi side filled with more than 500 expended AT4



Sgt. Geoffrey Holdorf, an ammunition specialist with the 96th Sustainment Brigade and a Denver native, transports expended M136, AT4, anti-tank rocket tubes from the Iraqi warehouse to the Camp Taji, Iraq, ammunition transition and holding points for retrograde.

tubes, he said. Upon receipt of this news, Flores began planning with Batchelor to rectify the situation, he said.

In a combined effort to remove the expended tubes of these serial numbered U.S. munitions from the Iraqi property, as well as salvage as many transport safety pins as possible, they planned a mission with the brigade’s ammunition handlers, the Taji explosive ordnance team, the Taji mayor cell and the military advisory teams from both the Air Force and Army, he said.

Flores said the first mission was conducted in November and the team successfully retrieved more than 200 empty tubes and 60 transport safety pins.

“During this operation, the Soldiers and QASAS recognized that there were some live anti-tank rockets and rocketry of possible Russian origin in the warehouse,” Batchelor said. “They safely segregated those items until EOD could properly

dispose of them. This act alone prevented the munitions from falling into the wrong hands – giving the terrorists one less chance for using our ammunition against us.”

After the area had been cleared, the team returned to clear the expended AT4 tubes, more than 50 M-47 Dragon anti-tank guided missiles and assorted ordnance of unknown origin, Batchelor said.

Overall, the ammunition specialists with the 96th Sust. Bde. recovered more than 300 transport safety pins, Flores said.

“Because they are such a high-demand item, they were hand delivered to the (Army Materiel Command) ammunition manager (at Joint Base Balad, Iraq) for distribution throughout Iraq in order to retrograde AT4s in accordance with the responsible drawdown plan,” Batchelor said.

Each anti-tank missile is valued at

more than \$1,100, Flores said. Successfully transporting more than 300 of them for future use, as opposed to destroying the ammunition and the paying the costs associated with the destruction, has saved the U.S. military roughly \$1 million, Flores said.

“Who says it doesn’t pay to recycle?” Flores said.

Batchelor said the Camp Taji QASAS team praised the 96th’s efforts toward accomplishing the mission.

“I hope we will someday be able to find out how these AT4 tubes came to be in this warehouse,” she said. “I am sure there is some history there but, for now, I am very grateful to all those who helped get them back into our ATHP.”

“It is evident that the 96th Sust. Bde. (munitions) team sets the mark for being subject matter experts in ammunition – far exceeding expectations placed on them as a brigade staff.”

## SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

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

# Providers conduct advanced anti-terrorism training

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in anti-terrorism level two training at the education center Jan. 10 to Jan. 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



This marks the first time level two training was offered to Soldiers in Iraq since the global war on terror started, said Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, force protection noncommissioned officer, with the 13th ESC.

“There was a need for in-country (anti-terrorism officers), a request came up through the chain of command and we came here to provide instruction and assist various commands in providing anti-terrorism officer training to in-theater units,” said Albert Warren Fielding, a physical security specialist with the Naval Criminal Investigative Services and an anti-terrorism instructor.

This class is offered to anti-terrorism officers, with three days of classroom instruction, two days of practical exercise and an exam, Salazar said.

“The course is designed to teach AT officers what they need to know to perform their duties, as well as other students taking the course who may



Albert Warren Fielding, a physical security specialist with Naval Criminal Investigative Services and an anti-terrorism level two instructor, discusses force protection measures with Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, a force protection noncommissioned officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Kohles, a force protection NCO in charge with the 13th ESC, before the commencement ceremony of the AT level two training course Jan. 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

not be in ATO positions who have a need to know some of the things the ATO does,” Salazar said.

Force protection and anti-terrorism are important parts of everyday life for all deployed Soldiers, said 1st

Lt. Richelle Gibson, force protection officer in charge, with the 13th ESC.

Anti-terrorism officers identify vulnerabilities, critical assets and any terrorism threats, Gibson said.

Scanners at the gates, and the placement of the Soldiers and tower guards are critical force protection issues addressed in the class, she said.

“I learned a lot more about what was behind the scenes of keeping this base safe and other bases, what most people take for granted,” Gibson said.

She said units are required to appoint an ATO for every 300 Soldiers assigned above the company level and one ATO for every 50 Soldiers at the company level.

“I think you get a lot of people from different branches and (military occupational specialties) who get tagged with an additional duty of ATO and they don’t know what it means, they have no idea what it entails,” she said. “They know how to fly a plane or how to track personnel. This was one place where we could put all the branches on one page and give them a general understanding of what it really entails.”

Fielding said the key to force protection is vigilance.

“The terrorists are always thinking of ways to attack us,” said Fielding. “Our goal is to stay one step ahead of them and be correct 100 percent of the time, because they only have to be correct once.”

## Wranglers host commanders' conference

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. MICHAEL ANDERSON  
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – Leaders with the Special Troops Battalion Wranglers, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in a three-day commander’s conference from Jan. 11 to Jan. 13 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.



The conference was designed to introduce leaders to the Wranglers’ standards and give leaders a chance to hear directly from the battalion commander and command sergeant major.

The conference included 17 leaders representing 11 units and more than 900 Soldiers spread throughout Iraq, said Lt. Col. Paula Lodi, the 15th STB battalion commander and a Franklin, Mass., native.

“My objectives for the conference

were: first, get everyone together and second, have the opportunity to personally work with the leadership to give my guidance and intent,” Lodi said.

Leaders heard from all the staff sections, legal, safety and a variety of sources to increase their knowledge and more effectively help their units, Lodi said. Leaders directly asked questions to solve any problems their respective units had, said Lodi.

Among the many leaders who participated was Capt. Michael Thomas, commander of the 82nd Financial Management Company Detachment and a Montgomery, Ala., native.

“I learned that we really need to focus on our principles of leadership in order to take care of our Soldiers,” Thomas said.

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Roberts, the detachment sergeant with the 82nd FMC and a Hampton, Va., native, said the conference taught him and his fellow leaders to focus on NCOs to enforce standards.

Lodi said, “The conference as a



The 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) company and detachment commanders listen to opening remarks during the battalion commander’s conference Jan. 11 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

whole was overwhelmingly successful.”

The conference’s main objectives were achieved, feedback was received, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Mill-

er, the battalion senior noncommissioned officer, and Lodi were directly involved with the leadership, she said.

The STB plans on holding another commander’s conference in March.

# 169th Seaport Operations Co. takes over shipping, receiving yard

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. BRIAN ORLINO  
96TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – At 3 a.m. in Baghdad, the night shift Soldiers at the Victory Base Complex Central Receiving and Shipping Point Yard had six hours left on their shifts.

Generator lights illuminate the darkness as the roar of diesel engines from 40 tractor trailers, both military and civilian, enter the VBC CRSP yard to be off-loaded.

Staff Sgt. Willie Hillman, the shift noncommissioned officer in charge and a St. Augustine, Fla., native, directs the convoy commander to send the vehicles to be off-loaded in the lanes for vehicles, 20-ft. containers and palletized cargo.

Simultaneously, Sgt. Thomas Harris, lane NCO and a Lansing, Mich., native, takes charge of Soldiers and distributes the duties.

First Lt. Jacob Vishneski, the CRSP yard officer in charge and a Shawsville, Va., native, said, the CRSP yard functions on organized chaos, but the 169th Seaport Operations Company Soldiers handle it well.

Vishneski said the CRSP yard operates as a centralized supply distribution center that transfers and tracks cargo. The

169th SOC, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) took over operations at the CRSP yard in December.

Capt. Andrew Kocsis, company commander and an Omaha, Neb., native, said it is challenging to fully prepare Soldiers before such a mission.

“Concentrating on the basics, cross-training, and looking for various types of training on automation and computer systems has directly contributed to the rapid success the unit has had since TOA,” Kocsis said.

The main sections of the CRSP include the database section, a medical supply lane, a container lane and a cargo lane.

The CRSP yard organizes cargo by destination.

When a loaded convoy comes in, the database section verifies the validity of transportation movement requests for the inbound.

After validation, the database section disperses paperwork containing tally sheets and TMRs with cargo descriptions, radio frequency identification tag numbers, and container numbers, to each lane NCOIC.

The shift NCOIC brings the loaded trucks into their respective lanes to be inspected by the lane teams.

The lane teams verify each individual piece of cargo on the trucks to ensure



Spc. Jessie Vasquez, an Amarillo, Texas, native, ground guides Pfc. Henry Simpson, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, as he uploads a trailer using a forklift. Both cargo specialists are with the 169th Seaport Operations Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

that the pieces have valid RFID tags, while simultaneously checking the cargo description on the TMRs.

As a final check, the lane NCOIC annotate every piece of cargo that is downloaded along with the TMR numbers and radio frequency identification numbers.

As the cargo is downloaded, the filled out packets are entered into the database.

“Soldiers must be versatile to work in the CRSP environment because they must be able to drive multiple types of vehicles to include M-1115 (Humvees), Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected-Vehicles and M-1A1 Abrams tanks,” Vish-

neski said. “In addition, the 169TH SOC Soldiers must be proficient on the assigned unit equipment, which includes various types of material handling equipment such as forklifts.”

First Sgt. Terrence Scarborough, a New Haven, Conn., native, said the leadership is working on site improvements, including renovating a facility for the Soldiers to have an area to eat meals and complete paperwork.

“Even though the VBC CRSP is the smallest yard in terms of area, (it) possesses the highest volume of cargo going through it on a daily basis,” said Scarborough.

## Mobile Container Inspection Team works to ensure containers' seaworthiness

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION NORMANDY, Iraq – As the U.S. prepares for the upcoming draw-down of troops and equipment from Iraq, its service members work together to make positive the footprint it leaves behind.

The Mobile Container Inspection Team with the 514th Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) travels the country to ensure the thousands of containers in theater are seaworthy and ready to be sent back to the U.S. or support contingency operations in Afghanistan.

“The problem we’re having here is there are so many containers and no one was tracking them,” said Staff Sgt. Donald Stokes, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 514th MCIT and a Waterbury, Conn., native.

When a unit puts in an inspection request to the battalion, a two or three-man MCIT is sent out to track the number of seaworthy containers and decide which ones will require repair before



Spc. Justin Nichols, a metal worker with the 514th Maintenance Company Mobile Container Inspection Team and a White Hall, Ark., native, fixes a bend in the frame of a container Jan. 14 at Contingency Operating Location Normandy, Iraq.

they can be shipped out, said Stokes.

Stokes said his team has inspected roughly 1,500 containers since its arrival in Iraq in June.

The inspection process is thorough and the team must maintain a strict focus to ensure nothing is missed, said Spc. Justin Nichols, a metal worker with the 514th Maint. Co. and a member of the MCIT.

“When we’re here, we’re dedicated

to the container and nothing else,” said Nichols, a White Hall, Ark., native.

Nichols said the team performs a walk around of the container, checking the inside, outside and bottom for any dents, frame or floor damage, and leaks in the door seals or walls. The container is then categorized as seaworthy or placed in one of three levels of repair based on the amount of damage, he said.

Even a dent as small as three-fourths

of an inch could render a container immobile.

“We’re here to see what containers are ready to go,” said Nichols. “We’re not here to fix them.”

Nichols said the team can make some level-one repairs on site, such as fixing small dents or bends in the frame, but more complex jobs are sent to the container repair yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Stokes said small dents or other damage may not seem important at first, but they become critical when it comes time to redeploy or redistribute them.

“If they don’t sit level, it causes problems with stacking on the barges,” he said.

Nichols said the importance of having had an MCIT travel to a unit’s location and inspect containers beforehand becomes clear when it comes time for them to redeploy.

“It saves a lot of their time,” he said. “It’s a very valuable asset.”

Though the MCIT speeds up unit redeployment and saves the Army money on container repair, Stokes said he is most proud of the fact that his team is playing an important role in the upcoming drawdown of Soldiers and equipment from theater.

“It’s the whole process of removing our footprint in Iraq,” said Stokes. “Everybody does their part.”

# Adder area leaders meet, discuss US, Iraqi relations

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – The 36th Sustainment Brigade and Shaykh Uday Aber Fahed Al Shrshap, of the Bdure Tribe, hosted a key leader engagement Jan. 20 at Al Shrshap's home to strengthen the relationship between U.S. forces and the local population.

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust Bde. out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), had lunch with the shaykhs and discussed upcoming projects.

Ryan said the meeting was important because he had only been able to meet with the area leaders once since the unit's arrival in country.

"We have not been able to get out there and do a key leader engagement with (al Shrshap) for some time," said Ryan, a Cedar Park, Texas, native. "I have not been able to go out there just to let them know that we appreciate what he has done to keep it safe for us and that he continues to

support U. S. troops in the area."

Ryan said Al Shrshap has fulfilled some logistical contracts in the past and is working on a couple of projects for U.S. forces.

"As the leader of the Bdure Tribe, Shaykh Uday (Al Shrshap) understands the relationships between the Iraqi people and U.S. Forces is imperative for continued partnership as the military begins to downsize," said Ryan. "He is just (letting) us know that he has manpower, he has logistics and he has trucks, so if there is something he can do for us, he is available to do it."

Al Shrshap said, through an interpreter, the meeting was important and that he and Ryan should work together "to strengthen the relationship between the American and Iraqi parts and talk about the (upcoming) work between the two sides."

Al Shrshap said he and his tribe want to continue to be a part of American security and will continue to support the troops with their mission.

Ryan said these types of meetings are important in keeping a good rapport in the area surrounding Camp Adder.

"It gives us a chance to talk through any issues that the local populace may (have)," he said.



Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, and Shaykh Uday Aber Fahed Al Shrshap, of the Bdure Tribe, discuss the relationship between U.S. forces and the local population Jan. 20 at Al Shrshap's home near Camp Adder, Iraq.

## Soldiers build together at Allied Trades

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



Sp. Chad Moncada, a woodworker with the 514th Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Holiday, Fla., native, puts the finishing touches on a flag case at the Allied Trades woodshop Jan. 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. When they are not building mission-essential furniture, Moncada and the other woodworkers build keepsakes for units at JBB.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 514th Maintenance Company's Allied Trades shops solve problems at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, ranging from repairing shipping containers to renovating old vehicles to flag cases.

Allied Trades comprises a woodshop, a machinist shop and a welding shop with a container repair yard.

"You name it, we do it," said Spc. Dominick Brown, a metalworker at the Allied Trades welding shop for the 514th Maint. Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). "We get anything from huge trucks to small boxes (to repair). Basically anything the Army needs."

One of the most important missions for Allied Trades is the inspection and repair of containers, said Brown, a Los Angeles native.

The metalworkers repair low-level damage to connexes, fixing small holes, damaged seals and dented or bent support beams, so redeploying units can ship equipment home without having to buy new containers, he said.

Container repair is their main mission, but it's just the tip of the iceberg of Allied Trades' capabilities, said Staff Sgt. Margaret Armstrong, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Allied Trades and a Hazleton, Penn., native.

In the woodshop, skilled woodworkers build furniture for units and, when the mission-essential work is done, awards and keepsakes.

Armstrong said one of her proudest moments was when her Soldiers built a flag case for a 514th Soldier who died before the deployment. When their first sergeant went home on leave, he delivered the

case to the Soldier's family in person.

Sp. Chad Moncada was a mechanic with the 514th and said he was asked to become a woodworker in the shop because of the skill set he developed outside the Army.

"My stepfather was a carpenter," said Moncada, a Holiday, Fla., native.

Although he was content fixing vehicles, Moncada said he is proud of the work he does in the shop, especially making keepsakes like the flag case for the fallen Soldier.

"I'm happy doing this," he said.

Armstrong said her Soldiers put mission-essential tasks first but work long hours to ensure they complete side projects and keepsakes.

"It's not our everyday mission, but it helps morale," said Armstrong. "It keeps my (Soldiers') skills honed, especially on the machinist side."

The Allied Trades machinist shop is home to the Army's only Computer Numerical Control system in Iraq, said Armstrong.

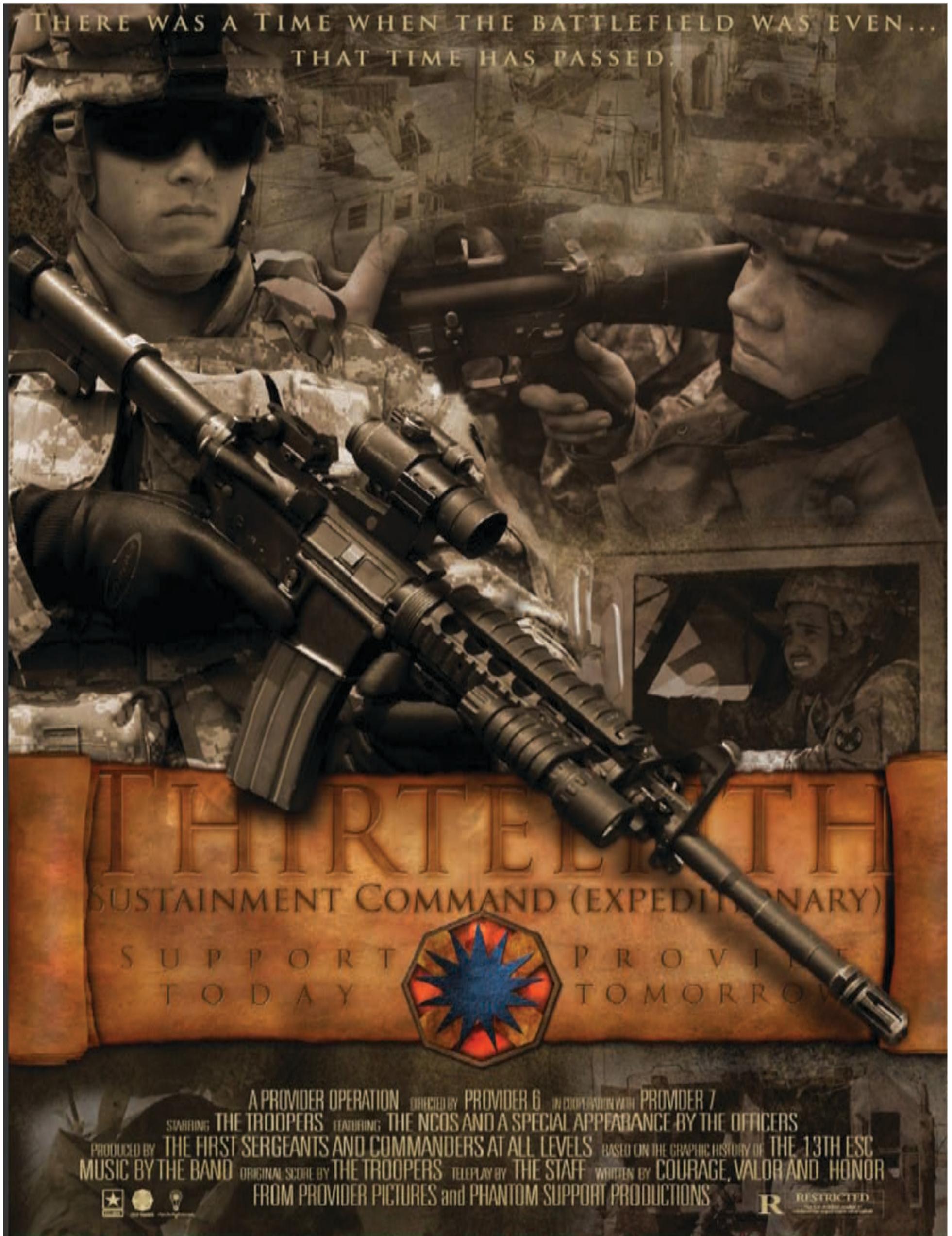
The CNC machine allows Soldiers to input detailed images and have the computerized machine cut them accurately, she said.

Allied Trades uses the CNC system, along with manual equipment, to fabricate parts for Army vehicles and equipment faster than they can be obtained through the standard ordering process, she said.

The equipment is also used to make awards and keepsakes, such as detailed, brass unit patches and nameplates.

Armstrong said her team has a passion for the work it does and uses its combined skills to not only complete the mission-essential tasks but provide quality pieces of art that units could not get anywhere else. This takes some sacrifice, she said.

"They work 15 to 20 hour days sometimes," she said. "I couldn't ask for a better group of Soldiers."



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BATTLEFIELD WAS EVEN...  
THAT TIME HAS PASSED.

# THIRTEENTH

SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

SUPPORT TODAY PROVIDE TOMORROW



A PROVIDER OPERATION DIRECTED BY PROVIDER 6 IN COOPERATION WITH PROVIDER 7  
 STARRING THE TROOPERS FEATURING THE NCOs AND A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THE OFFICERS  
 PRODUCED BY THE FIRST SERGEANTS AND COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS BASED ON THE GRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE 13TH ESC  
 MUSIC BY THE BAND ORIGINAL SCORE BY THE TROOPERS TELEPLAY BY THE STAFF WRITTEN BY COURAGE, VALOR AND HONOR  
 FROM PROVIDER PICTURES and PHANTOM SUPPORT PRODUCTIONS

**R** RESTRICTED  
No one under 17

# Ohio Guardsmen protect assets transported throughout Iraq

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Ohio guardsmen provide convoy security for the transportation assets of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the convoy logistical patrols that leave regularly from



Camp Taji, Iraq.

B and C troops with 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC, serve as security for sustainment support convoys leaving Camp Taji, said 2nd Lt. Jason Funderburk, intelligence officer with convoy security, 155th BSTB.

“They provide logistics security for any of the combat sustainment convoys from the Taji area,” said Funderburk, a Starkville, Miss., native.

They support regular sustainment missions destined for Joint Base Balad or Victory Base Camp, Iraq, he said.

Traditionally, both troops are combat arms units specialized in mounted operations, he said.

For this deployment, they trained in the use of Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles and convoy security procedures, said 1st Sgt. Edward Schmerber, the senior noncommissioned officer with B Troop 2/107th Cav.

Schmerber said the transition was easy for Veterans of previous deployments and the Soldiers experienced in tactical vehicle movement operations.

“Weapons systems are the same, but the vehicles have changed,” said Schmerber, a Cincinnati native. “We’re



**Pfc. Blake Owens, a driver with B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Versailles, Ohio, native, dries the mirrors on a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle prior to a mission Jan. 20 at Camp Taji, Iraq.**

still able to shoot, move and communicate.”

Roughly half of the Soldiers with the 2/107th Cav. have been deployed at least once before, said Schmerber. Soldiers with overseas experience helped mentor the other Soldiers in the mission objectives they faced, said Schmerber.

The Soldiers always prepare for each mission and know all of the important information before they ever leave the gate, said Staff Sgt. Adam Boots, a truck commander and intelligence ana-

lyst with C Troop 2/107th Cav.

“We rehearse battle drills often,” said Boots, a Cincinnati native. “We make sure every Soldier, from the lowest rank to top, knows everybody’s job.”

With this method, Soldiers are confident when they need to replace a Soldier who is injured or unable to perform his duties, Boots said.

Convoy security elements are just as important as the trucks that move supplies, said Boots. Without them, they risk losing the cargo, he said.

The 2/107th secures the convoys

that move food, water, supplies, equipment and mail to the smaller locations, said Boots.

B and C troops regularly run security operations for the sustainment and retrograde materials that have been slated for movement, said Capt. Louis Longhenry, commander of B troop 2/107th Cav.

“With sustainment runs, we move supplies to people who need them,” said Longhenry, a Cincinnati native. “Some of the smaller (contingency operating locations) rely on water and fuel we provide.”

Longhenry said the redistribution of retrograde assets has become a primary mission with the reposturing of equipment and personnel.

B Troop 2/107th Cav. supported Operation Back to School, a series of humanitarian missions that started at Camp Taji in support of the rural Iraqi grade schools in the area, said Longhorn. They provided convoy security for the volunteers as they delivered school supplies, he said.

“We’re helping the community and the country,” said Longhenry.

Both troops have completed more than 800 missions and traveled to most of the major COLs in Iraq, he said. They ensure the safe transportation of supplies to their destination, said Funderburk.

After nine months in country, the 2/107th has suffered no loss of life, serious incidents or major injuries while performing its missions, said Schmerber.

“They’ve done a remarkable job,” said Schmerber. “Bottom line is that the mission was to come here and perform our duties, but ultimately bring home every Soldier.”

## Security paramount in 301st Chemical Company visit to Baghdad orphanage

BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION PROSPERITY, Baghdad – Members of the 301st Chemical Company visited the Dar Al Zuhor orphanage in Baghdad Jan. 16 and handed out packages and gifts to the children.

Their goal was to observe and improve the quality of life at the orphanage, a place they had never been before, said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph K. Gilliam, shift leader with the 301st Chem. Co., 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Morehead, Ky., native. The personal security de-

tail team has not been on a humanitarian mission like this in two to three months, he said.

Even for humanitarian missions, preparation to ensure the safety of team members is paramount, he said.

“We do communication checks with the handhelds; plan the route on Blue Force tracker, mount weapons on the vehicles and check the cleanliness of the vehicle,” said Gilliam. “We have two M1151 Humvee’s we call limos – we take pride in keeping those vehicles extra clean.”

He said the personnel they escort, nicknamed the principals, ride to the venue in the limos.

Gilliam said driving through the streets of Baghdad can be hectic.

“When we drive out to the city we

have to follow the traffic laws, be obedient of the Iraqi’s and not press too hard on getting through traffic,” said Gilliam. “We work with the Iraqi police and Iraqi Army and that makes our life a whole lot easier.”

Because Army personnel can no longer do route reconnaissance, they followed the map to this particular venue, Gilliam said.

Sgt. Larry J. Hoppius, personal security officer, 301st Chem. Co. and a Southgate, Ky., native, said he is the liaison between the shift leader and the principals.

“We deal with a lot of civilians and I act as a buffer between them and our team,” said Hoppius.

He said he is personally responsible for their security and takes pride in his job.

“They have to be confident enough to want to follow you,” said Hoppius. “I try to give my team direction on what they do so there are no surprises at the venue.”

He said he has a lot of interaction with the officials on all of his PSD missions and wants to establish a rapport and show charisma with them immediately.

“If you are calm and collected, they will probably be (calm) if something ever happens,” said Hoppius. “It just makes the job easier in the long run.”

Gilliam said his team is one of only four U.S. Department of State military PSD teams in country and the 301st Chem. Co. has all four teams.

“I think we are one of a few units that still run through the streets of Baghdad,” said Gilliam.

# Providers teach Iraqi Army check point search procedures

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Every Sunday, U.S. Soldiers teach Iraqi Army Soldiers vehicle and personnel search procedures at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The class teaches the Iraqis the U.S. Army's standard techniques and procedures to promote strong force protection at Camp Taji, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Billy Brassel, officer in charge of force protection with the 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"It makes our side safer because of the convoys and amount of Iraqi personnel that enter through their (entry control points)," said Brassel, a Grenada, Miss., native.

Iraqi Army Soldiers operate the east and south gates, said Brassel.

For roughly six months Sgt. Darcell Young, the sergeant of the guard at Gunners Gate with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th BSTB, has worked side by side with Iraqi Army Soldiers and officials to set protocol to help improve their operational efficiency at the Iraqi-monitored ECPs at Camp Taji, said Young.

The class teaches the Iraqi Soldiers ba-

sics and stresses key steps for personnel and vehicle searches, said Young, a Benoit, Miss., native. Some of the Iraqi Soldiers have been briefed on similar techniques and this class builds on to that training and tactical knowledge, said Young.

"I ask (the Iraqi Soldiers) what they know and use it as building blocks to increase their efficiency," said Young. "It's a hands-on class. I talk them through it and then I watch them do it themselves and over-view how they do it. I'll critique parts and tell them what they need to improve in. It gives them more confidence in what they are doing out there on the gates."

With the use of a translator, Young said he teaches Iraqi Army Soldiers how



**Sgt. Darcell Young, class instructor and sergeant of the guard at Gunners Gate with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Benoit, Miss., native, observes as two Iraqi Soldiers demonstrate personnel search techniques and procedures Jan. 17 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Young teaches vehicle and personnel search procedures and techniques to the Iraqi Soldiers who man the entry check points at Camp Taji.**

to inspect vehicles and to search both male and female personnel. When female personnel need to be searched, the training respects Arabic cultural customs while keeping force protection top priority, said Young.

"If they ever had to search a female, they'll know how to do it according to their cultural guidelines," said Young.

Young said he uses his experiences from deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan to help teach Iraqi Soldiers.

He said the classes gave the Iraqi Soldiers confidence and proficiency in their tasks.

"They started understanding that this was (standard operating procedure) and they have to apply to these standards," said Young.

Young said the Iraqi Army checkpoints operate with little U.S. military support. They are at the point where they run and maintain their own operations, he said.

The instruction is very informative and the teaching style helps with first-hand experience in the search methods, said Iraqi Army Spc. Haider Abbas Gaffier, a military police officer in the Taji Location Command Military Police Brigade and a Baghdad native, through a translator.

It is important that Iraqi Soldiers who work on the gates know these procedures when the time comes to inspect vehicles and personnel, he said.

When U.S. Forces leave, the Iraqi forces will stand and defend their country and its people, said Brassel.

Helping Iraqis maintain the same standard as U.S. forces ensures the safety of all parties, he said.

# Camp Adder area Soldiers visit local shaykhs, pump houses

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 546th Maintenance Company and the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met with local leaders Jan. 18 and visited the four pump stations along the Euphrates River that provide water to Camp Adder and Camp Cedar II, Iraq.

First Lt. Nicholas R. Blair, the officer in charge of the Canal Pump Team with the 546th Maint. Co. out of Fort Polk, La., said his team delivers fuel to all four pumps about three times a week.

Blair, a Norton, Mass., native, said local shaykhs own the pump sites and local Iraqis are in charge of the general upkeep and maintenance of the pumps. Therefore, when the team goes out to the sites, they always interact with the local population, he said.

Blair said it is obvious his Soldiers have a good relationship with the local children in particular, as the children generally run to greet the Soldiers, who bring them candy or other items that have been donated to the unit for distribution.

The closing of Cedar II will cut his teams' mission in half as only two of the pumps will be needed to keep Adder running, Blair said.

"(The closing of Cedar II) will affect it drastically, 50 percent of what we do outside will fundamentally be cut," said Blair. "We deliver 900 to 1,000 gallons (of fuel) to each site per week. This will drop it down from 4,000 gallons to 2,000 gallons. We will just deliver fuel to the Tallil site, and the Euphrates 2 site."

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde out of Temple, Texas, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, visited the pump houses and had lunch with two of the local shaykhs.

"I think it was successful," said Ryan. "The engineers were out working on one of the pumps where the earth had kind of fallen in some, and (it was) a good chance just to meet with

the local shaykhs that ... actually have a contract to maintain the pumps and make sure that we have water.

Ryan said the shaykhs help ensure the security of his troops while they are on missions in the area.

"They help us," said Ryan. "If there is ... anything going on, on their land, they let me know about it and help to keep our Soldiers safe here."

The pump houses are a vital link between the local population and U.S. forces in the area, said Ryan.

"We are starting to interact more with the local population," said Ryan. "We see a lot more acceptance with the shaykhs, as well as the local populace that work there. There is not con-



**Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, is given a tour, Jan. 18, of one of the water pumps on the Euphrates River that supplies water to Camp Adder, Iraq.**

flict, or friction points, with the pump houses because it is a win-win situation. It is how we get our water and our lifeline here on Adder, and it provides some business to the shaykhs, and ultimately spreads throughout their communities."

# Surviving EFP Alley

## Mississippi Rifles' convoy attacked, three Soldiers earn Purple Hearts

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – For Soldiers deployed to combat, danger is outside the base, on the other side of the hill, always somewhere else, never near him or his team. Until it is.

Then the danger and terror are everywhere at once, over just as quickly as they began, and those Soldiers are safe again. Until next time.

The Army trains its Warfighters never to settle into those moments of security, never to become complacent. Instead Soldiers must always look for the next great threat. This saves lives. It is what sets Soldiers apart from civilians.

They serve a year or more in the thick of combat, away from their families and the comfortable familiarities of home, facing improvised explosive devices, ex-

plosively formed projectiles and small arms fire.

Three Mississippi Soldiers in a gun truck team on a late-night convoy in Iraq did exactly that, surviving EFP Alley Nov. 13.

They were wounded but, for their quick actions, were rewarded with their lives that night and Purple Hearts two months later.

### The attack

Every day, the Soldiers with the Mississippi National Guard's 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provide convoy security for the trucks that deliver supplies to all of northern and central Iraq.

For the Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 13 was just another night on another convoy as they approached EFP Alley, a section of the route between Balad and Baghdad. Soldiers nicknamed the area EFP Alley, because the area is heavy with activity, said Sgt. 1st Class

Donald Harrod, a platoon leader with D Company, 1/155th Inf. Regt.

A routine night changed in a brilliant flash of light and deafening noise. Unable to see clearly or hear one another, the situation almost descended into chaos, but the Soldiers said their training took over.

Instinctively, Spc. Adam Gordon, the driver, steered the mammoth Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle away from the blast site, bringing their disabled truck to rest about 70 meters away.

"I didn't think it hit the truck directly," said Gordon, a Brookhaven, Miss., native. "I didn't realize how bad the truck was hit."

Simultaneously, Spc. Avery Moore, the gunner, began scanning the area for targets, weary of an ambush.

"I reverted back to my training – scanning and looking for people, looking for whoever did this to me," said Moore, a Harrisville, Miss., native.

Sgt. Kristina Jones, the gun truck commander, said she had only one thought on her mind.

"It was: 'Alright, this really happened,'" said Jones, a Deer Park, Wash., native. "First thing we did was check to make sure everybody was OK. Immediately, our (communication system) went down, the vehicle went down. So the driver steered the truck safely and tried to signal the other trucks to let them know what was going on, and the gunner pulled security until the other trucks came up. All the drilling we do made it second nature. We didn't really have to think about anything, it just kind of happened."

Later, the Soldiers learned the full extent of the damage to the truck was not as bad as it could have been. Thanks to the standard operating procedures and guidelines set by the battalion and followed by the team, serious injury was averted.

"Two patrols had already passed through that area that night with no problem," said Harrod, a Hattiesburg, Miss., native.

As the truck approached a concrete barrier, rather

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pins the Purple Heart on Sgt. Kristina Jones, a vehicle commander with the Mississippi National Guard's D Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC, who was awarded the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge Jan. 13 for wounds received Nov. 13 in an improvised explosive device, explosively formed projectile attack on her vehicle.



than give it a wide berth, Jones instructed the driver to pull close so he could clear the area around the barrier and the gunner could clear above it.

“They were doing what they were directed to do, what they were trained to do,” said Harrod.

When the vehicle commander’s side of the MRAP was parallel to the barrier, the blast struck. It showered shrapnel from the front bumper to the back, from the wheel-well to the gunner’s turret, and punched a hole in the vehicle commander’s compartment.

Because they pulled up close to the obstacle, they put pressure on the trigger-man and diminished the effectiveness of the EFP, which has been known to kill Soldiers even in the up-armored MRAP, said Harrod.

**Explosively formed projectiles**

The Mississippi Rifles were hit by an explosively formed projectile, an improvised explosive device used by terrorists in Iraq specifically against armored military vehicles, according to the Pentagon’s joint IED task force.

The EFP is usually a cylindrical object with a concave copper disc at the head. When triggered, a blasting cap sets off explosives packed behind the copper disc. The detonation wave, moving at roughly 8,000 meters per second, strikes the liner, which inverts into a spear-like slug, capable of piercing most armor, spraying metal shards across the crew compartment, according to the task force.

According to a 2007 Washington Post report, an EFP eight inches in diameter is capable of throwing a seven-pound copper slug at Mach 6, or 2,000 meters per second. Copper is preferred because it is ductile and malleable, and does not shatter like steel, according to the same report.

Prior to the deployment, the 1/155th trained at Camp Shelby, near Hattiesburg, Miss., and then at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, learning about EFPs and other potential weapons, in preparation for their convoy security operations. Now, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, the unit maintains readiness with training, such as counter-IED training, said 1st Sgt. Plez Summers, the senior noncommissioned officer with D Co., 1/155th. The unit trained for a total of almost three months before arriving in Iraq in July, he said.

“We trained back home and when we got to the theater,” said Moore, a gunner that day. “At Camp Shelby, we simulated small arms fire (and) IEDs, and the trainers made it seem real.”

**Reaction, recovery, Purple Hearts**

After the EFP hit that night Pfc. David J. White, tasked to the 1/155th from the 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC, Harrod said he jumped into action, assessing injuries and treating the wounded Soldiers as quickly as he could. White was on one of his first combat missions, serving as the convoy’s lone medic, Harrod said.

“Before we left, I told him that if something happens, he should just ignore rank structure and just tell us what he needs,” Harrod said.

All of the Soldiers who were there that night spoke highly of White and his calm under fire.

“He really earned his (combat medical badge) that night,” said Harrod. “He did an outstanding job and we’re all grateful to him.”

The three wounded Soldiers were evacuated by ground to the combat support hospital at Camp Victory, in Baghdad, for treatment.

After they were treated, the doctors there made them call their families to let them know what happened.

Gordon, whose wife, Maggie Gordon, was about six months pregnant with their first child at the time, dreaded the call.

“She handled it better than I thought she would,” Adam Gordon said. “She cried and she thought I would come home, but I told her that’s not the case.”

Although he didn’t go home right away, Adam Gordon went home for leave in late December, in time for

the birth of his daughter, Allie Gordon, in January.

Moore said he called his sister and left a message when she did not answer.

“They weren’t too happy about that,” he said.

Though their wounds were relatively minor, they were pulled from their missions for roughly two to four weeks to ensure their complete recovery.

Jones said sitting on the sidelines went against his nature as a Soldier.

“Watching everybody go out without you, that was

probably the hardest part,” Jones said.

Eventually, all three Soldiers returned to duty. Moore and Gordon continue to run convoys throughout Iraq.

“Everybody has helped and made it a lot easier,” said Moore. “I don’t feel any different.”

The three were further honored Jan. 13 when they were awarded the Purple Heart in a ceremony at their battalion headquarters at JBB.

“It feels a little strange, I didn’t expect anything like this to happen,” said Moore. “I’m honored.”

# Mississippi Guardsmen convoy all night, work all day

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – If they were scared, they never showed it.

Instead, the Soldiers with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, prepared for their convoy from Joint Base Balad to Contingency Operating Location Seitz, Iraq, Jan. 16, and gathered around the convoy commander, Sgt. 1st Class David J. Cage, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Mississippi National Guard, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), for the convoy briefing. Afterward, they conducted last minute vehicle maintenance, cleaned weapons, grabbed food, or napped before the mission.

Sgt. Bryan Fuller, a combat engineer serving as the lead vehicle’s commander, said he has more than 50 missions under his belt.

“It’s nothing new to me,” said Fuller, a Columbus, Miss., native.

He ate his dinner out of a Styrofoam tray on the front of his vehicle while his gunner, Spc. Dustin Donald, a diesel mechanic on the civilian side, sat near by and smoked a cigarette.

As go-time approached, Fuller had Donald go over the steps leading up to the convoy’s departure.

“First, we do the pre-mission brief and then we do the last minute checks and put our gear on,” said Donald, an Independence, Miss., native. “We head over to the staging lanes, and then, once the other trucks are ready, we head out the gate.”

At the last minute, they learned they would have to run the mission one gun truck short because the truck needed maintenance.

“Usually we take care of vehicle maintenance before the mission, but this just came up last minute,” said Sgt. Markie Jones, a vehicle commander with 2/198 Combined Arms.

The unit prepared for its mission

**Maintenance personnel with 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, with the Mississippi National Guard’s 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), check a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle Jan. 16 prior to a convoy from Joint Base Balad to Contingency Operating Location Seitz, Iraq.**

well in advance, at home, in Kuwait and at JBB.

“Back in March, we did pre-mob training at Camp Shelby, (Miss.),” said Jones. “We did (improvised explosive device) training, convoy security training, and some weapon familiarization. It made the guys a little more aware of what we’d be doing here.”

The NCOs stressed teamwork and cooperation in their briefings and said those two qualities would be required to successfully accomplish their mission.

“You have to be able to depend on the truck in front of you or behind you,” said Jones. “But the Soldiers of this unit are really good about that. They run to help each other.”

When the mission is to run convoys throughout Iraq, often in dangerous areas, including a portion of the route between Balad and Baghdad known as EFP Alley, where one of the unit’s convoys was hit by explosively formed projectile Nov. 13, it comes down to relying on every Soldier, said Cage.

Cage said the Jan. 16 convoy went off without a hitch.



# Camp Taji Soldiers complete Martin Luther King Jr. Day 5K run

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer  
96th Sust. Bde.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Nearly 400 runners competed in the 5K for MLK run Jan. 18 at Camp Taji, Iraq, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sponsored by the 1st Battalion, 227th Attack Reconnaissance, the event featured commemorative T-shirts for the first 100 registrants, prizes for the top finishers, and a raffle following the race.

The top finisher was Capt. Louis Longhenry, commander of B Company, 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment, and a Cincinnati native, with a time of 19 minutes, .02 seconds.

Second place went to Capt. Robert Lejawa, a flight surgeon with the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and a Chicago native, with a time of 20 minutes, 5 seconds.

Third place went to Cpl. Terrance Clausell, a vehicle operator with the 498th Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Mobile, Ala., native, with a time of 20 minutes, 24 seconds.

The top three male and female finishers from each of the three age categories received \$40 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificates.

After the race, a drawing was held to award such prizes as a portable DVD player, gift certificates to the Green Bean Coffee shop and the Movies 2 shop here, and a 30-day Internet pass.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Winn, the noncommissioned officer in charge of transportation with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC and a Magna, Utah, native, has taken advantage of the races at Camp Taji, and has run in all of the 5Ks held here since his arrival, he said. Winn said he runs to stay in shape, to support the various causes associated with the events, and for the free T-shirts.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to come and stay in shape a little bit, and also come to support the everlasting example of Martin Luther King Jr.,” said Winn.

Spc. Christopher Read, an intelligence analyst with the 96th Sust. Bde. and a West Valley, Utah, native, said this was his second race since coming to Taji. He said his reasons for running coincided with Winn’s, but he particularly supported the reasons for the 5K for MLK.

“He was a great man and, obviously,



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

Soldiers from throughout Camp Taji, Iraq, begin the 5K run in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 18 at Camp Taji.

he helped out the country, not just African Americans,” said Read. “Everyone started seeing things in a new light, and he helped to shift that paradigm and bring about equality for all men, so he needs to be celebrated.”

Members of the Iraqi Air Force from Camp Taji were also present for the event.

Iraqi Air Force Maj. Salam Asmeal

Mustafa came to cheer on his troops who participated in the race. Although they had received little notice of the event, Mustafa said he was proud to support his Airmen in the race.

“This is a very good thing, especially since this is a new Iraqi Army,” said Mustafa, through an interpreter. “The Iraqi Army with Coalition forces doing this kind of thing is very good.”

# Balad observes Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Airmen with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, as well as service members from the sea services, came together Jan. 22 to “Remember! Celebrate! Act!” at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Luncheon here at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The event included a joint honor guard, a musical selection, a buffet-style lunch and a guest speaker. Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie Mitchell, the 13th ESC equal opportunity adviser, helped to coordinate the event. She said the event was more than just honoring a holiday.

“To me, it’s about awareness and just bringing people together,” said Mitchell. “It’s not for one ethnic group, but it’s about everybody.”

King’s message of peaceful demonstration and cooperation was the theme throughout the event.

“We don’t have to fight to make a



Col. Fredrick Brown, the operations officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the guest speaker at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Luncheon, spoke about equality in the military. Soldiers with the 13th ESC and Airmen with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, as well as service members from the sea services, came together Jan. 22 to “Remember! Celebrate! Act!” at the luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

point; we can do everything in a nonviolent manner,” said Mitchell. “I think his methods were the correct approach to get over (inequality).”

Pfc. Jeremiah Taylor, with the 910th Quartermaster Company, recited an original poem he wrote for the service in honor of King.

“But he never died, he realized he was a vessel, and though a man’s flesh may wither, the spirit lives on just as long as he’s remembered,” said Taylor, whose poem was received with a standing ovation.

Airman 1st Class Sean Scott, a radar maintenance technician with the 727th

Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, said he was proud to participate in the ceremony as a part of the honor guard.

“This is actually why I chose to do this ceremony; myself and my wingmen ... we felt it would be special for us to handle the rifles for the ceremony, as kind of the protectors of the colors,” said Scott, a Jacksonville, Fla., native. “It makes me feel honored to be part of this ceremony.”

The guest speaker, Col. Fredrick Brown, the operations officer with the 13th ESC, thanked Taylor for his poem and spoke about equality in the military.

“The United States armed services are together the most racially integrated mass organization in the world,” said Brown, a Natchez, Miss., native.

Brown said King’s work brought the inadequacy of the American civil rights policy to the attention of the American people and the people of the world.

“I do feel like I’m carrying on his legacy because it’s all about diversity, cultural awareness, education and treating people with dignity and respect ... that’s what Dr. King wanted,” said Mitchell. “He paved the way for everyone. He wanted everybody to be considered equal, regardless of your skin color.”

# Guardsmen pen pals write hometown grade-schoolers

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – Mississippi Army National Guardsmen at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, wrote to elementary school children,

their “Flat Stanley” pen-pals from Moorville, Miss., in December and January.

Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team, the Q-West force protection company out of Hernando, Miss., with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in the Flat Stanley Project with second and third grade children in Cheryl Hays’ Discovery Class at Mooreville Elementary School, in Mooreville, Miss.

For Flat Stanley, an international literacy and community-building activity, projects students make a paper cutout of Flat Stanley and write a journal about him, then mail these to recipients who treat Flat Stanley as a guest and complete the journal, returning Flat Stanley and the journal to the original senders, according to the official Flat Stanley Project Web site, <http://www.flatstanley.com/how.html>.

In 1995, Canadian teacher Dale Hubert created the project, basing it on “Flat Stanley,” a 1964 children’s book, written by Jeff Brown and illustrated by Tomi Ungerer, that tells about a boy flattened by a toppling bulletin board who mails himself in envelopes to distant places, according to <http://www.flatstanleybooks.com>.

The Flat Stanley Project is an excellent learning tool, said Hays, a Lee County, Miss., native. During the activity, children learn more about careers, geography, foreign languages and other cultures and practice skills, including reading, writing, researching, communicating, thinking creatively and solving math problems, said Hays.



“As an ongoing project, my second and third grade Discovery students, a gifted education class, continue Stanley’s adventures,” Hays said. “Students create their own Flat Stanley, giving him a unique identity as seen through the eyes of a 7- to 9-year-old. We send him through the mail to places all around the world, where friends and family members take him on trips.”

In previous years, her students sent the paper doll throughout the U.S. and the world, including France, China and Japan, Hays said. This year, the class discussed the war in Iraq and the students brainstormed ideas for what they might do to help, said Hays. Because one student, Harley Hamblin, had a father deployed to Iraq with the Mississippi Army National Guard, they decided to send holiday supplies to hometown Soldiers, she said.

“Every year, during the Christmas season, our Discovery students participate in a project designed to teach children to help others,” said Hays. “We call it our Enhancing Lives Forever, or ELF, Project.”

The students sent 12 care packages to Sgt. James J. Hamblin, a machine gunner with A Company, 2/198th CAB, whose son is in Hays’ class.

“My son Harley’s class sent packages and Christmas cards and postcards they made, along with Flat Stanley and a note asking me to show him around and send him back with letters about his visit,” said James Hamblin, a Tupelo, Miss., native.

James Hamblin said he distributed the care packages throughout his company and solicited the help of his fellow Soldiers with the Flat Stanley Project.

“I want to try to help the kids understand what we’re doing over here, what life is like for Soldiers,” said James Hamblin. “I want my son to know I’m well, that all the guys here are doing well. We’re over here now so, hopefully, our kids won’t ever have to be over here when they grow up.”

Spc. Philip A. Pigford, an A Company gunner and a Memphis, Tenn., native, posed for pictures with a Flat Stanley paper doll.

“This is a great idea,” said Pigford. “It’s a great way to tell the kids about what we’re doing over here, and it’s nice to know they are thinking about us.”

**Flat Stanley, a paper doll used in a pen-pal program, sits propped on the western shore of the Tigris River Dec. 30, near the Al-Qyarrah pump station compound, the source of water supplying Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Third-graders with Cheryl Hays’ Discovery class at Mooreville Elementary School, in Mooreville, Miss., sent the paper doll along with cards and letters to Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss., that provides security for missions to the pump house.**



**Cpl. Justin R. Strickland, a truck commander and a Memphis, Tenn., native, poses with Flat Stanley, a paper doll used in a pen-pal program Jan. 13 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Third-graders with Cheryl Hays’ Discovery class at Mooreville Elementary School, in Mooreville, Miss., sent the paper doll along with cards and letters. Strickland participated in the activity with fellow Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss.**

Spc. Lorence K. Strange, a gun truck driver and a New Albany, Miss., native, posed with Flat Stanley and wrote a letter back to the children.

“This was a fun thing to do,” said Strange. “I wanted to thank the kids for sending the packages and for wanting to know about our lives over here. I’ve got three kids myself, two girls and a boy, and another on the way. I would love for my kids to do this Flat Stanley pen-pal activity. To send a paper doll all the way to Iraq and have it travel around the country, even on missions, that’s pretty cool.”

Spc. Daniel S. Moore, a gunner and a Horn Lake, Miss., native, said he hoped his own children would have the chance to participate in a similar project when they are older.

“It’s a pretty cool way to teach kids by getting feedback from us, giving them a bigger picture of the world,” said Moore. “We want them to know that we’re doing all we can for them, over here and when we get home. I have two toddler daughters doing pen pals with Flat Stanley.”

Cpl. Justin R. Strickland, a truck commander and a Southaven, Miss., native, said the project lifted his morale.

“I thought it was great,” said Strickland. “It showed us the people at home still care, especially to get cards and letters from the kids. It’s good to know that they know what’s going on, that we’re over here.”

Hays e-mailed messages from her class, which James Hamblin answered. One student, third-grader Kayla Buse, wanted to know if the Soldiers gave Stanley an M4 carbine rifle.

“No, Kayla, Stanley did not get a weapon,” said James Hamblin. “Stan-

ley would have to go through the proper training before we could issue him a weapon, but we did show him the weapons we carry to protect the force.”

Another student, second-grader Joe Ray, asked if Stanley had seen any Army equipment.

“Has Flat Stanley looked at the machinery? Hey, Flat Stanley, I can’t wait to see you and the pictures,” he said.

James Hamblin said the A Co. Soldiers took Flat Stanley along with them during a Dec. 30 mission to the Al-Qyarrah pump station, the Tigris River source of water supplying Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

“Flat Stanley rode in our gun trucks during the mission,” said James Hamblin. “He even helped inspect the engine of one.”

All of the students thanked the Mississippi Guardsmen for their service and told them to take care. Several students were also concerned for Flat Stanley’s safety, including Lauren Elliot.

“Soldiers, do you like my Flat Stanley?” said Elliot. “Can you please keep Flat Stanley safe for me? I bet your family misses you.”

James Hamblin said he and his fellow Soldiers were keeping Flat Stanley very safe.

“You don’t have to worry about Flat Stanley’s safety,” said James Hamblin. “We are the force protection company for our base. Our job is to make sure everyone on the base stays safe, and we take that very seriously. Flat Stanley is safe.”

James Hamblin’s son, a third-grader, had a special message for his father.

“Be Safe,” said Harley Hamblin. “Come home soon in one piece. I love you.”

# Country singers entertain at Camp Adder

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Country singers Kellie Pickler, Jamey Johnson and Randy Houser performed a concert Jan. 17 as part of a United Service Organization tour at memorial hall at Camp Adder, Iraq.

This was Johnson and Houser's first USO tour, but the military setting was nothing new for Johnson, who served in the Marines from 1994 to 2002.

"I have enjoyed this whole week," said Johnson. "It has been a lot like hanging out with my (Marine Corps) brothers."

Johnson said the tour was a good learning experience for him.

"It is incredible," said Johnson. "My unit was deployed the same week I got discharged. I barely missed it the first time. So, it was about time I got over here to kind of see what was going on out here. It was eye-opening."

Spc. Phillip G. Jackson Jr., a computer repair specialist with the 36th Sustainment Brigade and a

Burleson, Texas, native, said he has been a country music fan for about 16 years.

Jackson said he was impressed with the concert and was particularly excited to hear Johnson perform.

"I really enjoyed Jamie Johnson's songs; Randy Houser was a close second," said Jackson. "I got to listen to them sing and crack jokes, it was pretty fun."

Jackson said he would like to see more shows like this one.

"I would like to see more country singers over here, I know they come over here when they can ... but I have never really heard of too many country singers who do tours at this many (bases)," said Jackson.

Johnson said he was impressed with his experience so far and the service members he met during his tour.

"I do not think I had any idea what to expect," said Johnson. "(It is) exactly what I kind of hoped to find when I got here, you know, just a bunch of good men and women pulling together. We have the world's best military force."



Country singer Jamie Johnson performs at the Jan. 17 United Service Organizations concert at Memorial Hall at Camp Adder, Iraq.

## American Forces Network access to be expanded in theater

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – United States Forces – Iraq is beginning a new initiative to standardize the American Forces Network's broadcasting capabilities on all enduring bases in theater.

"The bottom line is we have the best armed forces in the world and they deserve the best quality-of-life programs we can provide," said Air Force Lt. Col. David Ellison, the chief of programs for the personnel sector of USF-I. "Our goal is to ensure that, at a minimum, all enduring (bases) have AFN TV drops in all (containerized housing units) so that members have access to AFN programming. It provides a taste of America, a taste of home."

Ellison, a Columbia, S.C., native, said

smaller bases that are scheduled to remain in place through the upcoming withdrawal of troops and equipment from Iraq are the focus of the initiative. Locations such as Joint Base Balad and Victory Base Compound are already at or very near the standard, he said.

AFN programming provides constructive recreational and healthy entertainment options to service members and is essential to their morale, said Ellison.

In addition to entertainment, AFN provides valuable education, said Air Force Master Sgt. Jody Hoefs, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the AFN maintenance field office with USF-I.

"If you have AFN where you can relax, you're going to get that good command information," said Hoefs, a Pelican Rapids, Minn., native.

Hoefs said he acts as a subject matter expert for the initiative and provides solutions for units looking to add AFN to their locations.

The initiative requires the mayor's cell of every enduring base in Iraq to provide information detailing where they sit in regard to 100 percent coverage by Feb. 5, said Hoefs.

After USF-I has this information, it will work to bring all locations up to standard by Feb. 19, Ellison said.

"It's not just about enduring bases," said Ellison.

Units on bases scheduled to close during the upcoming withdrawal can still have AFN set up with USF-I's assistance, Ellison said.

Ellison said the technology used to broadcast AFN in Iraq is mostly wireless and inexpensive for units to purchase. If units lack the money in morale, welfare

and recreation funds, USF-I will assist in the funding, he said.

Decoders and satellite dishes for public areas such as dining facilities and MWR centers can be obtained at no cost, but installing AFN in CHUs at bases scheduled to close will be at the cost of the units, said Hoefs.

Hoefs said units can contact him with their needs and what they are looking for, and he will work with them to come up with an appropriate plan of action.

Ellison said USF-I wants to help all units, but has to take costs into consideration when setting up AFN for locations that will close during the drawdown.

"We all deserve AFN, but we have to be good stewards of taxpayer money," he said.

To inquire AFN installation, units can send their requirements to [AFN-iraq-MFO@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:AFN-iraq-MFO@iraq.centcom.mil).

*The Pax Hebbelic Council  
Presents the  
JBB POETRY SLAM*

**I slam.  
Therefore  
I am!**

Are you the hottest Poet on JBB?  
Do you have what it takes to "Blaze the mic"?  
Oh yeah, prove it!

Open mic sessions throughout the slam!

When: Feb. 8, 2010  
Where: MWR East (The Lounge)  
Time: 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Featured Poets:  
Dirty Red  
Remedy  
Didymus  
WYETAL BAATS  
and more.....

Wanted: Poets, Singers, Actors, & Musicians  
POC: [lyriclpt@yahoo.com](mailto:lyriclpt@yahoo.com)

# Stress Doc: country road gospel



**"The Stress Doc"  
Mark Gorkin**

John Denver knew what he was talking about in the song "Country Roads."

Yet, each year, I debate taking my solo, overnight retreat to the mountains of West Virginia.

It's a five to six hour drive, and I've done it before. At times money has been a concern. I make excuses: October's usually a busy month; the leaves probably won't be that spectacular this season with the lack of rain, etc.

Fortunately, it's not a logical debate. It's a spiritual one, an act of faith.

In some silent subterranean nexus of psyche and soul, there's a need to be connected intimately and tangibly with the big picture. So I go and return quieter, wiser and spiritually richer.

This year I journeyed to Helvetia, W.V., also known as Little Switzerland.

Helvetia is an idyllic mountain village with maybe 30 residents. While Heidi doesn't live here anymore, one of the natives is, in fact, that delightful and dynamic "mountain momma," a grandma who returned to her roots after a divorce and living abroad. She built a bed and breakfast, that is along with separate sleeping quarters. The latter is a rustic, wooden, two storied cabin-like structure that captures the feel of old world Europe.

Swiss and German immigrants originally settled the town roughly 130 years ago. Escaping religious persecution, these folks landed in Brooklyn and somehow did the covered wagon tour to their new world mountain hamlet. Yet I complain about my long trip.

No phone, no TV. More than 36 hours detached from the virtual virtues and vices of cyberspace.

Maybe that's the moral of this essay: when so absorbed in my online and offline writing and workshop activities, I sometimes forget how critical it is to nurture the larger senses and spirit.

Let me sketch and relive this vibrant picture. A babbling stream, a stone's throw from my bedroom window, bisects the town, gurgling and splashing me to sleep. How restful that late afternoon nap after an hour's hike up and down that forested country road.

For me, the color of the leaves evokes an overpowering chemical reaction. When bathed in sunlight, the shimmering waves of lemons and apricots and orange-cranberry hues overwhelm the logical left-hemisphere. All I can do is gaze and sometimes gasp.

While not brilliantly breathtaking, the colors have a more subtle, more mature beauty this year. Maybe it's a projection of a fifty-year-old psyche.

When the color disappears and night descends, then the other big picture show takes center stage.

Walking in the cool, clean, crisp mountain air, down another country road, beyond the last remnants of man-made lighting reveals the truly

majestic and miraculous mystery. As wonderful as cyberspace is, it can't compete with the real thing.

Growing up in New York, living in Washington, one hardly remembers the night sky.

Viewing clearly the Milky Way and myriad stars surely places everything in a vastly different perspective.

And on this screen, one does not just find constellations, there are almost limitless projections. Silhouetted against the darkened, yet starlit, panorama the towering black-grey, tree-covered mountain ridge morphs into the elongated spine and tail of a slumbering brontosaurus.

Down a darkly deserted road, Hollywood has nothing on the primal images and urges encountered when we plug our imagination into the ultimate mountain momma, mother nature.

I can still detect a lingering soreness in my neck from not being able to stop gazing heavenward.

Day follows night. Again, I'm a lonely traveler along another hallowed and hushed path, before the sun has climbed above the mountain ridge. It's the coldest part of the day. There is frost on my car windshield.

Seeing the stream, a gently flowing, dark purple sheet of glass with a hint of light, reminds me of how rarely I observe my environment at this hour of the morning, even though I'm a morning person.

Yesterday's late afternoon rustling of deer just beyond sight is replaced by the morning song and medleys of birds.

I'm ready for the hearty breakfast in front of a fiery pot-bellied stove.

The heat and light are as nurturing as the fresh fruit cup, warm banana bread and preserves, oatmeal and brown sugar and hot tea. Such a meal has me sleepy. And for now, alas, the dreamy journey must end.

Having set down my trip in words and images heartens me. This gets saved to a readily accessible file to remind me that man can't live by intellect and words, psychology and virtual reality alone.

There must be time for space and color, light and shadows, and pitch darkness, for the animated sounds of nature, along with tactile and olfactory pleasures and bracing cold pain, for a quiet sanctuary to recover our primal essence.

Yes, take me home country road. A world for simply being not of human doing and, surely, a time and place for practicing safe stress.

**Mark Gorkin, LICSW, "The Stress Doc"™**, is an acclaimed keynote and kick-off speaker, training/organizational development and team building consultant, psychotherapist and "motivational humorist." He is the author of "Practice Safe Stress: Healing and Laughing in the Face of Stress, Burnout & Depression" and "The Four Faces of Anger: Transforming Anger, Rage, and Conflict into Inspiring Attitude & Behavior." A kickoff speaker for Estrin Legal Education Conferences, Gorkin is America Online's online psychohumorist™ and pioneer of a USA Today Online "HotSite" – <http://www.stressdoc.com> – recognized as a workplace resource by National Public Radio. For more info on Gorkin's speaking and training programs and products, e-mail [stressdoc@aol.com](mailto:stressdoc@aol.com) or call 301-875-2567.

This issue of the Expeditionary Times contains a reader submitted article written by Mark Gorkin, also known as "The Stress Doc." Gorkin's views are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense and the inclusion of his submission is not meant in any way as an endorsement of his services.

**Where are my photos?**  
You can find them on Provider Common!

Start ---> Run  
Type: \\balafsv11zn03\PROVIDER\_COMMON

or

--Select "PAO" from the JBB homepage

--Select "Provider Common" in the left hand column

# Soldiers prepare fallen heroes for final homecoming

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – When a U.S. service member makes the ultimate sacrifice in theater, Soldiers with the Mortuary Affairs Collection Point at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, prepare them for their trip home.

Since February, when Secretary of Defense Robert Gates lifted the Clinton-era ban on media coverage of the return of fallen service members, families have been able to choose whether or not to have media coverage of the transfer. The Balad MACP is where fallen service members start their journey home.

“Our mission here is the disposition of remains ... with dignity and respect,” said Sgt. Tyrell Wheatley, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the JBB MACP with the 54th Quartermaster Company.

The first step in the process is to use a metal-detecting wand to ensure the body does not have any sort of unexploded ordnance, he said. This step protects both the Soldiers who take care of the remains here at Balad and those who will care for the body upon its arrival in the states, said Wheatley, a Baltimore native.

“We have a ‘dirty guy’ and a ‘clean guy,’” said Wheatley. “The dirty guy actually goes through touching the remains with his gloves searching for any UXO, anything that could possibly be dangerous. The ‘clean guy’ keeps an eye on him, has the paperwork ready to jot down anything that he finds.”

Once all the personal affects have been docu-

mented, the body is placed on ice to preserve it for the flight to Dover Air Force Base, Del., he said. Then the transfer case is sealed and draped with a freshly ironed American flag, he said.

From there, the 54th QM Co., the chaplain and Soldiers from the fallen Soldier’s unit perform a ramp-side ceremony to pay their last respects before the body is transferred to the U.S.

With the impending withdrawal of U.S. forces and the coinciding scale back in combat missions, the level of casualties has fallen to record low levels, meaning less work for the mortuary affairs Soldiers, Wheatley said.

“I was here in 2004 and it was really busy and, at this point, thankfully, we haven’t had a lot of work in our business,” said Wheatley. “I remember processing at least 300 remains in the six-month period in my first deployment, but we’ve been here about three months now and I believe we’ve only processed five.”

Spc. Amanda Soldano, the assistant NCOIC with the MACP, said she loves her job, but it is certainly not easy, especially when she has to go through the pockets of the fallen Soldiers and pull out pictures of their family or letters they wrote.

“I love it; it has a lot of honor and respect,” said Soldano, a Murrieta, Calif., native. “I love the feeling of accomplishment of sending a fallen hero home. I feel like I’ve done something for the family, but detaching yourself emotionally, that’s the hard part. I try not to get attached to the person, because I do view them as a hero.”

The Soldiers with the 54th QM Co. take pride in knowing they are the first step in sending fallen heroes on their journey to their final resting place, Wheatley said.



Spc. Amanda Soldano, the assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the Joint Base Balad Mortuary Affairs Collection Point with the 54th Quartermaster Company out of Fort Lee, Va., drapes an American flag over an empty transfer case as if preparing it for movement to the U.S. during a demonstration Jan. 18 at the JBB MACP.

## Chaplain encourages Soldiers, spouses to take love dare

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Chaplains with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team began to circulate “The Love Dare” in all of its battalions around Jan. 15 to prepare their Soldiers to redeploy and reunite with their spouses in the approaching weeks.

“The Love Dare” is a book that became a popular marriage enrichment tool for couples that want to improve and strengthen their marriage; it was highlighted in the 2008 independent film “Fireproof,” said Maj. Terry Partin, brigade chaplain with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th HBCT, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Divorce rates are high in marriages with one or both spouses deployed, increasing the need for tools to help Soldiers prepare as they reunite with their spouses when they return home, said Partin, a Richton, Miss., native. The U.S. military puts emphasis on preserving the marriages of its service members and provides a wealth of helpful material to Soldiers, he said.

The last time the 155th HBCT returned

from a deployment, several divorces occurred in the next few months, Partin said. With the high recommendations and positive reviews “The Love Dare” received, Partin said he encouraged the unit’s chaplains to use any material available to aid its Soldiers in their marriages.

“The Love Dare” is an in-depth resource, Partin said.

“It challenges those willing to take the love dare to go on a 40-day journey,” said Partin. “It gives you different directions to show affection toward your spouse.”

The dare is not as easy for couples split by deployments, considering the physical distance between the partners, he said. The major goal is to expose them to the materials and ideas before they redeploy to lessen the possible conflicts when they get home, said Partin.

The exposure Soldiers gain from this material encourages them to consciously decide to work for their marriage, he said.

A healthy marriage requires skills



that are not developed over night, especially a healthy military marriage, Partin said.

The first two years of marriage are the hardest, he said.

As marriages endure and develop, they can become stronger and longer lasting, said Partin.

Multiple deployments put a strain on marriages through time spent apart, said Partin.

This is why there are so many tools and services offered to Soldiers, he said.

Both the book and the film “Fireproof” are Christian in background but

the ideas discussed are still relevant to any marriage, Partin said. They contain examples to help spouses connect or reconnect, whatever the case may be, he said.

Partin said Soldiers carry out the daily dares despite the physical distance. They put forth effort to show their spouses a sign of love and affection.

It is how much effort they will put into their marriage that will really effect its development, said Partin.

Spc. James Douglas, a unit clerk with 155th HHC who has been married for nearly nine years, completed “The Love Dare” prior to his overseas deployment to strengthen and maintain the health of his marriage. Douglas said he plans to use it again on his return home.

“Reading the book put a lot into perspective,” said Douglas, a Vardaman, Miss., native. “How to respect and honor what a husband needs in a marriage and what his wife needs from her husband.”

“The Love Dare” uses practical exercises spouses can do to show tokens of affection and respect to their partner, said Douglas. Actions speak louder than words when communicating emotions, he said.

“Action is the proof of love,” said Douglas. “We can’t make up for the time we missed, but we can make the most of the time we have together.”

# 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

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

Level: Hard

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. On what vegetable did an ancient Egyptian place his right hand when taking an oath?
2. What are the two top selling spices in the world?
3. What flavor of ice cream did Baskin-Robbins introduce to commemorate America's landing on the moon July 20, 1969?
4. What nation produces two-thirds of the world's vanilla?
5. What was the first commercially manufactured breakfast cereal?

1. The onion 2. Pepper is 1st and mustard is second 3. Lunar Cheesecake 4. Madagascar 5. Shredded Wheat

## 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

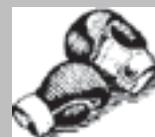
Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Training: Tue., 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. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midget Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
<b>EAST FIT-NESS CENTER</b> 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7	<b>EAST REC-REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: 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	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday, Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	<b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST REC-REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST FIT-NESS CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. <b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Thursday 01/28/10

Wednesday Night Hoops: Notre Dame @ Villanova, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Wednesday Night Hoops: Texas A&M @ Oklahoma State, Live 3:20 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Florida State @ Duke, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Australian Open Tennis Championships 2010, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/ xtra

### Friday 01/29/10

Thursday Night Showcase: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA on TNT: Boston Celtics @ Orlando Magic, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Winter X Games 14 (Aspen, CO), Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Thursday Night Showcase: Gonzaga @ Santa Clara, Live 7 a.m. AFN/ xtra

### Saturday 01/30/10

Winter X Games 14 (Aspen, CO), Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Boston Celtics @ Atlanta Hawks, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Colorado Avalanche @ Dallas Stars, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
 NBA Friday: Charlotte Bobcats @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/ sports

### Sunday 01/31/10

Winter X Games 14 (Aspen, CO), Live 12 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Vanderbilt @ Kentucky, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 ESPNU Campus Connection Week: Notre Dame @ Rutgers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Kansas @ Kansas State, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Chicago Blackhawks @ Carolina Hurricanes, Live 3 a.m. AFN/ prime atlantic

### Monday 02/01/10

Winter X Games 14 (Aspen, CO), Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 AFC/NFC Pro Bowl, Live 3:20 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Orlando Magic @ Detroit Pistons, Live 8:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 2009 San Diego Open: Final Round (Torrey Pines Golf Course; La Jolla, CA), Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 Virginia @ North Carolina, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/ sports

### Tuesday 02/02/10

Big Monday: UCONN @ Louisville, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL on VERSUS: Buffalo Sabres @ Pittsburgh Penguins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Big Monday: Texas @ Oklahoma State, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Charlotte Bobcats @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6 p.m. AFN/ xtra

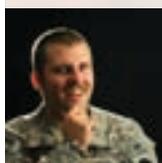
### Wednesday 02/03/10

Super Tuesday: Ole Miss @ Kentucky, Live 3 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 NHL on VERSUS: Minnesota Wild @ Dallas Stars, Live 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 Super Tuesday: Michigan State @ Wisconsin, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports

# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Daybreakers' not a classic, but good blood, guts fun

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"Daybreakers" will never become a classic, but it is over-the-top, gory fun that's everything "Twilight" is not.

It's 2019 and vampires have overtaken the world. Humans who refused to be turned are now trapped in giant factories and farmed for their blood. The problem is, humans are going extinct and the vampire world is starving to death.

It's up to Dr. Edward Dalton (Ethan Hawke), a hematologist, to find a blood substitute to save the vampire world, but

what he wants to find is a cure for vampirism. Eventually, he teams up with a rag-tag group of human survivors to try and save the human population and eradicate the vampire disease.

The visual setting of the movie was solid. It was very dark with a gothic feel that set a dismal atmosphere not only for a world without humans, but also as a world that was starving to death.

The special effects were unremarkable, but this movie wasn't overburdened with special effects, so it's not a real distraction.

The story line for "Daybreakers" was pretty interesting. The movie had many of the classic vampire myths, such as no mirror reflection, the wooden stake bit, etc., but it gave it a twist by setting the

film in a future with humans going the way of the dodo.

Hawke ("Training Day") plays his character as a vampire torn by those last remnants of humanity in his mind. He does a fine job, but his performance wasn't incredibly noteworthy.

Willem Dafoe ("Spiderman") plays Lionel "Elvis" Cormac, a former human, turned vampire, turned human ... it's not as confusing as it reads. He gives a great performance, probably saving this movie from becoming completely mediocre. He is the heart and humor of the movie and the clear fan favorite based off of the audience's reaction.

The film's main theme about greed leading to the world's demise was quite timely and effectively drew in the crowd.

The movie's biggest problem is that it took itself too seriously at times. It would have benefitted from a little more camp and a little more over-the-top action. Give this movie the 1980's treatment, ala "The Warriors," which is technically 1979, but who's really checking, or "They Live," and you have a new cult classic ready to be shown to a group of gore fanatics.

This film wasn't great, and I very much doubt that I will give it a second viewing, but it was definitely worth watching once. It was nice to see vampires ripping people to shreds for a change. I suggest waiting till this one is available on Netflix, but I would definitely check it out if you enjoy a bloody, good time.

## Clancy meets Romero, 'Patient Zero' chillingly good

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Jonathan Maberry combines elements of science fiction, international intrigue, secret agents and zombies into a surprisingly good piece of fiction in the inaugural installment of the Joe Ledger series, "Patient Zero."

I say surprisingly good because, when I read the synopsis, I actually groaned, but a friend sent me the book, so I decided to read it anyway.

I'm glad I did.

The protagonist is a bit prototypical, a hardened cop with a haunted past. Despite what would seem to be a very flat character model, he gains the reader's interest and empathy.

The main story line is where Maberry really shows his comic book roots.

An incredibly wealthy villain finances terrorists to create a super disease, based on mad cow protein, that turns victims into mindless vessels intent on eating people – well, at least, biting them to death – thus spreading said disease through saliva. They're creating an unstoppable army of zombies for profit. The profit comes

from the villain's ownership of several large pharmaceutical companies.

The zombie fight scenes are spectacularly written and really give a sense of the terror involved in hand to hand combat with the undead.

Multiple points of view help the reader identify with the protagonist. All the auxiliary point of view chapters are written in the third person, whereas the Joe Ledger chapters are written in the first person. While it can be dangerous for an author to switch between multiple points of view and perspective styles, Maberry pulls it off seamlessly.

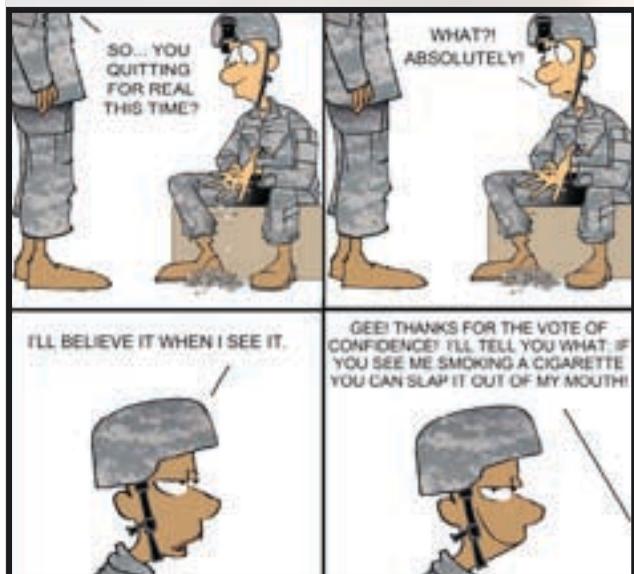
The only truly irritating aspect of

the book is the abundance of product placement. I should say it was the only truly frightening part of the novel.

At first it was a bit refreshing to have everyday products mentioned by name, but soon the deluge of coffee, soft drink and even specific cell phone model name drops had me concerned that, like current movies and television shows, books will soon be massive advertisements. It was positively chilling to consider product placement in literature.

As far as zombie stories go, I rate "Patient Zero" about a step behind Max Brooks' "World War Z," but still a very respectable eight out of 10.

## PVT MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

**Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
5 p.m. Everybody's Fine  
8 p.m. The Blind Side

**Sunday, Jan. 31**  
2 p.m. Legion  
5 p.m. The Princess And The Frog  
8 p.m. Brothers

**Thursday, Jan. 28**  
5 p.m. The Blind Side  
8 p.m. The Book Of Eli

**Monday, Feb. 1**  
5 p.m. Brothers  
8 p.m. Legion

**Friday, Jan. 29**  
2 p.m. The Princess And The Frog  
5 p.m. Brothers  
8:30 p.m. Legion

**Tuesday, Feb. 2**  
5 p.m. Legion  
8 p.m. The Princess And The Frog

**Saturday, Jan. 30**  
2 p.m. Brothers  
5 p.m. Legion  
8 p.m. The Princess And The Frog

**Wednesday, Feb. 3**  
5 p.m. The Princess And The Frog  
8 p.m. Brothers



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

Spc. Joshua McCarthy, with Commanche Troop, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, prepares to demonstrate the Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Jan. 11 during a tour of Contingency Operating Location Delta, Iraq.

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



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Ali Hargis

(Above) Soldiers with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, prepare to demonstrate how to clear a room for Iraqi Security Forces during a combined check point training Jan. 9 at Contingency Operating Location Marez, near Mosul, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David M. Sharp

(Left) Soldiers with D Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, stand guard with Iraqi police as a vehicle with detainees arrive for the Detainee Releasing Ceremony Jan. 10 in the Al Anbar Province, near Ramadi, Iraq

Cadets stand in formation during a parade in honor of the graduation and commissioning of new officers into the Iraqi Army Jan. 10 at Camp Ur, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gavriel Bar-Tzur



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Ali Hargis

(Above) Iraqi Security Forces rush to save a Soldier with a simulated injury, during the emergency medical drills portion of combined check point training Jan. 9 at Contingency Operating Location Marez, near Mosul, Iraq

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Iraqi Security Forces arrest 2 suspected Promised Day Brigade members

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected terrorists Jan. 4 during a joint security operation in northern Baghdad to arrest a suspected leader of the Promised Day Brigade terrorist group.

Acting in accordance with a warrant issued by an Iraqi court, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a suspected PDB leader believed to be responsible for coordinating attacks on security forces and civilians within the city.

ISF arrested an individual who attempted to flee the scene as the security team approached the building. A second suspect was arrested based on evidence found on the premises.

The PDB terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks against security forces. Recent attacks conducted by PDB have resulted in civilian deaths, which have not deterred the group from planning and executing additional acts of violence. Joint security operations throughout Iraq target individuals who threaten Iraqi citizens and disrupt national stability.

## Iraqi Army arrests alleged Promised Day Brigade explosives-cell member

BAGHDAD – The 44th Iraqi Army arrested a suspected Promised Day Brigade explosives-cell member and two suspected criminal associates during a joint security operation Jan. 11 in northeastern Baghdad.

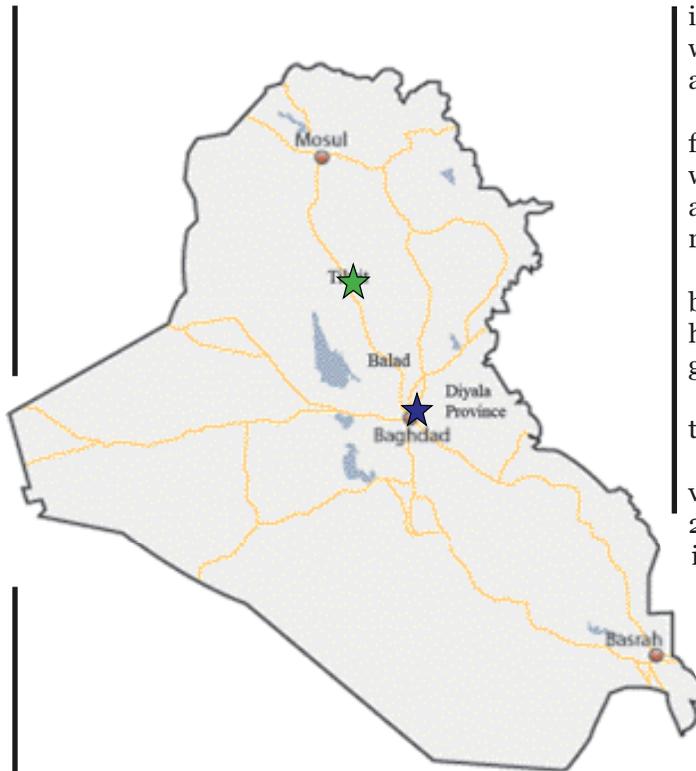
Acting upon a warrant issued by an Iraqi court, 44th IA Soldiers and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a suspected PDB explosives-cell member who acquires and employs improvised explosive devices and rockets in attacks against security forces within the region.

Based on the results of preliminary questioning and the evidence collected at the scene, the 44th IA identified and arrested the warranted PDB member and two suspected criminal associates without incident.

## Security forces arrest suspected cell leader

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Iranian-linked assassination cell leader and his suspected criminal accomplice during a joint security operation Jan. 7.

In a rural area southeast of Baghdad, ISF



and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a suspected leader of an Iranian-linked assassinations cell, who is also believed to be involved in a weapons-smuggling network.

After conducting preliminary questioning and assessing the evidence on the premises, ISF identified and arrested the suspected cell leader and his criminal accomplice without incident.

## Hundreds graduate from Iraq's oldest military academy

BAGHDAD – In an historic ceremony, 231 Iraqi Army and 247 Iraqi Air Force cadets graduated from Basic Officers Commissioning Course 100 at Ar Rustamiyah Military Academy Jan. 10 in Baghdad.

The year-long commissioning course stressed leadership and ethics training while instilling the values and standards required of the future leaders of the Iraqi military. Additionally, the course covered tactics, weapons training, physical fitness, first aid, current affairs and geography.

Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, director of the Iraq Training and Advising Mission with the Air Force, represented the commander of NATO Training Mission – Iraq, Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, as he joined more than a thousand relatives, friends and Iraqi military dignitaries who traveled to attend the graduation.

Staff Lt. Gen. Abud Kanbar, Iraqi Deputy Chief of Staff Operations praised the graduates for their daily sacrifices and emphasized the importance of their role in fighting terrorism. He encouraged them to be proud and serve in the spirit of unity and integrity of Iraq while avoiding divisive sectarianism.

On a similar note, Maj. Gen. Majeed Hassan Zgaat, academy commander, reminded cadets that the challenges of the course prepares them for the daily challenges that the security forces are enduring

while confronting terrorism. He said terrorism will be defeated with their leadership, professionalism and dedication.

The Iraqi Ministry of Defence plans to extend future commissioning courses to three years, which will give graduates a university degree and a more advanced set of skills to bring to the security forces.

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

NATO Training Mission – Iraq has supported the academy since 2005.

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

NTM-I advises and supports the National Defence University, National Defence College, War College, Joint Staff and Command College, the Military Academy, the Defence Strategic Studies Institute and the Defence Language Institute.

The Iraqi Military Academy and the Joint Staff and Command College are based at Ar Rustamiyah to the east of Baghdad with the other institutions in Baghdad. 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.

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.

## Security forces capture suspected female suicide-bomber recruiter

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist-group members Jan. 11 during two joint security operations in Baghdad and northern Iraq.

Both security operations were conducted based on warrants issued by Iraqi courts.

In northwest Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a suspected female terrorist who is believed to be actively recruiting female suicide bombers for use in high profile, AQI-sponsored attacks against government officials and innocent civilians.

Based on preliminary questioning and evidence found on the premises, ISF identified and arrested the wanted female and a suspected AQI associate without incident.

During a second security operation in Esaiwid, north-east of Baghdad, the 3rd Emergency Response Unit and U.S. advisers searched two buildings for a member of a Kirkuk-based improvised explosive device cell, who provides safe haven to cell leaders who are running from ISF.

Information and evidence collected at the scene led the 3rd ERU to identify and arrest the warranted AQI member without incident.

## Security forces target al-Qaeda in northern Iraq, arrest 6

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested six suspected terrorists during three joint security operations conducted Jan. 6 and Jan. 7 to arrest members of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist group operating in northern Iraq.

Near the town of Arij, south of Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building Jan. 6 for a suspected AQI member who is believed to be acquiring and transporting supplies and explosives material to assist cell members to carry out attacks throughout the region.

Based on preliminary questioning and evidence discovered at the scene, ISF arrested three suspected criminal associates of the warranted individual.

In northeastern Mosul Jan. 7, ISF and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for a suspected AQI leader.

After examining the evidence at the scene, ISF arrested two suspected criminal associates of the warranted individual.

During another security operation conducted Jan. 7 near Bahiyah, northeast of Baghdad, the 3rd Emergency Response Unit and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for a suspected AQI member who assists an explosives cell with acquiring vehicles for use in vehicle-borne improvised explosive attacks throughout Baghdad.

Iraqi Police arrested a suspected criminal associate of the AQI suspect based on information and evidence collected at the scene.

## 2 suspected al-Qaeda terrorists killed, 21 arrested

BAGHDAD – Joint security teams killed two and arrested 21 suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists Jan. 5 during a series of coordinated security operations in Mosul to weaken the terrorist network and prevent future attacks.

Throughout the northern Iraqi city, Iraqi Security Forces from Nineveh province and U.S. advisers searched buildings to locate and arrest suspected AQI members believed to be working within the top echelons of the terrorist group. Accurate intelligence collected prior to the operation led the security teams to the buildings.

Initial reports indicate that the AQI wali of northern Iraq was killed, while those arrested included the terrorist group's administration emir for northern Iraq, an adviser to the sharia emir of northern Iraq and the detainee affairs emir of northern Iraq.

Suspected terrorist activities conducted by AQI range from extorting and kidnapping Iraqis to conducting assassinations and improvised explosive device attacks throughout the country.

During one security operation in northeastern Mosul, a suspected AQI leader was killed after he refused to exit a building and opened fire on a security team of ISF and U.S. advisers. Prior to the exchange of gunfire, the security team instructed those inside the building to exit. Except for one suspect, all individuals within the building exited and were led to a safe area for questioning.

The suspect, Abu Na'im al-Afri, refused to exit the building and began shooting at the security team. The security team fired back and killed al-Afri, an alleged AQI wali of northern Iraq and is believed to be responsible for overseeing the movement of explosives and suicide bombers traveling into Iraq.

At a different location in northeastern Mosul, intelligence reports led ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building where a suspected AQI leader lived. As the security team entered the building, an individual armed with a pistol raised his weapon as if to shoot the security team members. Perceiving a direct threat to the safety of the team, a security team member shot and killed the gunman. The identity of the gunman has not yet been confirmed. Based on evidence found on the premises, two suspected criminal accomplices of the alleged AQI leader were arrested without incident.

## New commander takes 321st Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGHDAD – Lt. Gen. Mike Hostage, Southwest Asia commander with U.S. Air Forces Central Command, presided over an assumption of command ceremony for the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing Jan. 7 in Baghdad.

Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson replaced Maj. Gen. Robert Kane as the new commander of the 321st AEW and new director of Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission – Air Force.

"The year ahead will no doubt not be without its challenges," said Hanson. "Yet, I am confident the strength of our partnership and the professionalism of our Airmen will lead to many new achievements."

The mission of the 321st AEW is to train and advise the Iraqi Air Force and advance the fundamental airpower capabilities of Iraqi airmen.

The Iraqi Air Force produces more than 200 hours of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support weekly and provides critical battlefield mobility and medical evacuations daily.

"I look forward to continuing to build this capable and professional Iraqi Air Force," he said. "The strong relationship between our two air forces is mutually beneficial and reflects the growing self-reliance of the Iraqi Security Forces and their advancing prominence in the Gulf Region."

As a command pilot with more than 3,500 flying hours in various aircraft, Hanson brings a wealth of experience to the position. As he took command of the wing, he expressed his appreciation for the men and women serving.

"Thank you for your service, your dedication, and devotion to this critical mission," he said. "You enable and empower the Iraqi Air Force through your daily world-class efforts and set the conditions for mission success."

## Defense Attaché Association meets with NATO Training Mission – Iraq

BAGHDAD – Military defense attachés from 13 countries conducted an official meeting with NATO Training Mission – Iraq officers Jan. 10 in Baghdad.

This event was organized to acquaint

the Defense Attaché Association with the main goals NTM-I plans to achieve in Iraq.

"We are here at the request of the government of Iraq," said Brig. Gen. John Wootton, chief of the Division of Training Educational Doctrine Advisors. "We're here in a non-combat role to help professionalize the ISF – to train, advise and mentor."

The meeting with the international military representatives included an overview of NTM-I structure and branch tasks.

Wootton emphasized the key role of officers in the development of the Iraqi Security Forces and the importance of officer education and training. The NTM-I was committed to supporting the ISF and delivering a self-sustaining officer education and training system, and focused on making the most of the time available.

"We have less than 24 months until the NATO mission is due to end," he said.

Col. Mauro Isidori, Carabinieri Training Division commander, informed military guests of the tremendous growth in professionalism of the Iraqi police forces.

"So far, we have trained more than six thousand personnel for the Ministry of Interior," he said.

Brig. Gen. Max Marriner, British Defence Attaché and Head of the Defence Attaché Association said, "Your work is really needed by the Iraqi people. Keep going in that direction, we really appreciate what you are doing."

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.

NTM-I advises and supports the National Defence University, National Defence College, War College, Joint Staff and Command College, the Military Academy, the Defence Strategic Studies Institute and the Defence Language Institute. The Iraqi Military Academy and the Joint Staff and Command College are based at Ar Rustamiyah to the east of Baghdad with the other institutions in Baghdad. 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.

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.

## Salah ad Din celebrates Police Day with basic recruit graduation

TIKRIT, Iraq – Hundreds of citizens of the Salah ad Din province celebrated Police Day as they cheered for the 88 Iraqi police officers who graduated from the Basic Recruit Training Course Jan. 9 in Tikrit, Iraq.

The graduates completed four weeks of orientation and basic police education that included physical fitness training, marching, disciplinary actions, police operations and tactics.

The course emphasized professionalism, ethics and the importance of the rule of law.

Police students from the BRT course led a parade with Iraqi flags and banners during the parade, which was one of many across Iraq.

Following the ceremony, the graduates were released to their assigned positions at police stations throughout the province.

# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars



**Spc. Richard M. Webb**, a driver and a Pickens, Miss., native, checks the oil of his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle during a quality assurance / quality control inspection in the company motor pool Jan. 5. Webb serves with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, out of Greenwood, Miss. A mechanized infantry unit, B Co. runs convoy security missions to bases across northern Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

(Above) Members of the Iraqi Army and the 121st Brigade Support Battalion work together during a Convoy Academy training exercise Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq. The training academy was started by the 121st BSB to ensure U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers will be mission ready.

U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. William O. Horton II



**Cpl. Fredrick Porter** (left) a Heidelberg, Germany, native, and **Spc. Manuel Vargas**, a Vass, N.C., native, both truck drivers with the 396th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), replace old split-ring palletized load system trailer tires. The unit recently embarked on a mission to replace all older-generation split-ring trailer tires to increase mission readiness within the company.

**Spc. Calvin L. Davis**, a gunner and a Red Banks, Miss., native, mans a machine gun in a tower at the main entry control point Jan. 10 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Davis serves with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss., that provides force protection to Q-West. This day marked the unit's sixth month of ECP operations. There have been no security breaches during its tenure.

**Spc. Ryan E. Ohlendorf** (left, distance), a gate sentinel and a Horn Lake, Miss., native, gives a signal for fellow sentinel **Pfc. Quintavis B. Byrd**, a Tutwiler, Miss., native, to open the gate at the main entry control point Jan. 10 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Both serve with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss., that provides force protection to Q-West. This day marked the unit's sixth month of ECP operations. There have been no security breaches during its tenure.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars