

The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

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Worldwide



Force protection officer works to improve training

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UFC



Pro-athletes host clinic for Soldiers

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Checkmate



Servicemembers participate in tournament

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Sgt. Josh Kimberly a cavalry scout with B Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Columbia, Tenn., native observes an Iraqi Army military policeman demonstrate procedures for conducting a personnel search at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

278th Soldiers train Iraqis

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. DAVID A. SCOTT
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq



Every Sunday, members of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) train their counterparts on the essentials of force protection, because soon the 278th ACR will responsibly hand

off its security mission to the Iraqi Army military police.

Training during the May 9 session consisted of vehicle and personnel search techniques at entry control points. Master Sgt. Melvin Brown, Iraqi partnership liaison for the 278th ACR, and a Nashville, Tenn., native said the training sessions at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq are structured in a building-block format.

“What we try to do every week is build skills and reinforce some existing skills that the ... Iraqi Army military police (who work at entry control points) have for searching people as they enter ECPs.” Brown said.

Sgt. Josh Kimberly and Pfc. Eric White, cavalry scouts with B Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 278th ACR, 13th ESC, both Columbia, Tenn., natives were the primary instructors. The day’s training at the Iraqi Army compound located at COB Taji lasted nearly an hour, with an interpreter to assist both the students and the instructors.

Kimberly, who served with the 278th during its previous deployment to Iraq in 2004, took the lead explaining the tasks to the squad of 10 Iraqis. White then picked up where Kimberly left off, giving the Iraqis step-by-step instructions. Kimberly demonstrated each task and then the Iraqis repeated each task under the watchful eye of their American counterparts.

Brown said the training has a purpose for both the jointly manned U.S.-Iraqi checkpoints located at COB Taji and the checkpoints that will be manned by Iraqis alone as the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. troops and equipment progresses.

“This training on these skills for the safe entry of vehicles into the base — making sure that we don’t have vehicle-borne (improvised explosive devices), other types of contraband, dangerous items — makes everyone safer,” Brown said. “As

we draw down and have less Soldiers here from U.S. and coalition forces, then the Iraqi Army will take an even greater role in the security at those checkpoints and those ECPs. So this serves both of those purposes.”

278th continued page 10



Sgt. Josh Kimberly and Pfc. Eric White, cavalry scouts with B Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), both Columbia, Tenn., natives demonstrate the proper procedures for conducting a personnel search to Iraqi Army military police May 9 during an entry control point training session at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.



“It helps that we are Family and we were very very close before arriving here.”

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BALAD BLOTTER

INDECENT EXPOSURE:

Victim and complainant entered the Law Enforcement Desk May 14 to report an indecent exposure at 4:50 p.m. at the G-101 housing area. Patrols responded to location and conducted a foot patrol the area, assisting the victim and complainant in filling out Air Force IMT 1168 Statement of Suspect/Witness Complaint. The victim said she saw the suspect sitting on the stairs to the second level of her housing unit when she was returning from the shower at approximately 4:55 a.m. When she looked toward him he had his genitals exposed, she said. The victim told the suspect to stop and leave multiple times, to which the suspect did not comply, until she started to walk toward him. As the suspect proceeded to run away the victim yelled out to the complainant to stop with no results. Patrols terminated the search of the location with no findings. Patrols issued the Victim and complainant a Department of Defense Form 2701, Initial Information for Victim and Witness of a Crime. No physical contact was made between the victim and the suspect, and at no time did the suspect say anything to the victim. The victim was advised to notify the LED immediately if contact was made with the suspect again.

ESCORT VIOLATION/ARTICLE 92 FAILURE TO OBEY:

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk at 6:40 a.m. May 15 and relayed there was an escort violation at the D-5 Entry Control Point. Patrols arrived on scene and made contact with Complainant and witness. The witness stated on an Air Force IMT 1168 Statement of Witness that he was escorted into the ECP to do work on a HAS, however he did not know the name of the individual who escorted him. He also stated that he told the subject he "would just head to the ECP and wait for the replacement operator." The witness said the subject, an Army sergeant, told him "ok, that is good." The witness arrived at the ECP and asked the complainant what he should do with the replacement operator who was on his way. The complainant informed the witness there was an escort violation due to the witness not being escorted out of the restricted area. Patrols conducted sweeps of the area in attempt to make contact with subject. Patrols made contact with subject and E-2 advised him of his rights IAW Article 31 via AF IMT 1168. The subject acknowledged his rights, declined legal counsel and provided a written statement on an AF IMT 1168. The subject said he was unaware he was required to escort people out of the areas.

MAJOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/HMMWV ROLLOVER/ WITH INJURIES/DISABLING DAMAGE:

A complainant radioed JDOC at 12:28 p.m. May 16 to reporting a vehicle rollover at the on Pennsylvania Avenue near the H-5 housing area. Patrols arrived on scene and determined the accident to be a major vehicle rollover. The patrols established traffic control points. Fire and medical personnel arrived on scene shortly thereafter. The operator of the vehicle and a passenger were both transported to Air Force Theater Hospital with injuries. An investigation is pending.

Building a character that lasts

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



“What lies before us and what lies beyond us is tiny compared to what lies within us.” – Oliver Wendell. I found an illustration by John Williams III that reminds me how easily our character can be influenced by our environment.

“A father and son were raking leaves when they noticed something darting in and out of the piles. After careful effort they uncovered a chameleon. It was difficult to see among the brown leaves. It had blended with them by turning brown, too. After catching the little creature, they put it in a jar of green grass, where it immediately turned green. When they added some red berries, the chameleon began to take on that color. Some people are chameleons in character; wherever you put them, they turn that color. Their thinking and their behavior depend on their environment.”

Our character should not be dependent on the actions of others or our environment, but on the values we hold that guide our life — the values that we have learned in the Army.

Oliver Wendell Homes’ statement is what athletes would call a “gut check.” Do we have what it takes to endure the hardships that slow us down, or overcome the obstacles that

sometimes block our path, and be victorious over our challenges that face us in life? Ultimately, it all comes down to our character.

Maj. Peter Strong, chaplain with the 304th Sustainment Brigade, offered his thoughts: “Our character is shaped by the experiences of our past. It is forged through our accomplishments and our failures; our triumphs and our tragedies. Our character slowly develops over time. We eventually become the sum of all that has happened to us, both good and bad. A character rooted in hope, strengthened by perseverance and guided by faith can weather any storm that may come into our lives.”

So, here we are, looking intently at what is in front of us. We must realize that no matter what we do there will be hardships that we cannot avoid. There will be obstacles that will cross our paths. It is at that time that we will have to make a choice to either give in, or to stand on our beliefs. Are we ready to move courageously and victoriously forward, dealing with the hardships and overcoming the obstacles? It all depends. It depends on what we have within us.

Let us build a character that is stronger than any of the problems, either real or imagined. And may we pass our “gut check” with flying colors, and become determined to not give up, but to always keep moving forward. Then we will ultimately gain victory in our lives.



EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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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: Utilize chain of command

LT. COL. REGINALD HOWARD
13TH ESC COMMAND INSPECTOR GENERAL



Inspector generals extend the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander by executing the four IG functions — assistance, inspections, investigations, and teaching and training — for the specific purpose of enhancing the command's discipline, readiness, and operational warfighting capability. IGs use these functions to seek out systemic issues that affect the command and the Army.

The IG has a duty to protect an individual's confidentiality to the maximum extent possible, particularly when the individual specifically requests confidentiality. Although confi-

dentiality and the measures necessary to protect it will vary from circumstance to circumstance, the IG always treats confidentiality carefully and as a priority. While IGs will never promise confidentiality, we will always endeavor to maintain confidentiality as a matter of primary importance and a key to the IG system's success.

- » Here are some things to consider before contacting the IG:
- » Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.
- » Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.
- » Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.
- » Be honest and don't provide misleading information.
- » Remember IGs can only resolve a case on the basis

of fact.

» Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, and not order, a resolution.

» Don't expect instant action on your request...be patient.

» Be prepared to take "No" for an answer.

Some complaints are simply not IG appropriate and have to be addressed by other agencies or through the individual's chain of command. Whenever possible, we refer Soldiers back to their chain of command to address the issue first. We want to make commanders successful and assist them in taking care of their organization and resolving their Soldiers' issues. Ultimately, your IG Team will continue to provide the 13th ESC and its Soldiers and Leaders with the best possible support keeping the entire mission focused and in the fight.

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

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Maj. Jamar Gales - DSN 485-7246
Sgt. 1st Class Christian Lee

Command directed behavioral health evaluations

CAPT. MICHAEL KNIGHT
1908TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT



It is a unit commander's responsibility to ensure that the Soldiers in the unit are able to competently execute the duties of their military occupational specialty and position. In cases where the commander has concerns about a Soldier's mental well-being or safety, the command directed evaluation is one tool the commander can use to assess his fitness for duty.

The guidelines for command directed evaluations are set forth in Department of Defense Directive 6490.1. This directive outlines the steps for commanders to follow to have one of their Soldiers evaluated while maintaining his rights and privacy. The responsibility for determining when, and if, referral for mental health evaluation is appropriate rests with the Soldier's commanding officer.

On Joint Base Balad, the Patriot Clinic can assist you in completing the command directed evaluation. For routine

or non-emergency referrals, the commander is required to consult with a mental health care provider (psychiatrist or clinical psychologist) before making a referral. This is done by consulting with Lt. Col. Ellen Galloway, our clinical psychologist, to discuss the need for the evaluation and the process. Two forms must be completed prior to the appointment for the evaluation. These forms, HFL FORM 222a and HFL FORM 222b, can be picked up at the Patriot Clinic or accessed on the JBB portal through the Patriot Clinic link on the left side of the Web page. Two business days before the referral, provide the Soldier written notice of his rights prior to the evaluation. A copy of the completed form fulfills this requirement.

Per DoDD 6490.1, no person may restrict a Soldier's right to communicate with the inspector general. Judge advocate general's office, member of Congress or any individual or entity in the appropriate chain of command concerning the mental health referral. Specific examples of when the limitations of DoDD 6490.1 do not apply include self-referrals by Soldiers and referrals for evaluations related to special

duties or occupational classifications (e.g. drill sergeant and recruiter evaluations).

For emergency referrals, typically involving danger to self or others, commanders are required to refer the Soldier as soon as practical to a mental health clinic (CSC) or hospital emergency room. Prior consultation with a mental health care provider is not needed. Commanders are also required to take precautions to ensure the safety of the Soldier and others. As soon as possible, commanders should complete a command directed mental health referral packet and discuss the circumstances of the referral with a mental health care provider or other health care provider.

The Patriot Clinic is located near Victory Loop off of Sustainer Street on JBB. We are located across the parking lot from the Blackjack Education Center. Our hours are Monday through Saturday 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with emergency screenings anytime. Our phone numbers are DSN 318-433-2402 and NIPR 318-483-4599. If you have any questions about command directed evaluations, please stop by the clinic or give us a call. We will be glad to assist you.

Appealing evaluation reports, GOMOR transfers, removals

CAPT. MELVIN RAINES II
CHIEF LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER, 13TH ESC



As the time for redeployment nears for many noncommissioned and commissioned officers, NCO and officer evaluation reports become a sensitive issue. Inevitably, a few NCOs and officers will feel that their evaluation report is not an accurate reflection of their job performance.

Army Regulation 623-3, paragraph 6-3, permits Soldiers to petition their commanders for a commander's inquiry regarding an evaluation report. AR 623-3, paragraph 6-3, states:

"Commanders (OER and NCOER) are required to look into alleged errors, injustices and illegalities in evaluation reports."

The primary purpose of a commander's inquiry is to provide a greater degree of command involvement in preventing obvious injustices to the rated Soldier and correcting errors before they become a matter of permanent record. In some cases, an evaluation report may have already gone to Headquarters, Department of the Army. Nevertheless, a commander's inquiry can still be done for evaluation reports that have gone to HQDA since a secondary purpose of the commander's inquiry is to obtain command involvement in clarifying errors or injustices after the evaluation is

accepted at HQDA.

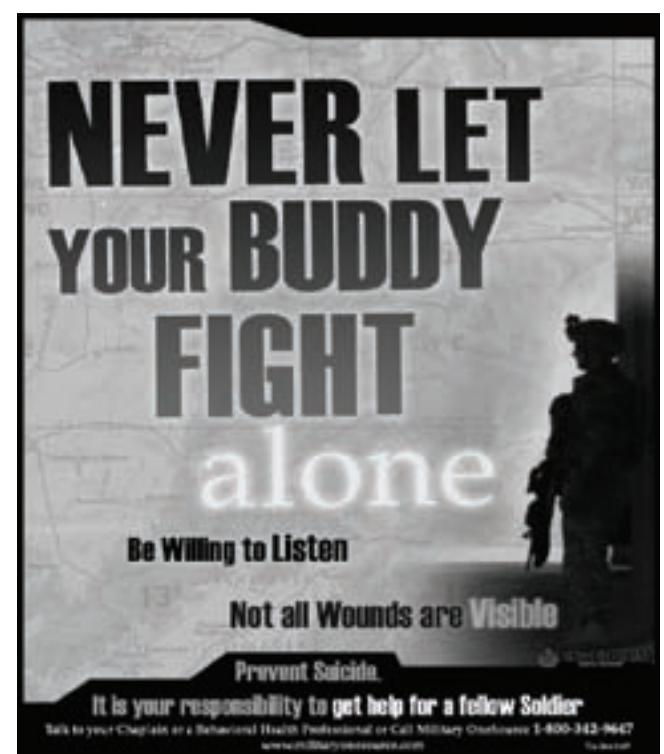
Where an evaluation report has gone to HQDA, the commander's inquiry must be forwarded to HQDA no later than 120 days after the signature date of the senior rater (OER) or reviewer (NCOER).

Soldiers may also appeal evaluation reports. AR 623-3, paragraph 6-7, discusses the appeal process. The results of a commander's inquiry do not constitute an appeal. They may be used, however, in support of an appeal. An appeal must be supported by substantiated evidence. An appeal that alleges a report is incorrect or inaccurate or unjust without usable supporting evidence will not be considered. Additionally, Soldiers should consult Department of the Army Pamphlet 623-3 when drafting an appeal.

Lastly, Soldiers may petition the Department of the Army Suitability Evaluation Board (DASEB) for removal or transfers of General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand from their Official Military Personnel File pursuant to AR 600-37, paragraph 7. Normally, consideration of appeals is restricted to grades E-6 and above, to officers, and to warrant officers. Although any Soldier may appeal the inclusion of a document placed in his or her file under this regulation, the appeals of Soldiers in grades below E-6 will only be considered as an exception to policy.

The Legal Assistance Office is here to help all Army NCOs and officers with preparing either evaluation appeals or GOMOR removals. Our office hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Monday through Saturday. We are located in Building 7235, at the corner of Hawk and Pennsylvania Avenue. Our office number is 433-2836.



Marez force protection shields base

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—

Surrounded by Mosul, Iraq, an ethnically diverse city of 2 million people, Soldiers who protect Contingency Operating Base Marez employ a myriad of methods and force protection technologies to maintain security.

"It's a constant, everyday-changing environment," said Capt. Brian McCord, force protection officer-in-charge for COB Marez and COB Diamondback, with Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Seymour, Tenn., native.

Force protection at COB Marez is dynamic and made up of many moving parts.

For instance, McCord describes one such part, the quick reaction force, as made up of three tiers. First, is the military police that perform tasks like speed mitigation, escorting and raids. Tier two consists of measures like patrols outside the base, anti-terrorism tasks and security procedures inside the base. The third tier includes "the big guns," said McCord, and vehicles like tanks and Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles.

The RFS base defense operations center communicates with these tiers, the COB towers, observation points, the search areas, entry control points and the surveillance equipment of early warning systems.

Communication is the key to securing the base successfully, said Spc. Rebekah Stricker of Poplarville, Miss., a military police specialist for the 114th Military Police Company out of Clinton, Miss.

Some high-tech equipment comes into play while pulling together information and communicating it.

McCord said that Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) towers from Raytheon and Mobile Eagle Eye

elevated sensor systems keep a view around and in the COB.

"Anytime something happens, the cameras have the ability to scope in on something really good," he said. "We get a pretty good idea of what's going on outside the perimeter."

Used together, Biometrics Automated Toolsets and Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment allow security personnel to capture and apply biometric data to identify people of interest trying to gain access at the ECPs.

"The database will let you know if they're on a watch list," McCord said.

"We don't see any more of the really bad guys trying to get in here," he said. "They just know that's not going to happen."

McCord said that high-dollar Vehicle and Cargo Inspection Systems scan semi-trucks.

"If somebody's trying to get something in, we'll see it," McCord said. "If somebody's got an apple stuck in the vehicle somewhere, you'll see it. It's that in-depth."

All semis and non-military supply trucks are escorted on and off the base by military police.

Marez MPs cover both adjacent COBs Marez and Diamondback, floating back and forth, at times, in an area that McCord describes as "the biggest post in theater."

"We are the city police department here," said 1st Sgt. Raymond Sands, the special projects noncommissioned officer-in-charge with RFS. "We handle any mischievous activity."

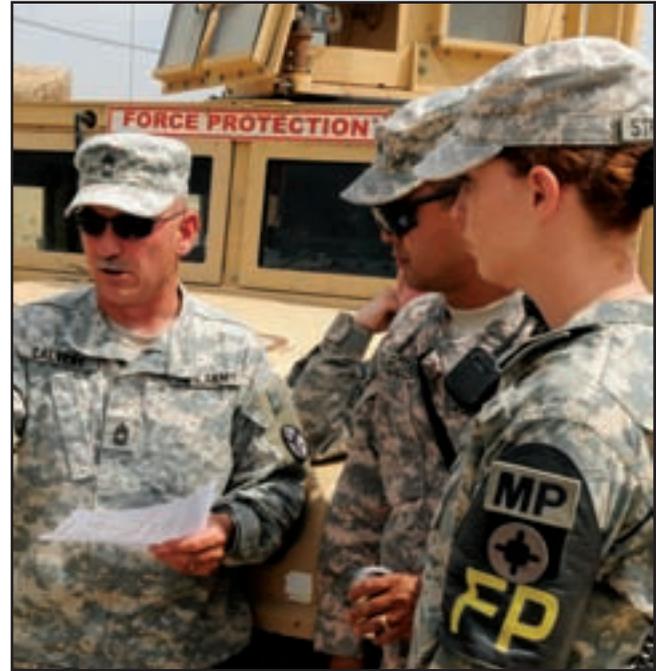


Military police at Contingency Operating Base Marez conduct perimeter sweeps, patrol, escort and respond to incidents in both Chevy Trailblazers and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles.

The MPs handle a wide array of responsibilities at COB Marez, to include: perimeter sweeps, searches, escorts, security checks, blocks and redirection of traffic, and raids.

"When we get (intelligence) of a civilian or a Soldier having something, we go in," Stricker said. "We bring in cameras. We bring in drug dogs and bomb dogs."

"The job is very rewarding, because we're the police of this COB," Stricker said. "When a situation is called up, we're the ones that take care of it. We're taking care of the people on the COB."



Master Sgt. Ernest Calvert III (left) with Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Chapel Hill, Tenn., native, talks through the plan with his force protection troops May 5 at Contingency Operating Base Marez prior to an escort to the Mosul International Airport, Iraq.

13th ESC observations impact worldwide training

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Dusk falls as Soldiers with E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), prepare for,

what they hope is, an uneventful supply convoy. As they check their Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles prior to departure, one Soldier inconspicuously observes them working. With a few questions and a practiced eye, Maj. Norman Covalt, a force protection officer with the 13th ESC and a Mountain Green, Utah, native, watches and notes how the Soldiers prepare to move out. His observations could affect how future Soldiers train and deploy.

The force protection cell for the 13th ESC is responsible to for ensuring all Soldiers running convoy operations in the 13th ESC area of responsibility are properly trained and prepared to accomplish their missions.

Members of the five-person cell go out monthly with subordinate units of the 13th ESC to observe how the units train and run their missions. Covalt began taking notes during the mission briefing, watching closely to see that troop leading procedures were being followed.

Troop leading procedures are a simple, step-by-step, process Army leaders use to

to plan and accomplish their mission, and prepare their Soldiers for the mission. By standardizing the steps, it provides units a training baseline.

"First (it) ensure(s) they (the leadership) know what they are doing," Covalt said. "The other is so the troops know what they are doing when they go out. We are just checking up on them. We just want to make sure they have the tools in their box to do their job."

Observing the way Soldiers conduct their mission is only half of the job. The other half is talking with the Soldiers about what they think needs to be improved, he said.

The most productive training often comes from the troops themselves. They will offer suggestions about a better way to perform a task. A lot of feedback is gained in that manner, Covalt said.

Soldiers have proposed solutions with regard to a variety of changes. Some of the adjustments to tactics, techniques and procedures that have been implemented throughout the area of responsibility have come from these suggestions. Other changes have come about from assessments by Covalt and his team, he said.

"You saw the setup they had on the trucks, the MaxPro and the way the side lights are so bright sometimes they can wash out the spotlight," Covalt said. "That's been brought up and that's been sent back and they say, 'ok we need to do something to improve this for the spotlight.'"

Observations from the force protection

cell are sent to the 13th ESC operations officer, who makes recommendations on a course of action. Modifications can be sent to the unit, where leaders incorporate the new adjustments to the unit's TTPs and standard operating procedures, he said.

Observations may also be forwarded to Kuwait or back to the United States to be implemented in the training for deploying units headed to areas around the world, Covalt said.

Information sent back to the United States goes to the Center for Army Lessons Learned, where suggestions are evaluate and then inserted into the training process. CALL is an Army program which collects, analyzes and integrates Army and multinational observations, insights and lessons to

improve the way Soldiers around the world accomplish their mission, he said.

"(Changes) will go through (CALL) and then through the training sites, whether at Fort McCoy, Wisc., where Guard and Reserve units are coming out of, or at the National Training Centers where the active component elements deploy from."

As the convoy rolls back onto JBB after a successful mission, Covalt continues to study them, watching to make sure the final steps are done right and done safe.

"That's the whole purpose, making sure these guys get home is the most important thing," he said. "If they don't know their job, they can't get home. They aren't mine, but I look out at these guys when I'm out here with them ... these are my guys."



1st Lt. David Roseberry, a platoon leader with E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) leads a sand table drill during a convoy brief May 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Observations from E Troop's convoy will be sent to the Center for Army Lessons Learned to assist units preparing to deploy.

MEMORIAL DAY



2010 Joint Base Balad Memorial Day Program



**JBB Circuit Gym (East Gymnasium)
1000 hours, Monday, 31 May 2010**

All service members and civilians working at JBB are encouraged to attend

Force Protection Uniform Code

	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.

Army, Air Force unite for drawdown

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

ALASAD AIR BASE, Iraq—



Army and Air Force units are working together here to set the conditions for the upcoming responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq.

Capt. William D.

Foster, commander of the 458th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Belleville, Ill., noticed there were Air Force C-5A "Galaxy" transport aircraft often parked at Al Asad and coordinated with Capt. John Klohr, aerial port flight commander with the 532nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, and a Charlotte, N.C., native, about how to increase the usage of cargo space on the flights back to the states, Foster said.

"I asked Capt. Klohr what was going back on those planes and he said, unfortunately, they were going back empty," Foster said.

From that moment, the relationship and coordination with the Air Force, to start filling those planes with unused excess equipment no longer needed by troops in Iraq, began,

After a few meetings between the two men and their teams, the effort was dubbed

"The C-5 Initiative," and since the beginning of May, the 458th MCT has filled Air Force C-5A planes with more than 200,000 pounds of equipment to be retrograded back to the U.S., Foster said.

"What we are doing is trying to be as efficient as possible in getting all the equipment out of (theater)," he said.

In addition to the timesaving factor of finding a way to fill the C-5As with equipment, taking only days to ship equipment that would otherwise take weeks on a cargo ship, this effort is saving hours of service member labor and U.S. government money, Foster and Klohr said.

"We are trying to look at it from a Department of Defense, joint effort perspective," Klohr said. "We let the joint services know we have unused space, costing less than it would to send the items on a ship."

"According to an air-cost formula we use, we have saved the Army \$700,000 so far in this joint effort," Klohr said. "That's money they reallocate somewhere else and it relieves the stress on the entire Defense Transportation System. There is only so much space to get this equipment back and we need to use every inch."

According to Klohr, the upcoming drawdown is the largest since World War II, and because of that, the Army is using most of its assets already.

"(The upcoming drawdown is) a big responsibility and we need to work together," Foster said. "There's no reason we shouldn't



Airmen load a 105 mm howitzer onto a C-17 "Globemaster" transport aircraft at Al Asad Air base, Iraq. The 458th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) recently joined efforts with the Air Force to more efficiently send equipment back to the United States.

work together, (the Air Force has) assets and we have assets."

The service members of the 458th MCT ensure their convoy sustainment mission is completed, as well as ground-to-air operations. They run convoy operations for everything that moves in and out of Al Asad, on the ground and in the air.

"We accept the responsibility of the C-5A

mission because we get troops involved (in the upcoming drawdown) and we are saving the government money in the long run," said Master Sgt. Shannon Woulard, officer-in-charge of ground operations with the 458th and a Dallas, Texas, native. "That's the overall picture anyway, we are here to help Iraq and we're going to save our own country money. C-5As are empty, let's fill them up."

47th Trans. Co. leaders guide unit toward redeployment

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT NICHOLAS SWAB
47TH TRANS. CO.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



ADDER, Iraq—A successful deployment is not only defined by how a unit conducts operations in theater, but also how they redeploy to their home station.

Leaders with the 47th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are now making sure their upcoming transfer of authority with the 319th Trans. Co. and redeployment is as successful as their deployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Migliore, a platoon sergeant with 47th Trans. Co. 3rd Platoon Sergeant and a Newport, Maine, native is one of the key leaders in the company coordinating the redeployment.

Officers and noncommissioned officers in the unit must coordinate several obligation, including ceremonies and unit movement in preparation for transferring authority to an incoming company, Migliore said.

"Everybody has to do their part in order to successfully support our current mission and redeployment. It takes all (the) leadership in the company to make this a success," he said.

Capt. Ricky McArthur, a platoon leader with the 47th Trans. Co. and a Killeen, Texas, native, is working to ensure all the unit's



1st Lt. Mark Alfars (right), executive officer with the 47th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hamilton, Ohio, native, and Sgt. Justin Painter, supply sergeant with the 47th Trans Co. and a White Hall, Ill., native compare notes May 1 at Contingency Operating Base Adder regarding the equipment aspect of the unit's upcoming redeployment.

equipment is entered into the Automatic Reset Induction program. The ARI program is how the Army ensures that equipment will function to its designed capability and be fit to return to the Army supply system after a unit redeploy. Within the last month, McArthur has processed more than 610 items into ARI, he said.

"It's an essential part of redeployment and supporting the fight to make sure all equipment is returned to the supply system,"

McArthur said.

McArthur is also preparing to work with the 319th Trans. Co.'s theater integration issues once the unit arrives in Kuwait. He will introduce them to combat logistical operations, life support and standard operating procedures they will follow while at Contingency Operating Base Adder, he said.

"I'm going to Kuwait to assist in their transition and assess what we need to do in order to adequately prepare the 319th to

assume (their) mission," he said. "They are ready and motivated to get started with the mission."

Sgt Justin Painter, supply sergeant with the 47th Trans. Co. and a White Hall, Ill., native, facilitates the unit's ability to leave Iraq by ensuring all of the unit's necessary pre-departure actions have occurred. He is making sure all 47th equipment is inventoried and all necessary supplies are ready for packing and transportation back to the United States. He has also worked to clear unit accounts throughout the entire theater of operations, he said.

"I've cleared the supply support activity, central issue facility, heater/organizational property and all accounts we have that help sustain the Soldier life support and ability for us to complete our mission," Painter said. "Clearing all accounts is one more step to getting us home."

1st Lt. Mark Alfars, executive officer with the 47th Trans. Co. and a Hamilton, Ohio, native, and 1st Lt Angel McMichael, a platoon leader with the 47th Trans. Co. and a Botkins, Ohio, native, are working on the transfer of authority and awards ceremonies.

"It's been quite an adventure planning these events," Alfars said. "We've done everything from coordinating the scripts for each event and making sure the programs, personnel, color guard and Soldiers know what to do and why it's being done."

"The planning and efforts put into redeployment are both a very big hurdle to overcome, but the reward of going home is worth it," McArthur said.

Competitors swim, run on Armed Forces Day



The first swimmer enters the outdoor pool May 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq., beginning the 2010 Joint Base Balad Biathlon on Armed Forces Day.



Maj. Heather Gunther, commander of A Company, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade and a Palm Bay, Fla., native races to a 7 minute, 54 second result May 15 in the first stage of the 2010 Joint Base Balad Biathlon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Maj. Mike Cimato, mobility planner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Herndon, Va., native, and Maj. Erik Enyart, air mobility manager with HHC, 13th ESC, and a Radcliffe, Ky., native, display their finish line T-shirts May 15 at the 2010 Joint Base Balad Biathlon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. DAVID A. SCOTT
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The 332nd Expeditionary Support Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, along with KBR, Inc., co-hosted a biathlon at the outdoor pool and stadium complex May 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

A total of 76 service members and civilians competed in the event. The two-stage event combined a 500 meter swim and 5 km run.

Before the start of the competition, many competitors assessed their strengths and weaknesses.

“My best chance for success is in the 5 km run,” said Maj. Erik Enyart, air mobility manager with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Radcliffe, Ky., native.

Enyart finished 22nd overall and 20th in the men’s division with a time of 36 minutes, 3 seconds.

This was the first biathlon Maj. Mike Cimato, mobility planner with HHC, 13th ESC, and a Herndon, Va., native, has participated in. He felt ready even though he only had the chance to swim twice in preparation, he said.

Cimato finished his first biathlon 42nd overall.

During the first stage, competitors began the swim in opposite lanes toward the outer edge of the pool, continuing their swim in the interior lanes on successive laps until they had completed 500 m. In order to maintain an even spacing of swimmers entering and exiting the pool, all competitors were given a one minute separation between starts.

After the mandatory 10-lap swim, competitors exited the pool and began the

transition to the running phase, which meant dry clothes and comfortable running shoes. The transition into running attire was closely monitored by officials who could recommend time penalties on competitors observed running or acting in an unsafe manner.

After the change of clothes, the competitors left the building, reconfirmed the numbers they wore to officials at the event registration table and began the run.

The run stage was the point of separation for Gremer. His swim time of 7 minutes, 51 seconds left him somewhat adrift, in fifth place at the end of the first stage, and he lost even more time in the transition period. But he executed the fastest run of all competitors for the day.

Gremer’s run time of 17 minutes, 4 seconds was more than one minute faster than the next fastest runner, and his overall time of 27 minutes, 48 seconds was enough to win the entire event.

1st Lt. Tanja Duester, with HHC, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, was the highest ranked female and placed 19th overall. Duester finished with an overall time of 35 minutes, 47 seconds.

Capt. Joel Feltz, a company commander with 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, and a Johnstown, Pa. native., finished 17th overall and was happy with his results, he said.

“Pretty much any running event or any swimming event, I try to involve myself in it and I try to involve my company and make it a group event,” Feltz said. “I think it’s good when everyone comes out and participates in physical fitness activities; especially on the weekends. Sometimes when you deploy, it is a little rough.”

Tech. Sgt. Danielle Hueper, the sports, fitness and Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative from the 332nd ESS, says there are approximately 10 to 15 biathlons at Joint Base Balad each year.

“Normally one hundred to one hundred fifty persons participate in these competitions,” Hueper said.



Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Mike Swick (left) demonstrates a mixed martial arts move with Master Sgt. Pete Grey, a level three-certified Modern Army Combatives Program instructor with the 130th Engineer Brigade and a Tampa, Fla. native, May 7 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Soldiers participate in UFC fighters clinic

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAPT. KEVIN D. LEVESQUE
278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—Soldiers with Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) welcomed Ultimate Fighting Championship mixed martial artists May 7 at Contingency Operating Base Marez.

UFC fighters Heath Herring, Mike Swick and Kyle Kingsbury signed autographs, answered questions and conducted a mixed martial arts clinic with Soldiers on COB Marez. They were also accompanied by actresses Amber Nichole Miller and Andrea Tiede.

While the Soldiers said they were impressed by the fighters, the fighters said they were also impressed by the Soldiers. Swick was struck by the austerity of the region, he said.

“This is my first tour here in Iraq,” Swick said. It’s one thing to be on an Air Force base in Germany where it is like a hotel. (But) to go to Iraq and see what you guys go through, day in and day out, and see what your life is like — that’s why we’re here. We definitely appreciate the ability to be able to come out

here and support you guys.”

U.S. Army and Marine Corps hand-to-hand combat programs now include many of the techniques forged in the ring by UFC fighters. Master Sgt. Pete Grey, a level three-certified Modern Army Combatives Program instructor with the 130th Engineer Brigade and a Tampa, Fla. native, had the opportunity to lean new techniques and spar with Swick.

To have the opportunity to participate in

a combatives program with Swick was like a dream that the Soldiers really appreciated, Grey said.

“It was really great that they came here. It means a lot to the men and woman of the 278th,” said Lt. Col. Warner Holt, garrison commander of COB Marez.

The fighters signed autographs for Soldiers and the Soldiers returned the favor by signing a hat for Swick.

“I’ve been to Afghanistan...to Iraq twice,

and you all are the most impressive thing I’ve seen,” Herring said. “I have gone to (places) where guys have spent seventeen months in country. I did not hear one complaint. I am impressed ... and that’s why I keep coming out here.”

The Soldiers stayed for hours to talk to the fighters, learn new techniques and get a general insight into this increasingly popular contact sport that has an impact on their Warrior training.



Actress Amber Nichole Miller signs autographs for Soldiers from the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division while on tour throughout Iraq.

Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Kyle Kingsbury warms up before beginning a mixed martial arts clinic for Soldiers with the Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) along with Soldiers from 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.



Col. Michael Lembke, command chaplain for the United States Forces-Iraq, and a Crawfordsville, Indiana, native, performs a song he wrote during the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prayer luncheon featuring Lembke at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, May 19. The theme for the day was "Deep Roots, High Reach and Resiliency". Lembke challenged audience members to grow strong root systems so they may reach high in their lives and stay resilient.

13th ESC hosts prayer luncheon

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— "Send your roots out in daily life to find the nutrients to keep your root system strong, in order to reach high for your goals," said Col. Michael Lembke, command chaplain with United States Forces-Iraq, and an Crawfordsville, Ind., native. "It's worth digging down to grow deeper roots."

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosted a prayer luncheon May 19 featuring Lembke, at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East.

The audience of more than 70 service members, including Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native; Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, command sergeant major with the 13th ESC and a Lake Charles, La., native; and Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, command sergeant major with to USF-I, and an Austin, Texas, native, and members of the 13th ESC command staff ate lunch, listened to music provided by the Task Force 38 Band, and heard encouraging words from Lembke about how to enrich their deployment and their lives.

The theme for the day was "Deep Roots, High Reach and Resiliency." Lembke challenged audience members to grow strong root systems so they may reach high in their lives and stay resilient.

"Live to learn and seek to teach as leaders," Lembke encouraged.

Lembke, who is an avid guitar player and song writer, shared how he keeps his root system strong with music.

"Music is a universal language," he said. "It's dynamic, much like our lives are dynamic."

Lembke also focused on his eight "F" words of resiliency: faith, Family, friends, fun, future, focus, flexibility and forgiveness.

The luncheon provided a great break from the day-to-day grind of a deployment. Many leaders of the command came out to enjoy the chaplain's encouraging words.

"It's good to take time out to do these sorts of things because we all need balance in our lives," Wentz said. "The heart of today is fellowship and to take the opportunity to pause."

Added Lembke: "Anytime I can go and be out with Soldiers and share from my heart is a great day."

163rd Soldiers celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq— The 163rd Ordnance Detachment, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command

(Expeditionary), hosted an Asian Pacific Heritage Month observance May 14 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent here.

The observance included a reading of the presidential proclamation for Asian Pacific Heritage Month, a short history of Asian Pacific heritage, a documentary about the Asian-American 442nd Infantry Regiment during World War II, and words by guest speaker Sgt. 1st Class Joseph I. Padilla, first sergeant with the 163rd Ord. Det. and a Yigo, Guam, native.

President George H.W. Bush lengthened the Asian Pacific Heritage observance from a week to a month in 1990. It occurs in May because the first Japanese immigrants touched U.S. soil May 7, 1843, and the Transcontinental Railroad, which was built, in large-part, by Chinese immigrants, was completed on May 10, 1869.

"I call upon all Americans to learn more about the history of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities," said President Obama in his Asian Pacific Heritage Month proclamation.

Spc. Phatsara Chanthanivong, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 163rd Ord. Det. and a Mira Loma, Calif., native, read a brief history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph I. Padilla, first sergeant with the 163rd Ordnance Detachment, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Yigo, Guam, native, speaks to a Soldier after an Asian Pacific Heritage Month observance May 14 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Thousands of Chinese citizens immigrated to the United States during the California Gold Rush in the 1800s. The Philippines came under American control after the Spanish-American War in 1899, which prompted many Filipinos to immigrate to the United States. About 130,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos sought safety in the United States after the Vietnam War. Many Asian and Pacific Islanders faced hardships in the United States over the years, such as discrimination, poverty and disease, he said.

Action movie star Bruce Lee, physics Nobel Prize winner professor Steven Chu, musician Yo-Yo Ma and designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., Maya Lin, are just a few of the many Asian-Americans that have made significant contributions to society.

This year's Asian Pacific Heritage Month theme is "diverse leadership for a diverse workforce."

"It brings to mind all those who have given their all and sacrificed their life for everything they believe in for our country," Padilla said. "Our armed forces are comprised of different ethnic backgrounds that make our armed forces a diverse workforce with ... different styles of leadership that make this country great."

Padilla said he originally intended to select one Asian Pacific hero to talk about, but felt that would be a disservice to the rest not mentioned.

Capt. Brent Crosswhite, chaplain with the 15th STB and a Blanchard, Okla., native, praised the event for being well-organized and interesting.

"It's important to do these things because we celebrate the diversity of mankind," he said. "By celebrating diversity, we create unity."

278th continued from page 1

Brown said the day's training conducted by Kimberly and White was all about educating the Iraqi Army military police on the latest threats identified by U.S. forces.

"What we are trying to do is give them new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and try to let them be aware of ... emerging threats that are new in the way people hide things in vehicles and do things," Brown said. "We reinforce the normal TTPs about how to search the vehicle, and what to do when they find something, because if you don't really know, when you find something, without being trained, you may actually disturb it, (and) may cause it to detonate."

The trainers, their students and the translator assigned to this class took an earnest approach to the training, but still found time to relax with each other. Kimberly said this duty assignment is a far cry from the first deployment to Iraq in 2004 with the ACR.

"We take it (training) seriously, but at the

same time we joke around and have fun with it," Kimberly said. "It's totally different now. It's slowed down. It's not as fast-paced and I don't think it's as dangerous. We're working a lot better with the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi police and focusing more on letting them handle their business while we're starting to step back."

At the end of the training session, the trainers, students and the translator parted ways with smiles and handshakes.

Brown said the Iraqi Army military police will continue to train with their U.S. counterpart as part of setting the conditions for future success in Iraq.

"This is how we leave Iraq," he said. This is how we fulfill the commander in chief's intent. This is how we fulfill the commanding general's intent and everybody in between; to leave the country and turn it over to their security forces. So the more we do this, the closer we are to fulfilling that intent."

Post office process made less painful

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— As the strategic reposturing of equipment and personnel begins this summer, thousands of redeploying service members will need to send their equipment and personal items home, potentially clogging the Army mail system.

“This is going to be a continuing challenge as units leave and new units arrive,” said Maj. Linda Bass, the human resources chief with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Bessemer, Ala., native.

Joint Base Balad’s Army Post Office-East has the largest commerce average in theater — roughly 9,000 lbs of mail retrograded out of theater each day. Efficiency and speed are required to ensure the mail reaches its proper destination on time, said 1st Lt. Denys Buschmann, the postal plans and operations officer for U.S. Divisions-North and South, with the 18th Human Resources Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC and a Fort Douglas, Utah, native.

“Those types of statistics equal a very busy operation,” said the Fort Douglas, Utah, resident. “With all the redeployments going on, more people are mailing their personal items home.”

Soldiers with the 13th ESC are working to mitigate the potential congestion problems by implementing various procedures to make the post office process as smooth as possible.

Postal customers can accelerate the postal process by having customs forms, address labels and additional service forms filled out

before entering the APO.

“Feel free to come into the APO and take any necessary forms to enable yourself to pack your parcel and fill out the form in the comfort of your (room),” Buschmann said.

While packing parcels, service members should ensure not to exceed the 70-pound limit.

“Keeping small items organized with clear zip lock bags, and ensuring all (prohibited items) such as ammunition, weapons magazines or items containing alcohol are removed, will expedite your movement through (the APO),” Buschmann said.

Depending on the contents of the parcel, the average inspection time varies.

“The average is 20 minutes per large parcel or tough box, but inspection times vary from less than 10 minutes to over 35 minutes,” Bass said.

If customers run into any problems during the course of their postal experience, they should contact an Army postal Soldier.

“Ask for the (noncommissioned officer in charge) and they will make sure the problem is rectified,” Buschmann said.

“We want to solve problems at the lowest level,” Bass said.

In addition to having access to postal services at APO-East, Soldiers on JBB also have the option of going to APO-West, located next to the post-exchange on the West side of JBB, where lines tend to be shorter. Soldiers or units with multiple “tuff” boxes also have the option of setting an appointment at either APO-E or APO-W.

Residents of JBB can log on to the 13th ESC homepage and access the postal tab to have a wealth of information available at their fingertips, including prohibited item information, hours, contacts, example forms and general APO use information.

As a final note, the APO would like to remind customers that the only accepted method of payment is cash or Eagle Cash.



Capt. Michael Mixon, the commander of the 545th Military Police Company, and a Fort Richardson, Alaska, native, fills out a customs form after conducting a final inspection of his cargo box May 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are working to mitigate the potential congestion problems by implementing various rules and procedures to make the post office process as smooth as possible.

APPOINTMENTS FOR MAIL

(available at most locations 0700-0800)

Simply
Call!

Make an appointment if:

You are mailing more than two large boxes/footlockers

More than four people are mailing large boxes/footlockers

Units can be accommodated!

Please let the post office know how many people you expect to bring and at least 72 hours in advance.

- Call 443-8850/8849 for APO-E
- Call 483-4186 for APO-W

AVAILABLE BOXES

9 1/2" x 12 1/2" **Priority Envelope** \$4.95 (US)

Flat rate boxes

11.7/8" x 3 3/8" x 13 5/8" \$10.70 (US)

11" x 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" \$10.70 (US)

\$14.50 (US) 12" x 12" x 5 1/2"



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. EUNICE ALICEA VALENTIN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The band of Santiagos, all assigned to the 210th Regional Support Group, an Army Reserve unit from Puerto Rico, enter a

dimly lit broadcast studio, igniting the room as Boricuas are known to do.

As the four Soldiers walk through a maze of tripods, cables and towering lights, their excitement echoes off the walls as they whisper in Spanish slang to one another. Their silhouettes fall on top of a backdrop and suspended American flag as they take their seats behind a presidential-style mahogany desk, a row of shotgun microphones, reporters and a single video camera.

Bayamon, Puerto Rico, natives, Sgt. Maj. Hector Santiago, finance and human resources operations cell noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and his younger brother, Spc. Alex A.M. Santiago, a finance specialist, both

with the 210th RSG, 13th Support Command (Expeditionary), are currently deployed to Iraq with their cousins, Spc. Victor Santiago and Spc. Jimmy Rodriguez, information technology specialists also the 210th RSG, and Ponce, Puerto Rico natives. The four Soldiers had a unique opportunity May 13 to communicate back home via satellite and the Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System housed at the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs office at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

A few minutes into the first interview, the Soldiers' personalities blossom with the strength and characteristics of the colorful flower of the Flamboyant tree.

"We are small in numbers, but we make lots of noise," Rodriguez said, a common saying by Latinos who, by culture, enjoy getting together any chance they get. All joking aside, the

Santiago Family was tasked to carry out an important assignment.

The DVIDS hub in Atlanta reaches out to the Soldiers' local media outlets, and vice versa, hoping to get an individual's message back to their hometowns as a firsthand account of their experiences in Iraq, said Sgt. 1st Class William Smith, broadcast noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the

in Spanish throughout La Isla de Encanto (the Island of Enchantment), an island in the Caribbean Sea, with an area less than 3,600 square miles and a population of nearly 4 million.

1st Lt. David R. Spangler, media relations officer with the 196th MPAD, 13th ESC, and a Cleveland, Ohio, native, is the liaison between DVIDS and the interviewers.

"I contact DVIDS and DVIDS contacts the hometowns so Soldiers can tell their stories firsthand," he said.

This media engagement provided audiences in Puerto Rico a more direct avenue of communication with Soldiers in Iraq — an opportunity not typically so easy to coordinate, Smith said.

The job of broadcasters and news writers is to deliver the story to the populace, he said.

"There's nothing better than a Family member or friend from your hometown hearing your voice," Smith said.

Ruben Sanchez, a notably boisterous

WE DON'T LOOK AT THE CLOCK WE LOOK AT THE MISSION.

196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 13th ESC, and a Felicity, Ohio, native.

Within a five-hour block, the Santiagos interviewed with 10 major media outlets in Puerto Rico, including Top 40 radio stations, WAPA-AM and WXYX-FM, and prominent newspaper, La Estrella de Puerto Rico (The Star of Puerto Rico).

The Soldiers conducted interviews

Band of Santiagos rally through deployment

Together, communicate message to Puerto Rico



Ponce, Puerto Rico natives, Spc. Victor M. Santiago (from left) and Spc. Jimmy Rodriguez, both information technology specialists with the 210th Regional Support Group, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Sgt. Maj. Hector Santiago, finance and human resources operations cell noncommissioned officer-in-charge and his younger brother, Spc. Alex A. Santiago, a finance specialist, both Bayamon, Puerto Rico natives, are currently deployed as a Family. The four Soldiers had a unique opportunity May 13 to communicate back home via satellite and the Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System housed at the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs office at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Ponce, Puerto Rico natives, Spc. Victor M. Santiago (left) and Spc. Jimmy Rodriguez (center), both information technology specialists with the 210th Regional Support Group, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Sgt. Maj. Hector Santiago (right), finance and human resources operations cell noncommissioned officer-in-charge and his younger brother, Spc. Alex A. Santiago (bottom left), a finance specialist, both Bayamon, Puerto Rico natives.



air personality with WKAQ-AM, interviewed the Family live and said the interview with the Soldiers was beautiful.

Allowing the Soldiers to engage personally with their home stations meets the distinct needs of the station, in relation to genre, language barriers and answering specific questions, Sanchez said.

“Rather than our broadcasters retelling the Soldiers’ story, we are able to facilitate interviews between Soldiers and their hometown media,” Smith said.

Some on-air personalities covered news and asked questions about the Soldiers’ mission in Iraq, questioning the length of time the Soldiers had been in country, when they were coming home, and if they volunteered to deploy with the 210th RSG. Others simply wanted the Soldiers to give a shout out to their Family and fellow Boricuas, a term referring to the indigenous Taino Indians of Puerto Rico, and now common jargon.

confidence and coolness, and these Soldiers are no exception to the rule. Sgt. Maj. Santiago, a 20-year veteran, spoke of camaraderie and professionalism within his unit. He said Puerto Ricans are known for their hard work.

“We don’t look at the clock, we look at the mission,” the sergeant major said.

The 210th RSG, which arrived in theater last December, was integrated within the 13th ESC staff to provide logistical and technical support for troops throughout Iraq. This is especially significant during the upcoming responsible drawdown in Iraq, the sergeant major said, because the 13th ESC is collecting and reallocating equipment and resources to support missions in Afghanistan.

Another topic of discussion was the financial and political state of the small island, and its correlation to the

advancements of their military careers. Without hesitation, the Soldiers said the Army offered them the opportunity to, in the sergeant major’s case, obtain dual master’s degrees in human resources and management Rodriguez.

In addition, he plans to begin his doctorate in business administration upon his redeployment home.

The three specialists were thrilled about their experiences in the Army since they enlisted two years ago, and gave a call to action. Each expressed their contentment with their careers in the military, finishing one another’s sentences and bragging about life in the service.

“Bueno, it helps that we are Family and we were very close before arriving here (in Iraq),” Alex said. “My message to the youth of Puerto Rico is to join our Family.”

The Santiagos’ interviews were successful, Javier Villa of Noti Uno WUNO-AM said.

Villa said the intent of some reporters is to engage the audience as well.

Villa aired the interview live and said the interview was excellent and it raised call-in volume. Other reporters were also thrilled with the interviews, they said.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SOLDIERS TEST DECISION MAKING SKILLS



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Happy Fathers Day

RECORD A FATHER'S DAY GREETING

The 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will be recording video greetings May 28 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at DFAC 1 and DFAC 2. The greetings will be marketed to air on local channels near your home on or around Father's Day. If you're interested in recording a greeting, contact 1st Lt. David Spangler through one of the methods listed below with the following information:

Name	Military Occupational Specialty
Rank/Rate	Email address or phone number
Gender	Component
Age	Hometown
Unit	

13TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Chess tournament tests decision making skills



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Many have compared chess strategy to military strategy and tried to draw parallels between the two. In chess, players tactically position personnel (pieces) for battle. A player conquers his or her adversary by offering them no choice but to surrender — checkmate.

Service members who competed in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East chess tournament here May 13 largely downplayed the comparison, but did speak about how chess can improve decision-making skills.

“Once you really play, then you’re definitely using a strategy,” said Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Christopher, a motor sergeant with the 18th Human Resources Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a New York City native.

“You get to counter the other person’s strategy,” he said. “You get put in different situations you have to react to.”

Christopher said that, at a higher level, there’s definitely backwards planning involved in chess.

“If you get put in a tight situation and can think your way out of it, that’s going to apply to pretty much anything you do in the military,” he said.

Christopher said he plays, because it’s mentally challenging.

“It makes you think steps ahead,” he said.

About 20 Army, Air Force and civilian workers played in the three-hour tournament.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Barbour, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of recreation with the 332nd Expeditionary

Force Support Squadron, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of recreation, and a Birmingham, Ala., native, put the tournament together.

Barbour, who’s been playing chess for two weeks, said the idea for the tournament stems from the Air Force Chess Championship at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, also happening the same week.

There’s also a North Atlantic Treaty Organization chess tournament in September, Barbour said.

“The least I could do, I felt, was to start the base-wide tournament involving all personnel — Army, Air Force, civilians,” he said. “As far as I know, there never has been any chess tournament or activity on this base since I’ve been here.”

They should have more chess tournaments or a club where people can build their skills. A new player could come over and see how the game is played, said Sgt. Jerry Oliveira, an electrician for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, and a Honolulu native.

Oliveira said he plays because it’s different every time, even though the rules stay the same.

“I’m very observant of the board,” Oliveira said, “and I’m watching all the pieces all the time. I’m watching the moves they set up, to see if they’re trying to lay a future trap or ambushes.”

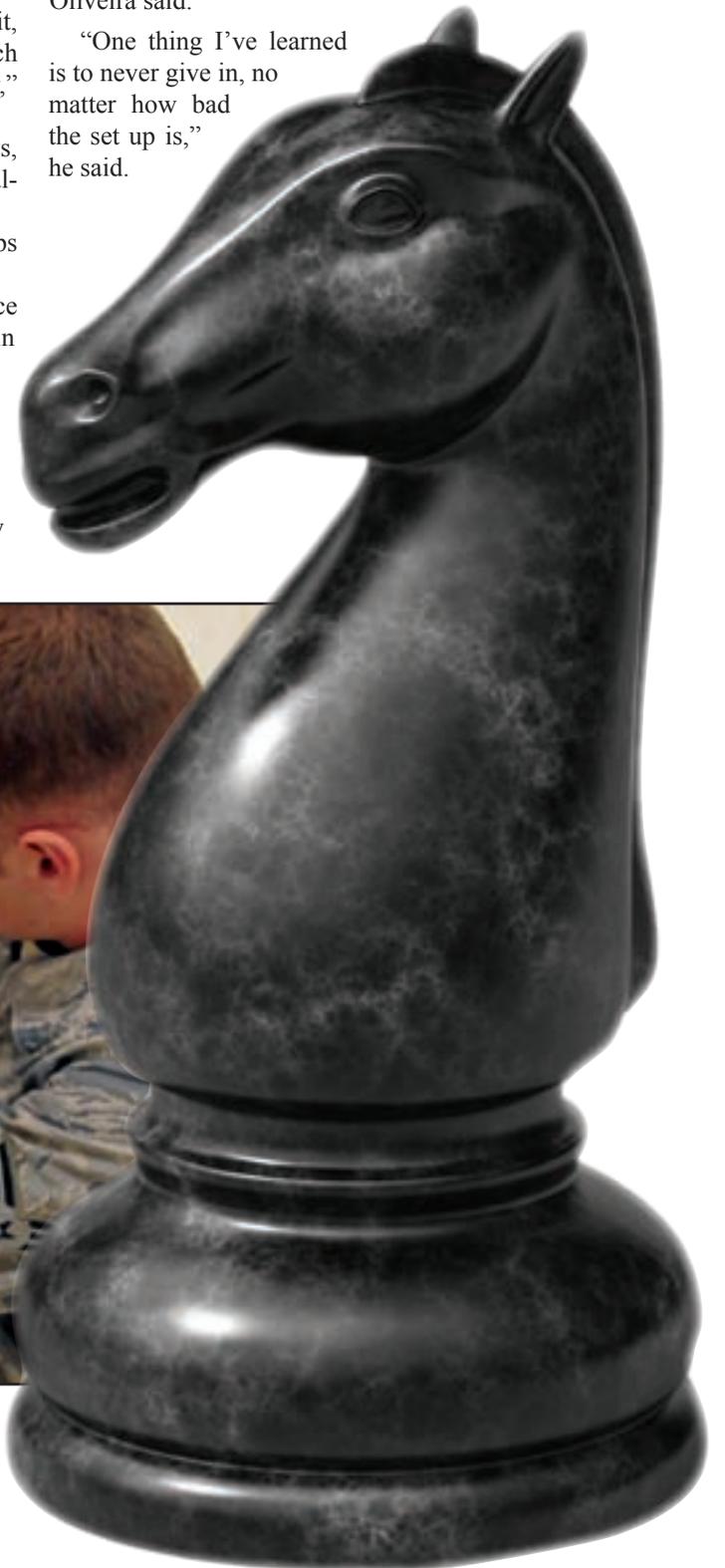
You always want to try to keep fighting, because they could make mistakes later, and you could turn it all around, Oliveira said.

“One thing I’ve learned is to never give in, no matter how bad the set up is,” he said.

Senior Airman Wes Carter, a journalist with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a McAlester, Okla., native, weighs his options after getting put in a troubling situation during the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East chess tournament May 13 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Army Sgt. Eric Heiselman (left), a maintenance noncommissioned officer for the 14th Movement Control Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of New Hampton, Iowa, plays out a difficult match May 13 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East chess tournament with Senior Airman Wes Carter, a journalist with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a McAlester, Okla., native.



Slow wireless?

Try these 5 easy fixes

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



In the days of high-speed broadband, 4G smartphones and satellite Internet, it appears the World Wide Web is always at our fingertips. However, when your Web browser freezes while loading your Facebook profile, it may seem like the Internet is tauntingly out of reach. Don't be discouraged though. There are a few simple steps you can take to push your web-surfing as fast and as far as it can go.

1. **Plug in your laptop:** It may seem trivial, but by plugging in your computer's power supply, you are actually improving your Internet speed. Your laptop prioritizes power usage from its battery to the different systems it has running. By plugging it in, the system has the ability to provide full power to all its components, including your wireless card.
2. **Turn off unnecessary programs:** Are you using the web browser while video-chatting with your Family? Do you need that instant message program up while you check e-mail? The more programs you have trying to connect to the Internet, the more programs are competing for your precious, and limited, bandwidth.
3. **Clear your temporary files and caches:** As you travel across the Internet, you leave a trail of bread crumbs, fittingly called cookies, on your computer. Cookies keep track of mundane things like the sites you visit and links you click. They also can store key information, like credit card numbers and passwords. By periodically cleaning out these cookies, you can remove unnecessary baggage from your system and streamline your Internet experience. To delete your cookies on Microsoft's Internet Explorer, select "Tools," and then "Internet Options." Under browsing history, select the "delete" button. Delete the items you want to remove and you are ready to go. If you're using Safari, you can open up the browser, click on the Safari tab and select "Empty Cache." Other browsers such as Google's Chrome or Mozilla's Firefox follow similar procedures.
4. **Try off peak times:** Whether you are surfing the Web at the United Service Organizations facility or chatting from the comfort of your room, your computer is competing with every other computer in the area; all trying to connect to that same hot spot. The less people trying to elbow you out of the way to YouTube, the less hassle you will have connecting.
5. **Get up and Move:** Yes, I know you are comfortable. Yes, I know that it can be a pain, but if your signal is weak or intermittent, moving your computer can work wonders. Whether that means moving the computer closer to the wireless router, or leaving the signal blocking walls of your containerized housing units for the star-lit Iraqi sky, a stronger signal means less timed out browsers and more visits to your favorite Web site.

There is no single solution for every Internet problem. Every computer is different, but there are some universal steps that can work wonders for your online woes. Taking minutes to set yourself and your computer up for success can help avoid hours of frustration. Computer issues can arise no matter what tech-level you are. It isn't always what you know. Sometimes it's who you know. Possibly knowing me will make your life just a little bit easier.

Word on the street

What Web site do you visit most often when you're bored?



"Facebook"

Sgt. Diane Parker, a dispersing certifier with 3rd Detachment, 368th Financial Management Detachment, 82nd Financial Management Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Wichita, Kan., native.



"Craigslist"

Sgt. Kelsey Merry, a combat engineer with the 950th Clearance Company, 724th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, and a Braham, Minn., native.



"Google"

Sgt. Diane Parker, a dispersing certifier with 3rd Detachment, 368th Financial Management Detachment, 82nd Financial Management Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Wichita, Kan., native.



"Facebook"

Senior Airman April London, personnel clerk with the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, and a Simpsonville, S.C., native.



"YouTube, Skype"

Spc. Tiffany Vann, supply clerk with the 249th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, and a Columbia, S.C., native.

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“Today is a historic day for the U.N. and Iraq. The signing of the agreement marks the start of a strengthened partnership for achieving a better future for Iraq and its people.”

Christine McNabb, United Nations Resident Coordinator, on the May 11 signing of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework pledging U.N. assistance to Iraq through 2014

“We need them now and in the foreseeable future. Their departure would be a catastrophe and a serious threat to the democratic experiment.”

Maj. Gen. Turhan Yusuf Rahman, police commander in Kirkuk, on the presence of U.S. troops near disputed territory in northern Iraq.

“There is no proof ... that there was fraud or manipulation or big mistakes.”

Quassim al-Aboudi, spokesperson for the Independent High Electoral Commission, after a recount of ballots for Iraq’s March 7 parliamentary elections

“They will be in Iraq and Afghanistan for an extended period of time (as) a force to hunt and kill terrorists, and also as a force to help train Iraqis and Afghans.”

Defense Secretary Robert Gates on the continued role of special operations forces in Iraq and Afghanistan

“Dark days soaked with blood.”

al-Nasser Lideen Allah Abu Suleiman, new leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, on a new campaign of attacks that has allegedly already begun.

PTSD

About 5.2 million people have PTSD in a given year

About 7-8% of the population will have PTSD at some point in their lives

Women are more than twice as likely as men to develop PTSD

FITNESS CORNER

Medicine Ball Week



Single-Leg Skater Squat

Stand with your feet shoulder width apart. Hold the medicine ball straight out in front of you with your arms. Bend your right leg at the knee and extend it to the rear. Find your balance and slowly lower into a squat on your left leg, keeping your back straight. Rise back up to the starting position. Perform 10 repetitions. Try not to touch your foot back down to the ground. Repeat the same exercise with the opposite leg. Perform three sets of ten repetitions.

Advanced: When you squat down, hold the squatted position for five seconds then return to the starting position.



V-Sit Twist

Sit on the floor with your knees bent and your feet flat on the floor. Hold the medicine ball straight out in front of you with your arms extended. Recline back so that your body is angled at 45 degrees. Keeping your lower body still, twist your torso to the right and then to the left, tapping the ball to the ground on each side. Moving to the right and then the left once each completes one repetition. Perform three sets of 20 repetitions.

Advanced: Instead of sitting at a 45-degree-angle, lean back more. You can also try lifting your feet about one to two inches off the floor.



Burpee Ball

Begin in a low squat position with your hands on the medicine ball on the floor in front of you. Kick your feet back to a front leaning rest position with your hands on the ball and keeping your abdominals tight. Immediately return your feet to the starting position. Jump up as high as possible, raising the ball over your head, with your arms extended. Then return back to the starting squat position. Perform three sets of 10 repetitions.

Advanced: While in the front leaning rest position, perform a push-up with your hands on the ball. Continue the remaining exercise the same as described above.

Pre and Post-workout Nutrition

Many misconceptions surround eating and exercise. You may avoid food before a workout because you worry you will get nauseated or have cramps. You may not eat in the morning because you think you'll burn more fat if you exercise on an empty stomach. Neither of these myths are true. Nutrition is an essential component of any workout program. You cannot transform your body just through exercise. You must also eat right and sufficiently nourish your body. What you eat before and after your workout has a huge effect, not only how you feel and perform during your workout, but also how you recover and develop.

The bottom line is that when you expend energy by exercising, you need to consume extra energy to fuel the activity. How much you should eat, and at what time of day depends on the type of exercise you're doing and the duration of it. Nutrition, including when you last ate and what you ate, plays a very important role in enhancing and optimizing your performance during a workout.

PRE-WORKOUT

The purpose of a pre-workout meal or snack is to make sure you have enough energy to sustain your body throughout your workout. The meal must provide necessary fuel, without adding too much strain on your digestive system. Eating too much before a workout can result in sluggishness and an upset stomach. But eating too little can result in a drop in blood sugar which can result in light-headedness and loss of concentration, leaving you hungry in the middle of your routine. A mixture of complex carbohydrates and protein is considered best, with more emphasis on the carbohydrates for continuous energy. Aim to eat about 200-300 calories within the hour before your workout. Consider these snack ideas:

- » Whole grain toast with one tablespoon of jam or peanut butter
- » 1 cup of cereal with one-half cup of skim milk
- » 6 ounces of light yogurt with one half cup of fresh fruit
- » A banana and 20 mini-pretzels
- » An energy bar with less than 200 calories

POST-WORKOUT

While the pre-exercise meal can ensure that adequate glycogen (the source of energy most often used during exercise) stores are available for optimal performance. The post-exercise meal is critical to recovery and improves your ability to train consistently. Post-workout meals replenish low glycogen stores, begin muscular growth and repair, and restore the immune system.

Nutrient timing is just as important as nutrient consumption. The first two hours after a workout is your window of opportunity when the body is primed to absorb nutrients, much like a sponge.

Since you use carbohydrates as energy during exercise, you need to replenish these storage depots after a workout. In addition, consumption of protein is necessary during your post-exercise meal. It will help rebuild the tissues damaged during your workout. Protein facilitates carbohydrate storage to improve recovery if it is consumed with carbohydrates during the initial two hours after a workout.

The optimal carbohydrate to protein ratio for this effect is 4:1, four grams of carbohydrate for every one gram of protein. However, eating more protein has a negative impact because it slows rehydration and glycogen replenishment. Here are a few ideas for your post-workout snack.

- » A sandwich with lean protein, such as grilled chicken, turkey breast or tuna.
- » Chocolate skim milk
- » Whole grain bagel with peanut butter
- » Yogurt and fruit, such as berries

If you are unsure how your body will react to a new pre- or post-workout nutrition plan, experiment with a variety of different snack and meal combinations to determine your optimal fuel-food source. When it comes to eating and exercise, everyone responds differently. Pay attention to how you feel during your workout and your overall performance. Let your experience guide you on which pre- and post-exercise eating habits work best for you.



Capt. Sarah Baumgardner is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where she majored in exercise physiology. She is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) as a Health Fitness Specialist (HFS). She has worked as a personal trainer and nutritional consultant, training a wide range of demographics. She brings enthusiasm and motivation to inspiring, coaching and increasing Soldiers' fitness levels.

Sudoku

Level: Hard

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

Last week's answers

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Which continent has the most countries represented in the U.N.?
- What U.S. state gave the world Fats Domino, Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton?
- What country boasts the world's oldest active brewery, dating back to 1040 A.D.?
- What Minnesota town boasts an annual celebration called Wrong Day?
- What nation will need an estimated 4,300 years to remove the 10 million land mines left there by the Soviet Army?
- Buckingham Palace is in which English City?

1. Africa 2. Louisiana 3. Germany 4. Wright 5. Afghanistan 6. London

JBB Worship Services

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (Hi6)
11 a.m. Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)

Wednesday 8 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

GENERAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Freedom Chapel
9 a.m. Provider Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
12 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
12:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)

Sunday 5 p.m. Provider Chapel

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Sunday 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel

*Current as of 19 May 2010

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (Hi6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
12:30 pm. Airforce Provider Chapel

Thursday 11 a.m. Airforce Provider Chapel
Wednesday, 5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Saturday 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
Confessions: **Saturday** 4 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (Hi6) or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Provider Annex
Saturday 7 p.m. The Bat Cave

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel 443-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday 8 p.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 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. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: 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. Saturday 8 p.m. Bingo: Mon., Tue., Thu.,	8 p.m. Friday 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Mon, Saturday 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Mon., Sat. 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday 8 p.m. H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday 8 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. P90x: Mon., Sat. 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 p.m. WEST REC- REATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Friday 7 p.m.	tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Foosball: Tuesday 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday 8 p.m. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday 8:30 p.m.	Aerobics: Mon., Wed., 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: Saturday 7 p.m. Soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
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UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 05/26/10

HOCKEY 2010 Stanley Cup Playoffs-Conference Finals: Teams TBD, Live 5:30 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB Washington Nationals @ San Francisco Giants, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Thursday 05/27/10

TENNIS 2010 French Open-Early Round Coverage, Day 5, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports
2010 NBA Playoffs-Eastern Conference Finals: Teams TBD, Delayed 4 a.m. AFN Sports

Friday 05/28/10

TENNIS 2010 French Open-Early Round Coverage, Day 6 9 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 7 p.m. AFN Prime Pacific

Saturday 05/29/10

MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 1 a.m. AFN Prime Freedom
FOX Saturday Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals @ Chicago Cubs, Live 1 p.m. AFN Sports
Nascar Nationwide Series: TECH-NET Auto Service 300, Live 11 a.m. AFN Xtra
UFC 114: Rampage vs Evans, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Sunday 05/30/10

USA Men's Soccer: USA vs Turkey, Delayed 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers @ Colorado Rockies, Live 12 p.m. AFN Xtra
IndyCar Series: 94th Indianapolis 500, Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Philadelphia Phillies @ Florida Marlins, Live 10 a.m. AFN Prime Freedom
2010 NBA Playoffs-Eastern Conference Finals: Teams TBD, Live 5:30 p.m. AFN Sports

Monday 05/31/10

UFC 114: Rampage vs Evans, Delayed 12 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ Toronto Blue Jays, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra
2010 NBA Playoffs Conference Finals: Teams TBD, Live 5:30 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Seattle Mariners, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Tuesday 06/01/10

TENNIS 2010 French Open: Men's & Women's Quarterfinals, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports
Monday Night Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies @ Atlanta Braves, Live 4 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: New York Mets @ San Diego Padres, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Wednesday 06/02/10

MLB: Washington Nationals @ Houston Astros, Live 12 a.m. AFN Sports
TENNIS 2010 French Open: Men's Quarterfinals, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Oakland Athletics @ Boston Red Sox, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Colorado Rockies @ San Francisco Giants, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Robin Hood' ready for Waziristan

BY STAFF SGT. RANDALL P. CAREY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Someone recently told me that when she thinks of Robin Hood, she thinks of his little hat and feather. Well, I can't say my impression is far from that; much more effeminate actually.

As a feminist I can't say there's anything wrong with a woman being the hero, or should I say heroine, of the day. But I think I can safely assume that one would prefer to see a man that is supposed to fight the strong on behalf of the weak be a little more ... rugged.

In the 2010 remake, "Robin Hood," by director Ridley Scott (Black Hawk Down), Russell Crowe (Gladiator) finally pulls it off. His band of merry men received a makeover too. With rough beards, dirty and earth-toned clothes, and apparently some training in small-unit tactics, they now more closely resemble a U.S. Army Special Forces Operational Detachment-A than the cast of Glee you might otherwise confuse them with. A fitting revision given Robin Hood's general mission — liberate the oppressed.

Their mission begins before they even know it. You probably know it as well. Godfrey (Mark Strong) begins plotting his evil sweep of the English society early in the movie. Strong plays the dark, calculating and cold-blooded character very well and, at times, made me wonder if he was really Lord Voldemort waiting for a flamboyant duel with a wiry little magician. Well Volde...Godfrey had another thing coming and Potter's little tricks wouldn't have kept him alive for two seconds when Robin Hood's team of operators stormed onto the screen.

The rest of the plot is what you may know from previous versions of the tales of Robin Hood. Godfrey manipulates the newly anointed King John into backing a bloody tax collection campaign. Violence begets violence and before long the villagers bring their grievances to the king. Robin Hood is right there with them to do it after rediscovering his past and beginning a new life in Nottingham. Godfrey's evil persists and King John, in the interest of self-preservation, decides to put up a fight. Fortunately for him he has the times' best special operations troops to lead the assault.

The "Robin Hood" plot can only be changed so much. What could be changed was done right though.

The love story in the 2010 film was much less enchanted and poetic. It grew out of a matter of necessity and survival.

The aesthetics of the film were reprioritized as well. The people weren't so pretty. People weren't clean — and given the setting, I'd say that's an improvement in accuracy. The wardrobe and makeup departments took some tips from "Braveheart" and I'll chalk it up as a success. The natural environment got the star treatment. Long sweeping and panning shots captured the full potential of the medieval English landscape. Lush, deep green, rolling hills lit by soft gold sunlight set a beautiful scene for some violent action.

And violent it was.

Seriously, this was one violent Robin Hood. And that's just the way it should be. I mean we're talking about combat and insurgency here. Reconnaissance, espionage, ambushes, long-range marksmanship, beach landings — this is a film fit for a fire team. And the team on the screen enjoyed a leader who's not too distracted by his ballet outfit or love interest. Robin Hood is the new prince of unconventional warfare and foreign internal defense in medieval England.

My verdict: A.

Not your Father's "Axis and Allies"

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Paradox Interactive's "Hearts of Iron III," is the third (obviously) installment of an operational level simulation of World War II for the PC.

The second World War has been a mainstay for video gaming since the days of Wolfenstein 3D, and analog gaming since, well World War II. In most of the games I've played, however, you only get to control one person, or for real time strategies, you get watered down control of military units.

In HoI 3, the gamer gets complete control over a belligerent or neutral country from 1936 to 1948, and unlike most attempts at World War II strategy games, the amount of countries to choose from and the level of control is simply staggering.

Do you want to play as the U.S. and work with Japan and Germany to take down the Soviet Union and United Kingdom? Well now you can. Would you like to play as Ireland and remain neutral until the U.K. is overextended, at which point you liberate Northern Ireland? That's perfectly achievable. Would you like to play as France and get curb-stomped

by Germany pretty much regardless of your tactics and ability? Probably not, but if you play as France, this outcome is as inevitable as the impending Limp Bizkit reunion tour.

On to graphics.

For a game made within the last year, the graphics in this game are spectacular. By spectacular, I mean spectacularly bad. Think two-dimensional map with squares indicating combat units and squiggly lines representing cities.

Now imagine this map was put together by Lauren Caitlin Upton (Miss Teen South Carolina, 2007 — awesome answer about Americans not knowing where "The Iraq" was on maps...just youtube it). So, geography is not a strong suit in a game that uses a map for a board. A lot of cities are missing, some are in weird places, New York is in New Jersey, Boston is in New York, Midway Island is only about a third of the way there. It makes island hopping pretty interesting.

HoI 3 is technically a real time strategy, but in order to play effectively, you have to pause...a lot. Even a seasoned gamer will, at first blush, find the level of micromanagement in this game to be a bit much. The technology tree is quite intimidating at first, but as long as you remain goal oriented it's not too difficult to work out.

In the grand tradition of recently released games, HoI 3 is virtually unplayable out of the box. I mean it's bad, glitches

like crazy. If you want to play this game and have no way to update it with the current patch, don't bother with it, it will crash often.

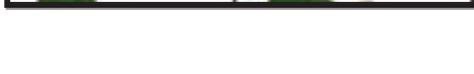
I hate the new play testing method game designers have of releasing an unfinished game and letting their customers do all the beta testing. I know it seems odd, but when I buy something, I kind of expect it to work as advertised.

Based on everything, from the lazy play testing, bad maps, annoying level of involvement for all operations, I really wanted to hate this game, but it has the most important charm any game can have, playability. Once I got the hang of it, I just couldn't stop playing. I found it ridiculous and fun to invade Japan, as the conquering Canadians, my moose mounted, hockey stick wielding, cavalry triumphantly raised the Maple Leaf over war-torn Iwo Jima, and I was hooked.

I recommend playing as a minor power at first to get the hang of the game. Countries like Austria, Australia and Canada are perfect for learning and still being able to contribute to the war effort.

Overall, I give "Hearts of Iron III" an enthusiastic 7 out of 10. A good patch fixing the map and making the tutorial better, and some of the controls more intuitive would bump it up to a solid 9.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday May 26

5 p.m. The Ghost Writer (PG-13)
8 p.m. Robin Hood (PG-13) (1st Run)

Thursday May 27

5 p.m. Robin Hood (PG-13) (1st Run)
8 p.m. Clash Of The Titans (PG-13)

Friday May 28

5 p.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG-13) (1st Run)
8:30 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG) (1st Run)
12 a.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time

Saturday May 29

2 p.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time

8 p.m. Shrek Forever After
10 p.m. Date Night
12 a.m. Shrek Forever After

Sunday May 30

2 p.m. Shrek Forever After
5 p.m. Date Night
8 p.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time

Monday May 31

5 p.m. Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time
8 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG) (1st Run)

Tuesday June 1

6 p.m. Shrek Forever After
9 p.m. The Last Song

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha R. Ciaramitaro

U.S. Soldiers board a boat which was confiscated for smuggling items into the port May 4 in Abu Flus, Iraq, during a joint patrol. The patrol was conducted with Iraqi soldiers from the 53rd Iraqi Army Brigade to check on the security of the Abu Flus port.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Matthew D. Leislikow



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Loriaux, a Soldier with Bravo Company, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, from San Antonio, walks hand-in-hand with a group of children May 8 down a street in Shwan, Iraq, May 8, 2010. Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and Bravo Company, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, visited the village to meet with locals and speak with them about current conditions in the area.



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

A guard maintains organized control May 09 at the Shalamsha Port of Entry, Iraq. U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 341st Tactical Psychological Operations Company, visit the border crossing area to speak with citizens and security officials.

NEWS AROUND

A time of great challenge, great growth

BAGHDAD— U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Christopher Hill visited students at Iraq's National Defense College in Baghdad Tuesday. He spoke with them about Iraq's developing relationships.

★ "It's these relationships – between civilians and the military; between the issues the military must remain engaged in those it must remain out of; between Iraq and its NATO allies and its neighbors – that will help ensure a secure and democratic Iraq," he said.

Hill stressed that NATO, with its vast experience with coalition and alliance building, provides Iraq with examples of how to nurture and mature these connections.

"I hope our friends from Iraq can learn from this and develop the kinds of relationships with our friends and allies from Europe and can understand the important roll NATO can play and the important role that a broader security structure can play," He said. "I think it's through these courses, it's indeed through the NATO training mission that Iraq can develop relationships, it doesn't mean that they develop a necessarily alliance, that's another matter, but I think these relationship that are developed with NATO countries or with NATO structures can serve Iraq very well."

The ambassador said that despite the difficulty of the last seven years or the recent bombing tragedy around Iraq, he still believed in a secure and democratic Iraq.

Aircraft makes emergency landing in noncombat-related incident

ADDER— An aircraft with Task Force 12 made an emergency landing at approximately 5 p.m. May 15, northeast of Nasiriyah, Iraq, during their daily mission.

At this time, there are no injuries reported. The incident was not combat-related and is under investigation.

Iraqi and US forces recover disabled aircraft northeast of Nasiriyah

BASRAH— A joint team of Iraqi Police from the 6th Emergency Response Unit and U.S. forces secured and recovered a disabled U.S. helicopter May 15, after it was forced to make a precautionary landing.

★ A team of Iraqi and U.S. forces were able to secure the landing site and repair the aircraft before U.S. pilots flew it back to Tallil Air Base.

"We would like to thank our Iraqi partners for their outstanding assistance," said Col. James Rainey, commander, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Contingency Operating Base Adder. "The quick response from the 6th Emergency Response Unit was instrumental in the success of the recovery operation."

The aircraft was conducting its daily mission when it made a precautionary landing because of a mechanical problem. No one was injured during the landing.

The incident was not combat-related and is under investigation.

ISF arrest 2 suspected AQI members in west Mosul

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq criminal associates May 16, during a joint security operation conducted in west Mosul.

★ ISF and U.S. advisors searched a building for a suspected AQI member linked to terrorist attacks against Iraqi civilians, security forces and coalition forces in Mosul.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected criminal associ-

ates of the warranted 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.

ISF kill suspected AQI member

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces killed a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq criminal during a joint security operation conducted approximately 100 kilometers northeast of Tikrit.

★ ISF and U.S. advisors conducted a vehicle interdiction to arrest a suspected AQI member who is allegedly responsible for the facilitation of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices targeting civilians within Kirkuk.

As the security team approached the warranted individual's vehicle, he drew a pistol and ISF engaged the assailant in self-defense, killing him. No ISF were injured in the engagement.

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 Sheikh Amir transferred to Iraqi Army

SHEIKHAMIR— Soldiers of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division transferred authority of Joint Security Station Sheikh Amir to their Iraqi Army partners during a ceremony conducted May 7.

★ Leaders from the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div., the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, the local community and the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior participated in the ceremony, which concluded with the signing of documents, officially transferring responsibility of the JSS to the Iraqi Government.

With the increased capabilities of local Iraqi Security Forces generating an improved security situation in the area, U.S. forces are no longer needed to maintain a permanent presence at the JSS and are able to transfer the base to the Government of Iraq. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Bn. will continue to train and advise their ISF partners throughout the remainder of their deployment.

Since arriving in Iraq last fall, Soldiers from 2nd Bn. had maintained a platoon of Soldiers at the base; planning operations, sharing intelligence and conducting missions alongside their IA counterparts to help continue improving security in the area.

The son of the base's namesake, Sheikh Abdil-Qadar, addressed the U.S. Soldiers during the ceremony, thanking them for their service.

Capt. Nate Showman, the commander of Company A, 2nd Bn., whose unit had resided at the JSS, explained that the transfer of the base to the Government of Iraq represents a milestone in both his military career and in the progress of the overall security situation of Iraq.

"The last time I was here, we opened up," he said. "This time we got to close one down."

In accordance with the Security Agreement the bases or facilities will be returned to the control of the appropriate Iraqi entity or demilitarized and closed. These facilities are able to be closed or transferred to Iraqi control because the Iraqi Security Forces have assumed full responsibility for security in their respective areas.

National Training Center opens in Baghdad

BAGHDAD— The National Training Center opened here May 16, expanding investigative training capabilities for National information and Investigation Agency

personnel.

The NTC trains national investigators to collect criminal information and conduct investigative operations at the national level in coordination with other intelligence and security elements to penetrate major criminal networks and defeat domestic criminal activities that threaten Iraq's national security in today's counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency fight.

The newly-expanded center triples the capability of the previous center and provides additional training and instructional areas to accommodate the dynamic curriculum that is planned for the new facility.

Construction planning for the facility, which began in 2005, was a partnership of the Government of Iraq and United States Forces in Iraq. The upgraded center consists of an administrative building, 12 classrooms, a dining facility, billeting for 520 students and outside training areas including a firing range, an obstacle course and a practical exercise area.

Iraq Training and Advising Mission Director Army Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe said with this enhanced infrastructure, the NTC can now "provide instruction to several thousand basic, intermediate and advanced students annually, across various professional disciplines, in a secure environment."

Classes taught at the NTC include: intelligence, collection and analysis, document exploitation, advanced security training, airplane protection and law enforcement training to include criminal investigations and secured raids.

Rowe said while the completion of this facility marks the end of the construction phase of this expansion of this facility, "it also represents the beginning of another phase of USF assistance – that of providing advice and mentoring to a growing cadre of instructors and specialized trainers."

US Forces transfer Joint Security Station Beladiyat, close JSS 763

BAGHDAD— Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, transferred responsibility of Joint Security Station Beladiyat to members of 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division in a ceremony conducted May 7. The Soldiers also closed JSS 763, and the land was returned to the Government of Iraq.

★ As the U.S. draws down forces in Iraq in accordance with the Security Agreement, Joint Security Station facilities are being transferred to Iraqi Security Forces or Government of Iraq ministries. JSS Beladiyat is the fifth JSS to be transferred to the ISF in 2nd BCT's area of responsibility.

"We have had the chance to work together and learn from each other," said Lt. Col. John Petkosek, the commander of 2nd Bn. "Together we have done what is most important: provide security for the Iraqi people."

The transfer comes as Iraqi Security Forces in the area, specifically policemen assigned to the 4th Bde., have proven their abilities in providing security for the local population. They have contributed to a 59 percent decrease in insurgent activities throughout the Rusafa area of Baghdad in the past year.

The Soldiers of 2nd Bn. have worked with policemen of the 4th Bde. over the past seven months, conducting partnered training, patrols and humanitarian assistance missions in the district.

"We consider our forces today well-equipped and ready to defeat the enemy wherever they are," said Brig. Gen. Amir Flayh Hasson, the commander of 4th Bde. "We are able to coordinate and deal with any situation that may arise."

The ceremony took place at JSS Beladiyat with numerous Iraqi FP officers, federal policemen and U.S. Soldiers participating.

"I am very confident in the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces," said Petkosek.

In accordance with the Security Agreement the bases or facilities will be returned to the control of the appropriate

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In accordance with the Security Agreement the bases or facilities will be returned to the control of the appropriate Iraqi entity or demilitarized and closed. These facilities are able to be closed or transferred to Iraqi control because the Iraqi Security Forces have assumed full responsibility for security in their respective areas.

JSS Zafaraniya transferred from US Forces to Federal Police

BAGHDAD— Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, transferred Joint Security Station Zafaraniya May 17, to the 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division.

As the U.S. draws down forces in Iraq in accordance with the Security Agreement, JSS facilities are being transferred to Iraqi Security Forces or Government of Iraq ministries. JSS Zafaraniya is the sixth JSS to be transferred to the ISF within 2nd BCT's operational footprint.

"Today is a bittersweet day for us," said Brig. Gen. Kefah Melher Ali Al-Saraj, commander of 1-1 FP. "Bitter because we are saying goodbye to fine officers and Soldiers; sweet because we are finally taking over our base on our own."

Army officials say the JSS transfer is a necessary step toward meeting U.S. goals for responsibly drawing down troops while simultaneously empowering the ISF to take full control of security operations in Iraq.

The transfer of JSS Zafaraniya comes at an ideal time when Iraqi Security Forces in the area, specifically 1-1 FP, have proven their ability to provide security for the local population. They have contributed to a 59-percent decrease in insurgent activities throughout the Zafaraniya and Karada area of Baghdad in the past year.

"They already have plans on how they are to conduct (security operations at JSS Zafaraniya), how they are going to guard it," said 1st Sgt. Patrick Murray of Mauston, Wis., battery first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-15 FA. "I think they will do well."

The Soldiers of 2-15 have worked with 1-1 FP over the past seven months, conducting partnered training, patrols and humanitarian assistance missions in the Zafaraniya and Karada district.

In accordance with the Security Agreement the bases or facilities will be returned to the control of the appropriate Iraqi entity or demilitarized and closed. These facilities are able to be closed or transferred to Iraqi control because the Iraqi Security Forces have assumed full responsibility for security in their respective areas.

Militant rocket impacts near Iraqi Army camp

BASRAH— Militants fired rockets at Iraqi and U.S. base camps in Diwaniyah Province May 16, just before 8 p.m..

One round impacted near the 8th Iraqi Army Training Academy and the other round impacted on the U.S. helicopter landing area. No injuries or significant damages were reported.

An Iraqi-led joint team made up of Iraqi and U.S. quick reaction forces and explosive ordinance technicians immediately responded to the attack, and an Iraqi led investigation is under way to determine the culprits

Remember the risks

MOSUL— Especially as the region between Mosul and Samarra is still one of the more dangerous parts of the country.

That serves to remind us why so few tourists travel to Iraq: The ancient land may have a wealth of archaeological

attractions, but there's no denying it's a dangerous place.

The U.S. Department of State warns that "numerous insurgent groups remain active throughout Iraq" and "recommends against all but essential travel within the country."

And some of Iraq's biggest attractions are in dangerous regions. Babylon, Samara and Ashur are all located in areas where the British Foreign Office advises against travel.

Tipton told CNN: "If you travel to parts of the country where the Foreign Office advises against travel, quite apart from putting yourself at risk, your insurance would not cover you if you were to have some kind of incident."

Until security improves, Iraq will remain a fringe destination. But where the trailblazers dare to travel, the camera-toting hordes often follow.

But Dauge said Iraq's development as a tourist destination could help rebuild the country's economy.

"It has to be very carefully controlled," she said. "It can create disasters, but it can also be very good in terms of economic development and improving the living conditions of the communities."

Zawahiri mourns Baghdadi and Masri, vows to take revenge

BAGHDAD— Al-Qaeda's second-in-command, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, mourned both Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi, former leader of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq, and Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, who were killed during a joint Iraqi-U.S. operation in western Iraq last month.

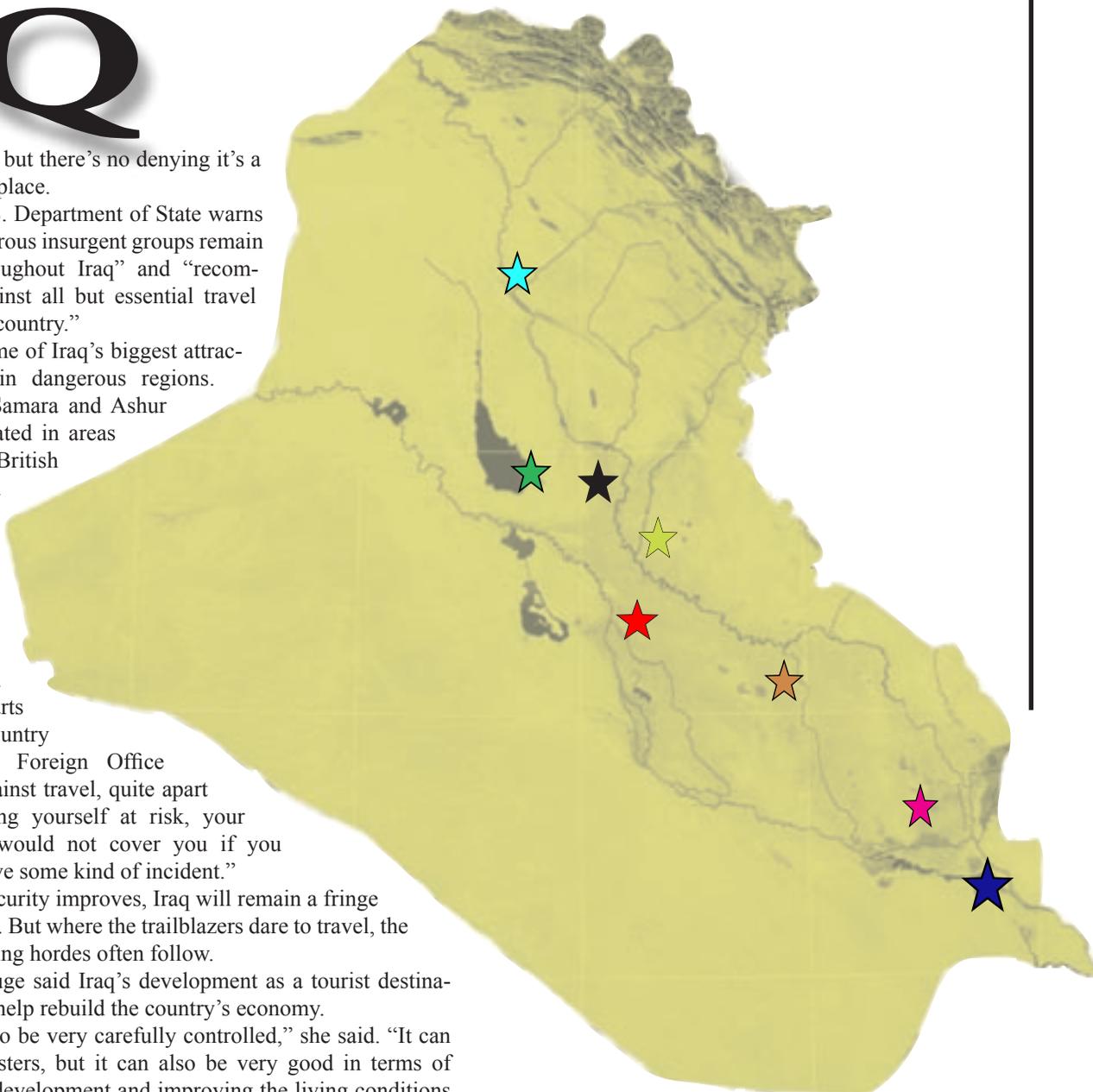
According to an audiotape broadcasted on Al-Jazeera on May 20, which CNN could not verify independently, Zawahiri vowed to take revenge against what he called the 'Christian Crusader Alliance' for the killing of the two top Al-Qaeda leaders in Iraq.

Zawahiri, in the audio recording, called the soldiers of the Islamic State of Iraq to continue their fight against the enemy. He said they fight to achieve victory.

The voice in the audiotape described Abu Hamza al-Muhajir [known as Abu Ayyub al-Masri] using few names, the Patient Fighter, Brave Soldier, Commander and Prince. He stated that Masri and Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, former leader of the organization, helped to revive the concept of 'jihad' in Iraq.

The statement attributed to Zawahiri came days after the announcement of the Islamic State of Iraq, part of Al-Qaeda, that the Shura Council had elected two new leaders to replace Baghdadi and Masri.

The statement, which was published on a number of websites, stated the two new leaders are Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi Al-Hussaini Al-Qersh, as the Prince of Believers of the Islamic State of Iraq, and Abu Abdullah Al-Hasani Al-Qersh, as the minister and deputy to the first one.



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Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Eunice Alicea Valentin



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Swab

Staff Sgt. Steve Engle, broadcast noncommissioned officer with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Columbus, Ohio, native, prepares a camera May 13 for the taping and live interview of the Santiago Family, via satellites and the Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System housed at the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs office at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

1st Lt. Mark Alferts (right), executive officer with the 47th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hamilton, Ohio, native, and Sgt. Justin Painter, supply sergeant with the 47th Trans Co. and a White Hall, Ill., native compare notes May 1 at Contingency Operating Base Adder regarding the equipment aspect of the unit's upcoming redeployment.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Johnson

The Task Force 38 Band performs during the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prayer luncheon May 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.