

# The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

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## Leadership



**Vietnam vet continues his service in Iraq**

**Page 6**

## Service



**NCAA coaches visit with troops**

**Page 11**

## Duty



**Constructing the future of Iraq**

**Page 14**



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eunice Alicea Valentin

Service members with the Multi-Service Color Guard Team salute the U.S. flag and respective flags from all military branches May 31 during the opening sequence of a Memorial Day ceremony at the East Circuit Gym at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

## Joint Base Balad hosts Memorial Day Ceremony

STORY BY  
CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— For many, Memorial Day is a time for barbecues and Family picnics, and the unofficial start to the summer. For

those deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the day takes on a much deeper meaning.

At Joint Base Balad, Iraq, service members gathered at the East Circuit Gym May 31 for a Memorial Day ceremony to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in U.S. military operations.

During the ceremony, hosted by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, representatives

from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard spoke about personal experiences and their feelings about Memorial Day.

“At Joint Base Balad, we gather to honor those who gave their lives in service to our nation,” said Air Force Brig. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commanding general of the 332nd AEW. “To date, 5,462 service members have lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We must never forget the sacrifices of the women and men of our armed forces, and we must carry on their unfinished business.”

In an emotional address, Air Force 1st Lt. Kirsten C. Coty, executive officer to the vice wing commander for the 332nd AEW, spoke about her friend, 1st Lt. Joseph D. Helton, Jr., who was killed Sept. 8, 2009. Helton, a Monroe, Ga., native, died when his convoy was struck by a roadside

bomb outside the gates of Camp Taji.

“Joe was just 24 years old, and he left behind three sisters and a mother and father who loved him, hundreds of friends who admired him, and thousands of troops who respected him,” she said. “Joe is a hero; a hero who gave his life to something bigger than himself. Every day is another day without those people we loved, and those people who sat beside us. We must prove worthy of the sacrifices these fallen troops have made, recognize our grief, and make our brothers and sisters proud.”

The Memorial Day ceremony also gave some service members the chance to reflect on the contributions made by previous generations.

“During Christmas of my first enlistment, I lost my grandfather, who was a World War II veteran,” said Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, a force protection noncommissioned officer with the 13th ESC, and a

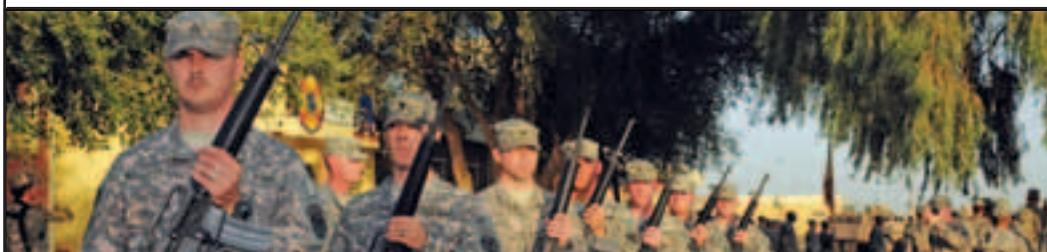
Houston native. “I never really got the chance to ask him what his Army was like, or how things were when he was fighting, so I always try to take some time and remember him on Memorial Day.”

“It feels more real,” Salazar said, with regard to spending Memorial Day in Iraq. “I had never been this close to a dangerous situation before. It means more being here. It also feels more important to be in this room with other service members.”

President Obama issued a proclamation calling for all Americans to observe a national moment of remembrance at 3 p.m. local time, and directing that all American flags be flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day.

“This Memorial Day, we express our deepest appreciation to the men and women in uniform who gave their last full measure of devotion so

**Ceremony cont. page 16**



**“We are here to respect the memory of those who were committed to being part of something larger than themselves” Page 12**

## Balad Blotter

### HIT AND RUN

**SYNOPSIS:** A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk May 25 to report a hit and run accident at Sustainer Circle and Pennsylvania Avenue. The victim was side-swiped by a passing Humvee, suffering a shoulder injury. The victim was transported to the Air Force Theatre Hospital for observation and treatment. A patrol responded assisting the victim in filing an AF IMT 1168, Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant. The victim stated that while riding his bicycle around Sustainer Circle an unidentifiable Humvee attempted to pass him; the driver's side mirror hit him in the back, causing him to tumble over. The victim was wearing all required personal protective equipment and reflective gear.

### ASSAULT

**SYNOPSIS:** A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk May 28 to report an assault at the AAFES PX East. A patrol arrived on scene and made contact with a victim who stated, while performing escort duties for witness No. 1, the subject drove his vehicle under the boom of the rough terrain container handler after being told to stop. The victim tapped on the vehicle as it passed to gain the attention of subject. The victim stated the subject parked the vehicle and approached him yelling obscenities and forcefully pushed him backward. The patrol contacted witness No. 1 and witness No. 2 whose statements corroborated the victim's. The complainant entered the law enforcement desk and completed an AF IMT 1168, Statement of Complainant, stating he observed the victim shouting at subject to stop his vehicle and not drive under the boom of the RTCH. An investigation tracked the vehicle and instructed the individual in possession of it to report for questioning. The subject entered the law enforcement desk and was positively identified by complainant. He was advised of his Article 31 rights for violation of Article 128, assault, via AF IMT 1168, to which subject acknowledged his rights, declined legal counsel and agreed to file a written statement. The subject stated he was attempting to get out of the way of the RTCH by driving onto the curb. The subject also stated that at no time did he assault any person. The subject was released.

## Can Spirituality really help?

CAPT. WANDA ACEVEDO

13TH ESC OPERATIONS CHAPLAIN



People have a tendency to think we can separate our emotional self from our physical self and, furthermore, that we can separate our spiritual side from the rest of who we are. One main issue that contributes to this is how people define spirituality.

When you mention the word spirituality, people think of religion and immediately put up a wall to protect themselves from being a proselyte, or "converted" to a specific religious group. In reality, religion and spirituality are not the same. Whereas religion is a structure system to express your beliefs, spirituality expands more to how you connect with the transcendent, however you believe this is. It searches for something more than just this world and this life. Therefore, it is a very personal and intimate inner journey. Can this journey affect the rest of my life? Definitely.

The reality is that we are a whole and all aspects of our lives have an effect on the other. For example, studies have proven the influence of the mind and our thoughts over our bodies, to the extent that they have coined the term psychosomatic when discussing real diseases created by our minds. Recently there also have been studies that proved the influence of spirituality over many aspects of our life and behavior. A study published by Kim Youngmee and Larry Seidlitz in "Personality and Individual Differences," they examined the relationship of spirituality with emotional and physical adjustments to daily stress.

"One hundred and thirteen college students completed questionnaire measures of spirituality, daily stress affects,

and physical symptoms at two times, one month apart. The results showed that spirituality buffered the adverse effect of stress on adjustment, controlling for the use of various coping strategies. The findings have implications for developing prevention programs to improve people's coping skills by incorporating greater emphasis on spirituality."

The results of a study in the Journal of Adolescent Health "revealed that spirituality was protective against monthly alcohol use and marijuana."

As you review the literature in this topic you will find out that the impact of spirituality on physical and mental health is largely beneficial.

In our journey through this life we will encounter a lot of challenges; especially in our military life. Many times we may feel we don't have the strength to work it out or that we need a supernatural force. Other times we feel like losing hope or a vision of the future and don't know if there is something more than just our problems.

Answers to all of these life-questions will be found only in the spiritual realm, meaning the future will come with hope, and hope only comes with faith, and faith only comes with believing in what we don't see or can't measure.

John 16:33 says "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Spirituality does not mean absence of tribulations or sorrows but it takes us to another source of power.

John 14:27 says "I am leaving you with a gift — peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

Indeed the peace spirituality can bring to us cannot be found anywhere else in this world, maybe because it is not from this world. It is supernatural. What is stopping us to use such powerful and proven tool?

# HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY!

TO MY HUSBAND, MAJ. ERIK ENYART.  
I LOVE YOU AND I WILL SEE YOU SOON!

- YOUR WIFE,  
BELINDA ENYART



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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# The Weekly Standard: Mental Health Evaluation

SGT. 1ST CLASS SAMMY JOHNSON  
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



“We must work together to develop our leaders and to decrease stigma, change Army culture and create a rapid shift to socialize positive attitudes toward effectively addressing behavioral health issues.” — Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army

A mental health evaluation can negatively impact a commander and service member if handled improperly. Routine mental health evaluations must be completed in accordance with DoD Instruction 6490.4 to ensure the rights of service members are protected at all times.

The commander has the responsibility for determining if a referral should be made. If a referral is necessary, the commander will first consult with the mental health care provider to discuss the service member’s actions and

behavior that led to the commander’s decision. The provider will give advice on whether to conduct the mental health evaluation as routine or on an emergency basis.

When making a routine referral, the commander will forward a memorandum to the commanding officer of the medical treatment facility or clinic. The memorandum, at a minimum, must include the information set forth in the DoD policy.

The service member will acknowledge the reason for the referral and his rights by signing the memorandum. Signed copies of the memorandum will be provided to the service member two business days prior to the routine evaluation. This allows the service member time to exercise his rights. The commander will not offer the service member an opportunity to waive his right to receive the memorandum and statement of rights where it concerns the mental health evaluation process.

Additional information on mental health evaluations referrals is available on our NIPR website at <https://www.jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/provider/specialstaff/IG/default.aspx>

[jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/provider/specialstaff/IG/default.aspx](https://www.jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/provider/specialstaff/IG/default.aspx)

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## Patriotic Clinic helps Soldiers manage combat stress

CAPT. MICHAEL KNIGHT  
1908TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT



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

When these factors become a little too much to handle, turn to Combat Stress Control for help. The 1908th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) operates the Patriotic Clinic at Joint Base Balad, providing mental health services to Soldiers. Don’t let the name fool you however, Combat Stress Control covers more than just the emotional difficulties of engaging the enemy.

The majority of cases that are seen result from operational stress, which can affect anyone, regardless of rank or military occupational specialty. Operational stress can result

from the daily grind of life in Iraq and is amplified by those things mentioned earlier, such as Family separation.

There is a staff of behavioral health technicians, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker on hand ready to help you with whatever has got you feeling down. There are also self-help classes available and no appointment is necessary. You can attend a one-hour class on such topics as stress or anger management, sleep hygiene, communication skills and more. These classes are offered Monday-Saturday at various times. Call the clinic to find a class that will work for you.

Another aspect of Combat Stress Control is prevention and outreach services. Our trained staff is available to meet with commands to develop a plan to address needs that are unique to each unit. We are able to teach classes at your location that are tailored to your unit’s specific needs. These classes include suicide prevention, redeployment issues, stress and anger management, sleep hygiene and more.

We can also tailor classes for leaders that are perfect for

noncommissioned officer or officer professional development classes.

Another service that we provide is completing the Unit Behavioral Health Needs Assessment which gives the command a snapshot of the unit’s overall mental health and functioning.

If you are a company commander or first sergeant and haven’t made contact with the 1908th Medical Detachment yet, don’t hesitate to contact us. We are truly a force multiplier that can help your unit run more effectively and efficiently.

The Patriot Clinic is located near Victory Loop off of Sustainer Street on Joint Base Balad. We are located across the parking lot from the Black Jack Education Center. Our hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, with emergency screenings anytime. Our phone numbers are DSN 318-433-2402 and NIPR 318-483-4599. If you have any questions on how to utilize our services, please stop by the clinic or give us call and we will be glad to assist you.

## The 3rd SB receives revealing tour of Joint Base Balad

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. GAELLEN LOWERS  
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— Prior to assuming the largest sustainment mission in the history of Operation Iraqi Freedom May 25 — with more than 70 percent of U.S. forces as customers — Soldiers with 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were able to gain a more accurate view of their mission during a tour of the facilities they now command and control at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“This was all about giving the brigade a grasp of what they were going to be overseeing and in charge of over the next 12 months,” said Maj. Michael Halley, support operations officer with the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Cedar Rapids, Iowa native.

The first stop on the tour was the central receiving and shipping point, where convoys carrying sustainment cargo are taken. The CRSP yard here is the central most CRSP yard in Iraq, and runs 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Convoys are able to roll into JBB with more than 40 trucks at a time using the yard’s unique system of organization, said Sgt. 1st Class Conrad Leach, CRSP yard noncommissioned officer-in-charge

with the 13th CSSB and a Fair Bluff, N.C., native.

“This is where the rubber meets the road,” Halley said.

The group was also taken to the container repair yard, where old containers are brought in and repaired by local Iraqis. These locals are trained, taught a skill and paid a salary comparable with similar professional careers in the country, he said.

Another stop on the tour was the amnesty yard, the starting point for many units’ excess military equipment. From there, equipment can go to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office for scrap metal or to the supply support activity warehouse where equipment is packaged properly and put back into the system for military use.

“It has actually put a lot of money back into the Army system,” Halley said. “Since (Oct. 15), we have cleared approximately \$800 million.”

The tour gave the 3rd Sust. Bde. leadership a better idea of their responsibilities during the deployment to JBB.

“I think we’re ready,” said Maj. Charlie Ward, plans officer with the 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Orlando, Fla., native, “We’ve been ready for awhile. Everyone’s been eager to get over here. Some of the Soldiers we have here are the Soldiers who deployed during (Operation Iraqi Freedom I), and for them to see this come full circle is really memorable for a lot of them. In more ways than one, we’re absolutely ready.”



Key leaders with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are briefed on the activities of the central receiving and shipping point May 15 during a tour of Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The tour allowed the brigade’s leaders to gain a more accurate perspective of their responsibilities while deployed in Iraq.

# Drawdown triples theater logistics mission

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— As the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. forces looms, the “Warrior Pride” company has answered the call to duty of embracing a mission that has tripled in size since July 2009, when they arrived in theater.

The 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has been successful during its deployment in handling the majority of equipment that has moved in and out of theater, thanks to the hard work of Soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Latch, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the central receiving and shipping point with the 159th SOC and a Little Rock, Ark., native.

“Getting a view of the biggest picture the Army has to offer, being theater logistics, is a great reward,” he said. “Just saying one of my Soldiers or me personally, has touched, inventoried, accounted for and taken responsibility of 90 percent of the equipment that has moved through Iraq is a great feeling.”

In addition to CRSP yard operations, the 159th SOC is responsible for the operations of the container repair yard, the empty container collection point for containers approved for sea travel. The company also retains a team assigned to help units move equipment during their deployment, redeployment or retrograding processes.

“The mission we started with, compared to what it has evolved to now, has tripled in our CRSP and CRY operations,” said 1st Sgt. Charlie McKenzie, first sergeant with the 159th SOC and an Atlanta, native. “The monthly goal for the CRY grew from the production rate of 500 containers repaired to 2,000. The local national work force grew from 50 to almost 460 in the CRY.”

Operations of the 159th SOC have resulted in a good relationship between the U.S. Army and local villagers, said Sgt. Jamal Wesley, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of final inspection at the CRY with the 159th SOC and a Clinton, N.C., native.

“One of the biggest rewards in working in the CRY is creating opportunities for the local nationals to go outside their community and become working citizens and earn a respectable living for their Families,” he said.

The CRSP yard is where deploying, redeploying or retrograding units send goods and equipment so it can be transported to its final destination.

The concept behind the CRSP yard and the empty container collection point is that units do not have to move containers, empty or full, in one trip, said 1st Lt. Gabriel West, officer-in-charge of the central receiving and shipping point with the 159th SOC and a Media, Pa., native.

“We have the largest CRSP and ECCP in Iraq, here at Joint Base Balad,” he said. “Basically, anything that can be shipped in Iraq comes through here.”

When a container is deemed unworthy for sea travel, it goes into the CRY where Iraqi nationals repair it. Once it is repaired and inspected by a U.S. Soldier, it is moved into the ECCP until sent to other bases around Iraq in need of empty containers, West said.

The JBB ECCP supplies all the other ECCPs in theater with seaworthy containers, hundreds at a time, Latch said.

Being the largest ECCP in theater, the numbers are staggering, West said.

“The ECCP has just over 1,000 containers,” he said. “That is always fluctuating. We’ll range anywhere between 1,000 and 1,500 these days. In the annex yard, there are just over 3,000 damaged containers awaiting repair and the CRY is just under 1,000 containers. Cargo in theater right now is moving mind-bogglingly fast. You wouldn’t think it though by looking out (in the CRSP yard).”

The average amount of time a piece of cargo is in the yard is about 72 hours, but some move through as fast as 24-48 hours, Latch said.

There are many formulas the team uses to figure out the



**Spc. Shea Wilkerson (third from left), a cargo inspector with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hat-tiesburg, Miss., native, verifies cargo as it arrives at the central receiving and shipping point, Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The main function of the CRSP yard is to provide units with a resting point for cargo so transporters do not have to make the trip from the starting point to the final destination at once.**

average movement of goods in and out of theater. One of those ways is what they call the “through-put” number, he said.

“We compare the amount of cargo that comes in (to the CRSP yard) to the amount of cargo that goes out and that equals a through-put,” Latch said. “The number of through-put is, more often than not, higher than the pieces we have in the yard. We will actually receive and ship more pieces in a 24-hour period than is actually sitting on ground.”

The through-put in the CRSP yard was about 500 pieces per month when the unit first arrived. Now it’s more than 10,000 per month, West said.

Because the mission tripled in size, the unit outgrew their previous CRSP yard. They moved from a space of 32 acres to their current location of about 70 acres, West said.

With all of the moving pieces the 159th SOC is responsible for, the main challenge of running the CRSP, ECCP and CRY is the accuracy of its reporting database.

“We use a manual inventory system to keep the database accurate,” West said. “Among the high-speed technologies the Army uses these days to track cargo, ultimately, we’ve found pen and paper and a Soldier are the best tools for finding out what’s in the (CRSP) yard.”

Another key part of the 159th SOC mission is the material handling equipment team, dedicated to assisting units moving in and out of theater, base closures and the relocation of heavy objects.

“One mission might be a (base) closure and the next might be aiding some Iraqis in building up (their force protection) so they can help in the U.S. upcoming drawdown,” said Staff Sgt. Teah Clay, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of operations functions for the MHE team, with the 159th SOC and a New York City native. “We move anything from a pallet to Jersey barriers to observance towers to tanks.”

The MHE team has traveled more than 10,000 miles on the roads of Iraq, aiding units with whatever their equipment movement requirements may be, said 1st Lt. Richard A. Paradiso, III, executive officer with the 159th SOC and a Virginia Beach, Va., native.

“From a leadership standpoint, I really couldn’t ask for better Soldiers,” he said. “These Soldiers sacrifice so much. They’re here to do the mission and they go above and beyond to make sure it gets done. There’s never been a mission we’ve said ‘no’ to.”

Even though the unit is busy and spread throughout



**Trucks are used to unload equipment May 28 at the central receiving and shipping point at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

theater, they still manage to strive toward standards and goals the leadership set long before the deployment started. The unit has six Sergeant Audie Murphy Club inductees — awarded entrance into the club by consistently personifying all aspects of military leadership with the utmost proficiency and passing a rigorous board review — and a 100 percent Army Physical Fitness Test pass rate.

“We did a lot of soul searching, team development and confidence building before we got here,” McKenzie said. “What we start with is building a Soldier’s fitness, their physical readiness, as a foundation to make sure they can withstand the mental and emotional stress of the sacrifices they have to give. Then we work on their self-development as a person; not just as a Soldier, but as a human. Once we’ve built that, we build their long-term self-development by motivating and encouraging Soldiers to strive for excellence.”

The Soldiers have an immeasurable amount of loyalty to the commander and first sergeant. The Soldiers are not doing missions for rewards, they are doing it because it is their commander and first sergeant’s mission, Paradiso said.

“(The Soldiers) do an outstanding job,” said Capt. Philip McDowell, commander of the 159th SOC and a Charlottesville, Va., native. “Ever since we hit the ground, they’ve been working extremely hard and they understand how important it is to get all the cargo and equipment out of Iraq. They understand their mission is very essential and vital to the responsible (drawdown) of U.S. troops (and equipment from Iraq).”

# El Paso, Texas Soldiers keep it clean

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. MATTHEW C. COOLEY  
15TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

**Q-WEST, Iraq**— As Q-West nears a base turnover with the Iraqi Air Force in July, more Soldiers returned home and more facilities shut down — facilities like the civilian operated laundry service.

Soldiers from a Joint Base Balad shower laundry and clothing repair team with the 263rd QM Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), arrived here May 23 to ensure Soldiers and civilian employees had continued access to laundry services.

The 10-Soldier SLCR team set up operations with a large portable laundry and drying system — a machine capable of handling up to 400 pounds of laundry per hour — that an incoming Hawaiian team is scheduled to take over in early June, said Spc. Diego Rodriguez, a shower, laundry, and clothing repair specialist with 263rd Quartermaster Co. and an El Paso, Texas native.

Before the team arrived, Soldiers and civilians sent their clothes to another base for cleaning. With the arrival of the SLCR team, laundry customers' wait was reduced from five days to 24 hours. Not even the previous civilian laundry service worked that quickly, he said.

"It's a morale booster," said Sgt. Alexine Garcia, SLCR specialist with the 263rd QM Co. and an El Paso, Texas native. "They



**Pfc. Higinio Ortiz, a shower, laundry, and clothing repair specialist with the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an El Paso, Texas native, checks a load of laundry in the large portable laundry and drying system May 25 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.**

don't have to wait so long or wear the same clothes over and over."

"We're running a little more efficiently than they were," she said, referring to the civilian laundry service.

The two-drum laundry and drying system is capable of washing and drying up to 45 bags, or 200 pounds, of laundry per drum

every 60 minutes. That's 90 bags, or 400 pounds, each hour, Rodriguez said.

The generator-powered system also recycles laundry water using a heated and filtered still. The 3,000-gallon water bladder the system uses, is replaced every three days, he said.

"It takes ten of us to do the laundry and it

took 50 (civilians)," Rodriguez said.

Garcia said their SLCR team is running a little more efficiently than the civilians were.

The team's smaller size does not mean they cannot handle large numbers of customers either.

"In one day we've serviced 130 Soldiers and civilians," Garcia said.

## New sustainment facility fuels responsible drawdown

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

### CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq

Because of an expedited construction schedule and a joint military and civilian effort, operations for a part of the infrastructure enabling the upcoming responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from southern Iraq began this month, almost an entire year ahead of schedule.



Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, deputy commanding general for support, United States Forces — Iraq and a Pittsburgh native; Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Mansfield, Ohio native; and Col. Sean Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, cut a ceremonial ribbon May 27 signifying the completion of construction at a tactical theater fuel farm at Combat Support Center Adder, Iraq.

The combat support center, housing an 8 million-gallon capacity facility for petroleum products, is adjacent to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The primary contractor for the project was KBR, Inc.

The task is being undertaken to replace the fuel capacity at Contingency Operating Base Cedar, Iraq, in a coordinated transition of mission responsibilities said Capt. Smiley Garcia, petroleum supply officer with the 36th Sust. Bde. and an Austin, Texas native.

The consolidated facility at CSC Adder is the largest of its kind. The construction project was completed by the 36th Sust. Bde. in partnership with KBR, Garcia said.

"We have the largest operating military tactical fuel farm in the world," he said. "This, of course, is a massive undertaking; a joint military and civilian partnership to make this project executable."

Garcia said the enormous project took place over three separate phases.

"The first phase, completed in December, (was) the automotive gasoline berm," he said. "Then we went into construction of the diesel berm, finished around February, and finally our largest commodity, JP8 fuel, and the largest construction phase was completed in March."

Garcia described how the enterprise began operations and said the end project was a combination of shifting infrastructure and transportation assets.

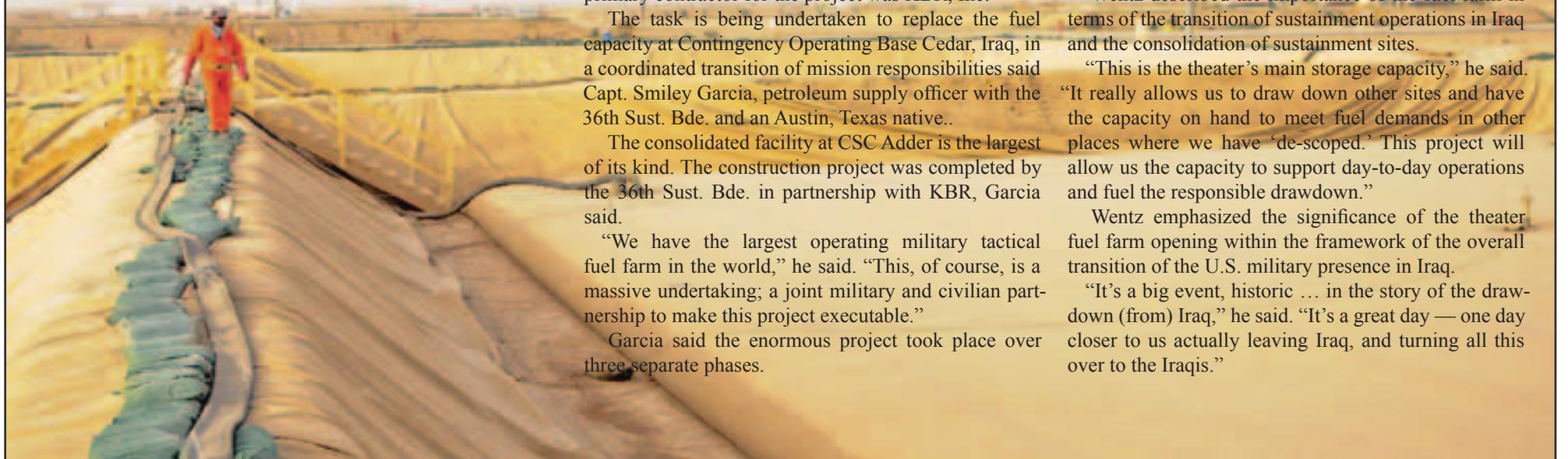
"By May 15, we had all three phases of the project operational, consolidating all of the incoming convoys from Kuwait and consolidating all of the outgoing transportation assets as well," he said.

Wentz described the importance of the fuel farm in terms of the transition of sustainment operations in Iraq and the consolidation of sustainment sites.

"This is the theater's main storage capacity," he said. "It really allows us to draw down other sites and have the capacity on hand to meet fuel demands in other places where we have 'de-scoped.' This project will allow us the capacity to support day-to-day operations and fuel the responsible drawdown."

Wentz emphasized the significance of the theater fuel farm opening within the framework of the overall transition of the U.S. military presence in Iraq.

"It's a big event, historic ... in the story of the drawdown (from) Iraq," he said. "It's a great day — one day closer to us actually leaving Iraq, and turning all this over to the Iraqis."



# Vietnam Veteran serves as mentor in Iraq

STORY BY  
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq**— As a point man during the Vietnam War, Marine Pfc. Willie Yarbrough guided his platoon through rugged jungles and fierce guerilla warfare near the Ben Hai river. He learned a lot about the North Vietnamese soldiers, developed a knack to sniff out an ambush and a capacity to stay focused on the moment.

As a radio operator in Vietnam, another highly targeted position, he became a skilled communicator under pressure and did what was necessary to stay alive.

Later in the war, as a Marine corporal and squad leader, Yarbrough made battlefield decisions and managed men in his squad.

During his 16-year tenure in the U.S. Marine Corps, Yarbrough served as a platoon sergeant, drill instructor, career counselor and a school instructor.

After a 22-year break in service, Spc. Yarbrough, a logistics specialist for the 812th Quartermaster Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Beaumont, Texas, native, now works in the Camp Liberty Oasis water treatment facility at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, to make sure Soldiers receive purified drinking water.

Forty years removed from Vietnam, the 59-year-old Yarbrough volunteered to deploy with the 812th, leaving his home unit, the 1002nd Quartermaster Company, out of Beaumont, Texas, which he joined three years earlier.

"A recruiter asked me did I ever think about going back in," Yarbrough said. "I told him, man, at my age, you must be out of your mind. He said, no, you could do it."

He's done it, and he's made an impact along the way, mentoring Soldiers.

"Having a Vietnam Vet in the unit gives us a tremendous advantage in terms of experience," said Lt. Guadalupe Solano, an operations officer for the 373rd, Yarbrough's former platoon leader, and a McAllen, Texas, native.

"He has personally mentored me on being resilient," he said. "He is someone I can sit down and have an intellectual and mature conversation with, and talk for hours and hours without getting bored."

"People are not afraid to come talk to me," Yarbrough said, "because I just talk to them like a father. I don't try to judge anybody."

Cpl. Andrew Garcia, operations noncommissioned officer for the 812th and a Goliad, Texas, native, said Yarbrough has given him advice on leadership styles.

"He has a good impact on the junior enlisted," Garcia said. "He's got positive things to say. He's definitely had an impact on me. It's awesome to be able to serve alongside somebody that served in the Vietnam War."

Yarbrough, who grew up in a Marine Corps Family, said he's glad to be here working for

the Army.

"I've been in the military all my life," he said. "Any knowledge that I have that anybody wants, I'm always glad to pass it on."

Yarbrough qualified as an expert rifleman during his last qualification and still considers himself a Marine Corps infantryman.

"After 16 years, you never get it out of your system," Yarbrough said.

It's different in the Army, he said.

"The Army has a mission to occupy and control; the Marines are a straight line, hit, take care of business and pull out," Yarbrough said.

Yarbrough said he rarely worked around the Army in Vietnam, "but they had good stuff, so we'd go pillage," he said. "We didn't throw away nothing. Anything we could get a hold of to make life comfortable, we snatched it up. When we got to some Army guys, and they had that stuff, it was on."

Yarbrough said the combat gear that the Army has now is good compared to what he had in Vietnam, but that the weight is about the same.

"A basic infantryman load back then was six canteens of water, 27 magazines, machine gun ammo, mortar rounds, a light anti-tank weapon and claymore," Yarbrough said. "Once you went to the field, you were self-sufficient. You had no resupplies, so if you engaged with the enemy, you had to hold your ground."

Yarbrough compared the roadside bombs of today to booby traps in Vietnam.

"You still have to worry about ambushes," he said.

However, most ambushes that occurred during the Vietnam War happened on foot, he said.

"We didn't ride, we walked," Yarbrough said. "If we had to go somewhere, we were dropped in by helicopter."

Today, Yarbrough, whose expression is all-business, works out of an office. He loads trucks with water, makes sure paperwork is in order and that the trucks are going to the correct place.

"That's my job here," Yarbrough said, "but

**I'll find your strong points and your weak points. Where you're strong at, I'll use those strengths; where you're weak, I'll build you up.**

if they say, let's go on a convoy and ... suit up, I'll say let's rock n' roll."

Soldiers with the 812th describe him as "a hard dude."

The gray-haired Yarbrough agrees with this immediately.

"I am," he said.

"He's a hard old man," Garcia said. "He's old school. He came through in a different



Marine Cpl. Willie Yarbrough ended his Vietnam tours with many awards and left the Marine Corps as a staff sergeant. Now Spc. Yarbrough, a logistics specialist for the 812th Quartermaster Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Beaumont, Texas, native, said the only award that matters to him is his U.S. Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon.

time."

Yarbrough is not afraid to take corrective action on Soldiers as needed, regardless of rank.

"I like to see things run right," he said, "if not, I have a tendency to say what I feel about it, regardless of who it is. If you speak tactfully, you can get your point across to anybody."

"Every individual that you deal with is unique," Yarbrough said. "So what I do is, I'll watch you, I'll observe you. I'll find your strong points and your weak points. Where you're strong at, I'll use those strengths; where you're weak, I'll build you up."

Solano said Yarbrough's "demeanor is that of a Soldier who has experienced life in multiple variations of encounters, and knows what it takes to get through difficult ones."

"My guess is that's why he's a cool, calm and collected individual," he said. "Through him I have learned that those three are extremely important leadership attributes. The fact is he is a direct leader and not one who is reactive nor aggressive. He is one whom Soldiers can go to and seek advice, and he will willingly give it any time, any place. Many of our young warriors can look up to him as a mentor and benefit from his skills, experience and, above all, demeanor."

Yarbrough is an example for young Soldiers to emulate, said Sgt. Tim Smith, night shift noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Oasis, and a Corpus Christi, Texas, native.

"I went in his room one day and opened his wall locker," Smith said. "Everything's on hangers three inches apart. Everything's folded and stacked, just as neat as could be. It was beautiful."

"He's got discipline," he said. "He sees something that needs to be done, he gets up and does it."

Yarbrough said his strength and discipline were forged as a young adult in the Vietnam War.

"There were a couple times back in Vietnam," he said, "where I was extremely afraid for my life, but it made me strong and I learned from it."

Yarbrough said he talks to Soldiers about what to expect when they go off base and how to be ready to react.

"I tell them what it would feel like to have a close friend killed, and you have to carry his body," he said. "If you get into situations where you have to think, you have to react at the same time, because sometimes you can over think and get yourself in a lot of trouble. Focus on the moment and never let your guard down, things could change quickly."

Yarbrough plans to retire from the military next year, but doesn't expect his life to change much. He's had a good run, he said.

"I'm going to still work with kids," he said, "with the community and even work with recruiters. I'll probably do what I normally do and find some kids to mentor; maybe go work at the youth prison again. I can still handle them. They ain't that tough."

# Soldier battles cancer, remains in service

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE  
278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

## CONTINGENCY OPERATION BASE TAJI, Iraq—

Twenty three-year-old Spc. Rose Lee Myers has a lot in common with many young Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but has gone through one experience that is not so common.

The intelligence analyst, deployed to Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Sweetwater, Tenn., native, said she has been trained well and loves the service.

This is Myers' first deployment overseas, but she has fought in a battle before.

Myers won a personal battle with cancer.

She grew up in Sweetwater attending school and helping with the Family botanical nursery. Her father, Hugh is a retired Soldier, and met and married her mother, Myung-ja, while stationed in Korea, Myers said.

Myers joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in June 2005 as a member of a military intelligence unit, 278th ACR out of Nashville, Tenn., and attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

Midway through the 63-week language course, she began hemorrhaging and was taken to the emergency room, where she was told her blood count was one-third what it should be and needed a transfusion immediately.

In June 2007 she was diagnosed with cancer of the uterus and was told it had spread to her lungs.

"The doctors told me that only two percent of women ever had this type of cancer and the cause was unknown," Myers said.

Myers was declared free of the disease after six months of chemotherapy and required to receive only biannual checkups.

In January 2008 she attended the Military Intelligence School at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. and has worked for the 278th ACR ever since.

"Myers is a very dedicated Soldier," said Master Sgt. Joel Gibbons, intelligence section noncommissioned officer-in-charge of with the 278th ACR. "She is very knowledgeable in her work and is one of our best analysts. I wouldn't trade her for any other."

The battle with cancer was scary, she said.

"It made me thankful for every new day," Myers said. "I feel like faith in God and friends got me through it."

Myers offered advice for people facing similar battles, explaining that it always gets worse before it gets better.

She said she has worked hard to stay in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

"I just kept fighting because I wanted to stay in," she said.

**Spc. Rose Lee Myers, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Sweetwater, Tenn., native, stands in front of the regimental mural at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. Myers was diagnosed with cancer in June 2007, but battled through and is now free of the disease.**



# Three-time Louisiana Guard Veteran wins Pauley award

STORY BY  
1ST LT. ANGELA K. FRY  
256TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

## CAMP VICTORY, Iraq, Iraq—

Lt. Col. Stuart Burruss, commander of Special Troops Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Carville, La., native, was awarded the Brig. Gen. Leonard E. Pauley award May 2 at Camp Victory, Iraq.

The 26-year Veteran gave direct credit for his success to the Soldiers under his command.

"When it comes down to it, that award was not won by me," Burruss said. "I have an awesome command sergeant major and great company commanders. If they don't do their job, I'm not successful. This takes an entire team."

The Pauley award is typically presented by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, and the Pauley Family to the Tiger Brigade battalion commander of the year at the annual Louisiana Army National Guard Officer's Convention in May. However, with Burruss currently serving on his third deployment, Col. Jonathan T. Ball, commander of the 256th IBCT and a Pineville, La., native, presented the award.

"General Pauley was a great leader," Burruss said, regarding the 39-year Louisiana National Guard Veteran. "He was the first brigade commander and to win this award at a time when we are fully-engaged in this fight is a little more special."

Burruss, commander of the Base Defense Operation Center, originally deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003 with the 769th Engineer Battalion out of Baton Rouge, La. Upon his return, the 256th IBCT was just preparing to deploy to Iraq and he was aware that the brigade was in need of officers, he said.

Burruss said that with the brigade's initial full spectrum operations mission, and his two previous deployments, a lot of stress has been placed on Aimee, his wife of 20 years.

"She is fully responsible for everything back home and she accepts that burden," he said. "In many ways, the deploy-



**Lt. Col. Stuart Burruss (left), commander of Special Troops Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Carville, La., native, takes a photo with Iraqi residents during an exterior perimeter patrol while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Burruss was presented the Brig. Gen. Leonard E. Pauley award May 2 at Camp Victory, Iraq by Col. Jonathan T. Ball, commander of the 256th IBCT and a Pineville, La., native. Burruss is also the commander of the Base Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex.**

ments are much easier on me and she has earned this award as much as I have."

Despite the multiple deployments, military schools, missed birthdays and anniversaries, Aimee spoke of her husband's service and character with pride.

"I am very proud of my husband's sacrifices and the good he does," she said. "Where would this country be if everyone had the attitude that he needs to get out of the service to be with his Family?"

"Yes, he leaves the Family and misses a few special occasions," Aimee said. But the pride I have in him and the pride his children have in him is the fuel that keeps him going."

Burruss and his wife said the dedication to serving is what has allowed him to be successful, not only in his military career, but in his personal life as well.

"I have a good faith ... a strong religious faith, and I fully believe that 99 percent of what we do is beyond our control," he said. "There just isn't a book of knowledge that tells you

how to succeed. I strive hard to do a good job because it's part of selfless service and taking care of Soldiers...not to win an award."

With a long enlisted and commissioned career, Burruss has made quite an impact on the Soldiers he serves with.

"I've known Stuart since we were both lieutenants with the 205th Engineer Battalion and I know that he is a great Soldiers' leader," said Lt. Col. Scott Adams, executive officer with the 256th IBCT and a Hammond, La., native. "He is one of the most conscientious officers I have had the pleasure to work with."

Burruss continues to serve as a source of motivation for his longtime friend, including from a personal perspective, Adams said.

"Stuart has a love for the Boy Scouts and much like his military career, he is heavily involved in it," he said. "That speaks volumes about his care for future adults. He is a deeply-religious man and his faith is at the base of who he is."

# Washington Artillery accepts new mission mid-tour



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand at attention during a formal transfer of authority ceremony with the Oregon National Guard's Task Force Guardian. The 1-141st and the Virginia National Guard's 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment comprise Task Force Overlord in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Contingency Operating Base Adder. Both units are deployed with the 256th IBCT to set the conditions for the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment in Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
1ST LT. ANGELA FRY  
256TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**— The Louisiana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment has accepted a new mission in their current deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

New Orleans' renowned "Washington Artillery," currently deployed with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was originally tasked with providing convoy security out of Contingency Operating Base Adder for supply routes throughout Iraq.

"Our current mission is to assist with setting the conditions for the responsible drawdown of U.S. troops and equipment

in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Brian Champagne, commander 1st Bn., 141st FA Regt., and a Belle Chasse, La., native. "We provide gun trucks for various transportation units and civilian contractors as they deliver supplies to our troops across the country."

Within the next two months, Soldiers with 1st Bn., 141st FA Regt. will be responsible for various missions in Iraq, to include command of the rear area operations center in the International Zone, also referred to as the Green Zone.

"We embrace this opportunity to be an integral part of history as Iraq assumes control of the country," he said. "We will be close to the hub of all activity in the IZ and everything we do will affect the day-to-day mission."

The new mission will require the battalion-size element to move its Soldiers and equipment to the new area in central Baghdad. The logistical challenge is something that most National Guard units are

accustomed to," Champagne said.

"We make this move as a battalion at least once (per) year for annual training," he said. "Throw hurricanes, ice storms and going to the field on top of that, and this is nothing new for most Guard units."

Although convoy security will continue to be one of the missions for the battalion, its Soldiers also will be responsible for the badging processes for the IZ, which determines who is allowed in and who is not, based on United States Forces – Iraq procedures.

G Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to the 1st Bn., 141st FA Regt., will be re-assigned to the 256th IBCT's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment to assist in force protection efforts at Joint Base Balad. A Battery will provide personnel security of government officials for the United Nations Assistance for Iraq, while troops from B Battery will receive specialized training in the United States to

support their new intelligence mission.

Soldiers with 1st Bn., 141st Inf. Regt. have embraced the new mission and opportunity to assist with the unit's role in establishing a stable and democratic Iraq.

"As Soldiers, we have to adapt and overcome," said Sgt. Zachary Garrison, a convoy escort team truck commander with A Battery and a Baltimore native. "We are here to do a job and we will do it successfully, regardless of the mission."

Garrison, a certified nonlethal weapons instructor and father of six, volunteered to deploy with the Louisiana Soldiers and views this deployment as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, he said.

"This is the highlight of my career," Garrison said. "I've lost a lot of buddies in this fight and this is my chance to make my contribution in defending my country and my Family."

Although Garrison's only experience with the Louisiana National Guard was the month he served in support of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with Maryland's 2nd Bn., 110th Field Artillery Regiment, in 2005, he feels like part of the Washington Artillery Family, he said.

"They have treated me like one of their own," Garrison said. "It's amazing how the Soldiers of the 1-141st and the 256th are more like a close-knit Family, so this deployment has been easy. I am very open-minded and adjust well to different units and commands so I think I fit in well here."

Garrison, who comes from a long line of military men, enlisted in 2001. Although he served a year deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 2006, the deployment with the 256th IBCT is his first combat tour.

"I had a lot of discussions about this with my wife," he said. "This was something I needed to do and she understands that. The deployment did, however, cost me a new truck."

Garrison, an instructor at Fort Dix, N.J., prior to this deployment, addressed his love for working with the troops and completing missions with his team.

"I love training Soldiers," he said. "We work hard, we do our missions and we are blessed to have not been hit with anything. We leave together and we come home together. That's our mission."

## 298th Support Maint. Co. hammers away HET mission

STORY BY  
1ST LT. AVERY W. EVANS  
298TH SUPPORT MAINTENANCE COMPANY

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— The 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Altoona, Pa., has been tasked with the mission to perform five-year maintenance on all M1000 Heavy Equipment Transport systems at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The HET carries payloads up to 70 tons, primarily the M1 Abrams Main Battle

Tank. HETs are also used to transport other large military equipment, like forklifts and various tracked vehicles.

Conducting five-year maintenance on a HET can be a long and arduous process. The training manual projects that it takes 28 days to complete a five-year service. The process includes replacing many parts of the equipment. These parts are not easily removed and the mechanics have found that a large amount of the parts have not been properly maintained since they left the assembly line, said Staff Sgt. Wenick Gordon, a heavy duty mechanic with the 298th SMC and a New York City native.

"Due to the lack of (operator level) maintenance, which is a weekly greasing of the parts and joints to the trailers, the mission is

getting prolonged," Gordon said. "The parts have fused together from lack of greasing, sitting in extreme heat, and sand accumulation."

Maintenance conducted on the trailers consists of blow torch work and manpower, including swinging a 12-pound sledgehammer, said Staff Sgt. Paul Howard Bloom, a heavy duty mechanic with the 298th SMC and a Curwensville, Pa., native.

The HET mission mechanics start their day at 5:30 a.m. with physical fitness training and report to work by 8 a.m., — hammering away at the accomplishment of their mission.

Bloom said he enjoys being a mechanic, despite the physical requirements of the job.

"I think it's a good mission and very labor intensive," he said.

Swinging the sledgehammer is the most physically taxing portion of the job. The HET mechanics swing the hammer for six to seven hours, six days per week. Many say they feel like a modern-day John Henry, the tall-tale legend who raced and won against a steamed-powered hammer.

Despite the difficulties and hard work, the mission has been getting accomplished.

"There are five trailers that we have completed since we have arrived here in April," said Sgt. Carl Burner, a mechanic with the 298th SMC and a Baltimore native.

Once the five-year maintenance is complete, a final inspection is done. Once all of the HETs have been repaired and serviced, they will be redistributed throughout theater.

## Crew chiefs ease pilots' flying burden

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. JEFF LOWRY  
TASK FORCE 38 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— From daily maintenance to helping pilots during flights, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chiefs do about everything but pilot the aircraft.

"They're the third and fourth set of eyes and ears," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marco Mansueto, a UH-60 pilot with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and a Greenville, N.Y., native. "They may spot things that we don't spot."

Spc. Tim Matthews, a C Co. crew chief, agreed.

It's the crew chiefs' jobs to "paint a picture for the pilots," said Spc. Tim Matthews, a crew chief with C Co., and a Seattle native.

During flights, crew chiefs also make sure passengers and cargo are secure, he said.

Aside from protecting people and the payload, crew chiefs conduct in-flight checks of fuel level, electronics systems and mechanical systems, Matthews said.

"There are a million things to look for," he said. "You have to know all the systems really well so that you can know where the problem might be coming from or where it might be going."

Matthews said he always looks and listens for problems that might arise.

"The whole flying part of it, there's so much that goes into it," he said. "We have to troubleshoot in the air or when we set down somewhere."

Matthews, who has flown 380 combat hours during the first six months of his deployment, noted the benefits and the demands while flying throughout Iraq.

"You get to go to a lot of different places, and you look forward to someplace new because of the different challenges that might entail," he said.

Those challenges could be in the form of buildings or military vehicles that might be near a landing zone. There is always concern for obstacles while landing or taking off, Matthews said.

"The whole crew is working together to get the aircraft in and safely back up," he said. "As crew chiefs, we can help put the tires on a specific point."

The crew chiefs ease the pilots' flying burden, Mansueto said.

"They make my job a lot easier," he said. "Most of the crew chiefs have been around longer than the pilots, so crew chiefs keep (them) from messing up."

The work doesn't stop when the aircraft lands though. The crew chiefs also maintain the aircraft before and after flights.

"They really work hard," Mansueto said. "Their day starts before ours and ends after



ours."

The crew chiefs check for corrosion, broken parts and missing pieces and make sure all nuts and bolts are properly tightened, Butler said.

However, the long days pay dividends with every successful flight.

"We are the only people keeping the helicopter running on a day-to-day basis," Matthews said.

**Spc. Zachary Butler, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and a Canadian, Texas, native, tightens a screw on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter tail as part of a pre-flight inspection May 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

Whether maintaining helicopters or guiding the pilots, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chiefs do it all.

## Convoy escort team provides base security

STORY BY  
CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— As the United States continues to draw down troops and equipment from Iraq, more and more assets are being shipped throughout the country using the Iraqi

Transportation Network, an Iraqi civilian-operated commercial organization.

Once those assets arrive at Joint Base Balad, members of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are on hand to ensure security measures are met, and cargo reaches its intended destination.

"The days are busy and hot, hot and busy," said Sgt. Eric Bell, a squad leader with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC, and a Miami native.

The 512th Quartermaster Co. recently took over the mission of escorting convoys through the various security checks put in place by the 13th ESC.

When a convoy arrives, all trucks and drivers are inspected and verified before Soldiers with the 512th Quartermaster Co. escort them to the cargo receiving and shipping point. Once all the trucks have been offloaded, the convoy will be escorted back to the entry control point, Bell said.

The whole process takes about three hours from start to finish, Bell said.

"As far as base defense goes, they're one of the front lines," said Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Kohles, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of force protection with the 13th ESC, and an Apalachin, N.Y., native. "They receive the convoy trucks and move them through all the force protection equipment and security measures that we set. It takes a lot of focus, and a lot of attention to detail, and they're doing a great job."

Part of the convoy escort mission for the 512th Quartermaster Co. is simply waiting for all the trucks scheduled to arrive that day to show up. This often means spending hours in the blazing sun, Bell said.

"That's one of the toughest parts of the job, just being out in the heat all day," Kohles said. "They don't have access to the air conditioning or a lot of the creature comforts that most of us take for granted. We're always trying to make their lives a little easier by giving them some shelter, or just a place where they can get out of the sun for a little while."

Downtime for the Soldiers sometimes coincides with downtime for ITN drivers who are waiting for the rest of their convoy to arrive. Members of the convoy escort team often spend that time socializing with the Iraqis.

"They may not even be thinking about it, since they're usually focusing on the job at hand, but every moment they spend inter-

acting with the Iraqi truck drivers helps to build U.S.-Iraqi relationships," Kohles said. "They represent the Army and the United States very well."

Over the next several months, as the movement of materials out of Iraq intensifies, so will the demands on the convoy escort team, Kohles said.

"As the drawdown continues, and we really start downsizing our operations, their job is going to get a lot busier," he said.

The 512th Quartermaster Co. is getting ready for the increase in activity, Bell said.

"JBB is a hub for all the cargo moving through the country," he said. "Now we're getting a lot of the empty containers ... but I'm expecting the numbers to start going up."

Despite the heat and long hours, the convoy escort team of the 512th Quartermaster Co. continues to focus on the mission at hand.

"I'm a Soldier, and I'm here to do a job," Bell said. "I'll do it the best that I can."

## 396th Trans. Co. ready for action

STORY BY  
PFC BRYNN STOLL  
396TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**— The 396th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has spent weeks training on their post-attack reconnaissance procedures

to remain prepared if an enemy attack occurs on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The PAR team consists of seven 396th Trans. Co. Soldiers. So the team can respond at any time, PAR Soldiers do not run missions outside of COB Adder. Pfc. Shawn Anglin, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the company and a Meridianville, Ala., native said,

"I volunteered to be on the PAR team because I want to be on the front line," Anglin said. "Being a part of the PAR team reminds me that I am a Soldier and we are in a war zone."

The team has medium tactical vehicles and humvees designated for PAR operations and drills. Both vehicles are equipped with medical equipment, traffic cones, engineer tape, flashlights, batteries, and equipment to protect them from nuclear, biological and chemical attacks, Anglin said.

Spc. Andrew Govier, a personnel actions clerk with the 396th Trans. Co. and a Plymouth, Minn., native, is in charge of operating the radio while the rest of the team conducts security procedures.

"My job is to report back to (our) operations (center) every 15 minutes," he said. "The most important responsibility I have is, if there happens to be a casualty in our (area

of responsibility), I need call up the nine-line (medevac)."

If an indirect fire or chemical attack occurs, all 396th Trans. Co. Soldiers who are not on the PAR team will take cover in the nearest bunker or hardened building and will not leave until the area has been determined as safe.

"You'll see a few people who don't take the (indirect fire) exercises seriously," said Spc. Willie Peguero, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 396th Trans. Co. and a Syracuse N.Y., native. "(But) just because (a base) doesn't receive fire very often doesn't mean you shouldn't be prepared for the worst."

# 14th Trans. hosts 'Run Across Home Plate'

Service members with the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), just before the start of "Run Across Home Plate" shadow run May 23 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The run, mirroring and event held at Fenway Park in Boston, Mass., was sponsored in part by the Families First Foundation, Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital to support injured veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.



STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), connected with runners back in the United States and Vicenza, Italy, May 23, during their "Run Across Home Plate" shadow run at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

"Run Across Home Plate," sponsored in part by the Families First Foundation, is a fundraiser at Fenway Park sponsored by the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital to support injured Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Runnels, command sergeant major with the 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), and a Baton Rouge, La., native, heard about the run from his daughter and contacted the Families First Foundation.

"We were looking for events (in which) we could have a partnership with somebody back in the states or Italy, where our battalion headquarters is from, in order to get involved here at JBB," said Lt. Col. James Rupkalvis, commander of the 14th Trans. Bn., and a Mitchell, Neb., native.

After weeks of coordination, the foundation sent a banner, T-shirts for each runner and a commemorative home base for the runners to cross as they finish, symbolizing the home base in Fenway Park, where the run would be completed in the United States.

Representatives with the unit's partner organization, Families First Foundation, decided this was a good thing. They offered to make a donation to the foundation in support of injured Veterans at Massachusetts General Hospital on the unit's behalf, Runnels said.

According to Melissa Ballou, the program's administrator with the Families First Foundation, the main event stateside raised more than \$2.3 million for injured Veterans.

The shadow run bridged the more than 7,000-mile gap between service members and their Families in the United States, while encouraging physical fitness and camaraderie among all the runners.

Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Army chief of staff, served as the official starter of the "Run Across Home Plate" main event.

Among the runners back in the states were current service members, their Families and Veterans.

"Family support is a combat multiplier for our Soldiers and Airmen to stay connected to what's going on in Italy and back home in the states," Rupkalvis said. "For service members, situational awareness is important for everything. It's important to know what's going on back in the states and to know what's going on in the world."

The 14th Trans. Bn. has several small components spread throughout Iraq, each of which had runners participate in the shadow run.

The battalion has 14 movement control teams at other locations in Iraq, Runnels said. After reaching out to see if anyone was interested in participating in the run, the response was great, Runnels said.

"This run is another way to give back and stay connected to the military," he said. "It gives my service members the ability to contribute to their communities while in Iraq. Selfless service is the whole mind-set."

## 298th SMC receives combat patch

STORY BY  
PFC. DAVID T. CHRISTIAN  
298TH SUPPORT MAINTENANCE COMPANY

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Altoona, Pa., received the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service May 15 in a ceremony here.

The ceremony awarding the SSI-FWTS, or combat patch, a tradition dating back to the Revolutionary War, was held in the Joint Base Balad Field Maintenance Facility, where the 298th SMC conducts vehicular, generator, electronic and general equipment repairs in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It was inspirational," said Pfc. Tricia White, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic and a native of Greenville, Pa. "Hearing the history of the patch made me feel like I am a part of that history now."

This is the first deployment for White

and many others in the unit.

"The Soldiers here on their first deployment, as well as those who have deployed before, now share a common bond — a patch that binds them in brotherhood," said Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Danilson, automotive noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 298th SMC and a Martinsburg, Pa., native.

The unit patch is a white disc within a one-eighth-inch red border and a blue and red compass representing the worldwide deployability and readiness of the 316th ESC. It includes a white Fleur-De Lis, representing the Tennessee state flower, and the City of Knoxville, the original home of the command.

"I felt a lot of pride and accomplishment when the 316th patch was placed on my shoulder," said Pfc. Wayne Saunders, an electronic device repairman with the 298th SMC and a Dallas, Ga., native.

With the patch ceremony marking the end of the first 60 days in country, the Soldiers of the 298th look forward to continuing their mission.

**Sgt. Christopher Garhart (left), the 298th Support Maintenance Company information management officer with the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Altoona, Pa., native, receives his shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service, or combat patch, from Staff Sgt. Timothy Winters, communications and electronics repair shop foreman and a Johnstown, Pa., native.**



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jonathan Jivan

# NCAA football coaches visit with 13th ESC

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

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— National Collegiate Athletic Association football coaches visited Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) May 28 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The coaches, visiting from various colleges across the United States, were University of Oregon head coach Chip Kelly, University of Illinois head coach Ron Zook, Harvard University head coach Tim Murphy and U.S. Military Academy head coach Rich Ellerson.

The tour, sponsored by the United Service Organizations and Morale Entertainment, visited Ramstein Air Base, Germany, The Kingdom of Bahrain, the USS Eisenhower and several locations in the Iraq theater of operations.

Soldiers with the 13th ESC turned out in droves to get their memorabilia autographed by the coaches and gain insight into some of the minds that drive the popular sport through every season.

First Lt. Sean Devine, a mobility plans officer with the 13th ESC and a Geneva, Ill. native, prepared a list of football questions for each coach.

“This is a great opportunity to just get their thoughts on college football,” Devine said. “It’s a dream come true, just to meet these guys you see every Saturday on the sidelines.”

For many of the Soldiers, the chance to meet the Army football coach was about more than just football.

“It’s so cool for them to come out here,” said 1st Lt. Beth Sutey, the theater backlog officer for the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th ESC, and a 2007 graduate of West Point. “When I was in school, I never missed a game.”

“For the Army coach to come out here is huge,” said Sutey,



**United States Military Academy’s head football coach Rich Ellerson speaks with Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) May 28 at JBB, Iraq, during the NCAA Coaches Tour 2010, sponsored by the United Service Organizations and Morale Entertainment. The tour brought coaches from the University of Illinois, the University of Oregon, Harvard University and the USMA to Soldiers in Europe and the Iraq theater of operations.**

a Fairfax, Va., native. “For the coach to see his players and cadets, and see where their careers took them is great.”

For Ellerson, Army’s head coach, the visit held a special meaning.

“My situation is a little bit different as a football coach,” he said. “I’m learning to tell this story. I have to articulate about the game, but also about the ultimate destination, which for most of my guys is here in Iraq or Afghanistan.”

## Hope College graduate maintains spirit of learning

STORY BY  
STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE  
278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— Twenty four-year-old Spc. Anna Jonkman has a keen sense of cultural awareness. To her, it is a natural instinct that she applies daily while escorting Iraqi employees around

Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Jonkman, a local national escort with the 1073rd Support Maintenance Company, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Grand Rapids, Mich., native, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in dance performance and choreography from Hope College in Holland, Mich.

She said her awareness comes naturally because of her education in dance and because she is an African-American adopted and raised by white parents.

She said she was raised the youngest of seven adopted children. Two brothers are Korean. Two sisters are Indian. Another sister is African-Korean and a fourth sister is from Bangladesh.

“I grew up in a world where no one looked like me,” Jonkman said. “That has made me more aware of other people’s customs, languages and culture.”

Jonkman, having taught in the Grand Rapids Ballet Company, said teaching here is similar.

She has learned a lot of the Arabic language from the local nationals during this



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

deployment, she said.

“I have two full notebooks of Arabic words they have taught me,” Jonkman said. “I taught myself the accent first. Now I think if I recognize two words in a sentence I know what they’re talking about.”

Jonkman said she intends to obtain her master’s degree when the deployment ends.

“My college has an affiliate dance company — semi-pro — and I would like to be the director of it, but you have to have a master’s degree to teach and direct there,” she said.

Staff Sgt. Richard Hardy, a squad leader with the 1073rd SMC and a Perry, Mich., native, described Jonkman as a “go-getter” type of Soldier.

“It doesn’t matter what job you assign her,”

he said. “She’ll get it done.”

Jonkman has taught dance in the western area of the Lower Peninsula in Michigan and worked for Hope College as a musician. She plays various drum instruments and has taught herself acoustic guitar and piano, she said.

“When she teaches a class at the 1073rd, she’ll try to make it the best it can be,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Dexter, a platoon leader with the 1073rd SMC and a Lapeer County, Mich., native.

“I love to teach,” Jonkman said. “I love to educate and interact with students. I learn life experience from my students and they all bring something to the table.”

She said she believes the local nationals know a little bit of a lot of languages.

**Spc. Anna Jonkman, a local national escort with the 1073rd Support Maintenance Company, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Grand Rapids, Mich., native, bears the company guidon April 8 during ceremony at Camp Shelby, Miss.**

“They quickly adapt to whoever is around them whether it is our Soldiers, Ugandans or British Soldiers,” Jonkman said.

She said as a Reformed Christian, she is fascinated with the Iraqis’ dedication to prayer.

“I’ll watch them smoking and joking during work,” Jonkman said. “Then they get quiet and go behind a security barrier and do their prayer. Sometimes they’ll use an empty sandbag for a prayer mat.”

“We don’t see Muslims praying in Grand Rapids,” she said. “I love this experience. I remind myself I had to take two plane rides and a 16-hour bus trip to see this.”

Jonkman joined the Michigan Army National Guard during her senior year of college. She joined for the life experience and to help her Family, she said.

“I’m doing something to help my Family,” she said. “America is my Family.”

“I’m happy to be here and to learn from the Iraqi people,” Jonkman said. “I’m experiencing things my friends back home aren’t. There are no mortar rounds being launched at my friends in Grand Rapids.”

“This is my way of saying to them (friends at home), ‘I love you, and I want you to have whatever liberties you like and share in those with you, and learn Iraqi culture while I’m here.’”

# 13th ESC

## Memorial Day retreat



**ABOVE:** Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (left) bow their heads in prayer beside a firing squad formation May 31 during a Memorial Day ceremony outside the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Soldiers played an important role in rendering honors to the 191 fallen warriors who served under sustainment commands since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism.



**LEFT:** Sgt. 1st Class Mark E. Covert, battle noncommissioned officer with the operations branch of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Barbourville, W.V., native, holds a folded American flag May 31 during a Memorial Day ceremony at the command headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The flag, flown during Operation Iraqi Freedom, will be on display at the Sustainer Warrior Memorial at the 13th ESC headquarters and be relocated to the Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, Va., for permanent display at the end of OIF.



**ABOVE:** A firing party prepares to release a burst of earth-quaking rounds, rendering a 21-gun salute on May 31 during a Memorial Day ceremony outside the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Soldiers played an important role in honoring the 191 fallen warriors who served under the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism.

# ...honors their own ...ceremony dedicated to fallen warriors

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

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand in a tight formation facing an assembly of fellow service members. As the Iraqi sun sets on the evening, each Soldier's silhouette is cast on the individual to his or her left, a vivid simile of the memories of their fallen comrades.

"We are here to respect the memory of those who were committed to being part of something larger than themselves by joining the military, whether for a short term of duty or a decade-long career in uniform," said Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Mansfield, Ohio, native.

For some Soldiers who have served under the 13th ESC on numerous deployments, the names of the 191 fallen warriors read aloud during a ceremony May 31 at the command headquarters here, are thought of more than once.

"Today, I think of people who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Sgt. Kelvin A. Fitzpatrick, a cargo specialist with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC and a Fort Bragg, N.C. native. "I sit back and reflect on that my mom and father were both in the military," Fitzpatrick said, "and I'm fortunate to have them."

Fitzpatrick, whose parents both dedicated 20 or more years to the Army, is now serving on his fourth tour and recognizes names on the record of fallen Soldiers as individuals he has deployed with under the ESC in Iraq.

Fitzpatrick recalled one tragic incident — his jaw line clenched and rigid.

"She didn't need the military, but she enlisted to serve her country," Fitzpatrick said, of Sgt. Tina S. Time, who died at age 22 when her truck collided with another military vehicle during a sandstorm near Camp Cedar, Iraq. "She was well respected, especially by the younger female enlisted (Soldiers)."

An earth-trembling 21-gun salute followed the general's opening remarks, the playing of taps and the lowering of the American flag from half-staff, by members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. The flag was then relinquished to the 13th ESC and will be on display at the Sustainer Warrior Memorial at JBB. It is intended that the flag be relocated to Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Va., for permanent display at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to 13th ESC leaders.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, command sergeant major of the 13th ESC and a Lake Charles, La., native, said while it is possible that some Americans may view Memorial Day as the start of summer, the end of the school year, or a four-day weekend, they should not forget the reason for this day.

"The holiday is to remember those who have fought in all major wars and conflicts, giving their lives," Joseph said. "That's why we have a reason to celebrate."



**ABOVE:** Brigadier General Paul L. Wentz (standing at podium), commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, addresses Soldiers with the 13th ESC at a Memorial Day ceremony May 31 outside the command headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. "We are here to respect the memory of those who were committed to being part of something larger than themselves by joining the military, whether for a short term of duty or a decade-long career in uniform," Wentz said. Taps was played during the ceremony, and the names of 191 Soldiers who died while serving under sustainment commands out of JBB were read aloud as well.

**Right:** Members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club lower the U.S. flag May 31 during a Memorial Day ceremony outside the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The Soldiers played an important role in rendering honors to the 191 fallen warriors who served under sustainment commands since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism. The flag will be on display at the "Sustainer Warrior Memorial" and be relocated to the Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, Va., for permanent display at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



**Young leader thrives in Iraq**  
earns a doctorate  
**PAGE 14** ▶

# Environmental officer thrives in Iraq



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Britney Bodner, USF-I PAO

**1st Lt. John Saindon Jr. (right), medical operations and environmental officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a San Antonio native, receives a Nova Southeastern University doctorate in health science May 17 from Brig. Gen. Donald J. Currier (center), commander of the 49th Military Police Brigade, and Carolyn L. Baker (left), chief of continuing education programs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, at Al Faw Palace at Camp Liberty, Iraq.**

STORY BY  
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq**— He walks the graduation stage at the Al Faw Palace rotunda in his Army Combat Uniform. Over this every-day uniform, he wears a Nova Southeastern University navy blue and gray doctoral robe.

He doesn't want to stand out, but no other graduate wears a robe like his. He's the only graduate earning a doctorate — in health science — at the ceremony and sports velvet facing, velvet band and golden yellow trim and tassels.

"There are 70 other college graduates here today at this ceremony," said 1st Lt. John Saindon Jr., medical operations and environmental officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a San Antonio native. "It's not just about me."

For Saindon, 26, it might never be just about himself. While deployed, he took the lead on projects like influenza prevention, the mediation of burn pits and the raising of awareness on public health threats.

"Even though I wasn't necessarily on the front lines, our team, the environmental officers and environmental consideration officers, we played a critical role in ensuring the health safety of tens of thousands of Soldiers throughout the entire theater," he said.

"He puts others ahead of himself," said Rhonda Taylor, Saindon's mother and a Wichita, Kan., native.

Taylor said he's always volunteered in various activities to help people.

An Eagle Scout, Saindon, has done volunteer work at elections, in hospitals, at parks and even on holidays.

Saindon said he finds working during his free time rewarding.

Since October 2009 he's instructed biology and environmental science classes for the University of Maryland at Joint Base Balad, he said.

"It's the greatest feeling teaching Soldiers in an academic, professional atmosphere," Saindon said. "I had 30-35 plus Soldiers. I wasn't able to take a command position while I was here, so in a way it was almost like a command opportunity. I had Soldiers from every branch in the military. That joint group all collectively worked toward the same goal."

Saindon effectively balanced executing his assigned duties and maximizing any extra time to the benefit of the

overall JBB community, said Col. Knowles Atchison, deputy commander of the 13th ESC, and a Fort Hood, Texas, resident.

"To find a young man that is disciplined enough to knock out his education and sacrifice leisure time and apply that toward achievement of a goal identifies him early as a leader and as somebody that will make tremendous contributions in the future to our country, to our society, to his community," Atchison said.

Saindon's mother said she knew early that he wanted to make a difference in the world.

"I had him two weeks early and was only in labor two hours," she said. "He wanted to get started."

"I call him the pit bull of the G-7 shop," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Taylor, construction operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 13th ESC, and a Copperas Cove, Texas, native. "You give him a task, and he is on it; relentless."

"He cares about his job, and it's apparent in the way he performs and his professionalism," Taylor said.

Saindon, an Army reservist, said after he attends the Captains' Career Course his next goal is to find a job with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or even to pursue a career instructing higher education.

"I quickly realized the advantage and promising future of a terminal degree when I came to JBB, and I applied to teach at the University of Maryland," Saindon said. "Based on my education credentials of almost completing the doctorate degree at the time, I was credentialed to teach."

Saindon is a young man that's done a lot of hard work to get his credentials, Atchison said.

"He's (Saindon) focused on what he wants to do," he said, "and now he's ready to launch his overall career."

Saindon took his final classes while serving as the environmental officer on this deployment.

"Part of the degree encompassed environmental and occupational science classes," Saindon said, "and so along with that, the courses assisted with developing strategies and plans for the environmental considerations while serving in Iraq."

According to Saindon, he kept surveillance of all disease non-battle injuries for supporting and subordinate units. Critical reported diseases included respiratory infections due to burn pit inhalation, communicable diseases, insect bites and other diseases that limited mission success. He facilitated weekly video teleconferences to keep people updated on environmental health considerations.

"He takes a very methodical approach to his work," Atchison said. "He defined the problem, developed valid courses of actions to fix the problem and was able to articulate that to where senior officers could understand the problem, and understand what it's going to take to fix (it)."

Saindon originally deployed with the 90th Sustainment Brigade, but their mission ended early, so he volunteered to stay at JBB. He felt obligated to finish out his deployment and complete the job, he said.

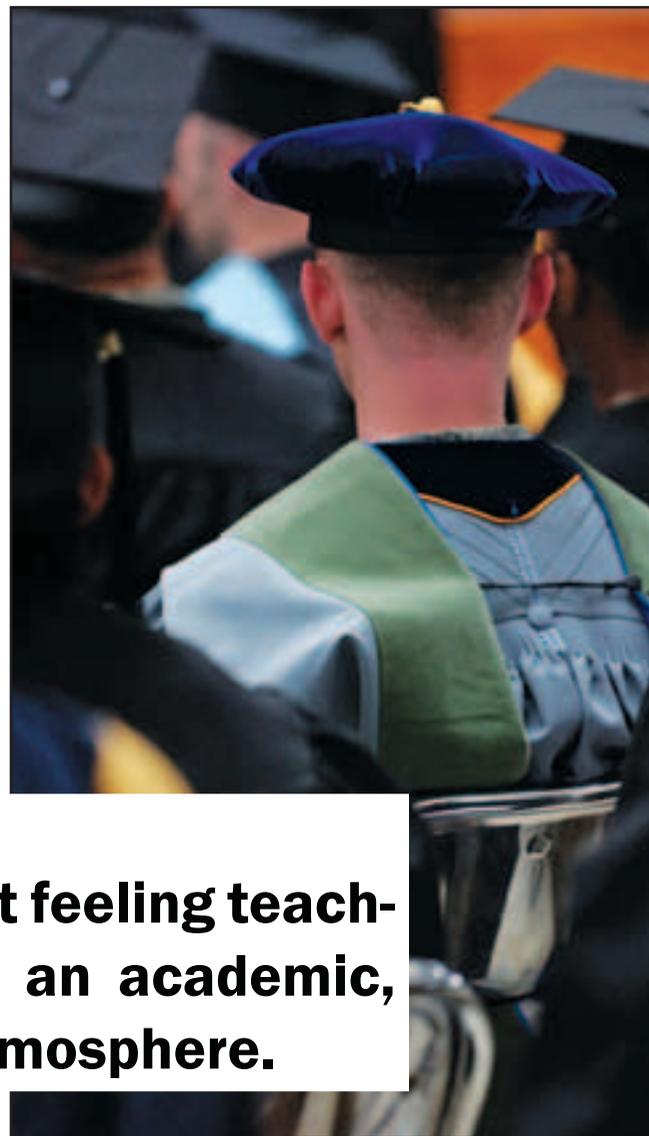
His health science background allowed him to assist the G-7 section of the 13th ESC with base closures. He traveled and inspected environmental considerations and coordinated with United States Forces – Iraq, he said.

"One of the hardest things to do on closing a base is to pass an environmental inspection," Atchison said. "So he was a critical player on this staff at the time that he was up here. His ability and his civilian skills and education came in extremely handy in coordinating with USF-I's environmental people."

Saindon said he's glad to have finished his doctorate program.

"The opportunity to move on to bigger things like career progression is there now," Saindon said.

He also feels a sense of completeness with regard to his environmental health work in Iraq. He's ready to go home and impact the United States with the same passion for work he displayed here, he said.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Britney Bodner, USF-I PAO

**It's the greatest feeling teaching Soldiers in an academic, professional atmosphere.**

**1st Lt. John Saindon Jr., medical operations and environmental officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a San Antonio native, waits to receive a Nova Southeastern University doctorate of health science education center certificate May 17 at Al Faw Palace at Camp Liberty Victory, Iraq.**

# Salman Pak bridge helps construct Iraqi stability

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

**SALMAN PAK, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 250th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 367th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, operating under Joint Task Force Rugged and partnered with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), initiated construction on a new bridge last month in central Iraq.

Col. Kent D. Savre, commander 36th Eng. Bde. and an Edina, Minn. native, led a tour of the project June 1, providing some of the first glimpses of the promising infrastructure project along the Tigris River.

The 250th MRBC is a specially trained engineer unit comprised of 180 Soldiers from the Connecticut Army National Guard. The unit's primary mission is to conduct water crossing and float bridge operations.

First Sgt. David Moorehead, first sergeant with the 250th MRBC, and a native of Gales Ferry, Conn., says the construction project is part of the peaceful transition of Iraqi infrastructure from military use to civilian use.

"We're replacing a bridge formerly here; a military foot bridge," he said. "This bridge will be turned over to the Iraqis and be able to be maintained by the Iraqis for many, many years to come."

Bridge construction requires a special team of Soldiers to get the job done, he said.

"The combination of skill sets, from bridge builders to mechanics to equipment operators, necessary take on a project this size, work together, and make a big difference, is special," Moorehead said. "It takes so many people to work together to make it happen."

The bridge under construction at Salman Pak, at approximately 692 feet long, is one of the largest of the five bridges the 250th MRBC has constructed since arriving in theater early this year, he said.

"This bridge supports the local economy. As part of the agreement with the Government of Iraq, the U.S. Army is putting in a Mabey-Johnson float bridge to help sustain the economic system," said Capt. Chuck Taylor, commander of 250th MRBC and a Hamden, Conn., native.

The model used at Salman Pak, the Mabey-Johnson float bridge, is a civilian design from Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc.



Soldiers with the 250th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 367th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, onboard an Army watercraft, prepare to move a pontoon down the Tigris River June 1 during the construction of a float bridge near Salman Pak, Iraq. The 250th MRBC is a specially trained engineer unit from the Connecticut Army National Guard conducting water crossing and float bridge operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A Mabey-Johnson bridge is a floating panel bridge, set on pontoons that lock together, Taylor said.

According to Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc., the individual pontoons of the bridge are 7 feet deep, 10 feet wide and can weigh up to 40,000 pounds.

The floating pontoons are positioned one-by-one by Army bridge engineers using small Army watercraft and then filled with soil before scuttling them into their respective positions.

"The old bridge we removed, a Russian float bridge, is one the military uses and is actually a temporary bridge designed to be in for several months to support military traffic. The Mabey-Johnson bridge is more of a long-term solution" Taylor said.

The construction of the bridge at Salman Pak is more than just physical infrastructure since it helps to build Iraqi civil

governance capacity as well, he said.

"Right now I have five Iraqi field engineers here," Taylor said. "They've been helping us throughout our schedule. What we're providing them is not only a long-term bridge, but a bridge they can take care of themselves."

Taylor considers his company's construction project a worthwhile endeavor.

"Being able to put a bridge in like this to support the local population as we do a drawdown of U.S. forces is a very satisfying experience," he said. "We see the local population on a daily basis and they travel back and forth across the river. They go into the village nearby. They sell produce. They buy produce. Being able to provide something like this, knowing it will be here for a number of years, is very satisfying."

  
**MAJOR MORTGAGE  
COUNTRY  
JAM**

**June 24-27**

**GRAND  
JUNCTION,  
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Miranda Lambert  
Alan Jackson  
Trace Adkins  
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Big Kenny  
Sawyer Brown  
Jake Owen  
Gloriana  
Danny Gokey  
David Nail  
Stealing Angels  
Williams & Ree  
LoCash Cowboys**

**How would you like to make a personal cameo at one of the year's biggest country music events?**

The Major Mortgage Country Jam and 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs Office are offering you the opportunity to record a video greeting, personally requesting a song from one of the attending artists and introducing one of country music's superstars. Recordings will be done from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. June 15 at the public affairs office at Joint Base Balad, Building 7508.

Contact 1st Lt. David R. Spangler at one of the contact methods listed below if you're interested in recording a greeting.

escpao@iraq.centcom.mil  
david.r.spangler@iraq.centcom.mil

DSN: 318-433-2156  
VoIP: 483-4601

# Digital Myths:

## the truth about digital photography

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



In the current technological age, it seems everyone has a digital camera. We take them everywhere — always ready to capture a sunset, a smile or sometimes just someone doing something strange. However with so many cameras, there are also many myths and misconceptions as well. Avoiding the big ones can save you big bucks when it comes to choosing your digital camera.

» More megapixels mean better photos: The number of megapixels a camera has is normally plastered across the box in bold numbers, boasting of its superiority over cameras that take photos at less pixels. However, this myth is false. A pixel is merely a dot on the page. One megapixel is one million dots. So yes, 14 million dots is more than seven million dots. However, all that means is that you can zoom in closer on the photo before it gets fuzzy. According to a New York Times article, when looking at a typical 5"-by-8" photograph, most people can't tell the difference between a 12 megapixel photo and a 7 megapixel photo. When it starts to matter is if you need to enlarge a picture. If you try to blow up a low resolution photo it will get blurry. It will also come into play if you crop a lot out of a photo. When you crop the photo, you lose pixels. If you crop too much on a photo without a lot of pixels to begin with, it will appear pixelated. You can mitigate this potential problem with a lower, and less expensive, megapixel camera by framing your shot the way you want. Somebody once gave me the following advice that has served me well and could save you money. What makes a good photo, is knowing where to stand.

» Optical zoom and digital zoom are the same: Again, this is false. Optical zoom is like looking through a pair of binoculars, the lenses work together to make things far away appear close. Digital zoom is identical to zooming in on a photo on a computer. Optical zoom will remain crisp (provided you focus) at any distance, where digital gets grainy and fuzzy as you zoom in. A larger optical zoom is always preferable to a digital zoom.

» A more expensive camera takes better photos: This myth is sometimes true if the more expensive camera has features that the photographer wants or needs. High quality digital photography is no longer only for those who are willing to spend thousands of dollars on the most expensive product on the market. For the casual user, eight megapixels and a three to five times optical zoom is usually sufficient. A quick Internet search reveals hundreds of matches, many less than \$100.

All the bells and whistles that modern digital cameras offer are great. However, please don't fall into the trap of assuming that bigger numbers mean the photos are always better. Technique over technology usually rules the day in the photography world. Next week, I'll go over some basics of photography and give you some easy tips to get the most out of your digital camera.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eunice Alicea Valentin

**Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz (left), commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Brig. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commanding general of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, unveil the Joint Base Balad Memorial Day monument during a ceremony May 31 at the East Circuit Gym. The monument, which is shaped like a protective T-wall barrier, pays tribute to service members from all five branches of the U.S. military who have lost their lives in U.S. military operations.**

# Word on the street

## What is the latest tech item you want to get your hands on?



**"I love my netbook."**

Staff Sgt. Dylan Watson, E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Cookeville, Tenn., native.



**"I want an iPhone. Everybody wants an iPhone!"**

Staff Sgt. Damian Mercado, 512th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control) 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Humacao, Puerto Rico, native.



**"A PlayStation 3; that's what I want."**

Sgt. Gandon, Jefferson, C Company, 52nd Infantry Battalion, and a New Iberia, La., native.



**"A big high (definition). LCD television"**

Spc. John Souza, C Company, 52nd Infantry Battalion, and a New Bedford, Mass., native.

### Ceremony page 1 cont.

tion so we might live in freedom," Obama said in his proclamation, which was read during the ceremony. "We cherish their memory and pray for the peace for which they laid down their lives. We mourn with the Families and friends of those we have lost, and hope they find comfort in knowing their loved ones died with honor."

During the ceremony, Franklin and Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC, and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, unveiled a monument meant to recognize the contributions from all five branches of the U.S. military. Shaped like a protective T-wall barrier, the monument will stand in All American Square at JBB.

"This is such an important day and time to reflect, and we needed something that would honor all the branches that have been here," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, command sergeant major of the 13th ESC, and a Lake Charles, La., native. "We picked a T-wall because it's something that's so familiar around here, and it really symbolizes the work that everyone's done. Even building the (monument) was a joint project. It was built by an Airman and painted by a Soldier."

"If we're honest, most of us aren't here for the politics or the cause," Coty said. "We're here to do what we can to protect our Families back home, and to stand with our second Families — the men and women who are here beside us."

# THEATER PERSPECTIVES

**“In the coming months, we will work together as our partnership continues its transition with the goal of building a robust and long-lasting relationship between our two nations — a partnership that will contribute to growing peace and prosperity in Iraq and stability in the Middle East.”**

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on U.S.-Iraqi relations following the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court certification of the March 7 elections

**“All indications are that we are on track and we will stay on track to be at 50,000 by the end of August.”**

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, on the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. troops and equipment from Iraq

**“I am asking the Iraqi leaders to act immediately and together to complete the formation of the new government through widespread participation.”**

Ad Melkert, representative with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, in calling for expedited efforts in the formation of the Iraqi government

**“We worry about the safety of Christians in Iraq and are encouraging our government to push the Iraqi government to increase security in Christian communities.”**

Sister Donna Markham, from Adrian, Mich., on her efforts to persuade the U.S. government to enhance measures to ensure the safety of Christians in Iraq

**“They’ll have to go through this and come up with a government that represents all parts of Iraqi society. If they do that, and ... build up their army; if they continue to show the effectiveness that their army has shown recently, they should be able to contain this and hold it as we continue our withdrawal.”**

Retired Gen. Colin Powell on the steps the Iraqi government must take to succeed, during an address in which he also commended President Obama in adhering to the plan for the upcoming responsible drawdown

## COMBAT INFLATION

The Senate and the House are trying to reconcile proposed military pay raises for 2011. The House plan calls for a 1.9 percent raise, while the Senate is suggesting a 1.4 percent hike. Regardless of which they decide on, pay raises have come a long way in the last 60 years. See how your check compares to the monthly income of the warriors of old.

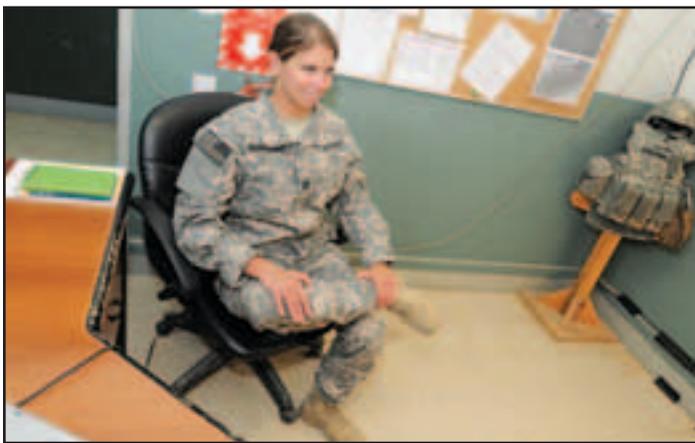
KOREAN WAR	VIETNAM WAR	GULF WAR	OEF/OIF
E-1: \$80	E-1: \$123	E-1: \$724	E-1: \$1,475
E-4: \$124	E-4: \$283	E-4: \$1,001	E-4: \$2,134
E-6: \$183	E-6: \$403	E-6: \$1,343	E-6: \$2,855
O-1: \$213	O-1: \$386	O-1: \$1,387	O-1: \$2,798
O-3: \$313	O-3: \$741	O-3: \$2,423	O-3: \$4,976
O-5: \$456	O-5: \$898	O-5: \$2,936	O-5: \$6,234

Based on the following years in service for each paygrade: E-1, less than two; E-4, over three; E-6, over six; O-1, less than two; O-3, over four; O-5, over six (OEF/OIF based on 2011 1.9 percent proposed raise)

Information gathered from www.military.com and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service

# FITNESS CORNER

## Don't Sit, Get Fit!



How many of you, when you first heard about your deployment thought, "I am going to take this opportunity over the next year or six months to really get in shape. I'm going to work out every day." But then you soon found out your job and work hours are more overwhelming than you expected. The hopes of your seven days a week workout plan quickly diminishes. And before you know it, you're on your way back home and your physique looks the exact same as day one of your deployment.

You may feel you have no time to exercise amid all the reading and sending of e-mails, updating spreadsheets that track spreadsheets and reading newspaper articles like this one. Well, you're not

alone.

According to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health, last year more than 50 percent of adults in the U.S. reported they did not engage in the suggested 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days per week, or the suggested 20 minutes of vigorous activity three days per week, recommended by the U.S. surgeon general.

You know who you are: You are the guy who's so stiff when he gets up from his desk that he walks like a robot for the first few steps. Or the gal who is rubbing her eyes after 12 straight hours of work, because she's been staring at the computer screen all day.

Don't let this happen to you and please don't use the old "no time to work out" excuse either. What if you could add in exercises at your desk, during the work day? There are ways to defeat the "office worker bulge" right in your own office.

Exercise is simply the act of keeping your body busy, using your muscles and bones while your heart keeps pumping. Not only can you help prevent that weight gain and loss of tone, but you can alleviate stress and improve flexibility with these quick exercises. Exercising at your desk only takes a few minutes, and will do your body and mind a world of good. In the lower left box are some exercises you can incorporate into your daily work routine.

### Aerobic Exercises (60 seconds):

- » **Lunges:** These can be easily done in your office or a vacant room. You could also amuse your fellow Soldiers by doing these in the hallway. Place one foot in front of the other.
- » **Jumping jacks:** No explanation needed... ready, GO!
- » **Square jumps:** Jump from side to side from one tile to the next on the floor...faster!

### Strength Training Exercises (20 repetitions):

- » **Wall squats:** Instead of reading The Expeditionary Times while sitting at your desk, try reading while sitting in a wall squat instead. Place your back against the wall with your knees bent at a 90 degree angle. "What are you waiting for?"
- » **Chair dips:** Place your chair against the wall (especially if the chair has wheels), grasp the armrests and do dips working your triceps, the farther your feet are extended away from the chair, the harder the exercise will be.
- » **Sitting Abs:** Hold onto the sides of your chair, lift both knees into your chest and then lower your feet back to the ground to complete one repetition. For an added challenge, extend your legs out while your knees are in toward your chest, then bend back into your chest, then lower to the ground.

### Stretch Exercises (hold 20 seconds):

- » **Reach for the sky:** While seated tall in your chair, reach both arms above your head and hold it. Then reach your right hand higher and hold, and then your left hand.
- » **Cross leg:** While seated in your chair, place one ankle over the opposite knee. Push down on the knee in the air and slightly lean forward, stretching your hip. Switch to the other side and repeat the stretch.
- » **Wrist and ankle roll:** If you want to prevent the common carpal tunnel syndrome, your wrist needs to take a break from constant mouse clicking and frivolous typing.

There are a number of ways to incorporate fitness into the workplace, so be creative. A fun way to add in exercises throughout the day is, perform the exercises on the hour, every hour. Encourage your battle buddies and other Soldiers to join in, too. You can also try setting your Outlook calendar for reminders to get moving.

As you spend year after year hunched over your desk for hours every day, you may find your muscles atrophying, and your hips and waist spreading. While the above exercises are not going to earn you 300 points on your next Army Physical Fitness Test, something is better than nothing. You shouldn't give up on your gym exercise routine completely, but you can certainly supplement it with exercises done at your desk, and on those extra-long workdays, it's much better than doing nothing.



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

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

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

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What Operation was the codename for the D Day landings?
2. Where did the Enola Gay drop a devastating bomb in WWII?
3. Which country pulled out of Vietnam in the 1950s?
4. Muhammad Ali refused to fight in which war?
5. Which major weapon of war was used for the first time in 1916?
6. Who was the most decorated American veteran of World War II and celebrated movie star in the post-war era?
7. During which war was Arlington National Cemetery established?

1. Overlord 2. Hiroshima 3. France 4. Vietnam 5. The Tank 6. Sgt. Audie L. Murphy 7. American Civil War

# JBB Worship Services

### CONTEMPORARY

**Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
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  
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)  
7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

*\*Current as of June 2, 2010*

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

**Sunday** 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
11 a.m. Provider Chapel

**Thursday** 11 a.m. Air Force Provider Chapel

**Wednesday, Friday** 5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**Saturday** 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)

Confessions: **Saturday** 4-4:45 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) or by appointment

### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

**Friday** 6 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

### PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

**Thursday** 7 p.m. Provider Annex  
**Saturday** 7 p.m. The Shack (Bldg 7556)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**PLEASE CALL:**

Gilbert Chapel 443-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. <b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 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., Fri., 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. 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. Sunday 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Power Abs: 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., 7 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. Sunday 8 p.m. <b>H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER</b> 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 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 p.m. <b>WEST FIT- NESS CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Ping-pong 7 p.m.	tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Foosball 7 p.m. Body by Midget Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 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. <b>WEST FIT- NESS CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball: Friday 8 p.m.	Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Jam Session: 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. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. <b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., 8-10 p.m.
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# UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 06/09/10

College Softball: 2010 Women's World Series, Game 2: Teams TBD Live 6:30 a.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: San Diego Padres @ New York Mets, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra  
MLB: St. Louis Cardinals @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Thursday 06/10/10

TENNIS: 2010 French Women's Semifinals, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Florida Marlins, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra  
MLB: Atlanta Braves @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Friday 06/11/10

NBA: 2010 Playoffs: Finals, Game 4: Los Angeles Lakers @ Boston Celtics, Delayed 4 a.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: Chicago Cubs @ Milwaukee Brewers, Live 11 a.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Cincinnati Reds, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra

Saturday 06/12/10

MLB: Houston Astros @ New York Yankees, Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports  
FOX Saturday Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies @ Boston Red Sox, Live 1 p.m. AFN Xtra  
UFC: 115: Liddell vs. Franklin, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Sunday 06/13/10

MLB: Florida Marlins @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports  
NBA 2010 Finals-Game 5: Teams TBD, Live 5 p.m. AFN Sports  
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Hellava Good! Sour Cream Dip 400, Live 10 a.m. AFN Xtra  
FOX Saturday Night Baseball: Seattle Mariners @ San Diego Padres (JIP), Live 1:30 p.m. AFN Xtra  
MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Chicago Cubs, Live 5 p.m. AFN Xtra

Monday 06/14/10

UFC: 115: Liddell vs. Franklin, Delayed 7 a.m. AFN Xtra  
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 4 p.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 7 p.m. AFN Sports

Tuesday 06/15/10

MLB: Washington Nationals @ Detroit Tigers, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra  
NBA 2010 Finals-Game 6: Teams TBD, Live 4 p.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ San Francisco Giants, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Wednesday 06/16/10

MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ San Francisco Giants, Live 12:30 p.m. AFN Sports  
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 5 p.m. AFN Xtra  
Strikeforce: Robbie Lawler vs "Babalu" Sobral, Live 8 p.m. AFN Xtra

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Clash of the Titans' falls hard from heavens

BY STAFF SGT. RANDALL P. CAREY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Greek mythology can be very in-depth, revealing and interesting, but it can also be very boring at times. Director Louis Leterrier ("The Incredible Hulk"), in the 2010 remake of "Clash of the Titans," pulled out all the stops to make sure his film lived up to the former.

Leterrier begins the film with his onslaught of intricate computer-generated imagery and a voiceover setting up the plot and the introduction of the film's main character, Perseus, played by Sam Worthington (Avatar). I suppose Worthington fit well in the role, since "Clash of the Titans" reminded me a lot of Avatar.

Perseus, enters the film as an infant in peril — that is until he is kidnapped ... that's extreme ... adopted, by a weathered, old fisherman and his wife. His early years are left to the imagination as the film jumps to Perseus' adulthood. Still with his parents, and apparently ridden with Stockholm

syndrome, Perseus is sailing through life and intrigue until tragedy strikes.

Now the grief-hardened mourner we all know so well from cinema, Perseus finds himself taken ashore by soldiers from Argos. The people of Argos, already intent on battling the gods, grasp new hope with this survivor of divine combat, especially after a harrowing and tolling encounter with Hades himself in the King's presence.

After a new friend informs Perseus of his god-given (pun intended) fortune, he is inspired to carry out the king's wishes for his own gain — revenge.

With Argos' best soldiers to assist him, and two random extras that failed in their role of comic-relief, Perseus began his journey to save Argos and avenge his loss by killing "the Kracken," the core source of Hades' strength.

From there the film takes a route down the more predictable path with the Kracken-killing squad enduring the "Lord of the Rings"- "Harry Potter"- "Avatar"-World of Warcraft-like adventure you would expect — even an underworld battle that I am almost certain was modeled after the always-hilarious Leroy Jenkins video.

I can't say the film was cast very well. Worthington didn't hit any home runs in "Avatar." He wouldn't have been on the top of my list to play a demigod warrior. Liam Neeson is a good actor, but the role of Zeus wasn't for him. He wasn't commanding enough and when he tried to be it was forced and unnatural. He should stick to more conventional characters. Believe it or not, Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) really did sneak into the movie this time, as Hades, and played the role just like he was the creepy villain-magician at Hogwarts.

The casting hurt the film a lot. It made it difficult to take the serious parts seriously. But there were little things all the way through that chipped away at its credibility and value — Zeus's revenge-rape, Perseus insisting on being a battlefield commander when he was a docile peasant the day prior, romance on the River Styx. A lot of it just didn't make sense, even for a fantasy flick.

I won't lie. For a film in a genre I have little interest, it kept my attention the whole way through. I enjoy Greek history and mythology, but I probably won't watch this one again.

My verdict: C

## 'MLB 10 The Show' continues run with good concept

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Going through the minor leagues and working your way up to all-star status is pretty much the point of Sony's latest installment of their video baseball franchise.

I've been playing "The Show," since it debuted for Playstation 2, and always enjoyed it. This year's entry for PS3 is no slouch, but at the same time it has its share of little annoying problems.

Franchise mode has always been moderately bad with this series. When the game designers focus on "Road to the Show" mode, the other areas tend to suffer. So I'll just start off by saying I primarily intend to review the game based on "Road to the Show" mode.

When it was introduced about four years ago, "Road to the Show" mode was a revolutionary concept in sports video gaming. It was similar to "Franchise" mode being introduced in the Madden series, in that people immediately asked "Why hasn't this been done before?" It was immediately duplicated in some form by just about every video game company out there.

In "Road to the Show" mode, you create a player from

scratch, choosing position, secondary position, batting animation, body type, and pretty much everything else that goes along with designing a digital baseball player.

Once finished creating a player, that player is, based on your selection, placed in the amateur draft or on the AA roster of a team of your choosing, though it doesn't really matter much, because you'll get traded about once a season until you've established yourself as a steady big leaguer.

Play at AA and AAA levels in the minor leagues, and, if you play well enough and meet the goals set by your manager, you'll eventually get promoted to Major League Baseball.

The interaction system, where you can choose from a list of set ways to interact with your manager in order to change your role within the club is oddly flawed. You can ask for more playing time based on recent success or a bump in the batting order, or a position change, but these things are pretty much determined before you get a chance to ask for a change anyway.

Changing position is such a weird option, I'm not sure why it's even available. I've attempted it numerous times, based on my player's secondary positions. Basically, every time you ask for a position change, regardless of the makeup of the team, with roster strengths and weaknesses factored in, your manager tells you he likes where you're playing

now. It just seems kind of pointless.

One huge upgrade over previous editions is playing as a catcher. In former iterations of the game, playing as a catcher involved chasing down bunts and foul pop-ups, and occasionally attempting to throw out a steal attempt. Now, as a catcher, you get to call the game. Suggest pitches and locations to pitchers, based on their control and abilities and see if you can help keep their earned run average down.

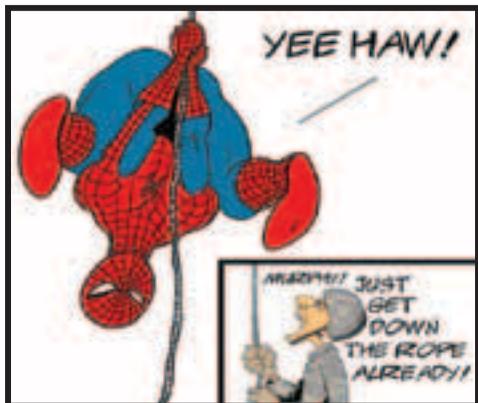
Another good simple upgrade to the game was the reintroduction of the Home Run Derby. It's a fun little diversion in the middle of the season for anybody attempting to play as a slugger.

The physics and gameplay are really well done. A lot of people will find this game challenging, and quite frankly, they got it right, baseball is hard. It's difficult to square up on a pitch, and sometimes you do everything right and still line out to an infielder.

It all tends to even out over a full season, bloop singles and hard outs occur all the time in actual baseball. It might seem ridiculous when taken in a small sample size, but that's just how the game is.

I think Sony made enough upgrades over "MLB 09" to make this year's version worth getting, but kept enough of the old features to ensure that they didn't screw up a really good game. I give "MLB 10 The Show" an 8 out of 10.

## PVT MURPHY'S LAW



**Wednesday June 9**  
6 p.m. Sex and the City 2 (R)  
8 p.m. Kick-Ass (R)

**Thursday June 10**  
6 p.m. Date Night (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG)  
Midnight The Karate Kid (PG) (Premiere)

**Friday June 11**  
6 p.m. The Karate Kid (PG)  
9 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)

**Saturday June 12**  
2 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)

5 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)  
8 p.m. The Losers (PG 13)  
Midnight Marmaduke (PG)

**Sunday June 13**  
2 p.m. The Losers (PG 13)  
5 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)  
8 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)

**Monday June 14**  
6 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)  
9 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)

**Tuesday June 15**  
6 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)  
9 p.m. The Losers (PG 13)

# PHOTOS

# AROUND IRAQ



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

**ABOVE:** U.S. Soldiers from 1-68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, along with Iraqi soldiers from the 14th Iraqi Army Commandos conduct a patrol brief May 21 in Basra, Iraq. The joint patrol was conducted to gather information on security within the city.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Stewart



**LEFT:** U.S. Soldiers of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade provide hands on Aerial Quick Reaction Force (AQRF) training May 16 on a UH-60 Blackhawk to U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment on Contingency Operating Base Speicher's flight line and northern aerial training site in Iraq. The training enables 1-28th Infantry Battalion to be better prepared for threats to the Balad area with aerial movement and support.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jason Stewart

**ABOVE:** U.S. Army Spc. Zachary Madison, ammo team chief with "Gun 2" Team, Alpha Battery, 1st Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, sets the fuses preparing the shells for firing during an artillery live fire qualification range May 21 on Memorial Range, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. Although the wartime activities of Operation Iraqi Freedom are complete, 2-32 Field Artillery requires qualification ranges to keep the fire team's accuracy and timing at its best.

**RIGHT:** U.S. Soldiers with 17th Fires Brigade make their way up the Ziggurat of Ur, Iraq May 18 near Contingency Operating Base Adder. The Ziggurat was constructed as a place of worship in the 21st century B.C. and today after more than 4,000 years it is one of the most well-preserved structures of the Neo-Sumerian city of Ur.

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



# NEWS AROUND

## Authorities arrest suspected smuggling leader in Baiji

**TIKRIT, Iraq**— Iraqi Security Forces detained the suspected leader of an international smuggling ring in Baiji, Salah Ad-Din province, Iraq, May 27 during a joint operation with U.S. advisors.

ISF were operating under the authority of a warrant issued by an Iraqi court.

The detainee is accused of smuggling oil out of the Baiji area into neighboring countries, smuggling weapons across international borders, stealing oil from trucks to resell on the black market, and is believed to be associated with the 1920s Revolutionary Brigade.

He is also believed to be responsible for the extortion of money from oil transportation companies operating out of the Baiji area by charging the companies a 20 percent tax to ensure safe passage of their trucks.

ISF believe the profits from the stolen oil are used to finance al-Qaeda in Iraq and Islamic State of Iraq operations throughout Iraq.

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

## ISF arrest suspected AQI criminal associate in East Mosul

**BAGHDAD**— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associate May 27 during a joint security operation conducted in east Mosul.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched a building for a suspected AQI member who is allegedly involved in the routine media production of AQI propaganda materials throughout Iraq.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest an AQI criminal associate 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.

## Authorities arrest suspected AQI member, one associate near capital

**BAGHDAD**— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member and one criminal associate May 27 during a joint security operation conducted approximately 42 kilometers northeast of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for the suspected AQI member who is alleg-

edly in charge of distribution of AQI propaganda materials throughout Iraq.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted AQI member and one criminal associate.

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

## Iraqi Arab and Kurdish policemen forge professional bonds

**BAGHDAD**— NATO Training Mission-Iraq held a graduation ceremony for 43 Kurdish Zerevani policemen and hundreds of their Iraqi Arab counterparts who completed joint federal police training May 28 at Camp Dublin.

This is the third time Arabs and Kurds have participated in this training together in a clear effort to break down cultural and ethnic barriers, said Col. Mauro Isidori, commander of the NTM-I Gendarmerie Training Division and officer in charge of the training.

This intensive nine-week police training course, instructed by the Italian Carabinieri from NTM-I, is designed to provide advanced training for the Iraqi Federal Police. Topics covered included operational planning, police intelligence and counter-insurgency skills. Ethics and human rights were emphasized throughout the course.

Iraq Minister of Interior, Jawad Al-Bolani, expressed his satisfaction with the hard work the Iraqi Federal Police are doing on the front line against terrorism and criminality in his speech to the assembled graduates and trainers. He also thanked NATO and the Carabinieri for their outstanding support.

Italian Ambassador Maurizio Melani also recognized the Iraqi policemen's achievements during the course. "The IFP are now a force—efficient, respected and trusted by the Iraqi people," he said.

Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, United States Forces – Iraq deputy commanding general (advising and training) and NTM-I Commanding General, thanked Bolani for the contributions of his police forces in disrupting the terrorist network in Iraq. "The Federal Police are among the most professional, competent and respected organizations in Iraq and the entire region," he said.

## First of 15 patrol boats delivered for Iraqi Navy training

**BAGHDAD**— The first of 15 patrol boats for the Iraqi Navy were delivered May 20 in Morgan City, La.. The 35-meter P-301, built by Swiftships in Morgan City, will join a naval squadron of 55 vessels.

Currently, the Iraqi Navy has two marine battal-

ions and four large patrol ships that guard Iraq's territorial waters, protecting critical oil infrastructure and commercial traffic areas.

The first patrol boat crews are training in Morgan City, using a mixture of classroom, practical simulator training and hands-on exercises to learn how to operate their equipment. The additional boats are planned to begin arriving in Iraq with the first 50 students scheduled to graduate in July.

In addition to the patrol boat training, the class and five more like it are scheduled to take place over the next year. Students will learn to work on one of two large offshore support vessels, known as OSVs that are projected to arrive September 2011. The OSVs allow the Iraqi Navy to provide its ships with assistance such as rescue services, offshore towing, maintenance/repair support, and safety and environmental services.

"We have an ambitious but achievable plan to facilitate modern training technology and advanced training simulators", said Royal Navy Lt. Cdr. Paul Morris, the training officer at Iraq's southern port city of Umm Qasr.

"The Iraqi Navy is keen to embrace modern training technology from the new patrol boat simulators to schoolhouse equipment such as smart boards and language labs," Morris said.

This initiative is one part of the overarching work being done to train and equip the 660,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces dedicated to the stability and sovereignty of Iraq.

## Suspected Promised Day Brigade criminal associate incarcerated

**BAGHDAD**— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Promised Day Brigade (PDB) criminal associate during a joint security operation conducted May 28 in northwest Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected PDB leader who is allegedly involved in sniper, indirect fire and improvised explosive device attacks against ISF and coalition forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest a criminal associate of the warranted PDB individual.

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

## Iraqi police officers graduate hostage negotiations course

**DIWANIYAH, Iraq**— Iraqi policemen completed a hostage negotiations course May 25 at the Diwaniyah Police Training Center here.

The 20 graduates learned first responder

# IRAQ

skills, negotiation tactics and techniques, building rapport and intelligence gathering.

This specialized two-week course, taught by Iraqi instructors and advised by members of the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission (ITAM) police professional training team, enhances the abilities of the Iraqi police force to manage serious incidents and hostage situations.

“This class is very important to the Iraqi police service,” said Iraqi Col. Asam Khadim Abdulah, dean of the Diwanayah Training Center, in his commencement address. “(You) should feel proud that we have chosen you to attend this course because you are among the smartest officers in the province.”

The ITAM civilian police advisors mentor and advise the deans, instructors, staff and cadre. They provide basic instructor training, monitor basic training standards and ensure that provincial objectives are addressed.

## ISOF detain 2 AQI connected suspects

**RAMADI, Iraq**— An element of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) along with U.S. advisors detained two individuals for questioning May 24 during a joint operation in Al Qaim.

The ISOF conducted the operation pursuant to a warrant issued by the Central Investigation Court. Both detained individuals are suspected to have connections to a warranted AQI leader. Along with the detentions, ISOF confiscated multiple media items and various documents.

Residents of the raided homes signed statements proving there was no interior property damaged by ISOF. However, ISOF had to cut a hole in a fence to gain access into the compound. All residents were treated fairly during the operation.

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

## Fitness Center dedicated to, named after fallen warriors

**BAGHDAD**— Members of United States Forces Iraq, Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) dedicated the Scott-Wolfer Fitness Center June 2 on Forward Operating Base Union III, in conjunction with Memorial Day events.

The center was named for U.S. Army Col. Stephen Scott and U.S. Army Maj. Stuart Wolfer, who died during an indirect fire attack April 6, 2008 at the Phoenix Base Fitness Center.

Following the opening ceremony, nearly 50 people participated in a five km run to kick-off the

Memorial Day activities.

“Like all of you ... they knew what they were leaving behind when they deployed, but they came to perform a mission that they believed in,” said Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission Director Maj. Gen.

Richard J. Rowe Jr., before the run. “These things are important for us to remember ... There is only one true way to honor these fallen heroes, and that is to succeed.”

After the run, Rowe asked the participants to continue to honor the colonel and major by completing the mission for which they gave their lives. “We must build an Iraqi security force that can stand on its own as we leave,” he said.

USF-I, DCG (A&T) personnel and assets relocated in April 2010 from Phoenix Base to FOB Union III in.

## Odierno comments on election results certification

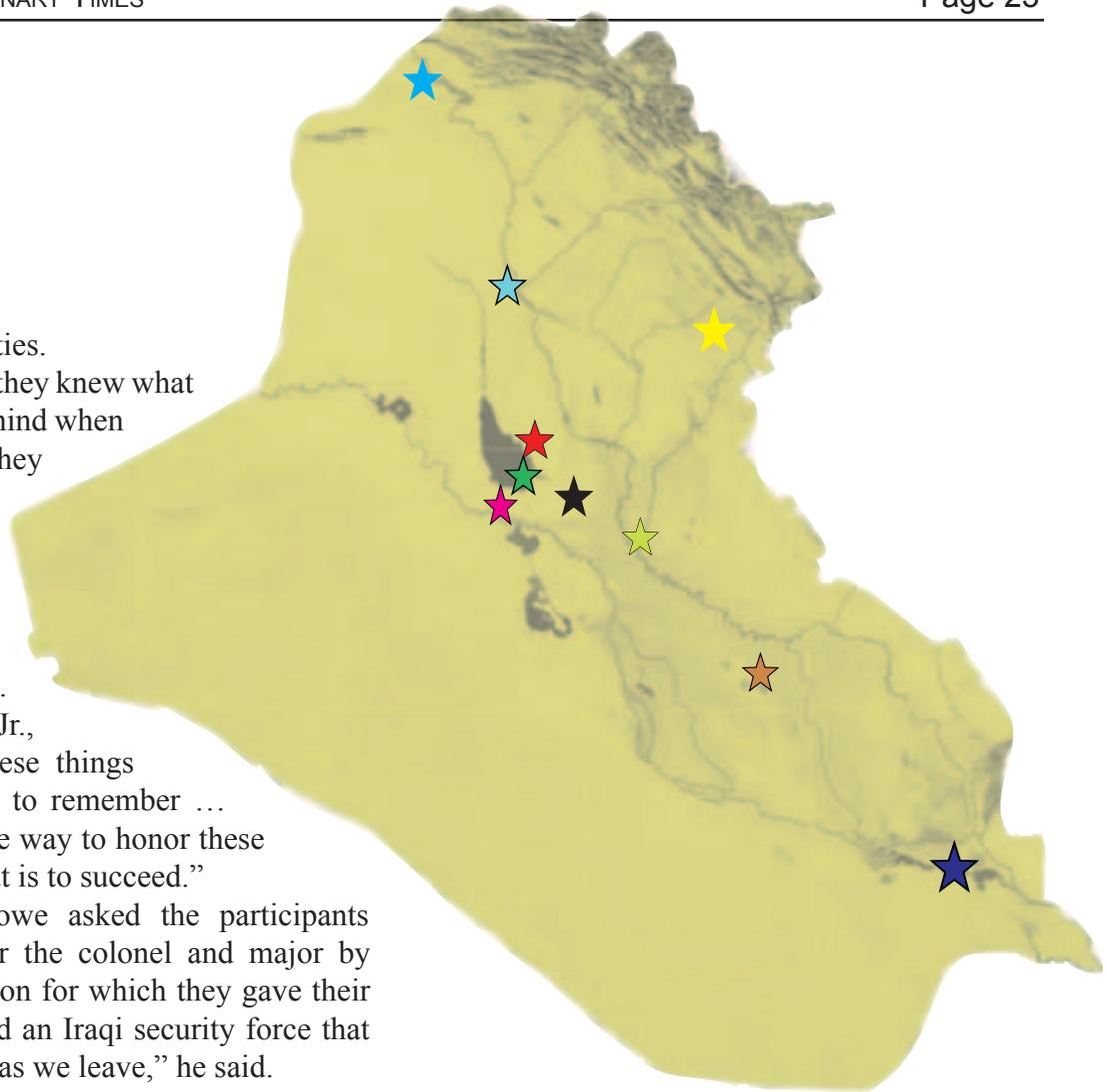
**BAGHDAD**— The Commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, General Ray Odierno, congratulated the people of Iraq and the Iraqi Supreme Court after the high court announced the certification of the March 7 election results.

When Iraqis voted in large numbers at the polls on March 7th, they demonstrated their desire to build a brighter future with a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq. The elections were viewed by the Iraqi people, Iraq’s regional neighbors, and the international community as credible and legitimate, and today’s certification of the results formally affirms this fact.

The leaders of Iraq continue to demonstrate that they support a transparent political process for all Iraqis carried out in accordance with the Iraqi constitution and the rule of law. The Iraqi people strongly support a participatory form of government that holds elected officials accountable for their actions and benefits all Iraqis. They reject the bankrupt philosophy of violent extremists.

It is time for all parties involved with the political process to form an inclusive and representative government that will work together toward Iraq’s future.

We look forward to the seating of the Iraqi government and the opportunity to strengthen the long-term strategic partnership between the sovereign nation of Iraq and the United States of America.



**Do you  
have a  
story  
idea?**

**Contact us at:**

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

# Phantom

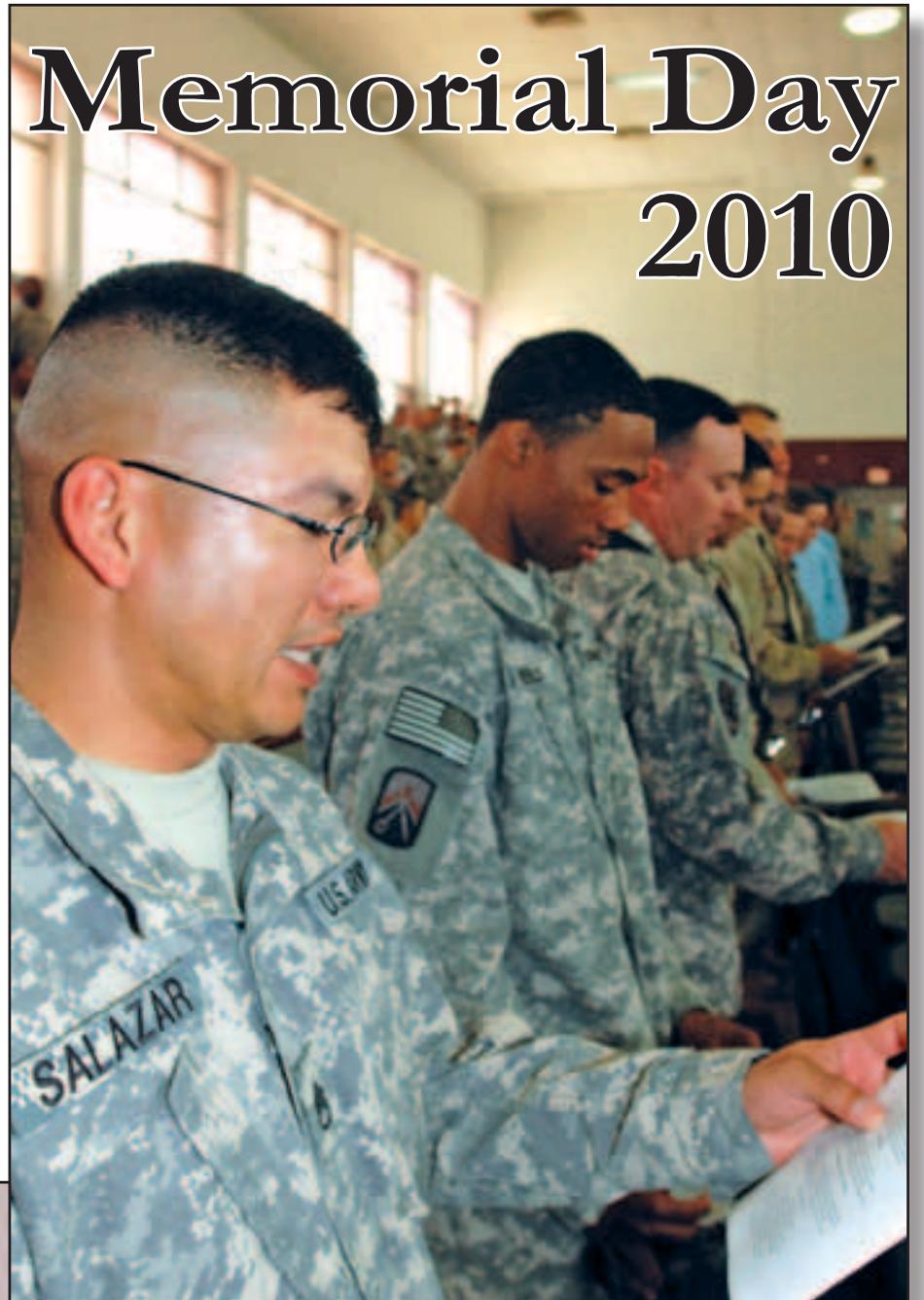


# Support

## Memorial Day 2010



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eunice Alicea Valentin



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Rich Barkemeyer

**ABOVE LEFT:** Sgt. Denise Spencer, the noncommissioned officer in charge of training and retention for the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an American Samoa, native, performs "America the Beautiful" at the Joint Base Balad Memorial Day ceremony May 31 at the East Circuit Gym on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

**RIGHT:** Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, a force protection noncommissioned officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Houston native, sings the Army song during the Joint Base Balad Memorial Day ceremony May 31 at the East Circuit Gym. The ceremony was hosted by the 13th ESC and the 322nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and paid tribute to all service members who have lost their lives in military operations.

**BOTTOM:** Spc. Robert Sapp III, a 36th Sustainment Brigade Soldier from El Paso, Texas, plays taps during a Memorial Day Service May 31 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Glen Baker