

# The Expeditionary Times

*Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq*

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

## New leaders



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## Good deeds



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## Recover, reuse



Providers operate largest material recovery team site in Iraq

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# Tennessee Soldiers, Iraqis prepare base for responsible drawdown

BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq

— With the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment in Iraq drawing closer, units throughout Iraq are hard at work getting their bases ready for either closure or transfer back to the Government of Iraq.

The Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is doing just that at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Their most recent project involved the hiring of local Iraqis during a base beautification project, April 12 through April 18, infusing more money into the local economy.

Capt. Jesse Bliven, the squadron logistics officer in charge with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th ACR and a Nashville, Tenn., native, said SEE CLEAN ON PAGE 4



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Kevin Levesque

Capt. Jesse Bliven, the squadron logistics officer in charge with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Nashville, Tenn., native, shows local national workers from the FJAN company how to operate a power washer during a base beautification project April 14 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

# Comptroller steps down to further military education



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, presents a Bronze Star Medal to Maj. Brian Steele, the assistant chief of staff comptroller with the 13th ESC, April 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Steele, a Pittsfield, Mass., native, stepped down as comptroller to attend the Defense Comptroller Program at Syracuse University in New York. Wentz said Steele was an asset to the command and a great player to have on his staff.

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Maj. Brian Steele, the assistant chief of staff comptroller with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Pittsfield, Mass., native, stepped down from his position April 14 to SEE AWARDS ON PAGE 4



## Balad Blotter April 16 - April 23

### **BREAKING AND ENTERING/VANDALISM:**

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk to report a breaking, entering and vandalism at Building 7368, the motorpool. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The complainant said, via Air Force Form 1168/Statement of Complainant, April 12 at roughly 8:45 a.m. he and witness one arrived the motorpool and noticed the chain and lock on the front entrance had been cut off and were laying on the ground. Inside, they noticed a wall locker with a padlock and hinge had been cut or broken off. The complainant inventoried all items and discovered nothing missing from the locker. It was also discovered that a derogatory comment was written on a white dry-erase board. The complainant said he was at the motorpool at roughly 8:30 p.m. April 11 and the doors were secure with no damage. Witness two said, via AF Form 1168/Statement of Witness, after he was informed the location had been broken into, he checked the tool shed which has a cipher lock on the door. The door was secure with no signs of forced entry or damage, but he discovered several tools missing. The estimated cost of the missing property is \$2,000. Witness two said they do not have an inventory list of all the tools stored in the shed. The patrol made contact with unit personnel who said no building check was conducted the night of the incident. Seven digital pictures were taken. There are no further suspects, witnesses or investigative leads at this time.

### **VANDALISM:**

A complainant notified the Law Enforcement Desk about vandalism to his company vehicle April 14. Eagles Nest initiated an Air Force FM 1168/Statement of Complainant with Complainant, in which he said, April 14 at roughly 11 a.m. his white Toyota van was parked alongside the G pods in H-5 housing. When he returned to the vehicle 10 minutes later, he noticed the rear driver side window was shattered. He also noticed the mirror portion of the driver side mirror was lying in front of the vehicle. The complainant said he did not notice anyone around the vehicle at the time of his return and he did not hear any sounds of the glass breaking. Four pictures of the damage to the Toyota van were taken.

### **COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY:**

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk and reported counterfeit U.S. currency was discovered at the west Army and Air Force Post/Base Exchange April 15. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. Patrols arrived on the scene and made contact with the complainant, confirming the currency to be counterfeit. The patrol initiated search. The patrol terminated search with negative findings. The subject was turned over for further questioning. The patrol received for the counterfeit currency, via Department of the Army Form 4137/Evidence/Property Custody Document, and turned it over to CID.

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

# Chaplain's Corner: motivation keeps us moving forward

By LT. COL. GARRY LOSEY  
13TH ESC DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN



At one time or another almost every person I have ever met could find a reason for quitting.

CBS News journalist Lauren Johnston wrote an article about Bob Wieland: "A Veteran who lost his legs to a mortar round in Vietnam and finished the Los Angeles Marathon a week after he began, to the cheers of supporters and passers-by."

"Police closed down the last half block of the 26.2-mile course (March 8, 2003) so Bob Wieland, 57, without a wheelchair and propelled only by his hands, could cross the finish line in the middle of a downtown street."

Wieland finished in 173 hours, 45 minutes, marathon officials said. He said he slept only 11 hours since he began the route March 1.

I think that motivational speaker Zig Ziglar said it best, "It's not what happens to you that determines how far you will go in life; it is how you handle what happens to you."

We have been mistreated, overlooked, underpaid, neglected, passed over or taken for granted. We can all come up with reasons for giving up, stopping short of our goals because we have not been appreciated for our work or recognized for our accomplishments.

At the same time, I am amazed by people, people like Wieland who have persevered through very difficult circumstances. On the surface, it seems that things have not gone their way. They have had to overcome greater disappointments, and climbed higher and more difficult mountains in life than those around them. Yet, they continued moving for-

ward and achieved what to some might consider impossible.

The reason is found in this one word – motivation. Maj. Peter Strong, an Army chaplain, wrote, "Motivation is the determination to keep going when everyone around us says 'Stop.' Motivation is the drive to never give up when everything within us says 'Quit.' Motivation is that indefinable force that empowers us to go beyond what logic says we cannot do."

Motivation is moving beyond our self-imposed limitations and achieving things we thought we could not do, not for recognition from others. Motivation comes from the pride of contributing in a positive manner. Although recognition and positive feedback are always nice to receive, it should not be our reason for seeking to accomplish tasks and striving to reach the goals that are set before us.

At the heart of motivation is another word – faith. To persevere, we must believe that we can accomplish whatever task we have been given. We must believe in what we are doing and that it will ultimately have a positive effect on those around us.

We must not let disappointment rule our lives. Rather, let it be the catalyst that drives us forward and propels us toward great achievements.

Everyone can find a good reason to quit if they look for it. But, if we search deep into ourselves, we can and will find an even better reason to keep going.

Keep the faith. You are going to make it. Keep focusing on the final goal, because victory is closer than you think. The pride of accomplishment will help to motivate you to continue moving forward to accomplish even bigger and greater things.



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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36th Sustainment Brigade  
96th Sustainment Brigade  
256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
278th Armored Cavalry Regiment  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

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

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

# The Weekly Standard: dealing with debt collection

BY MASTER SGT. RICHARD FAUST  
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



Whether you use credit cards, owe money on a loan, or are paying off a mortgage, you are a debtor.

Consumer debt can be used to make a Soldier's life more comfortable but comes with the responsibility of repaying the debts promptly. Failure to do so damages your credit rating and the Army's public image.

Army Regulation 600-15 Indebt-

edness of Military Personnel describes Department of the Army policy, responsibilities and procedures for handling debt claims against Soldiers.

The Army has no legal authority to force Soldiers to pay consumer debts.

However, if a Soldier fails to resolve unpaid debts promptly or complaints of repeated failure to pay debts are received, AR 600-15 directs commanders to consider the following actions:

(1) Making the failure a matter of personal record.

(2) Denial of reenlistment for enlisted personnel.

(3) Administrative separation from service.

(4) Punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice under article 92, 123, 133, or 134.

AR 600-15, paragraph 2-1, lists the actions the commander must take upon receiving a debt complaint.

Upon receipt of a debt complaint, the commander must review the case to ensure the creditor meets all the criteria listed in AR 600-15, paragraph 4-3.

If so, the commander must notify the Soldier of the debt complaint, inform

the Soldier of his or her legal rights and duties, including the right to free legal assistance, explain that failure to resolve unpaid debts may result in administrative or punitive actions, review all available facts including the Soldier's defenses, rights and counterclaims and help the Soldier in settling or liquidating the debt.

Additional information is available through the Federal Trade Commission at: <http://www.ftc.gov/os/statutes/fdcpajump.shtm>. You may also contact your state attorney general's office, or the local legal assistance office for assistance and information.

**Joint Base Balad (13th ESC):** DSN 433-2125  
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Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)  
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

**Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.):** DSN 827-6115  
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Master Sgt. Richard Faust

**Adder/Tallil (36th Sust. Bde./256th IBCT):**  
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Sgt. 1st Class Christian Lee

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Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Arce  
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

## Combat Stress: coping with seperation anxiety

BY CAPT. MIKE KNIGHT  
1908TH MED.DET.



A deployment can be a stressful time for any Soldier. Separation from loved ones, difficult living conditions and extreme environmental factors such as heat and sand can all add up to play havoc on our coping systems for stress.

When these factors become a little too much to handle, turn to Combat Stress Control for help.

The 1908th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) operates the Patriot Clinic at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, providing mental health services to Soldiers.

Don't let the name fool you, Combat Stress Control covers more than just the emotional difficulties of engaging the enemy. The majority of our cases result from operational stress, which can affect anyone regardless of rank or job. Operational stress can result from the daily grind of life in Iraq and is amplified by those factors mentioned ear-

lier such as family separation.

On hand, we have a staff of behavioral health technicians, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker ready to help you with whatever it is that's got you feeling down.

There are also self-help classes available and no appointment is necessary. You can attend a one-hour class on such topics as stress and anger management, sleep hygiene, communication skills, etc. These classes are offered Monday through Saturday at varying times, so call the clinic at DSN: 318-433-2402 to find a class that will work for you.

In addition to the staff at the Patriot Clinic, another aspect of Combat Stress Control is prevention and outreach services. Our trained staff is available to meet with commands to develop a plan to address needs that are unique to each unit.

We can teach classes at your location that are tailored to your unit's specific needs. These classes include suicide prevention, redeployment issues, stress and anger management and sleep hygiene, just to name a few. We

can also tailor classes for leaders that are perfect for noncommissioned officer professional development or officer professional development classes.

Another service that we can provide is completing the Unit Behavioral Health Needs Assessment, which gives the command a snapshot of the unit's overall mental health and functioning. If you are a company commander or first sergeant and haven't made contact with the 1908th Medical Detachment yet, don't hesitate to contact us. We are truly a force multiplier that can help your unit run more effectively and efficiently.

The Patriot Clinic is located near Victory Loop off of Sustainer Street at JBB. We are across the parking lot from the Blackjack Education Center.

Our hours are Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with emergency screenings anytime. Our phone numbers are DSN 318-433-2402 and NIPR 318-483-4599. If you have any questions or want to find out how to use our services, please stop by the clinic or give us call and we will be glad to assist you.

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

### What is a DSARC?

The deployed sexual assault response coordinator is considered the center of gravity when it comes to ensuring victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care.

They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care.

### What is a UVA?

The unit victim advocate provides essential support and care to the victim, including providing non-clinical information on available options and resources to assist the victim in making informed decisions as they progress through resolution and healing.

The UVA maintains communication and contact with victims as needed for continued victim support.

If you need a SARC or UVA, call the Joint Base Balad sexual assault response coordinator at 443-7272 or contact the SARC via pager at 443-9001, pager 159 for help. Soldiers should seek assistance with their UVA or DSARC. Soldiers may also call 433-7272 or dial 443-9001, pager 122/135 for assistance.

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.

# CLEAN: Soldiers, Iraqis work hand in hand for responsible drawdown

## CLEAN FROM PAGE 1

the Soldiers used local military funds to buy gravel and landscaping tools, to accommodate the Iraqis who work hand in hand with the Soldiers.

"The funds that are being used are going right back in the Iraqi economy, which makes this all worthwhile," he said.

Bliven said the Iraqis are working to beautify the headquarters area and the area around the mayor cell. The project should last roughly a week and the command intent is making the work-

space well kept and appealing, he said.

Staff Sgt. Ricky Walls, the mayor cell supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 278th ACR and a Decherd, Tenn., native, said they plan to do this throughout the base.

"We are going around and picking up any items sitting around, such as old lumber and metal," he said. "We're cleaning and beautifying the area with the Iraqi workers and they are helping us with the landscaping."

The local nationals do basic labor, carpentry and masonry around the

base and pick up trash, said Walls. He praised their versatility and solid work ethic.

Bliven said roughly 12 to 15 workers were contracted out by a local company called FJAN.

Walls said there is a language barrier, but the manager speaks good English and interprets the Soldiers' orders to direct the workers.

"These guys are hard workers wanting to make a decent living and trying to improve their quality of life," he said.

Walls said a lot of work has been done since the 278th ACR arrived.

"Appearance means a lot to us, and we want to let everybody know we are proud of who we are and we take pride in what we do," he said.

Bliven said their primary motivation in this project is to give a better base back to the Iraqis and boost their economy through hiring local nationals to help with the work.

"We are using military funds and making this a better environment for the Iraqi people," he said.

# AWARD: officer to attend dual masters program

## AWARD FROM PAGE 1

continue his military education.

Steele will attend the Defense Comptroller Program at Syracuse University in New York, said Capt. Shaun McMurchie, the 13th ESC's deputy comptroller. The program is a 14-month, dual-masters program that provides a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Administration degree.

McMurchie, a Tigard, Ore., native, who will step up as the 13th's comptroller, said it was a pleasure to work

with Steele during the course of their deployment.

"We worked very close," he said. "He will be missed."

McMurchie said Steele's contribution to the 13th's mission saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

Steele terminated, transferred or closed recurring contracts, starting with 73 in August and trimming them down to 32 presently, saving more than \$27 million, said McMurchie.

McMurchie said Steele processed more than 500 purchase requests

and closed out a \$94 million budget for the 2009 fiscal year.

"He was a very competent, knowledgeable resource manager," he said.

Sgt. Shavokia Jamison, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the resource management office with the 13th ESC and a Philadelphia native, said Steele was a good officer to work for.

"It was great," she said. "He was always coaching, mentoring and training his peers and subordinates alike."

Before Steele left Iraq, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, presented him with a Bronze Star Medal for all his hard work and dedication.

Wentz said Steele was an asset to the command and a great player to have on his staff.

"There are some people out there that can hit the ball far, and those are the people you want on your team," he said. "Brian Steele is one of those people."



# Rawhide Soldiers inducted into Noncommissioned Officer Corps

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Sixty-seven Task Force Rawhide Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a ceremony March 29 at Memorial Hall at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The ceremony brought sergeants together to take part in a time-honored Army tradition.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Joseph, senior enlisted adviser with the 13th ESC and a Lake Charles, La., native, was the guest speaker for the event. During his speech, Joseph spoke about the Army's standards and the significance of the sergeant's role in enforcing those standards.

"NCOs are responsible for setting ... and maintaining high-quality standards and discipline," he said. "They are the standards bearer."

Joseph quoted Frederick Von Steuben, major general of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, about the NCO Corps.

"(He) called the NCO Corps the backbone of the Army, and his regulations established the centerpiece for NCO duties and responsibilities from 1778 to the present," he said.

Joseph said he had three pieces of advice to give to new NCOs: learn the NCO Creed, the NCO Charge and A Soldier's Request.

"I think those three articles (represent) the embodiment of how we should carry ourselves at all times," he said. "For a new sergeant, there may be



A Soldier with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) reads A Soldier's Request to new inductees during a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony March 29 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

struggles, but if they just know what that means ... what it means to them, and live by it, they will be effective leaders."

Sgt. Christian Kura, a 36th Sust. Bde. prescribed load list NCO who works in the motor pool and Austin, Texas, native, said the ceremony exhibited the traditions and strength of the NCO Corps and its ability to accept new people. Kura said he has been a sergeant for more than 10 years and this was his first opportunity to take part in an NCO induction ceremony.

Kura said loyalty was important to him as an NCO and when mentoring other Soldiers, he works to provide

guidance and a good example by teaching them the values of the NCO Corps.

Sgt. Ashley Winchester, a health care specialist with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Wilmington, Ohio, native, said the ceremony was amazing. Winchester was promoted less than 24 hours earlier.

"They did a really good job putting it all together, especially in a combat zone," she said. "I was really surprised."

With nine years of service, Winchester said she was blessed to be with the 36th Sust. Bde., and that there are a lot of good leaders there to learn from.

"I am a new NCO and it's still a learn-

ing process," she said. "I'm blessed to have a lot of good people to look up to as a professional. There is a whole difference in the way I need to carry myself."

In his closing remarks, Joseph told the new inductees that, as they cross over and join the NCO Corps, they serve as the future of the military and their great nation.

"As you move forward, remember to take pride in your uniform, never speak negatively about the Army and set the example for your Soldiers to follow at all times," he said. "The bottom line is be the standard, know the standard, enforce the standard."

# Service members battle sexual assault during 5K

BY SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The month of April offers service members a chance to recognize and combat sexual assault, by raising awareness and understanding to support victims and prevent future assaults.



On April 9, more than 800 service members participated in the Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5K run at Holt Stadium, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie M. Mitchell, the equal opportunity adviser and deployed sexual assault response coordinator with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said she and the committee put together the event.

“This was just one of many events for this month,” said Mitchell, a Sylva, Ga., native.

A luncheon, a senior leaders’ conference and movies every Friday at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at 7 p.m. are all part of the observance as well, said Master Sgt. Charlotte S. Harvey, the career counselor with the 13th ESC out of Fort Hood, Texas.



Courtesy photo

Service members congregate before lining up at the starting line of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5K run April 9 at Holt Stadium at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

She said the observance is crucial to a military-wide awareness of sexual assault.

“We are standing together against sexual assault,” said Harvey, a Clarksville, Tenn., native, “to educate everyone on sexual assault and (teach them) that no means no.”

She said she wanted those who have been sexually assaulted to know they

are not alone, that someone cares for them and will stand with them against this important issue.

Mitchell said she was pleased with the turnout at the run.

“It reinforces the message we are sending about eliminating sexual assault,” she said.

Harvey said the Department of Defense looks for trends so it can devel-

op a course of action to reduce sexual assaults.

She said she was happy to help with the run.

“Although I didn’t run, I enjoyed volunteering and supporting the event,” said Harvey. “(It) was very successful. There (were) over 800 runners that supported the SAAM run.”

# Quartermaster mechanics assemble container stacker

BY 1ST LT. HERBERT KARG  
15TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 716th Quartermaster Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) received and assembled a container mover at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The vehicle, which aids the 716th QM Co. in the JBB Amnesty Yard,

was built by the Soldiers on four Sunday afternoons from February through March.

Spcs. Steven Miller, a Bellmar, N.J., native, Michael Sanchez, a Jersey City, N.J., native, and Christian Lebron, a Pasaic, N.J., native, all mechanics with the 716th, did most of the leg work for the assembly.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Potenzzone, the Amnesty Yard officer in charge with the 716th and a Belleville, N.J., native, said the container mover was a challenge to assemble.

“We didn’t have any instructions to

tell us what went where,” he said. “We basically went off what other, similar pieces of equipment looked like and also used Google to find instructions.”

Their first attempt at assembling the unit was unsuccessful, said Potenzzone.

“We had the pistons inverted,” he said. “We had the pistons in place and the boom attached when we realized that the hydraulic hoses didn’t quite reach to the other end.”

The mishap cost the team a few hours.

“It was difficult to build at first,” Lebron said. “On a scale of 1 to 10, it was a

9. But now, after putting one together, it will be much easier and take less time if we have to do it again.”

Lebron said he contributed mostly to the hoses, cosmetics and electrical components.

“Sanchez and Miller did most of the heavy stuff and I assisted,” he said. “We used the ... forklifts to hold the bigger items steady while they put the pins in place.”

Even though it was hard work, Lebron said he had fun putting it together.

“I hope we can build another one,” he said.

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

# Joint Base Balad hosts open mic night

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers, Airmen and civilians showed off their musical abilities in an open mic night April 12 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for a chance to introduce hip-hop artist Twista before his concert April 15.

Thirteen acts graced the stage, including a country singer and songwriter, a rhythm and blues band, a cappella singers and hip-hop artists and groups.

“It looked like everyone put a lot of work into their acts,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Charlesworth, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and leader of the hip-hop group Rob C and the Boys, that won the competition.

Charlesworth and his team performed a cover of Beastie Boys’ “Paul Revere.” He said they rehearsed for three days and were happy with how they performed.

“We just wanted to lay down a dope rhyme and entertain folks, so we kicked it old school,” said Charlesworth, a Delta, Colo., native.

Rob C and the Boys were an instant hit with the crowd and the competition.

“I was rooting for them myself,” said competitor Pfc. Miguel Marrero, a tech support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Brooklyn, N.Y., native.

Marrero said he has been rapping for



Hip hop group Rob C and the Boys perform a cover of Beastie Boys’ “Paul Revere” at the open-mic contest April 12 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The group won first place and will get to introduce rapper Twista at his concert April 15.

12 years, but was disappointed with his performance.

“I thought I could have done better,” he said.

Marrero was the only Soldier to represent the 13th ESC in the contest and said he would like to see more participation from his fellow service members in the future.

“They need to get out a little more and show off their talent,” he said.

Though he did not win, Marrero said he had fun and was happy with the outcome of the show.

In the end, the crowd picked their favorites in a near-unanimous decision.

“I feel good, and we get to introduce Twista,” said Charlesworth.

He said the group was proud to win the contest, but in the end, they just wanted to help the crowd have a good time.

“The crowd was great, and they were having fun,” he said.

Charlesworth and the Boys will introduce rapper Twista April 15 at JBB’s Sustainer Theater.

# Transportation company hauls heavy equipment back to base

BY SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – On April 6, a convoy of trucks with the 2025th Transportation Company traveled north from Contingency Operating Base

Speicher, Iraq, to Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, where they loaded their Heavy Equipment Transporter systems with Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, Palletized Loading Systems and other heavy equipment, and headed back.

The HET drivers with the 2025th Trans. Co. out of Jacksonville, Ala., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade,

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) transported the heavy equipment from Marez to Speicher in support of the United States’ responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq.

When drivers arrive at their destination, their job has often just begun, said Staff Sgt. Michael J. Roberson, the convoy commander with the 2025th Trans. Co. and a Talladega, Ala., native.

“We have to make contact with the (Movement Control Team) office, get the proper paperwork and go load the proper equipment, whether it takes an hour or five hours,” he said. “(It’s) very tiring to be a HET truck driver.”

As a convoy commander, Roberson must track all of his Soldiers and their equipment throughout the entire trip.

“I can’t begin to tell you how much

equipment we’ve hauled,” he said.

To reduce complacency, Roberson said he and his troops constantly communicate over the radios during missions.

“They get tired of me saying it, but I drill it into their head every day about complacency,” he said. “We talk about it over the radio; we talk about it in our after action review; we talk about it in the safety brief before we leave.”

At home, the unit trained with light-wheeled vehicles, said Sgt. Marcus Green, a truck driver with the 2025th Trans. Co. and a Point Clear, Ala., native. Before they deployed, they were trained to operate the HET systems.

“I like driving the HET a lot better,” he said.

Green said there are considerable difference between driving 5 ton trucks and HET systems.

“They’re both pretty big vehicles,

but the HET sits up higher and out wider,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Randy Govan, a platoon sergeant with the 2025th and a Clio, Ala., native, said driving the HET can be fun.

“Being a HET truck driver is a lot different than a regular 18-wheeler,” he said. “You can move it around quicker ... (it’s) a really fun truck to drive.”

Although maintenance can be difficult, the vehicle is durable, said Govan.

“It can pull just about anything you put behind it,” he said.

Thus far, Roberson said the convoys have gone well.

“It’s exciting,” he said. “It’s tiring but exciting. I enjoy the camaraderie with all the guys and females. You see something new (every day) and I’ve learned to expect the unexpected every time we leave the wire.”

# Wagonmaster Soldiers deliver toys, school supplies to children

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

JEDELLAH SOFLA, Iraq – Soldiers with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) brought soccer balls, jump ropes, sports drinks, stuffed animals, notebooks, and other toys and school supplies to children at Jedellah Sofla, Iraq, April 12.

The Fort Hood, Texas, logistics unit operates primarily out of nearby Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq, and regularly visits the village to bring supplies and gifts to the people, especially the children, as a gesture of goodwill.

Spc. Jeff Stewart, an all source intelligence analyst with the 15th Sust. Bde. and a Schaumburg, Ill., native, said the trip was a rare chance to leave the office and mingle with his Iraqi neighbors. Stewart said the Soldiers do not often get to see how their jobs affect the Iraqi people.

“A lot of people in a unit like this might not feel like they help the Iraqis,” he said. “Every Soldier should do what we did, even if only for 10 minutes. Just giving a binder to a little girl and seeing her smile – it makes the whole deployment worthwhile.”

Stewart expressed his hope that the Iraqi children would remember the American Soldiers’ visits and gifts positively. He said he believed he made a difference in the lives of the local children.

Master Sgt. Celia Feller, the brigade’s day-shift battle noncommissioned offi-



Capt. Carrie Ward, a trial counselor with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Platte City, Mo., native, passes out gifts to children during a visit to a school April 12 in Jedellah Sofla, Iraq.

cer in charge and a Farmington, N.M., native, said this was her second trip to visit the children of Jedellah Sofla. She said it reminded her of how fortunate Americans are to have the opportunities that they do.

“It’s a rare opportunity as well as an

eye opener,” she said.

Feller, like Stewart, said her job rarely allows her to leave the base to see how the average Iraqi lives. She said she enjoyed the chance to help people. This and other experiences in Iraq can help service members grow, especially

exposure to different cultures, she said.

“I think it’s awesome we’re able to provide them school supplies and things that will help them along the way, and maybe put a smile on their face,” Feller said. “I’m glad that our command supports the foundation of the future.”

**Telling the Providers Story from all across Iraq**



## Tune In To

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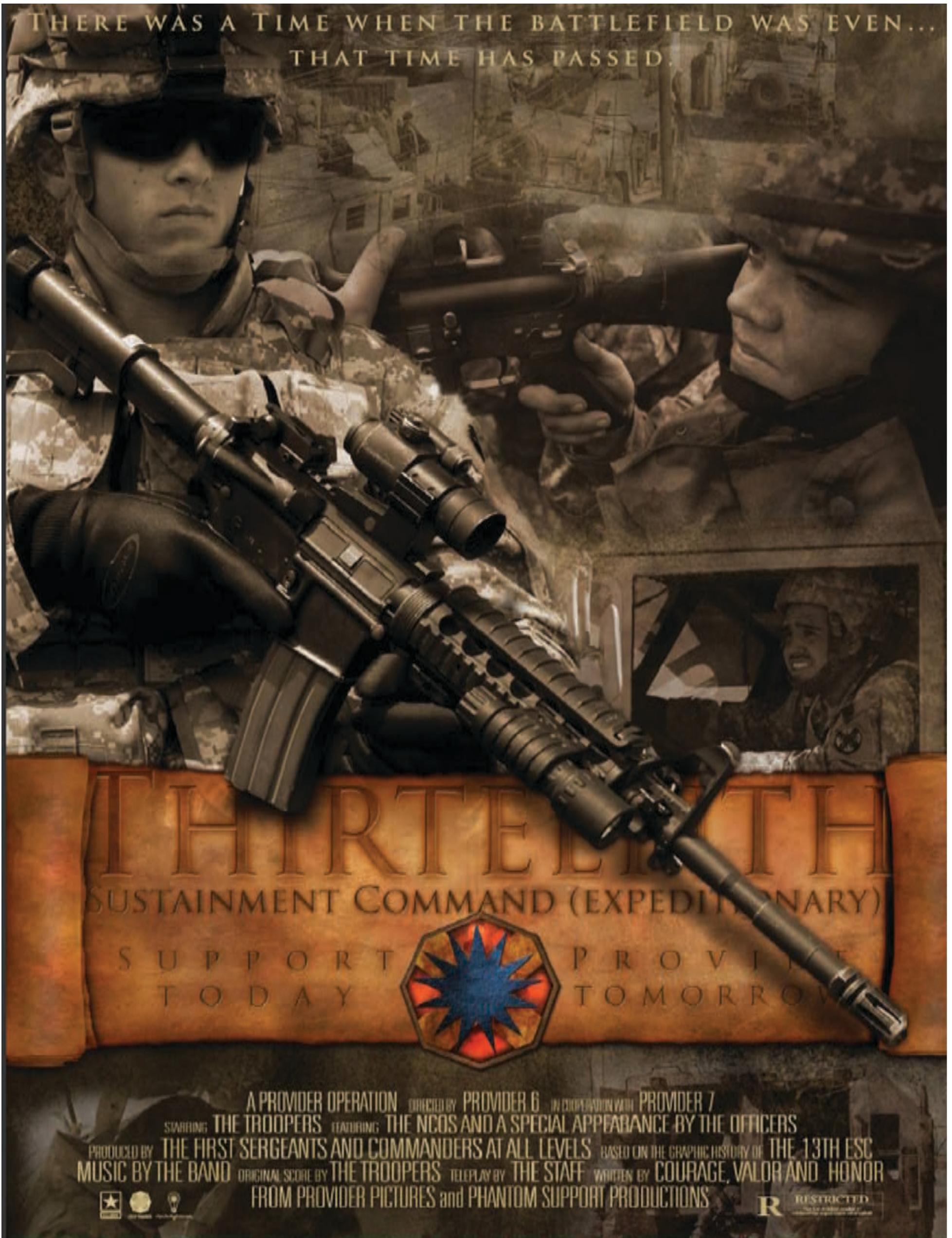
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# Medic: Hemorrhage greatest risk to service members

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Every week, the 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosts a combat lifesaver course at its headquarters building.

The unit's goal is to have every one of its members CLS qualified, to ensure they are all combat ready and prepared to react to any situation.

Staff Sgt. Lennis O. Gray, the senior medic with D troop, 1st Squadron, 278th ACR and the senior instructor for the CLS course, said he believes the course is vital to his units' mission readiness.

Gray, a Savannah, Tenn., native, said the CLS course teaches essential life-saving skills such as hemorrhage control, and how to use a nasopharyngeal airway, apply an occlusive dressing and perform a needle chest decompression.

All aspects of the training are important, said Gray, but he put one skill above all others.

"The biggest thing I emphasize is hemorrhage control," he said. "(Left

unattended), that has shown to be the biggest percentage of people that died needlessly on the battlefield."

First Lt. Shannon A. O'Reilly, the platoon leader with H Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th ACR and a Radford, Va., native, completed the CLS course April 12.

O'Reilly said he is confident that every member of his team now knows how to respond in an emergency situation.

"It is important because it helps maintain combat power ... and it prevents loss of life," he said. "I recommend that every Soldier have this course, so that they can help their fellow Soldier out."

Pfc. Bruce Hill, a combat medic with G Troop and an instructor with the CLS course, said his main goal is to ensure that Soldiers are able to apply the skills they learn in the classroom practically.

"My goal ... is that they meet the standard and can apply the techniques that we show them in a real life situation," he said.

Hill, a Sparta, Tenn., native, said he agreed with Gray, that blood loss is the biggest threat to an injured person on the battlefield.

"The most important skill that they learn is hemorrhage control, putting a



First Lt. Shannon A. O'Reilly, the platoon leader with H Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Radford, Va., native, removes a nasopharyngeal airway from classmate Staff Sgt. Terry A. Marler, a driver with H Troop, 2/278th ACR and a Chattanooga, Tenn., native, during the combat lifesaver course April 12 at the 278th ACR headquarters building at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

tourniquet on," he said.

Hill said he has confidence in his students and tries to prepare them for anything.

"I feel that they are prepared," he said. "I believe you cannot ever be completely prepared, but (they) will be ready."

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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# Soldiers, contractors provide logistical support in International Zone

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION PROSPERITY, Iraq – The Forward Logistics Element at Contingency Operating Location Prosperity, Iraq, which is composed of Soldiers from five units under the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., as well as civilian contractors, provides logistical support to bases and units in the International Zone near Baghdad.

The FLE receives and processes cargo from Victory Base Complex, Iraq, to send to bases in the International Zone, often called the green zone, said Sgt. 1st Class Lance Sibal, the assistant noncommissioned officer in charge of the FLE with the 1st Maintenance Company, 260th CSSB, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“The Forward Logistics Element is basically the hub of logistics here in ... International Zone, Prosperity,” he said. “That covers all of the Green Zone in (the) southern-central Baghdad area.”

The FLE can process any type of cargo that is needed to support units and personnel in the area, said Sibal, a Sterling, Colo., native. Materials are pushed out through the FLE’s cargo yard or its supply support activity area, he said.

Every day Soldiers coordinate cargo movements with designated points of contact, including U.S. or Iraqi military, civilian, embassy personnel, contractors and even Army Air Force Exchange Services, said Staff Sgt. Richard Clayton, the noncommis-



A forklift moves a pallet at the Forward Logistics Element’s storage yard April 8 at Contingency Operating Location Prosperity, Iraq. The FLE is operated by five units under the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and provides logistical support to personnel in the International Zone near Baghdad.

sioned officer in charge of distribution at the FLE with the 812th Quartermaster Company, 260th CSSB.

“We’ll coordinate with them and tell them when (their) equipment is going out or when (their) equipment is coming in,” he said.

Soldiers, Iraqis and civilian contractors at the yards process the inbound and outbound convoys that

come through the FLE, to ensure each one has the proper equipment on hand to load and unload the cargo and maintain the timeliness of operations and convoy movements, said Clayton, a Los Fresnos, Texas, native.

The cargo delivered – food, fuel and water most commonly – helps to support sustainment operations at Prosperity and within the Interna-

tional Zone, he said.

Clayton said the FLE also provides maintenance to any convoy vehicles that pass through in need of repair.

“Anybody who walks through the door, regardless if they’re wearing my uniform ... we’re going to do our best job,” he said. “Here at the FLE, we pride ourselves in telling people ‘Yes, we can do it.’”

## Support unit to change command

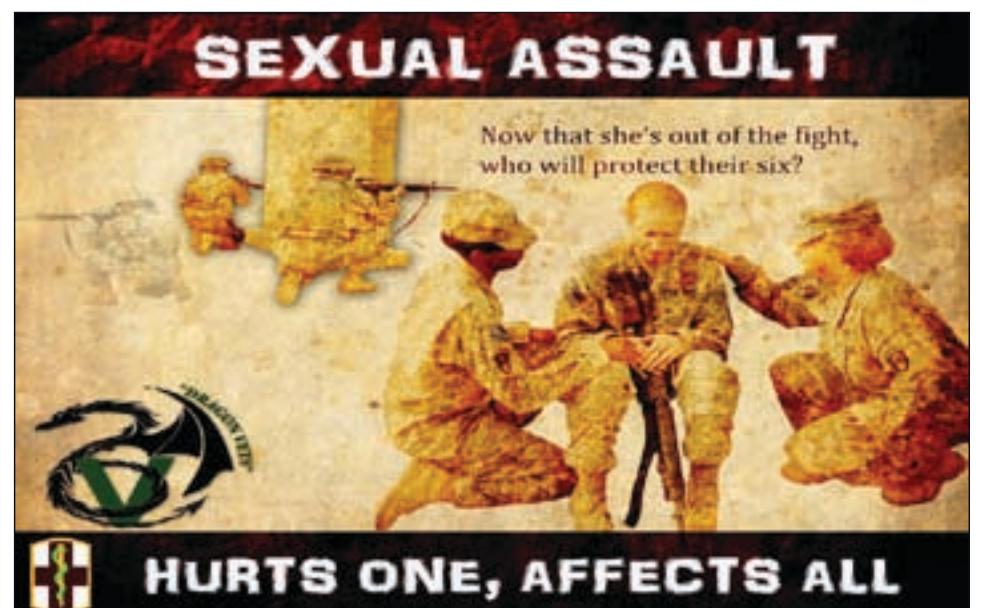
BY GAYLAND PUTNAM  
402ND AFSB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade will hold a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. April 21 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Col. Brian R. Haebig, commander of the 402nd AFSB and an Oshkosh,

Wis., native, will relinquish command to Col. Larry Fuller, a Jackson, Ala., native, who arrived from the Pentagon where he served as chief of the Contingency Operations Division Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, Army Logistics. Haebig’s next posting will be as the I Corps logistics officer at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Wash.

The 402nd AFSB is a subordinate unit of the Army Sustainment Command out of Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.



# Tiger brigade accepts base defense operations mission

BY SGT. TRESA L. ALLEMANG  
256TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – The Louisiana Army National Guard's Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion arrived in Iraq and formally assumed its role as the Base Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex, during a March 29 ceremony at Camp Victory, Iraq.

The newly formed BDOC, commanded by Lt. Col. Stuart N. Burruss, a Carville, La., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Sandel, a Deridder, La., native, uncased its colors during the ceremony, to symbolize the transfer of authority from Oregon's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to the Special Troops Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC.

The Plaquemine, La., unit's new mission of ensuring security within Victory Base Complex during the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces has not been an easy task to date, said Col. Eric C. Bush, commander of the 41st IBCT BDOC and a Prineville, Ore., native.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Christopher R. Averett

**The Louisiana National Guard's Special Troops Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) uncases its colors as it assumes the role of Base Defense Operations Center from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during a transfer of authority ceremony March 29 at Camp Victory, Iraq.**

"VBC is not like a typical military base," he said. "With a complex that covers 35 square miles, 26 miles of perimeter wall and thousands of residents, comprised almost equally of mil-

itary personnel and civilians, this base has all the trappings and complexities of running a mid-sized city."

Mobilized Jan. 5, the 256th IBCT spent roughly two months at Camp

Shelby, Miss., conducting pre-deployment training to prepare for its new mission. Upon arrival at their duty station, the 256th Soldiers worked alongside members of the 41st to prepare for the transition into their new role.

Between the training received at Camp Shelby and the training with their counterparts at Victory, Sandel said his troops are trained, motivated and have high morale.

"The incoming BDOC (Soldiers are) ready to take on the mission," he said.

Burruss praised the 41st's accomplishments as well.

"There is no doubt that we have some big shoes to fill," he said. "We look forward to working with our Iraqi partners and other forces as we defend the Victory Base Complex from possible hostile threats."

Bush thanked his partners, including the Iraqi Special Forces, and noted the teamwork it takes to secure such a complex area.

"Together we have created an environment where the warrior, regardless of what uniform he wears, can come in from the heat, the cold and the danger," Bush said. "He can refit, practice and rest. ... He can lay his head down and know he is safe."

# Providers operate largest material recovery team site in Iraq

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

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Mobile redistribution teams are spread throughout Iraq, able to move to any base to process retrograde materials for redistribution into the Army supply system.

However, Material Redistribution Team 3 stays at a fixed location at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, where units bring containers filled with cargo, said 1st Lt. Guadalupe Solano, the officer in charge of MRT 3 with the 812th Quartermaster Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

MRT 3 is the largest of the 18 teams throughout Iraq, and is responsible for the United States Division – Central area and the outlying forward operating bases around it, said Solano, a McAllen, Texas, native.

"Our mission here is to receive, identify and segregate excess serviceable and unserviceable materials from units leaving the theater of operations," said Solano. "This is to assist them in focusing on higher priority missions."

MRT 3 has recovered roughly \$24 million worth of serviceable equipment within the six months it has operated, said Solano. The 812th QM Co. out of Harlingen, Texas, has managed the site since December, when it replaced an Air Force logistics readiness squadron.

MRT 3 is spearheading Operation Clean Sweep to support the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq, said Solano. The MRT's mission also supports the redistribution of needed supplies in support of operations in Afghanistan, he said.

Roughly 80 percent of the items processed by MRT 3 are transported to Kuwait to be redistributed, said Solano. The remainders of the items are sent to a local supply support activity or to units that requested them, he said.

The MRT processes roughly 15, 20-

foot containers a day, operating in 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, said Sgt. Juan Degollado, the container manager at the MRT 3 site with the 812th QM Co.

The speed of cargo processing can depend on the type of cargo in the container, said Degollado, a Brownsville, Texas, native, but the average time for processing a single 20-foot container is around an hour and a half to two hours.

"We might get some (containers) half full ... and we might get some packed," he said.

Solano said his Soldiers and the Soldiers assigned from units within the 260th CSSB are dedicated to accomplishing the



**Spc. Mario Perez, a Material Recovery Team 3 supply specialist with the 812th Quartermaster Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a McAllen, Texas, native, and Spc. Travis Fowler, a MRT 3 supply specialist with the 296th Transportation Company, 260th CSSB, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Charles Rest, S.C., native, process cargo in tri-wall containers at the MRT 3 site April 6 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.**

MRT's mission and daily objectives.

The amount of retrograde cargo is expected to increase as bases close and units redeploy, said Degollado.

# Connecticut Soldiers finish yearlong tour

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

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq** – The 395th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) cased its colors during a ceremony April 7 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, signifying the end of the unit's year-long deployment to Iraq.

The New Haven, Conn., based Reserve logistics unit is not scheduled to be replaced, as part of the Army's ongoing effort to reduce its presence in Iraq. Companies under the battalion that have not yet completed their tour will now fall under the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde.

According to the unit's records, the 395th supported more than 40,000 personnel, completed 2,240 convoy missions, drove more than 1 million miles, moved 5 million tons of supplies, oversaw 35 million gallons of fuel, 4 million cases of food and bottled water, managed an ammunition supply point with more than 300,000 pounds of net explosive weight and kept 90 percent of 1,200 vehicles ready at all times.

"(Soldiers with the) 395th, your accomplishments speak for themselves through the flawless execution of the mission (you) were tasked with," said Lt. Col. Dennis E. Dockery, commander of the 395th and a New Haven, Conn., native.

"Less than 1 percent of our population hangs up a uniform next to their suits

and polo shirts," he said. "You are just as rare as a professional athlete."

Dockery spoke of individual Soldiers' accomplishments, praising many of them by name, and at the end of his speech, the Soldiers in attendance gave their commander an impromptu standing ovation.

After casing the unit's colors, Dockery and members of the battalion and brigade command teams awarded medals to the Soldiers, which included Bronze Stars, Army Commendation Medals and Army Achievement Medals.

Four Soldiers were awarded the Combat Action Badge, an award reserved for those who directly engage or are engaged by the enemy.

Col. Larry Phelps, the 15th Sust. Bde. commander and a Greenville, Ala., native, called up Soldiers previously identified by the battalion's senior noncommissioned officer to receive the 15th Sust. Bde. coin. Phelps said the coin was difficult to earn and he wished he could give one to every 395th Soldier.

"Awards are won on the backs of those you work with, those you work for and those who work for you," he said.

Afterward, Phelps told the attendees about one of his favorite historical Soldiers, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlin, who fought during the civil war and was famous for a battle in which he received gunshot wounds while refusing to allow the national colors to go down, rallying his comrades to victory.

Phelps also encouraged the Soldiers to take it slow when they returned home. He stressed that deployments change both deployed service members and their families. Phelps encouraged them not to attempt to quickly change everything upon their return.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Carla Castillo

**Lt. Col. Dennis E. Dockery (left), commander of the 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New Haven, Conn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, the unit's senior noncommissioned officer and a New Haven, Conn., native, stand in front of their unit's cased colors during a ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent April 7 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.**

# Louisiana unit falls in on escort mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
2ND LT. ANGELA K. FRY  
256TH IBCB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq** – In the absence of fire/counter-fire missions, Louisiana National Guard Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery were tasked with a new mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

With the mission of assisting in the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. troops and equipment, the Soldiers provide convoy escort teams along routes throughout Iraq.

"This is my second mission on a CET," said Spc. Patrick Rigney, a driver with the 1/141st FA Bn., 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and

a New Orleans native. "We provide security for civilian contractors that are hauling supplies for our troops."

Rigney and the rest of the battalion spent two months at Camp Shelby, Miss., learning the basics of transportation and security for their new mission prior to deployment.

"The training at Shelby put us in the right mindset, but you can't get that experience until you actually operate the (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles)," he said.

The MRAPs were designed to help service members survive improvised explosive device attacks.



**Capt. Page Brooks, a chaplain with the Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New Orleans native, speaks to convoy escort teams during a convoy brief at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.**

"I am very cautious as a driver," Rigney said. "I'm in the rear truck, so it's a little nerve-racking as vehicles come from behind."

Sgt. Gerard LaBorde, a vehicle commander with the 1-141 FA Bn. and a Destrehan, La., native, echoed his fellow Soldier's concerns regarding safety, despite a seemingly peaceful Iraq.

"My last deployment with the 1/141, I only left the FOB a couple of times," he said. "I feel this mission could be more dangerous as we are constantly leaving the base."

Both Soldiers expressed pride in their association with the unit.

"The 1/141 is the oldest artillery unit in the Guard," Rigney said.

As both Soldiers prepared for their evening convoy, they completed their pre-combat checks and to ensure all gear was functional and up to unit standards.

"We've taken over for another unit," LaBorde said. "We have to learn their routes and the new equipment. It's important to be fully prepared for each mission."

# Transportation Soldiers celebrate maintenance support

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. REGINALD DAVIS  
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE  
SPEICHER, Iraq – The  
maintenance sections of  
the 1083rd Transporta-  
tion Company and the  
2025th Transporta-  
tion Company, both  
with the 264th Com-  
bat Sustainment Support Battalion,

15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and representatives from KBR, Inc. commemorated their maintenance efforts during a ceremony March 22 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

The ceremony was hosted by Lt. Col. S. Shane DeBusk, an Elkton, Md., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Melvin Rutledge, a Bronx, N.Y., native, the 264th CSSB's commander and senior noncommissioned officer, respectively.

The maintenance teams worked



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Pendley, a maintenance officer assigned to the 2025th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Jasper, Ala., native, receives a battalion coin from Lt. Col. Steven Debusk, the 264th CSSB commander and an Elkton, Md., native, for outstanding service to the company and the battalion.

together to ensure that the primary ground transportation mover, the Heavy Equipment Transporter system, remained up and running in order to support the responsible draw-

down operations in Iraq.

Keeping with the military tradition of presenting coins for a job well done, battalion coins were presented to four Soldiers with the 1083rd Trans. Co.

and four Soldiers with the 2025th Trans. Co.

After the awards ceremony, DeBusk thanked each Soldier from both maintenance sections and each member of the civilian support teams for all of their hard work during the 10 months the 1083rd and 2025th have been in country.

“With your attention to detail and distinct skills, you have made the battalion’s ability to do business that much better,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Stockton, the maintenance motor sergeant with the 1083rd Trans. Co. and an Anacoco, La., native, said keeping the trucks going is hard, but important, work.

“Our guys are doing an excellent job,” he said. “Without regular maintenance, the HET systems would have more issues while on the road. We work 80 hours a week with rotating shifts, and the major thing I wanted to instill in the platoon was to not let a HET system become dead-lined on the side of the road. The only thing that can prevent that is proper maintenance at all levels.”



## Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program




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# Force protection uniform postures

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

# Louisiana Guard unit to continue peace mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
2ND LT. ANGELA FRY  
256TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq – With the number of U.S. troops gradually dropping in Iraq, Louisiana National Guardsmen with 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Shreveport, La., met with the shaykh of a local Iraqi village March 31 to ensure the prospect of continued peaceful relations.

The squadron formally accepted a civil-military operations mission from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment out of Springfield, Ore., that same day.

Leaders from both units met with Shaykh Qafeel Ajeel Falquos Al Najeam to discuss continuing humanitarian missions with the village of Ageal upon the departure of the 2/162nd.

"We are living in a time of freedom," said Al Najeam. "The old regime was harsh, so my village was happy with the outcome of the election and the prospects for the future. I was surprised about all the people going to the elections and how interested they are in what is happening today."

The 2/162nd, with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Tigard, Ore., 13th ESC, provided supplies to village schools and partnered with the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion to deliver a water purification system during its 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Maj. Shawn McGann, the battalion's executive officer and a Springfield, Ore., native.

"It is important to be aware of neighborhood issues and to meet local key leaders," said McGann, who is a



Shaykh Qafeel Ajeel Falquos Al Najeam meets with Lt. Col. William Edwards, commander of the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Albany, Ore., native, and Lt. Col. William Rachal, commander of the Louisiana National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC and a Breaux Bridge, La., native, to discuss a civil-military operations mission for the village of Ageal through a military interpreter. The cavalry squadron will assume the mission from the 2/162nd during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

police officer as a civilian. "It's almost like a police beat. You know the community's problems, and maybe we help them build a fence, which assists in lowering the crime rate. Then the Iraqi people are more willing to help us."

"It's great that the squadron wants to carry on the mission, especially those who have never deployed."

Lt. Col. William Rachal, squadron commander for the 2/108th and a Breaux Bridge, La., native, assured the shaykh that his unit would continue working with the local community in the wake of the Oregon unit's departure.

"We will definitely continue to be involved with the mission," Rachal said. "Our concern is the safety and stability of the Iraqi people and assisting in the education of their youth."

Capt. James Collins, the squadron's chaplain and a Norman, Okla., native, has been assigned to oversee the unit's CMO missions. He said simple respect takes priority in any mission his unit conducts.

"You can't go wrong if you follow the golden rule," he said. "You have to treat people the way you want to be treated. As this country becomes

stronger, the majority of what we will continue to do is humanitarian relief and this is a great place to start."

Capt. Stan Westmoreland, commander of B Troop, 2/108th and a Shreveport, La., native, said he intends to visit the village at least once a month, to provide the Iraqi people with any assistance they may need.

"These missions are part of the responsible drawdown of troops," Westmoreland said. "We still have an interest in the well-being of the Iraqi people. Being involved with them gives my troops an opportunity to put a face with the mission."

## SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

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

# Providers help Soldiers gain experience behind wheel

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

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Soldiers are trained in the fundamentals of their mission prior to deployment, but some units perform missions in Iraq they would not traditionally conduct.

Units under the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., conducted classes to provide a driving refresher and allow Soldiers more time behind the wheel at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

Units often have Soldiers who need additional training on vehicles they are unfamiliar with, said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hannah, the senior lane instructor for the drivers training program with the 296th Transportation Company, 260th CSSB, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

After students complete the classroom portion of the course, they participate in a detailed hands-on training, said Hannah, a Jacksonville, Fla., native.

The one-day course is intended to teach Soldiers about the operation and basic maintenance of the Heavy Equipment Transporter system, he said.

They also cover uploading and downloading operations and the capabilities of the HET. Soldiers learn proper procedures for repairing flat tires, and managing vehicle isolation or attacks, said Hannah. The course simulates possible events the Soldier could encounter on missions, he said.

“(We teach them) anything dealing with the HET and helping the Soldier to do it at a level of excellence and speed so that it will not interfere with convoy operations when they go outside the wire,” said Hannah.

With the assistance of part-time instructors from units with the 260th CSSB, the course has trained roughly 30 students a week since early October 2009, said Hannah. Sometimes, Soldiers take the class more than once for familiarization, he said.

Hannah said he started the class with two pylon cones and a bicycle. As the training evolved, so did the course. It is modified daily to reflect the varying entry check points from base to base, he said.

“It offers knowledge and wisdom they may have already received (or) may have forgotten,” he said. “Here we teach the book as well as the combat level at a safe pace.”

The HET is one of many systems the Army uses to complete its transportation mission, said Spc. Michael Dornbusch, a driver’s training course student with the 445th Trans. Co. and



Sgt. Juan Canet, the company master driver with the 695th Maintenance Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Oceanside, Calif., native, ground guides a Heavy Equipment Transporter system through a tight turn on the HET driving lanes April 6 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

a Tripoli, Iowa, native. Dornbusch said he was originally trained to drive a palletized loading system, which is smaller and lacks the hauling ability of the HET. He said he understands the importance of diverse knowledge of Army vehicles.

“(I) have a wider spectrum of knowledge on all vehicles, not just one or two,” said Dornbusch. “Know-

ing everything the Army has, at least a little bit, I can pass that knowledge on to future Soldiers.”

The course allows Soldiers to better themselves and improve their skills on the road, said Hannah. It is critical for mission readiness to maintain these skills and continue to train, even in a deployed environment, he said.

# Air Force weather personnel keep Army flying

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF LOWRY  
TASK FORCE 38 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Task Force 38, United States Forces – Iraq’s combat aviation brigade, receives its weather predictions from four Airmen in the unit’s staff weather office to ensure safe operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Their job is important because pilots are bound by certain regulations – ceilings and visibility – in order to legally fly,” said Indiana National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 5 Larry Anderson, the unit’s standardization officer, an instructor pilot and an Indianapolis native.

The task force’s SWO determines what those ceiling and visibility limits are in relation to the weather.

The four-person team works in the brigade’s tactical operations center and monitors the weather. It keeps pilots and leaders abreast of weather conditions and notifies them if those

conditions change from mission to mission.

“Overall, they get the job done and it’s great to have them close by in the TOC, especially for the high-profile missions,” said Anderson.

Having the SWO nearby is imperative to mission success, said Anderson, due to the changing weather patterns in the desert environment.

“If there’s a minor change, in wind direction or velocity, which can just seemingly come out of the blue, that can restrict visibility to nothing,” he said. “It’s a lot harder to predict the weather here because of the added factors of dust and sand. That makes a forecaster’s job much harder, and they still do a good a job.”

Air Force Capt. Vi Ly, the team’s officer in charge and a New York native, said desert weather is hard to predict, but other elements contribute to these difficulties.

“It’s a lot harder to forecast the weather here because there are fewer resources at our disposal,” said Ly. “So there’s less weather data to analyze.”

Tech Sgt. Mike Adcock, a TF 38

weather forecaster and a Belton, Mo., native, elaborated on the challenges.

“Iraqi weather can definitely pose some challenges – from morning fog, (to) thunderstorms, to dust storms,” he said. “To increase the challenge, forecasters are faced with limited data compared to stateside. Primitive radar, few land observations and even fewer upper-air observations keep us on the ball trying to make sure nothing surprises (flight) operations.”

Before deploying to Iraq in November, Adcock was stationed in Germany with the 21st Operational Weather Squadron. He noted similarities and differences between forecasting the weather there and here.

“The basics – fronts, high pressure, etc. – are very similar,” he said. “However, once you get down to the very small scale, the level impacting flights, things like dust or smoke, present unique challenges.”

Adcock said smoke, which does not obey the laws of meteorology, is usually caused by field fires, burn pits and factory pollution throughout Iraq.

“Trying to predict the time the

smoke will end is essentially like trying to read the minds of the folks who started the fire,” he said.

As the weather team overcomes these obstacles and executes the mission, the SWO members have become a part of the TF 38 team.

“During this deployment, it’s been really great working with the Army and learning our customer’s mission,” said Adcock. “The family-like atmosphere that I’ve encountered with Task Force 38 has really made this deployment a great experience in my military career.”

Air Force Tech Sgt. Estefpany Allen, the team’s noncommissioned officer in charge and a New York native, said the four Airmen on the team have become a cohesive and tight knit group.

“It’s a learning experience because of the ... individuals from different units and bases, so you gain their perspectives,” he said. “It’s been good. They all bring new things to the table – different Web sites and different software – to predict the weather. It just comes together and works well.”

# Career disruption stress: Part I



**"The Stress Doc"  
Mark Gorkin**

This week I was the keynote speaker at the 40-plus annual dinner ([www.40plusdc.org/](http://www.40plusdc.org/)), a volunteer-based, Washington career transition and support group.

In general, members are white collar types, such as federal employees, managers, information technology professionals, academics, even some entrepreneurs, who are "between jobs." With only 20 minutes of speaking time, my subject was definitely apt, both for the attendees and for me – letting go.

From a psycho-semantic perspective, letting go involves more than just physically dropping the rope.

## Consider these three psycho-social meanings/manifestations of letting go:

1. Emotional acceptance and exploration. Typically, emotional acceptance and exploration signify cognitive-emotional acceptance that a desired position or person, outcome or dream is not going to materialize or not going to play out as you had hoped. After a period of emotional catharsis, if not soul searching, sometimes encouraged by venting to a third party, other times facilitated by confronting an antagonist, one is prepared to consider a new line of thinking or a different course of action.

2. Personal Defeat and Defensive-ness. When we interpret having to let go as a personal diminishment or defeat, that is, not just a loss of position or property but also as a confounding or humiliating loss of identity, power and prestige, and personal security, then people will hold on. Some will cling even if holding on is now holding them back. Remember, harboring a feeling of injury or victimhood may not just leave a bitter taste in the mouth, it may lead to fulminations. An inability to let go often sets the stage for chronic anger and resentment transmuting into holier-than-thou self-righteousness.

3. Precursor to Losing Control. Finally, for people not comfortable with facing and sorting out strong emotions or for folks who have a low "out of control" threshold, there is a palpable fear about letting go and engaging with their vulnerability: Once the floodgates are open, you will be inundated by and may ultimately drown in those unstoppable, convulsing waves of emotion.

## Four Rs and six Fs: letters for letting go

The time was right to share the vital lesson of the four Rs: If no matter what you do or how hard you try results, rewards, recognition and/or relief are not forthcoming and you can't say no or won't let go, trouble awaits. The groundwork is being laid for apathy, callousness and despair.

That is, if you have invested so much time, money and ego in one right person or position, and you can't step back – not giving up in defeat, but letting go to introduce some novelty and gain a new perspective – then you are setting in motion the erosive spiral, my phrase for the burnout process. Remember, burnout is less a sign of failure and more that you gave yourself away.

During my preparation, I had decided on a Yin-Yang approach, opening with the poignant vital lesson of the four Rs, then presenting the six Fs for productively managing loss and change, before shifting into a more light-hearted gear.

The six Fs are psychosocial emotions, issues and tasks that challenge an individual to grapple with: a) the loss of the familiar, b) an uncertain future, c) a loss of face, d) regaining focus, especially focused aggression, e) getting good feedback and f) having faith that, if you do your headwork, heart work and homework, you will develop the cognitive-emotional muscles to withstand this transitional tempest, as well as to realize the opportunity in seemingly dangerous change and conflict.

E-mail [stressdoc@aol.com](mailto:stressdoc@aol.com) for an elaboration of the six Fs.

The audience resonated with these emotional tasks and touchstones, but it was reciting some poetic lines penned years ago regarding the connections between grief and growth and the natural and spiritual worlds that enveloped the hotel room in a poignant and pregnant shroud of meditative silence.

"Whether the loss is a key person, a desired position or a powerful illusion, each deserves the respect of a mourning. The pit in the stomach, the clenched fists and quivering jaw, the anguished sobs prove catalytic in time. In mystical fashion, like spring upon winter, the seeds of dissolution bear fruitful renewal."

## The old man and the M-word

Having covered the poignant, I envisioned the last third of the program stimulating the playful. In between came a letting go story that featured both pain and wordplay.

My dad had been a salesman employed 20 years by the same company in New York's fashion industry. OK, let's get real. He worked in the "Garment Center" selling the interlining for women's dresses for a large manufacturer and distributor.

It was a rough world, but as an aggressive type A New Yorker, he was doing pretty well. His loyal clientele gave him a freedom to operate fairly independently within the large company.

Seemingly, he had made peace with this rough trade.

However, over a period of several years, he had been denying an even tougher piece of reality: organized crime was increasingly taking over my father's place of work. Then one day reality punched him in the gut: he was told if he wanted to continue working for the company, he would have to report to Tommy D., and suddenly, my father was in a major existential-financial crisis.

I can vaguely recall my father lying on the couch, the tension written large on his face and body. I sometimes feared he might kill himself or even someone else. Fueling his sense of helplessness, my father was resisting his typical coping mechanism when under acute interpersonal duress: once feeling provoked, almost reflexively he would move into an aggressive, bordering on the physical, in your face confrontation with a perceived adversary.

Fortunately, discretion and survival instincts were the better part of financial angst, inflamed anger and wounded pride. He decided that a relationship with Tommy D. was even more frightening than walking away from a long-time job and paycheck.

Not only was he enraged but, having two kids to support, he was also scared. The anxiety pushed him to take a position at another large manufacturing company.

Very quickly, he felt stifled by the bureaucratic regimen and control. Two months later, he walked away from the security. Job independence and self-control were now the motivational drivers.

Despite the anxiety, now he really researched job options and finally decided to be the lone representative for "Eli," an older man who owned his own relatively small interlining warehouse. Eli was a Garment Center caricature; an Old World aggressive, suspicious and shrewd business owner.

The arguments between him and my father were legendary: each one feared being ripped off by the other. Eli came up to my father's chest, which was probably a good thing or I believe my

father might have followed through on his threats to "kill that SOB."

So, the price of freedom was the many battles with Eli. Not surprisingly, my father had a lot of unfinished anger issues with his often aloof immigrant father who, like Eli, was a short, stubborn, aggressive barrel-chested individual.

And both elder men were quick to challenge my father's loyalty. Though Eli often drove my father crazy, in my family, craziness we can deal with, the Mafia is another story.

Ultimately, Eli and my father did not kill or run each other off. In fact, my father scaled new financial heights those last dozen or so years in that position.

Finally, the moral of the story: Many of us have been through reorganization or worse – company downsizing. I especially dislike the demeaning label, "rightsizing."

But my father's crisis point called for new terminology – "frightsizing." Nonetheless, by truly grappling with the intense emotions, especially the sense of unfairness and his paralyzing rage, my father was able to walk away, twice.

He escaped the Mafia trap and then had the courage to listen to his gut. He let go of the safe job and took time to research carefully other possibilities. He eventually paved a new path.

Who knew my father was a devotee of French-Algerian Nobel Prize-winning author and philosopher, Albert Camus:

"Once we have accepted the fact of loss, we understand that the loved one obstructed a whole corner of the possible pure now as a sky washed by rain."

Surely, words to help one and all Practice Safe Stress.

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

# Sudoku

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

**Level: Hard**

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

Last week's answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What desert has an area larger than the continental U.S.?
2. What Spanish port city was founded by Carthaginian general Hamilcar Barca?
3. What western state answers Pamplona's Running of the Bulls with its own annual Running of the Sheep?
4. What island country is visited by the most cruise ships?
5. What capital has a name meaning "city of Islam?"

1. The Sahara 2. Barcelona 3. Montana 4. The Bahamas 5. Islamabad

## JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

### PROTESTANT

#### CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)  
1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

#### GENERAL

Sunday 0900 Freedom Chapel  
0900 Provider Chapel

#### GOSPEL

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

#### LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)

Sunday 1700 Provider Chapel

#### TRADITIONAL

Sunday 1030 Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel

#### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 1000 Provider Chapel

#### LATTER DAY SAINTS-(MORMON)

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

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
1100 Provider Chapel  
1230 Air Force Hospital Chapel  
Thursday 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel  
Wed, Fri 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
Saturday 2000 Freedom Chapel

Confessions: Sat 1600- 1645 (H6 Chapel) or by appointment

### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 1800 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

### PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 1900 Provider Annex  
Saturday 1900 The Bat Cave

### GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 0900 Provider Annex

### For Further Information Please Call:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703  
Provider Chapel: 483-4107  
Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

\*Current as of 21 FEB 2010

# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed.- 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat.- 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu.- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Training: Tue., Thur., Sat.- 8-10 p.m.	p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	CC Cross Fit: Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m.	Hold'em: Mon., Fri.- 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun.- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed.- 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu.- 8:30 p.m.
<b>EAST REC- REACTION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.- 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5-45 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Monday- 5:30-6:30 a.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. Boxing: 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.	<b>EAST FIT- NESS CENTER</b> Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.- 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5-45 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Monday- 5:30-6:30 a.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. Boxing: 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Wednesday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.- 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.

# UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Thursday 04/22/10

2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
Cleveland Indians @ Minnesota Twins, Live 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 NFL Draft: Round One (Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY), Live 4:30 p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 04/23/10

Detroit Tigers @ Los Angeles Angels, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 NFL Draft: Rounds 2-3 (Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY), Live 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
2010 NFL Draft: Rounds 2-3 (Radio City Music Hall, New York, NY), Live 5 p.m. AFN/xtra  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Live 7:30 p.m. AFN/ sports

### Saturday 04/24/10

Seattle Mariners @ Chicago White Sox, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/prime Atlantic  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Live 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs-Quarterfinals: Teams TBD, Live 12 p.m. AFN/prime Atlantic  
Colorado Rapids @ New England Revolution, Live 4:30 p.m. AFN/ prime Atlantic

### Sunday 04/25/10

Game of the Week: Utah Blaze @ Chicago Rush, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports  
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Aaron's 499 (Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, AL), Live 10 a.m. AFN/xtra  
2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs-Quarterfinals: Teams TBD, Live 11 a.m. AFN/prime Atlantic

### Monday 04/26/10

2010 Zurich Classic of New Orleans: Final Round (TPC Louisiana, Avondale, LA), Tape Delayed 1 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round, Game 4: Dallas Mavericks @ San Antonio Spurs, Tape Delayed 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round, Game 4: Denver Nuggets @ Utah Jazz, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Teams, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ xtra

### Tuesday 04/27/10

Monday Night Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers @ New York Mets Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Teams TBD, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ xtra  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Live 6:30 p.m. AFN/sports

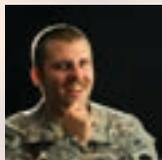
### Wednesday 04/28/10

2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
San Diego Padres @ Florida Marlins, Live 9 a.m. AFN/ sports  
Wednesday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, Live 4 p.m. AFN/xtra  
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Live 5p.m. AFN/sports

# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Clash of the Titans' is dumb, blockbuster fun

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“Clash of the Titans” is easily better than its vastly overrated predecessor, but if you think this is going to be anything other than thoughtless, mythical-beast-fighting action, you are sadly mistaken.

Hammy acting, solid effects and Sam Worthington (“Avatar”) make this a worthwhile blockbuster.

The gods are growing angry and powerless because the people have stopped praising them. Zeus (Liam Neeson) decides that it is time to take action and,

convinced by his brother Hades (Ralph Fiennes), decides to release the Titan-killing Kraken to punish the humans. What the gods don't realize is that there is a demi-god on Earth with the ability to stop the Kraken.

Perseus (Worthington), the bastard son of Zeus, and a rag-tag group of Soldiers set off on a journey to stop the Kraken and save humanity and the fate of the gods.

As I said before, the acting is hammy, most of the ham coming from Neeson (“Taken”), and his weird shiny armor outfit, and Fiennes (“The Hurt Locker”), but they make it work for the movie.

Worthington was as solid as he could be considering the material he

had to work with. I like Worthington, but I fear if he continues to play epic sci-fi, fantasy roles he may never find his stride in Hollywood.

This movie did, very much to my surprise, have very solid special effects. I say to my surprise because it seems like most computer graphic heavy movies nowadays are not very aesthetically pleasing. There were bits of the movie where the effects needed some work, most notably the Djinn, mythical desert people who practice the dark arts. They looked like guys in suits, not mythical creatures. Overall though, I was thoroughly impressed.

The story wasn't anything to deep. It was a lot of warriors fighting awesome, mythical creatures. It was also a little

forced, using action scenes as lead into more action scenes, but not only is that what I expected, but it's what I wanted out of this movie. It definitely delivered for me.

If you're looking for a thoughtless action-adventure flick to curb the inner fanboy that's always itching to escape during the early part of blockbuster season, this is the one to get you started. It's not great, but it's fun.

This movie is very much in the likeness of “Transformers” and “Pirates of the Caribbean.” I am, of course, referring to the first of each of these movies. You know, when they were stupid action movies that didn't confuse the audience with terrible, nonsensical storylines.

## Final Fantasy saga delivers yet another hit

BY STAFF SGT. ROBERT E. FAFOGLIA  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“Final Fantasy XIII” has hit the shelves ladies and gentlemen.

In the genre of role-players, the Final Fantasy series stands out.

Most everyone who plays video games, however casually, has probably heard of it. With memorable characters, interesting storylines, and ingenious – although frequently changing – battle systems, the series has certainly earned its reputation as one of the greats.

“Final Fantasy XIII” does not disappoint.

It is an epic tale that spans two worlds. Pulse is a savage, untamed land, while Cocoon floats serenely above. The people who live in Cocoon stay away from the lower world at all costs, as even the

slightest contact with someone or something from Pulse results in immediate “purging” by the theocratic government of Cocoon.

Above all this are the fal'Cie, god-like machines who take an active interest in their human underlings.

The fal'Cie who preside over Cocoon take care of their residents, providing them with food, good weather, machines to make their lives easier, and of course, make all the difficult decisions for them.

Pulse's fal'Cie are different, more primal. They care little for humans, or their needs and desires.

Both groups pick humans at random, appointing them tasks called Focuses. If these are not accomplished, the victim is forced to wander the land forever as a corrupted monster.

Enter our heroes, a ragtag group of wanderers brought together purely by circumstance. Or are they? Together

these unwilling heroes are set on a mysterious path by their fal'Cie masters, endowed with powers they do not fully understand.

Only one thing is clear. Their future, as well as the future of their mostly peaceful society, rests on their shoulders.

The game plays very solidly, like any other in the franchise. The graphics are beautiful, as is the musical score. Loyal fans will feel right at home with the rich storyline, engaging characters and exciting battles.

Some new additions are the Crystarium leveling system, which is intuitive and easy to use. This allows players to customize characters in certain roles, such as commando and medic, reducing the need to micromanage them on the field of battle.

With preset roles enabled, you can count on healing and defensive spells at just the right moment, without always

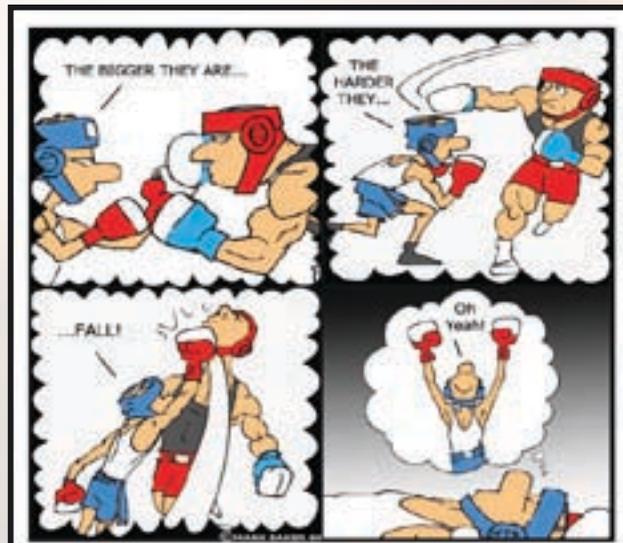
having to shift focus away from dealing punishment to the bad guys.

Also introduced in FFXIII is the stagger system, in which your characters chain together combos of attacks to stagger an enemy. Once enough damage is dealt and the opponent has been staggered, their effectiveness drops dramatically, as does their defense. This allows you to seriously lay on the hurt. Staggering takes a while to get used to, but if used correctly, it is an effective way to deal with tougher creatures you encounter on your journey.

Overall, I enjoyed the game tremendously. The great thing about any Final Fantasy game is its ability to pull you into itself and enmesh you in the characters and story. This, along with gorgeous graphics, a great soundtrack and some new innovations in game play, should keep you occupied for a few weeks.

Now I'm just waiting on Final Fantasy XIV ...

### PVF MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

**Wednesday, April 21**  
5 p.m. Shutter Island  
8 p.m. The Craziest

**Thursday, April 22**  
5 p.m. The Craziest  
8 p.m. Date Night

**Friday, April 23**  
9:30 a.m. Sex Signals  
1:30 p.m. Sex Signals  
7:30 p.m. Sex Signals

**Saturday, April 24**  
2 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest  
5 p.m. Death at a Funeral  
8 p.m. Green Zone

**Sunday, April 25**  
2 p.m. Death At A Funeral  
5 p.m. Green Zone  
8 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest

**Monday, April 26**  
5 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest  
8 p.m. Death At A Funeral

**Tuesday, April 27**  
5 p.m. Death At A Funeral  
8 p.m. Green Zone

**Wednesday, April 28**  
5 p.m. Green Zone  
8 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

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



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class John Zanella, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Guardians Maneuver Detachment, 17th Fires Brigade, keeps the area secure as Soldiers from his team conduct a mounted patrol March 31 in Al Hayannah, Iraq.

# IRAQ

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew D. Leistikow



(Left) Pfc. Casey Scalse with A Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Pittsburgh, Pa., looks out the window of a military vehicle en route to an observation point mission March 29 in the province of Kirkuk, Iraq.

(Right) A local farmer has a conversation with Soldiers during a security and civil assessment by 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment March 29 at Aqur Quf, Iraq. The assessment will help determine the local confidence in economic stability and overall security of the area.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Manthea Kim



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Becky Bort



(Right) Maj. Gary Farley, adviser on the Iraqi Ground Forces Command Military Transition Team and Victory Base Council Chairman of the Iraqi Scouting program in Baghdad, walks hand-in-hand with a girl during the two-day semi-annual scouting camp out during which the children are taught a wide variety of activities to include fishing, chess, bowling, arts and crafts, and soccer April 2 at Victory Base Complex, Baghdad.



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

(Above) Lt. Col. Hamid Hussein, the Iraqi Air Force Training Squadron commander, stands near T-6A aircraft at the advanced flight training academy April 1 at Al Sahara Air Field at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq. The U.S. Air Force 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron is managing the training program in partnership with the Iraqi Air Force College to train future instructor pilots.

Iraqi Army Soldiers with the 15th Air Assault Squadron conduct an air assault operation March 29 in Taji, Iraq. The air assault is a joint operation demonstrating the last six weeks of training on helicopter egress and assault maneuvers.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Venessa Hernandez

# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Iraqi Security Forces pursue suspected Baghdad al-Qaeda leader, arrest four

**★** BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested four suspected terrorists March 31 during a joint security operation in southwestern Baghdad to capture a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for the suspected AQI leader believed to assist in increasing the terrorist group's membership and pay its members to conduct attacks against the Government of Iraq.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led ISF to arrest four criminal associates of 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.

## Iraqi Security Forces target al-Qaeda network, arrest 10 suspects

**★** BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested 10 suspected terrorists April 1 during two joint security operations in northern Iraq targeting al-Qaeda in Iraq members.

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

In a rural area roughly 54 km southwest of Kirkuk, Iraqi Police and U.S. advisers searched two residential buildings for a suspected AQI member who allegedly provides financing to the terrorist group and provides vehicles for its members to use.

Preliminary questioning and examining the evidence at the scene led Iraqi Police to arrest two suspected criminal associates of the wanted AQI member.

During a separate security operation in and around Mosul, the 9th Iraqi Army and U.S. advisers searched buildings for a suspected AQI member believed to extort money from oil transporters and contractors to fund the terrorist group.

Building searches were conducted concurrently by joint security teams in eastern Mosul, western Mosul, and in a rural area roughly 56 km southeast of Mosul.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led Iraqi Army Soldiers to arrest eight criminal associates of 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 base back to Iraq

**★** BASRA, Iraq – United States Division – South handed over almost \$2 million of real and personal property to the Government of Iraq March 30 as part of the return of Patrol Base Shaibah in Basra province to Iraqi control.

Sameer Alhaddad, a representative of the prime minister's chief of staff, was on hand at PB Shaibah to sign for the property, including a fully equipped dining facility and pieces of life sustainment equipment.

Maj. Margaret Bielenberg, executive officer for the Logistics Military Advisory Team at PB Shaibah, signed over the property.

"They have made tremendous strides," Bielenberg said of the logistical capabilities of the Iraqi forces, the area in which her team advises. "They still have a ways to go, but they will get there."

The LMAT will now move to Contingency Operating Base Adder, where it will continue to advise Iraqi Security Forces.

## US forces transfer training base, airstrip in Maysan

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

During a ceremony, 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 utilized the base to advise and assist the 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, operations officer with 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment who lived at 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."

## Engineers bring new fish, meat market to Al Kut

**★** AL KUT, Iraq – Lateef Al Turfaa, governor of the Wasit province, along with Brig. Gen. Randall Dragon, the U.S. assistant division commander – south, opened the Al Kut Grand Markets during a ribbon cutting ceremony March 20 in Al Kut.

The Wasit governor spoke of the significant improvements to the existing markets in Al Kut and Dragon reiterated that the new markets were a lasting example of urban infrastructure improvements made by Iraqis for Iraqis.

The market construction project, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South, is part of an urban planning initiative developed by the Wasit Provincial Council, the Al Kut Municipality Director General and coordinated with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction team.

The \$5.2 million project was funded through the Economic Support Fund.

During the ceremony, Kevin Blackstone, PRT leader, said the opening of the Grand Markets was a realization of more than two years of hard work and focused coordination. Blackstone said he was proud of the joint effort accomplishments for the people of Al Kut.

Maj. Andrew Staiano, the USACE officer in charge of the project, said the new facility provides modern conveniences.

"The Al Kut Grand Markets consist of a fish and meat market with open air designs that contain spacious courtyards lined by dozens of shops where merchants can sell their products," Staiano said. "The 1,250 square meter fish market contains live wells and marble shelving in each of the 26 shops to display seafood and the 2,000 square meter meat market courtyard contains 30 butcher shops surrounded by four fountains in the courtyard. Both markets contain public rest rooms (and) coffee shops and are handsomely decorated by custom stone work both inside and out."

Hussein Sabry, USACE project engineer for the market project and lifelong resident of Al Kut, said the 300 employees at the two markets will provide a

much-needed boost to the local economy.

"The cold storage facility will also ensure that residents will be getting a safe, quality product," Sabry said.

The Al Kahlaa Group was the general contractor for the market project.

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

## Caldwell becomes Kirkush Military Training Base

 DIYALA, Iraq – As part of the responsible draw-down, U.S. forces signed over command of Contingency Operating Site Caldwell, Iraq, to the Government of Iraq April 2 in Diyala. The base has been renamed the Kirkush Military Training Base.

First Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division was responsible for the turnover. Caldwell is the first base handed over by 3rd SBCT, 2nd ID.

"This is a monumental moment where we're executing our reduction of forces and helping ourselves get one step closer to having U.S. forces out of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Joseph Davidson, commander of 1-14 Cav.

Soldiers with 1-14 Cav. prepared the base for the handover over the past few months. They stayed behind after majority of the personnel living on base departed to ensure the facilities would be in pristine condition for the turnover.

"Essentially we've been cleaning stuff up; everything was in pretty good shape when we got here," said 1st Lt. Jake Creecy, the assistant supply officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-14 Cav and a Colorado Springs, Colo., native. "We're just making sure that everything is functional and clean for (the IA) when they move in."

The Iraqi Army found the facilities and equipment left for them suitable and ready for use.

"When we came here to receive this camp, we found all the buildings, all the equipment, generators, gyms, everything here we can use," said Iraqi Army Maj. Duraid Khaldom, with the Location Command for Iraqi Military Bases. "Any unit from Iraqi forces who come here can find it ready to use for training."

After the ceremony, U.S. forces and IA Soldiers gathered for lunch to celebrate this historic occasion.

## Iraqi Security Forces arrest suspected al-Qaeda leader

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested the suspected leader of the Mosul branch of al-Qaeda in Iraq April 5 during a joint security operation in northern Iraq.

The security operation was conducted pursuant to warrants issued by Iraqi judges.

In western Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisers conducted a vehicle stop and apprehended a suspect believed to be the new leader of AQI in Mosul. He is allegedly responsible for directing attacks and assassinations in the region.

After conducting preliminary questioning and examining the evidence at the scene, Iraqi Police also arrested two suspected criminal associates of 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 Security Forces arrest three suspected terrorists

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested three suspects April 6 during two joint security operations in northeast Baghdad and the Mosul area targeting a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched area buildings for the suspected AQI leader believed to be involved in terrorist activities, including improvised explosive device operations.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led ISF to arrest a criminal associate of the wanted individual.

During a second security operation carried out in west of Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for a suspected AQI leader who is believed to be responsible for directing attacks and assassinations within the region.

Preliminary questioning results and evidence collected during the operation led ISF to arrest two criminal associates of 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.

## Scrap project beautifies Basrah

 BASRAH, Iraq – The completion of a major beautification project for the city of Basra was celebrated April 1 at the site of the Hamden Hotel in Basrah.

The tract of land, now clear for development, recently housed more than one million pounds of scrap metal.

Basra Gov. Sheltagh Aboud, Col. Steven L. Bullimore, 17th Fires Brigade commander, and Jerry Mallory, acting team leader of the Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team, were on hand to mark the occasion. The three explained how the project took shape and answered questions from local media.

"The project here at Hamden Hotel involved the removal of 6,000 tons of scrap metal and took 20 days of around-the-clock work to accomplish," said Mallory.

The effort is part of a larger plan to remove scrap metal from other sites in Basra province – a result of the continuing partnership between U.S. forces, the PRT and the local government.

"It was initiated in response to a request for assistance by the governor's office to clean up this location," Mallory said.

Working together, the 17th FB, the provincial govern-

ment of Iraq and the PRT hammered out a detailed plan.

Units with the 17th FB performed site surveys, conducted soil analysis for contaminants, and checked for any presence of unexploded ordnance. A local contractor was hired to remove the metal.

Once the preliminary work was completed, workers removed 250 truckloads of refuse from the 3,000 square meter site.

"I see our partnership as essential to the future," said Bullimore. "We are helping our Iraqi partners to a bright, prosperous future – one of peace."

## US, Iraqi leaders discuss progress

 BAGHDAD – The Iraq Training and Advisory Mission, Army Training and Logistics Divisions held a conference for personnel from ITAM – Army schools, training centers and logistics military advisory teams and the three U.S. Forces – Iraq U.S. Divisions – north, south and central – March 30 and April 1 in Baghdad.

The purpose of the ITAM – Army Adviser Conference was to enhance cross-unit synchronization and staff coordination.

Personnel in attendance participated in briefing sessions, round table discussions and breakout working groups.

Some of the topics covered were the missions and roles of USF-I, the command relationships of ITAM – Army adviser personnel and Army advisory brigades, identification of potentially redundant USD initiatives such as localized noncommissioned officer education system.

Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain, deputy chief of staff of training, and Maj. Gen. Samir Mahdi Al Basha, basic and tactical training director, focused their comments on being an effective adviser within the cultural and historical constraints of the Iraqi Army.

"I want all officers to be self-reliant, but the NCO is very important," said Samir. "Weak NCOs will affect leadership. We are one team ... I want to focus on the new Army and forget the old."

Both Hussain and Samir were very appreciative of the USF-I advisory effort and expressed their desire for a continued partnership to ensure the future security and stability of Iraq.

ITAM – Army is planning to host an NCO Adviser Conference in the near future.

## Suspected al-Qaeda assassination associates arrested

 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested associates of a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq illegal weapons dealer during a joint security operation April 10 outside of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched three buildings roughly 16 km southeast of Baghdad for an alleged AQI leader in Baghdad suspected of facilitating vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks against civilians and security forces in the capital city.

Based on evidence gathered at the scene, ISF arrested four suspected criminal associates of 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.

# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael V. Camacho

An AH-60 Black Hawk flies over Baghdad April 13 en route to Victory Base Complex, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shannon R. Gregory

Sgt. Audra F. Todd and Sgt. David L. Holton, both with the Tennessee Army National Guard's B Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Knoxville, Tenn., with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), place visual markers on the tether cable of the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment system blimp as it ascends into the night sky March 25 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Tim Ohlhaber  
Kevin Savoy, Heroes Dining Facility manager, and Col. Sean Ryan, 36th Sustainment Brigade commander and an Austin, Texas, native, present Heroes DF coins to Iraqi and third country national workers April 5 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Tim Ohlhaber

(Above) Big Red One Brass Quintet with percussion play pre-ceremony music for the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Division and 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Sustainment Brigade Garrison transfer of authority ceremony April 1 at Contingency Operating Base Adder.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Cooley

Spc. Tyler Fonseca, an orderly room clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a San Benito, Texas, native, finishes first in a 15 km race April 15 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Fonseca won all four races he entered since deploying to Iraq last September.