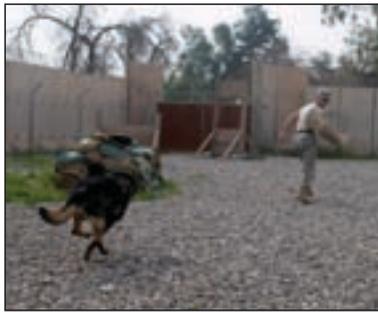


Dog eat dog



Working dogs practice suspect takedowns

Page 5

Gift givers



Soldiers deliver shoes, supplies to Iraqi children

Page 8

Safety escort



Logistical missions build leaders, relationships

Page 12-13

General visits Rawhide Soldiers, tours Ziggurat

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE ADDER, Iraq

– Brig. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general with Joint Contracting Command –

Iraq/Afghanistan, visited Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, March 27, to ensure that her unit, which is responsible for all of the contracts in theater, meets the needs of the service members who live there.

“I have a regional contracting office here that just had a new leader take over, so my goal is twofold,” said Nichols, a Niagara Falls, N.Y., native. “One, to make sure that my office has everything they need to do their contracting mission. The other part of my mission is to ensure that the service members who live here have what they need.”

SEE TOUR ON PAGE 4



Brig. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general with Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan, listens to the tour guide March 27 during a tour of the Ziggurat of Ur near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Nichols, a Niagara Falls, N.Y., native, visited the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to discuss the support provided by JCC-IA, as well as the 36th Sust. Bde.’s mission plans during the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

US senators visit service members

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

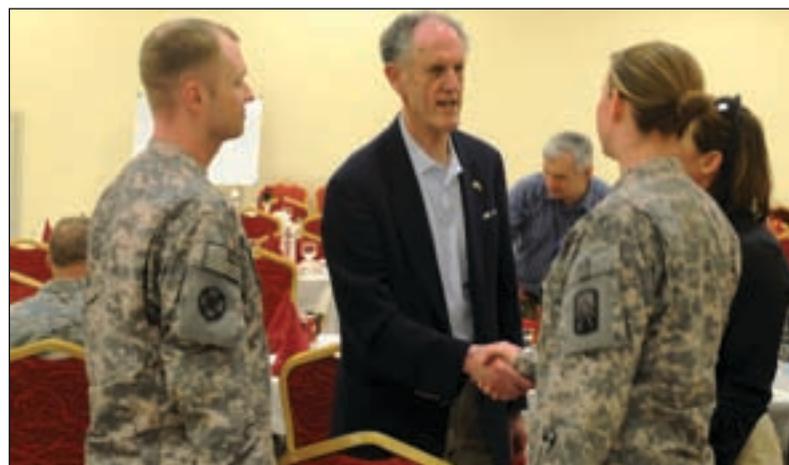
Three U.S. senators came to the Oasis dining facility to visit service members and receive a brief about the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces, March 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Sens. Ted Kaufman, of Delaware, Jack Reed, of Rhode Island, and Kay Hagan, of North Carolina, first stopped at the DFAC to eat with service mem-

bers and civilians, and address any questions or concerns service members had. They then attended a command brief that addressed pending issues concerning the drawdown from Iraq in a more in-depth manner.

Kaufman, a Wilmington, Del., native, said Iraq is the key to the future of America and the mission of U.S. forces is vital.

“This information (from the visit) is for us on the Armed Services Committee,” he said. “We want to see the things that are going on here, not just SEE VISIT ON PAGE 4



Delaware Sen. Ted Kaufman, a Wilmington, Del., native, shakes hands with Soldiers during a luncheon March 29 at the Oasis dining facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members met with senators from their home states and addressed their questions and concerns about current issues.

Balad Blotter March 25 - April 1

ASSAULT:

A civilian contractor telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk March 28 to report an assault at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Bazaar. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The patrol arrived on the scene and conducted a search of the area for the subject. The victim took the company bus back to her camp to seek medical attention because no memorandum exists that allows her to go to the theater hospital. The victim suffered one 2-3mm deep laceration 1mm in diameter on the top of her head above her right eye brow, one 4mm deep, 1.5mm long by 1mm wide behind her right ear and one 1cm long by 1cm wide puncture wound on her chest. The patrol apprehended the subject and initiated a search with negative findings. The victim was transported back to the LED by a co-worker. The patrol initiated interview with victim who said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant, that her and the subject were dating and broke up about a month ago. The victim said the subject had been trying to talk to her but she ignored him and told him to leave her alone. The victim said when she attempted to walk into the bazaar, the subject struck her in the chest with a pen. Then, as she fell, he struck her in the head two times. The victim said she blacked out after she was struck, and when she woke up the subject was gone. The patrol initiated an interview with the subject, who said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect, he told the victim to meet him at the bazaar so he could buy her a ring. The subject said, after he bought her the ring, she refused to talk to him. The subject said after the victim pushed him, he took out a pen from his pocket and stabbed her. The subject was released to his manager via Department of Defense Form 2708/Receipt for Inmate of Detained Person.

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY:

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk March 31 and reported counterfeit U.S. currency was discovered at Army and Air Force Exchange Service Post/Base Exchange east. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The patrol arrived on the scene and made contact with the complainant, confirming the currency to be counterfeit. The patrol initiated search with negative findings. The subject was turned over to his boss for further questioning. The patrol wrote a receipt for the counterfeit currency, via Department of the Army Form 4137/Evidence/Property Custody Document, and turned it over. This was the most recent in four incidents of counterfeit currency at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

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

Chaplain's Corner: endure when oil runs dry

By CAPT. WANDA I. ACEVEDO
13TH ESC CHAPLAIN



The word endurance brings athletes and how they train to mind. For some, this may be the image of a boxer like Manny Pacquiao and his great ability to resist, or Lance Armstrong and his record of seven consecutive years winning

the Tour de France.

For some reason, we think in terms of stamina, toughness or tolerance when we think of endurance.

However, according to Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, endurance is more than a physical attribute. It is the quality of withstanding hardship or stress; perseverance; continuing under pain or distress without being overcome.

Endurance is something you can carry inside your heart, even if you are not an athlete.

But when do you need endurance?

Is it before, during or after the hardship comes? According to Webster, it is a quality demonstrated under hardship, stress or pain. It is when you get to the point when you think you cannot go on that you need endurance. It is when all of your body and soul screams at you to stop, but you go on because you must.

Endurance cannot be seen at the beginning of life's marathon, but it can be readily seen as we struggle to live in an uncertain world.

There is a story in Christian tradition that relates very well with this theme. The prophet Elijah was hiding from his enemies and had nothing to eat. So God told him to go to Zarephthah of Sidon where a widow would take care of him. At Zarephthah, he spoke to the widow.

"Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink ... and bring me, please, a piece of bread," Elijah asked in 1 Kings 17:10.

The widow replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

Understand this woman's situation: An unmarried woman in those times had no status in society, so both her status and income depended on her husband. She had no one to protect her or her son and no one to provide for them.

I don't know what she tried or how many people she

asked for help. I do know she got to the point that she could not see a future for herself or her son.

She was asked to endure.

When you are ready to quit, when you think you can't go on, when you lose faith, when you know you only have enough oil to prepare a last meal and die, you need to endure.

Perhaps none of us have reached that point when all we have is what little we can put in our mouths, but maybe we have gone through difficult times in our life's journey. It is at these times when we need endurance, not just to resist, but to also come out victorious.

Elijah said to the widow, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry.'"

He could have told her not to be so negative, to go and borrow from her neighbor, or just suck it up. Instead, he pointed her to God. The answer would come from above, not within.

When your oil and your flour seem to disappear, when your resources seem to be totally depleted, God says to you, "Trust me. I will be your provider."

You don't have to carry your burdens and solve your problems by yourself. There is a supernatural power available to us.

"Do not be afraid. ... The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be discouraged," according to Deuteronomy 31:6, 8.

The Bible tells us the widow went away and did as Elijah told her. She took a step of faith.

And there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family, for the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by Elijah.

When he put us here, even though we suffer separation, even though we may get tired, even though we don't understand the circumstances, believe that what appears as weakness to you in God's hands is powerful endurance. The oil will not run dry.

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He gives strength to the weary ... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint," says Isaiah 40:28-31.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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

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

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

Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

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

13th ESC PAO, Managing Editor
Maj. Raul Marquez, 13th ESC PAO
raul.marquez@iraq.centcom.mil

13th ESC PA NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson, 13th ESC
joel.f.gibson@iraq.centcom.mil

13th ESC Staff Writer
Spc. Naveed Ali Shah, 13th ESC
naveed.alishah@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Commander
Capt. Brad Sinkler
bradley.sinkler@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD First Sergeant
1st Sgt. Aangi Mueller
aangi.mueller@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Production Editor
Staff Sgt. Robert E. Fafoglia
robert.fafoglia@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Layout and Design
Sgt. Jayson A. Hoffman
jayson.hoffman@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Photo Editor
Sgt. Keith VanKlompberg
keith.vanklompberg@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Copy Editor
Spc. Brandy Oxford
brandy.oxford@iraq.centcom.mil

139th MPAD Staff Writers
Sgt. Ryan Twist
ryan.twist@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. John Stimac
john.stimac@iraq.centcom.mil

Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
lisa.cope@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Michael V. Camacho
michael.camacho@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing public affairs offices

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

For online publication visit:
www.dvidshub.net
keyword: Expeditionary Times

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.

The Weekly Standard: steps for Reserve Soldiers, Guardsmen to extend in-theater orders

By Lt. Col. Gary Davis
13th ESC Detailed Inspector General



If you are a reserve Soldier and you are nearing the end of your orders, your unit will probably ask you if you would like to stay in theater a little longer.

Usually, the new unit coming in could use some help, but you may want stay in theater in your current position. If you want to stay, you can

request Contingency Operation – Active Duty for Operational Support in a National Guard or Reserve unit, or even an active duty unit if it is authorized Reserve component positions.

If you decided to volunteer to stay beyond the release from active duty or end date of your orders, you will have to sign a Department of the Army Form 4187 requesting a CO-ADOS order.

Your packet will need to be turned in at least 45 days prior to the end date of your existing orders.

If your unit is redeploying and you do not have your CO-ADOS order physically in-hand by the time it leaves, you will not be able to stay. There is no exception to this, despite where the packet is in the approval process. No one can be in country without valid orders.

See All Army Activity message, dated Jan. 16, titled Release of RC Soldiers from Theater, for more detail.

If you decide to apply for CO-ADOS orders, you and your unit will have to compute your new REFRAD date.

Commanders are directed to ensure that Soldiers are returned to the continental United States in time to complete the demobilization process and take accrued leave. To ensure this, your leave, post deployment/mobilization respite absence and 14 days for out-processing will be subtracted from the end date you request, to come up with your new REFRAD date.

Remember, CO-ADOS is for Reserve component – Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserves and Individual Ready Reserve – Soldiers only.

Joint Base Balad (13th ESC): DSN 433-2125
Lt. Col. Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)
Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

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

Adder/Tallil (36th Sust. Bde./41st IBCT):
Maj. Andrea Shealy - DSN 833-1710
Maj. Jeffrey Copek - DSN 833-5915
Master Sgt. Marta Cruz – DSN 883-1710

Al Asad (96th Sust. Bde.): DSN 440-7049
Sgt. 1st class Alexander Arce
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

Taji (278th ACR): DSN 834-3079
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

Sergeant's Time: 'Combat Barbie' surprises as an inspiration in pink

By 1st Sgt. Aangi K. Mueller
Expeditionary Times First Sergeant



During Women's History Month, I read recent interviews or articles about accomplished women, like our recent Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Clinton, and the first female Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, as they make changes on a global scale.

In the military, we see proud firsts like Gen. Ann Dunwoody pinning on four stars and commanding the Army Materiel Command, or Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King being chosen as command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant School.

These women's names, trials and accomplishments will probably be written into the history books. Let me share, however, articles about two women who probably won't make it into history, but whose stories intrigue and challenge our ideals about what women can accomplish.

A quiet hero story comes from the December 2009 edition of Vogue magazine. Elizabeth Rubin worked as an embedded reporter in Afghanistan. She was four months pregnant and chose not to disclose her pregnancy. She spent the next two months in all possible venues of Afghanistan – from a bunkhouse at

Camp Blessing, watching fleas jump on her distended belly, to crawling through the muddy passes of Korengal Valley, sleeping outdoors huddled in her flak vest and enduring enemy attacks that took the lives of others around her – to tell her story.

In a time when female Soldiers are sent home days after learning they are pregnant – she showed that it could be done, in one of the harshest climates, and under fire. Bravo, ma'am.

Lately, I've been following Web posts on CBS, MSN, and Huffington Post about 22-year-old Cpl. Katrina Hodge of the British Army, nicknamed Combat Barbie for reporting to training in pink kitten heels and a pink coat, with pink luggage, blonde hair and false eyelashes.

A lesson here for anyone comfortable with their heroes – I was all set to dismiss this young lady as the media fodder of the moment. She is attractive, recently elevated to the title of Miss England, and she works part time as a lingerie model. But when I read her story, I looked with new insight at a Soldier who looks nothing like the stripped down version of femininity I'd come through the ranks with.

At 18, she was stationed in Iraq as one of 10 females assigned to the Royal Anglian Regiment.

During a prisoner escort mission outside of Basra, the vehicle she was in

rolled over and crashed and the prisoner escaped the vehicle and grabbed two rifles in the confusion.

Hodge wrestled the two rifles away from the man and restrained him in hand to hand combat.

She earned a medal for bravery from her commanding officer for her actions that day.

After she returned to duty in the United Kingdom, a friend entered her photo in a local beauty pageant, starting her on the path to the Miss England competition, where she was selected as the runner-up to the throne.

Her talent performance in the competition? A rifle drill.

She returned to her military duties, but a few months later, the official Miss England passed on the title and crown after getting into a fight at a bar. Hodge promptly petitioned the Miss England pageant to get rid of the swimsuit portion of the competition, asking instead that an athletic challenge be substituted. Pageant officials agreed.

In an interview with DailyMail News Online, Hodge said, "I am enjoying the attention and profile, but my job is as an Army Soldier. I love the Army life and if this encourages more women to join up then that would be brilliant."

Look around, have courage – perhaps one of you will be the next person to stand your ground, effect change, and be the next unexpected inspiration.

Sexual Assault

Response Coordinator

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

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

Correction

In the March 31 edition of the Expeditionary Times, the photo of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment patching ceremony should have said it was taken by Staff Sgt. Russell Klika. The Expeditionary Times regrets this error.

TOUR: leaders discuss progress of mission

TOUR FROM PAGE 1

mission is to meet the command team of the tactical units that we support, to make sure that we are providing them with responsible, reliable service and advice, ensuring that the things they need to do their mission, which we contract for, are getting done in the best way possible."

The 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is one of the units at COB Adder supported by the JCC-I/A.

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, met with Nichols during her visit to COB Adder.

Ryan said they had a productive and informative meeting, which allowed him an opportunity to discuss the final phase of the unit's mission in Iraq.

"(The meeting) went very well," he said. "I mainly tried to give her an overview of what our mission is now (and) what the mission is going to be ... I was able to get a lot of insight in reference to some of the garrison missions we are taking over and where ... to contract out some of those positions."

Ryan said his goal for the meeting was to understand what changes to expect with the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program throughout the

Brig. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general with Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan and a Niagara Falls, N.Y., native, talks with Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, after their meeting March 27 during her visit to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

"(LOGCAP) basically is our support," he said. "Anywhere from maintenance on (containerized housing units), to driving trucks (and) running fuel farms ... We currently have (1,940) LOGCAP personnel that actually support our operations within the sustainment brigade. It is an important part of what we do and how we support our mission."

Overall, Nichols said she was pleased with what she saw during her visit.

"I learned that we are providing a good service," she said. "I learned that my folks have a good, comfortable, safe place to work and operate in, and to live, and that, in general, most of the contract actions they need are being done in a very proactive partner fashion. I am very, very pleased with what I found today and the partnership that is going on between the tactical units and our contract shop."



VISIT: Senators ask service members' concerns

VISIT FROM PAGE 1

in terms of Iraq, but things that are working here that we can take to Afghanistan."

Kaufman said U.S. forces have been successful in Iraq and he wanted to talk to service members about what works and what does not.

"They've demonstrated that they're the best in history," he said. "I am really impressed with everyone I've met."

This is Kaufman's third trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, and he said the key to foreign policy is the armed services.

"There is no substitute to being on the ground," he said. "The problems always look a lot simpler when you're in Washington than (they do) when you are here."

Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Suggs, the medical operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 13th ESC and



North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan, a Greensboro, N.C., native, talks with service members during a luncheon March 29 at the Oasis dining facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members met with senators from their home states and addressed their questions and concerns about current issues.

a Fayetteville, N.C., native, said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with his

senator over lunch while serving in Iraq.

"I actually voted for (Hagan), so it was

nice to meet the person I voted for," he said.

Suggs said they discussed health care reform and what, if any, impact it would have on their state. He said he asked if it would have any effect on service members' Tri-Care, or active duty service members and retirees.

"Sen. Hagan is on the budget committee for our state, so I found out that the funding is already there," he said. "In the long term, over the next 10 years, it's expected to reduce the cost of health care and that is what lots of us were interested in."

Suggs said it was noteworthy that the senators took time out of their schedules to meet face to face with service members.

"They wanted to see what our actual concerns are, and they answered our questions without giving us the standard political answer," he said. "It was very inspiring and motivating to know that our politicians back home still care about what we do."



Give a Shout Out!

Tell your family and friends how much you miss them.

Send a brief message to: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil Subject line: "Shout Out"

Working dogs practice suspect takedowns

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
DIAMONDBACK, Iraq
– The 3rd Infantry Division's working dogs used two units' volunteers as training chew toys March 30 at Contingency Operating Base Diamondback, Iraq.

Volunteers from the 631st Maintenance Support Team, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and A Battery, Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC worked with the dogs, which are trained in specialties ranging from explosives and narcotics detection to searching and tracking, all of which are trained to take down suspects.

The handlers put on the protective suits and play decoy for the dogs regularly, but it is important for the dogs to not get too accustomed to the same people, said Sgt. Michael West, a dog handler with the 3rd Inf. Div. and an



Sgt. Charles Hulsman, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with A Battery, Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Sevierville, Tenn., native, runs from an Army working dog during bite training March 30 at Contingency Operating Base Diamondback, Iraq.

Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., native.

"We just try to open their horizons," he said. "Every decoy has a different style, but in the field the suspect doesn't always act like that."

West and the other dog handlers put each volunteer in a padded jacket and,

one by one, they attempted to outrun the dogs in the fenced-in training area. The running only lasted a few seconds before the decoy's arm or back was in the jaws of a working dog.

Spc. Bryan Chapman, a light wheeled mechanic with the 631st MST and a

Keystone Heights, Fla., native, said playing a decoy during the bite training was unlike anything he had ever experienced.

"The dog hits a lot harder than you think," he said.

Chapman said the training was beneficial to those on both sides of the bite.

"I imagine it's good training for the dog," he said, "but it's also a good break from the shop."

Sgt. Charles Hulsman, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with A Btry., RFS and a Sevierville, Tenn., native, said he volunteered for the training because he has always had an interest in working dogs.

"I'm envious of the handlers and the training," he said. "I thought it was very high speed."

West said his team spends much of its time training the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police dog handlers, but it still needs volunteers to keep the dogs in shape.

"We need companies to get more involved and utilize us more," he said.

Hulsman said he was glad to have volunteered for the experience.

"I wouldn't mind volunteering for this again," he said. "I'm impressed with the program."

49th Transportation Battalion celebrates with replacement unit

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, spent some time getting to know its replacement unit at a battalion social March 28 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The social was a bon voyage party for the 49th Trans. Bn., to which it invited the command staff of the 13th ESC, its sister battalions and subordinate units, and its replacement unit, the 14th Transportation Battalion out of Vicenza, Italy, said Capt. Leonard Acquistapace, the communications officer with the 49th Trans. Bn.

It was a night to network, talk and relax, said Acquistapace, a Killeen, Texas, native.

The 49th Trans. Bn. has been deployed for roughly a year and has now reached the final step before its redeployment, he said. The event fell on the same day the 14th transitioned to the last part of the re-

lief-in-place process, prior to its transfer of authority ceremony, said Acquistapace.

"Effectively, after the end of that night the 14th was driving the ship," he said. "It gave us a chance, the 49ers, to take a knee and watch, observe and guide (the 14th Trans. Bn.)."

Acquistapace said the 14th Trans. Bn. Soldiers were quick learners, with senior officers and noncommissioned officers experienced in the type of mission they would be conducting in Iraq. The 14th Trans. Bn. will take over as the movement control battalion in support of the Iraq Joint Operations Area.

The 49th's mission was no simple task for the battalion and its movement control teams, said Lt. Col. Peter Haas, commander of the 49th Trans. Bn. Iraq is one of the largest and most complex transportation networks for movement and logistical operations in the Army today, said Haas, a Fleetwood, Pa., native.

"At our peak, we had 19 movement control teams spread all across Iraq," he said, "everywhere from the Turkish border to the Kuwaiti border, out west to the Jordanian border, and everywhere in between."

Haas said it was a challenge to coor-

dinate between the sustainment brigades, aviation units and the Air Force.

"It's a complex, all-encompassing mission, but the challenge is rewarding," he said. "It's exciting business for us. It's something back in the United States we really don't get to duplicate."

Haas said it has been a great mission for the Soldiers, but they are ready to go back home to friends and family. The 49th Trans. Bn. Family Readiness Group made a tremendous effort to support those at home, making Soldiers' time in Iraq easier, he said.

Haas said he was proud of the Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who were on the



The 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, has reached the end of its mission at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, as Iraq's movement control battalion. The battalion's Soldiers and Airmen support personnel and cargo movement operations in the Iraq Joint Operations Area.

ground, making sure cargo got to its destination.

"These Airmen, these Soldiers, they're out there on their own without their higher headquarters anywhere near," he said. "We entrust a lot of responsibility in them and count on their competence to get it done."

Wagonmasters continue drawdown efforts

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



Q-WEST, Iraq – A team of roughly 20 Soldiers, from units subordinate to the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), opened

an Operation Clean Sweep yard in early March at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The Wagonmasters began Operation Clean Sweep in mid-October, finding excess equipment to place back into the military supply system for reuse to continue the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

“The primary focus for Operation Clean Sweep is to take non-mission essential equipment ... serviceable equipment not being used and shuffle it back into the Army supply system,” said 2nd Lt. Chris Johnston, the officer in charge of the Q-West and Marez mobile redistribution teams and a Tacoma, Wash., native.

Spc. Michael Demars, an MRT member and Fremont, Calif., native, said the teams coordinate with units to pick up or receive their excess material.

“We do a walkthrough before the



A forklift sets excess equipment down by a turned-in mini-bike March 23 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, as part of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s ongoing effort to drawdown U.S. military forces and equipment in the unit's area of operations – northern Iraq.

pickup – help separate items so it's less work when it gets to the yard,” he said.

The units, or an Army civilian contractor, transport the equipment to the Clean Sweep yard, where it is put into shipping containers and sent to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for further processing and eventual shipping to the United States or Afghanistan, he said.

Only four days after receiving orders to start tracking equipment in dollar amounts at the Q-West yard, \$1 million of serviceable equipment was turned in, Johnston said.

“(The team is) doing a stellar job,” he said. “The true test is whether the teams can control themselves – and that's what they're doing now.”

Johnston said MRT Soldiers such as Sgt. Tim Slater, an MRT noncommissioned officer and a Paris, Ill., native, and Pfc. Joshua Miller, a forklift driver and a Reading, Penn., native, make it all possible.

Johnston explained that Slater was doing the job of a Soldier two ranks higher.

“Sgt. Slater got sent off on the MRT thing about 6 months ago,” Johnston said.

Slater went from base to base, helping the mission of Operation Clean Sweep throughout northern Iraq, he said.

When the team didn't have a forklift to use, Miller convinced his own company to lend them a forklift, Johnston said.

“Pfc. Miller is pretty much our only forklift driver,” he said. “Without him, all operations would pretty much come to a standstill.”

Miller also fixes his own forklift, Johnston said.

Items visible in the yard include filing cabinets, tent poles, a big screen TV and a mini bike. Demars said he learned a lot about how the Army progressed after seeing some of the older equipment turned in.

“The strangest thing I've seen turned in – old (communications) equipment that we haven't used since (Operation) Desert Storm,” he said.

Task Force Guardian set to hit 2.1 million miles on Iraqi roads



Staff Sgt. Timothy D. Flood, a convoy commander with B Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Coos Bay, Ore., native, provides a visual demonstration during his pre-mission briefing March 25 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATION BASE AD-

DER, Iraq – Soldiers with Task Force Guardian, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) escort convoys of trucks transporting supplies to sustain forces in Iraq.

Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Lucas, the operations sergeant major with Task Force Guardian, 1/186th IN, 41st IBCT out of Ashland, Ore., and a Portland, Ore., native, said his battalion provides security for convoys traveling as far as 230 miles from Contingency Operating Base Adder.

“The Task Force Guardian mission is to escort sustainment convoys that are from Kuwait ... to three locations in Iraq, into (Logistics Base) Seitz, which is Victory Base Complex, into (COB) Taji and (Joint Base) Balad,” he said. “We do this every day, seven days a week.”

Lucas said he has 20 escort teams of 18 Soldiers each, who operate on a 5-day cycle, enduring up to 12-hour drive times.

Each mission is, on average, about three days long. The Soldiers then have a recovery day, followed by a day to prepare for the next mission, Lucas said.

Since their arrival in country, the Soldiers have escorted 88,720,000 gallons of fuel and 149,110,000 pounds of food items, covering about 2 million miles, Lucas said.

“By the time we are done in April, we will have escorted 686 convoys ... almost 2.1 million miles,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Chris A. Baker, convoy commander with D Company, Task Force Guardian, 1/186th IN, 41st IBCT and a Kelso, Wash., native, said this deployment has been a new experience for him and his unit, which typically performs an infantry mission. Baker said he has gained a whole new appreciation for the effort that is required to sustain troops in deployed areas.

“I never realized how much fuel and food bases require to keep sustaining their operations,” he said.

Baker said he believes safety and teamwork are essential to mission success.

“The safety factor has always been a huge thing to me,” he said. “I just want to make sure everybody comes back the same as when they got here.”

Soldiers learn explosive ordnance disposal techniques at Adder

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq – The Soldiers with the Oregon National Guard’s Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and their counterparts with the Louisiana National Guard’s Task Force Geronimo, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team attended explosive ordnance disposal training March 17 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The training is part of the relief-in-place process as the 41st IBCT prepares to redeploy and the 256th IBCT takes over the mission.

The Air Force’s 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron’s EOD technicians discussed how vehicles help protect the Soldiers from IED blasts.

“The up-armored Cougar (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle) with the updated armor is absolutely wonderful,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Vincent M. Pagano, EOD operations sergeant and a Westfield, N.Y., native.

The additional armor surrounding the vehicle adds layers of protection for the Soldiers, he said.

During the training, Airmen presented their equipment and explained their role in the improvised explosive device and explosively formed projectile disposal process.

They have three ways to identify an explosive device, said Pagano.

“We have a robot system called the Talon, a bomb suit and a truck-mounted device,” he said. “We ensure the site is safe, take care of the device, make sure no one is hurt and clean the area.”

To help EOD succeed in its job, the Soldiers must cover any damage to the vehicles, stay out of the blast area and not pick up anything that could be related to the explosive device, said Pagano.

They must also mark the area, as well as note the distance from the device to the marked area and what side of the road the device is on, he said. Their job is to continue securing the area while the EOD team works.

“We take samples and do chemical analyses to tie the device to other events that happen in the area,” he said.

The collected information then goes to the National Ground Intelligence Center, which inputs it into



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Vincent Pagano, the operations sergeant with the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron’s explosive ordnance disposal team, explains the EOD mission to Soldiers with the Oregon National Guard’s Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the Louisiana National Guard’s Task Force Geronimo, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC March 17 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The EOD team explained its duties at the scene of an improvised explosive device and showed the Soldiers what equipment they use to identify and dispose of IEDs.

a database for future reference, said Pagano.

Staff Sgt. Keith Engle, a platoon sergeant with C Company, 2/162 Inf. Bn. and a Portland, Ore., native, said this

training is the most mission-essential during this stage in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“IEDs are the biggest threats to keeping our trucks out on the road,” he said.

Providers manage traffic flow through Iraq

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Convoys and logistical patrols are always on the roads of Iraq, delivering sustainment supplies and cargo to units throughout the country and in Kuwait.

The Highway Traffic Division with the 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, coordinates their routes and convoy travel times to reduce possible delays due to traffic congestion.

“We are tasked with managing traffic throughout Iraq,” said Capt. Alison Bergstrom, HTD chief with the 49th Trans. Bn. “We essentially manage all (United States Forces – Iraq) convoys.”

In January, the HTD began to monitor the upload and download times of con-



Courtesy photo

A convoy of Heavy Equipment Transporter systems moves Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles through the roads of Iraq. The Highway Traffic Division, 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) manages the movement times of convoys to lessen the chance of traffic congestion on the roads and ensure Soldiers’ safety.

voys at central receiving points throughout Iraq. This has greatly reduced traffic congestion and convoy delays, said Bergstrom, a Harker Heights, Texas, native.

The coordination of traffic flow is important, to ensure cargo reaches its destination in a timely manner and to mitigate possible risks associated with traveling off base, she said.

There are several groups involved in this process, including convoy security

companies, sustainment brigades and the 13th ESC’s support operations Soldiers.

The movement control teams, under the 49th Trans. Bn., play an important role in the tracking of current and future convoy movements, said Bergstrom. MCTs receive transportation movement requests from units in their area of operation and then the HTD processes those requests.

Every day, the HTD remedies conflicts

on routes for all USF-I convoys that belong to the sustainment brigades, brigade combat teams, route clearance teams throughout Iraq and the convoys coming up from Kuwait, Bergstrom said.

“If they end up being on the same route too close together, as far as time goes, then we change their movement times to avoid congestion on routes,” she said.

When convoys get congested, they end up on supply routes for hours and could be the target of an attack, said Bergstrom.

“If you avoid that congestion, you keep the Soldier safe,” she said.

Their work happens largely behind the scenes, said Capt. Ryan Hulse, HTD chief with the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control) out of Vicenza, Italy.

“We want to keep all the trucks moving and pushing their products out to the (Iraq Joint Operations Area),” he said.

The 14th Trans. Bn. is slated to replace the 49th in early April and the team is excited about taking on this new mission, said Hulse, a San Antonio native.

Soldiers deliver shoes, supplies to Iraqi children

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS TAD BROWNING
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DHI QAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Task Force Rawhide Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) delivered shoes and school supplies to Iraqi students and teachers at the Al Saafy School March 18 in Dhi Qar province, Iraq.

Spc. Kanakope Barber, an administration specialist with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Killeen, Texas, native, said she was excited and nervous about visiting the school because it was her first visit off base and she did not know what to expect.

“When we arrived there, I looked at the school building and noticed how poor the conditions were for the kids,” she said. “It was interesting to be there to spend time with them. I could feel their spirit. They are such happy kids and they were happy to see us.”

Typically, school visits involve handing out supplies or reading to the Iraqi children. First Lt. Douglas Cummings, the 36th Special Troops Battalion chaplain and a Louisville, Ky., native, said he worked with his wife early in the deployment to collect shoe donations to distribute to Iraqi children as well.

“We set up a plan to collect a bunch of shoes from various organizations and individuals in about three or four different states, churches and non-profit organizations, in the hopes of trying to get shoes to help some of the kids in the local school area,” he said.

Cummings said they collected roughly 750 pairs of shoes to distribute.

Spc. Benjamin Potratz, noncom-



Lt. Col. Peter Bistransin, civil military operations officer in charge with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Austin, Texas, native, and Spc. Kanakope Barber, an administration specialist with the 36th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Killeen, Texas, native, carry a box of shoes to Iraqi school children March 18 at the Al Saafy School in Dhi Qar province, Iraq.

missioned officer in charge of civil military operations with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a New Berlin, Wis., native, said a lot of the children at the schools have shoes, but not weather-suitable shoes.

“Their shoes will either be a sandal ... or they have shoes that have holes, or tears and rips in them,” he said. “A lot of people don't realize that it rains here in Iraq. It gets very muddy here.

The water doesn't drain, it doesn't go anywhere. So, you get these kids walking around in shoes that have holes in them and their feet will get wet and muddy. It's nice to give them serviceable shoes that they can use.”

Potratz has visited six schools with about 120 children each, and the CMO has given out roughly 700 to 800 bags of school supplies in the last nine months, he said. Without the do-

nations from good Samaritans back in the states, that would not be possible, he said.

“I hope it is a gesture that (lets) the Iraqis know that we care for them,” said Cummings. “(We're here) to make a better life for them, and the way some of the people back home show that, they've done so with pairs of shoes. Hopefully ... they can have a good feeling in their hearts about us.”

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
EVENTS AROUND BALAD
APRIL 2010

Friday, April 2
Sr. Ldr Workshop
9am-12pm
MWRE Lounge

Every Friday
Movie
7-9pm
MWRE, Movie Room

Every Sunday
Women's Self-Defense Class
8pm-10pm
Aerobics Room, East Gym

April is ...
Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Essay, Art and Poem Contest
Starts April 1 and Ends April 15
POC: dana.blake@blab.afcent.af.mil
Poem - Empowerment
Essay - Hurts One, Affects All
Art - Hope

Friday April 9
5K Run/Walk
0530 Holt Stadium

Monday April 19
Luncheon
1130 -1300
MWRE Lounge

Friday April 23
Sex Signals Show
0930, 1330 & 1900
MWR East

POC: Capt Alicia Thompson @ 443-7272 or
alicia.thompson@blab.afcent.af.mil
SFC Johnnie Mitchell @ 433-2527 or
johnnie.mitchell@iraq.centcom.mil

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.

Check
CHUsdays
Each **TUESDAY**
check the
following
in your **CHU**

4. Smoke detector is operational.
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green).
6. Room is neat and orderly.

Fort Hood transportation battalion heads home

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) handed its mission over to the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), during a transfer of authority ceremony April 3 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The ceremony marked the end of a year-long deployment for the 49th Trans. Bn. out of Fort Hood, Texas, and the beginning of a year-long deployment for the 14th Trans. Bn. out of Vicenza, Italy.

Lt. Col. Peter M. Haas, commander of the 49th Trans. Bn. and a Fleetwood, Pa., native, said his battalion coordinated the movement and cargo loads of 1.1 million trucks.

“This headquarters, with the hard work of all our movement control teams, matched cargo to most of those trucks, synchronized all of that traffic and made it move on time every day,” he said.

The 49th Trans. Bn. has had 49 subordinate units serve under its flag in the last 11 months, and prepared for and managed 31 separate TOAs.

“We’ve lived at 17 different bases spread across the entire 167,000 square-mile expanse of Iraq,” said Haas.

Lt. Col. Jacqueline Baehler, the mobility chief with the 13th ESC and a Great Falls, Mont., native, said the 49th Trans. Bn.’s command proved to be very knowledgeable during its operations in Iraq.

Its guidance was vital to the missions of the 13th ESC, United States Forces – Iraq and all of the U.S. divisions in Iraq, said Baehler.

“You went through them if you wanted to move something in theater,” she said. “They’re very good at what they do.”



Lt. Col. James A. Rupkalvis, commander of the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control) out of Vicenza, Italy, and a Mitchell, Neb., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason A. Runnells, senior enlisted adviser with the 14th Trans. Bn. and a Baton Rouge, La., native, uncasing their colors during a transfer of authority ceremony April 2 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, thanked the 49th Trans. Bn. for its contributions to the sustainment mission and, more importantly, for posturing the 13th ESC for the successful execution of the responsible drawdown.

“Your efforts are vital to all that we do,” he said. “As I stand here today, I have to tell you that the officers, (non-commissioned officers) and the Soldiers have all made us proud.”

Wentz said the 49th Trans. Bn. set the bar extremely high.

“Despite attacks, weather, miles or maintenance, you assured and gave us

the flexibility and agility required to provide world class sustainment and distribution to Coalition forces, where and when they needed it the most,” he said.

In his speech to the 14th Trans. Bn., Wentz said he knows their team is excited and ready to get on with the mission.

“I look forward to working with you in what I’m sure will be a historic event for all of us here,” he said. “This is a mission I know you and your Soldiers have prepared for and are ready to assume.”

Lt. Col. James A. Rupkalvis, commander of the 14th Trans. Bn. and a Mitchell, Neb., native, said he wanted

to thank the 49th for the outstanding TOA process it completed.

“I can confidently say that this is easily the best TOA that any of us have ever seen,” he said. “That’s a testament to the phenomenal professionalism of the unit, from the leadership down to the lowest ranking Soldier.”

Rupkalvis said they are motivated to take on their next mission.

“I can tell you without hesitation or reservation that you are trained and ready to accomplish this mission,” he said. “The responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq will be tough and challenging, but I have every confidence that we will succeed.”

SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Tennessee Guardsmen make rounds in Iraq

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Before dawn March 17, Tennessee Soldiers with Headquarters and Engineer Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) performed inspections on their vehicles and prepared for a convoy south.

“Our mission over the next four days is really threefold,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Butler, the senior enlisted adviser for 1/278th ACR and a New Johnsonville, Tenn., native. “Initially, this trip was laid on so that the commander and I could attend the 15th Sustainment Brigade’s command conference at Joint Base Balad, but it also became a trip of opportunity to visit our (A) Troop and (D) Troop, as well as evaluate (E) Troop, who is our means of travel.”

To better accomplish the 278th ACR’s mission in Iraq, A Troop and D Troop were attached to other squadrons. With A Troop at Contingency Operating Base Taji and D Troop at Joint Base Balad, both are performing convoy security missions for their newly assigned squadrons.

First Lt. Patrick D. McGrail, commander of D Troop and a Memphis,



First Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment’s command group, Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Cole, Jr., the commander of 1/278th ACR and a Mount Juliet, Tenn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Butler, a New Johnsonville, Tenn., native, make a visit to Capt. Patrick B. Carneal, commander of A Troop, 1/278th ACR and a Hendersonville, Tenn., native, and 1st Sgt. Jesse M. Ewer, first sergeant of A Troop and an Old Town, Maine, native, during their visit to Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Tenn., native, said the Soldiers performed well on missions as far north as COB Speicher and as far south as COB Adder.

“Our Soldiers have performed extremely well in difficult circumstances and have adjusted to the requirements of night operations,” he said.

First Sgt. Jesse M. Ewer, senior enlisted adviser for A Troop and an Old Town, Maine, native, praised the Soldiers’ adaptability.

“Our troopers have really adapted well and are running convoy missions at a consistently high tempo since joining Regimental Troops Squadron at

(COB) Taji,” he said.

With 1/278th ACR spread throughout Iraq, it is often difficult for the command staff to see each troop on a regular basis, so they said they take full advantage of trips to southern Iraq. Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Cole, Jr., the commander of 1/278th ACR and a Mount Juliet, Tenn., native, and Butler did so with the help of E Troop and the commander’s personal truck crew from headquarters.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeromy S. Edwards, a TC in headquarters and an Oakfield, Tenn., native, serves as truck commander for the squadron commander’s vehicle.

“(This) means always having the equipment and crew ready to go,” he said. “I’m trained on the duties of the TC, gunner and driver. I also assist with planning and coordination with the unit we are accompanying.”

Butler said E Troop led this mission. “From the mission brief ... to the intelligence information ... (E) Troop did an excellent job,” he said. “The commander and I expected nothing less.”

Sgt. Mancel C. Fincher, a truck commander and a Dresden, Tenn., native, said he was a gunner and a driver on his last deployment. As a TC, he now focuses on the safety and training of his crew.

Staying on top of truck maintenance is also critical because repairs may be needed while out on the mission, he said.

Chaplain serves convoying Soldiers

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – An hour before every mission, Capt. Peter Pritchett, the chaplain with Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), meets with convoy escort teams as they pick up their assets and leave on missions.

Pritchett, a Portland, Ore., native, said he considers time with Soldiers a key part of his role as chaplain. He said he does not wait for the Soldiers to come to him – they do not always have the time. Instead, he goes to where they work.

“I like doing the convoys; sitting with the Soldiers while they are waiting around,” he said. “It can really build relationships. I talk to the Soldiers, get to know their issues and let them know I

am available to help.”

Spc. William Estevan, a gunner with TF Volunteer and a Pueblo Acoma, N.M., native, praised the chaplain’s diligent attendance.

“When we are out here, he is out here,” said Estevan. “He is approachable on any level, anytime.”

Pritchett also advises the command on issues such as ethics and the morale of the Soldiers. He said he relays the needs and concerns of the Soldiers to the leadership as a neutral party.

“I hear the issues and tell the commanders,” he said. “If the commanders don’t know the issues, they can’t fix them.”

Pritchett said he also helps facilitate care for families in need.

“I connect with the rear detachment chaplain to coordinate with families back home,” he said.

Sgt. Thomas Paul, a convoy commander with TF Volunteer and a Belen, N.M., native, said Pritchett has a passion for Jesus.

“He is the best chaplain I ever met,”



Capt. Peter Pritchett, the chaplain with Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Portland, Ore., native, says a prayer with the Soldiers of TF Volunteer before they head out on a convoy. Pritchett said he works to build relationships with the Soldiers before every mission.

he said. “He loves Christ.”

Estevan praised Pritchett’s influence on troop morale.

“He is always a good spiritual leader, very friendly and down to earth,” he said.

Mobile Redistribution Team cleans up Mosul

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
MAREZ, MOSUL Iraq – Members of the Mobile Redistribution Team at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, work around the clock



to clean up unit's supply inventory, save taxpayer's money and prepare the base for the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq.

"Our overall mission is to save the government money," said Spc. Timothy Lanzoni, a member of the Mobile Redistribution Team, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Lanzoni, a Boston native, said since the team took over the MRT mission in November, it has seen a steady increase in the amount of material moved.

"We've already moved over \$20 million," he said.

Lanzoni said the MRT takes any extra equipment units have, with the exception of hazardous materials and complete weapons, and processes it for shipment back to the U.S. or to units in Afghanistan.

It has moved everything from scrap

metal, to small medical supplies, to M1 Abrams tanks, he said.

"They're doing us a great service," said Maj. Tommie Stevens, the executive officer with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC and the mayor of COB Marez.

Stevens, a Sherwood, Tenn., native, said the MRT has also done a great job of locating lost and unaccounted containers and putting them to use.

Before the equipment can be sent to units in need, it is inventoried and conveyed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for refurbishing and redistribution, said Sgt. Raymond Hermann, a team leader with the MRT and a Lake City, Fla., native.

Two of the Soldiers' goals with the MRT program are to make supply sergeants responsible for their bookkeeping and to make as much of the supply as possible reusable, Hermann said.

"Nothing bothers me more than to see Soldiers waste assets," said Stevens.

Hermann said much of the material received is outdated. He said often times units fall in on containers of old equipment that will never be used and they just sit until the unit, or their replacements, decide to bring them to the MRT yard.

The MRT does not limit its efforts to COB Marez. Hermann said it is broken down into two teams that rotate traveling missions, moving excess equipment



Expired medical supplies are gathered by the Mobile Redistribution Team, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to be destroyed. Supplies that are still usable are sent back to the United States or to units in Afghanistan.

out of smaller bases throughout northern Iraq.

Lanzoni said units often try to drop off hazardous materials or other restricted items, so they constantly observe the drop-off point while processing and packing equipment on the other side of the yard.

"It's controlled chaos," he said.

Lanzoni said he volunteered for this deployment, his fourth, and is proud to be a part of the final stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom and saving taxpayers' money in a troubled economy.

"It's history in the making," he said. "The Army never really recorded drawdowns before; now they're looking at the numbers."

Leaders discuss drawdown at JBB logistics conference

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Key leaders from throughout Iraq came together March 31 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to discuss the responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment from April to September, and the reduction of the U.S. footprint in Iraq.

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosted the conference at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east.

Lt. Col. Lisa Keough, the 13th ESC distribution management center chief and an Aurora, Colo., native, said the purpose of the conference was to synchronize the division plans with United States Forces – Iraq and other U.S. forces in the Iraq Joint Operations Area.

"All the logistic units are represented, to include the Army Materiel Command, Defense Logistics Agency and all our national partners, to make sure we have all the details of the responsible drawdown synched up," she said.

Keough said this is a busy time for

all logistics personnel because they have to get a lot of equipment and people out of Iraq in a relatively short amount of time.

"Anything that moves in theater, we touch," she said. "We have been using the 49th Movement Control Battalion and they have been a big asset to us for what we do."

Keough said they have to ensure units are fully capable to succeed at the division level, and this conference was held to get everybody on the same page from the start.

"We have a lot of work to do, and right now we're working together to accomplish the mission," she said.

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, said it is time to get everybody working together for one common goal, to reduce the footprint in Iraq by September.

"It's all about getting it right, now," said Wentz. "So when we pass it on to



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, senior enlisted adviser for the 13th ESC and a Lake Charles, La., native, look over information presented at the 13th ESC logistics conference at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east March 31 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

the next folks, it will be an easy transition for them."

Participants also discussed upcoming base closures in the next 45 days. The biggest during this time period, Camp Korean Village, Iraq, is scheduled to close May 9.

Col. Gust Pagonis, 13th ESC support operations officer in charge and a Pittsburgh native, said USF-I and the 13th

ESC have a lot of work to do.

"A lot has to be done and our resources are dwindling (due) to the drawdown," said Pagonis. "We have to make effective use of what we get out of theater, such as ammo and fuel."

Brig. Gen. Gus Perna, the USF-I joint logistics officer and a New Jersey native, said the dialogue at the logistics conference was great.

"I think we can agree that, with the people around this table, we are going to make this happen," said Perna. "One thing is clear, the status quo is not an answer. If we are not adjusting and paying attention to details, it won't happen."

Wentz said a lot is up to the brigade level and below to turn plans into actions.

"Collectively, we have to do it together to support the phase five drawdown of forces," he said.

Although they do not have all the pieces in place yet, Wentz said he believes they will when the next ESC takes over in July.

"When we are getting ready to leave and stuff really starts flowing out of here, let's make it right for them," he said. "Their task is going to be extremely hard, so let's do what we need to do to make it a little easier."

Logistical missions work to

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq
– Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion,
162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry
Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment
Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers se-
cure convoys, provide base security and
build relationships with the local
populace.

Their primary mission, conducted by the unit's
convoy escort teams, is to guarantee that assets trans-
ported throughout Iraq arrive safely at their destina-
tion.

Lt. Col. William Edwards, the battalion comman-
der and an Albany, Ore., native, said Soldiers protect
and haul fuel, food and supplies from southern and
central Iraq.

"The convoys travel some of the most dangerous
routes in Iraq," he said.

A Company conducts fixed-site security for Convoy
Support Center Scania, Iraq, and acts as the quick re-
action force for the area. The base, which serves as a
truck stop for convoys, sees a steady flow of traffic.

"We operate the Base Defense Operations Center
and Tactical Operations Center, providing base de-
fense, the quick recovery force and the immediate
reactionary force for Scania," said 1st Sgt. Geoffrey
A. Miotke, with A Co., 2/162 Inf. Bn. and a Cottage
Grove, Ore., native.

The company's QRF supplies wreckers if military
or military-related vehicles traveling with the con-
voys break down along Route Tampa and other supply
routes, Miotke said. Route Tampa is a major north/



The Oregon National Guard's Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) conducts a security mission March 18 from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

south road from Kuwait to Mosul. The base can see up
to 24 convoys daily, with as many as 30 rigs in each
convoy, he said.

Edwards said the Soldiers provide security in in-
stances of indirect fire, and conduct regular perimeter
patrols to keep the base safe.

"It's one way we
support the garrison
here," he said. "It also
reinforces infantry
skills and provides
added security to the
base with mounted
and dismounted pa-
trols at night."

Edwards said the
Soldiers also partner
with local Iraqis in
civil military opera-
tions.

"We have taken on
an additional task of
the CMO missions

Soldiers with the Dela-
ware National Guard's
262nd Ordnance De-
tachment, with Task
Force Volunteer, 41st
Infantry Brigade Com-
bat Team, 13th Sus-
tainment Command
(Expeditionary) patrol
the area outside the Al
Amal School for the
Deaf, in the Ar Rumai-
ytha district of Muth-
anna province, Iraq,
as hearing aids and
school supplies are de-
livered.



build leaders, relationships



Boat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) rolls out on its convoy



(Above) Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hand out school supplies to students Jan. 27 in a village near Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq. The Soldiers delivered more than 400 bags of school supplies to the students.



Staff Sgt. Eric McGinnis, an infantryman with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Springfield, Ore., native, hands out school supplies to children Jan. 27, in a village near Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq. The Soldiers delivered more than 400 bags of school supplies to the students.

with the local areas around Adder and Scania," he said. "It is more than just a 'feel good' kind of thing. We are really trying to affect the climate of those communities adjacent to the main supply routes, so we can achieve our convoy mission with less difficulty."

Therefore, Edwards said, Scania employs local Iraqis at the base.

"We want to make sure that relationship stays strong," he said.

To support during the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq and provide better protection for the Soldiers, TF Volunteer Soldiers turned in unnecessary equipment and upgraded their vehicles, said Edwards.

"In addition to our mission, we've turned in more than \$50 million worth of excess equipment, allowing this unit to take on more protective equipment," he said. "It will also be good for the Soldiers who take over our mission. We want to make this place better for the next guy."

The Soldiers of 2/162 Inf. Bn. accomplished their

myriad missions, obtained new skills, facilitated inter-cultural relationships and supported the Army with efficiency and proficiency, said Edwards.

"The overall goal I had for my Soldiers was to come

over here and do our job professionally," he said. "When we redeploy, I want the Soldiers to feel they made a contribution to Iraq, the battalion and the brigade, and (know) that they had a sense of accomplishment."

As the Soldiers prepare to come home, they will take new skills and abilities with them. The level of decision making, authority, autonomy and responsibility of the noncommissioned officers will be a benefit to their units back home, said Edwards.

"Our leaders will come back with a higher level of proficiency of leadership-type skills," he said. "The proficiency our sergeants and staff sergeants have gained with troop-leading procedures (and) pre-combat checks and inspections is awesome. They have a (huge) responsibility and they are doing a great job managing that."

Soldiers keep eye on Mosul

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq – The Base Defense Operations Center at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, acts as the eyes and ears of the base and surrounding areas to ensure the safety of everyone within its walls.

“Anything that happens on this (COB), we deal with,” said Spc. Matthew Emmert, a BDOC battle desk Soldier with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Knoxville, Tenn., native.

Emmert said his team provides oversight of all entry control points on the base, as well as the guard towers. It uses cameras to watch the areas and constantly scan the base for anything out of the ordinary, he said.

The teams work in shifts to provide 24-hour security, and even take their meals at their desks so they are always ready, said Emmert.

“It’s good when it’s a slow day because that means nothing’s wrong,” he said.



Pfc. Josh Shows, a radio telephone operator with the Base Defense Operations Center, Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hattiesburg, Miss., native, communicates with a convoy commander March 31 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

The RFS Soldiers arrived in Mosul in early March, just in time for the elections.

“It was a big deal and everyone was on edge, but nothing really happened,” said Emmert.

In addition to watching over the

base and dispatching force protection measures, the BDOC Soldiers track all convoys in the area and manage requests for air support.

“We’re all multi-trained, so we can step in if someone is gone,” said Spc. Clayton Pillow, a radio telephone op-

erator for the BDOC and a Woodbury, Tenn., native.

Pillow said he mans the radio and keeps track of every convoy that leaves the COB, while simultaneously logging any significant events on the convoy and on the base.

Pfc. Josh Shows, a radio telephone operator with the BDOC and a Hattiesburg, Miss., native, said the radio logs assist the intelligence officers and convoy commanders with making changes to operations in order to stay safe.

“It’s really important that all the information we get is logged,” he said.

Shows said he has been in Mosul at the BDOC for eight months and extended his deployment to assist the RFS Soldiers.

“I think our BDOC is one of our strongest assets,” said Maj. Tommie Stevens, the executive officer with the Regimental Fires Squadron and the mayor of COB Marez.

Stevens, a Sherwood, Tenn., native, said the team is essentially running a tactical operations center and the BDOC at the same time, and its skills are helping make the base safer every day.

“We’ve built a solid team based on skill sets,” he said. “I have to brag about these guys; they’re doing a super job.”

Transportation Soldiers assist outlying bases

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. BRYNN STOLL
36TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The 2nd Platoon, 396th Transportation Company Ghost Riders left Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, March 28 to support the central receiving and shipping point at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq.

The 396th Trans. Co., 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) began full-time support to the 40th Quartermaster Company’s CRSP at Kalsu March 30. Sgt. 1st Class David Oliver, the platoon sergeant and a Cottontdale, Fla., native, said the mission will make his Soldiers well rounded.

“The two-month long mission will give the Ghost Riders a chance to see a new region of Iraq and experience a new facet of their (Military Occupa-

tional Specialty),” he said.

First Lt. Frank E. Wheatley IV, 396th Trans. Co.’s executive officer and a Winchester, Mass., native, said the 396th had to inventory its palletized loading system fleet and ensure its mission readiness. Wheatley said the company is working to assume the Heavy Equipment Transporter system mission in United States Division – South, and is scheduled to take over completely in mid-April.

As a result, some of the company’s palletized loading systems are being turned in, he said.

The Kalsu CRSP mission is unlike any of the company’s previous tasks and has required the platoon to develop new skills, said Wheatley.

“The Ghost Riders have invested a significant amount of time training on forklifts, HET (systems), Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles and other equipment they will be required to operate at Kalsu,” he said.

First Lt. Christopher Brunner, platoon leader and a Charleston, S.C., native, said 16 Ghost Riders qualified on forklift equipment under the supervision of li-



Spc. John Carwile, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator with 2nd Platoon, 396th Transportation Company, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Athens, Ala., native, conducts forklift maneuvers with a pallet of water bottles March 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

censed noncommissioned officers.

Capt. David Harlan, the 396th Trans. Co.’s commander and a Crawfordsville, Ind., native, said the Kalsu mission will challenge Soldiers and leaders as they work independently, far from the com-

pany command post.

“Working 200 miles from your immediate supervisor provides a great opportunity for leader development at the squad and platoon level,” he said. “I know that platoon will do great things in Kalsu.”



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Memorial Pavilion



Sponsored by the 13th COSCOM Association
The official Association of the 13th Sustainment Command

Honoring Those Who Sacrificed

The Concept

Artist's concept of the 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion

The 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion will be built on Guidon Parade Field at Fort Hood, Texas, near the 13th ESC Headquarters and Headquarters Company and completed this summer. The design is a marquee that includes a monument, a wall of honor inscribed with the names of their fallen, a walkway tribute constructed of engraved bricks and a meditation area. The monument will honor individuals and units that served under the 13th ESC, in both peacetime and in war, since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Wall of Honor will pay tribute to those who have fallen while overseas with the 13th ESC fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. The brick walkway will honor all service members and the friends and family to our nation, and is open to all to participate.



The Monument

The monument is an obelisk-like octagon of black granite that will be topped with a blasted insignia of the 13th ESC that watches over the Wall of Honor. The monument will be inscribed with words of comfort and information, and the monument will serve as the anchor to the entire Memorial Pavilion. Supporting the foundation of the monument near the base will be a lasting tribute to the agencies and corporations who, through their generous contributions, represent all of the donors who will have made this memorial a reality.

Meditation Area

The Wall of Honor will be flanked by a pair of black granite benches set in to the foundation of the pavilion. Each bench will be inscribed in honor of the previous designation the command was recognized as during the GWOT, 13th COSCOM and the 13th SC(E). The meditation area will be shaded in the summer by a "mighty oak" tree that symbolized the steadfastness of the Soldiers of the 13th ESC. The motto "Remembering Those Who've Sacrificed" aptly describes everyone who has been a part of the 13th ESC, whether Soldier, Family member or friend. This recognizes that all have sacrificed in some way.



The Wall

The Wall of Honor will be a number of evenly spaced black granite panels inlaid into a wall of native limestone, signifying the relationship the 13th ESC has with Texas. Each panel will have names and units of fallen service members who served with a unit that was assigned or attached to the 13th. Units will have been assigned or attachment to the 13th ESC for combat operations, or one of the organic Fort Hood based brigades, such as CDC, 64th Corps Support Group, 1st Medical Brigade, 15th Sustainment Brigade and 4th Sustainment Brigade. Names will include all who have fallen, whether under fire or not. All will have occurred overseas while supporting the GWOT.



Brick Walkway

Laser engraved bricks are available to Soldiers, their Families, friends, and those interested in leaving a lasting legacy as part of the 13th ESC memorial. Tribute bricks can be for Veterans of other services or from other periods of service, or family members.

Want more information?

The 13th COSCOM Association is not affiliated with nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the United States Army or the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The 13th COSCOM Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Write: 13th COSCOM Association
P.O. Box 5490
Fort Hood, TX 76544

email: president@13cca.org
on the web: <http://www.13cca.org/memorial/>

If you would like to support the 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion with the purchase of an engraved brick for the walkway you have until April 15.

JBB kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month with leaders' workshop

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Army and Air Force came together to host a sexual assault awareness leaders' workshop at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east, April 2 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Commanders, first sergeants and senior noncommissioned officers from all services attended the workshop to discuss sexual assault awareness, as well as direct questions to a panel designated to address possible legal ramifications when dealing with a victim and perpetrator of sexual assault. This served as the kick-off event of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie Mitchell, the equal opportunity adviser and the deployed sexual assault response coordinator with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said the purpose of the workshop was to ensure commands at every level understood sexual assault, proper reporting procedures and how to deal with victims and perpetrators.

"As the unit DSARC and (unit victim advocate), it is our responsibility to take care of the victim, ensuring they understand their reporting options," said Mitchell, a Sylvania, Ga., native.

The council also presented a skit, to show how easily an incident can go from

sexual harassment to sexual assault.

"That skit depicted what can go wrong, and the trends show that those exact situations are happening not only on JBB, but theater wide," she said.

Mitchell said the amount of commanders and senior enlisted advisers that came to the event and voiced their concerns about sexual harassment in the workplace were evidence of the importance of the issue.

According to statistics provided by United States Forces – Iraq, in March alone there were 24 reported cases of sexual assault; 75 percent were perpetrated by acquaintances of the victim.

In 2009, there were a total of 152 cases of sexual assault. So far in fiscal year 2010, there are 61 cases of sexual assault theater wide.

Service members asked about the difference between an unrestricted and restricted reporting of sexual assault, and



Senior Airman Patricia Radasa, a command and support staff specialist with the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and a Port Orchard, Wash., native, and Staff Sgt. Jessica Torres, a battalion logistics noncommissioned officer with the 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade and an East Hartford, Conn., native, present a skit for sexual assault awareness month, April 2 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

how each one affects the victim.

According to Army Regulation 600-20, restricted reporting is the option recommended for victims of sexual assault who wish to confidentially disclose the crime to specifically identified individuals and receive medical treatment and counseling without initiating an official investigation.

Unrestricted reporting is the recommended option for victims who desire medical treatment, counseling and an official investigation of the crime. It is

important to use the most current reporting channels, including the chain of command, according to the regulation.

Upon notification of a reported sexual assault, the SARC assigns a victim advocate. Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know, according to the regulation.

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, said he was concerned with improving the situation.

"As leaders, we need to know how to look at these problems and get them eliminated," he said.

Wentz said an environment needs to be created for Soldiers to feel comfortable when coming forward.

Wentz said it was a good time to collectively look at all the ideas presented in the forum.

"This is not just a military problem, it is a problem in society," he said. "We have to spend time today as leaders to work this out, because this is important."

Mitchell said this workshop seemed to have a great impact on the commanders.

"They had a lot of unanswered questions (before the meeting)," she said. "They got the clarity they needed and a better understanding of the program."

Mitchell also said the question and answer sections were productive because of high levels of participation.

"We need to ensure that this gets down to the lowest level," she said.

Soldiers learn to teach anti-explosive techniques

BY SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Improvised explosive devices are the main threat throughout the Iraq Joint Operations Area, and Soldiers were trained to locate them at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, March 31.



Soldiers participated in a train-the-trainer level three course, in order for them to be instructors and train their fellow Soldiers.

Electronics War Technician Petty Officer 1st Class Kyle Wood, a counter-improvised explosive device team trainer with the navy intelligence center in Greensborough, N.C., said they train Soldiers throughout Iraq in

preparation for their mission.

"We train the Army units that (relief in place) into country," said Wood, a Greensborough, N.C., native. "We're also training a lot of the Iraqi forces, Iraqi police, federal police (and) border patrol on counter-IED training, to improve their abilities while they're outside the wire so they have a better chance of defeating the attacks."

Wood said the level three class certifies the students to train their units.

"I believe it's a very good asset to have out here and it's a good thing that the Army units and the Iraqi units get this training, because it opens their eyes a little more and gives them a good refresher," he said.

During the training, students set up mounted and dismounted lanes for Soldiers to go through and look for IEDs, said Sgt. Bau F. Mader, a truck commander with K Troop, 3rd Squadron,

278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Newport, Tenn..

"We set them up and then ran them through in groups of two," he said.

One group set up the lanes while the other went through and tried to identify the IEDs, said Mader, a Jonesborough, Tenn., native. They then discussed why the IEDs were placed in certain spots, and how Soldiers could identify them more easily.

"I think it was good training," he said.

Mader said the level three course covered what Soldiers had learned in prior levels and built upon it.

"Also, we're being exposed to new (tactics, techniques and procedures) that the enemies are using in our (area of operation)," he said. "This training will help us out because it allows us to come and set up this range

and to give (our Soldiers) the training that we are receiving."

Sgt. Tilson C. Hargrove, a truck driver with the 2101st Transportation Company out of Demopolis, Ala., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said the course was very detailed in regards to the positioning of the IEDs, their location, how to set them off and what to expect on travel routes.

"I got information on what to expect while I'm out there on the road," said Hargrove, a Boydton, Va., native. "I can take this stuff back to my troops, to give them more (intelligence) on what to look for, what to expect."

Hargrove said it is crucial his Soldiers stay informed.

"We are a transportation company and we're constantly going to be on the road," he said. "We need to know what is out there."

JBB celebrates Women's History Month

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers and Airmen came together to recognize Women's History Month, March 29 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Service members attended the event to celebrate and recognize the significant contributions by women in history.

Capt. Katerina Carbuccia, deputy logistics officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, said women came and showed their support regardless of rank, a memory they could all take home with them.

"I think it went very well," she said. "Sometimes we need to be recognized and Women's History Month is a moment to say, 'Hello, we are here and we can do the same job as men.'"

Carbuccia, a Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, native, said the event was well organized and kept the crowd entertained using speakers and performances. She said she participated because of encouragement by fellow Soldiers, but also to show her support for the women who influenced her throughout her life.

"My mom (and) my grandmother are who inspired me," she said. "That is the reason why I think about them every time it's Women's History Month. I don't think about the big people, they already have the recognition."

Staff Sgt. Chevella S. Stokes, a logistics noncommissioned officer in charge with the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade out of Rock Island, Ill., said the event was part of their equal opportunity program to celebrate each observance month. She said her role model was her grandmother.

"We have contributed a lot throughout history and it's nice to be acknowledged for what we have done and what we are continuing to do," she said. "(The event) went pretty well."

Stokes, a Savannah, Ga., native, said women are not limited by their gender.

"If we set our goals and strive for them we can achieve anything," she said. "Nothing is impossible. Women before us have shown that we can accomplish anything."

Col. Cherri S. Wheeler, the wing chaplain for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and a San Antonio native, was the guest speaker for the event.

"I long for the day when the only limitation a little girl faces is her own lack of imagination," she said. "I hope the next generation of little girls is taught from



Col. Cherri S. Wheeler, the wing chaplain for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and a San Antonio native, was the guest speaker for the Women's History Month observance March 29 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

the cradle that they can accomplish anything."

Wheeler said she hopes parents and mentors of women encourage them to follow their dreams, no matter the dream. She also said she feels jobs and positions should be determined by the most qualified, and not because a quota of women is required.

"I long for the day that all positions are open to those who are qualified for it and desire to pursue it," she said. "I long for the day when we no longer distinguish firsts by gender, but rather knowing that every person, no matter the gender, had an equal opportunity to prepare and accomplish it. I long for the day when history is no longer 'his story,' but 'her story' too."

Construction on Iraqi Army Camp Ur complete

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

CAMP UR, Iraq – A ribbon-cutting ceremony March 28 at Iraqi Army Camp Ur, Iraq, commemorated the completion of a \$27 million project funded by United States forces for the

Iraqi Army.

Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Ramsay, the senior adviser with the Tallil Logistics Military Advisory Team and a Fitzgerald, Ga., native, said the LMAT has worked with IA Soldiers at Camp Ur for 12 of the 15 months it took to complete the project.

The new buildings will give Camp Ur the capability to support and house 9,000 Soldiers, said Ramsay.

"It is new warehouse capability, office capability, new barracks, new latrines for both the location command and the training center, including a very large (dining facility) for troops that are here for training," he said.



Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Ramsay, the senior adviser with the Tallil Logistics Military Advisory Team and a Fitzgerald, Ga., native, signs Camp Ur over to the Iraqi Army March 28 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Iraqi Army Camp Ur, Iraq.

Ramsay said he believes the new facilities will help the Iraqi Army stand on its own after the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq.

"(This) is the U.S. forces giving the Iraqis the necessary facilities to continue their security journey, to

make them a stronger, more secure military, so they can take the final step as we transition out in 2011, for the final security here in the Dhi Qar province," he said. "The Iraqi Army, here specifically, they are very excited about the new buildings. They

are very excited about that next step forward, and we are excited as the LMAT team to have been a part of this journey for the last 12 months."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Hoover, the officer in charge of the Ur Logistics and Technical Advisory Team with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Gatesville, Texas, native, worked with the Iraqi Soldiers in the Ur Iraqi Army Regional Maintenance Center from August through November, to improve their skills in maintenance and supply.

Hoover attended the ceremony March 28 and said he was pleased that the IA Soldiers finally have the proper equipment and facilities to succeed in their mission, and support the competent mechanics already present.

"If the facilities are used the way they are supposed to be, the (IA Soldiers) will have a very good working environment learning environment, and that is what is needed," he said. "They have got a good place, to be housed and to train. If they have that, they have no problems."

Deployed West Point alumni honor school's history

BY 2ND LT. ANGELA K. FRY
41ST IBCT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Two United States Military Academy at West Point alumni from the Oregon National Guard attended the celebration of their alma mater's 208th anniversary March 19 at Memorial Hall at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Mark Parrish, a West Linn, Ore., native, and Maj. Brian Carey, a Minneapolis native, are deployed in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), but still participated in the West Point Society of COB Adder Founder's Day dinner.

"We are pleased to be able to get together and to hear comments from both old and new graduates," said Parrish, the brigade's operations officer. "This opportunity makes you realize how important this institution is and how it has shaped our lives."

More than 30 Army officers attended the event.

Although the traditionally formal meal was served in a tent, the age-

long traditions of West Point were still honored, said Carey, the brigade plans chief who led his fellow graduates in the Cadet's Prayer.

"This is the second Founders Day I have celebrated in the Middle East," said Carey, a 1994 USMA graduate and a Minneapolis native. "It means that much more to participate in a forward deployed area, where the symbols of why we are here are so apparent."

The guest speaker for the event was Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and a 1980 graduate of the institution.

"The (Cadet) Corps has continued to produce leaders for our nation when the nation needed it the most," said Brooks, an Alexandria, Va., native. "It has given you the opportunity of a lifetime; a chance to give back what was given to you in those four years. Don't hide from it and don't waste it."

The 41st IBCT, out of Tigard, Ore., is coming to the end of a 12-month deployment as part of the largest mobilization of troops from the Oregon National Guard since World War II. The more than 3,000 Oregon National Guard troops are scheduled to return home by mid-April.

Captain runs 30 miles on 30th birthday

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – At 16, Americans can legally drive; at 18, they can vote and, theoretically, make adult decisions; at 21, they can legally consume

alcohol.

At 30, Capt. Joshua Southworth, an operations officer with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), marked the day he said he lost his "cool" factor, with a 30 mile run March 28.

Southworth, an Erie, Pa., native, has not always been a runner.

"I was never into running," he said.

He began to appreciate running as a U.S. Military Academy cadet, when he realized he needed to improve his two-mile time to succeed in the Army. He signed up and trained for a marathon, which he finished with a time around four and a half hours.

During his first deployment in 2004 to 2005, Southworth injured his back and was unable to run for a while. He said it was during his most recent deployment that he began really running again.

"I realized that I missed it," he said.



Capt. Joshua Southworth, an operations officer with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Erie, Pa., native, begins the last 10 miles of a 30-mile run on his 30th birthday, March 28 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Southworth started reading Christopher McDougall's "Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen," and said he was inspired to run 30 miles on his 30th birthday, a feat mentioned in the book.

Beginning in mid-February, Southworth began to add miles to his normal runs. He said he went from running six miles, to 20 miles on March 21.

Southworth said the key is not to think of it as running 30 miles.

"I didn't run 30 miles," he said. "I

ran 10 miles three times."

Starting at 2 a.m., in the rain, Southworth ran the first 10 miles in about an hour and a half. His pace slowed for the next 10 miles, and the last 10 miles were even slower.

"I felt fine for the first five of the last 10, but when I hit the turn-around, my pace slowed way down," Southworth said.

Although Southworth trained alone, Capt. Thorin Parris, an operations officer with the 15th Sust. Bde., helped him plan his route.

Parris, a Melbourne, Fla., native, also gave Southworth suggestions on the run.

"I told him it'd be a great accomplishment," he said.

Southworth said he may add a mile on his next birthday to make it 31, or he may sign up to run another marathon in an attempt to beat his previous time.

Running 30 miles is not for Parris. "I like to run, but I'm not a marathoner" he said. "(Southworth) obviously is, and I applaud him for it."

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

E-mail: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Arts & Entertainment

Enter 'Green Zone': a riveting thriller

BY SPC. NAVEED ALI SHAH
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



From the director of "The Bourne Supremacy" and "The Bourne Ultimatum," comes "Green Zone," an action-packed thriller inspired, at least in part, by Washington Post journalist Rajiv Chandrasekaran's 2006 book "Imperial Life in the Emerald City."

The latest in contemporary war films, "Green Zone" addresses the political issues that were at play during the early days of the Iraq War, but the story telling is so fluid that the filmmakers still accurately portray the chaos and contradictions of war.

Set during the opening days of the Iraq

War, Academy Award winner Matt Damon plays Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roy Miller, a Special Forces officer who leads a Mobile Exploitation Team in the search for ever-elusive weapons of mass destruction. When his team continually comes up empty handed, despite risking its lives, Miller begins to question the intelligence they receive from a secret source.

Echoing the Bourne series, Miller suddenly finds himself amidst an inter-agency turf war between the CIA and the Coalition Provisional Authority. With his superiors ordering him to stand down and fall in, and the CIA's top dog in Baghdad asking him to help uncover a conspiracy, Miller is presented with a Soldier's ultimate dilemma: should he follow orders or do what is right?

The culmination of the film begins

when the CPA's representative in Baghdad announces CPA Administrator L. Paul Bremer's order to dissolve the Iraqi Army, bans Ba'athist politicians from holding any political office, and institutes a new regime led by the fictional Ahmed Zubadi, a character probably based on Ahmed Chalabi, an Iraqi expatriate who was brought in by former President George W. Bush administration to put an Iraqi face on a government run by U.S. interests.

The ensuing gun battle, foot pursuit and climax, are some of the best I've ever seen.

What sets the "Green Zone" apart from other war films is the political commentary seamlessly interwoven in the plot. References are made to real life issues and events that took place, such as the

infamous "Mission Accomplished" announcement aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Former New York Times reporter Judith Miller, who was involved in the leak of the identity of CIA Agent Valerie Plume, is reflected in the character Lawrie Dayne (Amy Ryan).

Perhaps one of the biggest and most obvious plot devices based in history is the portrayal of Baghdad's actual "Green Zone" as a place where ignorant American politicians, contractors and other government or non-government employee's play by the pool while a war rages just over the fence.

I give "Green Zone" a solid 9 out of 10, and if the "Hurt Locker" is any indication, I foresee Academy Awards in the near future.

She and Him finds its voice

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward have hit their stride with She and Him's "Volume Two," but that's not to say everyone should run out and buy the album.

Like "Volume One," this is a very soft, cute, easygoing album. If you like slow dances, sock hops and '50s diners, you will enjoy this.

Deschanel wrote most of the songs and is the main singer on "Volume Two." Her voice definitely sounds stronger this time around and demands respect more than the traditional ac-

tress turned singer. There is a certain novelty to her sound, but there is also a whole lot of talent.

Ward provides much of the instrumentation and is a real treat to hear. I really enjoy his polished, muted guitars drenched in reverb.

If you aren't aware of Ward, he is an accomplished artist with many solo albums under his belt. What started as a very gritty lo-fi sound has developed into something extremely clean.

If you liked Ward's latest album, "Hold Time," you will probably enjoy She and Him.

"Volume Two" is a safe follow up to its predecessor, but there are a few changes to the sound. As I said earlier, Deschanel's voice is filled with confi-

dence now, but her harmonies are also better than ever. Backing vocals sound bigger and more polished in a classic doo-wop way.

Ward's voice might not be for everyone, but it sits so well with Deschanel's that I feel a bit ripped off here. His voice is absent from most of the songs and it's really a shame. Often times the Him of She and Him is too far in the background.

The two tracks that stand out the most for me are "Ridin' In My Car" and "Lingering Still," mainly because we get to hear Ward sing a bit. "Lingering Still" has a beautiful guitar solo as well.

Deschanel's voice is at its best in "Thieves," the album's opener, but re-

mains beautifully strong throughout.

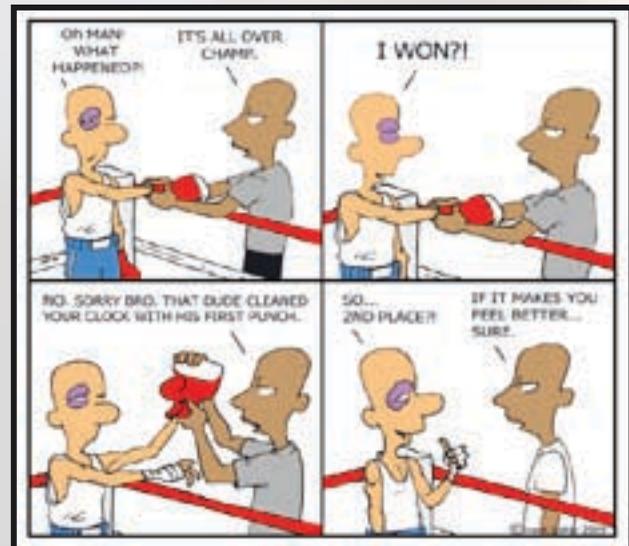
She and Him is a band best heard in the background of your life. It goes well with homework or dinner, but might be a bit too anemic to listen to actively.

I don't think Deschanel will ever be as captivating to me as Jenny Lewis, but she certainly deserves respect as a singer and musician.

If you are looking for something beautiful, yet dark, like Lewis or Rilo Kiley, look elsewhere, but if you are down with a 1950s throwback, check out She and Him.

If you are a fan of "Volume One" at all, I think you'll be impressed, because "Volume Two" is all that and more. This is a fine sophomore effort, but might be too cute for some.

PVT MURPHY



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, April 7

5 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon
8 p.m. Valentine's Day

Thursday, April 8

5 p.m. The Book of Eli
8 p.m. Dear John

Friday, April 9

2 p.m. Cop Out
5 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians
8:30 p.m. Clash Of The Titans

Saturday, April 10

2 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians
5 p.m. Clash Of The Titans
8 p.m. Cop Out
12 a.m. Clash Of The Titans

Sunday, April 11

2 p.m. Clash Of The Titans
5 p.m. Cop Out
8 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians

Monday, April 12

5 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians
8 p.m. Clash Of The Titans

Tuesday, April 13

5 p.m. Clash Of The Titans
8 p.m. Cop Out

Wednesday, April 14

5 p.m. Percy Jackson and the Olympians
8 p.m. Clash Of The Titans



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



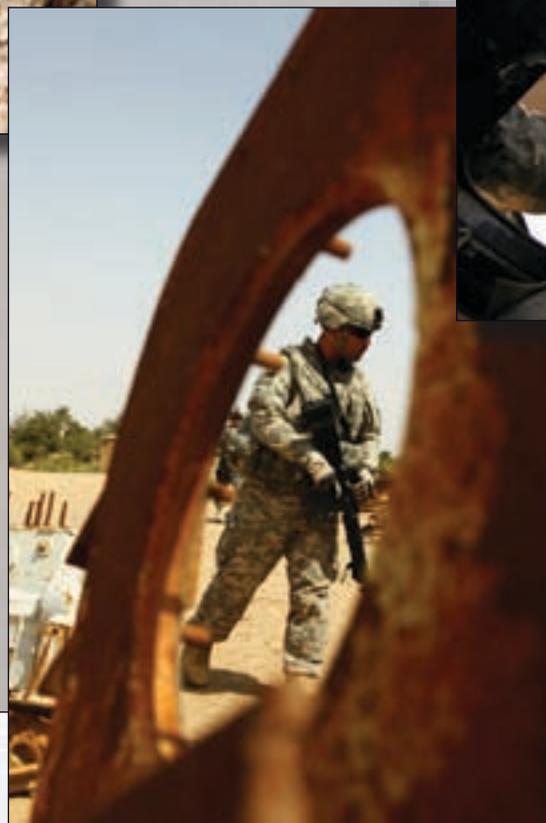
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon

(Above) An Iraqi Soldier hammers a target to a wooden board at Border Fort 12 March 16 near Region Kated, Iraq. The targets will be set up on a range for weapons qualification and training.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jesse Gross

(Above) A Soldier with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division provides security during a humanitarian aid mission to check on water pumps March 21 near Joint Security Site Shaura Um Jidr, Iraq. The pumps were given out as a humanitarian effort between the U.S. Army, the Iraqi Army and the local government.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Adelita Mead

(Right) Staff Sgt. Ronny Romero, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 17th Fires Brigade Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Operations Hazardous Material team and an Arlington, Va., native, enters a scrap metal yard March 23 in the Abu Al Kaseeb area of Basra, Iraq. Romero and other members of his CBRN team conducted an assessment of the radiation levels in the area.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon

(Left) Soldiers with 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division walk on a new site where they may relocate their headquarters March 15 near Rabiya City, Iraq.



AEGIS Security Corp. escort vehicles maneuver around simulated bomb attacks on their convoy carrying U.S. Army Corp of Engineers clients during counter-improvised explosives device training provided by U.S. Navy Sailors with Task Force Troy and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 12 March 21 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Michael D. Heckman

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraqi Security Forces graduate newest combat photographers

Editors Note: The Iraqi combat camera class received minimal support from U.S. advisers in the form of three cameras and a U.S. combat photographer that acted as an adviser, but the course's planning, design and facilitation were all handled by the Soldiers of ISOF and its Media Effects Cell.

BAGHDAD – As Iraqis take more and more of their security into their own hands, a certain responsibility is also changing hands: the telling of the Iraqi Soldier's story.

Whether by photography or videography, the documentation of operations and training by combat photographers is a vital part of telling that story, as well as a valuable information asset to Iraqi Security Forces as they progress in their training.

Leading the effort to train and enable Iraqi combat photographers is the 1st Brigade, Iraqi Special Operations Forces' Media Effects Cell, which graduated ISOF's newest combat photographers from its Basic Combat Camera Course Feb. 28 in Baghdad.

During the 14-day course, 12 Iraqi students studied digital camera and video recording techniques in a hands-on, intimate learning environment. With everything from the basic operation of the equipment to advanced composition techniques, the course demanded a complex combination of tactical, technical and creative thinking from its students.

The primary instructor and senior-enlisted Iraqi combat photographer said his students' enthusiasm made the difference in their performance. Neither he nor his students can be named due to security reasons.

"They are so willing to learn that it's easy for them," the instructor said. "You could tell early on they were proud to be photographers, and that's where it starts."

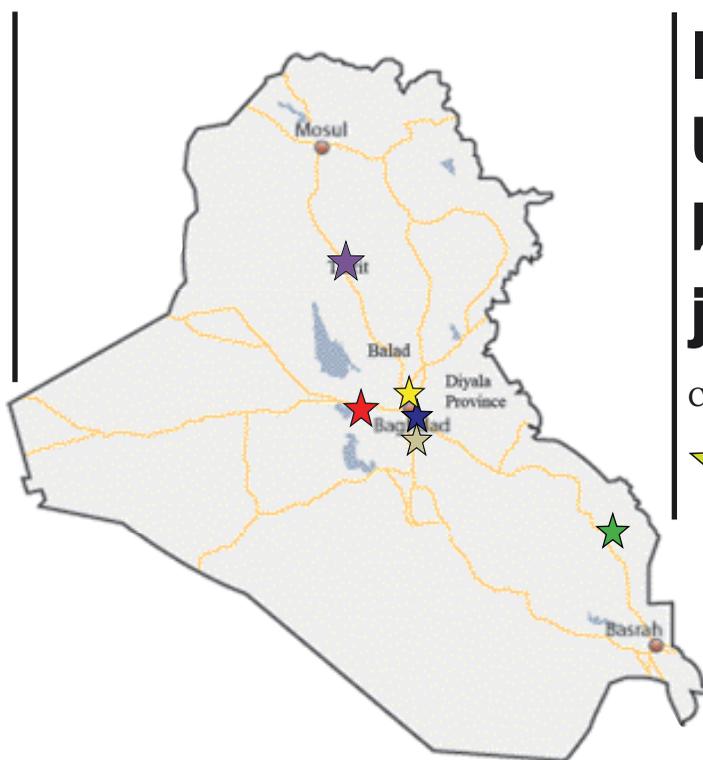
The course was divided into two segments. The first week focused on camera components and techniques, digital photo development and proper archiving of documentation. The students tackled these subjects in teams of four, practicing one technique at a time before taking their cameras back to the classroom to face their teacher's critiques and suggestions.

Some students had no familiarity with technologies many of their U.S. counterparts take for granted, such as laptop computers and portable storage devices. Some students had gone their whole lives without touching a computer's mouse or typing on a keyboard. Their instructor soon found himself giving a basic computer class.

"If they don't know something, I don't judge them. I teach them," he said. "So I taught some to start from the very basics. For some, that meant turning on a computer and using Windows."

With that obstacle hurdled, the class rolled on as its students took in their lessons.

"It's a very good class," a student said. "Our instructor is serious about the work and I'm proud to be learning it. We all want to know more."



The instructor, a combat photographer of six years, also taught beyond the components, techniques and theories. As the first week wound down, he emphasized the "why" behind COMCAM.

"As evidence, documentation protects our Soldiers," he said. "If someone makes a claim against us, saying that our Soldiers behaved poorly or hurt someone on an operation, we can show the video and have proof to protect us from this false information. And one day, when the next generation is ready to take our place, they'll know all that we did for them."

The first week established a comfort zone of predictable action and controllable subjects while the students got a handle on the basics. It was a comfort zone their instructor said he was glad to shatter in the next week of training.

Soon, they documented live-fire ranges and stacked up behind ISOF's 1st Battalion commandos during close-quarter combat training at Baghdad's Iraqi Special Warfare Center and School. They no longer had the comfort of carefully selecting their shots or asking their subject to turn to "adjust for the picture."

Their instructor pushed for the combination of technical and tactical thinking, especially while performing operations where their subjects are amped up on both adrenaline and the urgency demanded by life-or-death, close-quarters combat.

A U.S. Special Forces medical and communications sergeant who trained prospective commandos allowed the class to document a rifle range during the course's second week and said he noticed their primary instructor was an Iraqi. The sergeant and a few other U.S. Special Forces operators facilitating the range used Iraqi Soldiers as trainers, a sign that the sergeant said was promising. He likened the class' instructor to his own hand-selected cadre of Iraqi Soldiers, using a popular Army phrase, "training the trainer."

"Training the trainer involves training an Iraqi cadre and staff so they can train other Iraqi Soldiers," he said. "The cadre and staff can then train other Iraqi Soldiers in their native language, speeding up training time and ensuring the Iraqi military is becoming more involved in training its own Soldiers."

With the graduation of ISOF's newest COMCAM Soldiers, their instructor said he is confident the story of Iraq and its Soldiers is in capable hands.

Iraqi forces, US air cavalry brigade conduct joint air assault

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – The Iraqi Air Force conducted a joint air assault mission with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade to find and destroy weapons caches March 14.

During this joint air assault operation, 1st ACB, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division – Center, partnered with the Iraqi Air Force's 4th Squadron to provide aerial support to Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 36th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division to perform a weapons cache-clearing mission.

The mission consisted of flying UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters carrying U.S. and IA Soldiers for an air insertion into islands to be searched – maintaining flexibility to move the Soldiers from island to island whenever necessary.

An attack weapons team of two AH-64D Apache attack helicopters, from 1st ACB, provided screening of the objectives and the surrounding riverbanks in an effort to minimize the possibility of a counter attack.

The Iraqi aviators supported the IA Soldiers and gained trust between the ground and aviation assets, a goal the 1st ACB has worked toward since arriving in theater.

As the 1st ACB prepares to depart, the relationship between the Iraqi AF and its ground brethren is a sure sign that the mission was successful, said Capt. Jimmy Dailey, a Black Hawk helicopter pilot, commander of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB and a Pawnee, Okla., native.

The unit spent nearly a year working with the Iraqi AF on air-ground integration, conducting joint operations during the course of its partnership.

"It is good to see (the Iraqi Air Force) taking the steps to conduct missions on their own, the next step after this will be for them to lead an air assault – planning it and briefing it as well," said Dailey.

The mission was his fifth joint air assault operation that he has taken part in during his deployment, he said.

Two suspected weapon facilitators detained

TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. advisers, detained two suspected Islamic State of Iraq weapons facilitators March 15 in the village of Sharqat, Salah ad-Din province.

ISF arrested the suspects for allegedly manufacturing and distributing improvised explosive devices and weapons in Salah ad-Din and Ninawa provinces.

The two suspects are believed responsible for transporting IEDs and weapons into Mosul from a shop in Sharqat and a location in Bayji. One of the individuals is suspected of repairing damaged weapons prior to their sale.

Sharqat is located north of Bayji.

An Iraqi court issued a warrant for the suspect's arrest.

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

Fallujah unit arrests suspected weapons facilitator

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE RAMADI, Iraq – A suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq weapons facilitator was arrested March 24 by the Fallujah Special Weapons and Tactics unit during a joint security operation, with U.S. advisers, in Fallujah.

The suspect is believed to be linked to the smuggling of weapons and improvised explosive device-making materials in support of AQI operations.

He was named a possible planner in the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks in Baghdad that killed 147 and wounded more than 700 people in October 2009. The attacks, the deadliest in two years, targeted and destroyed three government buildings in central Baghdad: the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Public Works and the Baghdad governor's office.

Fallujah SWAT confiscated weapons and ammunition including armor-piercing bullets as well as passports, satellite receivers, license plates, electronic circuits, a battery tester, a camera, documents and one Iraqi Army uniform.

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

Iraqi Security Forces capture suspected Abu Ghraib al-Qaeda leader

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces captured a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader for the Abu Ghraib region during a joint security operation March 26 in Abu Ghraib, roughly 22 km west of Baghdad.

Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for the suspected AQI leader.

The wanted individual is believed to have been involved in planning coordinated vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks against the Iraqi government, several of which have taken place in the capital city.

Evidence and information collected during the security operation led ISF to identify and arrest the wanted AQI 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.

Iraqi Police pursue al-Qaeda in Diyala province, arrest two suspects

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police arrested two suspected terrorists March 20 during a joint security operation conducted in northern Iraq to capture a suspected member of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist group operating in Diyala Province.

Acting in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government, the 3rd Emergency Response Unit and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for the suspected AQI member who had a warrant for his arrest issued by an Iraqi judge.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led Iraqi Police to arrest two suspected criminal associates of the warranted individual.

Iraqi Emergency Response Brigade arrests suspected al-Qaeda cell leader

 BAGHDAD – An element of the Iraqi Emergency Response Brigade, along with U.S. forces advisers, arrested the suspected leader of an al-Qaeda cell March 12 in Al Fadil, Baghdad.

The elite police force was operating under the authority of a warrant issued by the Central Investigative Court of Al Karkh.

Intelligence reports indicate the suspect commands an al-Qaeda cell operating in Baghdad.

“Once again, the Emergency Response Brigade highlights their personal commitment to providing safety, security and stability to the people of Iraq,” said Maj. Catina Barnes, a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula spokesperson.

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

Citizen helps ensure Kalsu's safety

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION KALSU, Iraq – Acting on information provided to them by a local citizen, the Iraqi Police disarmed and removed an explosive device March 4 near Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq.

The citizen received a 350,000 dinar reward from U.S. Forces for his actions.

The Soldiers in charge of the COL's security are grateful for the man's help.

“By coming to the gate and letting us know there was a problem, he probably prevented someone from getting injured,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Slaughter with the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. “His quick thinking and willingness to come forward with helpful information helped make everyone safer. I'm glad we could reward him.”

The citizen stated he had no idea what he would do with the money.

“I will save it,” he said. “It is more important that no one was hurt.”

Iraqi police capture suspected Baghdad al-Qaeda attack-cell member

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police captured a suspected member of an al-Qaeda in Iraq attack cell during a joint security operation March 28 in western Baghdad.

Iraqi Police and U.S. advisers searched buildings for the suspected AQI member believed to be part of an AQI cell responsible for assassinations and bank robberies in the region.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led Iraqi police to identify and arrest the wanted individual.

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.

US forces transfer training base, airstrip in Maysan

 MAYSAN, Iraq – Leadership with the 10th Iraqi Army Division and the Iraqi Receivership Secretariat accepted the complete return of Contingency Operating Site Hunter from U.S. forces March 26 in the southern Maysan province.

During a ceremony marking the event, the Record of Return was signed and the Government of Iraq took control of the facility and adjacent airplane landing strip. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all U.S. Soldiers departed the base.

More than \$1 million of property and equipment was transferred to the Iraqis. Some of the items include tents, base security structures, dining facilities and power generation equipment.

U.S. forces from 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division used the base to advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces near the city of Qalit Salih and the Hwayzah marshes.

The 10th Iraqi Army Division will use the base as a training facility.

“Returning Contingency Operating Site Hunter to the Iraqi Army is another sign of normalcy,” said Maj. Vida Burrell, the operations officer with 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, who lived on COS Hunter. “They demonstrated their proficiency with elections security, and this base provides them (with) weapons ranges, housing and a secure helicopter landing zone to continue training.”

Phantom Support



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

(Above) Lt Col. Steven Logan, with the 45th Military History Detachment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) examines an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery display at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Logan conducted a military history collection for the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc Lisa A. Cope

(Above) Service members explore along the top of a reconstructed building, said to be the home of the prophet Abraham, during a tour of the Ziggurat of Ur March 27, near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael V. Camacho
Brig. Gen. Paul Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, serves himself buffalo chicken wings during a command social March 31 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The social followed a day of briefings where key leaders discussed operations in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

(Above) Soldiers of Task Force Volunteer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, with the Oregon and New Mexico Army National Guard, take the oath of re-enlistment March 12 on the steps of the Ziggurat of Ur near Camp Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) distribute school supplies to students at the Al Booteman School Feb. 25 near Scania, Iraq. Medical supplies were delivered to the Iraqi Army which escorted the Soldiers to the school. The supplies were requested by the shaykhs and local employees for their children. The supplies were donated by the Corvallis Clinic in Corvallis, Ore.