



OUTPOST



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Readiness Power, Forward

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402nd AFSB welcomes new commander

Change of command ceremonies rare in Iraq

By Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade conducted a rare Iraq change of command ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation East Recreation Center here April 21 as the “Power Team” welcomed its new leader.

Col. Brian R. Haebig relinquished command to Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, who is arriving from the Pentagon where he was the chief, Contingency Operations Division, deputy chief of staff, Army G-4/Logistics. Haebig’s next assignment will be chief of logistics for I Corp at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Change of command ceremonies are rare in Iraq because nearly all units arrive and depart as a whole. The 402nd AFSB is one of the few units that call Iraq “home.”

The ceremony’s presiding officer was Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C., and forward deployed to Kuwait. Rogers stood in for Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command, who was unable to attend. ASC, which is the 402nd AFSB’s higher headquarters, is located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. where Rogers formerly commanded the Joint Munitions Command.

“Brian [Col. Haebig] thrived during his command of the 402nd AFSB at a time when his unit of over 8,000 strong, the Army fully engaged in two separate wars, and the nation needed him most,” Rogers said. “Brian provided management oversight of the theater property mission which encompasses the single largest property book in the history of the Army at 18 billion — not million — *billion* dollars. Our nation expects us to be good stewards of their tax dollars and Brian exemplified this throughout his command.”

Haebig, a native of Oshkosh, Wisc., and graduate of University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, reflected on his command and shared some words of wisdom with his successor.

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Sgt. Gary Blevins

New 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, passes the unit colors to 402nd AFSB Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 21. Looking on are outgoing commander Col. Brian R. Haebig (background) and presiding officer Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers (right), commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) in Kuwait.

Commentary

Mothers serve, sacrifice for all of us

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul E. Dirksmeyer
402nd Army Field Support Brigade

While pastoring a church a few years ago, I was helping a young couple prepare for their wedding. The groom's parents were long-time members of the congregation and their son had grown-up under the watchful eyes of many of the "old-timers." The mother of the groom came to talk to me one day and shared with me how she had not slept well in several nights, apparently troubled about the wedding. It wasn't concerns over her future daughter-in-law, the wedding plans, or the couple's finances that bothered her. It was the adjustment to the aspect of "letting go" as a mother that she was trying to wrap her head and heart around.

As we talked she said something to me that I found very touching and I'll never forget it. She said: "I've often heard the second time the umbilical cord is cut is more painful than the first." This was both a graphic and yet deeply moving way of describing the normal process a mother experiences when her child "grows up" and moves on toward independence with his or her life. Such a rite of passage is a very healthy and normal stage of development for both a mother and child, but it is bittersweet. Separations seldom occur without a tinge of sadness.



Dirksmeyer

At military installations throughout the U.S., year after year, mothers experience another kind of rite of passage, a different kind of separation — watching their children march off to war during deployments. Standing alongside these unsung heroes at Fort Hood as mothers tearfully waved goodbye to their children in uniform pull away in buses to the airfield taught me a great deal about the pain of this kind of separation for mothers of soldiers. As the buses pulled out of sight I offered words of comfort and prayer to these mothers and other family members that God would watch over their beloved soldiers. I don't imagine there is enough paper in the world to record all the prayers mothers of Soldiers offer to God daily for His

protection of their children in a time of war.

Since coming back to this side of the pond with the 402nd AFSB, I've had the pleasure of talking to several women who are deployed here and I have learned quite a lot.

One of the things I've learned about them is that in many cases they've had to leave behind their children and families to deploy here. They've had to leave the comfort zones with their own families and children to come here to support and serve our soldiers. I have come to find that many of these women also have children who are serving in the military as Soldiers, often deployed to combat theaters. For them the care of Soldiers is indeed personal, a task they take very much to heart, and a calling of the highest order. Yet, notwithstanding the honor of this service, it still must be difficult for them to have to be away from their own children to serve the Soldier-children of other moms.

Whether a woman is adjusting to being a mother of the groom, or dealing with the pain of separation of her child-soldier due to deployment, or she is answering a call to serve her country and having to leave family to do so, or any other context a mother finds herself, being a mother is by its very nature a sacrificial role. During this month of May as we honor mothers, to all the mothers we have in the 402nd AFSB and Army Sustainment Command, and to our mothers back home, I would just like to say thank you for your many sacrifices. May God continue to bless you as you all have blessed us.

402nd AFSB

OUTPOST

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Fuller tours Stryker repair facility in Qatar

By Dustin Senger
Area Spt. Group Qatar Public Affairs

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — U.S. Army Col. Lawrence Fuller was in Qatar, April 14, touring the only Stryker battle damage repair facility in the Middle East. Fuller completed a two-day tour of Army Materiel Command warehouses at Camp As Sayliyah, a week ahead of taking command of 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 401st AFSB, a 402nd AFSB subordinate unit, manage AMC facilities in Qatar. In early March, the 1-401st AFSB started receiving Stryker equipment from a forward repair area in Iraq, amid a drawdown of U.S. forces.

General Dynamics Land Systems contractors met with Fuller to explain expanding Stryker repair and retrofit capabilities in Qatar. A shift in theater equipment is introducing several more repair options: wheels and tires; full-up power packs; remote weapons stations; and vehicle electronics. A second warehouse has been claimed for additional storage space.

U.S. Central Command warfighters depend on Strykers to tear through terrain with more than 20 tons of armor, mechanical parts, weaponry systems and life-saving equipment. The light-armored, wheeled vehicles are capable of traversing paved streets and soft off-road regions, while providing protection from enemy fire and roadside explosions.

Strykers with extensive battle damage are repaired at Camp As Sayliyah. GDLS welders and mechanics mend and



Photos by Dustin Senger

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Peter Butts, 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, and Col. Lawrence Fuller talk with Carlton Williams, General Dynamics Land Systems production supervisor, outside the Stryker battle damage repair facility at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, April 14.

patch warped and penetrated hulls. Retrofit kits are applied to bring vehicles to current configurations. A series of inspec-

tions and road tests ensure vehicles appear and function like those fresh off the production line.



Bill Sheratt, from Stoke-on-Trent, England, and Jesse Taylor (far right), from Columbus, Ga., clean a Stryker combat vehicle after completing structural repairs inside the battle damage repair facility at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, April 14. General Dynamics Land Systems contractors have repaired more than 200 battle-damaged vehicles in Qatar since 2005.

2nd Bn., 401st AFSB aids drawdown

Unit conducting multi billion dollar mission

By Spc. Jason Adolphson
1st TSC Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Twenty-four hours a day, seven days-a-week, someone is washing vehicles and equipment at the wash rack on Camp Arifjan.

The wash rack serves as a tool for regular maintenance, but the water pressure is cranking up a notch as everything passing through the camp in response to the Iraq drawdown gets a good, solid cleansing before transitioning out to other locations.

"There's a big waterfall of equipment coming out of Iraq as we get closer to the deadline for the drawdown," said Maj. Bo Donohoo, 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. The officer, who works at the Lot 58 stock yard here, said he considers the yard to be a catcher's mitt for all of the equipment.

The lot serves as a cache for billions of dollars in equipment. "Every MRAP is over \$1 million and we've got about 500 here," Donohoo said. The lot also has tanks, Bradleys and Humvees to name a few in addition to non-rolling stock items.

"The Army is a living, breathing animal," Donohoo said. "All of that theater-required equipment that has been purchased over the last eight years for Iraq is coming down here. We get it to the wash rack and get it moving."



Jason Adolphson

Spc. Anthony Simms sprays down a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at the Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, wash rack March 25. Simms and fellow Soldiers with the 1058th Transportation Company wash equipment returning to Kuwait in the drawdown from Iraq, before transitioning it out to other locations.

About 500 tactical and non-tactical vehicles come through the wash rack here daily. Staff Sgt. Jason Frye, who works at the wash rack, said everything coming from Iraq gets washed for maintenance purposes and agricultural inspections.

Frye said a thorough cleaning, depending on the piece of equipment, can take anywhere between one to 36 hours before a U.S. military customs inspection.

"Customs inspects for dirt and contaminates that can pose any potential environmental problems," Frye said.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command processes all vehicles for maintenance and up-

dates before pushing them out to other locations. Placement of the equipment varies based on the needs of the Army.

"We retrograde it back to the United States, ship it up in support of OEF, or keep it here in Kuwait as part of the Army's prepositioned stock," Donohoo said. "We get about 2,000 pieces of equipment a month and we're anticipating much more as the drawdown continues.

"A lot of people are counting on us to make this happen - all the way up to the president. It's a big mission and it's the main effort [here] right now. I feel honored to be here.

Wounded Warriors visit 1st Bn., 402nd AFSB

By Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — “I got out of the Bradley with my left arm in my right hand.”

That’s how Staff Sgt. (retired) Brian Neuman recounted the incident that led to his return to Iraq, along with eight other Wounded Warriors, as part of Operation Proper Exit.

The April 9, visit offered the Soldiers, some still active, some medically retired, the opportunity to go full-circle regarding the injuries that precipitated their sudden, and unexpected, return home.

Their day here included a visit to the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, where they had the opportunity to check out the Army’s latest, state-of-the-art armored vehicles.

“I was in Bravo Company, 9th Psyops Battalion, and was attached to [the] 1st Marine Division supporting the area in and around Fallujah. I got hurt on November eleventh, which is Veterans Day, 2004,” said Neuman who spent nine months recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and the Army’s only other amputee treatment facility at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. “We were in the city about four days before I got hurt. It was about 12 noon when the vehicle was hit with an EFP (explosively formed penetrator). Up to that point we had gotten hit with about ten to fifteen RPGs, but they just bounced off the vehicle. This thing did a little bit more



Galen Putnam

Command Sergeant Major Lawrence K. Wilson, command sergeant major of United States Forces – Iraq (left) and Sgt. 1st Class (retired) Michael Schlitz, who was burned over 85 percent of his body and lost both hands while conducting road clearing operations, view the Panther armored vehicle while visiting the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq April 9. Wilson escorted nine Wounded Warriors who were taking part in Operation Proper Exit, a program designed to provide closure for Soldiers seriously wounded in the line of duty.

damage. It came right through the back gate, took my arm off, came right across my chest, cut my magazines and my 9 mil. In half and proceeded to hit my interpreter — it went right through him — and went into the turret where it cooked off some 25 mike, mike rounds then exited. It was pretty nasty whatever it was.”

Despite the harrowing experience, Neuman remains upbeat.

“I can’t say it was the worst day of my life. It definitely wasn’t the most fun I’ve ever had. It was difficult getting pulled out of the fight, not by choice, but it is great to be able to come back,” he said. “This also gives us the opportunity to

share our experiences with the Soldiers currently serving over here. If any servicemember or unit leadership get *anything* out of our stories, that makes the whole thing worth it.”

The Wounded Warriors enjoyed viewing the new-generation Panther, Stryker and MRAP armored vehicles that are retrofitted and repaired by the Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and contract employees of the 1st Bn., 402nd AFSB.

“It’s good to see the Army is making a concerted effort to improve the vehicles that Soldiers rely on for protection,” said Sgt. 1st Class

LOGCAP conference tackles transition

Sgt. Keith S. VanKlombenberg
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Service members and civilian contractors came together to discuss the transition of contracts from Logistical Civilian Augmented Program III to IV, during the LOGCAP Post Award Conference April 26 to April 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“What we’re trying to do is synchronize,” said Col. Herbert Jones with the Army Sustainment Command, the officer in charge of the Core Logistics Support Service, Theater Transportation Mission and postal operations for LOGCAP. “Any time you change contracts, there are going to be things that need to be ironed out.”

The LOGCAP contracts affect all of the life-support services for service members and civilians on every base in Iraq, said Jones, a New Kent, Va., native.

“As we’re transforming Iraq, we’re transforming many things, including our contracts,”

said Col. Knowles Atchison, the deputy commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Orrville, Ala., native.

Atchison said the LOGCAP contract needed to be changed because LOGCAP III, the current version, was based on contingency operations. During contingency operations, a premium is paid for speed of execution, which is not as relevant today, said Atchison.

In today’s stability operations, it is time to find a better price for services, and so the time came to update the contract, he said.

The conference allowed service members and civilian



contractors to discuss outstanding issues and detail how services and paperwork will change, said Jones.

Jones said it is important for everyone involved that the contract transition goes as smoothly as possible, to prevent lapses in essential services for Soldiers and keep military operations from being affected.

“We’re here to take care of Soldiers, and there is a great deal of work that goes into that,” he said.

Jones said the conference stressed cooperation between the military and civilians. He said it was important that the transition not involve micromanagement.

“We’re not going to tell KBR, (Inc.) how to do it; we’re just going to tell them what we want done,” he said.

Jones said the transition from LOGCAP III to LOGCAP IV is on schedule to meet the Sept. 1 deadline.



Galen Putnam

Water here!

Lilet Fore, project analyst, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Facilities Engineering Office (left), and Carlesa Williams, budget analyst, 402nd AFSB Resource Management Office, shout encouragement as they offer water to runners passing the the 402nd AFSB water station during the Joint Base Balad Marathon Poker Run April 3. The run was the first ever full marathon held at JBB.

Watch out for unfriendly critters — arachnids

By Delbert (Del) Powell
402nd AFSB, Safety Specialist

Iraq and Kuwait have an abundant array of arachnid species that tend to share our living spaces occasionally. Some are elusive and non-toxic and some are considered among the most aggressive and deadliest in the world. Most scorpions, tarantulas, and solpugids prefer to live in arid environments and are most abundant in the hot desert regions.

These arachnids also live in savannas, grasslands, scrub forests, and palm groves. Scorpions are commonly encountered in buildings and ruins, under household furnishings, in cracks in walls, and under stones or in wood or debris piles. Abandoned equipment and munitions depots, infantry trenches and fighting positions may harbor large numbers of some scorpion species.

Black widow spiders are found throughout the region. They are usually encountered in dry, secluded, dimly lit areas such as crawl spaces, cluttered areas in homes and warehouses, crumbling rock faces, wood or trash piles, and under logs and stones.

Yellow Sac Spiders are commonly encountered in both urban and rural areas. They are usually found indoors, especially during cooler months. They build silk retreats in high corners or where walls and ceilings meet, where they stay during the day.

Arachnid Species	Hazards associated with bite
	<p style="text-align: center;">Scorpions</p> <p>Scorpions sting with a poison-filled telson on the tip of the tail. Nine species of scorpions, found in Iraq and Kuwait, have life-threatening stings. They are rank as some of the deadliest scorpions in the world. Death is caused by breathing or heart failure. Several other species have venoms that produce severe pain and swelling at the site of the sting. Most stings (80-90%) occur on hands or forearms.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Tarantulas</p> <p>The venom of tarantulas is not dangerous to humans. The majority of tarantula bites cause minor swelling and discomfort like a bee sting. The major danger from a tarantula bite is an allergic or anaphylactic reaction to the venom.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Black Widow Spider</p> <p>Severe bites can cause respiratory failure, coma and death. Venom affects the nervous system, causing pain and spasms in the large muscles of the body within 30 minutes to 3 hours. Bite victim often feels only a pinprick sensation at the bite site; becoming a dull ache within 30 to 40 minutes.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Yellow Sac Spider</p> <p>Severe bites can kill the tissue around the wound. In most cases, the bite produces no more than localized redness, slight swelling, and a burning sensation at the site of the bite. Sometimes the bite will itch.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Solpugids</p> <p>Do not have any poisonous stingers or fangs. Jaws are capable of inflicting painful pinches and small wounds to the skin. If you are pinched, clean the wound to prevent infection.</p>

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/DEPLOYMENT/ARACHNIDSOFIRAQANDKUWAIT.pdf>

Change — From Page 1

“The experiences that I’ve had over the last 13 months in Iraq have touched every fiber of my being – every day – and they will replay themselves over in my mind every day for the rest of my life,” he said. “Larry, I’d like to tell you it will be easy in the future, but it won’t. When I arrived in Iraq, we planned for a tsunami of equipment. We’ve processed a lot, but there is still a lot coming — so get ready.”

Rogers praised Fuller’s qualities and highlighted his experience.

“Taking command today is Col. Larry Fuller who is not new to the AFSB mission. In fact, Larry commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 401st AFSB at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait,” he said. “I couldn’t think of a better, more qualified officer to come in and lead this organization.”

The incoming commander said he is ready for the challenge.

“Since the notification that I would command this brigade, I’ve anticipated this day,” said Fuller who hails from Jackson, Ala., and is a graduate of Alabama A&M University. “I’m in awe of the size and complexity of the 402nd and so impressed with the professionalism of the team and how you support the Warfighter throughout the theater. I am truly humbled and could not wait to become a part of this team.”

Fuller has served in a variety of command and staff positions including: chief, Supply Division and chief, Equipment Readiness Division, 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas; support operations officer and battalion executive officer, 704th Division Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Hood, Texas; deputy G4 and deputy chief, Support Operations Division, assistant chief of staff, G4,



Col. Lawrence W. Fuller

Eighth United States Army, Korea; commander, Army Field Support Battalion – Kuwait, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; logistics colonel, human resources manager, Colonels Management Office, Senior Leader Development, Rosslyn, Virginia; and chief, Contingency Operations Division, deputy chief of staff, Army G-4, The Pentagon.

Fuller earned a Master of Arts in Information Systems Management from Webster University, a Master’s in Military Operational Art and Science from the Air University, and a Masters in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University. His military education includes completion of the Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Support Operations Course, the Air Command and Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf

cluster), National Defense Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Parachutist Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge.

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq was constituted on March 26, 2006 at the direction of the Department of the Army. The Brigade was officially organized Oct. 16, 2006. While the 402nd AFSB is a new Army Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE) unit, it traces its history through AMC units operating in Iraq since the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The AMC Logistics Support Element-Iraq (LSE-Iraq) was formed at LSA Anaconda on May 28, 2003. The original mission of LSE-Iraq was to provide command and control of all AMC LSE’s in Iraq. However, senior commanders in Iraq rapidly began to turn to LSE-IZ for information on readiness issues, repair parts, Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), and technology infusion.

At the same time, AMC Forward Repair Activities began deploying forward to support the forces in Iraq. After Oct. 2003 the mission of LSE-Iraq grew to provide a broad range of AMC services to the Warfighter in Iraq. The increased missions required a more robust staff. On May 31, 2005 LSE-Iraq was re-designated as the Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq. The brigade headquarters staff and number of subordinate units continued to grow to support the steadily increasing number of AMC activities in Iraq.

Today the 402d AFSB is a fully deployable field support brigade with the responsibility for command, control and communications regarding all AMC assets deployed in support of OIF forces in Iraq. The brigade has grown immensely from its austere beginnings and is now responsible for more than 8,000 servicemembers, DoD civilians, and contractors.

Warrior — From Page 5

(retired) Michael Schlitz who was burned over 85 percent of his body and lost both hands while conducting road clearing operations. “It is a natural progression. We started out with soft-skinned Humvees and progressed to up-armored Humvees — now we’ve got these. We are definitely moving in the right direction. These are some awesome vehicles.”

Battalion personnel were glad to have an opportunity to showcase their vehicles.

“Number one, it is a humbling experience when you meet someone who has been injured serving their country. These Soldiers have sacrificed a lot.” said Lynden Lawson, Stryker program manager representative with JACOBS Technologies. “They asked a lot of questions and were particularly interested in the improvements. They were glad to see that Soldiers are better protected today.”

Schlitz described the day that changed his life.

“When we were hit, I was thrown from the Humvee,” he said. “I didn’t know I was on fire at the time. I didn’t see my guys moving so I ran back for my guys. Unfortunately, I didn’t make it because when I reached the vehicle, the flames hit my face. I took my IBA (Interceptor Body Armor) off and tried to hit the ground to roll. I did about a roll and-a-half before my body locked up on me and I was basically face down in the dirt just burning until someone hit me with a fire extinguisher. Unfortunately my crew wasn’t as lucky. I lost my driver, my gunner and my medic in that incident.”

Schlitz said participating in Operation Proper Exit,



Galen Putnam

Lynden Lawson, a Stryker program manager representative with JACOBS Technologies, describes the intricacies of the Infantry Carrier Vehicle to Staff Sgt. (retired) Brian Neuman during a visit to 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq April 9. Neuman was one of nine Wounded Warriors to visit JBB as part of Operation Proper Exit, a program designed to provide closure for Soldiers seriously wounded in the line of duty. Neuman lost his left arm in an explosively formed penetrator attack in Fallujah, Iraq Nov. 11, 2004. While at JBB, the Soldiers also participated in a town hall meeting where they shared their experiences with base personnel.

sponsored by the Troops First Foundation and supported by the USO, has provided closure.

“I’m glad to be able to come because I’ve had the opportunity to go back and see where I got hurt, see how Iraq has changed and see the changes in the Iraqi people,” he said. “They are now doing things for themselves, their government is getting up and running. There is just a whole new atmosphere here that we can all be proud of. That’s a win for us. That’s exactly what we wanted. That’s why we came here in the first place.”

The group made a number of other stops including the Air Force Theater Hospital

through which most of the group were originally evacuated. They also participated in a town hall meeting where they shared their experiences with the Joint Base Balad community.

“This is a very good program that offers the Wounded Warriors a chance for closure,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Case, 1st Bn., 402nd AFSB, command sergeant major. “It was an honor to have them on our footprint and to be able to show them the improvements and different levels of armor and upgrades that have been made to our vehicles.”



Galen Putnam

Staff Sgt. Nikki Prodomos, Baghdad Bureau American Forces Network TV/news chief, interviews Maj. John Martin, Theater Aviation Maintenance Program chief, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, about the unit's extensive mission. The AFN team, including Sgt. Gary Blevins, was at Joint Base Balad April 19-22 to cover several 402nd AFSB stories including the brigade's change of command ceremony April 21, the Small Arms Repair Shop, and the Mobile Parts Hospital.

Olympic Moment!

Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Bossier, first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, poses with Johnny Spillane and the three silver medals he won at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada. Spillane is the first American ever to receive an Olympic medal in the sport of Nordic Combined that consists of ski jumping and cross country skiing. He was joined by his silver medal-winning Nordic Combined teammates Brett Camerota, Todd Lodwick, and Billy Demong on the Armed Forces Entertainment "Heavy Medal Tour" that took them to bases in Europe and Southwest Asia. Bossier, from Lafayette, La., is an Army Reservist with the 377th Theater Support Command in New Orleans, La.



Galen Putnam



FROM THE FIELD

402ND ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE, IRAQ



Volume 1, Issue 1

Readiness Power, Forward

May 2010

REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE

FROM THE FIELD is a special supplement to the 402nd AFSB **OUTPOST**. It is written by the servicemembers, DoD civilians and contractors who comprise the Army's largest brigade.

By MAJ Bo Donohoo
2nd Bn., 401st AFSB

2-401st AFSB is saving U.S. tax payers money by recycling Basic Issue Items (BII) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The 2-401st AFSB is responsible for receiving, processing and redistributing all Retrograde equipment re-deploying from Iraq. Eight RPAT (Retrograde Property Accountability Team) yards are forwarding rolling and non-rolling stock to the 2-401st AFSB at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

At Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, BII is recovered at one of two locations. First, containers arriving at the 2-401st AFSB footprint are processed at the Container Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP). Any equipment identified as BII, or what may be considered BII, is moved to Warehouse #511 where it is sorted, cleaned, checked for serviceability and repackaged in to usable sets.

The second location is the processing salvage point for rolling stock at Lot #58. When vehicles arrive at Lot #58, the 2-401st AFSB dispatches a team to clear the vehicle and initiate a process known as "4-corning". During "4-corning", brass, ammo, trash and any non-standard add-on armor is removed. In addition, the 4-corners team will harvest all BII and any equipment resembling BII.

Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle BII is sent directly to Warehouse #511 to be sorted, cleaned and repackaged to build serviceable sets of BII. HMMWV and any other rolling-stock BII will be sent to Lot #30 to be segregated by like item, and then sent to Warehouse #511 to be cleaned, checked for serviceability and repackaged into reusable sets of BII.



BII process at Lot 30, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



HMMWV being "4-corned" at Lot 58, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The process of recycling BII saves the U.S. taxpayer in two ways and also directly benefits the war fighter. First, by reusing BII, fewer new sets need to be ordered. Secondly, it saves money by reducing the amount of equipment that needs to be shipped into theater.

The BII refurbishment program also benefits the war fighter by "putting" the BII in their hands much quicker. As one can guess, it is more effective and cost efficient to use equipment already in theater rather than to order new BII and wait for the U.S. Army supply system to deliver the needed product.

Since the beginning of the responsible drawdown, the 2-401st AFSB has recycled over \$2 million of BII which was used to re-equipped MRAPS and over \$10 million dollars which re-outfitted engineer, HMMWV and other rolling-stock equipment.

The ITT (contractor) supervisor at Warehouse #511, Nate White, a retired U.S. Army first sergeant has been recycling BII at Camp Arifjan for four years and says "he's honored to be teamed with the 2-401st AFSB (SWA) and to play a role in getting the necessary equipment to the war fighter".

The 2-401st AFSB (SWA) is diligently processing equipment re-deploying from Iraq to ensure the war fighter receives the equipment they need while saving the U.S. tax payer millions of dollars by recycling and reusing BII.

RPAT AIRMEN AIM TO BE “ABOVE ALL”

“Above All” is the motto of the 90 newly assigned Airmen at the seven Redistribution Property Assistance Team (RPAT) yards here in Iraq. The 2nd Bn 402 AFSB and the Air Force crews are ready to take charge wherever needed to continue the Responsible Drawdown mission in Iraq. The Air Force deploys differently than the Army and these Airmen have come from all around the world to help the Joint Forces in Iraq meet the President’s drawdown goals.

The Air Force has quickly adapted to this unique challenge. They have built on the foundation established by their predecessors and they are ready to conquer the mission set before them. The Air Force’s job here in theater is to operate the seven yards located throughout Iraq. Although their rotation has only been in place for a month-and-a-half, these Airmen have already processed more than 2,000 vehicles and 22,000 pieces of Class VII theater property valued more than 637 million dollars. During their 6-month tour, these highly motivated Airmen are ready to push forward and set new standards. Considering the role our RPAT yards play in this massive drawdown mission, these Airmen are truly “Above All”.

More significant activities took place for the month of March 30, 2010 with the arrival of 402nd AFSB first Commanding General; General Ann E. Dunwoody embraced us with her presence. A picture perfect moment for 2-402nd and the 249th QM Company. “Standing Tall, Looking Good”.



249TH QM COMPANY SOLDIERS BUILD CAMARADERIE DURING RACE

On the 26th of March, 2010, the Soldiers of the 249th Quartermaster Company took an opportunity to build esprit de corps amongst the Platoons. Orchestrated by SSG (P) Armstrong, the Amazing Race consisted of five teams competing in the following events: computing a mathematical equation, a promotion board and American history based written exam, a foot race through Holt Stadium’s stairs and around the track, a basketball hoop contest, a coin dive at the indoor pool, and ending the race at the 249th QM Company. The winning team included: 1SG Hogan, SSG Tucker, SGT McKie, PFC Gant, and PVT Casey.

1st BN. 402ND AFSB GOES GREEN – FOR ST. PATS DAY

By 1LT Benjamin Cruz Jr.
1st Bn., 402nd AFSB

What's the coolest day of the year to be Green? No, I'm not referring to the conservation efforts occurring throughout the world right now...it's St. Patrick's Day! Every year, on March 17th, people around the world celebrate the day the patron Saint of Ireland died. Throughout the world, cities have parades, turn rivers green, go to pubs to drink beer (festively colored green), and listen to Irish folk music, among other Irish inspired activities.

This year 1st Battalion had a St. Patrick's Day party in celebration of the holiday. There was a lot of food to enjoy – buffalo wings, sandwiches, salad, fruit, along with a big, holiday themed cake. The weather was amazing, and the music was as diverse as the personnel in 1st Battalion. There were some activities for everyone to enjoy as well. Over 150 personnel showed up at the gathering. I'd say overall, it was a very *lucky* day indeed!



S-1 staff member Jaime Spears playing a game of Lasso Ball



1st Battalion's Saint Patrick's Day Cake



1st battalion staff enjoying the festivities

402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller
Commander

W. Arnold Pindle
Deputy to the
Commander

**Command Sgt. Maj.
Rodger W. Mansker**
Command Sergeant Major

Lt. Col. Iola J. Simpson
Executive Officer

Galen Putnam
Public Affairs Officer/
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Where can I find those photos?



Photos are posted to the Mini 5 shared drive. To locate the photos, open the shared drive and look for the folder named "402nd Photos." It is at the *bottom* of the folders list because it is a link!