



The Expeditionary Times

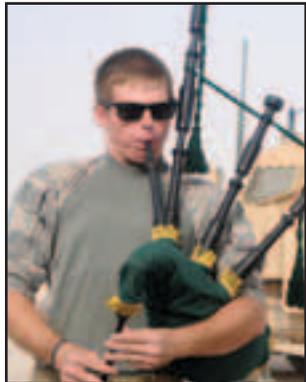
Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 4 Issue 15

August 25, 2010

www.armyreserve.army.mil/103rdESC

Bagpipes



Soldier motivates with unique music

Page 4

Painting



Officers give back to community

Page 5

Training



Troops learn about new vehicle

Page 11



(From left) Lt. Gen. Rashid Flayah, commander of the 17th Infantry Brigade, Iraqi Army, and Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a Chicago, Ill., native, shake hands after officially transferring authority of a newly constructed IA compound to the Government of Iraq at the compound's grand opening on Aug. 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony is first step

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—The 17th Brigade of the Iraqi Army hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 16 for the newly constructed IA compound on Joint Base Balad, commemorating the first official step in the return of the al Bakr Air Base to the control of the Government of Iraq.

Al Bakr Air Base, as JBB was formerly addressed, was first named after Ahmed Hassan al Bakr, the president of Iraq from 1968 to 1979, and it was widely considered to be the most important airfield of the Iraqi Air Force. Currently, JBB is one of the largest U.S. military bases in Iraq, and serves as the central logistical hub for forces in Iraq. It is also one of the busiest air bases in the world operated by the U.S. Department of

Defense.

The ribbon-cutting event celebrated the IA moving back onto JBB, marking the first step in what will eventually be a full base-transfer from U.S. to Iraqi control by Dec. 31, 2011, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a Chicago, Ill., native.

"Today's ceremony marks a truly historic moment," said Franklin. "The Iraqi Security Forces have proven to the world to be capable of protecting the Iraqi people. (The ceremony) is a symbol of our enduring friendship."

Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Rashid Flayah, commander of the Samarra Operations Center (SOC), also spoke at the event.

"The Iraqi people are pleased to receive lands from the American Army," said Flayah. "We have proven to the people that we are against terrorism...This is a happy day for us and the Security Forces."

The opening of the IA compound on JBB is

part of the larger effort to support the Iraqi people, and represents an important step in establishing a stable, sovereign and self-reliant Iraq. Approximately 400 bases have been closed or turned over to the Government of Iraq since January 2008. While the transfer-of-authority of the compound is only one facet of the responsible drawdown of forces and equipment from Iraq, it is a significant milestone that helps prove that the U.S. Forces can expect to meet the current drawdown deadline.

"(The ceremony) is important because it is a significant indication of where we are in the entire drawdown process," said Ben Fluhart, the team leader of the Provincial Reconstruction Team on JBB, and an Annapolis, Md., native.

"As a representative of the government, I am extremely pleased we're seeing the Iraqi Army move onto this base," said Fluhart. "It took a lot of hard work to get to this point."

Coordination for the ribbon-cutting ceremony

CEREMONY cont. page 12



These machinists are able to get things so finely tuned that nothing looks like it was thrown together

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

Strength, courage, faith go hand-in-hand

MAJ. SE WOO PARK
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE CHAPLAIN



There is a proverb that states, "Consider peaceful times during difficult times, and consider difficult times during peaceful times."

This proverb came from our ancestors' experience through war and peaceful times.

My father-in-law, Jong Ki Kim, who is 85 years old and lives in Seattle, Wash., was forced to join the Japanese Army in 1945 during WWII in Korea. He finished Basic Training in Osan, and was transferred to Yongsan Train Station in Seoul. He was waiting for deployment to go to Middle Asia. During this time, to deploy to Middle Asia while Japan was fighting against America meant death. Nationally, in Middle Asia, this story was personally shameful and awful.

While waiting for deployment at the train station for three days, Jong Ki Kim heard the news that the Japanese yielded to American Forces after they dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombs saved him, Korean civilians, and American Soldiers. It also saved Japanese civilians and their soldiers too. He remembers how horrible his life was under the persecution from Japanese soldiers until the end of WWII, surviving the worst circumstances with his endurance and Japanese-style Samurai mentality. He overcame many life-or-death crises during the Korean War as well. This is just one case out of many. Most of my ancestors have passed away; my father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother survived with endurance and faith through WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. While staying in Iraq as a Soldier, I think often that this is life: to overcome these difficulties and, if not, death may be waiting for us if we fail it.

James B. Stockdale was one of the highly respected Vice Admirals in the history of the United States Navy. He set a remarkable example and won many awards for his high levels of spirit, courage and endurance. He was a prisoner

of war from Sept. 9, 1965, to Feb. 12, 1973, in Vietnam. He said that his stoic nature helped him to survive as a prisoner of war.

Jim Collins included Stockdale's philosophy as the Stockdale Paradox in his renowned book, "Good to Great": confronting the brutal fact of the situation, yet at the same time, never giving up hope.

When interviewed by Jim Collins about the Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp, Stockdale said, "I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade."

And when asked about who didn't make it out, Stockdale replied, "Oh, that's easy, the optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart."

Stockdale then added, "This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."

Shiono Nanami, the author of the book, "Ancient Rome," said, "People like to look at what they want to, and hear what they want to."

Nanami mentions that as one of our weaknesses. But in times of difficulty, a few of them may reveal their faith and discipline to others.

After Moses' death, the young soldier Joshua became timid and worried about the future in front of the enemy. God told Joshua three times, "Be Strong and Very Courageous!" We can be strong and courageous when we do not discard our faith and discipline.



LEARN THE DRAWDOWN

The 840th Transportation Battalion is hosting Integrated Booking System/Container Management Module training from 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.

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 Operations NCO
Sgt 1st Class J.D. Phippen
jerald.phippen@iraq.centcom.mil

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

103rd ESC Staff Writers
Sgt. Jessica Rohr
jessica.rohr@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Adrian Muehe
adrian.muehe@iraq.centcom.mil

Pvt. Zachary Zuber
zachary.zuber@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

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

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

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: Counseling improves communication

MASTER SGT. ARNETT COOPER
103RD ESC INSPECTOR GENERAL



Counseling is one of the most important leadership development responsibilities for Army leaders.

The primary purpose of counseling is to improve performance and to professionally develop the rated Soldier. A quality counseling session does not dwell solely on the past; it focuses on the future and what can be done better. It is the responsibility of leaders and Soldiers to work together to ensure goals are set and understood, observations are shared, credit for successes are documented, and recommendations for improvement are acknowledged. Remember, the overall quality and usefulness of counseling is a shared responsibility between the rater and the rated Soldier.

Leaders should transition their counseling efforts to comply with the Army standards. Let's take a minute to explore the Army's counseling standards and eliminate potential confusion. The current Army standards for counseling are outlined in Army Regulation 623-3, DA Pamphlet 623-3 (Appendix C), and Field Manual 6-22 (Appendix B).

The following are the time frames for each type of

required counseling:

Initial counseling:

1. All officers – within 30 days (DA Form 67-9-1)
2. Officers in the rank of WO1, CW2, LT, or CPT – within 30 days (DA Form 67-9-1a, in addition to DA Form 67-9-1 listed above)
3. Noncommissioned officers (including CPL if rated as an NCO) – within 30 days (DA Form 2166-8-1)
4. Enlisted Soldiers in the rank of PVT through SPC (including CPL if not rated as an NCO) – within 30 days (DA Form 4856)

Follow-up counseling:

1. All officers – mid-point and as needed (DA Form 67-9-1)
2. Officers in the rank of WO1, CW2, LT, and CPT – quarterly (DA Form 67-9-1a)
3. Noncommissioned officers (including CPL if rated as an NCO) – quarterly for Active Army and AGR NCOs and at least semiannually for ARNG and USAR NCOs performing IDT
4. Enlisted Soldiers in the rank of PVT thru SPC (including CPL if not rated as an NCO) – monthly and as needed

The Personal Policy Guidance (PPG) states that conti-

mental U.S.-based and deployed commanders/officers-in-charge are responsible for establishing and documenting rating schemes, ensuring that Soldiers are properly counseled, and ensuring evaluation reports are completed in accordance with AR 623-3 and DA PAM 623-3, Evaluation Reporting System, for all RC Soldier prior to redeployment or release from the CRC.

The Inspector General's Office handles numerous complaints every day. In many cases, the root cause is a lack of communication. Two-way communication is the key to success. Leaders must strive to provide predictability to their Soldiers and families through the communication process. Effective communication between leaders and subordinates enhances predictability, eliminates confusion, and reduces problems created by a lack of understanding.

Leaders must focus their counseling efforts towards establishing open and maintainable lines of communication. Soldiers cannot perform to standard if they don't know the standard. Remember, quality counseling enables leaders to set their Soldiers up for success and access their full potential.

For more information on effective counseling and communication engage your chain of command, or your local Inspector General. As always, we're here to help.

Combat Stress: Resolve conflict in a productive manner

MAJ. LORIE L. FIKE
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



When you first meet a person, sometimes there is an immediate connection. You relate to the same things, and it is easy to communicate with each other.

On the other hand, we also encounter individuals we do not immediately connect with, and it may be difficult to be around them. The difficulty is magnified if you have to work with these individuals on a daily basis, and conflict often arises.

Workplace conflict is a common complaint heard by the Combat Stress Control and many individuals do not know how or do not choose to use productive methods to resolve the conflict. In this article we will discuss the definition of conflict, two types of conflict, and steps to resolve conflict in a productive, not destructive, manner.

Merriam-Webster defines conflict as a mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands. Typically, in a conflict, the parties involved perceive a threat to their needs or interests. A conflict can be either interpersonal or intrapersonal. Interpersonal conflict is conflict that exists between individuals or groups, whereas intrapersonal conflict is

conflict within one's self.

At some point in our lives we are all faced with conflict, and it is important to learn how to resolve conflict in a productive manner. Unresolved conflict or poor conflict resolution can lead to avoidance, apathy, poor performance, increased stress, poor communication, cynicism, distrust and hostility. In contrast, effects of good conflict resolution can lead to increased morale, psychological maturity, increased self-acceptance, increased personal development, increased productivity, improved solutions, problem awareness, and increased knowledge and creativity.

Conflict resolution should be a voluntary and collaborative process between the conflicting parties. During the resolution process, each side should feel empowered to speak his or her mind, feel listened to, and feel that they are a critical part of the solution.

Today, we will look at a 4-step systematic approach to resolving conflict. First, one must diagnose the problem and clarify the situation. Ask yourself a few questions. Is the situation worth resolving? What outcome do I want from the situation? What outcome does the other party want from the situation? Secondly, one must plan and prepare. Gather information and distinguish between facts and assumptions. Plan a time and place that the issues can be discussed and consider inviting a third party mediator to help resolve the

issue.

Step three involves negotiation. Both parties must clarify their interests and disclose concerns to the other party. Each party must keep an open mind and be willing to accept an alternative view that allows needed action to be taken. The group must generate solutions and begin to bargain. The group must decide on the best solution for all involved.

Lastly, step four involves implementing the solution. Make a written agreement and ensure that the agreement is honored. Failure to honor an agreement will result in loss of credibility and trust. Create stipulations in case one is unable follow through and re-evaluate the situation at a pre-specified time to ensure the conflict was resolved. Most importantly, learn from the conflict. Learn what aspects were handled gracefully and which ones were not, so that changes can be made next time.

It is highly unlikely that we will all make it through this deployment without conflict. Conflict is very difficult and it can be taxing on our resources. However, conflict can be handled professionally by using the four-step approach discussed. It is important to note that, just because you have conflict with someone, it does not mean that you cannot do your job well. It means that you may need to learn conflict resolution techniques that help you maintain your control and your professionalism.

60th Ord. Co. redeploys early

STORY BY
CAPT. DAVID HANKINS
60TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— It was a day of mixed feelings for Soldiers with the 60th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), as they sent home a platoon of their Soldiers on July 28 from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The 60th Ord. Co. is currently the only unit providing Class V (ammunition) support in Iraq. The attitudes of the Soldiers going home ranged from ecstatic to disappointed.

"I'm excited to be going home," said 1st Lt. Paul Bobich, a platoon leader with the 60th Ord. Co., and a Ramsey, Mich., native. "All I can think about is holding my baby girl."

Some Soldiers were not quite ready to leave.

"I wish we could stay," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Graham, a platoon sergeant with the 60th Ord. Co., and a Colorado Springs, Colo., native. "There's still work to do and a mission to complete."

The early redeployment of some of their Soldiers is indicative of the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment from Iraq.

"I'm glad we can send some Soldiers home early to spend time with their families," said Capt. David Hankins, the commander of the 60th Ord. Co., and a Bozeman, Mont., native. "For the remainder of the unit, we are now living the motto 'Do more with less.' As the retrograde goes into full swing, we'll be working harder than ever, but it will make the time go faster."



Interested in Building Plastic Scale Models?

MWR – East
Tuesday Nights at 1900



The International Plastic Model Society (IPMS), in conjunction with the Baghdad Hobby Club, has established the Iraq Model Network. If you would like to build plastic scale models (armor, ships, aircraft, automobiles, etc.) to help pass the time, come join the Joint Base Balad Model Club on Tuesday nights at 1900 at MWR-East. All materials are donated from clubs across the USA.

For questions or info contact CW4 Chris Baker
christopher.d.baker1@iraq.centcom.mil






Two leaders help troops achieve fitness goals

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. STACEY JELKS
15TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— “You’ve got this, keep pushing harder, don’t stop now,” says Staff Sgt. Kevin Green, the headquarters platoon sergeant with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to motivate his platoon of Soldiers.

Two noncommissioned officers with the 15th TC motivate their Soldiers while conducting physical training in the House of Pain Gym at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Green, a Stuttgart, Ark., native, along with Sgt. Mitchell Pearson, a training noncommissioned officer with the 15th TC, and a Woodruff, S.C., native, are often referred to as the unit’s “fitness gurus.”

Green dedicates several hours of his spare time each week advising and working with Soldiers who want to improve their level of fitness.

“During this deployment, several Soldiers have come to me with their fitness goals. They figure, while deployed, their families are not with them, why not dedicate the time to doing something for themselves?” said Green. “Aside from getting in better shape, the reaction from their co-workers and loved ones makes all of the hard work worth it.”

During his last deployment to Taji, Iraq, in 2007, Green was in charge of conducting physical training with Soldiers who had problems passing the Army Physical Fitness Test, or who did not meet the Army’s body fat standards. When he initially started working with them, he had 27 Soldiers on his program, and within three months, he only had eight Soldiers remaining. At the end of the deployment every Soldier in the unit had met their fitness goals and body fat standards.

Pearson worked alongside Green during the unit’s last deployment. When Green is asked why Pearson helps assist him in helping Soldiers meet their fitness goals, he said that he enjoys helping others achieve their own personal goals, and by maintaining one’s physical



Staff Sgt. Kevin Green, the headquarters platoon sergeant with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Stuttgart, Ark., native, assists 1st Sgt. Gussie Bellinger, the senior noncommissioned officer with the 15th TC, and a Charlotte, N.C., native, with the bench press in the House of Pain Gym at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

fitness, it increases his or her mental toughness.

These two Soldiers’ dedication to fitness and helping their fellow Soldiers achieve the standard has not only benefited themselves, but the entire unit as well.

Infantry Soldier motivates unit with music

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— The convoy staging area at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, is saturated with a variety of sounds: mine resistant ambush protected vehicles idling, their heavy doors slamming and locking, Soldiers checking their weapons’ functions, and occasionally, Scottish folk tunes played on bagpipes. While this sound may seem out of place in a convoy staging area, it is a regular occurrence for the Soldiers with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Before climbing into their MRAPs, they gather around to share a prayer and scripture reading, and then Spc. Thomas McConnell, a driver with C Co., and a Salem, Va., native, pulls his bagpipes from their case and plays a few tunes for his comrades, who listen intently and clap when he is finished.

McConnell first began serenading the Soldiers when he brought his pipes with him to the unit’s pre-deployment training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

“He would play every morning,” said Sgt. Samuel Anthony, a medic with C Co., and a Richmond, Va., native. Soon, the Soldiers grew accustomed to the sound of McConnell’s bagpipes.

“We thought (the bagpipes) were cool so we made him bring them (to Iraq),” said Spc. Andrew Victory, a gunner with C Co., and a Blacksford, Va., native.

McConnell carried on the tradition by playing for the group before each of their missions outside the base.

“We’ve had around 17 missions and I’ve played for just about all of them,” McCon-



Spc. Thomas McConnell, a driver with C Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Salem, Va., native, plays his bagpipes before a mission on July 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. McConnell plays various folk tunes before each mission to promote the Soldiers’ motivation and morale.

nell said. “People requested it, so I did.”

McConnell’s performances, along with the shared prayer, have progressed to serve as ways to build motivation and morale before the Soldiers conduct their missions.

“It pumps up the guys, and maybe it’s good luck,” said McConnell. “Pipes used to be used as an instrument of war, so I carry on the tradition by playing before going out to the fight.”

He said he plays a few traditional tunes

regularly, including “Scotland the Brave,” “Shenandoah,” “A Nation Once Again,” “Brian the Brave,” and “Minstrel Boy.”

“It’s a motivational tradition,” said Anthony. “No matter where we go, he pops out and plays different pieces.”

McConnell has been playing the bagpipes for five years, and he had them sent to him from home after the unit’s mobilization training so he could continue playing during his deployment, he said. When he is at home,

McConnell plays as a member of the Virginia Military Instrumental Pipe Band.

“One day I decided to pick up a musical instrument, and I decided on bagpipes,” McConnell said. “I thought they were unique.”

Whether by prayer or by listening to McConnell play a traditional Scottish folk song, the Soldiers of C Co. can count on never leaving on missions without high spirits and a catchy tune in their heads.



TOP: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Spencer Douglas, the communications and electronics chief with the 498th Support Maintenance Company, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Raleigh, N.C., native, goes back over hard-to-reach areas of the t-walls with a paint brush as he helps beautify the United Service Organizations building with his peers from the Warrant Officers Association on Aug. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

BOTTOM: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Spencer Douglas (far left), the communications and electronics chief with the 498th Support Maintenance Company, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Raleigh, N.C., native; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Starla A. Brown (middle), the human resources technician with the 18th Adjutant General Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC, and a St. Maries, Idaho native; and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darlene A. Pittman (bottom), executive officer for G1 Plans with the 103rd ESC, and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, help beautify the United Service Organizations building by painting t-walls on Aug. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Spencer Douglas, the communications and electronics chief with the 498th Support Maintenance Company, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Raleigh, N.C., native, fills a paint tray as he helps beautify the United Service Organizations building with peers from the Warrant Officers Association on Aug. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Warrant officers give back to community

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JESSICA ROHR
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Members of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, joined with Soldiers and Airmen and volunteered to beautify the United Service Organization's building with a fresh coat of paint on Aug. 17.

"We are always looking for opportunities to volunteer our time and efforts toward worthy causes like this one, making it a better environment for Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors that come and utilize the facility," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Salvatore, a senior instructor pilot with Company F, 52nd Aviation, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation

Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, a U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association chapter president, and a Glenwood Springs, Colo., native.

As Soldiers and Airmen tackled the halls inside, the chief warrant officers painted the t-walls in the USO's outdoor area a light blue to resemble water.

Volunteering within the community is one of the association's many objectives.

"Volunteering is one of the things we are tasked with, but it's also pretty much in every warrant's unwritten creed, to add value without doing harm," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anthony Brace, the command chief warrant officer and the senior maintenance technician with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a River Falls, Wis., native. "This is a way that we can add value to the community and we certainly aren't doing any harm. The community

gives a lot to us, and the community actually expects a lot out of the warrant core.

"With the exception of the aviation warrants, we all come from the (noncommissioned officer) core. With that, we have a real heart for (Soldiers). The vast majority of the USO users are the enlisted, especially the lower enlisted. They don't necessarily have the financial means to do all that we can do, so the USO is helping them do all that... (We) can do a little bit to help the USO, to help them."

Overall, the association was formed in November 1974 as a nonprofit association in Virginia. The association helps foster a spirit of patriotism and devotion to duty among members, commensurate with the high ideals of the Army and their positions therein. They also disseminate professional information among warrant officers, promote the technical and social welfare of

their members, and promote a spirit of true camaraderie among members, according to the USAWOA web site.

"The Warrant Officers Association provides a place for warrant officers of all levels to come together to find mentors and exchange information and experiences," said Salvatore.

Many military and civilian service organizations are primarily staffed by volunteers.

"It is important for the association to volunteer their time to help out the community as a whole," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darlene Pittman, the executive officer of G1 Plans with the 103rd ESC, and a Des Moines, Iowa, native.

"JBB needs lots of volunteers all over," she said. "This is just a little piece of what is out here to be done for the area to make it beautiful, to make it where you can come and enjoy yourself and relax."

Sabers settle in at JBB, prepare to leave a mark

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. SAMUEL MALONE
289TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— On July 22, Joint Base Balad was invaded by a new breed of Soldiers out of Fort Hood, Texas, known as the “Super Sabers.”

The 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is led by Capt. Anjeanette Lawson, a Charleston, S.C., native, and 1st Sgt. Robert Rivas, a Belleglade, Fla., native.

The Sabers took over for the 716th QM Co. The official transfer-of-authority took place July 22 in Sustainer Theater at JBB. The Sabers will assume responsibility for important missions in northern and central Iraq, including the amnesty yard and the Container Repair Yard (CRY).

The amnesty yard is a fairly new concept that helps with excess non-accountable equipment, and has helped the U.S. government save millions of dollars. The yard accepts everything from almost every class of supply, including scrap metal and wood. Once received, a team of Sabers sorts, segregates, classifies and retrogrades these items, then disperses them to various sites.

“These Soldiers are the hardest working troops on Balad; they are paving the road for America’s exit strategy,” said 1st Lt. Kyle Sissom, the amnesty yard officer-in-charge

with the 289th QM Co., and a Maiden, Kansas, native.

The Sabers have also taken over the CRY, which employs approximately 470 local nationals. Each month the CRY pushes out 2,000 containers and puts them back into the Army system. The Sabers inspect each container and mark what needs to be fixed to put the container back in the system. It’s then up to the workers to fix the issues noted by the Soldiers. When they are complete, a different set of Soldiers from the 289th QM Co., conducts a final inspection to ensure that the container was properly fixed.

“The Soldiers really do enjoy working in this yard,” said Staff Sgt. Shredni Edwards, the CRY noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 289th QM Co., and a Shreveport, La., native. “They like the fact that they are making a difference for the future of Iraq.”

The Sabers also have their paws on the Corps Distribution Center, which manages 92 acres of property, including the Supply Support Activity and Movement Control Team. The CDC tracks and assists in resolving work orders for property improvement, issues access passes, and tracks quality reports while overseeing Kellogg, Brown and Root, Inc., operations. The CDC also works closely with onsite security and KBR safety personnel.

The JBB Multi-Class Supply Support Activity currently supports more than 850 customers on JBB and the outlying forward operating bases. The SSA supports Forward Issue Turn-In Points for three different FOBs. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lauren Williams, a Des Moines, Iowa, native, assumed the role



Spc. Jimmy Gallegos, a Soldier with the 289th Quartermaster Company, and a Juarez, Mexico, native, works hand-in-hand with a local national to prepare a heavy tire to be loaded and taken out of the amnesty yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 289th QM Co. took over the mission from the 716th QM Co. on July 22.

of the accountable officer for this task, which includes overseeing more than 200 contractors and civilian workers.

“The JBB Multi-Class SSA currently stores 11,500 lines of authorized stock, worth \$65.8 million,” she said. “It’s a mighty job, but a Saber can handle it.”

The SSA provides support for CL II (tools, administrative, etc.), III (P) (packaged petroleum), IV (construction items), and IX (A/G) (maintenance repair parts for Air and

Ground vehicles). The Sabers oversee more than 120 working personnel at the SSA, consisting of nearly 30 KBR contractors, 80 sub-contract workers, and more than half of a dozen Iraqi citizens.

Over the next 12 months while Soldiers are sitting in the dining facilities, walking into the Post Exchange, or heading to the gym, they’re going to hear the phrase “Saber Support,” as the 289th QM Co. continues to make their presence known throughout JBB.

Unit redeploys early as part of responsible drawdown

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), cased their colors on Aug. 17 at Hope Chapel at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, during an end-of-mission ceremony.

More than 1,100 Iron Star Soldiers who fell under the 373rd CSSB will redeploy without replacement, keeping up with the U.S. Forces’ plan for a responsible drawdown of forces and equipment in Iraq, and transitioning to Operation New Dawn, by Sept. 1.

“The significance of the 373rd’s end-of-mission is really a great indication of the success of the responsible reduction of forces,” said Col. Shawn Morrissey, commander of the 3rd Sust. Bde., and a Boston, Mass., native. “As we know, there’s a presidential directive of being down to 50,000 Soldiers by Sept. 1; the 373rd is part of that. This means that more of the Iraqi Security Forces will be taking over the mission in Baghdad.”

The reserve battalion, out of Beaumont, Texas, had units assigned to them from all across the United States, including Fort Eustis, Va., Fort Riley, Kan., Mississippi, Florida, Iowa, and Alabama, just to name a few. All have been “vital lynchpins” in the drawdown of troops and equipment over the past five months, said Lt. Col. Giulia Giacoppe, the commander of the 373rd CSSB, and a Sugarland, Texas, native.

“We’ve had a pretty broad range of geographic regions that have blended together to make this mission a success,” said Giacoppe. “They did incredible work. I couldn’t be

more proud of them.”

Giacoppe wasn’t the only one proud of the hard work and dedication the 373rd CSSB has shown during their tour.

“We managed to build and maintain a team of more than 1,100 Soldiers, and that’s no small feat,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Montgomery, the 373rd CSSB command sergeant major, and a Houston, Texas, native. “They have done a lot of hard work and accomplished what they set out to do.”

The 373rd CSSB will be handing their missions off to ISF and the 3rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, and will head home to their families and friends more than six months earlier than originally intended.

“We were all a little bit disappointed,” said Giacoppe. “With a reserve unit, you go through a lot of preparation at home to get ready for a deployment: notifying employers, training and all of the coordination to get ready. Once you get here, you want to see it through. On one hand, it’s tough, but in the same token, it’s great to get home and see our families.”

“On one hand, it’s tough, but in the same token, it’s great to get home and see our families.”

—Lt. Col. Giulia Giacoppe



Lt. Col. Giulia Giacoppe, commander of the 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Sugarland, Texas, native, cases her unit’s colors with Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Montgomery, command sergeant major of the 373rd CSSB, and a Houston, Texas, native, Aug. 17 during their end of mission ceremony at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

Infantry unit completes mission, sets standard

STORY BY
1ST LT. PATRICK WILSON
1-116TH INFANTRY BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— A sandy, windswept parking lot makes an unlikely backdrop for military pageantry, but the Soldiers and leadership with 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), did their best to uphold the finest traditions of the Army at their end-of-mission and colors-casing ceremony held on Aug. 8 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The ceremony marked the end of Task Force Overlord's formal mission in Iraq.

Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sust. Bde. and a Long Beach, Calif., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Dunlap-Jones, command sergeant major of the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Sacramento, Calif., native, both attended the ceremony. Costanza was presented with a TF Overlord guidon embroidered with a tribute to the 224th Sust. Bde.

"Col Costanza and the entire 224th Sustainment Brigade have given us

outstanding support during their time here in Iraq," said Lt. Col. E. Scott Smith, the TF Overlord commander, and a Lynchburg, Va., native. "We were lucky to get their help at a critical time in this mission shortly after we found out we would be curtailed as a part of the responsible drawdown of U.S. Forces," said he said.

In addition to recognizing "heroes" of the deployment, Costanza praised the battalion for their outstanding safety and combat record. 1-116th Inf. has been in Iraq since March 2010. In that time, TF Overlord completed more than 278 convoy escort missions and logged more than 172,000 miles. Convoy escort teams (CETs) traveled to Joint Base Balad, Camp Taji, Victory Base Complex, Kalsu, Scania and other points throughout Iraq. The battalion experienced zero vehicle roll-overs, zero negligent discharges, and zero casualties or serious injuries while conducting combat operations.

"We had one of the highest utilization rates in theater and we kept our CETs out on the road every day, despite the challenge of not having our own organic mechanics or motor pool section," said Maj. Christopher Samulski, a battalion operations officer with the 1-116th Inf., and a Knoxville, Tenn., native.



U.S. Army photo by SPC Joshua Woodring

1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), conducts an end-of-mission ceremony and cases their unit colors on Aug. 8 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

"In a way, we did what every Guard unit [does]; we took advantage of the fact that many of our riflemen have civilian training as mechanics" said Samulski. "Despite the fact that none of them had ever worked on a (mine resistant ambush protected vehicle) before, we ended up with a 90% operational readiness rate during our time here. This is an amazing accomplishment..."

During the ceremony, the battalion leadership hung the Army Superior Unit Award,

given for their service in the Serbian province of Kosovo in 2007.

"We were notified that the unit had earned the award just prior to our mobilization," said Major Michael Peterson, executive officer of the 1-116th Inf., and a Burke, Va., native. "Since we have quite a few Kosovo veterans on this deployment, we wanted to present the streamer during this formation. As one of the soldiers who served in Kosovo, I think it was appropriate that we do so."

End-of-mission ceremony is rewarding, bittersweet

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. ADRIAN MUEHE
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers with the 210th Regional Support Group, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), received their end-of-tour awards during an end-of-mission awards ceremony on Aug. 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The 210th RSG is an Army Reserve unit out of Puerto Rico that usually falls under the 1st Mission Support Command, but deployed to Iraq to augment the 13th ESC.

"We were cross-leveled to fill critical positions vacant within the 13th ESC," said Lt. Col. Jose Cruz, commander of the 210th RSG, and a San German, Puerto Rico, native. "We filled various positions for (support operations), logistics, supply, technical support and all the other sections that needed personnel."

For this deployment, the 210th RSG brought Soldiers from two different brigades, the 90th Sustainment Brigade, and the 96th SB. After the 13th ESC redeployed, the 210th RSG held their positions with the incoming unit, the 103rd ESC.

Presenting their awards was Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC, and a Maryville, Mo., native. He presented three different awards to the Soldiers of the departing unit: the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

"Today is something of a bittersweet day," said Corson while addressing the troops after they received their awards. "For some people, it's a really good day, a day where you end one mission, and continue on with the next mission."

The Soldiers perform various jobs within the Army and were deployed to different places throughout Iraq. Each one had a story to tell.

"I had a unique experience because I've been through three different units since I got here," said Sgt. Jared Sanscrainte, a chaplain's assistant with the 210th RSG, and a Boynton Beach, Fla., native. "I've been here since July of last year and got cross-leveled to the 13th ESC. When the 103rd ESC



Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pins an Army Commendation Medal on a Soldier with the 210th Regional Support Group, 103rd ESC, on Aug. 10 during an award ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

came here, I started working for them.

"It's been a wonderful experience because at no point was anything the same, even though I was a chaplains assistant, they had to me doing different jobs at all the four places I've been. I got to learn a lot and I've only been in the army for two years."

Instead of the traditional transfer-of-authority ceremony that most units have before their departure from theater, this end-of-mission awards ceremony was their farewell from Iraq.

"We didn't have a TOA because there isn't a unit to replace us because of the drawdown," said Cruz.



“These machinists are on a different level of work.”

-Spc. Charles Patrick

The

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. ADRIAN MUEHE
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— In company buildings and brigade headquarters throughout Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, there are intricate metal plaques and guidon posts that are found only here.



The metal creations are custom-made by the Allied Trades and Services shop run by the “Outlaws from Hell,” Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“We do everything and anything with metal,” said Spc. Charles Patrick, a welder with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Covington, La., native. “From desk plaques and stilts for people’s beds to bigger, mission essential projects.”

Their shop is located at the back of their company headquarters, and is a vast warehouse full of work benches, machinery and tools needed to work metal in every way possible. In the middle of their shop is a space large enough to move in a tactical vehicle for work, if needed. Constant noise fills the air, from saws and welding equipment with the faint hum of rock music playing in the background. With so many projects going on, there is never a quiet moment, said Patrick.

“We have a lot of work orders come in from people wanting stuff made for them,” said Patrick. “We fit these in between the bigger, more mission essential projects we get in from units.”

One of these bigger projects was to build the framing for a solar shade so that Soldiers could find an escape from the brutal sun that

Pfc. Daniel Garnett, a welder with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Moberly, Mo., native, welds the edges of a side panel on a pickup truck on Aug. 17 in his unit’s shop at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

OUTLAW

...make the sparks fly



LEFT: Spc. Justin Fritter, an allied trades specialist with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), observes as a machine cuts a hole through a metal cylinder to be used in a future project, on Aug. 17 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

RIGHT: Spc. Charles Patrick, a welder with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Covington, La., native, grinds off the rough edges on a recently constructed sidebar for a pickup truck on Aug. 17 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

shines down upon southern Iraq, said Patrick.

A lot of these skills that are displayed come from civilian experience. Most of them held jobs in construction and welding prior to joining the Army.

"We have more than just welders working here; we have mechanics and machinists here too," said Patrick. "These machinists are on a different level of work. They are able to break things down with their machines and fine tools and are able to get things so finely tuned that nothing is roughly cut or looks like it was just thrown together."

While the role of U.S. Forces in Iraq has continually changed throughout the time they have been deployed here, so has the role of the metal shops, said Staff Sgt. William Frazer, an allied trades specialist with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a New York City, N.Y., native.

"I was working as a Soldier in a shop in 2005," said Frazer. "Back then, most of our work was up-arming civilian vehicles, up-arming military vehicles, making bumpers for (High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles), and making weapons parts for the

Iraqis.

"The main focus of these shops has changed from up-arming vehicles to having people request different jobs from us, such as making plaques. We work in a more relaxed environment and have the time to do these things for people."

The most common job they have requested is the fabrication of various tools, said Frazer.

"If someone has a job to do and they don't have the tools to get it done we will make one for them," said Frazer. "These range from giant spanner wrenches to front sight-post adjustment tools for weapons.

As thousands of Soldiers leave Iraq, the first twinge of light of Operation New Dawn is visible over the horizon of the vast Iraqi desert. While the mission in Iraq is changing, these Soldiers will keep working their metal magic to help sustain the remaining force in the final days of U.S. operations in Iraq.

'If someone has a job to do and they don't have the tools to get it done, we will make one for them.'

-Staff Sgt. William Frazer

Two Soldiers use battle-buddy system for life

STORY AND BY
CAPT. JAMES MENDOZA
224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— For service members in Iraq, using the buddy system is one of the most important techniques for survival. No matter the Soldier's skill-set, experience or rank, the buddy system is essential for mission success. Although the drawdown of forces is progressing, Iraq is still a dangerous place. Soldiers rely on one another to stay focused, motivated and reach peak performance.

Spc. Nadine Morales, a unit supply specialist, and Spc. Melissa Estrada, a personnel and administration clerk, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and both Long Beach, Calif., natives, are living proof the buddy system works. Both have five years of service in the California National Guard. They became close friends after serving on a two-week, overseas deployment training mission in Korea. Thereafter, they spent time together shopping, going to Los Angeles Lakers games and sharing fun times at family parties.

When the 224th Sust. Bde. started ramping up for deployment, Morales and Estrada were ready to volunteer for the mission: their first time to the Middle East. Estrada was offered a position first. Soon



Courtesy photo

Spc. Nadine Morales, a unit supply specialist, and Spc. Melissa Estrada, a personnel and administration clerk, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Long Beach, Calif., natives, pause to take a photo in April 2010 during their mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas.

after, she recommended Morales for a position on the battle roster, who was preparing to return from a long-term mission in Kosovo.

Hardships and challenges are expected throughout deployments. These hardships can turn Soldiers' lives upside down. Estrada and Morales know when to give each other

the space they need.

Nevertheless, they were quick to support one another upon the death of Morales' mother in September 2009, and Estrada's grandmother in May 2010, during mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas. Experiencing the complexities of the grieving

process together served to strengthen their relationship as friends and as battle-buddies.

Morales and Estrada continue to push each other in fitness, finance and friendship. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the two Soldiers will apply the-buddy system for years to come.

Commander gains respect with experience, personality

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. TREY WHITE
108TH CAVALRY SQUADRON

Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq— At first glance, the commander of Charlie Troop, 2nd Battalion, 108th Cavalry Squadron, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), does not look very imposing. But behind his 6-foot, 3-inch, 203-pound exterior lurks the epitome of what a leader is in today's Army.

Armed with a quick wit and more than 18 years of military service, Maj. Jeremy Cook, a Lake Charles, La., native, is a perfect fit to lead the Soldiers of Cold Steel.

Cook originally enlisted into the military in 1992, and after achieving the rank of private first class, he made the decision to pursue a career as an officer. Upon graduation from the Louisiana Officer Candidate School, Cook accepted his commission as an infantry officer.

His first assignment was as a platoon leader for B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment. At B Co., he honed his skills training his platoon on Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Cook's Soldiers were very fond of him and always looked for ways to mess with him, whether it was tying soda cans under his car before the end of drill so they would fall out and make noise when he left after a hard weekend, or having five or six personnel line up to make him salute when he came into the area. Cook took it all in stride and never let the shenanigans get to him.

His second assignment was as a commissioned officer with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Division as the executive officer. While assigned to A Co., Cook served under his current commander, Lt. Col. William Rachal.



Maj. Jeremy Cook, commander of Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, and a Lake Charles, La., native, stands at a weapon range in Kuwait prior to departing for Iraq in support of his mission with the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, to assist in the responsible drawdown of U.S. Troops and equipment from Iraq.

"As my company executive officer, he was always very diligent and detail-oriented, seemingly everywhere," said Rachal, a Breaux Bridge, La., native.

Cook transferred to the Arizona National Guard, and completed two deployments during his time there. His first deployment was in 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the assistant operations officer for the

852nd Rear Area Operations Center in Balad. His second deployment took him to Lagman, Afghanistan, in 2008, where he served as company commander for A Company, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment, where he earned a Bronze Star medal for his service.

A month prior to the 2nd Battalion, 108th Inf. Div's mobilization to support of OIF, Cook came to Charlie Troop. He quickly immersed himself to ensure their readiness for the challenges that he knew each Soldier would face.

After arriving in Iraq, Cook led Charlie Troop to Convoy Support Center Scania, where they were given the mission of base defense for the post. With his guidance and direction, Cold Steel also completed the mission of base closure at Scania.

Then they transitioned to their new mission of convoy security at Contingency Operating Base Adder. Once again, Cook led the charge by ensuring that his convoy commanders and the rest of the Troop were prepared for the mission.

During his limited downtime, Cook likes to work out at the House of Pain gym. He is striving to bench-press 300 pounds by the end of this deployment. He also likes to visit each of his sections to ensure that all their needs are being met and he always asks if there is anything he can do to make their jobs easier.

Cook graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La., in May 1998, with a degree in biology. In the civilian world, he works as an agent for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He also worked for the U.S. Border patrol in Nogales, Ariz., for 10 years.

Cook has been married to Samala Duffy for 12 years and they have three children: Darby, 11; Devyn, 9; and Dylan, 7. After the deployment, Cook plans on spending as much time with his family as possible, and returning to his job.

To the Troops of Cold Steel, Cook is a great leader and mentor. His efforts toward the success of his Troop will be felt for many years to come.

HVAC repair shop keeps Soldiers cool

STORY AND PHOTO BY
2ND LT. BLAIR MILLER
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command



(Expeditionary), heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) repair shop work daily to keep personnel cool in the heat of the Iraqi summer.

The personnel here are working hard and keeping busy because there is a lack of proper preventative maintenance on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in the Caiman series of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. The problem isn't with the service members, but with the technical manual service members use to maintain their vehicles.

"Properly PMCSing (preventative maintenance checks and services) the air conditioning system isn't in the TM (technical manual)," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Patrick, the ground support equipment officer-in-charge with the 298th SMC, and a Hollidaysburg, Pa., native. "Operators PMCS their vehicle using the TM, and as operators are not usually mechanics, they use the step-by-step instructions listed on how to check and maintain their vehicle, but nowhere in the TM does it tell them how to clean and maintain the air conditioning unit."

The biggest problem lies with the cooling fins on the air conditioning unit itself. When the fins are clogged with dust

'If you keep your system clean, it will keep you cool.'

-Staff Sgt. Lee Ripka

and dirt, they cannot dissipate the heat build-up.

"It's an easy fix," said Staff Sgt. Lee Ripka, the HVAC repair shop noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 298th SMC, and a Rebersburg, Pa., native. "Just once a week, take a low pressure washer and just clean it out. Otherwise the dirt builds up, the heat cannot dissipate and the system malfunctions."

The knowledge gained by the HVAC technicians has led them to put together a manual themselves, which they sent up their chain of command, and has since become the standard operating procedure for the 3rd Sust. Bde. The Soldiers are also looking to have the manual published in the Preventative Maintenance Magazine (PS Magazine) to get the information out to the operator level.

Soldiers at the HVAC repair shop are always available for assistance. They are located at the field maintenance facility behind the east-side post office, if anyone has questions, needs repairs or would like a copy of the manual.

"If you keep your system clean," said Ripka, "it will keep you cool."



Staff Sgt. Lee Ripka, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair shop noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 298th Support Maintenance Company heating, and a Rebersburg, Pa., native, replaces an electric terminal for a low pressure switch.

Course teaches about latest Army tactical vehicle



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Artim

(Clockwise from top) Spc. Twayne Rounds, Spc. Darrell Beasley, Spc. William Abel, Spc. Andrew Jenkins, Spc. Acquanitna Burgess, and Pfc. Joshua Stewart, all with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pose for a photo on a Multipurpose All-Terrain Vehicle after training with their MATV instructor on July 15 at Contingency Operating Base, Iraq.

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— It is on rare occasions that Soldiers are afforded the chance to train with new Army equipment and technology while they are deployed. The lucky groups of Soldiers who are the first to train on and use the new equipment, often offer critical advice and recommendations for later improvements and redesign of the technology.

Soldiers with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were given the opportunity to attend the Operator New Equipment Training course July 15 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. OPNET is a new course designed to familiarize Soldiers with the functions of the Army's relatively new Multipurpose All-Terrain Vehicle.

"I really enjoyed the training. It was something new and different from what we usually ride in, and everyone did well during the training," said Spc. Acquanitna Burgess, a heavy vehicle operator with the 319th TC.

The OPNET course lasted five days and included evaluations and daytime driving. Six 319th TC Soldiers were enrolled in the course and were taught by Richard Matthews Sr., the OPNET course instructor.

"The course as a whole is extremely well-written to fulfill the operational-level needs and requirements for all individuals operating the equipment here in theater and abroad," said Matthews.

Upon completion of the training, all the Soldiers performed at a 100% pass rate, with one student, Spc. Michael Nolan, a heavy wheel vehicle operator with the 319th TC, receiving a perfect score. All students were awarded a course completion certificate.

"All students' attitudes were very positive throughout the learning and practical exercise phases of the training," said Matthews. "They learned quickly and proficiently due to their military, transportation, and maintenance backgrounds."



The revolution of 'e-reading'

SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



On this particular deployment, I brought along a number of books which, somehow, I plan to read over the course of 10 months. I have always enjoyed reading; I have subscriptions to a book club as well as to four different magazines. I was able to read six books on my last deployment, and all of the magazines that I subscribed to that my wife would send my way.

Prior to our mobilization training and during one of my last days at my civilian job, a co-worker showed me something new that intrigued me. He showed me an "E-reader." They have been around for awhile now, portable devices that allow you to access and read electronic books and newspapers, rather than doing it the old fashioned way: hard copy print. The first device to hit the market was Amazon's Kindle, developed by a company called Lab 126, which is a subsidiary of Amazon. My co-worker showed me how he was able to download content on the reader, and how he could set the type as large as he desired (in order to accommodate my old eyes, no doubt).

So I thought I would share with you some insight on these devices, in case you have limited space in your duffel bags for the number of books you may have brought with you or had sent here, and want to purchase one. As I mentioned before, the Kindle is an Amazon product, and it currently can access more than 115,000 "e-books." You can also subscribe to magazines and web logs as well as play music by downloading audio files.

The Kindle has a gray screen that displays the text of the item you are reading. It can download compatible files over Amazon's Whisprnet directly to the Kindle by using the same network as Sprint EVDO. Ever been reading a book and had the unfortunate instance of misplacing a bookmark and not remembering where you left off? The Kindle will remember the last page you were on. It also allows you to make notes on the side (handy for those school-age folks), and transfer text to a computer via a USB connection.

It includes a web browser, but only connects to Amazon or Wikipedia. You can also download files from other sites that are compatible. The Kindle will hold up to 200 e-books, and you can add an SD device to expand your storage capacity. One last thing, you have to buy the e-books in order to download them. They range from around one to 10 dollars, which is much cheaper than the print versions. You can also download books from other sites, which take a simple email of the file in order to make it Kindle-compatible. These sites include Mobipocket, Feedbooks, Webscriptions and Ficitionwise. Total cost of the Kindle? It can be yours right now on Amazon for \$189. A second device, Kindle 2, holds many more books, and turns pages quicker, for \$359.

That brings us to the Apple iPad Wifi + 3G. This device is considerably more expensive than the original Kindle, at \$629 retail, and also a \$15-per-month data plan from AT&T. There is also a Wifi version, which costs \$499, but it only works where wireless can be accessed, and on this base, or in Iraq in general, that could send you searching.

The main difference in price is that the iPad offers more "bang for the buck" than the Kindle; it not only is an e-reader, it has email, it browses the web, has a bunch of applications thanks to the Apple store, and works more like a laptop. It is a bit heavier than the Kindle, and has a much larger screen.

So for you readers out there, it is personal preference for the most part. A laptop, if you have one, works similarly to the iPad, for comparison. However, it does not have an e-reader built in. Personally, I would forego the iPad and purchase a Kindle, simply because I already own a laptop. If I didn't, I would go for the iPad. The choice is yours!

CEREMONY cont. from page 1

was a combined effort between the Army, Air Force, the IA and the PRT. The 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, has partnerships within the SOC and the 17th Inf. Bde., IA, and the unit will continue to be involved with the 17th Inf. Bde. as they continue to move onto JBB. The 2/11th FA also assisted the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing as they constructed the IA compound. The PRT provided input on protocol, and worked to bring civilian guests from the Government of Iraq to the ceremony, said Fluhart.

The ceremony symbolized the partnership between U.S. Forces and the Iraqis, and that they will work to continue to build this relationship, said Maj. Mark Sherkey, the executive officer of the 2/11th FA, and an Eastern Shore, Va., native. It also symbolizes that the ISF are capable of providing security for the GoI and for the Iraqi people, he added.

"We have the Air Force, Army, Department of State and the Iraqis all working together to establish a partnership," said Sherkey. "We welcome that."

More importantly, the event helps prove that the ISF has the capacity to maintain a legitimate, stable government when the U.S. Forces leave, Fluhart added.

"The Iraqi Security Forces have proven to the world to be capable of protecting the Iraqi people," said Franklin at the conclusion of his speech. "And this (event) symbolizes our enduring friendship."

Word on the Street

Describe your perfect day. What would you do? Where would you be?



"My perfect day is a day that is spent in Montana."

Staff Sgt. Kendra A. Still, a platoon sergeant with the 478th Postal Plans & Operations, 387th Human Resources Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Helena, Mont., native.



"My perfect day is being able to go home and spend time with my family. Just be able to be out with them and hang out."

Sgt. Chelsey J. Nelson, the air movement request noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 478th Postal Plans & Operations, 387th Human Resources Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a South Jordan, Utah, native.



"My perfect day is being with my family and going four-wheeling at Five-Mile Pass in Lehi, Utah."

Spc. Jessica B. Schrecker, an air movement request specialist and unit mail clerk with the 478th Postal Plans & Operations, 387th Human Resources Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Layton, Utah, native.

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“The number of violent incidents is significantly down, the competence of Iraqi security forces is significantly up, and politics has emerged as the basic way of doing business in Iraq...(That) creates a much better context for dealing with the... serious problems that remain in Iraq.”

Anthony Blinken, national security advisor, on security in Iraq

“We are ending the war...but we are not ending our work in Iraq. We have a long-term commitment to Iraq.”

P.J. Crowley, State Department spokesman, on the U.S. commitment to Iraq

“We’re keeping the promise that we’ve made when I began my campaign for the presidency...and, consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all of our troops will be out of Iraq by the end of next year.”

President Barack Obama on the drawdown of the last U.S. brigade combat team from Iraq

“My country is ready to work with any premier chosen by Iraqis.”

Jeffrey Feltman, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs

“It is a great honor for me to return to Iraq. I look forward to renewing old friendships, strengthening our ties with Iraqi leaders and deepening our civilian engagement for the long term throughout this historic land.”

James Jeffrey, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, on civilian engagement in Iraq

DEFENSE SECRETARY’S ENDURING LEGACY

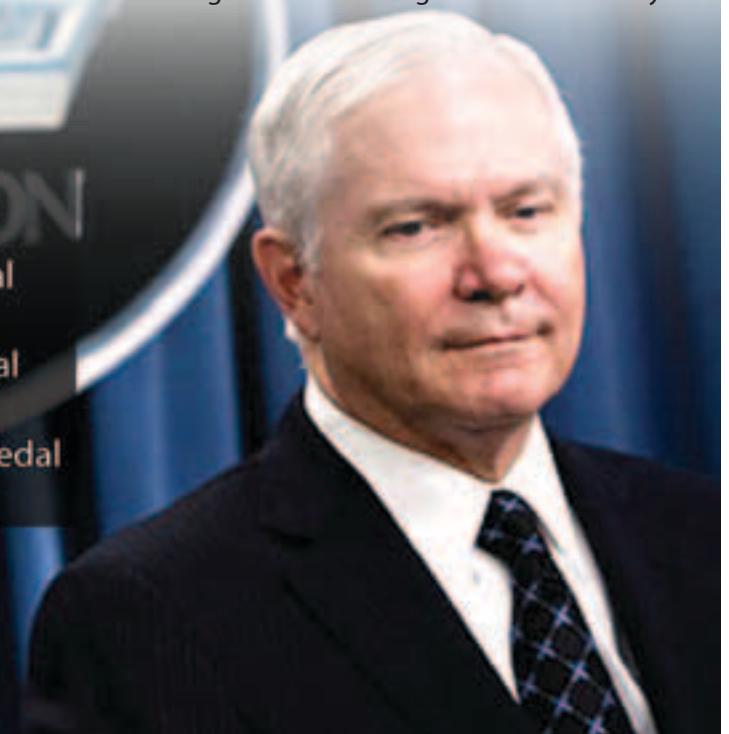
Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced his plan to retire in 2011, prior to the next presidential election cycle. He took office under President George W. Bush, and then agreed to stay after President Barack Obama requested his leadership in the Iraq war drawdown and the escalation of the Afghanistan war. Gates, who has served eight presidents, possesses an impressive resume of education, leadership and political experience, that will leave a lasting mark in the U.S. government’s history.

Experiences & Accomplishments

- Joined Central Intelligence Agency in 1966 as an intelligence professional
- Spent nine years at National Security Council, The White House, serving four presidents of both political parties
- Served as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence from 1986 to 1989
- Was Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser at the White House from 1989 to 1991 for President George H.W. Bush
- The only Secretary of Defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected president

Notable Awards

- National Security Medal
- Presidential Citizens Medal
- National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal (twice)
- Distinguished Intelligence Medal (three times)



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

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What method of arranging elements into related groups was invented by Dimitri Mendeleev?
2. What M-word defines anything that occupies space?
3. What do you call a substance containing only one kind of atom?
4. What teenager began studying physics after he noticed a chandelier swinging during a 1581 earthquake?
5. What's short for "light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation"?
6. What's the atomic number of hydrogen?

1. The periodic table 2. Matter 3. An element 4. Galileo 5. Laser 6. One

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

GENERAL

Sunday 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
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)

Sunday 5 p.m. Provider Chapel
5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

LUTHERAN

Sunday 8 a.m. Provider Chapel Annex

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

LATTERDAY SAINTS

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel
7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
12:30 pm. Air Force Provider Chapel

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

Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m. Provider Chapel

Confessions: Sunday 8-8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

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

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel 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

***Current as of August 25, 2010**

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. 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. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday 9 a.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 RECRE- ATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 7:30 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. Dominoes: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 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. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday 8-10 p.m.	7 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
--	--	--	--	--	---	--



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 08/25/10

MLB: Florida Marlins @ New York Mets, Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Texas Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Boston Red Sox, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ Los Angeles Angels, Delayed 3 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Boston Red Sox, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 08/26/10

MLB: St. Louis Cardinals @ Pittsburgh Pirates, Live 2 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Diego Padres, Live 2 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ Los Angeles Angels, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Texas Rangers, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Florida Marlins @ New York Mets, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN Sports

Friday 08/27/10

MLB: Oakland Athletics @ Cleveland Indians, Live 2 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Houston Astros @ Philadelphia Phillies, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Indianapolis Colts @ Green Bay Packers, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ Chicago White Sox, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 08/28/10

NFL: San Diego Chargers @ New Orleans Saints, Live 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Francisco Giants, Live 9 a.m. AFN Prime Freedom
MLB: Florida Marlins @ Atlanta Braves, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Detroit Tigers @ Toronto Blue Jays, Live 10 p.m. AFN Xtra

Sunday 08/29/10

MLB: Boston Red Sox @ Tampa Bay Rays, Live 2 a.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
NFL: Dallas Cowboys @ Houston Texans, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Seattle Mariners, Delayed 1 p.m. AFN Xtra
NASCAR: NAPA Auto Parts 200, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN Xtra

Monday 08/30/10

NFL: Philadelphia Eagles @ Denver Broncos, Live 3 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Philadelphia Eagles @ Minnesota Vikings, Delayed 7 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ St. Louis Cardinals, Delayed 10 p.m. AFN Xtra
NFL: Tennessee Titans @ Carolina Panthers, Delayed 12:30 p.m. AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Sports Lounge': College football is coming

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Yes, sports fans...the one sport for which I will truly give up just about anything: college football. I would be remiss not to mention how badly I will miss football Saturdays and tailgating. Oh, I will certainly watch some games, and, worse case scenario, follow them on the computer. Heck, we might even attempt to tailgate, "Iraq" style, if the urge compels us. But it won't quite be the same. At least not the way we do it.

How do we do it? Like any typical, red-blooded American college football fan would do. Get up at zero-dark-thirty, ensure you have all of your items with you needed for proper tailgating (grill, propane tanks, chairs, flags and flag-pole, cozies, cooler, food stuffs, beer, tickets, camera, football, table, table cloths, gameday newspapers), a healthy dose of sunscreen for those early September games, and off you go.

For an Iowa football Saturday, we park next to legendary Kinnick Stadium. We then offload our gear, raise our flag pole with the appropriate flags attached of course (American flag and giant Hawkeye flag), set up our grill, chairs, tables, and all the accoutrement that comes with the color and excitement of college football. Oh, and we crack some cold ones. Several, if the spirit moves us. (I know, I know...

sorry, I'll stop. I'm making myself jealous). We then take part in what is truly an American past time. Awesome. But something I will have to wait on for next season.

Focusing on this season, it promises to be a wild and wooly one, with more and more teams that had great seasons last year seemingly stronger for this year. Alabama, the defending national champions, have a many key players back, and have been anointed as the No. 1 team in the land per the USA Today/Coaches poll. However, they do have a very tough schedule to navigate, and the Southeastern Conference looks to be just as competitive as it's always been. Their stiffest competition in the SEC will most likely be from Florida, despite the Gators losing all-everything in quarterback Tim Tebow. They have a veteran offensive line and one of the best secondary's in the country.

Other notable SEC teams who will make noise and, most likely, bowl games this year are LSU, Arkansas, Georgia, and Auburn. All are ranked in the Top 25, and on any given day can most likely beat 'Bama or Florida. But those two are my picks for BCS games in the SEC.

The Big 12 (soon to be the Big...10?) will shuffle a couple teams east and west next year when Colorado joins the Pac-10 (er...12?) and Nebraska joins the Big 10 (er...12?) I am so confused! There was some major swapping in the off-season between major and mid-major conferences, with the Big 10 being the major player, at first. What was rumored to be a land grab of five schools turned out to

be just one (for now), in Nebraska. When that happened, the Pac-10 also took part and nabbed Colorado and Utah from the Mountain West Conference. It was rumored for a long while that the Big 12 would literally dissolve. Texas came to the rescue, however, and through back room deals and promises known only to the folks in Austin, kept the old (new) Big 12/10 together. Think of them as a tourniquet, stopping their conference from bleeding out.

The last year of the Big 12 should be interesting, as Texas, the odds-on favorite, will most likely continue their dominance of the South, at least until the conference championship game. The 'Horns have averaged 11 wins a year for the past nine seasons—an incredible statistic. Their biggest question mark is at quarterback, where Garrett Gilbert takes over for Colt McCoy. Oklahoma will try to overcome the injury-riddled disaster of last season, when they finished 7-5. They lost four of those five by a total of 12 points, so if they can remain healthy, improving by a few wins is definitely doable. The North should be dominated by Nebraska, as Bo Pelini has assembled a tough, 10-win squad that is chasing their first, outright Big 12 title since 1999. With 18 starters back, they should be a virtual lock to get to the championship game, with a one-point loss to the 'Horns still fresh on their minds from the title game last year.

The next two weeks, I will examine the other major conferences and take a look at some of the mid-major players who have made noise the last few years.

'The Other Guys' delivers gut-busting laughs

BY SGT. JESSICA ROHR
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Prior to watching the movie, I had perceived notions that this would just turn out to be another typical Will Farrell movie. "If you've seen one, you've seen them all." I personally like the "Saturday Night Live" version of him, myself.

However, with a star-studded cast, this action/comedy is a definite crowd pleaser. "The Other Guys" is not just another Will Farrell movie. If anything, he has brought himself back to life from his last big motion picture flop, "Land of the Lost" (2009). Filled with one-liners that will be repeated for

ages to come, explosions, car chases, foreign investors with guns, and Mark Wahlberg's good looks, there is something for everyone in this flick.

Allen Gamble (played by Will Farrell) is a New York police officer playing it safe by being an everyday paper pusher, keeping his action-hungry partner Terry Hoitz (played by Mark Wahlberg) from ever going out on calls to redeem himself from the "Derek Jeter incident."

After the city's most idolized cops (played by Chris Rock and Samuel L. Jackson) suffer a stupid, but tragic, death while on the job, Hoitz "lets his peacock fly" at the chance to possibly replace them by forcing Gamble to finally go out to a crime scene.

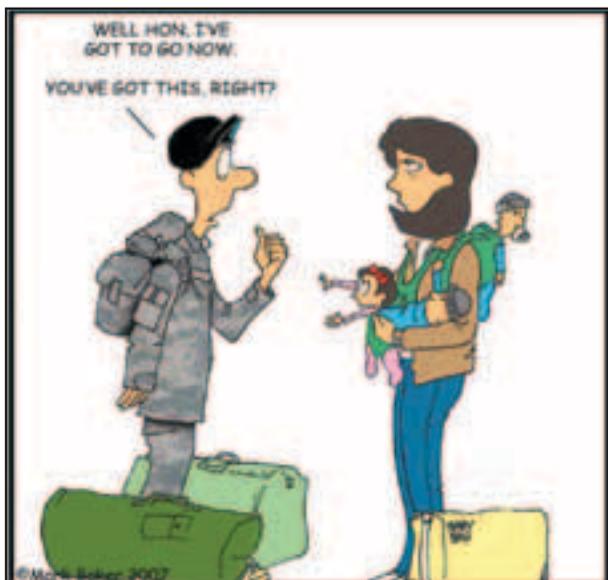
One thing leads to another, as it does in all comedic

movies, and it all goes awry. Gamble talks Hoitz into investigating a case on an investor David Ershon (played by Steve Coogan) who keeps eluding them in one way or another.

I have not laughed so hard at a movie in a long time. The cast also includes Eva Mendes as Gamble's plain housewife, Dr. Sheila Gamble, and Ray Stevenson as Roger Wesley, the bad guy. Director and co-writer Adam McKay has done it again, collaborating with Will Farrell. I can only imagine their upcoming production, "Big Lake," a TV series that premiered Aug. 17 on Comedy Central, starring Chris Gethard, will top this.

With this summer's blockbusters lacking comedy, I say, "Go see it." Just be sure to stick around through the credits and use the rest room before you go.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday August 25
5 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)
8 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG)

Thursday August 26
5 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG)
8 p.m. The Expendables (R) 1st Run

Friday August 27
6 p.m. Inception (PG-13)
9 p.m. Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1st Run

Saturday August 28
2 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)
5 p.m. Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1st Run
8 p.m. Inception (PG-13)
Midnight: Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1st Run

Sunday August 29
2 p.m. Nanny McPhee Returns (PG) 1st Run
5 p.m. Inception (PG-13)
8 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)



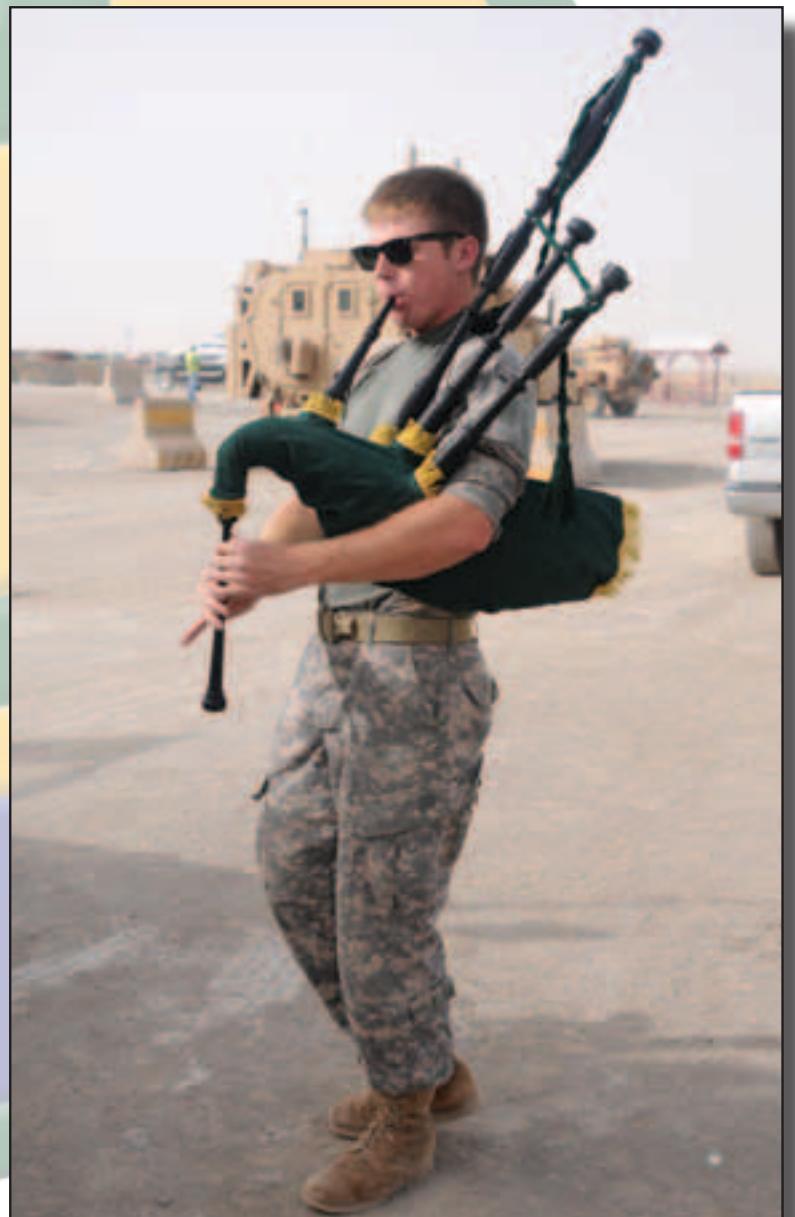
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter

(From left) Lt. Gen. Rashid Flayah, commander of the 17th Infantry Brigade, Iraqi Army, and Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig A. Franklin, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a Chicago, Ill., native, sign the documents that officially transfer authority of a newly constructed IA compound to the Government of Iraq at the compound's grand opening on Aug. 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr



ABOVE: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darlene Pittman, executive officer for G1 Plans with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, helps paint t-walls at the United Service Organizations outdoor area with peers from the Warrant Officers Association on Aug. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter

RIGHT: Spc. Thomas McConnell, a driver with C Company, 1st Battallion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Salem, Va., native, plays his bagpipes before a mission on July 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. McConnell plays various folk tunes before each mission to promote the Soldiers' motivation and morale.