



The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 4 Issue 12

August 4, 2010

www.armyreserve.army.mil/103rdESC

Reunion



Surprise family visit at Speicher

Page 4

Movement



2101st TC moves supplies south

Page 9

Education



373rd CSSB educates hundreds

Page 11



Soldiers of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand in formation after receiving their combat patches in a patching ceremony held July 26 at 103rd ESC headquarters on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Soldiers typically receive combat patches after spending 30 days in a declared hostile environment.

103rd ESC patch is 'making history'

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) received their former wartime service-shoulder sleeve insignia, commonly referred to as a combat patch, in a ceremony

July 26 at their headquarters on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The combat patch ceremony is a tradition for deployed Soldiers which formally acknowledges their service in a combat zone.

"You are here on the sharp end of the spear, representing the nation's interest," said Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC, and a Maryville, Mo., native. "You are

making history, and this patch is your memento of that history, and your proof that you were here when it counted."

"Operation Iraqi Freedom, soon to be Operation New Dawn, is in a phase where we are seeing what victory looks like," he said. "It is not like World War II with big parades, and a victory over an enemy, but the rebuilding of a country that suffered for 30 years under dictatorial rule."

Combat patches are an Army tradition dating back to World War II. To qualify for a combat patch, Soldiers must be assigned to a unit serving in a declared hostile environment and receive the approval of the Army Chief of Staff. Units typically award combat patches to Soldiers after they spend at least 30 days in a combat zone.

"This ceremony is like a rite of passage for the unit," said Pfc. Paul Rochelle, an information systems analyst with the 103rd ESC and an Omaha, Neb., native. "It means that we're here,

and we're doing our jobs."

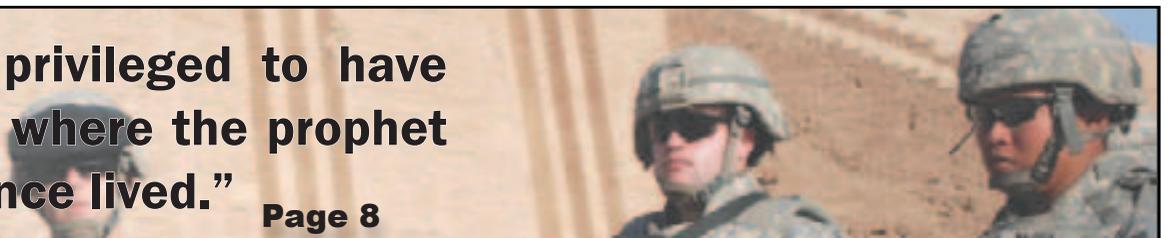
Pfc. Amanda Shelley, an administrative specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 103rd ESC, and a Waukee, Iowa, native, said she was honored to be a part of the ceremony and wear the 103rd ESC patch.

The 103rd ESC traces its history back to the 103rd Infantry Division, which was organized as a reserve division Sept. 9, 1921, and headquartered in Denver, Colo. Although the unit was relocated to Iowa and Minnesota in 1947, the cactus insignia was kept to reflect the geographic roots of the 103rd ID during the 1920s from Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

"For just this one moment, I want you to think that here and now, you are literally a part of making history," Corson said. "It's no less than your forefathers and mothers who made history in the defeat of Nazism in World War II. For this, I salute you, and for this, you get this patch."

"I consider myself privileged to have walked the grounds where the prophet Abraham once lived."

Page 8



Where do you read your Expeditionary Times?

For distribution, contact
the 103rd ESC PAO at
Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Joint Base Balad :
318-483-4603

COB Adder:
318-833-1002

COB Taji:
318-834-1281

Al Asad Air Base:
318-440-4103

COB Speicher:
318-849-2501

e-mail: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Marriage endures military challenges

CAPT. JOHN L. WALTON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE CHAPLAIN



Twenty years ago this week I was on leave. As it turns out this was the most important leave period of my 22 years in the military. I was an E-4 and I was going home to get married to my high school sweetheart. She was the daughter of a sergeant major and I was terrified. As I have jokingly, yet somewhat seriously stated to many people, "Now, I am a captain and he died years ago but I am still afraid of him." In reality, he was a great man who just wanted to be sure that I would never hurt or leave his baby daughter.

A lot of other things were going on in the world as we were building up forces in Kuwait for a war that would start on this day in 1990. But after a discussion with my boss I was allowed to get married and have a couple of days before I returned to my duty station in California. My new wife, who had never been more than 500 miles from her home in Mississippi, gathered her things and got on the airplane to Oakland, California. When we arrived at the airport, we were met by a buddy in my unit whose first words to me were, "get your gear we've been deployed." Wow, welcome to the life of a military wife. We got through that time and began building a great life together.

Some years later our nation was once again at war and I felt the calling to become an Army chaplain. I applied, was accepted, and received orders to Fort Hood, Texas. So, once again we loaded everything we owned and took on an entirely new assignment in a new role, but this time we had four children and a full house.

Once we arrived at Fort Hood I received my assignment and reported to my commander. Wouldn't you know his first words to me were, "get everything you need ready, we're being deployed." Our world took another huge turn as I

was gone on a yearlong deployment just a few months later. Again we made it through that and began rebuilding the great life we had together. It would be nice if that was the end of the story but the simple fact that I am writing this says that there is more.

Just a few months ago my wife and I were praying about our next steps in life and ministry. To make a long story short, in the middle of discussing it, I received an email from one of my branch managers that simply said we have a need for an immediate fill for a chaplain at Fort Stewart and we are tracking you for that assignment. What is the soonest you can report? My reply was "When are they deploying?" His reply was "in about 60 days, how soon can you be there?" Once again, our world took a drastic swing and here we are.

In spite of the moves and long separations, we chose this lifestyle; but the simple fact that this was our choice has not been enough to help us get through the moves, sudden changes and long separations. We have had to intentionally build a life together that sees the difficult times as opportunities to grow and appreciate one another. In any marriage, but especially in the military, we must take every opportunity to capitalize on the time we have together. Marriage enrichment weekends are a great way to learn skills that help deal with the problems of life, and to take time together just to have fun and spend time as a family. Find a faith group that you can rely on and draw strength from and they will become an invaluable resource for each of you during long separations.

Then while you are deployed, put forth an extra effort to let your spouse know how much you appreciate them and all that they are going through at home. Many times they feel that they are fighting a war of their own. Sometimes they need some encouragement that says even though we are apart, we will make it through difficult days knowing that we are going to build an even better life together when this deployment is over.



LEARN THE DRAWDOWN

The 840th Transportation Battalion is hosting Integrated Booking System/Container Management Module Training 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Sunday at the battalion headquarters, 7119 Eagle Dr. (near bus stop #62) at Joint base Balad.

You will need to make reservations for the class by calling 318-483-4241.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

103rd ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mark W. Corson

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The contents of the Expeditionary Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and reviewed by the ESC G2 for security purposes.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 3,500 papers. The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Avenue, Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 103rd ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net.

Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at:
escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

103rd ESC G2, Security Manager
(318) 433-2155

103rd ESC PAO, Managing Editor
Maj. Angel R. Wallace
angela.wallace@iraq.centcom.mil

103rd ESC PA NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Raymond P. Calef
raymond.calef@iraq.centcom.mil

103rd ESC Layout and Design
Pfc. Emily A. Walter
emily.walter@iraq.centcom.mil

Cpl. Rich Barkemeyer
richmond.barkemeyer@iraq.centcom.mil

196th MPAD Commander
Capt. Marshall Jackson
marshall.jackson@iraq.centcom.mil

196th MPAD First Sergeant
1st Sgt. Steve Toth
richard.toth@iraq.centcom.mil

196th MPAD Production Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Johnson
steven.r.johnson1@iraq.centcom.mil

196th MPAD Copy Editor
Staff Sgt. Randall Carey
randall.carey@iraq.centcom.mil

196th MPAD Staff Writers
Sgt. Eunice Alicea Valentin
eunice.alicea@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. Michael Carden
michael.carden@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. Kimberly Johnson
kimberly.a.johnson@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. Chad Menegay
chad.menegay@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. David A. Scott
david.a.scott@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing public affairs offices

3rd Sustainment Brigade
224th Sustainment Brigade
256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
278th Armored Cavalry Regiment
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

For online publication visit:
www.dvidshub.net
keyword: Expeditionary Times

Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

The Weekly Standard ‘Proper ammo disposal’



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chad Menegay

Wayne Wright, assistant site manager for readiness management support, explains the incinerator process July 23 on Joint Base Balad, Iraq at the incinerator site.

MAJ. ERIK VERHOEF
103RD ESC DEPUTY I.G.



As Soldiers are redeploying and getting ready to enjoy the adult beverage of their choice, they are making poor choices on what to do with that ammo they have been dragging around for a year. Much of it ends up in the dumpster which is then headed for the incinerator. Obviously, this is not a good solution. It is dangerous for the sanitation workers but also for other Soldiers who deposit trash into the dumpster right after a grenade, flare, or other explosive has been dumped by a Soldier that is not willing to do the right thing.

So what to do with that ammo? Bright, red ammo amnesty boxes are located throughout each installation which is great for small amounts of ammo. They are typi-

cally located at the housing areas, wash racks, post offices, clinics, and PAX terminals. Soldiers can safely deposit any ammo in these boxes. Another solution, especially if the amount of ammo is significant, is to take it to the Ammo Supply Activity or Ammo Supply Point, if one is located on your installation. These locations also have amnesty procedures in place. If you cannot find a bright red amnesty box or other location, call the mayor's cell, local EOD, or Military Police. These professionals will point you in the right direction. For more information on this, read DA Pam 710-2-1 Using Unit Supply System (Manual Procedures).

This, like so often in the military, is a leadership issue. So with just a little extra effort, keep each other safe by disposing of ammo and explosives correctly and enjoy that adult beverage knowing you did the right thing.

224th SB ‘Dragonslayers’ hold combat patch ceremony



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Glen Baker

Capt. William Mendelsohn, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Claremont, Calif., native, applies a combat patch to the uniform of Master Sgt. Jason Delmundo, a platoon sergeant with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Vacaville, Calif., native, at their combat patch ceremony June 17 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY BY
1ST LT. NATHAN LAVY
224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Over 300 Soldiers from the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) received their combat patches July 17 during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



The Soldiers were awarded the patch after serving overseas in a combat zone for more than 30 days. Many soldiers reflected on the ceremony and what it meant to them.

“It’s a very momentous day for the Dragonslayers,” said Capt. William Mendelsohn, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, and a Claremont, Calif., native. “Brig. Gen. Corson said it best when he said, ‘Someday you’ll be able to put your grandchildren on your knee and tell them about your service in Iraq.’ It’s an honor to lead these fine Soldiers.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Dunlap-Jones, command sergeant major of the 224th Sust. Bde, and a Sacramento, Calif., native, said to her it’s a way to connect with her predecessors in defense of the country.

“Anytime you get a combat patch it shows the sacrifice you made for the country,” said 1st Sgt. Brian Barkins, first sergeant of HHC, 224th STB and a Claremont, Calif., native. “If it’s either your first or your last combat patch, it’s always memorable. I always enjoy seeing Soldiers getting their first combat patch. I have 11 combat patches.”

Sgt. Ricardo Adame, retention noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 224th Sust. Bde, and a Los Angeles native said it’s a way to show those at home what he’s done in service to his unit and the country.

“It feels pretty cool,” said Pfc. Kenny Estrada, a supply specialist with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Long Beach, Calif., native. “It makes you feel like you’re really part of the unit now.”



GREEN DAY -- 8 August 2010
3:45 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.

SOUNDGARDEN -- 9 August 2010
4:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m.

SEATING LIMITED!!
Contact the 103rd Public Affairs Office at:
escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

FRONT ROW SEATS
to
LOLLAPALOOZA 2010
from Balad, Iraq





Surprise family reunion before redeployment

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. CONSTANCE OBERG
394TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq

A Family reunion resulted in an experience of a lifetime for two Soldiers with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



Pvt. Amanda Hlavac-Baker, an awards/leave specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 394th CSSB, and a Ralston, Neb., native, knew when she deployed to Iraq that her uncle was also deployed to Iraq, but she didn't think she would get to see him.

Her uncle, Lt. Col. Gregory A. Baker, with 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and a Papillion, Neb., native, decided to surprise his niece with a visit before redeploying and stopped by the 394th CSSB personnel office to catch up with Hlavac-Baker. They took a drive around Contingency Operating Base Speicher, which was much different from the usual holiday get-together Pvt. Hlavac-Baker and Lt. Col. Baker were used to experiencing.

"It's really nice to see your family when you are so far away from home," Hlavac-Baker said.

"I was so glad that he took the time to find me. It meant a lot to me that he took time out of his busy schedule to see me before he left Iraq."

Baker's unit is getting prepared to head back to the United States, but he still had one more mission to fly in his UH-60 Black Hawk. That mission turned out to be a ride of a lifetime for Hlavac-Baker and her battle buddy, Pfc. Ashley Reiten, the strength manager with HHC, 394th CSSB and an Omaha, Neb., native. The four-hour flight gave the two Soldiers the



Courtesy photo

Pvt. Amanda Hlavac-Baker, a Ralston, Neb., native, and awards/leave specialist with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and her uncle, Lt. Col. Gregory Baker, a Papillion, Neb., native with 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, stand in front of Baker's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter shortly after their flight.

opportunity to see parts of Iraq that they normally would not get to see.

"It was like a movie, so insane. I never thought I'd fly in a Black Hawk, let alone do it in Iraq," said Hlavac-Baker. "Some areas on the ground had no life, then you'd see patches of green, the crops were round. It is something different from the cornfields of Nebraska."

Neither Hlavac-Baker nor Reiten had ever flown on a helicopter before and when they were asked if they wanted to go along on the flight neither one of them hesitated. It was

a routine flight for Baker, but it was anything but routine for Hlavac-Baker and Reiten.

Reiten summed up the trip as "amazing."

Hlavac-Baker said she was glad to see a familiar face from home and thrilled to go on the mission.

"The best part about the mission was being able to witness the beautiful parts of Iraq that no one gets a chance to see," said Hlavac-Baker. "This country has gorgeous mountains and valleys that most American troops will never get the chance to experience."

CRSP technology refines shipping, tracking process

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS RHONDA M. LAWSON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq

Logistical support in Iraq isn't just limited to one operating base. Often, commodities such as fuel, equipment parts and water must be delivered from one area to the next. However, keeping track of those deliveries can be a challenge all on its own.

Enter the "Interrogator."

Although the name may evoke thoughts of policemen and rapid-fire questions, this piece of technology performs quite differently. The Interrogator helps units within the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) more easily track the deliveries that enter and exit their Central Receiving and Shipping Points.

"The Interrogator is a tracking and management tool used to provide real-time data," said Maj. Ulekeya Hill, officer in charge of the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office with the 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Vienna, Ga., native.

Staff Sgt. Kerry Ferdinand, dayshift noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the CRSP at VBC with the 373rd CSSB, 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Columbia, Md., native, said the Interrogator is very similar to the UPS, Inc. system.

"You have tracking numbers, you have your starting point and your end destina-

tion," he said. "From the beginning customer to the end customer, we're tracking your cargo."

Hill said the 3rd Sust. Bde. has more than 500 Interrogators in its area of operation. Each system is placed in the CRSP yards as well as throughout the brigade's delivery routes to help the unit track deliveries. Once a delivery arrives at the CRSP, the Interrogator automatically records the Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID) on each piece of cargo, confirming that the delivery has made it to the yard. The information is then sent to a database. Once the cargo leaves the CRSP for its next destination, an Interrogator at the exit gate again records the information on the tag, which confirms that the cargo has left the yard.

"It enables commanders to visually see throughput as Soldiers and units continue with the responsible reduction of forces," said Capt. Marcus Acklin, communications officer with the 373rd CSSB and a Lebanon, Tenn., native. "From a higher level, it allows the command to see how fast we're keeping deliveries on the yard."

The importance of the Interrogator will only grow over the next year.

"As the responsible drawdown of forces continues, it is imperative for the units to have the capability to track and manage assets in our (area of operation)," Hill said.

"With the enormous amount of equipment that will be shipped either back to the states or to a different (area of responsibility), this system provides them with a viable asset to the logistics community in the way we track all commodities during this transition."

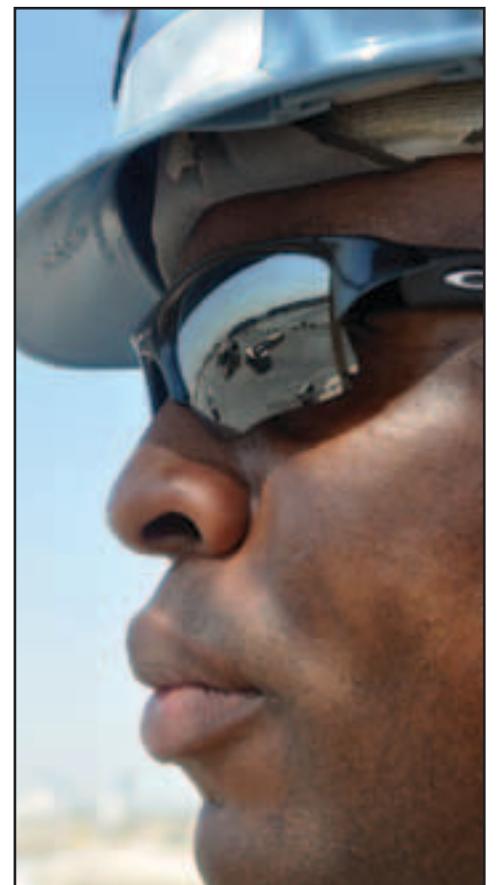
Ferdinand said although the technology has proven dependable and faster for the team, they still haven't abandoned manual recording. In the case when a battery in the RFID tag goes down, or the tag falls off, manual recording assists the team in ensuring that every delivery that enters the yard is entered in the database.

Hill said to mitigate the loss of batteries or other issues that may preclude accurate reporting of deliveries, Hill said it is important for units to perform maintenance on the RFID tags, such as cleaning them off or changing the batteries. If the maintenance is above the capabilities of the unit, field service representatives are available to help. There are also project managers located at each of the installations.

"They monitor; that's all they do is track this system," she said. "If the unit runs into any issues with the Interrogators, they're here to help."

Another aspect of the drawdown will be the continual closing or transfer of bases throughout the brigade's footprint. Once a base closes, the project manager will retrieve the Interrogators at that base, and determine where the equipment will go next. Until then, the Interrogator will be a valuable facet of logistical support.

"I really think this is a good system and a good way to track our assets," Hill said, "Especially when we're doing responsible drawdown. There is so much equipment here in theater, it's going to be key in making sure that we accurately track and keep accountability of what we have and where we have it."



Staff Sgt. Kerry Ferdinand, dayshift non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Central Receiving and Shipping Point at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, with the 169th Seaport Operations Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Columbia, Md., native, watches as delivery trucks enter the yard.

678th HRC Soldiers ensure postal integrity



Cpl. Ryan K. Ball (left), a technical inspector with 3rd platoon, 678th Human Resources Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Louisville, Ky., native, reviews his mail room inspection paperwork with Madhu Kumar Pervalla, a chemist for Al Iraq-AI Sami Waterplant July 16 in a warehouse at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq—

Soldiers with 3rd platoon, 678th Human Resources Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) supervise KBR, Inc. employees at the Army and Air Force Post Office, inspect mail rooms on base and teach classes on proper mail handling.

“Our mission here is to provide oversight for the contractors to ensure that the contract for the postal mission is carried out in the best interest of the military so that the programs, Standard Operating Procedures and regulations are being carried out in a timely fashion,” said Staff Sgt. Bobby Mathis, postal noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 678th HRC and a Lumberton, N.C., native.

Mathis said the KBR, Inc. contract is “big money,” so it is important to make sure the mail gets to Soldiers properly.

“We have a good relationship with the contractors,” he said. “We work hand-in-hand to ensure that the postal mission gets carried out.”

The 678th HRC and its contractors make package inspection a priority as well, by searching for non-mailable items.

“We give the Soldier every opportunity to turn in any type of non-mailable (item) into the amnesty program,” Mathis said, “and it’s posted throughout (the office) that those items could be confiscated, or there could be some Uniform Code of Military Justice action, if they show any malicious intent

to mail out items they’re not supposed to have.”

“We try to inspect packages very thoroughly,” he said. “That is one of our main efforts.”

The 678th HRC also inspects mail rooms and warehouses at COB Taji, to ensure they are organized, clean, working properly, and all standard operating procedures and regulations are available for reference.

“I think it’s very important that the mail is being distributed properly,” said Cpl. Ryan K. Ball, a technical inspector with the 678th HRC and a Louisville, Ky., native.

Ball teaches a mail orderly and postal clerk class on Saturdays, so people know how to effectively operate a mail room. He said he emphasizes the significance of a friendly relationship with his students and the mail orderlies and clerks he inspects.

“I don’t think going to inspect their mail room is about business,” Ball said. “You get to know these people and make friends.”

Ball said he always maintains a smile.

“Being rude to them is going to make them less reactive to do what you ask them to do,” Ball said. “I try to make sure I’m very positive when I go in there, to make the mail room better for the Soldiers, because it’s not about me and my job, it’s about the Soldier getting their mail the right way.”

Mathis said the most rewarding part of his job is either watching a Soldier receive a package, or a customer getting a package sent out expeditiously.

“I think mail is a big part of a Soldier’s life, especially Soldiers who are outside the gates on patrols,” Ball said. “They don’t get a chance to speak to their family very often—to get that letter boosts their morale.”

Mathis described the 678th HRC and postal contractors as “the last vital link between home and the Soldiers.”

TC platoon returns from four-week mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. BRYNN STOLL
396TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Thirty one Soldiers from the 396th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) will return at the end of July to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, after completing a month long mission at Camp Delta, Iraq.

The mission consisted of the majority of Soldiers from third platoon, and two maintenance platoon Soldiers. The mission began with only 16 Soldiers and four heavy equipment transporters, but later it was realized that more support was required for the timely success of the mission.

“This is the second long term mission (the 396th Trans. Co.) third platoon has been on together as a platoon,” said Spc. Kijuan Smith, heavy wheeled vehicle operator, 396th Trans. Co., and a Hartford, Conn., native. “We have really grown together and come a long way since the beginning of the deployment (August 2009) as a platoon, and above all, as a company.”

The mission of third platoon contributed to the success of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade’s operation at Camp Delta.

“We have been supporting the 115th Field Artillery Brigade since the beginning of June,” said Staff Sgt. Terrance Moss, a platoon sergeant with the 396th Trans. Co., and a Lisman, Ala., native. “The main focus of third platoon’s mission has been to assist the 115th Field Artillery Brigade with their (Bradley Fighting Vehicles) range. It’s a task that requires all of (third platoon’s) (Heavy Equipment Transporters), with the exception of four vehicles that were left on COB Adder.”

These Soldiers will finish their mission and return to the company at the end of this month to complete their transfer of authority with the 15th Transportation Company from Fort Sill, Okla.

” We’ve done a lot of hard work out here (Camp Delta, Iraq),” said Spc. Matthew Lazan, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 396th Trans. Co., and a Tarentum, Pa.

native. “It’s a comforting thought to know that as soon as we make it back to COB Adder, we’ll be only days away from redeployment.”



Spc. Bradley Tucker, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 396th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Connersville, Ind., native, repairs a torque rod on a Heavy Equipment Transporter July 2 in the company motor pool at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Selfless service is volunteering while deployed

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The American Red Cross and the U.S.O., which exist predominantly for service members, are dependent on deployed service members who volunteer during their off-duty hours. These volunteers provide support to the sometimes understaffed organizations at Joint Base Balad and throughout theater.

“Service members work long, hard hours doing their military jobs and have little time off... I am extremely impressed with those who find it in their hearts to serve their comrades by volunteering in their off duty hours,” said Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commander of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Maryville, Mo., native.

Corson is a devoted member of the volunteering community. His involvement with the American Red Cross, in addition to his background as a professional military logistician, has allowed him to readily serve as a shelter manager at Caughman Elementary School in Columbia, S.C., during Hurricane Bertha in 1996, and as a night shift manager at Maryville’s Community Center Shelter during the 2007 ice storm.

Leading by example, Corson encourages service members to give where they can.

“I think it is very important for service members to volunteer on their posts and/or in their local communities,” Corson said. “First, it epitomizes selfless service... You also really help yourself by becoming a better person, by meeting new people and making new friends, and by learning new skills. It is also fair to add that this service looks great on a resume as indicators of both character and competence.”

Opportunities to volunteer are plentiful across theater, starting at the company level, the USO, the American Red Cross, and at Morale Welfare and Recreation centers. The American Red Cross at JBB, for example, maintains operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with only three staff members, said Assistant Station Manager Debbie Dustman, a second generation Red Cross employee, and a Marlow, Okla., native.

The staff’s primary mission is to communicate emergency messages between families state-side and those in theater. This can be a daunting task, Dustman said, so she and her colleagues rely on the kindness of volunteers to run other services that are housed within their facility. “Soldiers are here when we can’t be,” she said.

Service members volunteer to keep the internet café, the Legacy room for video conferencing and telephone services open. Because the organization understands a service member’s unpredictable schedule, volunteers do not have to commit for an extended period of time. Whether an individual volunteers for a few hours, or a block time throughout their deployment, Dustman said volunteers augment what they do.

Some military personnel describe volunteering as a means to exceed their official duties, as defined by their military occupa-



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Camacho

ABOVE: More than 800 service members and civilians took part in the Joint Base Balad American Red Cross Station 5K, March 6 at JBB, Iraq.

BELOW: Service members sign the Heroes’ Wall outside the Joint Base Balad American Red Cross Station March 6 at JBB, Iraq. The Red Cross held a daylong event to celebrate Red Cross Month.

tion.

Staff Sgt. Natalie Velasco, a full motion analyst with the 368th Military Intelligence Battalion, attached to 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, and a Miami, Fla., native, volunteers a minimum of 20 hours a month at the Air Force Theater Hospital.

“I sometimes see convoys go wrong and Soldiers get hurt,” Velasco said. Even with her work load, Velasco admits she sometimes feels she could do more to help. She volunteers on off-duty hours at the helicopter patient administration section working with patients.

One of her supervisors at the hospital is Air Force Tech. Sgt. Aaron Fanning, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of admissions and dispositions with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, and a Sylvan, N.Y., native. Fanning said the hospital staff relies on volunteers to provide manpower.

Litter or ambulatory patients come into the hospital via helicopter. Helo pad and casualty staging facility volunteers work together in a 5-man team to load or unload the patients, he said.

In order to prepare volunteers, the hospital staff conducts briefings and provides training to first-time volunteers every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 9 a.m.

“They may not have a medical background, but (volunteers) have a sense of pride,” Fanning said. Many are motivated for one rudimentary reason, Fanning said simply, “because they want to.”

For some, volunteering is a life style. “Once you volunteer, you embrace it,” Dustman said. Even if it is for self-motivated reasons, she said, self-motivation keeps a warm pot of coffee brewing at the American Red Cross.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Camacho

169th SOC wins quarterly board once again



Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, command sergeant major of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Lima, Ohio, native, congratulates Spc. Jeremy Armstead, rough terrain container handler operator with the 169th Seaport Operations Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Bde., 103rd ESC, and a Richmond, Ind., native, for winning the Soldier/NCO of the Quarter board for the 3rd Sustainment Bde., July 23 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The 3rd Sustainment Brigade crowned its top Soldier and noncommissioned officer with the Brigade Soldier and NCO of the Quarter board at Joint Base Balad, Iraq July 23.



Both accolades were taken by the 169th Seaport Operations Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Bde., 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), which is not a surprise to its leadership since they haven't lost a board yet.

Sgt. Lee Mora, senior forklift operator at the Central Receiving and Shipping Point on Victory Base Complex, Iraq for the 169th SOC, and native of San Antonio, Texas, won the 3rd Sustainment Bde. NCO of the Quarter, and Spc. Jeremy Armstead, the 169th SOC rough terrain container handler operator at the CRSP and native of Richmond, Ind., won brigade Soldier of the Quarter.

"It feels pretty good to keep it going," said Mora. "We're getting 150 points on all of our promotion boards and maxing out boards left and right. I hope I can pass this tradition down to my Soldiers and my next unit."

The 169th SOC has given their parent units a lot of bragging rights by winning every single board their Soldiers have participated in, said Staff Sgt. Kerry Ferdinand, the 169th SOC shift NCO of the CRSP at VBC, and native of Columbia, Md.

"That one's mine!" Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Montgomery, a Houston, Texas native and the command sergeant major of the 373rd CSSB, proudly said as he pounded his chest with his fist, when someone asked which battalion the Soldier and NCO belonged to.

When a Soldier rises up to that high of a challenge, it is a reflection of leadership, said Montgomery.

"The proof is in the Soldiers of the quality of their leadership," he said. "We know what it takes to get to our level. We live through our Soldiers. When they do well, it reflects well on us as sergeants major."

Armstead said that winning had a double meaning for him.

"I feel great," said Armstead. "When I heard my name, it felt amazing. Words can't really explain, but it also feels good to know that I am upholding the unit's tradition out here."

Infantry unit sets standard for responsible drawdown

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS RHONDA M. LAWSON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq— As part of the responsible drawdown, a number of units are being withdrawn without being replaced. While the thoughts of returning home early may be music to some Soldiers' ears, it can present challenges to the units' logistics and supply teams.

However, Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) have not only risen to the challenge, but overcome it. Some elements of the unit are scheduled to return home to Louisiana this month, while others have been assigned to new missions in other parts of Iraq. The unit is not scheduled to be replaced, so the Soldiers have begun the process of turning in all of their equipment, from the smallest parts to their largest truck. In less than two months after starting the process, the unit successfully turned in all of its equipment.

Maj. Darrel Freund, 3rd Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC logistics officer, said he is pleased with the battalion's performance.

He added that working with the infantry unit was a good experience.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to work so closely with all the eleven bravos," Freund said. "We logisticians don't get that opportunity very often. When we asked them for something, we always got it and always on time."

Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Miguez, assistant operations noncommissioned officer with 2nd Bn., 156th Inf. Regt. and an Erath, La., native, said a number of factors contributed to the unit's turn-in success; the first being the unit's ability to work as a team.

"We had medics, (unit movement officers), and mechanics helping us," he said. "We all joined together to make this happen."

Sgt. Roy Beaudreaux, assistant supply sergeant with Headquarters, and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 156th Inf. Regt. said another important factor was the paperwork. Before the first piece of equipment was taken to the Redistribution Property Accountability Team, he met with the inspection team to have the paperwork checked and to confirm what the unit would need to have a successful turn-in.

"We had to make more trips, but it made it pretty easy," he said. "The turn-in team is pretty helpful."

Staff Sgt. Chris Etheridge, supply sergeant with HHC, 2nd Bn., 156th Inf. Regt. and an Erath, La., native, said the Soldiers paid a lot of attention to detail because they wanted everything done right the first time.

Etheridge said that attention to detail involved more than just paperwork. The unit's equipment needed that same attention. Fluids had to be drained from the vehicles and properly disposed of. Communications equipment needed to be disconnected. Computer hard drives needed to be wiped clean. They even had to decide what equipment needed to be turned in, and when, because some teams still had missions to perform.

"We had to learn fast, and learn quick," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Bourque, battalion

logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and an Erath, La., native, said proactive efforts, combined with an active command emphasis, set the stage for the unit's entire turn-in process. He explained that the battalion command team left the process almost entirely in the NCOs' hands, but they made the process a priority from the moment they learned the unit would be redeployed.

"We learned a lot of lessons from our last deployment," he said. "Also, what helped us was that our commander was the brigade (logistics officer) the last time."

Bourque said although they are nearly done with their turn-in process, the unit isn't taking this time to sit and relax.

"It's a big morale booster for a lot of people," he said. "But until we make it home, we're not finished yet."



Spc. Phuc Bui (from left), Spc. Bryan Primeaux and Sgt. Marcos Rodriguez, all mechanics with 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), remove the last antenna from a humvee before turning it in to the Redistribution Property Accountability Team.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jorge Anaya

Dhiaf Mahsen (left), Ziggurat curator and tour guide, and a Tallil, Iraq, native, explains the history and culture of the Ziggurat of Ur June 30 to Soldiers with the 40th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) near Tallil, Iraq.

Quartermaster Soldiers visit historical Ziggurat

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. ROSA CANNAVERDE
2101ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq — Soldiers with the 40th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), visited the Ziggurat of Ur June 30 near Tallil, Iraq.

The visit to the Ziggurat gave these Soldiers an understanding of the culture and history of one of the oldest historical structures in Iraq.

Dhiaf Mahsen, third generation curator for the Ziggurat, and a Tallil, Iraq, native, led the Soldiers on a tour around the historical sites.

“Treasures found among the sites are currently in a British museum and it helps for two reasons: It is protected and it shows our history and culture to those that come from all over the world to visit the museum,” Mahsen said.

“The Ziggurat of Ur is made of a three-

layered solid mass of mud brick, completely solid with no chambers, which was a shrine to the moon god, Nanna,” he said. “The lower layer is from the original construction by Ur-Nammu, while the two upper layers were restored during the Neo-Babylonian era.”

Spc. Kriztine Mancilla, a unit operations clerk with the 40th Quartermaster Co. and a Cavite, Philippines, native, said, “Today at the Ziggurat wasn’t a really hot day, so we took our time visiting the site.”

“It’s amazing how advanced the structure of the Ziggurat was. Having a monument built with a drainage system, so water doesn’t damage it. Thanks to that, I am able to witness something that has been standing for thousands of years.”

Sgt. Dennis O’Connor, chemical biological radiological and nuclear non-commissioned officer-in-charge with the 40th Quartermaster Co. and a Boston native, said the Ziggurat of Ur is something that everyone should see first-hand.

“It’s an awesome structure,” O’Connor said. “It’s something one must experience. It’s unfortunate everyone cannot see it, so I consider myself privileged to have walked the grounds where the prophet Abraham once lived.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jorge Anaya

Capt. Steven Wallace, executive officer with the 40th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Pittsburgh native (left), and Sgt. Dennis O’Connor, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 40th Quartermaster Co. and a Boston native, listen to Dhiaf Mahsen, Ziggurat tour guide, and a Tallil, Iraq, native, as he discusses the Ziggurat of Ur June 30 near Tallil, Iraq.



ABOVE: Sgt. Roger McMillon, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator of the 2101st Transportation Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Troy, Ala., native, tightens a cargo load in the movement control team lanes prior to the mission leaving out of Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

FAR RIGHT: Spc. Vanisha Johnson, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 2101st Transportation Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Anniston, Ala. native, prepares to lower a ramp on a heavy equipment transporter to off-load a vehicle in the movement control team lanes at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

RIGHT: Spc. David Whatley, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 2101st Transportation Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Birmingham, Ala. native, directs the movement of a vehicle coming off heavy equipment transporter at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.



2101st TC plays critical role in responsible drawdown

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. ROSA CANNAVERDE
2101ST TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq—As the responsible draw-down in Iraq continues, the 2101st Transportation Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is out taking on a steadily increasing role in moving equipment south.

One of the first composite truck companies in the Army, the 2101st Trans. Co., will be one of the several units in Iraq to begin Operation New Dawn.

As units under the 394th CSSB begin the process of moving out of Iraq, the 2101st

will take on greater responsibility moving cargo throughout Iraq.

The company moves equipment using vehicles like Heavy Equipment Transporters and Palletized Load Systems.

During the month of July, Soldiers with the 2101st Trans. Co. have run missions in conjunction with the 1836th Trans. Co. to further their knowledge and expertise of the HET. These convoys will assist in moving Redistribution Property Accountability Team cargo further south. The missions can last anywhere from 12 hours to four or five days.

First Sgt. Travis Jernigan, first sergeant of the 2101st Trans. Co. and a Clayton, Ala., native, said the HET missions are good experiences for the drivers and provide lessons learned for the company and the battalion.

These HET missions are not only a new development for the 2101st Trans Co. in

terms of mission requirements, but they have also produced the first female mission commander for the company. Sgt. Cynthia Miles, a Tuscaloosa, Ala. native, led a mission of six HETs and 12 Soldiers to pick up RPAT cargo from COB Sykes and move it down to COB Taji along with Soldiers from the 1836th Trans. Co.

Miles said from the moment she found out she was the mission commander, she worked diligently with her of Soldiers to ensure they were all prepared and that all the vehicles were operational.

“I was very excited when I found out I would be mission commander and nervous at the same time because I knew all eyes would be upon me since I was the first female in the company to lead a mission,” Miles said.

Jernigan said he expected nothing less of Miles.

“As a (noncommissioned officer), lead-

ership is her job, regardless of gender,” he said.

Along with the HET missions, the 2101st Trans. Co. has also taken on some of the missions from COB Speicher to JBB due to the transfer of authority between the 724th Trans. Co. and the 220th Trans. Co. These missions are run on a daily basis due to the large amounts of equipment being moved.

Capt. Kelvin Perkins, commander of the 2101st Trans. Co., and a Phenix City, Ala., native, said the company has been an integral part of the responsible drawdown and will be equally valuable when Operation New Dawn begins next month.

“When all is said and done, the Soldiers of the 2101st Trans. Co. will be able to go home (knowing) during this critical time, they were a part of (one of the) largest draw-downs in logistical history,” said Staff Sgt. Karl Patillo, an Eclectic, Ala., native.

Kirkuk contractor visits Soldier son at JBB

STORY AND PHOTO BY
2ND LT. BLAIR MILLER
512TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— A Soldier with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) received a family visit July 15.

Sgt. Timothy Wachtarz, a maintenance inspection noncommissioned officer with 512th QM and a Lake Charles, La., native, met with his father, George Wachtarz, during his father's three-hour stay at Joint Base Balad. This brief visit was the first time Sgt. Wachtarz had seen his father since in a year.

"It feels really great," said George Wachtarz, a contractor and native of Lake Charles. "We always talk on the phone, but finally being here and seeing him means so much."

During the visit, they both called home and talked to Sgt. Wachtarz's mother, who he said was surprised to hear from them both.

"My father was working a different shift from me, so my mother was used to talking to us at different times of the day, but this time she got to talk to us at the same time which was really nice," Sgt. Wachtarz said.

They also ate lunch together and talked about the next time Sgt. Wachtarz will most likely see his family, which could be in December, during his leave time.

George Wachtarz works as a contractor at Camp Kirkuk in northern Iraq as a part of L3 Vortex to ensure mission readiness of Black Hawk helicopters. He said he was stationed at Joint Base Balad back in February as a contractor but didn't realize that he would see his son during his next visit to Balad.

George's mother is currently in the hospital with health issues, Sgt. Wachtarz said, and although he may not be granted emergency leave to visit his grandmother, it was comforting being able to spend time with his father to talk about their family and his grandmother.

George, a retired first sergeant, said that seeing his son grow into a noncommissioned officer has been remarkable. Sgt. Wachtarz said he was happy to follow in his father's footsteps and join the military, and was even happier to have his father see him deployed to help

the war effort.

"Last time I saw him, I was an E-4, but now I am one step closer to catching him," Sgt. Wachtarz said.



Sgt. Timothy Wachtarz (left), 512th Quartermaster, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Mr. George Wachtarz, both natives of Lake Charles, La., reunited at the PAX terminal on Joint Base Balad July 15 during George Wachtarz's brief visit.

National Guard Soldiers earn their spurs overseas

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. STAN WESTMORELAND
2-108TH CAVALRY SQUADRON

Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq— Troopers with the Louisiana National Guard's B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Squadron, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), headquartered in Shreveport, La., were inducted into the Order of the Combat Spur on July 11, for service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Troop formations in a convoy security unit are rare because of the high operational tempo and separate missions that spread the convoy escort teams hundreds of miles across the country. However, an alignment of schedules placed all Bravo Troopers "at home" and made the ceremony possible.

"As the saying goes, no plan survives first contact," laughed Sgt. 1st Class Roy Nugent, a Shreveport, La., native, and the Troop operations sergeant. "One of our CETs was delayed by improvised explosive devices and was on the road 16 hours before making it back to camp. They're sweaty, dirty and tired. That's what Combat Spurs are all about."

Once the ceremony began, the Troopers listened to the history and tradition of the spur dating back to medieval times where spurs signified knighthood.

"When a Trooper first joined the cavalry, he was not allowed to wear spurs until he could demonstrate proficiency with a blade on horseback," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael McCrary, squadron personnel noncommissioned officer, and a Shreveport native.

"The tradition of 'earning your spurs' continues to this day. Troopers must complete a grueling Spur Ride to earn silver spurs or serve with a cavalry unit in combat for gold spurs. Troopers who have done both are authorized to wear spurs with rowels. Soldiers can earn spurs regardless of job as long as they serve honorably in a cavalry unit."

After hearing the history of the spur, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. William Rachal, a Breaux Bridge, La., native, congratulated Troopers on a job well done and encouraged the Soldiers to remain focused on the mission,



Courtesy photo

Troopers with the Louisiana National Guard's B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Shreveport, La., participate in the "Order of the Spur" ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, July 11. Pictured in the "front-leaning rest" as they are spurred during the ceremony are Spc. Benjamin Cotten of Shreveport, La., Spc. Edward Kocmich of Keithville, La., Sgt. Tyrone Gray of Shreveport and Sgt. Charles Canada of New Orleans, La. B Troops deployed with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to assist in setting the conditions for the responsible draw down of U.S. Troops and equipment in Iraq.

noting the pivotal role the unit is playing in the responsible draw down of U.S. Forces and equipment in Iraq.

According to Rachal, Bravo Troop Soldiers have completed more than 80 missions across 20,000 miles, escorting hundreds of trucks and millions of gallons of fuel to improve quality of life for U.S. Troops across the unit's various areas of responsibility. The squadron commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Vanzant, a Campiti, La., native, and 108th command sergeant major, then spurred the Troop leadership. The ritual was repeated as the Troop commander and first sergeant spurred the platoon leadership.

1st Sgt. Timothy McKnight of Shreveport praised the Soldiers' dedication. "These Troops have been doing a great job. It's a lot of long, hot days, and a lot of time on the road but they continue to set the standard and get the job done."

The "clink-clink" of the golden combat spurs being

tapped together echoed as the Troopers approached the front of formation in groups of nine, performed an about-face and executed military-style push-ups as the Troop and platoon leadership spurred the Soldiers. After making sure each spur was "just right," the group recovered and rejoined the formation, golden spurs adorning their heels.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Sgt. Robert Heagle, a Bogalusa, La., native, and a military policeman who volunteered to deploy with Louisiana's Cavalry Squadron. "It was an excellent ceremony, doing push-ups for your spurs. You work hard for it."

B Troop Soldiers mobilized with the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat team in January 2010, and arrived in Iraq in March to perform convoy escort operations in southern Iraq. The Soldiers are scheduled to return home to Louisiana some time at the end of the year.

373rd CSSB education program is 'time well spent'

STORY BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS RHONDA M. LAWSON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq—



Five Soldiers stand shoulder-to-shoulder in front of two dry erase boards in a dimly lit classroom, fervently working through math problems. Once they're done, they shuffle back to their seats with nervous and anxious looks on their faces.

"Okay, let's go through these," announces Capt. Ning Agbay, intelligence officer and battle captain for the 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Cherry Hill, N.J., native, as she walks up to the first problem—figuring out how much tax a person would add to the original price of a product. "What's the first thing we need to do here?"

The 24 students work together to solve the problem and check their work. Some are not sure if they have the correct answer, and so they ask questions. Others look triumphant, knowing they got the answer right.

While many students look to pursue their education while on deployment, this isn't just a regular college course. The students in this classroom are in the midst of a two-week Functional Academic Skills Training class to prepare for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, which will enable them to raise their general technical scores.

The 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, currently offers two of these classes each month. However, with the unit preparing to

redeploy, this class may be the last session offered at Camp Liberty.

The unit took on the responsibility of offering the classes to help its Soldiers raise their GT scores while deployed.

"We knew we could get more bang for the buck using our leadership who have bachelor's and master's degrees," said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Montgomery, command sergeant major of the 373rd CSSB, and a Houston native.

There are about 10 FAST classes offered in various areas of Victory Base Complex, but the 373rd CSSB is the only unit offering classes at Camp Liberty. The unit is also one of the few that teaches the class during the day.

Agbay, an intelligence officer with the 373rd CSSB and a Cherry Hill, N.J., native, said while some may feel this takes the Soldier out of the fight for two weeks, said she sees this as a positive opportunity.

"If taking a Soldier out of the mission for two weeks will improve the Soldier's ability to think and expand that Soldier's opportunities for advancement, then it's time well spent," she said.

Although the class started off being offered only to 373rd CSSB Soldiers, it was eventually opened to any Soldier who wanted to participate. They even accepted those on wait-lists for other classes, said Patricia Davis-Mullins, the VBC Education Services Officer.

"We hope that if we can continue the program, we'll get more Soldiers to come out," Davis-Mullins said. "There is no cost to the Soldier."

Unfortunately, the FAST classes won't be the only thing going away. With the redeployment of the 373rd CSSB goes the Staff Sgt. William J. Beardsley Pre-Warrior Leader Course, a seven-day class that helps



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Ashley Jenkins

Capt. Ning Agbay, intelligence officer and battle captain for 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Support Command (Expeditionary) assists two students with a math problem during the Functional Academic Skills Training class.

Soldiers prepare for WLC once they return to their homestations.

"I still have units on VBC contacting me about Pre-WLC," Montgomery said, "but we don't have the resources anymore."

The Pre-WLC course began in 2009 with the 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and was named after Staff Sgt. Beardsley, who was killed when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle during the 260th CSSB's 2007 deployment to Iraq. When the 373rd CSSB replaced the 260th CSSB earlier this year, they continued the program, and later added an extra incentive of two college credits for completing the course.

"You won't get a 1059 for completing the course," Montgomery said, "but you can't beat getting college credits and promotion

points."

Since the 373rd CSSB took over the course, more than 400 Soldiers have completed it, Montgomery said.

"It's a wonderful thing for the Soldiers," Davis-Mullins said. "It's NCOs mentoring Soldiers. We can't teach the Pre-Warrior Leader Course, but we can capture those segments (of education) and kill two birds with one stone."

It is uncertain whether another unit will pick up the course and continue it. The course guide on has already been retired and cased.

Davis-Mullins said she has hopes that someone will pick up the course soon.

"It will take another unit to step up to the plate for this task," she said, "and we will be right there as partners."

319th TC unwinds, builds cohesion with BBQ



Sgt. 1st Class Derryl Brown, truck master with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Columbia, S.C., native, adds some of his special barbecue sauce to meats at the 319th TC's July 4 cookout at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. RONNIE PATRICK JR.
319TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Soldiers of the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), celebrated their first holiday together in Iraq with a July 4th cookout in their company area, "The Dawg Pound", at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The cookout was an opportunity for Soldiers to unwind and relax after running continuous missions for almost three months. With everyone in the 319th TC being away from friends and family, it is important for the Soldiers to build cohesion and think of the unit as a family while deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Derryl Brown, a truck master with 319th TC, and a Columbia, S.C., native, was the chef for the barbecue. Brown, who enjoys cooking in his spare time back home, made some of his special barbeque sauce, and everyone appreciated his efforts on the grill.

"I think the cookout turned out great, and everyone had a good time," Brown said.

Spc. Alexander Bartley, a heavy vehicle operator with the 319th TC, and a Douglasville, Ga., native, won first place in the three-point shoot-out contest at the Fourth of July basketball tournament.

Bartley, along with his battle buddy, Spc. Anthony Gardner, a heavy vehicle operator with the 319th TC, from Rock Island, Ill., were just a few of the many young, skilled basketball players in 319th TC who participated in the slam dunk contest.

"Five on five, any team, anywhere, and we'll take anybody!" Bartley said.

Soldiers from second platoon, 319th TC, took part in preparing and laying the basic foundation for "The Dawg Pound" mural. When completed, the location will serve as the 319th TC's home for future gatherings and celebrations.

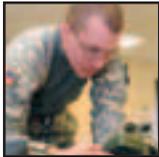
"Right now we're in the process of laying the framework," said Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Lemon, a platoon sergeant with the 319th TC, and a Charlotte, N.C., native.

"Once we're finished, I think everyone in 319th TC will be really proud of it," Lemon said.



110v? 220v? Dual-voltage?

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



The ever-present hum of transformers can lull Soldiers to sleep all across Iraq. That very same hum is also the sound of your electronics being protected. Throughout Iraq, the majority of wall outlets are using 220 volt current, which is the standard in Europe and the Middle-east. Electronics running the American standard of 110v will die a quick, shocking death if plugged directly into a 220v outlet.

The common solution to step down, or transform, 220v to 110v is to use a voltage regulator. Regulators convert the electrical current from the wall outlet to a different desired current available via outlets built into the regulator. Outlets on regulators are marked for the voltage output, be sure to use the correct outlet unless you want to replace your expensive electronics.

Regulators are rated for various loads; a regulator rated for 1500va can provide power for multiple computer systems while one rated at 80va should only be used for a single smaller item such as a desk lamp or fan. Always keep in mind the type and rating of the regulator you are using; having it short out can be annoying at best and dangerous at worst.

Finding out the voltage requirements of your electronic devices is a straightforward process that involves simply looking on either the back of the plug or for a data plate where the cord connects to the body of the device. Examine the input line to find the range of current accepted by the device. Items that run on 110v will normally have a rating of 100v-120vs while items requiring 220v are traditionally marked as 200v-240v.

Some items, for example laptop computers with transformers built into the power cords, will be dual rated. This simply means that they can run on either 110v or 220v.

Keeping track of which items are 110v and which are 220v can prevent fires and also prevent expensive repairs or replacements. Clearly labeling the plug ends of power cords can ensure items are correctly plugged in and helps lessen the chance that items get plugged into the wrong outlet.

People often get in a hurry and just plug cords into electrical outlets without pause. With items with different voltage requirements however, it pays to take a moment and check, avoiding costly and potentially deadly mistakes.



Word on the street

Who do you admire most and why?



"My platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Kreitzinger, because he has helped me grow a lot as an armorer and a supply specialist."

Pfc. Brendan Guler, supply specialist, HHC, 103rd ESC, and an Ottumwa, Iowa, native



"My father, because he supported our family growing up, and he was always there for me and my brother."

Spc. Joshua Hooper, information technology specialist, 103rd ESC, and a Kansas City, Kan., native



"My grandfather, because he taught me how to live, how to take care of myself and be responsible, and how to look out for the people around me."

1st Sgt. Glen Burgett, first sergeant, HHC, 103rd ESC

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“A major reason for the country’s stability despite the political limbo is that the political class still sees more to be gained from playing the democratic political game than by returning to the streets.”

Andrew Lee Butters, *Time* columnist, on Iraq’s political impasse

“These battles helped our forces gain initiative, and the ability to impose stability and security in all regions of the province.”

Latif Hamad Al-Torfah, Wasit province governor, on enhanced security forces and how the fight with terrorism and armed groups have improved their abilities

“Iraq can’t be ruled by one side only and exclude other sides. The delegation is trying to accelerate the formation of the next Iraqi Government.”

Kurdistan Regional Government Prime Minister, Barham Salih, announced in a press statement regarding current talks being conducted between political blocs

“Just like physical fitness we’re going to go after mental fitness,”

an Army official said in connection to recently released report on Suicide Prevention which shows suicides at an all-time high.

“It will become more like a normal civilian-civilian relationship, but a little more so. We’ll...take on some new tasks that have been defined as we’ve planned the transition working with our partners in the Iraqi government.”

Jacob Lew, deputy secretary of state, on the U.S.-Iraq relationship

PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW DAWN

September 1 marks the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the beginning of Operation New Dawn. The name change defines a strong transition for American forces following the scheduled drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq. This upcoming date will not be the only indicator of progress in Iraq; there have already been many significant steps taken to reduce the U.S. forces’ footprint, and there are more to come.

500 - U.S. bases closed or transferred since 2007

16 - U.S. bases still to be handed over to Iraq

50,000 - anticipated troop level on Sept. 1

75,000 - troops who have left Iraq since January

70,000 - current number of troops in Iraq

20,000 - vehicles sent from Iraq to Afghanistan

1,200,000 - pieces of equipment removed from Iraq

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

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Okinawa is a volcano in which country?
- Madagascar is off which coast of Africa?
- The Chinese city of Beijing was previously known as what?
- The Channel Tunnel links England with which European country?
- Which South American canal joins the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans?
- Antiqua and Barbuda lie in which sea?

1. Japan 2. East 3. Peking 4. France 5. Panama Canal 6. Caribbean Sea

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

Saturday 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 August 4, 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
12:30 pm. Air Force Provider Chapel
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

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. Open Court Volleyball: Sunday 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 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. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday 8 p.m.	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. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. Boxing: Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 2 p.m. Saturday 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.,	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 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. Midnight 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.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday 8 p.m.	7 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m. Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m.
--	---	--	--	---	---	---



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 08/04/10

MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Detroit Tigers, Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Texas Rangers @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Baltimore Orioles, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Kansas City Royals @ Oakland Athletics, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Chicago Cubs, Live 9 p.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 08/05/10

MLB: San Diego Padres @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Washington Nationals @ Arizona Diamondbacks, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 7 p.m. AFN Sports

Friday 08/06/10

MLB: Cleveland Indians @ Boston Red Sox, Live 2 a.m. AFN Xtra
WNBA: Connecticut Sun @ Seattle Storm, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN Sports
POKER: WSOP 2010 Tournament of Champions, Delayed 1 p.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Cincinnati Reds @ Chicago Cubs, Live 9 p.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 08/07/10

MLB: Texas Rangers @ Oakland Athletics, Live 5 p.m. AFN Xtra
NASCAR: Zippo 200 @ The Glen, Live 9 p.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Boston Red Sox @ New York Yankees, Live 11 p.m. AFN Sports

Sunday 08/08/10

UFC: Silva vs Sonnen, Delayed 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: San Diego Padres @ Arizona Diamondbacks, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Texas Rangers @ Oakland Athletics, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Atlanta Braves, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN Xtra

Monday 08/09/10

MLB: Boston Red Sox @ New York Yankees, Live 3 a.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
UFC: Silva vs Sonnen 5 p.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Boston Red Sox @ New York Yankees, Live 9 p.m. AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Salt' is a fun way to get away from reality

BY SGT. EUNICE ALICEA VALENTIN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Angelina Jolie stars as Evelyn Salt, a CIA operative in the 2010 action thriller "Salt". Accused of being a Russian spy, Salt skillfully evades the Agency and brings down an assassination plot to kill the Russian and the U.S. President. Not to fret, this isn't the spoiler. "Salt" is sure to entertain if you are willing to go along for the ride.

As far as espionage and assassination plots go, Jolie brings oomph to the screen, turning a so-so screenplay into a sexy and exciting experience for the viewer. Even when action sequences become improbable, Evelyn Salt is believable and easy to relate to.

"Salt" was created by a cooperative of veteran action junkies. Screenwriter Kurt Wimmer's original screenplay is entertaining and provides various twists in the plot, although some are predictable. Director Phillip Noyce, who has previously worked with Jolie in "The Bone Collector" (1999), is also the director of blockbuster action films "Clear and Present Danger" (1994) and "Patriot Games" (1992). His direction of "Salt" may not result in the film winning awards, but Noyce brings the best out of his production crew and cast.

Visually, Robert Elswit, Oscar-winning cinematographer for "There Will be Blood" (2007), is a fantastic tour guide, revealing the Gotham-like character in cities like Washington and New York. Also, Stuart Baird, editor of "Salt" and films like "Duplicity" (2009) and "Casino Royale" (2006), incorporates his unique editing style,

mastering the challenge of structuring a story and keeping the audience engaged as the action continuously builds.

Which leaves the supporting cast: Orlov (Daniel Olbrychski) delivers as the calculative mastermind behind a Russian extremist group. As Salt ravages cities bringing down operatives, Peabody (Chiwetel Ejofor), the typical cynical agent, remains one step behind in his pursuit while Salt's partner Winter (Liev Schreiber), infatuated with his colleague, attempts to protect her. Both Ejofor and Schreiber perform well and attempt to bring more to the otherwise stock characters.

There are several motives behind Salt's actions- one in particular is the typical CIA agent meets boy; CIA agent falls in love with boy; organization is fearful of agent's commitment to the U.S.; insert violence and vengeance. "Salt" is a fun get away from reality. My verdict: B.

'Rebel Within' is an outlaw country masterpiece

BY CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



If there's one thing in this world that I love, it's outlaw country music. I'm not talking about Sugarland or Taylor Swift here; this is the wilder, dirtier side of country music, made popular in the '70s by artists like Waylon Jennings, David Allan Coe, and Willie Nelson. Even though outlaw country doesn't compete on the charts with the Carrie Underwoods of the world, some in Nashville are still running with the torch.

Hank Williams III is one of those artists. Known by fans as Hank 3, he's the grandson of Hank Williams, and the son of Hank Williams, Jr., so his musical pedigree is well-established. His latest release, "Rebel Within," is another solid addition to his catalog, and the best record to come out of Nashville since, well, his last album.

With song titles like "Gettin' Drunk and Fallin' Down," "Drinkin' Ain't Hard To Do," "Moonshiner's Life," and "Tore Up and Loud," you know you're not in for standard

country fare. These are songs about rough living, bad decisions, and broken lives. The third track, "Lookin' for a Mountain," is probably the closest thing to traditional country that Williams has recorded since his 1999 debut. With a sound bordering on bluegrass territory, if this was a perfect world (or if it was still 1974) this song would be a radio hit.

Through most of the album, Williams keeps the energy level high, but there are a few exceptions. The most notable down-tempo tune is "#5," a particularly harrowing look at addiction. A song about drug addiction may seem blasphemous to country purists, but no matter the subject, Williams shows an absolute mastery of country songwriting.

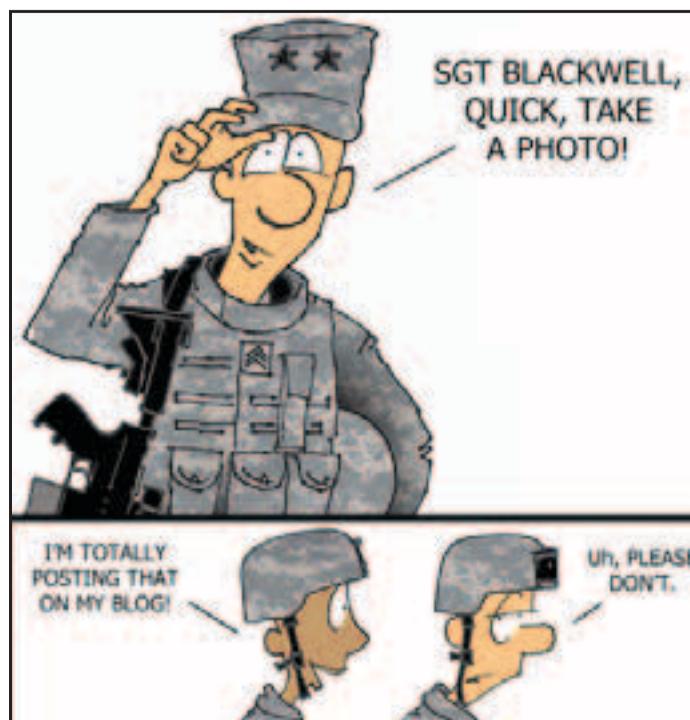
Drug and alcohol abuse has long been a theme in Williams' music. While "Rebel Within" does not stray away from these topics at all, the focus seems to have changed. The songs dealing with drugs and alcohol seem more like cautionary tales, not guidebooks on how to party like he does; you won't find any songs extolling the virtues of a drug-fueled rampage across America as

on past albums. Even "Tore Up and Loud" seems more an anthem of having fun with your friends than an ode to self-destruction.

Overall, this is a more mature effort from Hank 3. He seems to have toned down some of the more reckless ways, or at least stopped glorifying them so much. Gone with that is some of the self-mythologizing of previous records. He no longer reminds us in every song how much of an outlaw he is. Granted, one of the things I loved about his earlier albums was hearing how much he hated mainstream country music, but it did get a little stale. Maybe now he feels confident enough in his street cred to sing less about the 'who' and more about the 'why.'

If I made a list of my favorite releases of 2010, "Rebel Within" would be near the top. At its core, it's country music for people who love punk rock (or, depending on how you look at it, punk for people who love country). It's a country record through and through, but not one that fits into the confines of the mainstream Nashville scene. If you like country with a jagged edge to it, you'll love this. I give it 9/10.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Reel Movie Times

Wednesday August 04
5 p.m. Jonah Hex (PG-13)
8 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

Thursday August 05
5 p.m. Splice (R)
8 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

Friday August 06
5 p.m. Cats & Dogs (PG-13)
8 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)

Saturday August 07
2 p.m. Cats & Dogs (PG-13)
5 p.m. Killers (PG-13)
8 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)

Sunday August 08
2 p.m. Toy Story 3 (G)
5 p.m. Cats & Dogs (PG-13)
8 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)

Monday August 09
5 p.m. The A-Team (PG-13)
8 p.m. Splice (R)

Reel Movie Times



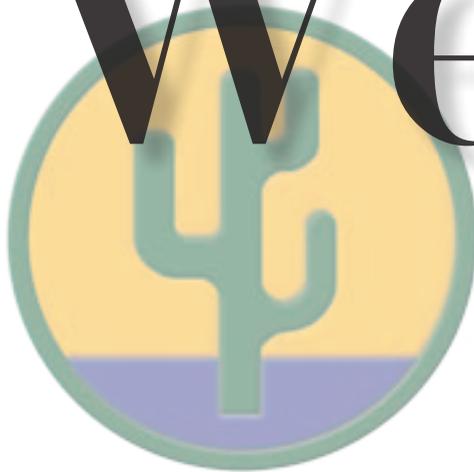
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jorge Anaya

ABOVE: Capt. Steve Wallace, executive officer, 40th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, looks at the Ziggurat, the 2100 B.C. historical site, June 30 near the residence of the prophet Abraham at Tallil, Iraq.

RIGHT: Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, command sergeant major of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cresco, Iowa, native, places a combat patch on Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC, and a Maryville, Mo., native, during a patching ceremony July 26 at 103rd ESC headquarters on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Combat patches are an Army tradition dating back to World War II.



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Rich Barkmeyer

We

Succeeded