

# The Expeditionary Times

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## Grand opening



JBB officials cut ribbon at Container Repair Yard

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## Helping hands



Arizona-based unit brings clothing to give to local community

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## Paying tribute



'Henkes Lane' rededicated in Mosul

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# Four-star general visits JBB, talks drawdown, women's history



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command and a Fort Belvoir, Va., resident, speaks with Staff Sgt. Solmarie Ramirez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of asset visibility for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native, after presenting her with the general's coin for excellence and commitment to her mission. The ceremony was held at the 13th ESC Joint Operations Center, March 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command and a Fort Belvoir, Va., resident, made a March 20 visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to discuss the upcoming responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment in Iraq.

Dunwoody was briefed on base closures and the drawdown of personnel, both military and contractors, during a logistics-capacity briefing at the Mirage dining facility.

She addressed the crowd, saying how proud she was of everyone at JBB and the progress being made here in Iraq.

"You are all making such a huge contribution over here," she said. "They know that you are going to make it happen, we

SEE GENERAL ON PAGE 4

# Sustainers hold conference in Basra

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq – More than 100 Soldiers attended the United States Division – South Sustainers' Conference

March 18 to March 19 at the Gen. John W. Vessey Headquarters Building at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Darrell J. Debish, the support operations officer for

with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said the conference allowed sustainers to gather and discuss any issues they may be experiencing as a whole or in their area of responsibility.

"A sustainers' conference is where everybody gets together from a region or area, (with) a focal point on getting goods and services to the Soldier quicker, faster, better," said Debish, an Austin, Texas, native.

Lt. Col. Seth L. Sherwood, the chief of sustainment for the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort RISEE MEET ON PAGE 4



Lt. Col. Darrell J. Debish, the support operations officer for the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Austin, Texas, native, speaks during the USD-S Sustainer's Conference, March 18 at the Gen. John W. Vessey Headquarters Building at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq.

## Balad Blotter March 18 - March 25

### **VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 92:**

The complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported that witness two failed to properly present his ID card when entering the dining facility and continued into the DFAC when instructed to stop. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. The flight chief arrived on the scene and made contact with witness one who escorted him to the table where witness two and the subject were sitting. The flight chief instructed witness two to step outside with him at which time the subject said that he was going to go outside with witness two. The flight chief advised the subject repeatedly that he was to remain inside while he spoke with witness two. The subject continued to disobey the flight chief when instructed to sit down. The flight chief advised the subject that if he continued to disobey him he would be placed under apprehension and again told him to sit down and wait inside. The subject picked up his weapon slung it over his back and instructed the flight chief to apprehend him because he was going to go outside with witness two. The flight chief apprehended the subject for Violation of Article 92 and Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The patrol transported the subject to the law enforcement desk for processing. The patrol advised the subject of his rights. The subject declined to make a statement and requested legal counsel. The subject was released to his first sergeant. Further investigation revealed that witness two presented the front side of his ID card but failed to show the back to the guard.

### **PROVOKING SPEECHES AND GESTURES:**

The complainant approached patrol X-Ray-1 in the dining facility and said that a subject had made provoking speeches towards the complainant. Patrols Bravo-2 and 2A were briefed and dispatched. The patrols conducted interviews with the complainant and witness. Patrols Bravo-2 and 2A initiated the transport of the subject to the law enforcement desk. Patrols Bravo-2 and 2A advised the subject of his rights, the subject acknowledged his rights, declined legal counsel, and accomplished a written statement. The subject said he entered the DFAC and showed the guard his identification. The guard told him it was upside down. He turned the ID right side up and proceeded inside. The guard then grabbed him and yelled at him. He then used provoking speeches and told the guard not to touch him. The subject was released to his first sergeant.

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# Chaplain's Corner: challenges of redeployment

By CAPT. MYRON JOHNSON  
264TH CSSB

Most of us are excited when it is our turn to redeploy. We have watched other units pack up and leave. Soldiers walking out of the Post Exchange with one or two tough boxes in tow telegraph their imminent departure. When it is finally your turn to redeploy, you become the envy of the post. Even though this is an exciting time, and a long time coming, it also presents some challenges. Two significant issues in the redeployment process are change and anxiety.

No matter who you are, what your rank, or marital status, you will face changes in one form or another when you get back home. One way to keep up with the changes is to maintain good communication with your family. If you don't like how your spouse is doing something, express it but don't try to change it. Work with him or her to see if you can come up with a solution that you both can live with. Observe how things are operating at home before you try to change them. Some things won't, and can't, be changed.

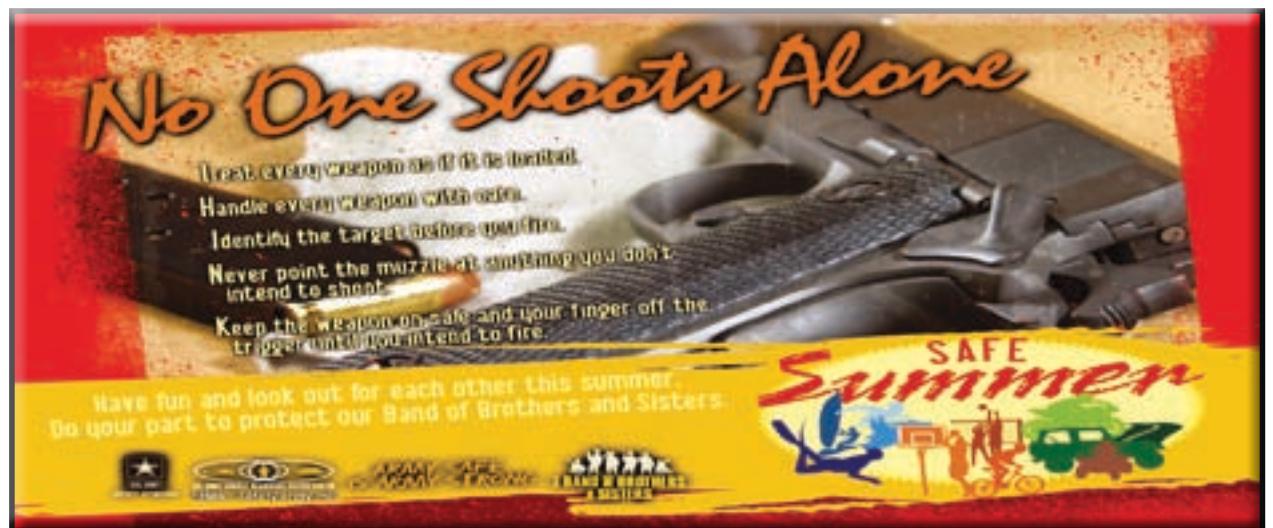
Maya Angelou said, "If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

Be aware of this and learn to adapt. A good rule of thumb is to wait four to six weeks before you make any big changes. This is the average time it takes for the reintegration process.

Another issue you will face is anxiety. It is normal to feel anxious when you are getting ready to return. You don't know what to expect or what changes have taken place; some Soldiers face End Term of Service and Permanent Change of Station orders. All of these can add stress to an already stressful situation.

One of the ways to reduce the stress is to plan ahead. Some of the anxiety stems from fear of the unknown. As you plan ahead for these changes, it reduces the fear and, in turn, the anxiety. Find constructive things to do that keep you occupied. Leaders often create busy work to keep Soldiers occupied for this very reason; it keeps their minds and hands occupied.

A deployment is a very challenging time in a Soldier's life as well as his/her family's life. This is a time of change, both on the battlefield and the home front. Learning to adapt to these changes is important in the reintegration process, just as being constructive with your time helps reduce the anxiety that comes with the redeployment.



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
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## 13th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz

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

# Sergeant's Time: standards and discipline

By COMMAND SGT. MAJ MARK D. JOSEPH  
AND SGT. MAJ. JOHN ROSARIO  
13TH ESC

“Hold yourself to the same standard, and role-model them every day,” is advice written in the book “The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell.” This statement was intended to motivate leaders to recognize that their behavior serves as the standard for those they lead. It is my belief that all Soldiers are role models, that all Soldiers must exceed minimum standards and that all Soldiers want to be challenged. As units Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority, I wish to remind everyone that enforcing standards in discipline and safety is every Soldier’s responsibility.

Leaders need to be able to emphasize important tasks during the RIP/TOA process. To do that, discipline and standards need to be firmly under control. Statistics show hard evidence of areas to improve upon regarding standards and discipline. The amount of Soldiers not meeting Army standards in physical fitness and weight control should give leaders ideas on how and where they need to improve.

Leaders need to stay involved. A leader not actively engaged sends the wrong message to Soldiers. You need to show your Soldiers you care about their well being in addition to the accomplishment of the mission.

Take pride in everything you do. Doing your job as a Soldier means ex-

ceeding the standard. A leader exceeding the standard inspires his or her Soldiers to do the same.

An Army Physical Fitness Test score is a great barometer of one's physical fitness, but it can also be used as a challenge. Challenge yourself, and that will inspire your Soldiers to do the same.

Every Soldier is responsible for maintaining and enforcing Army standards, and we can do a better job. Our induction to Army standards began at basic training, Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, or Officer Candidate School. While there are established standards, I have witnessed Soldiers and units not meeting minimum standards.

Discipline is apparent in many

forms. A Soldier’s appearance, a unit’s APFT score and how equipment is maintained are just a few examples. A Soldier’s appearance is one of the most basic and fundamental means of expressing ones discipline to follow standards of dress and appearance. A Soldier in the proper uniform displays pride, not only in the Soldier, but displays pride in the leaders who influence the Soldier.

Soldiers are expected to lead by example and anything short of this undermines set standards. It’s reinforced at various levels of professional schooling and practiced through every decision one makes. The bottom line: be the standard, know the standard, and enforce the standard.

# The Weekly Standard: non-judicial punishment

By LT. COL. ANDREA SHEALY  
13TH ESC DETAILED INSPECTOR GENERAL



In order to maintain good order and discipline, unit commanders may take punitive action in the form of non-judicial punishment. While NJP is not inspector-general appropriate because there are due-process procedures built into system, it is a common topic that brings Soldiers to the IG for assistance.

NJP is generally used for minor in-

fractions and consists of three levels:

Summarized Article 15: Soldiers do not have the right to consult with Trial Defense. The maximum punishment is 14 days extra duty and 14 days restriction.

Company Grade Article 15: Soldiers have the right to consult with TD. The maximum punishment for E-4s and below is loss of rank of one pay grade, extra duty and restriction of not more than 14 days, up to seven days pay, and verbal or written reprimand. Rank cannot be taken from Soldiers above E-4 level, but all other options may be exercised.

Field Grade Article 15: Soldiers have the right to consult with TD. The maximum punishment for E-4s and below is up to reduction to the lowest pay grade, extra duty and restrictions for 60 days, or combined with extra duty in which case both concurrently for 45 days, forfeiture of one half month’s pay for two months, and verbal or written reprimand. The maximum punishment for E-5s and E-6s is the same with the exception of only being able to reduce one pay grade.

An Article 15 is conducted in two readings. The first reading notifies

the Soldier of the offense. Afterward, the Soldier has 48 hours (maybe longer depending on the commander) to consult with TD. During the second reading, the Soldier has the opportunity to present evidence to defend the charges. The standard of proof in an Article 15 is the same as in a courts-martial; the commander must be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the Soldier is guilty of the offense.

If the procedures listed above are not properly followed, a Soldier may seek TD assistance or may contact their local IG.

<p><u>Joint Base Balad (13th ESC):</u> DSN 433-2125 Lt. Col. Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General) Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy) Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)</p>	<p><u>Adder/Tallil (36th Sust. Bde./41st IBCT):</u> Maj. Andrea Shealy - DSN 833-1710 Maj. Jeffrey Copek - DSN 833-5915 Master Sgt. Marta Cruz – DSN 883-1710</p>
<p><u>Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.):</u> DSN 827-6115 Lt. Col. Gary Davis</p>	<p><u>Al Asad (96th Sust. Bde.):</u> DSN 440-7049 Sgt. 1st class Alexander Arce Master Sgt. Richard Faust</p>
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# GENERAL: Army ensuring responsible drawdown remains on course

## GENERAL FROM PAGE 1

have the best of the best in logistics right here.”

Dunwoody said she tries to make a trip to Iraq every six months to observe the changes being made.

“With the drawdown and all the work that’s going on,” she said, “we need to ensure that the transition from responsible drawdown to a responsible reset is happening.”

With all the logisticians here at JBB, Dunwoody simply wanted to say thank you.

“I want to tell all these (service members) and civilians that I appreciate what they do every day, and what they are doing is making a difference,” she said. “Some of them have been here up to four times in the past eight years and they are still here, committed and making a difference.”

After a command brief with Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the 13th ESC commanding general, Dunwoody presented coins to 10 Soldiers at the Joint Operations Center, for each Soldier’s commitment to excellence and the mission of the 13th ESC.

Staff Sgt. Solmarie Ramirez, the non-commissioned officer in charge of asset visibility for the 13th ESC and a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native, said she received a coin for her role in researching purchasing requests and account maintenance.

“We handle all the purchase requests for all the brigades and brigade combat teams that fall under the 13th ESC,” she said. “We also track equipment in the-



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the commanding general of the Army Materiel Command and a Fort Belvoir, Va., resident, poses with female Soldiers and civilians participating in Women’s History Month events, March 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Dunwoody came to JBB to discuss the progress of the upcoming responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment in Iraq.

ater for the supporting brigades.”

Ramirez said she was proud to find out she would be coined by Dunwoody.

“It was an honor,” she said, “and knowing that she is the first four-star female general, that made it even more of a surprise.”

Ramirez said this should be a message for female Soldiers to keep working hard and represent excellence for all females.

The month of March commemorates Women’s History Month and Dunwoody is the first four-star female general in the history of the Army.

Dunwoody said she wanted to commend all the female Soldiers and civilians that are working hard every day.

“This is a great month to reflect on our history, those pioneers that opened the door for us, for me,” she said. “These

women will open the doors for the future generations.”

Dunwoody said this is a wonderful month for women in the military to pause and reflect on how fortunate they are.

“I continue to tell them all that they can be anything they want to be if they have the passion, work hard and give it their all,” she said.

# MEET: Conference held to improve work efficiency

## MEET FROM PAGE 1

ley, Kan., and a San Diego, native, said 1st ID has only been in country for seven weeks and had not had the chance to meet many other units before the conference.

“The main goal was to develop action plans for the future of how we are going to do sustainment within USD-S,

and ... to really introduce ourselves to everybody that we have not met yet,” he said.

Debish said they not only discussed the immediate future of sustainment, but also future plans as well.

“This conference is very, very important because we are not looking at (what is going to happen) next month ...

we are actually looking at Phase 5 and beyond, to 2012,” he said. “With less assets, less Soldiers, how can we posture now while we have the excess out there to make it right for (the Soldiers that will come after us)?”

Sherwood said, overall, the sustainers got a better sense of cohesion from the conference and a broader scope of

the goals the command has set for sustainment in USD-S.

“I think everybody had a good idea before coming in, but I think it just helped ... solidify in everybody’s minds ... the commanding general’s priorities and what we have to do to get out of here,” he said, “at the brigade level and at the provincial level.”

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM  
E-mail: [escpao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escpao@iraq.centcom.mil)

# JBB officials cut ribbon at Container Repair Yard

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Military and civilian officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the new Container Repair Yard March 22 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The ceremony marked a milestone in the growth and development of the Miran Village Company, an Iraqi contractor, said Lt. Col. Chris Mohan, commander of the 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“It started out with the requirement to repair 150 containers per month and they’ve grown their business so we’ve grown their capability,” he said. “Now they’re repairing 2,000 containers per month.”

The CRY outgrew their old area and needed a larger workspace in order to meet a higher demand of repaired trailers, said Mohan, a Carthage, N.C., native. The expansion of the facility and their ability to train and recruit workers helped the CRY meet the demand for repaired trailers, he said.

It took roughly six months to coordinate the CRY relocation and expansion, which was a joint effort between Army, Air Force and the Iraqi people, said Mohan.

“It’s all about responsible draw-down,” he said. “In order to rapidly ship equipment out, we have to have seaworthy containers.”

JBB serves as the major logistics hub in Iraq, and repairing the containers in country, instead of sending them to Kuwait, saves the U.S. military time and money, he said.

The completion of the CRY expansion and relocation served as a tribute to the Miran Village Company’s employees’ hard work, said 1st Lt. Theresa Fouda, the adjutant with the 80th Ord. Bn. out of Fort Lewis, Wash.

“Since inception, the Container Repair Yard has repaired (more than) 10,000 unserviceable containers to a seaworthy status,” she said.

In August 2008, the Iraqi Based Industrial Zone began developing plans for a CRY at JBB, said Fouda, a Seattle



Hashim Mahdi, the Container Repair Yard managing director with Miran Village Company and a Bakr Village, Iraq, native, Air Force Col. David DeMartino, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group and a Lorton, Va., native, Lt. Col. Chris Mohan, commander of the 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Carthage, N.C., native, and Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commander of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, cut the ribbon at a ceremony held to mark the grand opening of the Container Repair Yard March 22 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

native. The CRY offered a significant benefit for both the Iraqi economy and U.S. forces in Iraq, she said.

The yard’s mission is to repair unserviceable containers to a seaworthy status, so they can be used to transport supplies back to the U.S., while providing training and employment opportunities to local nationals.

The Miran Village Company is able to repair containers to both U.S. and Coast Guard standards, said Mohan.

“On August 20, 2008, the Miran Village Company, owned by Hashim Mahdi, was awarded the container-repair contract with an initial annual requirement of repairing 1,440 containers,” said Fouda.

The CRY at JBB hired a local labor force trained in accordance with the Iraqi government’s minister of labor and social affairs certification standards for welding, carpentry and other skills, said Fouda.

“In April 2009, the former Container Repair Yard area and fence line was expanded to allow for increased container flow,” she said. “In May 2009, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing approved the former CRY as an Iraqi Free Zone, which allowed Hashim to manage the area with minimal U.S. supervision. This month, the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group approved the new Container Repair Yard site as an Iraqi Free Zone.”

Initially, the CRY was capable of repairing 20 containers per month with a work force of 20 local nationals, said Fouda. By August 2009, the operating capability increased to 250 containers repaired per month with a work force of 70 local nationals, she said.

In September 2009, the Regional Contracting Command-Balad, and both the 13th ESC and 332nd EAW commands held meetings to discuss the increased need for containers in

preparation for Operation Responsible Drawdown, said Fouda. As a result, the CRY was to be relocated to a larger area to increase work productivity.

“By the end of September, the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron obtained an area to expand the Container Repair Yard from three acres to 28 acres, and the 37th Engineer Battalion began preparation on the new site,” she said.

Mohan said the CRY has played an important part in the 13th ESC’s mission and helped give back to the redeveloping Iraqi infrastructure, providing for both the Iraqi people and the U.S. military efforts for the upcoming drawdown.

“The Container repair yard has repaired over 10,000 containers, which has directly contributed to our success during the initial phases of Operation Responsible Drawdown,” he said.



# 13th ESC protocol team provides security on JBB

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, IRAQ – When a general officer or distinguished visitor comes to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s protocol team is one of multiple such teams that carefully coordinate the visit.

According to the 13th ESC's Web site, the protocol team provides security for both military and civilian visitors of JBB, so that they may have an uninterrupted flow of ideas and exchanges of information relevant to the situation at JBB.

Capt. Andrea A. Williams, the chief of protocol for the 13th ESC and a Baltimore native, said they provide lodging and transportation all over JBB, as well as battlefield circulation for a DV's visit.

"We coordinate their meals at the dining facility, and anything that generals or DVs need," she said.

Williams said they also coordinate visitor transportation on and off JBB via helicopter or jet, and provide a personal security detail for the visitors.

"The principal will always have two PSD members with them and an escort as well," she said.

Williams said her job can be stressful at times, usually when visitors arrive and when making sure transportation arrives on time.

"You have to be flexible and patient," she said. "The biggest thing is making sure communication is present at all times. When the transportation is not on time, we just have to make adjustments."

Sgt. Brian J. Vannieuwenhoven, the protocol noncommissioned officer in charge with the 1073rd Support Maintenance Company, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Grand Rapids, Mich., native, said he is in charge of the security portion of protocol.

"We secure the sites that the principals go to," he said. "We send out an advance team that goes in and makes sure everything is safe."

Vannieuwenhoven said he does the coordination and provides drivers for some of the vehicles.

"We maintain a heightened sense of awareness when the general officers come to visit JBB," he said. "This base is fairly secure and nothing out of the ordinary happens here (often), but we



Capt. Andrea A. Williams, the chief of protocol for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Baltimore native, keeps constant communication with other members of the personal security detail team during a visit by Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, March 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The protocol team provides security and transportation for all distinguished visitors that come to JBB.

always remain vigilant and never get complacent."

Williams said she is proud of her role in making Iraq safe for visitors.

"I am very happy to be part of the protocol team here at JBB, and the 13th ESC is always behind us and supports everything we do," she said.

# Married couple renews Army oath together

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. MATTHEW C. COOLEY  
15TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Married couple Spc. Samuel Baker, a communications system support specialist and a Pittsburgh native, and Sgt. Raquel Baker, an automated logistics specialist and Temple, Texas, native, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), reenlisted together March 17 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The reenlistment, Samuel's first and Raquel's second, came after two years of marriage and was broadcast to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, via video teleconferencing so other 15th Sust. Bde. Soldiers could watch.

Both Soldiers debated reenlistment, but after careful consideration, they

changed their minds.

Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Miller Jr., the senior enlisted adviser for the 15th STB and a Pensacola, Fla., native, played a part in convincing them to reenlist, said Samuel.

"(We) talked a lot about me getting out," Samuel said to Miller at the reenlistment ceremony. "I guess you won."

The couple began dating during the unit's last 15-month deployment to Iraq from 2006 to 2008, and married shortly after their return, Raquel said.

"They were the couple that nobody knew was a couple," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hutton, the supply noncommissioned officer in charge for the 15th STB and a Honolulu native.

Hutton said she met the two during the unit's last deployment and became close friends with them. She also said she tried to convince the pair to stay



Spc. Samuel Baker, a communications system support specialist and a Pittsburgh native, and his wife, Sgt. Raquel Baker, an automated logistics specialist and a Temple, Texas, native, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), reenlist together March 17 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

in the Army, citing the weakened U.S. economy as a primary reason.

After much discussion between themselves, friends and leadership, they decided to reenlist, primarily for the travel, Raquel said.

Samuel said they are looking forward to living in Europe after this deployment.

"It's not locked in for sure yet but it looks like (we are headed to) Frankfurt, Germany," he said.

Raquel said one of the reasons she joined the Army was to travel, and they are both excited about the move.

"It's a new adventure for us," she said.

"This is going to be the first big adventurous thing for our marriage," said Samuel.

Although the Bakers agreed that they liked being together through deployments, they said sometimes it is good to have some space. At the beginning of the deployment, the two shared a room but were later temporarily separated when Samuel went on a three-month-long mission to Joint Base Balad. He flew to Q-West just to reenlist with his wife.

Raquel said a little time apart could occasionally be a good thing.

"It gives us a chance to learn to miss each other," she said. "(But) not all couples are as fortunate to be together."

# Soldier's Medal awarded to medic for heroism

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

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Capt. Scott Johnson, a physician assistant with Task Force Atlas, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Gleneden Beach, Ore., native, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for distinguishing himself in a heroic act involving personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of his life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy.

On April 15, 2007, while conducting night combat operations, a U.S. Army tactical vehicle overturned into a fast-moving stream, injuring the vehicle commander, driver and gunner. With complete disregard for his own safety, Johnson entered the fast-moving water to assess the gunner, whose fractured arm was pinned under the turret. As the severely injured Soldier lost consciousness, Johnson used his body to keep the Soldier's head above

Capt. Scott Johnson, a physician assistant with Task Force Atlas, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Gleneden Beach, Ore., native, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism performed April 15, 2007, for rendering aid and care to a Soldier trapped under a tactical vehicle when it overturned in fast-moving water, injuring the vehicle commander, driver and gunner. The gunner's arm was pinned and Johnson used his body to keep the Soldier's head above water while continuously rendering aid and working to free the trapped Soldier.

water, while continuously rendering medical aid and working to free the trapped Soldier.

In order to hold the Soldier's head above water, Johnson positioned himself under the highly unstable vehicle. After an hour, the Soldier was freed from the vehicle and Johnson continued to treat the injured gunner as well as the injured driver, all while coordinating medical evacuation.

Johnson's bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, and the United States Army.



## Convoy escort teams train replacements in Kuwait

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Twenty-three tactical vehicles from Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) left Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, March 15 so their Soldiers could train service members with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Kuwait, in preparation for their deployment to Iraq as Task Force Geronimo.

"We should be proud," said TF Volunteer operations officer Maj. Eric Riley, a Roseburg, Ore., native. "We are sending three of our best (convoy escort teams)."

The Louisiana National Guard's TF Geronimo will be taking over TF Volunteer's convoy security mission, said Riley.

"They are excited," said Lt. Col. William Edwards, commander of the 2/162 and an Albany, Ore., native. "It is the next step on our way to finishing our mission."



Soldiers from Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), head to Kuwait to train the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. These Soldiers will support mission training for Task Force Geronimo, preparing them to take over the convoy security mission TF Volunteer has been conducting since arriving in Iraq.

Task Force Volunteer provides convoy security from Kuwait to Baghdad, covering central Iraq. They secure the long-haul convoys that supply fuel, food and supplies to Soldiers, civilians and local nationals who work on bases in the region.

"(This is) the first impression Louisiana will have at the truck commander and squad leader levels," said Edwards. "It feels good to send a really stacked team to help train our successors."

Three convoy escort teams from 2nd Battalion set out to train the newly arriving Soldiers on vehicle operations, tactical ways to prevent injury from improvised explosive devices, as well as other tactics, techniques and procedures necessary for conducting the mission.

"It's a good way for us to end the deployment and a good way for them to start," said Edwards. "It will help them get the right mindset."

### Check CHUsdays

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Check The  
Following  
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1. Power strips are free of debris and clothing.
2. Electrical devices not in use are unplugged.
3. Power strips and outlets are not overloaded.
4. Smoke detector is operational.
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly

# Arizona-based unit brings clothing to give to local community

By SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company provided clothing and other donated items to the local community during a humanitarian aid mission March 21 near Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The items were donated through the Arizona Army National Guard, by a local organization in Arizona called Students Helping Students, started by a fellow Soldier to give to those in need.

Staff Sgt. Rose L. Mattie, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3666th SMC out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Phoenix native, said the mission provided a chance for the local community to see the Soldiers do something positive and also gave the Soldiers a chance to see the culture and life outside the wire.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raymond L. Baxter, an Allied Trades supervisor with the 3666th SMC, said the opportunity to conduct the mission came before they left the U.S.

Baxter, a Phoenix native, said he was approached a week before the deployment by Lt. Col. Dawn E. Lating, the Defense Movement Coordinator for the Arizona National Guard and a special education teacher who started the program, and asked if the unit would be interested in bringing clothing to distribute to the local Iraqi children.

“We were able to bring five tri-wall boxes full of clothes for the kids,” he said.

Students Helping Students gives deployed Arizona units a chance to give back to the local community and offer some much-needed help to children at the same time, said Baxter.

After they arrived in Iraq, the Soldiers cleaned the clothing and other items and sorted them, removing anything inappropriate.

Mattie said the clothing ranged from toddler to young adult, and they put together a complete outfit for each bag.

“We had 50 female and 50 male outfits that we put together,” she said. “We distributed all of them and



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Justin S. Bradovich, the senior maintenance supervisor with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Phoenix native, carries a bag of clothing for Iraqi children during a humanitarian aid mission March 21 near Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

are hoping we can get some more and do it again.”

Spc. Zandrast R. Rast, a supply clerk with the 3666th SMC and a Fort Defiance, Ariz., native, said her job was handing out the clothes as soon as they arrived at their destination.

“I was on the team to just hand out the clothes and ... to give out candy,” she said.

When she arrived, Rast said she could tell they needed help.

“From what I saw, the little kids didn’t have much,” she said. “It felt good to give them clothes and to see their faces when they saw them.”

Rast said when she got out of the vehicle, it reminded her of growing up on the Navajo reservation. People always brought them food but never clothing, so her family had to find them clothes to wear. Rast said she understood how the Iraqi children felt.

“I just wanted to help,” she said.

Rast said it was important to show they cared.

“A lot of kids need help and some people just don’t want to do it be-

cause (they think) it’s their parents’ responsibility,” she said. “Sometimes they can’t help the situation that they’re in. It felt good, and if I were ever given a chance to do this again, I would.”

Baxter said watching everyone hand out bags to the smiling children was an amazing feeling.

“It seemed like it went too fast,” he said. “(We) were only there for a short period of time. We can’t help all the kids, but to help some of them is great.”

Baxter said he thinks the Soldiers will value the experience they were given.

“I think if you have a chance, an opportunity to help somebody, whether it’s the Iraqi kids or even U.S. kids, take the time and do it,” he said. “The way you feel inside after you help somebody is just great. I have kids of my own and I love volunteering. I was really happy to do this mission.”

Baxter said his favorite part of the event was hearing the other Soldiers when they returned from the mission, talking about how great it was and

how they planned to volunteer again.

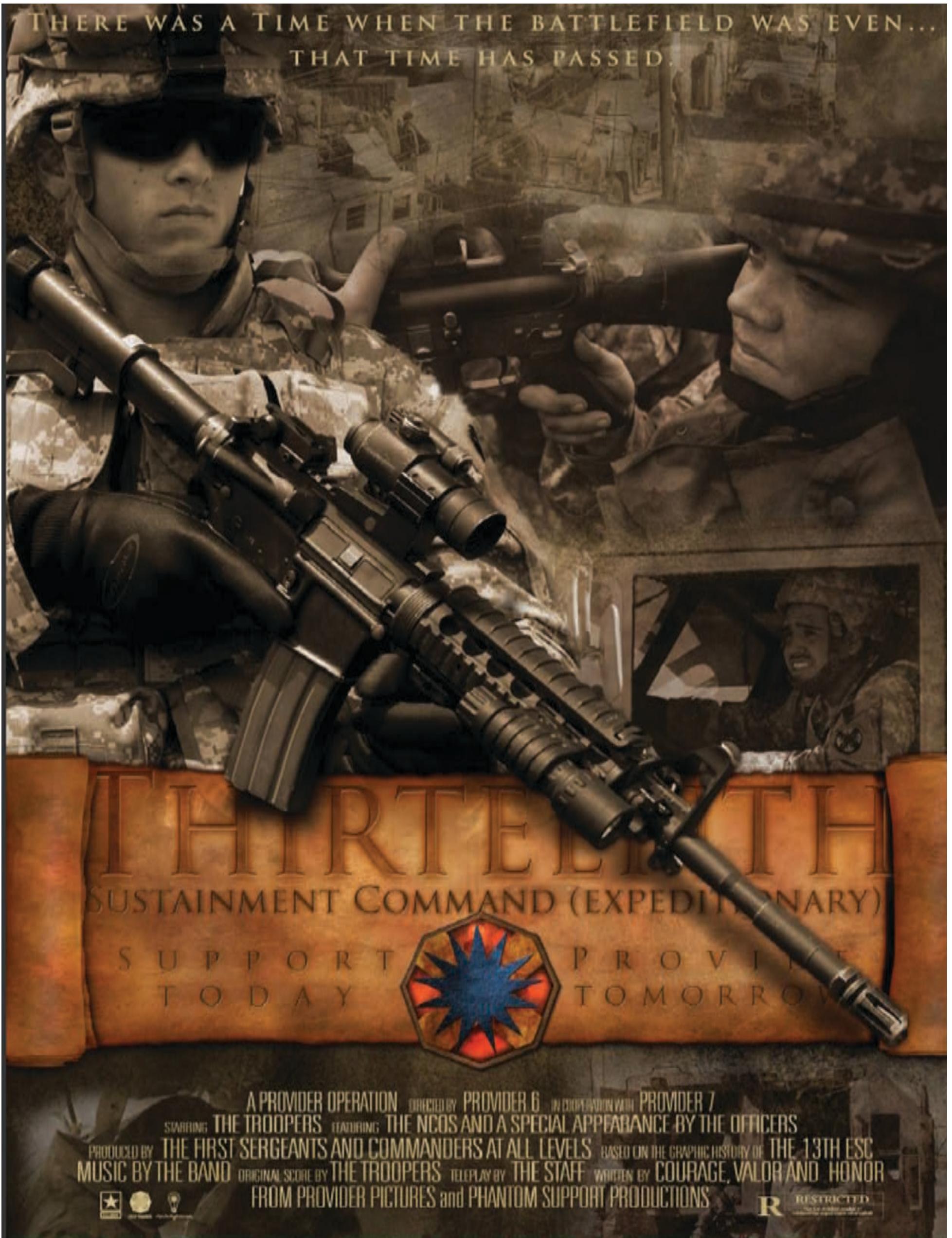
Mattie said this was not her first time on a humanitarian aid mission.

“I really like doing this kind of stuff,” she said. “I’ve had some experience before, going to Africa and to Jordan for a cultural mission. I think it’s a great idea mainly for my troops to get out there and see different (cultures) because I’ve had these experiences. I wanted to make sure I could get some of our Soldiers out there ... to experience what is outside this military role.”

Mattie said she tries to teach everyone that even though they are in a combat zone, there are people like them outside the wire.

She said they are planning a similar mission with the Operation Back to School program.

“I definitely want my Soldiers to take (away) the fact that they got a great experience and they did something ... positive over here, a selfless act,” she said. “They actually contributed to something which probably will have an impact bigger than they could even imagine right now.”



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# 36th Engineer Brigade uncases colors, 194th reaches mission end

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 194th Engineer Brigade out of Jackson, Tenn., transferred authority to the 36th Engineer Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas, during a ceremony March 25 at Joint Base



Balad, Iraq.

The 194th Eng. Bde., was led by Brig. Gen. Robert Harris, a Tullahoma, Tenn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Hudson, a McKenzie, Tenn., native, and oversaw engineer units from the Army and Air Force.

The 36th Eng. Bde. will serve as the higher command for engineer units spread throughout Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and will train the Iraqi Army engineers.

Col. Kent Savre, commander of the 36th Eng. Bde., said the 194th Eng. Bde. made an enormous contribution to U.S. and Iraqi military forces in Iraq. The 36th Eng. Bde. will continue the mission the 194th served and the progress they made, said Savre, a Edina, Minn., native.

“As we inherit responsibilities as the theater engineer brigade during this historic period in Iraqi history,” he said, “we have before us the unique opportunity to execute the spectrum of engineer operations and assure mobility, enabling the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and the successful transition to stability and support operations as the Iraqi people truly take the lead in the governance and security of their great nation.”

Savre said he was thankful for the knowledge and training the 194th provided to the 36th for its new mission in Iraq. The 194th showed a high level of professionalism and hospitality during the transition between the two commands, he said.

As the Iraq Joint Operations Area engineer brigade, the 36th will provide engineer support to the joint military operations just as the 194th did, said 1st Lt. John Saindon,



Col. Kent Savre, commander of the 36th Engineer Brigade and an Edina, Minn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Terrence Murphy, senior enlisted adviser with the 36th Eng. Bde. and an Amarillo, Texas, native, uncase their brigade colors during a transfer of authority ceremony March 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 36th Engineer Brigade, out of Fort Hood, Texas, took over as the Iraq Joint Operations Area engineer brigade.

deputy officer in charge of the engineer section, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas.

“This includes vertical and horizontal (support), which means all the way from road clearance to actual structure building throughout the whole Iraqi theater,” said Saindon, a San Antonio native. “It’s a huge job for a brigade.”

While the 194th was deployed, it worked

heavily with the 13th ESC and its sustainment operations, said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Taylor, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the engineer section with the 13th ESC.

The 194th worked cooperatively with the 13th ESC on several missions, such as construction at JBB and other areas of operation, he said. Recently the 194th assisted in the expansion of the Container Repair

Yard and the Central Receiving and Shipping Point at JBB, said Taylor, a Copperas Cove, Texas, native.

“We work directly with all these major projects ... with the 194th, now the 36th, to get these projects done,” he said.

The 194th was a well-run and professional group to work with and a strong managing command for its subordinate units, Taylor said.

“The 36th are our brethren on Fort Hood, so I expect (the 13th) will have just as good of a working relationship with them (here),” he said.

While interacting with new units, there is a learning curve for establishing a working relationship, said Taylor.

“If you’re familiar with somebody, you work better with them,” he said. “You know the commands, you’re used to working together and everybody falls into their niche.”

The 36th will continue the strong joint efforts between the 13th ESC and 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during the upcoming responsible drawdown, said Taylor.

“The 194th definitely did everything well above and beyond, and I know the 36th will too,” he said.

The 36th Eng. Bde. has a large mission ahead of it, but with strong leadership and history, they stand ready, said Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, the deputy commanding general of operations with United States Forces – Iraq.

“They’re an amazing unit, they’re Fort Hood and we know them well,” said Cone, a Manchester, N.H., native. “An incredible amount of capabilities, a talented organization ... the right unit, right place, right time.”

Cone said the 36th and other units from Fort Hood deployed in Iraq are working together for Iraq’s future. Cone said he wanted families back home to know that their Soldiers are safe and working to bring change to the redeveloped country.

“They’re over here and doing well, and they want their families to know that they’re doing a mission they’re focused on, that will lead to a better Iraq,” he said.

## Soldier saves millions during service with Army

BY PFC LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE AD- DER, Iraq – Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry G. Williams, the property book officer for the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), uses nearly four decades of Army experience to assist in the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq.



Williams, a Port O’Connor, Texas, native, has served in the Army since Sept. 21, 1969, during the Vietnam War, as an enlisted Soldier, officer and now as a warrant officer with only a two-year break in

service over the past 40 years.

“(The Army) has basically been my life,” he said. “It has given me a job, paid me well, fed me ... and I feel like I have given something back to my country.”

Williams said he has seen the overall quality and morale of the Army improve since becoming an all-volunteer force.

“Right now the public opinion of the Army is a little better than it was back in that era,” he said. “Things are really different, as far as the people that you have. The difference with a volunteer force and a not-so-volunteer force is quite a difference, the education level, the desire and the attitude.”

Williams had to have an age waiver just to mobilize with his unit and said after helping to prepare them for mobiliza-

tion, he did not feel that his mission was complete.

Maj. Charles R. Lanfear, the supply officer for the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Bridgeport, Texas, native, said Williams is a wealth of knowledge and has even previously served in Lanfear’s position.

“(There is) not anyone better suited, or better trained for this position,” he said. “He takes his knowledge, he makes sure that the subordinates that work for him and around him understand, helps guide them through their problems, points them in the right direction, and gives them enough information to solve the problems themselves and makes sure that they do it correctly.”

Lanfear said Williams’ considerable experience has made a huge impact on

the unit’s performance in country.

“Since Chief (Williams) has been here, he has identified approximately \$60 million worth of equipment that was not being tracked properly,” he said. “He brought it to record, made sure it was on the property book and started turning it in. He took responsibility of one hand receipt on his own, for the property book side, and it was over \$5 million. He turned all that equipment in, and got it off the books where it could go back in the system and be used by other units that could possibly need this equipment or repair it.”

In addition to the \$65 million in equipment, Williams has also saved his command several million dollars by starting multiple financial-liability investigations of property loss, said Lanfear.

# Providers share the road

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As United States Forces-Iraq prepares for the strategic reposturing of equipment and personnel in theater, Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are already working to share the roads with the Iraqi population.



In previous years, service members' main focus was to ensure the convoy's security and integrity remained intact, said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, the noncommissioned officer in charge of safety for the 13th ESC. Now, while maintaining integrity within the convoy, Soldiers have learned to move through Iraq without causing damage and allowing Iraq's civilian population to move freely on the roads, he said.

"Before, they might have gotten run off the road," said Young, a Hernando, Fla., native. "That caused problems and hurt our relationship. With the new Share the Road policy and guidelines, we're building a better relationship and allowing them to get back to their life."

The 13th ESC created the new Share the Road policy in an effort to mitigate the erosion of the U.S. - Iraqi relationship, by reducing hazards to the civilian population that may be caused by U.S. military convoys, said Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, a force protection noncommissioned officer with the 13th ESC.

"The policy is simple," said Salazar, a Houston native. "Be considerate to the Iraqi drivers."

The guidelines that have been put into place are commonsense measures, he said.

"Basically, it allows the troops to stay vigilant while allowing the Iraqis to see the convoys are not a threat," said Salazar.

In a broader sense, the 'Share the Road' policy will help U.S. forces move towards the strategic reposturing of equipment and personnel.

"It absolutely supports the mission we're in from a counter-insurgency standpoint," said Lt. Col. Wade Wallace, command judge advocate for the 13th ESC. "We're in a position to move this to the next stage."

On the ground, troop commanders are implementing new strategies to reflect the 13th ESC's guidelines.

"Run hard, run clean; that's our



Sgt. William Rhinehart, a team leader with F troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hendersonville, Tenn., native, observes as Spc. Hulon Holmes, an infantryman also with F troop, 2nd Sqd., 278th ACR, and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, conducts a functions check on his weapon during pre-mission checks and inspections prior to a convoy-logistics patrol March 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 13th ESC put out a new Share the Road policy, which aims at mitigating the erosion of the U.S. - Iraqi relationship by reducing hazards to the civilian population that may be caused by U.S. military convoys.

motto," said Lt. Col. John Krenson, commander of 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC, with the Tennessee National Guard, and a Nashville, Tenn., native. "Run hard means to create a hard target for the enemy to engage, but we understand the impact on the Iraqi population, so run cleans mean to be safe. It's a difficult balance to achieve."

This strategy requires leaders at the lowest levels to ensure their Soldiers understand the rules of the road and the possible implications of accidents.

First Lt. Matthew Wallace, a platoon leader with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th ACR, 13th ESC, prepared a special pre-mission briefing for his Soldiers.

"It's my intent to conduct a successful convoy-logistics patrol in support of (Operation Iraqi Freedom). We will do this by maintaining an aggressive and constantly vigilant posture while still showing restraint and respect for the local populace," said Wallace, a McMinnville, Tenn., native, in his mission brief. "In doing so, I intend to take away the enemy's initiative with the

support of the non-combatant populace with which we may interact."

In 2005 the 278th's mission was focused on combat patrols, but now they're focused on providing convoy security while alleviating the tension which previously defined of Iraqi civilian and U.S. military relations.

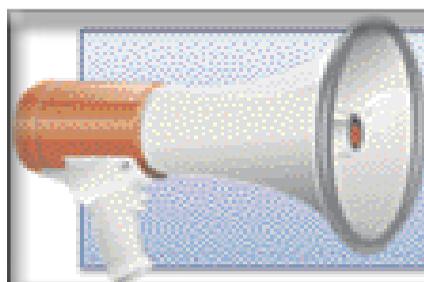
"We're shifting away from a threat standpoint and moving to a partnership standpoint," said Wallace, a native of Greenwood, Ind.

During the 278th's mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Wallace said their training was based upon reaction to contact, whether small-arms fire or improvised explosive devices. Upon arriving here in Iraq, the Soldiers had to adapt to the rules of engagement, and now they are implementing the Share the Road policy, as well, he said.

"There's going to be a learning curve because we're a new unit," said Wallace. "Training always depicts a worst-case scenario, but the Soldiers have learned to adapt. They've been doing very well and I'm confident they'll continue to do so."

### 'Share the Road' rules

- Conduct proper pre-mission checks and inspections at every level
- Run missions primarily at night
- Allow traffic to move freely, in and around the convoy
- Be considerate to Iraqi drivers
- Don't point weapons at people or vehicles
- Use spotlight for target scanning only, do not shine at people or vehicles
- Turn-off IED lights and high-beams when approaching ISF checkpoints
- Don't laze ISF, civilians or vehicles
- Outfit vehicles with USF-I approved signs
- 'Golden Rule' – treat others as you want to be treated. Be respectful of the road and courteous to everyone on it



## Give a Shout Out!

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# 'Henkes Lane' red

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

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq** – A handful of Soldiers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, gathered March 21 on top of a hill overlooking the city of Mosul, Iraq, to rededicate a street on Contingency Operating Base Marez in honor of one of their fallen comrades.

Service members often refer to each other as brothers-in-arms, but for one Soldier attending the quiet, informal ceremony, it was not just a figure of speech.

Maj. Linda Bass, the human resources chief for the 13th ESC and a Bessemer, Ala., native, was there to pay tribute to her brother, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes. He died of wounds received during combat operations in Mosul in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

When Bass first arrived in Iraq roughly a year ago, she visited Mosul and saw the street signs. When she left on leave, she was able to take one sign home to their father in Silverton, Ore., who put it up on a tree next to the lane leading to the family home.

"I tried to keep it in the condition it was in when I got it, weatherworn and dusty," she said. "It had a huge impact on him."

While she took one sign with her, she left something of her own behind: a small shield she wore on her dog-tags, with an inscription from Joshua 1:9 on the back. Henkes gave Bass the shield at her wedding rehearsal dinner. The verse reads: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

She left it at the base of one of the street signs, and an interesting thing happened, said Bass. Before she left Mosul, COL Marez's mayor visited her and handed the shield back, thinking that a Soldier may have left it there in memory of her brother.

"I said to him, 'No, I left this there today,' and he said, 'That's so strange, I wear the same thing on my dog-tags,'" said Bass.

At the rededication ceremony, Soldiers who served

with Henkes in 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., were in attendance, including Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Bjerke, who was then 2nd Battalion's senior enlisted adviser, now the 3rd Stryker Bde., 2nd Inf. Div.'s senior enlisted adviser.

"Our heroes that have made the ultimate sacrifice have made a difference," said Bjerke, a Devil's Lake, N.D., native. "By placing a sign, memorializing a street or a (dining facility), this is one of the ways we remember them."

Bass also said a few words during the ceremony, and shared stories about her younger brother. She spoke of Henke's actions the day before he died.

"They were stopped and clearing an area after an IED went off, when Rich (Henkes) noticed a family with a wounded 10 year-old boy," she said.

As the medic worked on the boy, Henkes comforted the family and told them their young son was brave.

"He was an infantryman, but he was a peacemaker," she said. "If he could help one person, that was enough."

Henkes' legacy lives on in his troops and his daughter Isabel, said Bass. After his death, Soldiers in his platoon pooled their money to allow Henkes' family to take Isabel to Disneyland.

"He always talked about his daughter and how he wanted to take her to Disneyland," said Sgt. Rick Martin, an infantryman with 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., who served with Henkes in 2006.

"That was his main focus, so it was our gift to him," said Martin, a South Padre Island, Texas, native.

For his sister, who said she could never truly recover from the loss, his legacy serves as a reminder of the great man he was.

"I remember a lot of things about him," said Bass. "I hope nobody forgets him, or all the others that have fallen."

Bjerke took the opportunity to collect the memorial of another fallen Soldier during his visit.

Staff Sgt. Julien Melo was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division when he died in a suicide bombing in Mosul, December of 2006.

"Staff Sgt. Melo was a friend of the family and I want to take his sign home to his wife," said Bjerke.

In light of the memorial, Bass said she began to notice others that units had left behind.

"I became very aware of the memorials," she said. "It would be nice to collect these signs, memorials, for the families."

Bass said she reached out to her congressmen, senators and whoever else she could, including the Tragedy As-

**Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes and his sister, Maj. Linda Bass, pose for a picture at her wedding. Henkes was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division during the unit's deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in 2006. Henkes died from wounds received during combat operations in Mosul in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Bass, the human resources chief for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bessemer, Ala., resident, visited Mosul March 21 to attend a ceremony dedicating a street on Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, in his honor.**



**Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Bjerke, the senior enlisted adviser and Maj. Linda Bass, the human resources chief for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bessemer, Ala., resident, visited Mosul March 21 to attend a ceremony dedicating a new sign March 21 dedicated to Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division during the unit's deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.**

sistance Program for Survivors, a national non-profit organization made up of, and providing services to, all those who have lost a loved one on active duty with the Armed Forces.

"I want this to grow into an effort to bring the memorials home," she said. "I hope this rededication will act as a launching pad for a larger effort."

Just a few days after the ceremony, Bass said she received word that United States Forces – Iraq was drawing up orders to facilitate the redeployment of memorials during the drawdown.

"These memorials are really a testament to their sacrifice," she said. "Every one of them has a face, a name that represents their battle buddies' memories."



Courtesy photo



# dedicated in Mosul



Maj. Linda Bass, the human resources chief for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bessemer, Ala., resident, takes down a street sign dedicated to her brother, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes, who was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, during the unit's deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in 2006. Henkes died from wounds received during combat operations in Mosul in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

with 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and a Devil's Lake, N.D., native, Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bessemer, Ala., resident, unveil Henkes, who was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker q, in 2006. Henkes died from wounds received during combat operations in an improvised explosive device. Bass is Henkes' older sister.



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes and members of his platoon pose next to their Stryker vehicle. Henkes was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division during the unit's deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in 2006. Henkes died from wounds received during combat operations in Mosul in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

(Above) Maj. Linda Bass, the human resources chief for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bessemer, Ala., resident, holds a street sign dedicated to her brother, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Henkes, who was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, during the unit's deployment to Mosul, Iraq, in 2006. Henkes died from wounds received during combat operations in Mosul in September 2006, when his Stryker vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Courtesy photo

# Q-West celebrates Women's History Month

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. MATTHEW C. COOLEY  
15TH SUS. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers of the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a

Women's History Month observance at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent March 22 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The event included poems, an inspirational dance and words from guest speaker Lt. Col. Paula Lodi, the commander of the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde. and a Franklin, Mass., native.

Sgt. 1st Class Narly Rosales, the support operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 395th CSSB and a Meriden, Conn., native, read the Women's History Month presidential proclamation.

"Countless women have steered the course of our history, and their stories are ones of steadfast determination," she

said. "From reaching for the ballot box to breaking barriers on athletic fields and battlefields, American women have stood resolute in the face of adversity."

Staff Sgt. Shanna Culotta, the retention NCOIC for the 15th STB and an East Hanover, N.J., native, read her essay on Gloria Steinem, a contributor to the women's equality movement, which won a base-wide Women's History Month essay contest.

"Her ideas ignited and influenced an awakening for women around the country," she said. "She has inspired, and continues to inspire, an aggressive desire for equality throughout the sexes."

Lodi, the guest speaker, shared her thoughts on women's history and said she tries never to think too much about her or others' gender.

"One of my favorite sayings is that the authority of leadership rests with the led," she said. "That is simply to say that if no one will follow me, by definition I am not a good leader. There is little room there for me to consider the fact that I am a woman. In fact, I do better as a leader to see past gender and race."



Lt. Col. Paula Lodi, the commander of the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Franklin, Mass., native, speaks at a Women's History Month observance March 22 at Contingency Operating Base, Iraq.

# Providers operate Army's largest Supply Support Activity

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 716th Quartermaster Company out of Jersey City, N.J., manage the largest multi-category Supply Support Activity facility in the Army at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The facility provides logistical support primarily for the units operating in Multi-National Division – North to keep them mission ready, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vincent Koski, the SSA accountability officer with the 716th QM Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"As the largest SSA in the Army, we are here to provide to the ever-changing battlefield," he said.

The SSA provides logistical service for units in Iraq and supports the roughly 13 other SSAs country wide, said Koski, a Chesterfield, Va., native.

"We work hand in hand with other SSAs," he said. "If they need a part at their SSA and they don't have it, they go through the system. It'll come to us and we'll pull the part for them and ship it out to their location."

Koski said shipments are prepared and ready for transportation within 24 hours of order. The facility processes more than 3,000 SSA referrals per week



Spc. Elwin Crowner, the high-item-priority manager with the 716th Quartermaster Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Annapolis, Md., native, moves boxes at the Supply Support Activity March 23 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. JBB has the largest SSA operation in the Army.

and regularly supports other SSAs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The SSA processes an average of 1,200 supply requests and issues an average of 500 supplies daily, said Sgt. Joshua Davis, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the SSA at JBB, with the 716th QM Co.

"Anybody who needs a part, we're there," said Davis, a Chesterfield, Va., native. "We do our best to help them out ... we always get the job done no matter what."

The SSA provides general unit and office supplies, vehicle oils and petroleum products, wood and fortification supplies, and repair parts for military

vehicles, said Koski.

Roughly 50 percent of the supplies are repair parts for land and aviation vehicles, he said.

"It's a wide range of repair parts," he said. "It can be something as small as a bolt or as big as an engine. If it deadlines that vehicle, we'll do our best to support that customer."

Koski said petroleum products are the second most often issued items followed by general supplies.

The facility's warehouses are stocked and prepared to support mission readiness, by having a majority of the supplies the military needs on a regular basis.

The facility stocks items based on the

needs of the Army by looking at the demands of the past 24 months, said Koski.

When supplies are not in stock and need to be ordered, the arrival time can depend on the stock of other SSAs in or around Iraq and the priority of the item, he said.

Though most orders arrive within 30 days, factors such as location, weather and item priority can affect the item shipment time, said Davis.

The Soldiers at the SSA establish a good working relationship with their customer units and organizations that depend on the facility, said Koski.

"We try to provide adequate customer support," he said, "getting input from the customers when issuing the (supplies)."

As bases have begun to close and downsize, more supplies are being processed through the SSA and put back into the Army supply system to be used by units in need, saving the Army more than \$275 million, said Koski.

Koski said the SSA can provide support to any branch of service in Iraq and abroad, if necessary. The facility at JBB has roughly 500 customers, but because of their proximity and size, they are able to support troops serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The SSA has made an effort to anticipate the supply needs of the units in Iraq, said Koski.

"We try to be proactive in what's coming up ... and the changing face of the battlefield," he said.

# Force protection uniform postures

	IBA	Kevlar	Uniform	Conduct PT
<b>U1</b> 	<p>Accessible within 10 minutes.</p>	<p>Accessible within 10 minutes.</p>	<p>DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT or off duty and can be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>No restrictions.</p>
<b>U2</b> 	<p>Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.</p>	<p>Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.</p>	<p>DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.</p>
<b>U3</b> 	<p>Worn outside hardened facility.</p>	<p>Worn outside hardened facility.</p>	<p>Same as U2. DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.</p>
<b>U4</b> 	<p>Worn.</p>	<p>Worn.</p>	<p>Same as U3, but with ballistic goggles and combat earplugs.</p>	<p>Not authorized.</p>

# Sustainment Soldiers travel to JBB to renovate buildings for incoming units

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) came from various locations in Iraq to work on a renovation project that began March 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Renovations are being done to two buildings that are currently not occupied, but will belong to the 3rd Sustainment Brigade when they arrive at JBB in April.

Spc. Jon Voelkel, an operations specialist with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde., said he came from Contingency Operating Base Q-West to complete minor repairs, cleaning and beautification projects to the building.

“We are setting the standard for how we do things ... so we can hand it off to the next brigade that occupies this building,” he said.

Voelkel, a Pensacola, Fla., native, said the buildings needed a lot of work to make them ready to be used for operations. He said they have been working for about a week and should be finished in approximately one month.

“Right now I have been cleaning, painting, pressure washing and taking trash out of the building,” he said. “It makes me feel good to come here ... and turn it into a good final product.”

Staff Sgt. William Woodward, a platoon sergeant with the 387th Human Resource Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde. and a Princeton, Mo., native, said his commander had recommended him to the battalion commander for the renovation project at JBB.

“They saw the job we did at the post office at Al Asad (Air Base) and asked if I could go there and give them some assistance,” he said.

Woodward said he has more than 19 years of carpentry and construction



Spc. Jon Voelkel, an operations specialist with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Pensacola, Fla., native, paints curbs as part of a renovation project March 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 3rd Sustainment Brigade will occupy the building when the unit arrives in April.

work experience in the civilian sector.

“It makes me feel good that somebody notices,” he said. “I am glad to lend my services in any way possible.”

Woodward said he will be dividing one building in half to make two supply rooms.

“It seems that there will be two companies cohabitating the same building, so they will each have their own supply room now,” he said.

Woodward said they are completely renovating another building to make a new tactical operations center, as well as re-plumbing and building desks to fill it.

“There has been another unit helping us, and they have already started cutting and pre-assembling some com-

ponents for that TOC,” he said.

Woodward said he is looking forward to working with all the Soldiers assigned to this project.

“So far it looks like they have been working really hard and getting everything cleaned up first so we can start building rooms,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class James Blakely, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge of the 15th STB and a Mobile, Ala., native, said upon seeing the building he wondered if he had enough people to complete the mission in time.

“With the Soldiers that I have and the work they have already been doing, it is going to be too easy,” he said. “Our main goal is to make these buildings a functional workplace for the 3rd Sus-

tainment Brigade. We plan on having both buildings up and operational by the 22nd of April.”

The 514th Maintenance Company out of Fort Drum, N.Y., has been assisting with the project by providing building supplies, said Blakely.

“They have been helping us out with a lot of projects by supplying wood and building desks for us,” he said. “The support of this unit from the direction of the 13th ESC has really been helping us.”

Blakely said the special civilian skill sets Soldiers bring to the Army make these jobs possible.

“This helps us get our job done here, and I appreciate all their hard work and dedication,” he said.

## SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

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

# Convoy security team keeps vehicles safe on road

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Soldiers of D Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Ashland City, Tenn., provide security for convoys that travel from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to destinations throughout the country.

Pfc. Richard J. Boyd, a driver with D Troop and a Pegram, Tenn., native, said his team offers security for KBR, Inc. convoys as they travel from one base to another.

“I volunteered for this mission,” he said. “It’s got its moments. It’s kind of boring when driving the same old scenery, but it’s also adrenaline (pumping) because you don’t know what is coming up next ... anything could happen.”

Boyd said he has to watch out for improvised explosive devices and stay in constant communication with the oth-



Spc. John M. Dennis, an Ashland City, Tenn., native, and Spc. Bryan W. Curran, a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, both gunners with D Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), clean a .50-caliber machine gun while preparing for a convoy-security mission March 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

er Soldiers in the vehicle as he drives.

Sgt. Sean A. Moore, a truck commander with D Troop and a Dickson,

Tenn., native, said communication is the key to a successful mission.

“We’re constantly talking,” he said.

This is Moore’s second tour and he said he brought that experience with him. He talks to the driver and gunner to keep them focused, making sure everybody is on the same page in case an IED explodes or a vehicle breaks down.

“We get the guys to look for anything out of the ordinary,” he said.

Spc. Edward M. Ramsey, a gunner with D Troop, said he prepares for the mission by getting sleep and fueling his body.

“(We drink) lots and lots of caffeine,” said Ramsey, a Clarksville, Tenn., native.

Moore said as the truck commander it is vital that he is focused and ready for whatever may come his way, and it starts when he and his Soldiers are not on convoys. He makes sure his Soldiers get plenty of rest and downtime to stay focused when it comes time for a mission, he said.

“(They) do anything they can to get their mind off of what’s outside the wire,” he said. “Everybody needs that time to decompress.”

# Female sustainer competes in combatives tournament

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers, Airmen and civilians entered the ring March 11 to participate in Night Fight II, a mixed martial arts and combatives tournament at Contingency Operating Base, Adder, Iraq.

Maj. Matthew Giovanni, the communications officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Dallas native, said Memorial Hall was full to capacity for the event, just as it had been for Night Fight I.

“There was one main difference between the first and second iteration of Night Fight,” he said. “(Night Fight) II was the first time females competed in the ring at COB Adder.”

Giovanni said three of the tournament’s ten bouts were fought by women.

“This seemed fitting since NFII happened during Women’s History Month,” he said.

Spc. Shanika Robertson, the assistant electronic warfare officer with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Killeen, Texas, na-

tive, represented her brigade in fight five and was the only Soldier from the 36th to compete. She said she spent about 30 days preparing for the fight by training in Army combatives.

“My mom got me into fighting when I was in the 10th grade, which was five years ago,” said Robertson, “but my important fights did not happen until I was in Advanced Individual Training and taking an Army amateur fighting class.”

Robertson said growing up she was sometimes looked at as being weak because she was a girl.

“When I used to play fight as a kid ... others said no matter how strong I got, I could never beat up the weakest man,” she said.

Robertson said Fight Night II was about sportsmanship.

“I saw Cpl. Sophie Harrison, my competitor, a day after the fight,” she said, “and we greeted each other at the (Post Exchange) like nothing ever happened.”

First Lt. Issa Hahn, the EWO officer in charge with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Killeen, Texas, native, is Robertson’s supervisor and one of her former high school teachers.

“I was very proud of (Robertson) when I found out she was going to box in Iraq,” said Hahn. “I am also very proud of the growth I’ve seen in the ring and in her life



Spc. Shanika Robertson, an assistant electronics warfare officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Killeen, Texas, native, takes a moment to warm up prior to her bout at the Night Fight II mixed martial arts and combatives tournament, March 11 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

in general over the years.”

Robertson said though she did not win her fight, she felt proud knowing she got in the ring to represent her brigade. She said the brigade was very supportive of her as well.

**The Dirty Dozen**

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

# Recovery supports convoys during travel

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



TAJI, Iraq – Recovery Soldiers travel with convoys throughout Iraq, supporting units should vehicles break down during their mission.

The Soldiers of the 3666th Support Maintenance Company recovery team out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), rely on vital communications equipment to do their jobs and keep vehicles moving.

Cpl. Tony R. Sanchez, the truck commander on the wrecker recovery team with the 3666th SMC and a Phoenix native, said he makes sure all communications work prior to leaving for any mission.

“Our equipment has to be working,” said Sanchez. “That equipment could (save) either your life or your (truck commander’s) life.”

Sgt. James V. Locke, a ground radio repairman with the 3666th SMC and a Gilbert, Ariz., native, said it is his job to make sure all equipment is ready for

recovery when leaving for missions.

“I do routine testing and very simple maintenance,” he said. “I check the systems three times before they leave.”

These checks are necessary because the vehicles bounce on rough roads, and the systems can come loose at times.

Staff Sgt. John W. Haro, the recovery operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3666th SMC and a Mesa, Ariz., native, said the team’s job is to provide recovery support for logistics convoys so food, mail and other supplies make it to Soldiers throughout Iraq.

“Everything that we need has to move by air or by truck,” said Haro.

Spc. Jerry E. Howe, a driver with the 3666th SMC recovery team and a Peoria, Ariz., native, said if vehicles break down during a convoy, they try to fix them on the spot. Flat tires, hoses and wires can be fixed quickly, but if a problem occurs that cannot, they hook the vehicle up and tow it to its final destination.

“You have to stay on your toes,” said Howe.

Haro said their mission is of the utmost importance because, without them, vehicles could become stuck in Iraqi traffic or at checkpoints and face



Spc. Jerry E. Howe, a driver with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company recovery team out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Peoria, Ariz., native, performs preventive maintenance checks and services before a mission March 20 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

the dangers of improvised explosive devices.

“We have performed 131 missions with no accidents,” he said. “My Soldiers have been exposed to IED explosions, small arms fire, and have come away with minor injuries. These guys have gone out there and have towed

(heavy equipment transport) systems, they have towed (Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicles), they’ve towed just about every type of truck that is out there on the convoys and they’ve done it quickly, efficiently and have received praise from several convoy commanders.”

## Tennessee Guardsmen lace up for St. Patrick’s Day 5k

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. DESIREE L. NICELY  
278TH ACR

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquartered

in Henderson, Tenn., participated in a St. Patrick’s Day 5K fun run, March 13 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

“I used the run as a jumping-off point for getting myself back to where I need to be, and to feel better,” said Maj. Warner A. Ross, II, the operations officer with 1st Squadron, 278th ACR and a Bolivar, Tenn., native, who turned 46 the day of the race. “Sometimes you have to hurt before you can feel better. Plus, it’s a way to break up the routine of my job.”

As a former center for the Ole Miss football team, Ross said he knows what discipline and dedication to physical fitness really means. To a Soldier, fitness is paramount to mission capability, he said.

For some groups, the run was a way of



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and various other units, take part in the St. Patrick’s Day 5k, March 13 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

building morale within the unit. Twenty-five runners with Bayonet Troop from Clarksville, Tenn., ran the race together and represented the largest turnout of Soldiers for 1st Squadron.

“I ran in support of our S3, Major Ross; it was his birthday,” said 1st Sgt.

Larry T. Petty, with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron and a Raymer, Tenn., native. “I also ran in support of the MWR here at Q-West. Since we have only just arrived, I want them to see we are here and want to participate.”

Do you  
have a  
story  
idea?

Contact  
us at:

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

# Sudoku

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

**Level: Hard**

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

Last week's answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What country left the League of Nations in 1933?
2. What former secretary of state noted: "The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes longer?"
3. Whose assassination was Sam Seymour the last living witness to, until his death in 1956?
4. What nation bid adieu to the United Kingdom in 1921?
5. Who expected to be paid 2,000 pounds for surrendering West Point to the British?

1. Germany 2. Henry Kissinger 3. Abraham Lincoln 4. Ireland 5. Benedict Arnold

## JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

**TRADITIONAL - Sunday**

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel  
 1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)  
 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel  
 2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

**GOSPEL - Sunday**

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

**CONTEMPORARY - Sunday**

1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155)  
 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. 4155)

**LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON) - Sunday**

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

**MASS - Sunday**

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 1100 Provider Chapel 1230 Air Force Hospital  
**Thursday** 1100 Air Force Hospital  
**Wed., Fri.** 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**\*Saturday**

1600-1645 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Confessions or by appointment

**JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday**

1800 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday**

1900 Provider Annex  
**Saturday** 1900 The Bat Cave

**GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday**

0900 Provider Annex

**GENERAL - Sunday**

0900 Provider Chapel 0900 Freedom Chapel

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:**

**Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703**  
**Provider Chapel: 483-4107**  
**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 Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.	p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	CC Cross Fit: Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m.	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
<b>EAST 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	4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8	<b>EAST REC-REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8	<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.	Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m. <b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	Monday- Fri., - 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Saturday- 8:30 p.m. <b>WEST REC-REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., - 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



**Thursday 04/01/10**

Dallas Mavericks @ Memphis Grizzlies, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Oklahoma City Thunder @ Boston Celtics, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Spring Training: Minnesota Twins @ Boston Red Sox, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 NIT Final: Teams TBD (Madison Square Garden, New York, NY), Live 4 p.m. AFN/ sports

**Friday 04/02/10**

Florida Panthers @ Boston Bruins, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 Spring Training: Baltimore Orioles @ New York Yankees, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Chicago Blackhawks @ New Jersey Devils, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ xtra  
 NBA Friday: Atlanta Hawks @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 5 p.m. AFN/ sports

**Saturday 04/03/10**

Milwaukee Bucks @ Charlotte Bobcats, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA Friday: Atlanta Hawks @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Tape Delayed 6a.m. AFN/sports  
 Atlanta Thrashers @ Pittsburgh Penguins, Live 10 a.m. AFN/ prime Atlantic  
 Spring Training: Chicago White Sox @ Atlanta Braves, Live 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

**Sunday 04/04/10**

2010 NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament - Final Four: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Oklahoma City Thunder @ Dallas Mavericks, Tape Delayed 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NHL on NBC: Detroit Red Wings @ Philadelphia Flyers, Live 9:30 a.m. AFN/prime Atlantic  
 NBA Showcase: Cleveland Cavaliers @ Boston Celtics, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports

**Monday 04/05/10**

2009-2010 PBA Tour: PBA Marathon Open, Tape Delayed 1:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 '30 Teams in 8 Days' - Opening Week on AFN: New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 2010 NCAA Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 6 p.m. AFN/ sports

**Tuesday 04/06/10**

2010 NCAA Championship Game: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL on VERSUS: Washington Capitals @ Pittsburgh Penguins, Live 4:30 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 2010 NCAA Women's College Basketball Tournament Championship Game: Teams TBD, Live 5:30 p.m. AFN/sports

**Wednesday 04/07/10**

Opening Week on AFN: Baltimore Orioles @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Opening Week on AFN: Colorado Rockies @ Milwaukee Brewers, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA Wednesday: Utah Jazz @ Houston Rockets, Live 5 p.m. AFN/sports

# Arts & Entertainment

## Not quite 'Demon Days' but definitely worth it

BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Let me start off by saying that to truly appreciate the Gorillaz experience, you must see both the video and audio.

The new album, "Plastic Beach," does not disappoint returning fans. The same eerie synthesizer and funk drum riffs are prominent on some songs, while at other times taking you on a journey which leaves you wanting to sing along to the melodies

and leaves you feeling all kinds of emotions, whether it happiness, quietness or wonderment.

All in all, Damon Albarn, the previous front man for "The Blur," stays true to his concept through every song, which is quite hard to do, and pulls it off once again.

There are several cameos on the album.

Snoop Dogg sets the tone right away on "Welcome to the World of the Plastic Beach" with his lazy lyrics that go right along with the tone and mood of the whole album.

The track "Stylo" is one of my fa-

vorites on the album and includes a vocoded rap from Mos Def as well as Albarn's slightly grim style of singing and a very soulful turn by legend Bobby Womack. The three different styles, which easily alternate and are at first restrained, lead up to Womack's overpowering voice. All the elements of "Feel Good Inc." are there on this track. The background music is a form of soft techno with dark keyboard overlays on it, the classic Gorillaz sound!

My other favorite track on "Plastic Beach" is "Empire Ants." The song starts off as a serene, peaceful song,

almost boring with a guitar strumming in the background and piano accompaniment, and then almost exactly in the middle of the song it explodes into a rush of clean keyboards and the spaced out voice of Yukimi Nagano of the Swedish group Little Dragon. Her voice accompanied by Albarn's ballad serves as a good contrast.

Although I do not like to compare albums to their predecessor, "Plastic Beach" was not as good as "Demon Days," but is still an album worth picking up. Keep in mind it may take 2 or 3 listens to truly appreciate it.

## The White Stripes: Under Great White Northern Lights

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



It's hard to believe the White Stripes have been around for 13 years now.

The film "Under Great White Northern Lights" documents Jack and Meg White touring through Canada in 2007 leading up to their 10th anniversary as a band. To commemorate a decade of rock, they decide to play shows in every single province and territory in Canada, a country that is a stone's throw from the band's hometown, Detroit.

According to the band, our hockey-loving neighbors to the north haven't had much access to their shows over the years, until now.

Visually, the film is stunning. It was shot on 16mm film by director Emmett

Malloy and matches the band's stripped-down aesthetic perfectly. The White Stripes are known for their love of everything red, white and black, and it really comes through in this concert film without seeming too gimmicky.

"Under Great White Northern Lights" is definitely more of a concert piece than a traditional documentary, but it isn't your traditional three-camera, arena concert film. Throughout the film, Jack talks about wanting to play unique shows for people who may not know the band and who may not have regular access to big-name acts, and that's exactly what they do.

There's a show in a small-town bowling alley, on the back of a fishing boat and even in what I assume is a daycare center. The White Stripes no doubt made some new fans along the way.

Though most of the film's 92 minutes are dedicated to performances, there is still

plenty of off-stage footage and a few interviews that give insight to Jack and Meg's personalities.

Meg White might be the shyest rock star of all time. She is so quiet that the film maker adds subtitles every time she speaks. When she does talk, it becomes obvious that she lacks confidence in her abilities, which is no doubt because of all the talk about her being a bad drummer. Jack has always been quick to defend her, saying that her style is what the band needs, and I absolutely agree. As an amateur drummer with modest abilities myself, I think Meg's beats are simple and steady and perfect for a blues band.

What sticks out most about Jack is his need to challenge himself. As he said in last year's biographical documentary, "It Might Get Loud," he wants his performances to be a struggle. He's essentially commanding the stage by himself, playing rhythm and

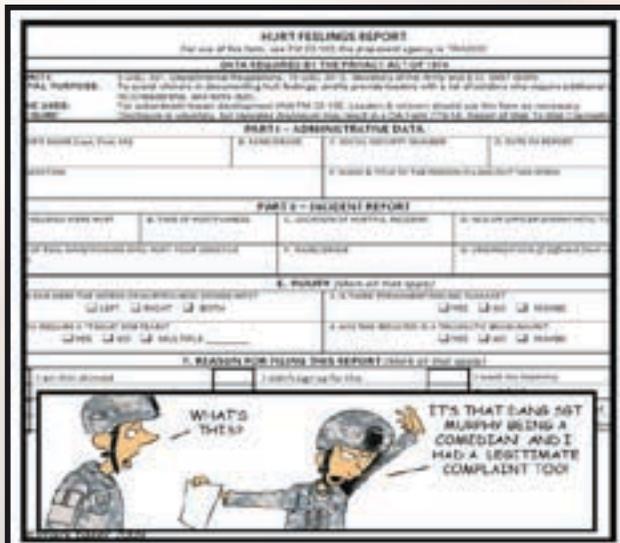
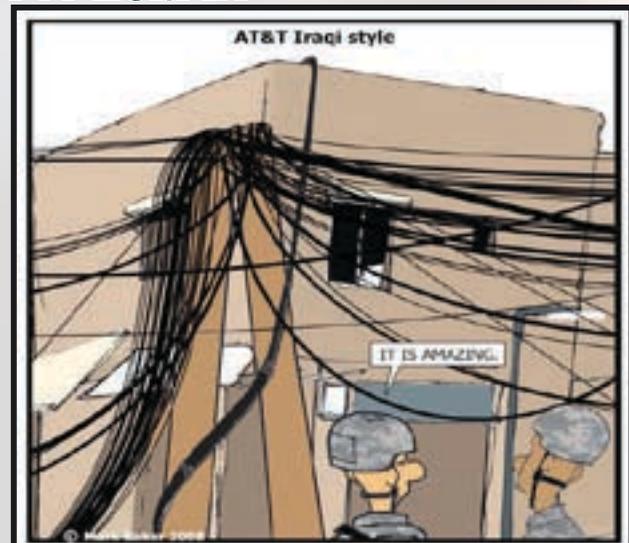
lead guitar without bass accompaniment, and singing, and he makes it harder for himself by keeping things like keyboards and spare picks far across the stage. He's constantly running from instrument to instrument and it's quite dizzying to watch.

Another funny thing about Jack's need to challenge himself and fight complacency is the fact that he seems to write vocal melodies outside his range. He struggles with pitch quite a bit, but it sort of fits the raw, chaotic experience he's become known for.

Fans of The White Stripes are sure to love "Under Great White Northern Lights" and the live album of the same name. It isn't really eye opening if you follow the band, but it is very much entertaining.

A quick note for those looking to pick this DVD up at the Post Exchange, look in the CD section; this film is packaged in a super-jewel case, slightly larger than a CD case. It's even priced like a CD. Score!

### PVT MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

<b>Wednesday, March 31</b> 5 p.m. The Wolf Man 8 p.m. The Bounty Hunter	<b>Sunday, April 4</b> 2 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon 5 p.m. Dear John 8 p.m. Valentine's Day
<b>Thursday, April 1</b> 5 p.m. The Bounty Hunter 8 p.m. From Paris with Love	<b>Monday, April 5</b> 5 p.m. Sherlock Holmes 8 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon
<b>Friday, April 2</b> 2 p.m. Dear John 5 p.m. Valentine's Day 8:30 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon	<b>Tuesday, April 6</b> 5 p.m. Valentine's Day 8 p.m. The Wolf Man
<b>Saturday, April 3</b> 2 p.m. Valentine's Day 5 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon 8 p.m. Dear John	<b>Wednesday, April 7</b> 5 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon 8 p.m. Valentine's Day



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Venessa Hernandez

(Above) Soldiers from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., leave an overwatch position March 7 in Taji, Iraq. The battalion maintained security positions outside polling locations during the Iraqi National Elections.



A U.S. Air Force instructor pilot with the 52nd Expeditionary Flight Training Squadron walks by Iraqi Air Force T-6A training aircraft prior to a training readiness mission March 15 at the Al Sahra Air Base on Contingency Operating Base Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq. The 52nd EFTS started teaching an 18-month advanced skills program to Iraqi air force pilots this week.

U.S. Navy photo by Chief Petty Officer Michael D. Heckman



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joel LeMaistre

(Above) A Soldier attached to White Platoon, Kirkuk Combined Security Forces, gives a piece of candy to children March 16 in Dubak Tapa, Iraq. The CSF were evaluating the security of local infrastructure as well as checking on the needs of the nearby villages.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Venessa Hernandez

(Above) Sgt. Alvaro Barrientos from 3rd Platoon, Blackfoot Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, Wash., holds hands with an Iraqi boy March 8 in a town near Taji, Iraq. The platoon's mission is to conduct post-election atmospheric in the area.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Venessa Hernandez

Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence, Commander of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., checks on his Soldiers at an overwatch position March 7 in Taji, Iraq. The battalion maintained security positions outside polling locations during the Iraqi National Elections.

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## US military transfers prison to Iraqi government

**★** TAJI, Iraq – A new concept in Iraq's corrections system officially became a reality with the turn-over of the Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Facility Center March 15 in Taji, Iraq. The TIFRC is essentially a detention center, with a goal to provide inmates with an environment where they can learn new skills and educate themselves to help their families and be productive citizens when they are released.

Construction of the TIFRC was managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region District Resident Office based in Taji. Additional projects associated with construction of the TIFRC included the construction of a new entry control point for the facility and on-site housing for Iraqi Corrections Officers.

Until now, the TIFRC has been operated by U.S. forces that have been actively training and mentoring Iraqi Corrections Officers in preparation for the transition to the Iraqi Ministry of Justice.

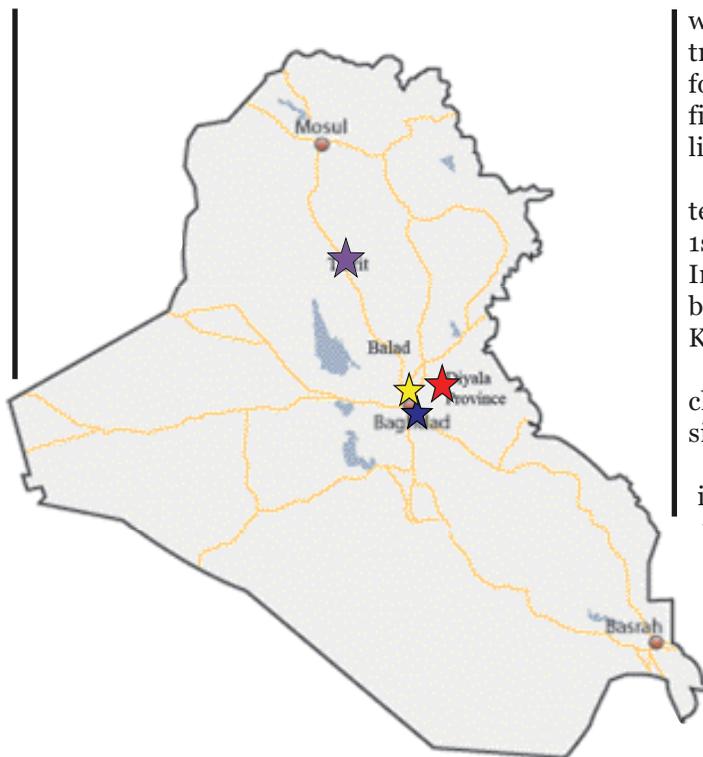
"Only a small amount of training remains in order to conduct a responsible security transition for the exterior of the facility," said Maj. Brett Conway, operations officer for the 211th Military Police Battalion. "U.S. forces will remain in an outside over watch capacity for a short period to complete the final transition and facilitate the contract oversight."

The facility consists of 260 general-population cells and a special housing unit that can house up to 5,000 detainees. More importantly, the facility includes classrooms, vocational-tech, and a textile mill for training detainees for eventual re-integration into society. Support facilities include a medical center, parole office, judge's chambers, in-processing, a military working dog kennel and a family visitation center.

"This particular project is unique in that it provides facilities for the rehabilitation of detainees," said Lt. Col. Richard Pratt, the deputy commander for Gulf Region District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq. "The focus of this facility goes far beyond simply detaining inmates. It provides another chance for inmates to be reintegrated into society where they can provide for their families and function as responsible citizens," he said.

The transfer ceremony was attended by several high-ranking officials from U.S. Forces Iraq including Maj. Gen. David E. Quantock, the deputy commanding general for detainee operations, Maj. Gen. Nelson Cannon, the incoming deputy commanding general for detainee operations, Maj. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Jim Keffer, the director for intelligence and Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, the director for joint doctrine, training and force development. Other attending officials included Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade and Dara Nour al-Deen, Iraq Minister of Justice. Lt. Col. Richard Pratt attended on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region District.

The total contract value for the project was \$70



million. The contractor for the project was ALMCO Company.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the Government of Iraq. Since 2004, USACE has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$9.1 billion, and has more than 250 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

## Senior al-Qaeda in Iraq leader killed in Mosul, six suspected terrorists arrested

**★** BAGHDAD – A suspected senior al-Qaeda in Iraq leader was killed and six of his suspected criminal associates arrested March 18 during a series of joint security operations conducted in Mosul to capture the AQI leader and disrupt operations within the terrorist network to prevent future attacks.

Acting upon a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge, ISF and U.S. advisors conducted a vehicle stop and searched several buildings for Khalid Muhammad Hasan Shallub al-Juburi, also known as Sheikh Khalid, who is a suspected leader for the AQI terrorist group in northern Iraq. He is believed to have played an integral role in approving AQI operations, including attacks against the Iraqi people preceding and during the recent parliamentary elections.

In central Mosul, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Army and U.S. advisors conducted a vehicle stop on a public road based on credible intelligence tips that Sheikh Khalid was a passenger within. The security team ordered the two men within to exit the vehicle, at which point the passenger reached into his jacket, brandished a pistol and fired a shot that struck a security-team member. The joint security team then returned fire, killing the passenger and slightly wounding the driver in the leg. Both the

wounded security-team member and driver were transported to a nearby medical facility and treated for minor injuries. The passenger was later identified as being the warranted individual, Sheikh Khalid.

Following the vehicle stop, four joint security teams composed of soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Army, the 9th Iraqi Army, the 2nd Iraqi Army, and U.S. advisors also searched several buildings in eastern Mosul associated with Sheikh Khalid and his terrorist group.

Evidence discovered during the operation included plans detailing upcoming improvised-explosive attacks against security forces in Iraq.

After conducting preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence found during the operation, ISF arrested six suspected criminal associates of Sheikh Khalid.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

## Baqouba Hospital receives new surgical wing

**★** BAQOUBA, Iraq - Five years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed extensive renovations to the Baqouba General Hospital. Now, Army Corps engineers are taking the project a step further with the addition of a \$7.42 million medical wing to the hospital, providing needed medical-care services for more than 300,000 residents.

Engineers from the USACE Gulf Region District, Balad Resident Office, are managing construction of the 6,000 square meter addition scheduled to be completed later this year.

The expansion is a stand-alone two-story facility that includes a surgical ward, 20-bed trauma center, operating rooms and a 50-bed intensive care unit. The new wing includes a walkway connecting it to the existing hospital. The expansion is designed to lighten the workload of a hospital that currently treats between 400 and 500 patients every day.

The hospital expansion provides a much-needed boost in medical care for the Diyala Province, said Dr. Mohammad Jasim, a physician and member of the technical staff for the project.

"Diyala is a large province with a low percentage ratio of hospital treatment facilities to population," Jasim said. "This facility represents the only special medical center in the province that provides unique surgical care to the region."

The hospital will serve as an example of the new advanced hospital technology that is being built with the cooperation of the Iraqi Ministry of Health and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to Jasim,

"It is a project that was constructed through the hard work of Iraqi engineers and construction workers. We can all be proud of this achievement," he said.

The new facility includes three back-up generators to power the entire facility during power outages from the main power grid. Also included in the

hospital wing is a complete voice and data communications system that includes closed-circuit cameras and controlled access entry and exit doors. The wing will have its own water purification system for quality potable water and a heating/ventilation/air conditioning system with a separate isolated system for surgical areas. The new wing has specially designed rooms for Computerized Axial Tomography scans, Magnetic Resonance Imaging and ultra sound, plus a laboratory and pharmacy rooms for special medical needs. The wing will be equipped with four elevators. Two of the elevators will be specifically designed to transport patient beds.

The Iraqi owned Liqaa Al Mustakbal Company is the general contractor for the project. Funding for the hospital wing was provided by the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the government of Iraq. Since 2004, USACE has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$9.1 billion, and has more than 250 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

## ISF capture six al-Qaeda members linked to explosives cell

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested six suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq explosives-cell members March 21 during two joint security operations conducted in central and northern Iraq pursuant to warrants issued by Iraqi judges.

In a rural area located approximately 19 miles north of Baghdad, 5th Iraqi Army soldiers and U.S. advisors searched a residential building for a suspected AQI explosives-cell member who is believed to make and distribute homemade explosives used in attacks by the terrorist group throughout Baghdad.

Information gathered within the building led the Iraqi-led security team to a weapons cache site nearby where several large artillery rounds were found.

After conducting preliminary questioning and examination of evidence at the scene, Iraqi Army soldiers identified and arrested the warranted explosives maker and two suspected criminal accomplices.

During a second security operation carried out in a rural area located approximately 12 miles northwest of Mosul, 9th Iraqi Army soldiers and U.S. advisors searched a residential building for a suspected AQI explosives-cell member who is believed to be behind several vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks in Mosul.

An initial examination of information collected at the scene led Iraqi Army soldiers to identify and arrest the warranted attack-cell member and two suspected criminal accomplices.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

## ISF arrest suspected al-Qaeda attack planner

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested four suspected terrorists March 18 during two joint security operations carried out in central and northern Iraq to capture suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members believed

to be responsible for coordinating deadly attacks throughout the country.

Both security operations were conducted in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government.

In western Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisors searched a residential building for a suspected AQI member who credible intelligence indicated is planning upcoming attacks against Iraqi government officials.

Following preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence at the scene, ISF identified and arrested the wanted AQI attack planner and two suspected criminal associates.

During a second security operation conducted in a rural area located approximately 77 miles southwest of Kirkuk, the 3rd Emergency Response Unit and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected AQI leader who is believed to have coordinated attacks throughout the country, in addition to having recruited foreign terrorists from Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi Police to arrest a suspected criminal associate of the warranted AQI leader.

## ISF arrest suspected Mosul al-Qaeda leader, Kirkuk IED-cell member

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested one suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader for eastern Mosul, one suspected explosives expert for an AQI attack cell, and seven suspected criminal accomplices during two joint security operations accomplished March 15 in northern Iraq.

Both security operations were conducted pursuant to warrants issued by Iraqi judges.

In western Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisors searched three buildings for a suspected AQI leader believed to have played a key role in acquiring vehicles and weapons used to carry out assassinations in the northern-Iraqi city.

After conducting preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence during the operation, ISF identified and arrested the warranted AQI leader and six suspected criminal associates.

During the second security operation in southern Kirkuk, the 3rd Emergency Services unit and U.S. advisors searched a residential building for a suspected mid-level AQI leader for Kirkuk and Diyala provinces believed to be an expert improvised-explosive devices maker responsible for multiple attacks and kidnappings in the region.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi Police to identify and arrest the wanted AQI leader and a suspected criminal associate.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the security agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

## Iraqi Air Force launches first advanced pilot training program

 TIKRIT – The first students have begun classes at the Iraqi Air Force College, which opened its doors March 11 at the Tikrit Air Base. Ten Iraqi Air Force pilots are going through the advanced pilot training program on the T-6A to become

instructors for other student pilots who will follow.

This program marks the first time Iraqi Air Force pilots have trained on the T-6A, which is a single-engine, two-seat training aircraft designed for providing instruction in advanced flying skills. Like U.S. military pilots, the Iraqis must master the T-6A before going on to fly more sophisticated, multi-role fighter aircraft.

“The pilots who have been selected to come here today and start training will be the initial cadre of instructor pilots for the Iraqi Air Force T-6 program,” said Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, director of the Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission. “It’s really exciting to be a part of this.”

The pilots in training were handpicked by Iraqi Air Force Commander Staff Lt. Gen. Anwer Hamad Amen Ahmed, who described them as his sons.

“I look forward to the future of these pilots because they are the future of the Iraqi Air Force,” Anwer said. “I hope that one day, one of these pilots will return here to speak to a new class as the Iraqi Air Force commander.”

The stringent selection process brings forward only the experienced candidates who are proficient in English as well as flying.

“Their English language skills are a critical part of the selection process because English is the international language of aviation,” said Hanson. “These candidates have all demonstrated that and they will be put to the test.”

When the students graduate from the course, they will become trainers of the same program they just completed. They are all experienced pilots on a variety of different aircraft, though none of them have flown the T-6 before this course.

“I’ve always been excited about flying the fast jet,” said Iraqi Air Force 1st Lt. Muslam Akeel Abdulrasaq, one of the new students. “Of course, it is going to be challenging because there is a quite a lot of learning to do and you have to be physically and mentally fit to do this job. I am really looking forward to it.”

The ITAM-AF instructors displayed similar enthusiasm for the course.

“I have never experienced more job satisfaction than I do with just teaching students,” said USAF Capt. Daniel Fiedler, an ITAM-AF instructor pilot at the Iraqi Air Force College. “To do that with these Iraqi pilots is cutting edge.”

“I get to be a part of the initial set of people teaching Iraqis how to do this and realize their dreams, Fiedler said. “For them it’s not just the dream of getting to fly an airplane, it’s the dream of building their country.”

## Search for Kata’ib Hezbollah leader nets one arrest

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected terrorist in northern Baghdad March 18 during a joint security operation conducted to capture a suspected Kata’ib Hezbollah brigade leader.

Acting per a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge, ISF and U.S. advisors searched two residential buildings for the suspected KH leader who is believed to be responsible for carrying out attacks against security forces in Iraq.

After conducting preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence during the operation, ISF arrested a suspected criminal associate of the warranted KH leader.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VandenMolen



(Above) An Iraqi Army Soldier prepares to escort a group of U.S. Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) on a cultural tour Feb. 27 at Babylon, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Vogler

(Above) Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, the deputy commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division and United States Division - North, reenlists Sgt. Raphael Williams, a human resources noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Virgin Islands native. Vandal took the opportunity to reenlist Williams while congratulating the 260th CSSB as their deployment ends in April.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Fern Freeman

(Above) Spc. Archie Harris, a Sumter, S.C., native, prepares the M-1000 heavy equipment transporter trailer for its upcoming technical inspections. He washes the trailer thoroughly in order to perform operator-level preventative maintenance checks and services, eventually being sent to the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion maintenance team for any necessary repairs. Harris is a heavy equipment transporter with the 296th Transportation Company, 260th CSSB, 15th Sustainment Brigade and 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael R. Gault



(Left) Staff Sgt. Herber Rasmussen, a senior paralegal noncommissioned officer of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Rigby, Idaho, native, swears the oath of reenlistment March 14 at Abraham's Oasis, adding six more years to his 10 years of service with the Army Reserves. "You may come into the army for the benefits," said Rasmussen "but you end up staying in because of the camaraderie you develop with fellow Soldiers."



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Dale A. Minglehoff

Command Sgt. Major Tracy McDow with the Tennessee Army National Guard's Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) places combat patches on Soldiers during a patching ceremony March 15 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.