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

OUTPOST

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249th QM Co. supports 4/2 Road March

'The Last Patrol' marks departure of combat units from Iraq

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Eric Nilsen
249th Quartermaster Company

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – 402nd Army Field Support Brigade military personnel, DoD civilians and contractors, converged here to participate in an historic event as the last U.S. Army combat troops rolled out of Iraq.

"The Last Patrol," consisting of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, started rolling into Kuwait Aug. 18, as part of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces in Iraq.

The 4/2 SBCT, "Raiders" started their two-day road march, from Baghdad to Kuwait, Aug. 16. A new battalion of Strykers rumbled into Camp Virginia four nights in a row beginning Aug. 18, where they were met by

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Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, roll into Kuwait Aug. 17.

Spc. Daniel Torres (left) and Pfc. Clarence Williams, both assigned to the 249th Quartermaster Company, package radio equipment for shipment from the Victory Base Complex RPAT Yard as part of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces-Iraq.

249th Quartermaster Company: Did you know?

- *The 249th Quartermaster Company is the first active duty, Forces Command unit, to ever be assigned to Army Materiel Command.*
- *The 249th QM Co. deployed to Iraq with less than 90 days notice*
- *The 249th QM Co. played a major role the presidentially mandated Responsible Drawdown of Forces-Iraq.*
- *The 249th QM Co. operated 12 Mobile Redistribution Property Accountability Teams and seven RPAT Yards throughout Iraq.*
- *The unit's Mobile Redistribution Property Accountability Teams conducted more than 128 missions, inspecting 23 brigade combat teams returning approximately 50,000 theater provided equipment and automatic reset induction items into the Army inventory system.*

Power 6 Perspective

Over the 'Waterfall' - Another 402nd success

It is a New Dawn indeed!

I would like to start off with hearty congratulations to all members of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade for a job well done in contributing to the Army's successful completion of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces and "making it over the Waterfall."

Imagine if you will, an average Midwestern city with a population of 80,000. Now imagine having to evacuate to those 80,000 residents – a massive undertaking. But that's not all. Imagine moving out all of their vehicles, household goods, and personal items as well. We're talking cars, trucks, boats, lawnmowers, furniture, TVs, computers – everything.

That's essentially what you helped accomplish here in Iraq. Making things even more difficult was the fact that these "residents" were Soldiers, who along with their vehicles and equipment, were spread out all across Iraq – not consolidated in one convenient location.

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller

Without you, successful completion of the Army's largest logistics operation since the Vietnam War would not have been possible.

Take a look at these numbers:

During the "Waterfall" portion of the drawdown – a period of just four months, May through August, 2010, the 402nd AFSB processed through the eight enduring sites a total of 124,332 pieces of equipment: 11,655 rolling stock and 112,627 non-rolling stock items; 118,449 Transportation Movement Requests; conducted 39 Mobile Redistribution Property Accountability Team missions. That all adds up to an average processing rate of 170 rolling stock and 1,190 non-rolling stock items PER DAY. An outstanding effort!

Faced with a daunting mission, you put on the gloves and came out swinging – hard. An exceptional effort was put forth by all. I am proud of how you responded by adopting a "we can do it" attitude and giving it your all.

Many individuals went above-and-beyond in ensuring RDoF mission success for the 402nd AFSB. As a special tribute, this issue is dedicated to you and this major accomplishment.

Thanks to ALL for your outstanding contributions. I look forward to seeing many more great accomplishments from the 402nd AFSB team.

Power 6 Out!

LAWRENCE W. FULLER
COL, LG
Commanding

402nd AFSB

OUTPOST

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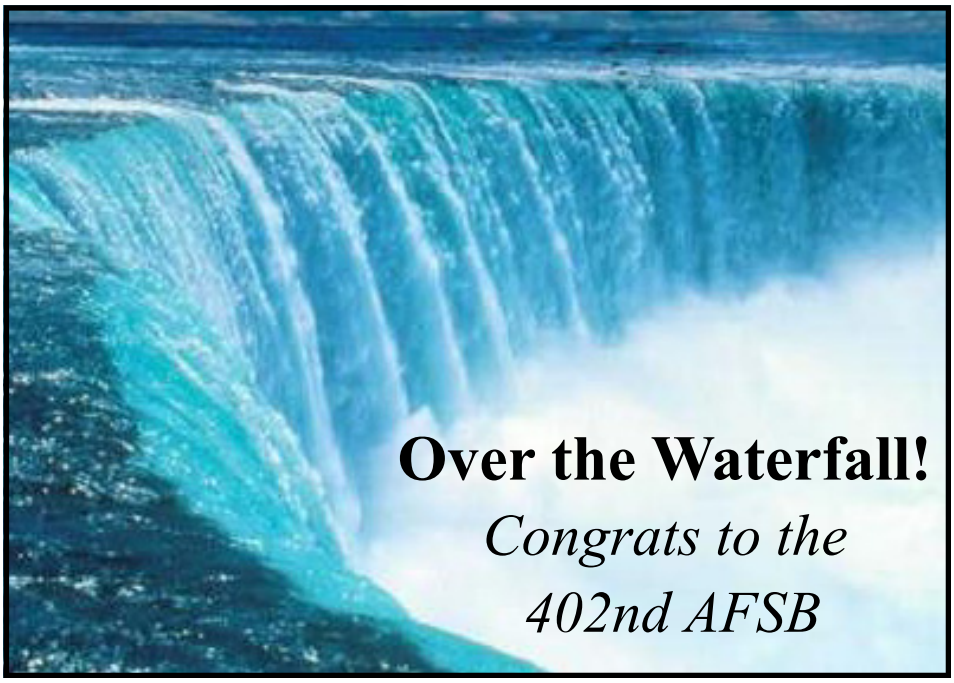

Chaplain's Corner: We are all part of the human tapestry

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

It's called the "Six Degrees of Separation." It's a theory which posits that through social networking and personal acquaintances, anyone — anyone at all — is only six degrees or "steps" away from anyone else in the civilized world. In other words, if you start talking to a complete stranger and share some personal information with each other, through the networking of a series of acquaintances you and the stranger will discover that you have a connection through five people or less. Some claim such a theory is utter nonsense and nothing more than urban legend. Personally I'm not so sure. I've had several episodes where the "stranger" with whom I'm speaking on a plane or in an airport and I realize we have some kind of connection through friends of friends of friends and so forth. I've never really counted the "steps" but I wouldn't be surprised if it occurred in less than five.

Case in point: an experience I had recently while waiting for a flight at the helicopter pad at Victory Base Camp, Baghdad. I struck up a conversation with a civilian contractor around my age also waiting for a flight. I asked him the usual questions: how long have you been here, what do you do, where are you from? He told me he was from the upper Midwest but grew up and graduated high school at a "little town outside Dallas." After asking him specifically which town he said: "you probably have never heard of it; it's called Duncanville. I graduated high school there in 1986." I shook his hand and said: "I graduated there in 1976." I then asked him where in Duncanville he grew up. Turns out he grew up down the street and just around the corner where I had lived with my parents. We knew mutual friends and neighbors. Moreover, he married the sister of a guy I graduated high school with. There, in the middle of VBC late one night, I met an acquaintance with whom I had a connection on so many levels. It's about this time that the phrase "ain't it a small world" comes into play. And this is not the only time such a thing has occurred. Since being here in theater I've run into people who have had a connection to my brother, to my parents, and to mutual friends. I have also run into friends over here who I haven't seen in many years.

Dirksmeyer

Now whether this was all pure chance, a testimony to the "Six Degrees" theory, or divine providence from a God with a sense of humor who enjoys teasing His kids with little surprises, I honestly don't know — perhaps all three. But regardless, it is certainly indicative of how tightly woven we all are as part of the human fabric. Our Creator intended this from the onset by design. Upon the forming of Adam, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." Indeed it is not. We were created to be in community with one another rather than to be in isolation one from the other.

Regardless of one's personal views toward the "Six Degrees" theory, its premise does warrant our serious consideration in that we are all intricately linked to one another as part of the human family. As poet John Donne wrote: "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." Does this intricate linkage, this relationship we share with one another, mean anything for us? Indeed it does.

Our connectedness to one another carries with it a great responsibility we all share toward one another. No one in our circle of friends, family, coworkers and assorted acquaintances can suffer without everyone else in that group being affected as well. This is particularly true when someone close to us dies, especially when it's by suicide. It's then that our sense of "connectedness" to one another becomes painfully assaulted and ripped apart. And, sadly, this is an event which has occurred far too often in our Armed Forces recently, heightening our awareness of this growing tragedy.

Rather than offering a lecture on the common risk factors and warning signs of suicidal ideations, and reiterating the obvious about the importance of watchfulness for those likely candidates of suicide, I prefer to emphasize our relationships to one another. We are all truly connected to one another as part of the human family. Get more connected; get to know your coworkers; get to know those with whom you come into contact throughout the day. Get to know them and let them know you are there for them if and when necessary. Stay connected. No man, or woman, is an island. Again in the words of John Donne: "any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind."

RPAT Yards celebrate RDoF success

Al Asad RPAT

Joint Base Balad RPAT

Kalsu RPAT

Marez RPAT

Tallil RPAT

402nd AFSB RPAT Yards: Did you know?

- *RPAT yards retrograded 101,812 pieces of theater provided equipment including 8,631 pieces of rolling stock and 93,181 pieces of non-rolling stock items totaling $4.5 billion.*
- *RPAT yards retrograded 17,493 pieces of TPE in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) totaling $1.1 billion.*
- *RPAT yards retrograded 2,106 automatic RESET Induction to source of repair items, totaling nearly $120 million, directly supporting the RESET needs of units in theater.*
- *RPAT teams were extremely successful in maintaining accountability of all retrograding assets resulting in no loss of equipment. Given the sheer volume of equipment and the short time frame allotted to move that equipment, the RPAT teams excelled in managing accountability beyond predetermined expectations.*
- *RPAT yards processed 100 percent more equipment during the Waterfall period than the entire Fiscal Year 2009.*
- *RPAT yards fielded the implementation of TC-AIMS (Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movement System) during the Responsible Drawdown of Forces, increasing throughput of equipment moving thru Kuwait and shortened the retrograde time for equipment moving from Iraq to source of repair.*

Speicher RPAT

Taji RPAT

Victory Base Complex RPAT

Mobile RPATs navigate 'The Waterfall'

Mobile RPAT

Mobile RPAT

Mobile RPATs: Did you know?

- *MRPATs retrograded 21,513 pieces of automatic RESET induction and theater provided equipment from Iraq during the Waterfall, totaling $5.5 million. Of the 21,513 pieces retrograded; 3,387 items were rolling stock and 18,126 pieces were non-rolling stock.*

- *MRPATs supported the retrograde of more than $160 million in aircraft from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, relieving them of accountability forward; shipping and transferring the equipment to the United States for transfer to the 406th Army Field Support Brigade left behind equipment manager for induction into field RESET and the LBE program.*

- *In accordance with presidential directive, MRPATs supported the 4/2 SBCT "Last Patrol" tactical road march out of Iraq. The 402nd AFSB provided MRPAT support to 4/2 SBCT at Camp Virginia, Kuwait in order to relieve the unit of accountability of theater provided equipment and automatic RESET induction equipment, enabling the unit to redeploy from theater as scheduled.*

- *During the waterfall, MRPATs planned, resourced, and executed the MRPAT missions in the Iraq Theater of Operations. The wholesale responsible officer on each team signed for automatic RESET induction and theater provided equipment directly from the forward operating bases. The MRPAT played a vital role in unit redeployments as their mission is to inventory and relieve units of accountability of ARI/TPE in-place, and ship their equipment to the source of repair.*

- *MRPATs planned, coordinated, and synchronized retrograde support with the 402nd AFSB, 13th Sustainment Brigade (Expeditionary), 103rd Sustainment Brigade (Expeditionary), and United States Forces-Iraq, commanders and Brigade Logistics Support Team chiefs, accomplishing successful transfer of equipment out of Iraq.*

Brigade bestows RDoF Waterfall impact awards

Military Awards:

1st. Lt. Randy McCoy, 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, ARCOM

Master Sgt. Thomas Mattern, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Master Sgt. Rodney Washington, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Master Sgt. Rodney Watson, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hardaway, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Sgt. 1st Class Christi Herrod, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Thompson, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, ARCOM

Civilian cash award recipients:

Anderson, Kim
Anthony, Tyrone
Arredondo, Abel
Banda Crispin
Barsamian, Paul
Belcher, Kenneth
Bray, Benjamin
Bryant, Jason
Bucklaw, Michael
Clark, Jason
Crosby, Frank
Dallolio, Reed
Davis, Bobby
Defazio, Kate
Delaney, Michael
Gamble, Alonzo
Gamez, Franklin
Gardner, Steve
Gary Green
Gaydos, Jonathan
Graeff, Pearl
Herzog, Joshua
Kelly, Paul
Kulbitsky, Richard
Lafratte, Michael
Loughlin, Charles
Manning, Cory
Marriner, Jennifer
Martin, Timothy
Mazur, Robert
McKinney, Tyrone
Murphy, Philip
Nasatka, Marlon
Pedraza, Horacio
Pindle, Wille
Ray, Christopher
Richards, Sean
Rivera, Carmelo
Rodgers, Anthony
Rogan, John
Rollock, Angela
Ryan, Dennis
Sapol, Stephen
Schuler, John
Sehn, William
Shahoney, John
Smallwood, Ruby
Smith, Maureen
St.Duran, Brenda
Stochla, John
Vasquez, Rodrigo
Vasser, Antonius
Volch, Christopher
Weaver, Tonya
Weisgable, Joseph
Wittig, David
Youngblood, Carl

Theater Property Book Teams reap dividends

Theater Property Book Team #1

Theater Property Book Team #2

Theater Property Book Team #3

Theater Property Book Team #4

Theater Property Book Team #5

Theater Property Book Team #6

Theater Property Book Team #7

Theater Property Book Team #8

Theater Property Book Team #9

Theater Property Book Team #10

Theater Property Book Team #11

Theater Property Book Team #12

Theater Property Book Teams: Did you know?

- *TPB retrograded more than 112,472 items valued at more than $4.9 billion in support of the Responsible Drawdown in Iraq.*

- *TPE Teams processed more than 645,085 transactions in support of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces, with a less than 2 percent error rating.*

- *The Theater Property Book Office transferred equipment valued at more than $4.2 million in support of the 405th Army Field Support Brigade AFRICOM mission.*

- *TPB supported the retrograde of aircraft and supporting equipment valued at more than $160 million belonging to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, relieving them of accountability forward, shipping and transferring them back to the United States for transfer to the 406th Army Field Support Brigade Left Behind Equipment manager for induction into the RESET Program.*

- *TPB transferred Foreign Military Sales aircraft and supporting equipment valued at more than $22.7 million belonging to U.S. Army* Security Assistance Training Management Organization *by establishing accountability of items for DA G-4 as directed for asset visibility purposes until Government of Iraq had trained pilots to fly the aircraft.*

- *TPB supervised and supported the accountability aspects of the transfer of more than 779 items valued more than $52 million in support of requirements of the United States Transfer of Equipment to Iraq mission for the GOI.*

- *TPB established accountability of equipment valued at more than $62 million that was not accounted for on any accountable record in support of the Responsible Drawdown.*

- *The Theater Property Book Government Furnished Equipment/Government Furnished Property Section was responsible for monitoring Forward Operating Base closures and Foreign Excess Personal Property transfer of property needed by the Government of Iraq, valued at more than $89 million.*

- *TPB received more than 20 team and 30 individual certificates of appreciations for outstanding customer service received during the responsible drawdown*

Personality Spotlight: Will Villalba

Name: Wilfredo "Will" Villalba
Age: 36
Home: Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Duty Position: Supply Logistics Specialist
Duty Section: S4, 402nd AFSB Brigade Headquarters
Duty Station: Joint Base Balad, Iraq

How long have you been in this position?
19 months

How long have you been working for the U.S. Army?
From 1996 until present.

Have you had other jobs with the military?
Yes; I enlisted on active duty in 1996, completed four years of active duty and then switched to the Reserve and served from 2000 to 2004. As a civilian, I arrived at LSA Anaconda in January 2004. Anaconda was the previous name of what is presently known as Joint Base Balad. My first duty position was senior operations officer for the Emergency Operations Center and Movement Control. I served at that position until I became the 402nd AFSB command driver. After that I became the supply logistics specialist, the position in which I am currently serving.

Tell us about your job and what you do:
I am the brigade supply logistics specialist supporting the brigade as well as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and the 249th Quartermaster and 276th Ordnance Companies.

What is the best part of your job?
The best part about my job is being able to assist all customers and being able to serve every one regardless of duty position or rank.

Galen Putnam

Wilfredo "Will" Villalba, supply logistics specialist who has been with the 402nd AFSB since 2004, poses with the (nonfunctional) Iraqi rocket-propelled grenade launcher he hopes to donate to the Museum at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Why do you like working here?
The best part about working here is the fact that I am able to offer the best of me as an American, leaving a good impression of our country in the eyes of our allies. It is a pleasure to receive the same respect from others, which in return builds good relations with other countries throughout the world.

Why have you stayed so long?
I have stayed here so long because it has helped me evolve spiritually, mentally, physically. This country has helped me grow and improve in many areas as a person for a better future for myself, my family and others. Another reason is that I have always been blessed to have a strong leadership that have mentored me.

Tell us about the "early days" with the 402nd AFSB at JBB:
I was present when JBB was still LSA Anaconda. This installation has changed drastically. I have seen this installation develop in all proportions. Roads and buildings have quadrupled as well as number of personnel in the installation. I have experienced betterment in the daily lives of both military and civilians.

How have things changed at JBB over time?
The airfield, along with the runway and passenger transportation, have improved immensely as well. In the beginning individuals attempting to depart or arrive the installation would take days at a time, now anyone is able to arrive and depart to their destination with reasonable time, now everything is possible from JBB.

How has the 402nd AFSB changed over time?
The percentage of personnel, equipment and facilities has grown over the years. In the beginning AMC represented only small percent of the population on the installation and now AMC is all over JBB and Iraq.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
After duty hours sometimes I like to interact with different cultures here on Balad. I have many friends I share life experiences with. I also like to work out; running, weight training, as well as martial arts such as Akido and Tae Kwon Do.

What is your personal philosophy?
Treat everyone equally regardless of skin color and social scale or nationality; always treat everyone fairly and with respect.

Commentary: We need to 'get' the safety message

By Lisa Huston
402nd AFSB Safety

"If you've heard this story before, don't stop me, because I'd like to hear it again." - Groucho Marx

That is how I feel about the safety messages we receive every week. In a perfect "Safety World" everyone would have Mr. Marx's attitude. However, we do not live in a perfect world and many of you have expressed to me that you got the message and do not see the benefit of the safety messages we put out on a continuous basis.

I know you think we have *all* heard them before, but look around – chances are you have new workers at your site and with such a revolving workforce, the information you just received could be new to someone who has just arrived in theater. To truly exhibit a commitment to safety, and in the spirit of teamwork, I ask that you keep this in mind.

We all have a responsibility to work safely, coupled with the responsibility to ensure our co-workers work safely. If a veteran exhibits an attitude of indifference in relation to safety and safety messages, newcomers might develop a perception that safety is not important. The 402nd AFSB leadership cares about their employees and will go to great lengths to communicate the importance of working safely.

If you feel that you are being overloaded with safety information to the point of deleting the e-mails without reading them, I ask you to not be a part of the complacency problem that leads to accidents, injuries, and even death. I ask that you provide input and let us know what is important to your operation. Get involved.

What information *is* relevant to your job and the protection of you and your co-workers? Submit all safety focus topic ideas/requests to: AFSB-IZ_Safety@mmcs.army.mil.

Galen Putnam

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, briefs Maj. Gen. Harold G. Bunch, assistant deputy commanding general for Reserve Affairs, Army Materiel Command, during a visit to the 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, Retrograde Property Assistance Team Yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Sept. 6.

A look back: Activation of the 402nd AFSB

(The following article is from the 402nd AFSB historical archives)

On Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006, under a bright blue Iraqi sky, a new page was turned in the ongoing transformation of Army logistics in general and the US Army Materiel Command specifically.

In a short ceremony the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq was activated, replacing the Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq, which was deactivated.

The mission of the unit did not change, and the name only changed slightly, but the activation of the 402nd AFSB-Iraq is symbolic of major changes in how the US Army Materiel Command supports the Army and joint forces around the world.

Army Materiel Command has had a presence in Balad since May 2003, when the Logistics Support Element, 3rd COSCOM arrived with the HQ, 3rd COSCOM. In late May 2003, the Logistics Support Element Iraq was created to command and control the five main LSEs working in Iraq. Logistics Support Element Iraq was created and commanded by Col. Robert Spidel. In June 2003, AMC forward repair activities began to deploy to Balad to provide back up support to maintenance units in Iraq. These forward repair activities focused on communications, computers and electronics; line replaceable units for M1 and Bradley; and organizational level maintenance for High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and other light wheels.

The unusual thing about these forward repair activities is that they were almost 100 percent Department of the Army Civilians and maintenance contractors. Army planning and doctrine had never envisioned these civilians to be so far forward in the battle space, yet the civilians volunteered and continue to volunteer to serve in harm's way right next to the Soldiers they support. In 2003 these activities worked in tin huts or milvans, on dirt floors, or in rodent infested hangars. At the end of the logistics pipeline, and with no life support planned in advance, these civilians slept in the dirt and slowly built their own living facilities.

Over time, the number of different AMC activities in grew so large that a battalion structure was created to coordinate activities. It was at this time that the AMC maintenance area at the corner of Pennsylvania and Sustainer was created. Meanwhile, the LSE Iraq saw frequent turnover in the command structure. AMC deployed colonels for 120 or 180 days to command the LSE, often taking them out of their CONUS or European-based brigades for the Iraq deployment. In 2005 AMC moved to create stability in their deployed operations. In May 2005, the AMC LSE–Iraq was redesignated the Army Field Support Brigade Iraq. The commander and staff from Army Field Support Brigade Europe deployed to Iraq to create a more robust structure. At the same time, all AMC activities in Iraq, no matter where they operated, were assigned to the AFSB-Iraq. This created a single point of entry to AMC for all Warfighters in Iraq. If questions arose or complex multi-system systemic issues were discovered, AFSB-Iraq could coordinate the action.

During his speech at the activation ceremony, Col. John "Jack" O'Connor noted that the activation of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade was more

Leadership of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade pose with Brig. Gen. McQuistion, AMC SWA commanding general 402nd AFSB activation ceremony, Oct. 7, 2006.

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Uncasing the colors at the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade activation ceremony Oct. 7, 2006.

ACTIVATION — From Page 12

than just a name change. What's new is the 402nd is now a Modified Table of Organization and Equipment organization. It is one of seven MTOE Brigade AMC will field in the next three years and these Brigades will be the only designed deployable units in AMC. That means that AMC will now have deployable Brigade headquarters that can move out whenever Soldiers move out and support those Soldiers wherever they are. The brigade has the ability to reach back from the foxhole all the way to the American industrial base for solutions. This is what Col. O'Connor meant when he noted that the 402nd's "tactical actions have strategic impacts." The 402nd AFSB is the latest step taken by AMC to transform logistics throughout the division into a more responsive and complete logistics solution.

Despite three years of history in Iraq, the 402nd AFSB activation ceremony was more about the future than the past.

All eyes in AMC are now more clearly focused than ever on projecting logistics readiness, power, and solutions onto the battlefield. AMC stands next to the Warfighters she supports, and the 402nd AFSB is the recognizable AMC element providing that support across Iraq. Go to any main operating base in Iraq-Balad, Mosul, Tikrit, Ramadi, Kirkuk, Victory, Tallil, Taji, or others, and you will find 402nd AFSB Logistics Assistance Representatives, Theater Provided Equipment property book administrators, LOGCAP liaison officers, forward repair mechanics, and Logistics Support Element commanders. They are there to provide forward support to every coalition unit operating in the Battlespace. The 402nd will not miss a step in providing the forces in Iraq with "Readiness Power, Forward."

249th QM — From Page 1

personnel from the 249th Quartermaster Company, 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, who were on hand to de-install, inventory, package and relieve accountability of systems from the Raiders.

"Supporting the redeployment of the 4/2 [SBCT] was our first mission in Kuwait and was a culminating mission for our year-long deployment supporting the Responsible Drawdown of Forces," said Capt. Matthew Haistings, commander, 249th QM Co. "We're proud to have been part of this historical mission."

4th Stryker Brigade leadership decided early in their deployment they would keep their Stryker combat vehicles until the last possible moment, preserving their combat capability until the day they left Iraq. In addition to being the last combat brigade in Iraq, they wanted to demonstrate their confidence in Iraqi security. The ensuing road march resulted in two long and hot nights, stretching from Baghdad to Camp Virginia. Each Stryker battalion moved itself organically to Camp Virginia without incident.

Waiting at Camp Virginia was perhaps the largest mobile Army Materiel Command team assembled to date. More than 125 402nd AFSB personnel awaited the arrival of the Strykers.

"I worked with some very talented and skillful Soldiers, contractors, and DA Civilians from the 2nd [Battalion] 402nd AFSB, who all make up the MRPAT Team in support of the Responsible Drawdown," said Damiene White, wholesale responsible officer, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB. "Seeing so much equipment leaving Iraq to

1st Lt. Eric Nilsen

Spc. John Adams, 249th Quartermaster Company, inventories weapons scopes and GPS locator beacons at the Taji RPAT Yard as part of the Responsible Drawdown of Forces-Iraq. The 249th QM Co., is finishing up a year-long attachment to the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

various locations across the world is a high indication that we are still "Keeping It Moving" and supporting our number one customer, the Warfighter."

Contractors from Rhino, Warlock, OSVRT and PM Stryker greeted the Raider Soldiers and immediately got to work. The Rhino and Warlock systems provide improvised explosive Device protection to Soldiers in Strykers and other, combat vehicles. The OSVRT is a system allowing local commanders to control and receive live feeds from unmanned Aerial vehicles and surveillance aircraft in their area. PM Stryker is from General Dynamics, and was there to bring the Strykers back to GD for retrofit and upgrade.

Upon each battalion's arrival, the motor pool became a hub of activity. Soldiers from the 4/2 SBCT quickly downloaded their vehicles, personal and unit gear, and started the process of turning-in their "homes" of the past 12 months.

De-installers climbed over the Strykers, removing items as Warlock antennas quickly disappeared while Rhino Counter IED systems were spread throughout the yard. When de-installation was completed, the unit was relieved of responsibility for the items.

The Mobile Redistribution Property Assistance Team from 249th QM Co., accepted Theater Provided Equipment and Automatic Reset Induction equipment acquired throughout the unit's mission. Property Book Team 10, from 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, hammered through the paperwork requirements assisting the unit in ensuring they would clear their books expediently.

All parties worked together with a common focus - clear 4/2 SBCT's books and enable them to leave country as expeditiously as possible.

During the handover, the 249th QM Co., accepted more than 500 items for RESET and as a whole, the 402nd AFSB accepted more than 1,500 items, including just over 300 Stryker Combat Vehicles.

"It was a rewarding experience, seeing history take place before your eyes," White said.

2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB change of command

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade passes the colors to Lt. Col. Matthew F. Houser, incoming commander, 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, during the unit's change of command ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Aug. 30. (Photos by Galen Putnam)

Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush (left), outgoing commander, 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB, salutes the colors with Col. Fuller and Lt. Col. Houser.

The color guard, comprised of Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion.

Lt. Col. Houser addresses guests at the change of command.

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

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller
Commander

W. Arnold Pindle
Deputy to the Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Joel F. Webb
Command Sergeant Major

Lt. Col. Iola J. Simpson
Executive Officer

Galen Putnam
Public Affairs Officer/ Editor

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Where can I find those photos?

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

If you do not have access to the Mini 5 shared drive, direct photo requests to Galen Putnam, **OUTPOST** editor.

FROM THE FIELD

402ND ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE, IRAQ

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1/402ND AFSB TRANSITIONS TO OPERATION NEW DAWN

By Lt. Col. Dan Moroney
Commander, 1st Bn., 402nd AFSB

As of Sept. 1, 2010, United States Forces – Iraq has transitioned from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn. Iraqi security forces are in the lead and US Forces' mission shifts to stability and support operations. But for 1st Battalion, very little has changed. So what does this really mean for the more than 2,400 men and women of 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade?

1st Battalion provides one stop single integration fielding for new technology systems, sustainment maintenance, and armoring to units in the US Forces Iraq Area of Operations as well as centralized Command and Control for Life Cycle Management Command forward repair activities, new equipment fieldings, and logistics sustainment. The Battalion's focus is on world-class sustainment operations to units within United States Forces – Iraq.

As we drawdown internally, rightsizing our force, we must ensure we do not take shortcuts in our daily activities. Vigilance is our watchword, accountability is our responsibility and expeditionary is our mindset. We must continue to exploit better, more efficient methods of support while executing the drawdown. In some cases, this may mean increased workload and less resources to execute our mission. We have adjusted our battalion Lines of Operation to ensure our focus and priorities remain in line with the Brigade and USF-I. We are planning for expeditionary support through lean operations, while ensuring our drawdown efforts remain transparent to our supported units - a tough challenge, but one we are ready to embrace. Key to this challenge is identifying and disposing of excess materiel and equipment early, to ensure we are not encumbered during our drawdown later. Take the extra time to open one more container, ask the tough questions about stockpiled materiel, turn-in remaining soft-skinned tactical vehicles, and ensure our containers are seaworthy for the journey home.

Safety remains paramount in everything we do; there is no room for shortcuts. We must continue to do the right things, but also do them right. Complacency leads to accidents. Challenge your co-workers when they are not wearing gloves or safety goggles, and in some cases, helmets. In this environment, today's decisions directly affect our ability to do our mission tomorrow. Commonplace threats include not only maintenance operations, heat injuries, and non-tactical vehicles but also include direct and indirect fire attacks. Appropriately reacting to direct and indirect fire attacks, as a key element of our force protection posture, is more important than ever. Ballistic protection only works when properly worn and within arms reach for those unexpected moments. Proper judgment mitigates risk - if it does not feel right, or if you find yourself looking over your shoulder, you need to quickly re-evaluate the actions you are about to take.

Ray Gipe

John Hutchinson a URS employee from Dallas, Texas replacing a fuel pump on a 10K Gradall Forklift.

We must also be good stewards of government resources. As our non-tactical vehicle leases expire and we transition to a purely government-owned vehicle fleet, resource constraints will drive tough decisions. We will accomplish the mission and consolidate resources as we streamline our operations, rightsize our footprint, gain economy of force and safely return home to our families at the conclusion of Operation New Dawn.

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

12th CAB BLST provides expertise, assistance

By CW4 Nelson Velez
12th CAB BLST

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Col. Robert Doerer, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, presented coins to the 12th CAB Brigade Logistics Support Team team as the unit prepared for their redeployment back to Germany.

Doerer expressed his gratitude to the BLST members for their support during the deployment and for the Logistics Assistance Representative's constantly researching and identifying ways to assist units in improving or sustaining their operational readiness and providing training in appropriate troubleshooting procedures as well as identifying problems as they arise.

The BLST maintained situational awareness and provided expertise by participating on all maintenance meetings to include twice daily Production Control meetings and constantly visiting the units paid huge dividends on 12th CAB's readiness and mission success. The LAR's supported the Army Materiel Command's cost avoidance/savings and training program by identifying and assisting with aircraft repairs and avoiding unnecessary parts replacement. Their combined efforts over the past nine months saved more than $10 million and provided training to more than 400 personnel in Aviation and Missile Command and the Communications and Electronics Command components making the Warfighters' more proficient in maintaining their equipment during their deployment. The 12th CAB commander was extremely pleased with the integration of the BLST team and stated they were a vital component to the overall success and readiness of the Brigade.

Doerer keyed on the BLST's enthusiastic contribution with the processing and research of more than 550 aircraft on the ground (AOG) high priority parts in support of 96 aircraft maintenance phases and numerous unscheduled maintenance aircraft repairs which resulted in increasing the operational readiness rate from 38 to 80 percent within seven months. As Task Force XII end of mission came closer, the BLST team facilitated a smooth transition with the 1st Infantry Division while ensuring continued aviation mission support to the Warfighters of United States Division - South (1ID) during Operation New Dawn.

Inspecting equipment.

Conducting inventory.

JMC SPECIALISTS MANAGE MUNITIONS

By Patrick Barry, Aaron Thornton, Kevin Little
USD-South, Logistics Support Element

COB ADDER, Iraq – The Quality Assurance Specialists, Ammunition Surveillance also known as Joint Munitions Command Logistic Assistance Representatives are located at the Ammunitions Supply Point at COB Adder, Iraq. They are normally part of a Brigade Logistics Support Team.

A JMC LAR is the eyes and ears of commanders for all explosive safety and serviceability of munitions in theater. They are responsible to notify commanders of any negative impacts with munitions stockpiles and explosive safety concerns. The JMC LAR is an experienced munitions expert who provides technical assistance to the Warfighter for issue, storage, turn-in, transportation, and the maintenance of military munitions.

They are charged with the responsibility to ensure there are no suspense restrictions or serviceability issues against the stocks that are to be issued or are in service. The LAR verifies the quality of the shipment and ensures that the packaging, blocking and bracing are in compliance with the load to be drawn. During turn-ins, it is their job to ensure that the assets being turned in are safe and are in compliance with all serviceability condition codes. If the QASAS deems an item is unsafe to store, he or she will immediately contact an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team for destruction.

This is called snowballing. The G881 (Fragmentation Grenade) was covered with C-4 and was an unauthorized modification discovered at COB Adder's ASP during a unit turn-in. Ammunition and explosives are an inherent danger and must be handled with care at all times.

During another unit turn-in at COB Adder ASP, these grenades were discovered with taped fuse pins. Often Soldiers are instructed by their leadership to do this as a safety precaution This is far from safe and if discovered in this condition, individuals should contact a QASAS immediately. In a recent incident in Iraq, three servicemembers were injured, one losing an arm, while removing the adhesive tape from the safety device of a DWBS (MK 141 flash bang).

This load was received in this condition at the COB Adder Ammunition Supply Point.

402ND AFSB SAFETY

DSN: 312-987-5130 extension 6508

Mark Pitzen – Joint Munitions Command LAR

Mr. Mark Pitzen serves as the Joint Munitions Life Cycle Management Command Ammunition Logistics Assistance Representative for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade United States Division-Center Logistics Support Element on Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq.

He provides technical assistance and policy advice to the LSE and supported units on a full range of ammunition logistics issues regarding quality assurance and surveillance of conventional, rocket, and guided missile ammunition systems and other select commodities. He performs duties as a logistical/quality assurance advisor for Class V Accountable Officers assigned to Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Iraq and outlying Forward Operating Bases and joint security sites. Mr. Pitzen also provides technical guidance to installation Safety Officers concerning explosive safety issues.

Mark Pitzen, Joint Munitions Command Logistics Assistance Representative, with legacy munitions being prepared for turn in to the VBC Ammunition Supply Point.

One of Mr. Pitzen's primary responsibilities is performing visual inspections of ammunition stored by military units for Ammunition Basic Load and training purposes. ABL munitions are those ammunition items (i.e. small arms ammunition, hand grenades, illumination signals) that are used during daily combat operations. Training ammunition is expended on local firing ranges for qualification and familiarization exercises. He performs a visual inspection to determine the serviceability and reliability of ammunition in accordance with inspection criteria contained in technical manuals. Unserviceable munitions will be turned-in to the Camp Liberty Ammunition Storage Point (ASP) for disposal.

During the ongoing drawdown of coalition forces in Iraq, another important duty performed by Mr. Pitzen is inspecting "legacy" munitions found in storage locations. Legacy munitions are ammunition that was issued to previously deployed units and passed on to incoming replacement units. The munitions are not on accountable records and have no tracking visibility. In most instances, these munitions are unserviceable because of wear and tear. They have lost lot identity and are not reliable for retention in ABL or training accounts. It is imperative that these munitions are located and locally destroyed.

Re-deploying units are turning in large quantities of ammunition that are not packed in original packaging configurations. Mr. Pitzen provides technical assistance in procuring replacement packing material to ensure safe transport of the munitions for turn-in to the Camp Liberty Ammunition Supply Point. Packaging requests are submitted to Joint Base Balad for action.

When an ammunition malfunction has been reported, Mr. Pitzen, together with a TACOM Armament LAR, wconduct a thorough investigation to determine probable cause and take timely action to prevent any similar malfunction. Fragments and residue will be collected for analysis. A Temporary Suspension From Issue and Use (TSIU) will be implemented for the ammunition involved in the malfunction until final disposition is received. A detailed report, with pictorial evidence, will be submitted to JMC for further evaluation.

READINESS POWER

FORWARD