

The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 3 Issue 23

April 28, 2010

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

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Force protection Soldiers increase base safety measures

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Vocal support



Chicago's Twista hits Q-West, Iraq

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Iraqis partner with US, deliver school supplies to children
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U.S. Army photo by Capt. Meghan E. Keefe

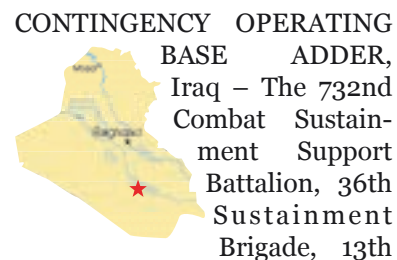
Iraqi Maj. Khan, the operations officer with the Iraqi Security Forces Emergency Response Unit, hands out backpacks filled with school supplies to schoolchildren in need. The backpacks were donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit, and were filled with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.

Support battalions transfer mission



Lt. Col. Lawrence Goss III, commander of the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Perry, Ga., native, and Sgt. Maj. Edward Andrews, the senior enlisted adviser with the 110th CSSB out of Tifton, Ga., and a Martin, Ga., native, uncased their unit's colors to symbolize the beginning of their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Memorial Hall at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

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



CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) passed its mission to the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion April 19, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Memorial Hall at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Lt. Col. John L. Blaha, com-

mander of the 732nd CSSB out of Tomah, Wis., and a Sparta, Wis., native, said his Soldiers achieved transportation excellence by completing 210 missions and driving more than 1 million miles during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Blaha commended each unit and section in his command on a job well done and introduced the 110th CSSB.

"We are on our way home to the great state of Wisconsin," he said. "But (we leave you with) ... the outstanding Soldiers of the 110th, the most diverse, largest, most capable CSSB in the Iraqi theater of operations."

SEE CHANGE ON PAGE 4

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Chaplain's Corner: it's how you finish the race

By LT. COL. ROY T. WALKER
13TH ESC COMMAND CHAPLAIN



When I was a freshman in high school, I tried out for the high school cross country team.

Because I ran quite a bit, I figured it would be a fun and an easy way to earn a high school letter. I soon

learned there is a huge difference between running for fun and running for time.

But, more importantly, there is an even greater difference in running a long distance continuously and stopping or walking to rest. As I ran each day, I soon realized running, and doing it correctly, was difficult.

I also noticed that the more I ran, the easier running became. As I grew in strength and stamina, I was able to maintain my pace and increase it as needed.

Yet, the most valuable lesson I learned was running strategy. Our coach had two favorite sayings. The first was, "Its all about timing" and secondly he reminded us, "Keep your mind where your body is at in the race."

Coach would yell, "Walker, kick it in, this is the time to speed up not slow down," or "Slow down a little drop back." In doing so, he was teaching me not only the strategy for running, but for life as well.

It is just as important for a runner to know when

to speed up or slow down. It is equally as necessary for us to know when to speed up and slow down in our lives, on our jobs and in our relationships. Timing is important in all we do.

As we come to the end of a long deployment, it is easy to slow down and try to coast to the finish line. However, all good runners know, you always sprint to the finish regardless of how much lead you have.

As we begin to see the finish line, let us remember the words of the apostle Paul in Hebrews 12:1.

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Paul reminds us to run when we should run and keep our minds where our bodies are in the race. It is important that we, too, run the race that is before us and not rest on what we have already accomplished, hoping it will be enough to reach the end.

Many great runners have lost the greatest races of their lives by slowing down just for a little while. These runners executed a perfect strategy all the way toward the end and slowed down just for one moment, only to watch their lead and first place slip between their fingers. In a race, it does not matter how strong you start, its how you finish. So, let us run the race before us and let us finish with honor and stamina.



EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
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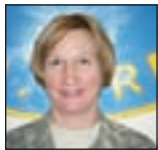
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13th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz

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: understand paternity leave

By Lt. Col. Andrea Shealy
13TH ESC DETAILED INSPECTOR GENERAL



On Oct. 14 2008, the president signed the fiscal year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

This act authorized 10 days of paternity leave to be used for the birth of a child. The authorized absence is applicable to single pregnancies, meaning that whether the birth results in multiple children or a single birth, the authorized absence is

still 10 days. This leave can be used in conjunction with other authorized leaves of absence, but must be used in one block.

This leave is authorized for married Soldiers on active duty, to include Title 10 and Title 32 Active Guard Reserve duty, whose wife gives birth to a child on or after Oct. 14, 2008. The act excludes single Soldiers fathering a child.

Paternity leave is a non-chargeable administrative absence that must be used within 45 days of the birth of the child. Deployed Soldiers have 60 days

after returning from deployment to utilize the entitlement. If the 10-day entitlement is not used within the prescribed period, it is forfeited.

Commanders, supervisors or other leave approval authorities must ensure the Department of the Army Form 31, Request and Authority for Leave, is properly annotated.

The following statement must be included in block 17, remarks, on the leave form: "I am requesting paternity leave in connection with the birth of my child. I understand that by law paternity leave is only autho-

rized for married Soldiers on active duty, whose wife has given birth to a child on or after 14 October 2008." This statement must be initialed by the Soldier.

A Soldier who was charged annual leave in connection with the birth of a child after the act's effective date and before March 10, 2009, may request reinstatement of 10 days of paternity leave through the battalion personnel department.

For more information on this topic, please see all Army activity message 062/2009.

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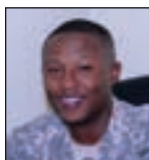
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Legal Issues: financial support for military Family members

By Capt. Melvin Raines II
13TH ESC CHIEF, LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Service members and their families encounter problems dealing with the legal obligations of financial support.

Every husband or wife is legally required to provide support to his or her spouse and children. However, different states have different rules on the exact amount of support.

Spousal support is usually not ordered at all in state court unless the marriage has lasted more than 10 years, or there are other compelling reasons to grant it, such as a disabled spouse who cannot work.

However, child support is mandatory for every parent. Even if you did not intend to become a parent, and even if your partner lied to you about using birth control, you are legally obligated to pay child support.

Service members who experience marital difficulties, or who have become parents, should seek legal guidance on support to their family members.

The Army has a specific set of rules controlling family support. These are found in Army Regulation 608-99, Chapter 2. Soldiers, especially com-

manders, should have a basic grasp of this regulation.

The Army regulation provides that where there is an agreement between the spouses, or a court order governing support, the Soldier must obey the agreement or order. The regulation is punitive, and this is one of the few situations in which a commander can give a lawful order to a Soldier to pay a private debt.

Most often, however, a marital dispute has just arisen, and there is neither an agreement nor a court order. In such cases, the Soldier is required to pay an amount equal to the basic allowance for housing II - with. This amount is not the same as full BAH, and is generally about 70 percent of the full BAH a typical Soldier receives.

To find the amount in any given year, do a Google search of non-locality BAH rates. You will quickly find the chart - it's at the top of the Google search results. The amount the Soldier must pay is listed under the "BAH RC/T - With Dependents" column. For example, in 2010, an E-4 must pay \$699.00, an amount lower than the actual BAH with received by any E-4.

The Soldier must pay family support even if the supported spouse is having an affair, refusing to return phone calls, and even if the supported spouse

is a really bad person. Only a battalion commander or higher can excuse this payment, and then only on certain legal grounds.

Multiple family members involve another rule under AR 608-99. For example, if the Soldier has other family members who are legally entitled to support, then each only receives a pro-rata share of that support. So, if a Soldier has two children from a prior relationship, and then is married and has another child with his current spouse, the Soldier has four family members who are entitled to support. In this case, the current spouse and child would only get half of the \$699.00, for a total monthly support of \$349.50.

There are some exceptions to this rule. There may be no support due if: the Soldier's spouse is also on active duty in the military; the family members live in government housing on post; the income of the supported spouse exceeds that of the Soldier; the supported family member is in jail; or the Soldier has been a victim of abuse. There are other exceptions as well, such as where the spouse does not have custody of the couple's children. These are found in AR 608-99, Paragraphs 2-14 and 2-15.

Finally, a Soldier can comply with AR 608-99 by directly paying the rent

or mortgage, or other essential utilities, including electricity, gas, and water, but not cable or phone bills.

The Air Force has no set guidance on family support, but it does require its members to provide a reasonable amount of support to family members. Navy and Marine Corps personnel should consult with their own legal representative for further information.

Family support is a troubling issue for service members and their commanders. Here in Iraq, the problem often arises because the family members back home complain to the inspector general or the rear detachment commander.

Legal assistance is here to offer speedy help on this subject. We will provide a written opinion to each service member immediately, on the spot. Clients are seen on a walk-in basis, and clients usually get this opinion within 30 minutes of visiting our office. This written opinion is helpful in clarifying the rights and obligations of all parties involved in a dispute over family support.

For further assistance, please feel free to contact our office at 433-2836. Our building number is 7235, the castle on Pennsylvania Avenue. Our office hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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.

402nd Army Field Support Brigade welcomes new commander

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers, Airmen and civilians watched as the commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade welcomed his replacement, during a change of command ceremony April 21 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The 402nd AFSB out of Rock Island, Ill., manages Army Materiel Command logistics to equip, sustain and protect service members in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, commander of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) out of Fort Bragg, N.C., thanked the service members and civilians in the audience, as well as family and friends who could not attend.

“What a great day to be a Soldier,” he said. “This is an important Army tradition where we say farewell to one outstanding commander and welcome an equally promising new leader.”

Rogers said it is sad to see individuals leave, but the mission will continue.

“(Col. Brian R. Haebig) thrived in his command of the 402nd,” he said.

With the U.S. military fully engaged in two separate wars, facilitating a responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq while setting the country up for success would not have been possible without



Col. Brian R. Haebig, the outgoing commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade out of Rock Island, Ill., and an Oshkosh, Wis., native, hands the flag to Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, commander of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) out of Fort Bragg, N.C., and a Jackson, Ala., native, during a change of command ceremony April 21 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

the 402nd and its force of roughly 8,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians, said Rogers.

The outgoing commander reestablished accountability of more than 250 million property book items, Roger said.

“When you consider some of the things that (Haebig) has done for the readiness rates across the theater, he provided management oversight of the largest theater property book in the history of the Army, \$18 billion,” he said.

The nation expects the brigade to be

a true steward of government property, said Rogers.

“(Haebig) exemplified that in this command,” he said. “This outstanding unit with its outstanding group of leaders, like all good organizations, like (United States Forces – Iraq) itself ... has achieved success by focusing on three key areas: mission, people and teamwork.”

Haebig, the outgoing commander of the 402nd AFSB and an Oshkosh, Wis., native, thanked the service members and civilians for their support of the mission.

“I’m smiling now, not just because I think we’ve done a pretty good job, but I’m also happy I’m turning (the command) over to a great officer,” he said. “The experiences that I’ve had over the last 13 months in Iraq have been ones that have touched every fiber of my being.”

Rogers said the incoming commander is more than capable of handling the mission.

“I really could not think of a better qualified officer to come and lead this organization as we continue with the responsible drawdown and resetting the theater,” he said.

Col. Larry Fuller, the incoming commander with the 402nd AFSB and a Jackson, Ala., native, said he was grateful for the chance to lead the brigade during the drawdown.

“What a tough act to follow,” he said. “Col. Brian Haebig has truly set the bar high. You have done a remarkable job setting this command up for success and I appreciate the opportunity to be your understudy for the last 10 days.”

The unit will continue to be responsible for drawing down U.S. equipment from Iraq, as the United States military and its contractors prepare to leave the country, Fuller said.

“To 8,000 plus Soldiers, Airmen, (Department of the Army) civilians and contractors who make up the brigade, I am immensely impressed by your professionalism, discipline, commitment and energy,” he said.

CHANGE: unit heads back to Wisconsin

CHANGE FROM PAGE 1

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde. out of Temple, Texas, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, worked with the 732nd CSSB for the past eight months. He presented both Blaha and Master Sgt. Doug Raabe, the acting senior enlisted adviser with the 732nd CSSB and a Tomah, Wis., native, with the Bronze Star Medal for successful completion of their mission.

“Soldiers of Task Force Badger, you have completed your tour with honor and distinction – a job well done,” said Ryan. “We are honored by ... your warrior, can-do spirit, and your commitment to excellence.”

Ryan also expressed enthusiasm about the incoming unit.

“(Command staff with the 110th CSSB), you have already demonstrated the will and the tenacity to succeed,” he said. “Your team seems very eager, and very ready for the mission. I feel very comfortable with the experience you bring to the fight. I am proud to have you as part of the team.”

Lt. Col. Lawrence Goss III, commander of the 110th CSSB out of Tifton, Ga., and a Perry, Ga., native, said the 732nd carried out its mission well and set the 110th up for success.

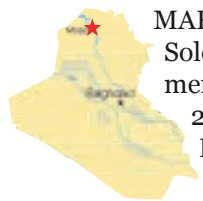
“I want to say thank you to the 732nd for a seamless transition, the best of luck and a safe trip home,” said Goss. “I stand before you today knowing that the 110th CSSB is prepared to support victory.”



Force protection Soldiers implement, install base safety measures

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq –
Soldiers with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

implemented and installed new safety measures at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, April 15.

Aside from the daily duties of force protection, Soldiers with the RFS face additional duties in relation to overall base security. Capt. Brian McCord, the force protection officer in charge with the RFS, Base Defense Operations Center, 278th ACR and a Seymour, Tenn., native, said their job is to provide perimeter and barrier security within the gates.

“I do the coordination with various groups within the private security sector, contractors and meet with the intelligence community and relay information down to all the units,” he said.

McCord said they inspect entry control points, living space areas and sometimes meet with the local population directly outside base.

“Since the reports of the kidnappings recently, we have tightened up our security measures; but security was already tight,” he said. “We’ve tightened our tactical procedures and now do a 100 percent search of all non-military vehicles that enter or leave the COB.”

In Iraq, it is better to be safe than sorry, he said.

McCord said the Soldiers are working on two big projects that should take a few days to complete.

“We have one Soldier with a team of local nationals moving T-walls to protect a building where the (quick reaction force) team is, and another Soldier at the flight line putting up HESCO barriers,” he said.

Sgt. Robert Bernstorf, the barrier force protection sergeant with the RFS, 278th ACR and a Kingston, Tenn., native, said they moved the T-walls from an unused shop.



Sgt. Robert Bernstorf, the barrier protection sergeant with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Kingston, Tenn., native, and a local national worker watch as a crane moves a T-wall closer to the building to provide barrier protection, April 15 at Contingency Operating Base, Marez, Iraq.

“We had to move 16 T-walls from there at 13,000 pounds each,” he said. “It took about two weeks to get the assets to move this, so we are a bit behind and we will be very busy for the next few days.”

Bernstorf said the QRF team is housed in a wooden building instead of a hardened structure and, even though the chance is remote, the building could be hit. They did not want to take any chances.

“We took care of the T-walls, with blast mitigation for the building,” he said.

Sgt. Keith A. Scott, the perimeter sergeant with the RFS, 278th ACR and a Canada, Ky., native, explained improvements being made to safety and security on the flight line.

“If they were to hit one of those T-walls, the steel and other fragmentation could possibly hurt service members on

the flight line,” he said. “We are putting up HESCO barriers in their place because they are just filled with sand, and nothing deadly can come out of them.”

Scott said it took him three days to build the 20-foot-tall barriers.

“(In one day), we have put in and filled over 1,200 feet of HESCO barriers,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Hineman, the force protection noncommissioned officer in charge with the RFS, 278th ACR and a Chatanooga, Tenn., native, said they are responsible for the 18 miles of barriers and perimeter that encompass Marez and Diamondback.

“We have close to 10,000 personnel that we have to keep it a safe haven for,” he said.

Hineman said force protection is one of the most important aspects of security.

“We keep people from being attacked periodically,” he said. “This allows people to be more at ease, so they can conduct their daily mission.”

With more than 31 years of military service and two deployments to Iraq, Hineman said a lot has changed for the better. He said the last time he was here, there was no running water for miles and the streets of Mosul were blacked out.

“Now people aren’t afraid to come out of their houses anymore and roam the city,” he said.

Hineman credits the good rapport and friendship with the local nationals to his Soldiers.

“It’s not me, it’s my Soldiers that make this job happen,” he said. “The cooperation between the local nationals, civilian employees and the Soldiers make this a great and rewarding job.”

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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ON
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WEB



Louisiana unit falls in on Iraq mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. TRESA L. ALLEMANG
256TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Louisiana's 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment out of Abbeville, La., 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) uncased its colors and assumed its mission in the Area Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, as Oregon's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team cased its colors and transferred authority during an April 5 ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

"From the time we were mobilized, our troops have trained very hard for this mission," said Lt. Col. Eric "Clay" Rivers, commander of the 2/156th and a Zwolle, La., native. "A lot of time and effort went into being prepared for this, and we came here ready to work and implement what we have learned and trained so diligently for."

The new ADOC consists of eight



Command Sgt. Maj. Sud A. Robertson, the senior enlisted adviser with 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, out of Abbeville, La., 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New Iberia, La., native, and Lt. Col. Eric "Clay" Rivers, commander of the 2/156th and a Zwolle, La., native, uncased the battalion's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony April 5, as the 2/156th assumes the mission as the Area Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

companies, and its missions include manning entry control points with as many as 30,000 weekly visitors, es-

corting convoys, operating the Joint Visitors Bureau and providing security for distinguished visitors, said

Command Sgt. Maj. Sud A. Robertson, the 2/156th's senior enlisted adviser and a New Iberia, La., native.

Rivers said he and his unit are not intimidated by the tasks ahead of them.

"It is a very versatile mission, but I feel very confident that our Soldiers are trained, motivated and ready to get started," Rivers said.

In the past 12 months, the Soldiers with the 1/82nd's Task Force Stetson set a standard, said Col. Daniel R. Hokanson, commander of the 41st IBCT and a Keizer, Ore., native.

"Their standard was simple and effective," he said. "It was simply leave it all on the table. The honor and pride the 1/82nd and the 1195th ... put into their missions here, now falls into the very capable hands of ... the Soldiers of the 2/156th Infantry. I know in their own way, they will find room to leave even more on the table."

Rivers said he and his Soldiers welcome the challenge.

"We look forward to working with our Iraqi partners and other U.S. Forces as we defend Victory Base Complex from hostile threat, and continue ongoing security operations," he said.

Infantry unit adjusts to base support role

BY PFC. LISA A. COPE
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – On April 1, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) took over mayoral duties at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

These duties were previously tasked to the battle-space owner, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, but were re-designated a sustainment duty as part of the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces and equipment from Iraq.

Lt. Col. Joachim Strenk, commander of the 3/141st and an Austin, Texas, native, said his unit is only in charge of the sustainment functions for COB Adder.

"It is not a garrison command anymore because they have split the (base operating support) functions and the base defense," he said. "The base defense still falls ... under the maneuver units, whereas the (base operating

support functions) fall under the 13th ESC."

Although the 3/141st is a smaller unit than the 4-1 AD, Strenk said he has had no issues with a shortage of personnel, thanks to support from the 36th Sust. Bde.

Strenk said he and his unit are enthusiastic about their new role in the drawdown.

"We actually love it," he said. "We want to embrace it because it makes a big difference. If we did not do the job that we need to do, then the tenants on COB Adder could not do their jobs."

Lt. Col. Stanley E. Golaboff, the deputy commander with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Harker Heights, Texas, native, said the goal of the changeover was to help free up the battle-space owner, allowing them to focus more on their partnership with Iraqi units.

"(United States Forces – Iraq) has looked across the board to find ... units that can pick up either the mayoral or garrison responsibilities," he said.

Golaboff said he believes the 3/141 is prepared for its new duties, which include ensuring the availability of chapel services for all denominations, provid-



Army photo by Maj. Tim Ohlhaber

Lt. Col. Joachim Strenk, commander of 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Austin, Texas, native, speaks at the transfer of authority ceremony April 1, during which his unit took over the mayoral duties at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

ing the sexual assault response coordinator for the installation, providing a chairman for the sexual assault review board, and ensuring all base support-services contracts are fulfilled.

Golaboff said, "There is a synergy and benefit to having the folks who are trained in logistics provide basic life-support functions, which are, traditionally, logistically based."

Q-West drawdown continues with equipment collection

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq –



Soldiers with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) assisted a mobile redistribution property accountability team in collecting an estimated \$30 million in equipment no longer needed at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, April 12 through April 17 as part of the Army's upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment in the Iraq Joint Operations Area.

The turned-in equipment, known as theater-provided equipment, was that which units received in Iraq for use only while deployed and until now, has passed from one deployed unit to the next.

Sgt. Tamicka Coffee, the redistribution team's leader and a Miami native, said much of the equipment will go back to the 15th Sust. Bde.'s home station at Fort Hood, Texas, and the rest will go to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for further sorting and shipping to Afghanistan, the United States, or wherever it is needed.

Coffee likened the process to that of a clothing store. When the store runs out of a shirt, it has to determine which supplier can best fulfill the need, she said.

Likewise, when an Army unit needs a piece of equipment, it places an order that

appears on a computer system, she said. Equipment not assigned to a unit, such as that which is turned in to a redistribution team, is also recorded on that system. When a piece of equipment is available in two different places, supply specialists can see and order the one that is closer, reducing time and money costs, said Coffee.

Capt. Marion Sewell, the 15th Sust. Bde.'s supply deputy officer and a Chester, Pa., native, said the mobile redistribution team was very helpful with turning in equipment. Unlike a stationary redistribution property accountability team, which can only accept 100 pieces of equipment daily, the mobile version could accept 300 to 400, he said.

Sewell said it was easier and faster to fix any unforeseen problems that could occur during the process.

"It keeps hundreds of Soldiers off the road," he said. "It benefits everybody."

For the Soldiers at Q-West, turning the equipment in has a special meaning, said 1st Lt. Brandon Reichlin, the executive officer with the 733rd Transportation Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde. and a Middletown, Del., native.

It's a morale booster for the guys because they know they are going home," he said.

The 733rd turned in \$6 million worth of trucks, communications equipment, tow bars, first aid gear, computers, etc., said 1st Lt. Karen Hassler, the 733rd commander and a Philadelphia native.

"It's a lot of moving parts," she said. The process required what Reichlin



Sgt. Colin Pilch, a truck driver with the 733rd Transportation Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Lynchburg, Va., native, places medical kits into a palletized box for turn in to a mobile redistribution property accountability team April 14 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

said was a lot of paperwork and time. Although he and the Soldiers with his unit put in extra hours to get the equipment

turned in, he said no one complained.

"It's the end of our mission," Hassler said. "(We're) ready to go home."

Wagonmaster Soldiers walk to raise sexual assault awareness

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq –



Soldiers with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) walked a 5K to raise awareness of sexual assault and give speakers an opportunity to educate participants, April 16 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Before the walk, Pvt. Megan Moffatt, mayor cell help desk clerk with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde. and a College Station,

Texas, native, read her award-winning sexual assault essay, followed by comments from Capt. Victoria Ijams, a social worker with the 501st Area Support Medical Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade and a Saginaw, Mich., native.

Moffatt's essay, "Hurts One Affects All," won a Q-West sexual assault awareness essay contest. Through her essay, Moffatt told the story of a young female Army private who is sexually assaulted shortly after joining the Army.

She discussed possible outcomes, such as the private's personal situation worsening as a result of not requesting or receiving help. Alternately,

she talked about what might happen if the private notified her leadership, who would then respond appropriately.

Moffatt's essay encouraged victims of sexual assault to come forward and seek help. She also encouraged leaders to be aware of changes in a Soldier's performance, because the reason may not be readily observable.

Ijams said sexual assault is more prevalent than some might realize. She said one out of six women is the victim of sexual assault, as is one in 33 men. Most of the assaults are not by strangers either, she said. Instead, 73 percent of victims are assaulted by an acquaintance.

Ijams said sexual assault could have strong lasting effects on victims, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder conditions, that could grow worse without help.

"Everything is dis-regulated (sic) from sleep to their appetite," she said.

It's very important to listen to victims, Ijams said.

"Don't judge them in your mind as they tell you their story," she said.

Ijams encouraged victims to seek help from their leadership, chaplains or unit victim advocates.

"When one of us is assaulted, we are all assaulted," Moffatt said, reading her essay. "For the hurting of one, affects all."

Wranglers remember Holocaust horrors

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Wranglers hosted a Holocaust Days of Remembrance observation April 16, at the Morale Welfare and Recreation tent at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The event included a reading of the history of the Holocaust, a slideshow and words from Jewish guest speaker Sgt. Randy Bare, squad leader with the 15th Sust. Bde.'s Personal Security Detachment and a Biloxi, Miss., native.

Sgt. Elizabeth Gaytan, the 15th STB personnel clerk and a Los Angeles native, spoke about the Nazi party coming to power in Germany in 1933 and later persecuting those they considered inferior, including Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, the disabled and homosexuals.

Jews were the regime's primary target for Hitler's "Final Solution," said Gaytan.

"Holocaust is a word of Greek origin, meaning 'sacrifice by fire,'" she said. "By 1945, the (Nazis) and their collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews."



Sgt. Randy Bare, a squad leader with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Biloxi, Miss., native, speaks about his Jewish heritage to Soldiers at a Holocaust Days of Remembrance observation April 17 at the Morale Welfare and Recreation center at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Gaytan explained how Jews who were unable to flee were taken from their homes and brought to concentration camps or remote locations, to be shot, gassed or burned alive. A small portion survived as slaves to the Nazis, she said. The persecution and genocide continued until May 7, 1945, when Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to Allied forces.

Bare, whose great-great grandparents fled to the United States during this time, elaborated on the hardships Jews endured during that part of history and how

he personally dealt with others' prejudice over time.

Bare said it made him uncomfortable as a young boy to be teased about not celebrating Christmas or Easter, and as an infantryman in the Marines, he once had a swastika drawn on his door.

"When I think I've had it hard – I don't even compare to what happened to my great-grandparents," he said.

Bare's great aunt and her family were captured by Nazis after multiple attempts to flee and disappeared into a ghetto in Poland.

"I like to think they escaped, like my great-great grandparents to the United States," he said. "In reality, this probably didn't happen."

In addition to killing Jews, Bare said some were subject to medical testing like that done by the Nazi Dr. Joseph Mengele. Bare read an account by a Jewish Auschwitz inmate, Vera Alexander, about tests done on a pair of young Romani twins.

"One day, Mengele took them away," Bare read. "When they returned, they were in a terrible state – they had been sewn together, back to back, like Siamese twins. Their wounds were infected and oozing pus. They screamed day and night. Then their parents – I remember the mother's name was Stella – managed to get some morphine and they killed the children in order to end their suffering."

Bare described other events which illustrated the suffering endured by the Jews during the Holocaust, which many Jews refer to as Shoah, a Hebrew word meaning calamity.

Although Jews were the main focus of Nazi persecution and killing, other groups were also victimized. In fact, Bare said, between 11 and 17 million people were killed in the genocide, including 6 million Jews.

Bare said it is important to remember the Holocaust because, as time goes on, there are fewer survivors left to tell their stories; he hoped the message did not fall on deaf ears.

Service members, civilians stand together against sexual assault

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing sponsored a luncheon for Army and Air Force sexual assault prevention and response personnel April 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Service members with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Task Force 38 and 1st Medical Brigade also attended the event, in a joint effort against sexual harassment and assault in the military.

Being a rape or sexual assault survivor is a label few service members would like to admit to, but one they may be forced to live with, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Timika Ferguson, a force protection escort and a unit victim advocate with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, 332nd AEW.

"It's a lifelong label given to men and women who survive the only crime that tends to point the finger at the victim more than the accused," she said.

Service members have settled into a military that has placed limitations on the ethos of "never leave a comrade behind," and allowed "it's not my problem" to undermine their core values, said Ferguson, a Cincinnati native.

"Thankfully, every day we take the appropriate steps toward changing that attitude," she said. "Hurt one – affects all" is the mindset I've consistently relied on for motivation in my efforts to reduce the number of sexual assault in the (military)."

The luncheon was held to recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and highlight the efforts of unit victim advocates and deployed sexual assault response coordinators in Iraq, said Master Sgt. Charolette Harvey, the 13th ESC's career counselor and acting DSARC.

The UVA is responsible for the care and assistance of sexual assault vic-

tims, said Harvey, a Clarksville, Tenn., native. The DSARC works above all of the UVAs with the 13th ESC, she said.

"We're right there by their side, to let them know they're not alone," she said.

The 13th ESC attended the event in support of the 332nd AEW's identical stance of zero tolerance for sexual assault crimes, said Harvey. Both commands have made sexual assault prevention a high priority, to stop the crime and reinforce mission readiness, she said.

The military as a whole has made efforts to eliminate sexual assault among its ranks, said Staff Sgt. Kimberly Robinson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of medical logistics



Service members and civilians gather for the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Luncheon, hosted by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, April 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. All major commands attended the luncheon as a show of support for the military's zero tolerance policy against sexual assault.

and a UVA with the 13th ESC.

"It tears at the very fabric of the organization," said Robinson, an Oklahoma City native. "We need to weed these predators out so we can have a better (military) for Soldiers and Airmen."

The event showed the solidarity of the military's stance on sexual assault, she said.

"It doesn't affect one of us; it affects all of us," said Robinson.

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Recovery mission to northern Mosul a quick success

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq – Soldiers with A Battery, Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) executed a recovery mission April 14 just north of Mosul, Iraq.

Recovery missions, or retrieving immobile vehicles, come at a moment's notice, so Soldiers are on call 24 hours a day to perform them.

Sgt. James West, a truck commander with A Battery, RFS, 278th ACR and a Trenton, Ga., native, said the April 14 mission was to retrieve a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle with a broken transmission.

"We went out, set up 360 degree security, dismounted for (KBR, Inc.) and they recovered the vehicle rather quickly without any problems," he said.

West said it is typical to go on a recovery mission with four military and two KBR vehicles.

"The mission went very smoothly and we got there in about a half hour," he said.

West said it usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes to get off base once they reach the Movement Control Team yard, which is the starting point for the convoys.

"We have to link up with KBR and get their manifest of personnel and combine it with ours, which is what takes most of the time," he said.

Missions usually average three hours from start to finish, and West said all six of the missions he has been on went smoothly.

Spc. William Hayes, a gunner with A Battery, RFS, 278th ACR and a Pigeon Forge, Tenn., native, said the team always reacts quickly during these missions and makes good time.

"From the time we got the call ... we made it to the pickup point in an hour and ten minutes," he said.

Hayes said it is important to keep the

KBR employees safe when they are recovering the vehicles.

"We give them a green area and make sure nothing happens," he said.

After the vehicle was recovered, a group of military police joined their convoy and helped them push through the city, Hayes said.

"Some of these vehicles are big, so when we came to a bridge, some Soldiers dismounted to make sure they had clearance," he said.

Sometimes they do not go out on many missions during the week, but when they do, Hayes said he enjoys going out into the city.

"I usually roll through at night, and this was my first mission during the day," he said.

Hayes said it is quiet at night, with little traffic on the streets, but during the day it is busy, with a lot of civilian traffic and pedestrians.

"We have to really be on our toes during the day time and not get complacent," he said. "We know that something can happen at any time out there, and we will be ready and safe."



Pfc. Bradley Bournes, a driver with A Battery, Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Livingston, Tenn., native, and Spc. William Hayes, a gunner with A Battery, RFS, 278th ACR and a Pigeon Forge, Tenn., native, perform preventive maintenance checks and services, as well as weapons checks in preparation for a recovery mission April 15 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Louisiana Troops awarded combat patch

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. TRESA L. ALLEMANG
256TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Soldiers with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Headquarters, 199th Brigade Support Battalion out of Alexandria, La., and the brigade's Special Troops Battalion out of Plaquemine, La., were awarded a combat patch honoring their wartime service during a ceremony April 16 at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Although much of the unit had combat patches from previous deployments, including the 256th IBCT, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s 2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment, there were still some for whom the experience is unique.

Pvt. Adam J. Eubanks, a radio transmission and command post operator for the Base Defense Operations Center and Lafayette, La., native, filled the empty space on his right shoulder with a combat patch for the first time at the ceremony.

"It is an experience that came sooner than I expected," said Eubanks, who completed basic combat training



Lt. Col. Marc Kelly, deputy commander with the 199th Garrison Command and a Deville, La., native, places combat patches on his Soldiers during a ceremony April 16 at Camp Victory, Iraq. The ceremony marked the Army's recognition of the Soldiers' wartime service with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Mobilized Jan. 5, the 256th deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to conduct convoy escort and force protection missions during the responsible drawdown of U.S. Forces from Iraq.

and advanced individual training in November. "I literally stepped off of the airplane and walked over to my unit, located right next to the airport, and they informed me that I would be

part of the deployment."

Col. James B. Waskom, garrison commander and an Abbeville, La., native, placed patches on the garrison command and Base Defense Op-

erations Center leaders – Lt. Col. Marc Kelly, the garrison deputy commander and a Deville, La., native, Command Sgt. Maj. William Miguez, the garrison senior enlisted adviser and a New Iberia, La., native, Lt. Col. Stuart Burruss, the BDOC commander and a Carville, La., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Sandel, the BDOC senior enlisted adviser and a Deridder, La., native – marking the moment that all Soldiers with the unit could wear the 256th IBCT patch.

"I am glad that I came," said Eubanks. "This is what I am trained for and I am proud to do my part in serving my country."

Waskom reminded his troops that their uniform may have changed, but their mission remains the same.

"You've earned the right to wear a combat patch, but this doesn't make you bulletproof," he said. "You are still in a combat zone."

The 256th IBCT mobilized Jan. 5 to conduct convoy escort and force protection missions during the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq. The roughly 3,400 troops with the Tiger Brigade trained for two months at Camp Shelby, Miss., to prepare for the deployment, and are scheduled to return home around the end of this year.

Support operations Soldiers direct Liberty traffic

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The support operations transportation Soldiers with the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) have worked around the clock since August to manage all transportation into and out of Camp Liberty, Iraq.

“Anything that needs to be moved, we move it,” said Capt. Robert McGuire, SPO transportation officer in charge with the 260th CSSB and a Canton, Mich., native.

McGuire said his team manage all of the transportation movement requests for all convoys in the area and has set a high standard for the rest of the 15th Sust. Bde.

“We’ve driven around 1.7 million miles,” he said, “and we have the best on-time rate in the brigade.”

The transportation office works hand in hand with military and civilian transportation companies to keep the country’s supplies moving, said Staff Sgt. William Lomax, a transportation sergeant



Courtesy photo

The support operations transportation office with the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) manages all convoys coming through Camp Liberty, Iraq. To date, its convoys have traveled more than 1.7 million miles.

with the 260th CSSB and a Donalds, S.C., native.

“We have over 450 Army assets and over 300 KBR (Inc.) assets,” he said.

As the Army prepares for the drawdown, more civilian convoys move than Army convoys, Lomax said

The drawdown has provided more

work for the SPO transportation office as it moves excess containerized housing units and equipment south to Kuwait.

“We’re trying to clean up the area around here,” said Lomax. “We take (equipment) from the (Central Receiving and Shipping Point) and designate where it needs to go.”

Lomax said this is his second deployment to Iraq and it has been a major learning experience.

“I learned a lot about the (inner workings) of the SPO,” he said.

Lomax said he spent his last deployment driving and has enjoyed the challenge of managing the convoys from the outside.

“Driving is the easy part,” he said.

The 260th CSSB is training its replacement, the 373rd CSSB, 15th Sust., Bde., which was scheduled to take over the SPO mission April 20.

“Their (operations) are going smooth ... we’re going to drive on with that,” said Spc. John Teague, the TMR manager and coordinator with the 373rd CSSB and a Beaumont, Texas, native.

Teague said his team is learning as much as it can from the 260th before it redeploys.

“They really set the standard, so we’re just trying to keep that up,” he said.

Teague said he and his team are excited to take on their mission during this historical drawdown.

“We understand we’ve got a big responsibility,” he said. “It will be something to remember.”

Task Force Bayou assumes authority at Al Asad

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. NATHANIEL ORPHEY
256TH IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ALASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The Louisiana Army National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Lake Charles, La., formally assumed command from the Oregon National Guard’s 141st Brigade Support Battalion during a transfer of authority ceremony April 7 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

The ceremony took place at the White Elephant Morale Welfare and Recreation tent and included the uncasing of the incoming battalion’s colors, to symbolize the assumption of command for Louisiana’s Task Force Bayou in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit’s primary mission consists of providing convoy escort teams to conduct security during the upcoming responsible

drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment from Iraq.

Before assuming its mission, TF Bayou trained on convoy and counter-improvised explosive device operations for roughly two months at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The Soldiers with 3rd Bn. spent two weeks training with TF Atlas before assuming the mission. During this time, Soldiers from both units shared techniques on how to best address the issues that could arise during the unit’s time in Iraq, said Capt. John Waller, personnel officer with the 3/156th and a Lake Charles, La., native.

“This has been one of the easiest TOAs I’ve ever been a part of,” he said. “The 141st Soldiers really made it easy for us to come in and get our job done.”

Lt. Col. David Gooch, Task Force Bayou’s commander and a Houston native, also expressed his appreciation for the TF Atlas Soldiers.

“I want to thank the Soldiers of the 141st for making this an easy transition for us,” he said. “We have trained hard and I know we are ready for the task ahead.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Hickman, the senior enlisted adviser with the Louisiana Army National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Lake Charles, La., and a Deridder, La., native, and Lt. Col. David Gooch, 3rd Bn. commander and a Houston native, uncasing the unit’s colors during a transfer of authority ceremony April 7 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Task Force Bayou is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to conduct convoy escort and force protection missions throughout Iraq to assist with the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment.

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Iraqis partner with US, deliver

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAPT. MEGHAN E. KEEFE
37TH ENGINEER BN.

SALAH AD DIN, Iraq – The 6th Battalion Iraqi Emergency Response Unit and U.S. forces visited two local schools to deliver backpacks and school supplies April 7 in Dujayl, Iraq.



A Company, 37th Engineer Battalion – Joint Task Force Eagle out of Fort Bragg, N.C., and B Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment out of Fort Riley, Kan., partnered with the 6th Bn. ERU to make two trips to deliver backpacks donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit.

The backpacks were filled with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.

The delivery would not have been possible without the efforts of stateside families and Iraqi Maj. Khan, the 6th Bn. ERU operations officer, and his team, said Capt. Tim Behnke, the JTF Eagle chaplain and a Fayetteville, N.C., native.

"Everything fell into place perfectly," said Behnke. "Tennessee donated the backpacks, Texas donated the school supplies and our Iraqi partners wanted to help their community."

First Lt. Cody Fields, the 1st Platoon leader with B Co., 1/28 Inf. Bn. and a Roseville, Calif., native, said the relationship between his platoon and the 6th Bn. ERU helps ideas to support local communities become a reality.

"Half of my patrols are conducted in partnership with the ERU," he said. "They are very open to joint patrolling, have an excellent rapport with the community and are well known throughout the area. Their community-first approach to conflict resolution is a great learning opportunity for my Soldiers."

"This was our first time conducting a mission like this with the ERU and it was a lot of fun."

For this backpack delivery, the engineers and infantrymen were escorted by the 6th Bn. ERU into Dujayl, where their first stop was an all-girl primary school. Soldiers unloaded boxes with the ERU and,



Soldiers with A Company, 37th Engineer Battalion – Joint Task Force Eagle unload boxes of backpacks upon arriving at a school in Dujayl, Iraq. The backpacks were donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit, and were with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.

as a team, handed out backpacks to quiet classrooms full of children.

"It was a great and very interesting experience,"

said 1st Lt. Josh Morris, JTF Eagle intelligence officer and a Winchester, Tenn., native. "I have spent the past 10 months working with Iraqi adults, so spending time with these kids was really enjoyable."

Morris's sister-in-law, Erin Jones, the third grade teacher at Joe Hubenak Elementary School responsible for collecting the supplies and a Richmond, Texas, native, said the donation was a community effort that provided 120 children with school supplies for their new backpacks.

"In honor of our 'Freedom Week,' we decided to do something to support the troops," said Jones. "After talking to Josh, we decided to mail school supplies. We asked the kids to collect donations at home and with their friends, families and neighbors. The kids brought the school supplies into my classroom where we sorted and organized them."



Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas poses for a picture. The class collected and donated school supplies to 120 Iraqi children.

Courtesy photo

school supplies to children

(Right) Iraqi Maj. Khan, the operations officer with the Iraqi Security Forces Emergency Response Unit, hands out backpacks filled with school supplies to schoolchildren in need. The backpacks were donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit, and were filled with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.



(Left) An Iraqi 6th Battalion Emergency Response unit Soldier hands out backpacks filled with school supplies to schoolchildren in need. The backpacks were donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit, and were filled with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.



Iraqi schoolchildren thank Iraqi Maj. Khan, the operations officer with the 6th Battalion Emergency Response Unit, for providing them with backpacks and school supplies. The backpacks were donated by the 194th Engineer Brigade, a Tennessee National Guard unit, and were filled with school supplies donated by teacher Erin Jones' third grade class at Joe Hubenak Elementary School in Richmond, Texas.

girl's
filled
s.

Six Soldiers inducted into Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Six non-commissioned officers were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony sponsored by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) April 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Soldiers and Airmen attended the ceremony as NCOs from units throughout Iraq were inducted.

NCOs inducted into the SAMC set the example for fellow Soldiers to follow, said Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Thompson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of operations with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC out of Fort Hood, Texas.

“The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is an elite organization of noncommissioned officers who ... know how to take care of Soldiers and know how to give back to the community, don’t mind a hard day’s work ... and always lead from the front,” he said.

The event signifies their dedication to the Army, their mission and their Soldiers, said Thompson, a Youngstown, Ohio, native.

The role of the NCO is to teach, train and mentor Soldiers to achieve their personal mission objectives as well as the Army’s, said Thompson.

Inductee Staff Sgt. Miriam Espinoza-Torres, the command group secretary with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Rock Island, Wash., native, said the last five months were filled with hard work and studying for the SAMC board. The induction into the club is the culmination of an NCO’s career and hard work, said Espinoza-Torres.

“I worked hard for it, it’s a very prestigious club ... not everybody can get into,” she said. “You have to study hard, you have to really prepare yourself, and most of all, know your job and your Soldiers.”

The board judged the NCOs on their Army knowledge and how they support their Soldiers in their mission, said Espinoza-Torres.

For the younger generation of NCOs to earn induction into the club, they must show dedication to the generation of Soldiers they will influence, Thompson said.

“They are our future leaders and they will be held accountable not only as a noncommissioned officer, but now even more so as a Sergeant Audie Murphy award recipient,” he said.

The other NCOs inducted into the SAMC were:

Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Colson, a brigade assistant operations sergeant with 42nd Military Transition Team out of Fort Riley, Kan., and a Norristown, Pa., native.

Sgt. 1st Class Atkinson Walker, the



Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Thompson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of operations with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Youngstown, Ohio, native, swears six inductees into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony April 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

noncommissioned officer in charge of movement control with the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC and a Moore Haven, Fla., native.

Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Phillips, a platoon sergeant with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Portland, Ore., 13th ESC and a Portland, Ore., native.

Staff Sgt. Mario Curtis Jr., the radio communications supervisor with the 1st Maintenance Company out of Fort Riley, Kan., 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Victorville, Calif., native.

Sgt. Scott Todd, a supply sergeant at the Pacesetter Retrograde Yard with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, 541 CSSB, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Florence, Ariz., native.

Cavalry Soldiers patched during ceremony

BY STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE
278TH ACR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Thirty-seven new Veterans with the Regimental Troops Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) received their combat patches, during a ceremony at the Base Defense Operations Center April 11 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The ceremony for the Tennessee Army National Guard unit opened when the troops were brought to attention by Signal Company 1st Sgt. Edward Pridemore, a Greenville, Tenn., native.

With the Tennessee state flag and RTS colors flying over the BDOC, Maj. Jody Miller, the RTS commander and a Rockville, Tenn., native, spoke to the squadron about its togetherness and professionalism.

“I am proud of RTS,” he said. “This squadron was made up of four totally different units to form one RTS ... You



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

Col. Jeffery H. Holmes, regimental commander with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Knoxville, Tenn., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, talks to Soldiers with the Regimental Troops Squadron, 278th ACR, at their combat patch ceremony April 11 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

have done it seamlessly and performed as one team.”

Col. Jeffery H. Holmes, the 278th commander and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, spoke about American Veterans as a small fraction of the nation’s over-

all population, saying the realization of now being a Veteran may strike some individuals at a later date.

Maj. Travis Powell, the RTS operations officer and a Nunnely, Tenn., native, fulfilled the adjutant’s role in

reading the history of the combat patch, dating back to America’s Continental Army, while Miller and RTS Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Agee, a Cookeville, Tenn., native, moved through the ranks attaching the 278th patch to the right shoulder of each Soldier.

“The unit patch can be traced back to Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army,” said Powell. “The combat patch worn on the right shoulder was introduced during (World War II).”





The ceremony concluded after Capt. James Saunders, RTS chaplain and a Sparta, Tenn., native, asked God’s blessing on the squadron.

First Lt. Callee Trevathan, a personnel officer with the RTS and a Gleason, Tenn., native, said being awarded a combat patch meant a lot to him.

SpC. Jeremiah Barrajo, a radio transmitter operator at the BDOC and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, agreed.

“It means, to me, that I’ve actually fulfilled my obligation to the Army and my country,” he said.

Force protection uniform postures

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

Auburn University donates flag on a mission

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

Q-WEST, Iraq – Flags hanging from the ceilings of dining facilities across Iraq are a common scene, but the Auburn University flag added to Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq's Wagonmaster Inn dining facility April 13 is one of a kind.

The flag, which has been signed by Auburn faculty members, local politicians, U.S. senators and the governor of Alabama, was presented to Col. Larry Phelps, the commander of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Auburn alumnus, during a ceremony April 13 at Q-West.

The force behind obtaining the flag



Members of the 40th Transportation Company, Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) pose with an Auburn University flag, signed by Auburn faculty members, local politicians, U.S. senators and the governor of Alabama, during its presentation ceremony April 13 at the Wagonmaster Inn at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

was Sgt. Benjamin Bryant, a truck driver with the 40th Transportation Company, Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sust. Bde. and a Brookings, S.D.,

native, and his father-in-law.

While Bryant was home on leave, he said his father-in-law offered to get the flag signed, and asked if Bry-

ant would take it back to Iraq to hang in the dining facility if he did.

By the time Bryant returned from leave, he said the flag had collected 12 signatures, including those of the Alabama governor and both U.S. senators from Alabama.

Phelps, a Greenville, Ala., native, accepted the flag from Bryant, saying he was not surprised by the support from his alma mater.

"Auburn is about family," he said.

The flag serves as a symbol of the support the people at Auburn give to Soldiers, Phelps said.

During the ceremony, Phelps told Bryant to thank the Auburn faculty for their efforts, express how proud he was to be an alumnus and give a bit of advice to the football team:

"Beat Alabama," he said.

After Bryant returns from the deployment, he will take the flag back to Auburn where he will present it to the head of the college's Reserve Officer Training Corps program, he said.

Chicago's Twista hits Q-West, Iraq

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

Q-WEST, Iraq – Twista, a rapper from Chicago, performed for service members during a concert at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq's outdoor

stage April 14, on the second of a five-stop tour through Iraq and Kuwait.

Fellow rapper B-Hype accompanied Twista as the pair performed songs from Twista's seven albums to a crowd of screaming service members.

The tour was the second for the pair. Their first was in 2008, and they said they could tell how much the troops appreciated their performances.

"We took it to heart; that's what made us come out here the second time," Twista said. "We just come out to ..."

"... make them feel at home," B-Hype finished.

"Bring a little piece of the crib," Twista said.

Twista said he enjoyed making the Soldiers happy and believed that it was his responsibility to do something for

the troops. He said he believes performing for them helps.

"It gets everybody up for the next day and ready for their job," he said. "I feel if you're blessed at something that makes you beyond average, you should give back in some way."

B-Hype said seeing the Soldiers was the best part of the tours, but he also enjoyed perks such as shooting a .50 caliber machine gun.

Sgt. Tramayne Graham, supply sergeant with the 501st Area Support Medical Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade and an Orlando, Fla., native, said he is a long-time fan of Twista and loved the show.

"(I) got a little taste, like you were at home again," he said. "They show the Soldiers that even though they're celebrities, they can still come out and show their support."

Spc. Tiffany Martinez, a public af-



Twista, a rapper and Chicago native, performs for service members at the outdoor theater at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, on the second stop of a five-stop tour April 14 of Iraq and Kuwait.

fairs specialist with 631st Maintenance Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said she agreed. She said it helped to have the artists show the troops that America supports them.

"We all know that they have the good life, but they pay attention to us," she said.

Martinez also said that she was more

likely to go see an artist after returning home if she had also seen that artist on tour in Iraq.

Twista and B-Hype said many rappers do not want to come to Iraq because they consider it dangerous.

"It feels like we got it on lock down here, so I feel good," Twista said. "All the other rappers are scared."

B-Hype said he agreed.

"We (are) not scared," he said.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact us at: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Tennessee Guardsmen prep Zac Brown Band concert for 1,500 plus fans

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) volunteered to set up the stage for the Zac Brown Band's concert, April 16 at the amphitheater at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

The Soldiers also provided force protection and acted as a personal security detail for the band as it toured the base during the day and performed later that night.

Sgt. Steven Miller, an armor sergeant with B Battery, RFS, 278th ACR and a Covington, Tenn., native, said he was asked to help with the band's Marez stop during its weeklong United Service Organizations tour.

"There is a lot more equipment than I expected and it was a lot of work," he said.

Miller said the hard work was worth it and he was glad to see a great band perform.

"I've seen them on (Country Music Television) but never live," he said.

Service members need the down time for events such as these, because it is great for morale, said Miller.

Spc. William Duignan, a gunner with A Battery, RFS, 278th ACR and a Seymour, Tenn., native, said he is a big fan of the Zac Brown Band, and was excited to set up for them and see a great concert in the front row.

"We set up all their speakers, delivered their personal bags for them," he said. "This is definitely the best band I've seen here."



Zac Brown, with the Zac Brown Band, performs a song during his encore performance April 16 at the amphitheater at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq. The band opted to perform in Iraq for its United Service Organizations sponsored tour instead of attending the American Country Music awards show, where they are nominated for two awards.

Chris Fryar, the drummer with the Zac Brown Band and a Birmingham, Ala., native, said he was honored to perform in Iraq and hopes to bring a little taste of home to the Soldiers.

The American Country Music awards show will air live in the United States April 18, and the band has been nominated for two awards. However, they chose to be in Iraq instead of at the award ceremony, said Fryar.

"It means more for us to be here than at the ACMs," he said. "(Service members) are making a much bigger sacrifice over here having to spend time away from family, and I personally believe that it is important to give back."

This is the band's first time in Iraq. Fryar said he was surprised by the size of the installation, and how busy it is with sustainment operations and peo-

ple traveling on and off of the base.

"Everyone is so organized around here, it is amazing," he said.

Fryar said he believes his band is a team, just like the military, and is glad it could come here. He said the experience, especially the time spent with service members, humbled him.

"I feel closer to the men and women here than ever before," said Fryar. "It was an honor to be here."

Telling the Providers Story from all across Iraq



Tune In To

BALAD AND BEYOND

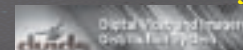
Now airing on the Pentagon Channel

every Thursday at 0830 IZ
every Saturday at 1430 IZ



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www.dvidshub.net
keyword: Balad and Beyond



Deployed couple says 'I do' - again

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

Q-WEST, Iraq – A couple said, “I do” April 13 at Liberty Chapel at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, but instead of a white gown and a tuxedo, the couple wore Army Combat Uniforms.

Instead of a band or an organist, an iPod provided the music.

And the couple was already married.

Sgt. Christopher Jones, a food service specialist, and Spc. Elyse Jones, a logistics specialist, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), renewed their vows to each other during the ceremony.

The renewal came exactly one year after they were married, said Christopher Jones, a Camden, N.J., native.

The couple met in 2008, while stationed in Daegu, South Korea, and got



Sgt. Christopher Jones, a food service specialist with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Camden N.J., native, renews his vows to his wife during a ceremony April 13 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

married in a courthouse in Killeen, Texas, April 13, 2008, he said.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hutton, the battalion's supply noncommissioned of-

ficer in charge and a Honolulu native, said Elyse Jones mentioned renewing their vows when they returned home.

“I told her, ‘Why not do it here?’ said

Hutton. “I didn’t know they would run with it.”

The couple said they took it seriously after the initial joking.

After checking with the battalion chaplain, they set the ceremony date – April 13, the couple’s anniversary.

The renewal ceremony was a first for Capt. Brent Crosswhite, the battalion’s chaplain. He said he had done renewal ceremonies before, but never while deployed.

“It’s a good way to help a marriage become stronger,” said Crosswhite, a Blanchard, Okla., native.

The Jones’ wanted to do something on their first deployment together – something to remember their first anniversary, Christopher Jones said.

“We didn’t want anything all big and extravagant,” he said. “Just something that was very significant to us. We really didn’t know if we were going to get a chance like this again.”

Elyse Jones said renewing their vows was important to her.

“We didn’t have our own vows the first time,” she said. “It was a treat to actually speak what we felt.”

Heavy Medal Tour Olympians rock JBB

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The U.S.

Nordic Combined Ski Team visited service members at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 13, as part of the Armed Forces Entertainment Heavy Medal

Tour.

The team, which won a total of seven medals, including one gold and six silver, at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games, is the first U.S. team to win an Olympic medal in a Nordic combined event.

Members of the team, Billy Demong, Todd Lodwick, Johnny Spillane and Brett Camerota, visited the Air Force Theater Hospital and Morale, Welfare and Recreation center east during their visit to JBB.

Capt. Michael B. Mendoza, an intelligence officer with 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment –Taskforce Bandit, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New Orleans native, met the team during its visit.

Mendoza said the visit was good for the morale of the troops and he hopes to see more events like this one.

“It is good to see that people are

willing to come over here, regardless of the threat,” he said. “(They are) taking the time out of their schedule to come see us. It shows that they care about what we are doing, that it is not meaningless.”

Lodwick, a Steamboat Springs, Colo., native, said he and each of his team members gave up vacation time to do the tour because they believed it would be an important experience for them.

Lodwick said he understands how difficult it can be to be away from loved ones for an extended period of time, which motivated him to visit service members serving away from their families.

“We also miss our families,” he said. “We travel throughout the season, from November to March, gone almost five months a year. It gets hard being away from home.”

Time away from home is not the only difficult similarity that Soldiers have

with professional athletes, said Lodwick.

“We do not get paid a lot of money,” he said. “The travel, living out of a bag, and basically following a regimen of training to be the best in the world. (We

have) those similarities in common with the armed forces. We do not put our life on the line like (they) do, but we do know what it takes to become the best and the dedication it takes to achieve greatness.”



Members of the U.S. Nordic Combined Ski Team, Brett Camerota, Todd Lodwick, Johnny Spillane and Billy Demong, pose for a picture with their Olympic silver medals, during their April 13 visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq as part of the Armed Forces Entertainment Heavy Medal Tour.

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

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

Last week's answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What was The Rolling Stones' second album called?
2. Which year in the 1990s did "Candle in the Wind" reach number one?
3. Apart from The Beatles, which British group has had most top 10 singles in total?
4. How many people made up the group Tears For Fears?
5. What is Paul McCartney's real first name?

1. "The Rolling Stones No. 2" 2. 1997 3. The Rolling Stones 4. Two 5. James

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)

GENERAL

Sunday 0900 Freedom Chapel
0900 Provider Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 1100 MWR East Building
1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
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-4)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
1100 Provider Chapel
1230 Air Force Hospital Chapel
Thursday 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel
Wed, Fri 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)
Saturday 2000 Freedom Chapel

Confessions: Sat 1600-1645 (H-4 Chapel) or by appointment

JEWSH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 1800 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-4)

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: 443-7783
Provider Chapel: 443-4107
Freedom Chapel: 443-6301

*Current as of 21 FEB 2010

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 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., 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: Monday, 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. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Dart: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
EAST REC- REATION CENTER 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., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m.	EAST FIT- NESS CENTER Open Court Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Fri., - 6-7 a.m.	H6 FITNESS CENTER 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- 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- 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- 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- 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 04/29/10

Oakland Athletics @ Tampa Bay Rays, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Atlanta Braves @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 10:30 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ sports

Friday 04/30/10

Cincinnati Reds @ Houston Astros, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Arizona Diamondbacks @ Chicago Cubs, Live 11 a.m. AFN/ sports
NASCAR Nationwide Series 250 (Richmond Intl. Raceway, Richmond, VA), Live 4:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Saturday 05/01/10

Milwaukee Brewers @ San Diego Padres, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-First Round: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports
The Kentucky Derby, Live 8 a.m. AFN/sports
2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Live 9:30 a.m. AFN/prime Atlantic

Sunday 05/02/10

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Crown Royal "Your Name Here" 400, Tape Delayed 2 a.m. AFN/ xtra
HBO World Boxing: Floyd Mayweather vs Shane Mosley, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports
FOX Saturday Baseball: Atlanta Braves @ Houston Astros, Tape Delayed 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Angels @ Detroit Tigers, Live 10 a.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 05/03/10

2010 NBA Playoffs: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 3:30 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Live 5 p.m. AFN/sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Live 7:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 05/04/10

Monday Night Baseball: Los Angeles Angels @ Boston Red Sox, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Live 5 p.m. AFN/sports

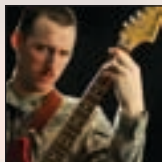
Wednesday 05/05/10

2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Detroit Tigers @ Minnesota Twins, Live 10 a.m. AFN/ sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Conference Semifinals: Teams TBD, Live 7:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Arts & Entertainment

MGMT goes in like lion, out like lamb with 'Congratulations'

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



I've heard them called MGMT and Management and I'm never really sure how to say it, but I'll go with MGMT for now.

The band was originally called The Management but changed its name before its first release when band members discovered another band with the same name. MGMT it is.

"Congratulations" is the second major label release from MGMT, and one that carried with it great expectations, which it upheld, at least for the first few tracks.

MGMT came to fame rather quickly

after its 2008 release "Oracular Spectacular." Even if you don't think you know the band, I can almost guarantee you've heard "Time to Pretend," "Kids" or "Electric Feel," either on TV or video game soundtracks.

What was so great about those songs is that they felt larger than life. They were anthems for nerdy kids with synthesizers, and even without being able to understand the words, the songs got stuck in my head for weeks on end. They were played to death on satellite radio and in advertising, but they were still solid songs after 1,000 listens.

These anthems are missing from "Congratulations." There are some very fun songs here but nothing epic. Every time I listen to the album, I hear

a good song that I forgot about, and that's the problem. As solid as it is, it's still pretty forgettable.

Another problem I have with this album, and with countless others, is that it starts out with four or five catchy, energetic tracks and then puts me to sleep with the last few.

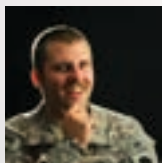
My favorite tracks are the first three. "It's Working" is lively and one of the few MGMT tracks that suggests they put on a great live show. "Song for Dan Treacy" sounds like Architecture In Helsinki, an eclectic art band with some of the catchiest, weirdest songs I have ever heard. "Someone's Missing" sounds a bit more like "Oracular Spectacular" with its falsetto vocals and calming ambience building up to 30 seconds of '70s style roller disco fun.

The trouble for me starts with track six, "Siberian Breaks." Even the title sounds boring. This 12-minute snooze fest really ruins the album for me. It's slow and uninteresting and puts me to sleep so much that I rarely hear the rest of the songs. This is a shame because the next track, "Brian Eno" would actually work if it had a proper opener.

If you enjoyed "Oracular Spectacular," you might enjoy this follow up, but don't expect anything nearly as catchy. Fans of Architecture in Helsinki and The Flaming Lips will enjoy the first half of the album at least. The best advice I can give is to skip "Siberian Breaks" and judge the album by the remaining tracks, which are mostly enjoyable.

Mediocre story saved by stars in 'Date Night'

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"Date Night" should have been hilarious, but Steve Carell ("The Office") and Tina Fey ("30 Rock") only just saved it from mediocrity.

This adventurous rom-com is worth watching for a few hilarious moments, but overall it's a miss.

Phil Foster (Carell) and Claire Foster (Fey) are a successful couple with two kids. Their lives have turned into a redundant suburban nightmare.

They wake up, get the kids ready, go to work, get home, eat dinner and head for bed. Then when a couple of their friends decide to get divorced because of the lack of excitement in their lives, the Fosters decide to spice up their life. Phil takes Claire to a fancy restaurant in downtown Manhattan and things start to get exciting. At the restaurant, they take a reservation for a couple of no-shows, and through a case of mistaken identity, they end up at the bad end of a hand gun.

"Date Night" had an amazing cast, but most of the actors had small uneventful roles. The cameos that re-

ally brought some laughs were James Franco ("Pineapple Express") and J.B. Smoov ("Curb Your Enthusiasm").

Franco, who even in bad movies is always good, was hands down the funniest part of the movie. His portrayal of Taste, a small-time criminal alongside his girlfriend Whippit (Mila Kunis), was hilarious. He spouts out great one-liners while having an awkward fight with Whippit in front of the Fosters.

Smoov, who has really only been a bit player, made what could have been a really bad action/comedy scene hilarious. As a cab driver, his reactions during the movie's car chase scene are

hysterical. Anyone familiar with his work as Leon Black on "Curb Your Enthusiasm" can probably imagine how this scene went down.

Fey and Carell offer hilarious improvised banter with each another that carried this film above its script, but these two are much funnier on their respective television shows than they were in this movie. This movie suffered from a very weak script.

Married couples and parents will probably find the jokes in "Date Night" much more relatable than single people, but the movie is still just OK. It has moments, but I would definitely wait to rent this one.

PVT MURPHY



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, April 28

5 p.m. Green Zone
8 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest

Thursday, April 29

5 p.m. Brooklyn's Finest
8 p.m. Death At A Funeral

Friday, April 30

2 p.m. She's Out Of My League
5 p.m. Our Family Wedding
8:30 p.m. The Losers

Saturday, May 1

2 p.m. Remember Me
5 p.m. The Losers
8 p.m. She's Out Of My League

Sunday, May 2

2 p.m. The Losers
5 p.m. Remember Me
8 p.m. Our Family Wedding

Monday, May 3

5 p.m. She's Out Of My League
8 p.m. Remember Me

Tuesday, May 4

5 p.m. Our Family Wedding
8 p.m. The Losers

Wednesday, May 5

5 p.m. The Losers
8 p.m. She's Out Of My League



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

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



Sgt. Pedro Lopez, a team leader with 3rd Platoon, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division out of El Paso, Texas, waits by a military vehicle as other members of his unit prepare to head out after a patrol April 5 in Debbzni, Iraq. U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi Police patrolled villages to talk to the locals about the election results.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon

(Above) Pfc. Seth Green, a Soldier with C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, patrols April 1 through the town of Al Dimaj, Iraq. Al Dimaj is part of the unit's new area of operations and they are gathering information about the town.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Eileen Kelly Fors

Iraqi Army Soldiers raise the Iraqi national flag over the newly acquired Iraqi Army Kirkush Military Training Base April 2 in Diyala province, Iraq. The U.S. Army turned over ownership of the land, which is 90 km northeast of Baghdad and 20 km from the Iranian border, to the Iraqi Army.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon

Sgt. David Kratzer, a noncommissioned officer with C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, scans a local's finger prints April 3 at Badoush, Iraq. Kratzer and his team are gathering information about the local populace.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Manhea Kim

An Iraqi Army battalion commander hands a student a backpack during a Coalition humanitarian aid mission led by the Iraqi Army March 31 at Nasir Wa Salam, Iraq. The humanitarian aid effort is aimed at improving the relationship between local nationals and the Iraqi Army.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

US transfers Phoenix Base to Iraqi government

BAGHDAD – Officials from United States Forces – Iraq transferred Phoenix Base to the government of Iraq in an official ceremony April 15 in Baghdad.

This transfer is another milestone of the spirit of partnership with Iraq as it demonstrates the growth of Iraqi Institutions.

Phoenix Base was the location of the Multi-National Security Transition Command headquarters from 2004 until the unit deactivated Dec. 31, 2009, and became a subordinate unit of USF-I. The GoI plans to use the former U.S. base as the new home of the Iraq National Defence University.

“The National Defence University is charged with educating and training the future leaders of the Ministry of Defence,” said Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, deputy commanding general for advising and training.

Base returns are one part of the larger USF-I effort toward empowering the Iraqi people and represent important steps in achieving Iraqi security, self reliance and U.S. compliance with the Security Agreement.

Sameer Al-Haddad, secretariat of the Committee for Receiving Real Properties and Camps Office of the Prime Minister, accepted the key from Barbero, which symbolized the initiation of the official base transfer to the government of Iraq. Sameer finalized the transfer after presenting the key to Iraqi Army Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein Dohi, deputy chief of staff for training.

Hussein expressed his gratitude for the base transfer.

“I want to thank the U.S. Army for the support they provide to the Iraqi Army and its training institutions,” said Dohi. “We hope this level of cooperation and coordination will continue to increase as we achieve our common interests.”

Iraqi officers graduate command course

BAGHDAD – More than a dozen Iraqi officers graduated from Brigade Command Course One and Battalion Command Course One at Ar-Rustamiyah Joint Staff and Command College April 11 in Baghdad.

The six-month courses, designed for officers who have been selected to take up appointments as brigade or battalion commanders, are becoming milestones in the process of Iraqi professional military education.

Distinguished guests in attendance included Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein, the deputy chief of staff for training, Staff Maj. Gen. Jassim, commandant of the National Defence University and Staff Brig. Gen. Jawhar, commandant of the Joint Staff and Command College.

In his speech Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli, NATO



Training Mission – Iraq deputy commander, encouraged the graduates to take the experience and knowledge they gained from the courses and use their new skills to enrich their future units.

“I am also impressed by the continuous improvements in the curriculum that the staff has instituted since the college reopened in 2005,” said Spinelli. “That process continues today. The NATO adviser teams very much enjoy working alongside our Iraqi partners. I wish to assure you of the future support of the NATO Training Mission as you prepare for the next courses.”

The next courses are scheduled to begin in June.

Iraqi Security Forces arrest four al-Qaeda suspects

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested four suspected terrorists during two joint security operations in and around Baghdad April 11.

In western Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisers arrested the suspected associate of an alleged member of al-Qaeda in Iraq, suspected to be involved in financing and implementing vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks.

ISF searched a building in the capital city for the warranted individual, who was not present. Based on preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence at the scene, ISF arrested an individual suspected to be a criminal associate of the warranted individual.

During another operation roughly 12 km west of Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for an alleged AQI Baghdad leader who is suspected of facilitating VBID attacks against civilians and security forces in the capital city.

Based on evidence gathered at the scene, ISF arrested three suspected criminal associates of the wanted individual.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in co-

ordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces arrest two suspected terrorists

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected associates of an al-Qaeda in Iraq leader for eastern Mosul during a joint security operation April 8 in northern Iraq.

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

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

After conducting preliminary questioning and an initial examination of the evidence during the operation, ISF identified and arrested 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 kill suspected al-Qaeda leader

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces killed a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader during a joint security operation April 15 in eastern Mosul.

In a separate joint security operation, Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi leader and four suspected criminal associates April 16 north of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched buildings for a suspected AQI leader allegedly linked to oil extortion in the northern Iraqi city. In the process of executing the arrest, the security forces discovered the suspect was armed.


Perceiving an immediate threat to their safety, members of the security team shot and killed the gunman, who was later identified as the warranted individual.

During another operation, 50 km north of Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a wanted Jaysh al-Mahdi leader who is allegedly responsible for transporting weapons into the Qwaylis area and suspected of being an active participant in attacks on Coalition forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi Police to identify and arrest the wanted JAM leader and four suspected criminal associates.

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 kill three suspected al-Qaeda associates, arrest two


 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces killed three suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members and arrested two others during a joint security operation April 10 in northern Iraq.

In a rural area roughly 68 km northeast of Tikrit, ISF and U.S. advisers searched buildings for a suspected AQI leader and illegal weapons facilitator who may have ties to other senior weapons dealers in the region.

During the operation, associates of the warranted AQI leader fired directly at ISF who engaged the assailants, killing three. Based on evidence gathered at the scene, ISF also arrested two 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.

Suspected terrorist cell leader detained


 CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces with the Abassi Iraqi Police Station, near Hawijah, Iraq, with assistance from 1st Battalion, 37th Armor, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas, detained a high-value target April 11 at a checkpoint outside of Abassi.

The alleged terrorist, a suspected leader of an improvised explosive device cell in Hawijah, is suspected of involvement with murders and bombings against Iraqi citizens and Iraqi and U.S. forces.

After the Abassi police received intelligence of the suspect being in the area, they set up a checkpoint outside the village and detained the suspect that morning.

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.

Joint security station transferred to Iraqi Security Forces

 BAGHDAD – Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division transferred responsibility of Joint Security Station Shawra Wa Umjdir to 8th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Federal Police Division during a ceremony April 15 at the JSS.

The U.S. unit has worked with the federal police in

the past six months by conducting partnership training, patrols and humanitarian assistance missions.


"It is clear that 2/14 had a great partnership with the FP brigade here," said Col. Mark Calvert, the chief of staff for U.S. Division – Center. "They have gotten to the point where they don't need U.S. presence anymore."

Col. Samir Shati Aziz, commander of 3rd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 2nd FP Division, praised the partnership.

"The U.S. gave us all the support, all the time," said Aziz. "We will always remember and appreciate every drop of blood they spilled. These casualties made Iraq what it is now. We are now more confident; we can stand on our feet and can do everything on our own."

U.S. forces remain prepared to assist the ISF in accordance with the Security Agreement and will continue to work hand in hand with their Iraqi partners.

US gives joint security station to Iraqis


 YUSIFIYAH, Iraq – U.S. forces transferred a base previously used by the U.S. military to Iraqi authorities April 10.

Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, southwest of Baghdad, was officially signed over to the Government of Iraq from U.S. control. Capt. Dustin Knaus, commander of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, and Sameer Al Haddad, a representative of the GoI, exchanged signatures on a record of return that exchanges and returns control of JSS Yusifiyah from American to Iraqi control.

The base was previously inhabited by the infantry unit while advising and assisting a brigade from the 17th Iraqi Army Division.

U.S. forces remain prepared to assist the ISF in accordance with the Security Agreement and will continue to work hand in hand with their Iraqi partners.

River police force expands with latest graduation

 BAGHDAD – Two dozen Arab and Kurdish Iraqi police officers graduated from the Outboard Maintenance and Water Bourne Operations courses April 20 in Baghdad.

Eleven Kurdish officers and 13 Arab officers completed the courses that challenged them both mentally and physically.

Senior Iraqi and U.S. officers congratulated the graduates and praised the teamwork these officers displayed as the courses progressed.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Bilal Hussain, representing Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali Al Esawi, director of the Baghdad River Police Training Center, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michael Smith, director of Iraq Training and Advisory Mission – Police, attended the ceremony.

In his opening speech, Hussain thanked the Iraqi instructors and their U.S. counterparts for their valuable work and expressed his hope that the BRPTC would continue to graduate river police heroes.

"These graduates have achieved a great success in completing these courses," he said.


Fifty new boats have arrived in Basra and the Government of Iraq will distribute them throughout the provinces of Iraq for these police officers, said Smith.

"River police have a significant role in Iraq's security," he said.

The BRPTC's staff of 71 teaches, mentors and provides a continuous stream of qualified members of the Baghdad River Police. The staff has trained more than 300 river police officers.

As Iraq moves toward national unity, courses with both Arab and Kurd students are becoming more prevalent.

US engineers complete correctional facility

 NASIRIYAH, Iraq – A formal ribbon cutting commemorating the opening of the new correctional facility in Nasiriyah April 15 marks a new era for correctional custody in Iraq.

The Nasiriyah Correctional Complex took a 21st century approach to the treatment and rehabilitation of inmates, said Abbas Nassir Shamkhi, the facility's director.

Shamkhi said the correctional complex is more than just a place to house inmates.

"I believe in the rehabilitation of inmates and our goal here is to help inmates learn skills and become productive citizens not just for their communities but for their families as well," Shamkhi said. "Our inmates have the opportunity to further their education in our schools and develop skills in carpentry, sewing and practice the arts in our workshops."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region District, Adder Resident Office served as the construction management partner for the correctional facility project. The three-phase project, built with strict adherence to international codes, provides a correctional facility capable of housing more than 1,600 inmates including a segregated female housing unit.

By dividing the project into three independent phases, the correctional facility was able to house inmates during construction of the final phase. The site has a future expansion area that could increase the inmate capacity to more than 4,000.

Air Force Maj. Justin Tyree, officer in charge of the Adder Resident Office, told guests at the ribbon cutting that the project has had a positive ripple effect on the local community.

"This phase of the contract has employed over 120 Iraqi workers daily for the past two years and has stimulated the economic development for the local vendors near the facility," Tyree said. "We at the Army Corps of Engineers hope that this facility will remind you of what can be accomplished when we work together ... but more importantly we are proud of the American and Iraqi partnership that continues to expand."

Each phase of the correctional facility included the construction of five segregated housing units, vocational training building, staff housing and a gymnasium and soccer field. The facility also includes a medical building, prayer room, laundry building and inmate visitation building. The infrastructure construction of the correctional facility includes an administration building, a water treatment facility, wastewater collection and treatment facility, and standby electrical power generation plant. Security measures at the facility include secure access interior walkways, control entry points and exterior security perimeter walls, fencing, guard towers and security lighting.

The Baghdad-based Al-Bare'a Engineering Company served as the general contractor for the correctional facility project. Funding for the project was provided through the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

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

Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. DesiRee L. Nicely



(Left) Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Cole Jr., commander of 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Henderson, Tenn., and a Mount Juliet, Tenn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Butler, a New Johnsonville, Tenn., native, present a C Squadron coin to Doctor Mohammad, the shaykh of Jedellah So-fia, Iraq, during a visit with the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to bring school supplies and toys to the local children April 12.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nayara Torres

Spc. Denika Warren, a communications specialist with the 445th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Kansas City, Mo., native, tests a single channel ground and airborne radio system before a mission at Camp Liberty, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Fernando Lopez

(Above) Air Force Senior Airman Chana Lawlor, a radio transmitter operator with the 56th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Brattleboro, Vt. native, is re-enlisted for additional four years in the Air Force by Army Lt. Col. James Rupkalvis, commander of the 14th Trans. Bn. (MC) out of Vicenza, Italy, and a Mitchell, Neb., native, in a ceremony outside of the battalion headquarters April 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson

(Above) Gen. Raymond Odierno, the commander of United States Forces – Iraq, performs the oath of enlistment with Sgt. 1st Class Maria Buggey, an air operations noncommissioned officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during a ceremony April 21 at the 13th ESC Joint Operations Center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Angela K. Fry

A Soldier with the Virginia National Guard's 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment out of Lynchburg, Va., looks down across a valley from the Ziggurat of Ur near Tallil Air Base in Iraq. The 1/116th is deployed with the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.