



# The Expeditionary Times

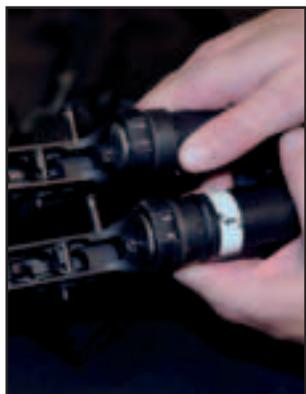
Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 4 Issue 28

November 24, 2010

www.armyreserve.army.mil/103rdESC

## M4-A1 Rifle



Army orders new, improved weapon

Page 6

## Commo



Signal support keeps info flowing

Page 7

## CLS Class



Soldiers improve lifesaving skills

Page 10



Capt. Vanessa Parker, commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Cincinnati native, pins a Combat Action Badge onto Spc. Jesus Rodriguez, a communications operator with the brigade's personnel security detachment, and a San Diego native.

## Soldiers recognized for combat action

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

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**—Ten Soldiers with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), personnel security detachment received the Combat Action Badge Nov. 13 during an award ceremony at the brigade's Special Troops Battalion motor pool.

The awards were a result of their

convoy being engaged simultaneously by multiple improvised explosive devices in August.

"There are a couple of awards you never want to get in your career," said Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, senior enlisted advisor with the 3rd Sust. Bde., and a Lima, Ohio, native, during the ceremony. "One is the CAB; that means that somebody is trying to kill you. The other is the Purple Heart; that means that they almost succeeded. We are very proud of you, and we're proud of the fact that you're alive to receive your CAB. The enemy did not succeed."

Staff Sgt. John Reason, the PSD's operations sergeant, and a Clinton, La., native, credits the PSD's success to the training and briefing they received. He said the impact happened quickly, so all he had time to do was react.

"It was pretty intense," he said. "Once we saw the bright light, that was it. We just knew to react. If we do all the training like we've been doing, we can make everything good."

First Lt. Luis Rojas, the PSD officer-in-charge and a Bronx, N.Y., native, agreed, adding that although the training can get repetitive, it

pays off in the end.

"It tests our patience," said Rojas. "Repeating the same training over and over, Soldiers can say 'I got it, we've been doing it for six months,' but when it hits, that's the whole purpose."

Rojas added that Reason's quick thinking helped him to better make the decision to keep moving. It also may have led to the team not incurring more serious injuries. For Reason, who survived two other IED blasts in prior deployments, his only thought was the safety of his team.

**CAB cont. page 12**

## Soldiers show off their tactical and technical skills in fun, motivating competitions

Page 8



Where do you read your

## Expeditionary Times?

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

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

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

# Keeping it all in perspective

LT. COL. ERIK FEIG  
103RD ESC CHAPLAIN



I had the distinct privilege of visiting one of America's hallowed institutions recently: The Mall. I was on R&R, and since I have two teenage daughters, we were obligated to go to the mall on a regular basis. Now let's be clear about this: I hate the mall. But I love my daughters. So when they asked if I'd like to go with them to do some shopping, I emphatically replied, "I'd love to!"

The mall provided a scintillating rush of sensory overload. All the lights of the stores beckoning the shoppers to come in, all the scents of the self-care stores and the food court tempting people to dig into their wallets or purses, all the noise of the crowds and the music in the air ... a wonderfully brilliant contrast to the day-to-day monotony of life in Iraq. I stood stunned, amazed, and thankful.

It was during one of those trips to the mall when I caught myself watching a pack of teenagers wind their way through the hallways, chatting incessantly about little or nothing, with some sort of expensive iced coffee beverage in hand. As I listened to their conversation (everyone could, for they were very loud) I started to become angry. It was a strange reaction, because all they were talking about was how little caramel there was in/on their iced coffee beverage. But they said it in such a non-complimentary tone, with an air of snootiness in their voices, that it caught me off guard. I just wanted to walk into their little insulated world and give them a glimpse of yours and mine. The long, hard hours we spend away from friends, family and privileges like the mall. The less than upscale living conditions, the DFAC food that all tastes the same after a while, the people you have to work with because you don't get to pick and choose your teammates. They were oblivious to all of that, and probably couldn't care less about it. All they cared about was that their lives were a bit less than perfect in that moment

because their foo-foo coffee didn't have enough caramel in/on it. And that angered me.

Then I took a step back, took a deep breath, and tried to regain my composure. What was really going on here? I started to look at it from a different perspective. These American teenagers were complaining about something that I considered trivial, and although that angered me at first, I began to see it as something wonderful. Not that complaining is a wonderful thing, but the fact that they could complain is wonderful! They didn't have a care in the world except for the issue of caramel on their coffee. They were free to live and enjoy their time with their friends at the mall, and stay oblivious to the hardships you and I face on a day-to-day basis. They were enjoying the fruits of our labor, and that is a beautiful thing. Once I put it into that perspective, the anger went away, and the pride of being an American filled my heart. We are blessed.

Now I know that not everyone in America lives like that. Many are worried daily about where their next meal will come from, if they'll have a roof over their heads or not, or if they'll have a shirt on their backs and shoes on their feet. Life for many in America is a far cry from worrying about caramel on their coffee drink. Yet we have what so many people across this globe only dream about: the ability to live free. Free to have opportunities, free to make dreams come true, free to be all that we can be (to steal an old Army slogan). We are even free to love and serve the God of our choosing, and free to love and serve our neighbor as ourselves. That is priceless. And that is the cause for which we serve.

I look forward to getting back to the States and enjoying some of those American freedoms. I look forward to worshipping my God in freedom and serving my neighbor in love. And I pray, like you do, that the world will share in these freedoms equally someday. I'm doing my part to make that dream a reality, and so are you. God bless you all in your service to our country. And may God continue to bless America.

I'm just keeping it all in perspective. Peace.



## LEARN THE DRAWDOWN

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

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

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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

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

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 3,500 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Avenue, Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 103rd ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net).

**103rd ESC PAO, Managing Editor**  
Maj. Angel R. Wallace  
[angela.wallace@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:angela.wallace@iraq.centcom.mil)

**103rd ESC PA NCOIC**  
Sgt. 1st Class Raymond P. Calef  
[raymond.calef@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:raymond.calef@iraq.centcom.mil)

**103rd ESC Operations NCO**  
Sgt 1st Class Kevin Askew  
[kevin.askew@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:kevin.askew@iraq.centcom.mil)

**103rd ESC Layout and Design**  
Spc. Emily A. Walter  
[emily.walter@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:emily.walter@iraq.centcom.mil)

**103rd ESC Staff Writers**  
Spc. Zane Craig  
[zane.craig@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:zane.craig@iraq.centcom.mil)

Spc. Matthew Keeler  
[matthew.keeler@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:matthew.keeler@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](http://www.dvidshub.net)  
keyword: Expeditionary Times

Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at:  
[escpao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escpao@iraq.centcom.mil)

**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: Recognize toxic leadership

MAJ. ERIK VERHOEF  
103RD ESC DEPUTY IG



This week's article is based on a much read article titled "Toxic Leadership" by Col. George E. Reed, first published in the July-August 2004 edition of Military Review. It is easy to find on the Internet for those who want to read the original.

What is toxic leadership? We all know it when we see it, but it is not easy to define. The article defines and describes toxic leaders in a number of ways as paraphrased below:

- Leader who bullies, threatens, and yells
- Leader who is maladjusted, malcontent and often malevolent, even malicious
- Leader who succeeds by tearing others down
- The leader who glories in turf protection, fighting, and controlling rather than uplifting subordinates
- The leader who is arrogant, self-serving, inflexible, and petty
- The leader who is indifferent to unit climate

One must also realize that loud, decisive, and demanding leadership is not toxic in itself. Some of my best bosses have

been loud, decisive, and demanding. I usually perform better under them and have learned the most from them. A toxic leader can come with a soft voice and have a sincere façade.

There are three elements of toxic leadership syndrome:

1. An apparent lack of concern for the well-being of subordinates
2. A personality or interpersonal technique that negatively affects the organizational climate
3. A conviction by subordinates that the leader is primarily motivated by self-interest.

The military is primarily a people business, and without Soldiers, all of our technology is useless. Inherent in a people business are leaders, and the role of the leader is central in all Army operations.

Nobody likes a toxic leader, but most of us have had to suffer from one at one point or another in our careers. However, the toxic leader is often very successful and gets results for the boss.

Our military culture values results and technical competence; therefore, some senior leaders will overlook a toxic leader if he or she gets results. This explains why the single

biggest reason toxic leadership is overlooked is because the culture enables it.

Surprisingly, senior raters are often fooled by a toxic leader, and they are unaware of their subordinate's behavior. In the IG office we see this regularly. Sometimes the rater is a bit removed from the subordinate as in a battalion commander/company commander relationship, making it harder for the rater to detect. However, sometimes it is right within their staff. Toxic leaders are also very good at hiding their behavior from their bosses.

Most toxic leaders do not realize their impact on the unit. They are oblivious to the fact that the command climate is negatively impacted by their behavior, and they rationalize their behavior as necessary to get the job done. Here is where the rater is invaluable since he or she is in the prime position to mentor and counsel the toxic leader. Remember, a toxic leader is in large part a bully, and bullies only respect authority from above. This is where the Army values come into play. A toxic leader is violating the Army value of Respect: Treat people as they should be treated. A rater must use the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Honor, Selfless Service, Integrity, and Personal Courage to teach the toxic leader Respect.

## Combat Stress: Giving thanks during deployment

MAJ. LORIE FIKE  
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



It is that time of year again when we are more conscious about for whom and for what we are thankful. Thanksgiving is upon us, traditionally the holiday when we spend time with family members, and express our

gratitude for our blessings. Unfortunately, because we are deployed, most of us will be unable to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with our families. Just because we will not be physically present with our families does not mean that we can't express thanks and gratitude. In fact, research studies indicate individuals who express and feel a sense of gratitude and who count their blessings may feel happier, healthier, less depressed, less stressed, and more satisfied with their lives.

After reading about these gratitude studies, I went on a quest to find out what makes individuals at Joint Base Balad

thankful. A service member stated, "I am thankful for the amazing support of my team at JBB, for being there for me both personally and professionally."

Another Soldier said, "For having a stress-free deployment and working with a great team."

A few Soldiers expressed appreciation for family members. One said, "I am thankful for having such a supportive wife that gives me the will to be a better person."

Another Soldier stated, "My two daughters, as without them my life would be in dismay!"

The third Soldier stated, "I am thankful for many things this year. In particular, I am thankful for my son and my daughter as well as the ability to have worked with so many Soldiers in deployment. I am also thankful for such a great team and a wonderful OIC [officer-in-charge]."

A Sailor spoke of the simple pleasures when she said, "I am thankful for French toast sticks."

Another individual said, "I have had some bad times in the military, but I am grateful for the friends I have made."

Even though the individuals I spoke with will not be with their families this holiday season, they had no difficulty expressing what they are thankful for so far away from home.

Sometimes we are faced with situations that test our patience, and it is difficult to be appreciative during these times. One technique that may help during challenging times is to evaluate the circumstances and find at least one positive aspect of the situation. I also encourage you to learn how to be thankful for the small victories and the little things in life.

I appreciate J. Allen's view on how to be thankful. He wrote, "People with a strong sense of gratitude, love and appreciation don't necessarily have more than others; they simply recognize and see more beauty in their lives."

As we draw closer to Thanksgiving, I challenge you to be more mindful about what you are thankful and grateful for every day. It may be the beautiful sunset, cooler weather, football season, your family, your friends, or simply a good cup of coffee. It does not matter who or what you are thankful for, the important point is that you are thankful.

## Quartermaster Soldiers train up to replace counterparts

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
2ND LT. PATRYK KORZENIEWSKI  
565TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**— The 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), arrived from Fort Hood, Texas, to replace the 40th Quartermaster Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Prior to setting foot in Iraq, the 565th QM Co. arrived in Kuwait, and went through five days of mandatory training. The training consisted of counter-insurgency, Humvee and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle rollover training.

During the MRAP training, Spc. Lee Nelson, storage clerk with the 565th QM Co., and a Gainesville, Fla., native, found that exiting an overturned MRAP was challenging. "The MRAP training was fun, but falling on my head kind of hurt," he said.

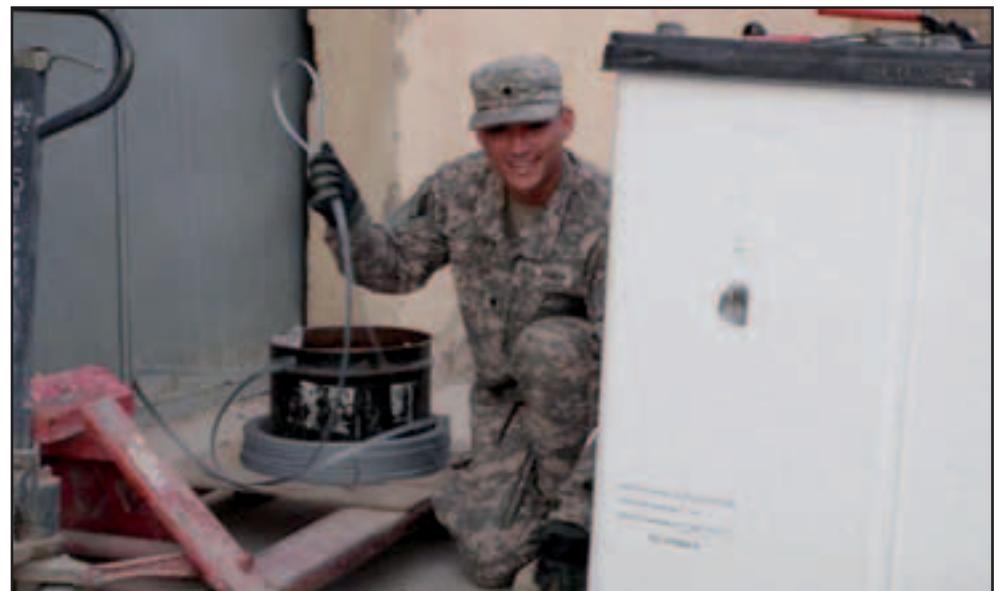
Following their training, the 565th QM Co. went to the airfield to finish their move to COB Adder.

Once a container truck arrived, gear was loaded and the 565th QM Co. continued on to the airbase, loaded onto the aircraft, and headed to COB Adder to begin the relief-in-place process with the 40th QM Co.

Since arriving in theater in October, the 565th QM Co. has been working closely with their counterparts in the 40th QM Co.

"The takeover process was very streamlined," said 1st Lt. Grant Workman, platoon leader with the 565th QM Co., and a Chicago native. "The 40th QM gave us pretty much everything we needed."

During the changeover, a massive inventory of the supply support activity took place, encompassing some 11,000 different lines of stock and taking five days to complete. With



**Spc. Joseph McCauley, storage section specialist with the 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Los Angeles native, unwraps a multipack box in the receiving section of the supply support activity recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.**

the inventory complete, the 565th QM Co. is poised to take over supply support operations. Along with the SSA mission, the 565th QM Co. is running food supply, a hazardous materials yard, and the empty container collection point.

# Family members are combat Veterans as well

BY COL. LANCE KITTLESON  
103RD ESC COMMAND CHAPLAIN



Veterans' Day has come and gone. As a holiday goes, not too many people in our culture pay attention to it anymore. The bank and post office are closed for sure, but not much else.

The day that started out as Armistice Day for the "War to End All Wars" is now renamed for all Veterans, as there have been so many wars and so many casualties since then that our generation just shakes our head that any society could be so naive as to really believe the slogan.

In our daily shift change and commanding general's briefing, the chaplain always leads off with a thought for the day and Veterans' Day is no exception. There really isn't such a thing as a day off here, although the pace of things usually is kept to a minimum on holidays. I reminded the Operations Center staffers that the word "Veteran" comes from the Latin word meaning "old," and nobody was older or felt older than the chaplain. That brought snickers, but was also all too true.

Later at a formation when the commanding general spoke, he reminded everyone in the unit from the oldest to the youngest that they were Veterans, and even now were in a relatively small group called "combat Veterans." Using rough numbers, he said he took the U.S. population and divided it by the number of all military personnel in all branches of Active, Guard and Reserve forces. Adding in their families, the result was barely one percent of Americans who bear the human cost of this fight—these long wars against terrorism.

My thought of the day at the briefing spoke to that one percent; "In war, there are no unwounded."

On this Veterans' Day when many people send e-mails

and greetings of gratitude for our Veterans and their service to the nation, it dawned on me that those in uniform are not the only Veterans.

A young mother of two small children awaiting her husband's return with our unit wrote and said "Thank you for serving our nation." I wrote back saying that she is a Veteran, too, and deserves as much thanks as her husband here in uniform.

Deployments are not just a "Soldier only" event. The whole family goes to war, whether they, the civilians, volunteered or not. The spouses, mostly women, but some men, who are "holding down the fort," keep the family and the home fires burning. THEY are just as much "the old Veterans" as anyone, for they have their fights to wage too.

They become wounded and are casualties, as well. Their wounds are more silent and unseen than their military spouses', but they are just as real. The agonizing loneliness can cripple relationships. They live with paralyzing fear of the call in the night or a sedan stopping in front of the house manned by Soldiers in dress uniform coming solemnly for casualty notification.

They bear the wounds of a husband who never was good at communication in the first place, yet now bears the scars of war in a soul that wages war with itself. Combat's curse for some is that it never goes away, but it is also borne by the family. Many have sympathy for the uniformed Veteran, but few acknowledge the terrible wounds the families experience from frequent and multiple deployments as they try to put relationships back together again.

This is my second deployment to Iraq as a Reservist. When I wrote my wife that she too is a Veteran, she realized that she has had twice as many deployments as I have. In fact, she is a Veteran of four deployments to date, two with

me in Iraq and two with our son, once in Iraq and now in Afghanistan.

My daughter is a four-deployment Veteran, too. My mom has five this time around with a son and two grandchildren, not to mention several with my dad in wars past. My grandchildren may not understand the gravity of war yet, but they understand Grandpa is gone for a long time and they are "old" grizzled Veterans now of deployments with a grandpa and an uncle. There are some families that could easily double or triple these numbers, but after one, it really doesn't matter anymore. The cost of loving a Soldier just can't be calculated any longer.

They have all paid a price in one way or another for their loved one and nation, yet without medals, homecomings, accolades, and without a holiday of school programs and a flag waving in their honor.

The motto of the Army Reserve is "Twice the Citizen." It reflects the citizen-Soldiers Guard or Reserve of all branches of the military who live, work and serve in our communities while at the same time balancing the demands of being modern, trained Soldiers capable and ready to be called upon by the nation. But if Soldiers are twice the citizen, how many times a citizen are our wives and husbands, our children and parents and loved ones of combat Veterans?

It is not as flashy nor has the same ring to it to say "Quadruple the Citizen" when describing our spouses and families, but it is far more accurate and true. All of them are Veterans whether old or young, but none are unwounded somewhere in their souls. So those nearer the "the rockets' red glare and the bombs bursting in air" simply say with gratitude to those halfway around the world, thanks for being just as much, if not more so, "Twice the Citizen, Twice the Veteran."

# Aviation brigade sees bird's eye view of success

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ROLAND HALE

ENHANCED COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Lt. Col.

Michael Bentley no longer cringes while flying over Baghdad. In the "old days," the city was dangerous. But now the Army pilot looks

down from his Black Hawk helicopter to see the lights of amusement parks and kids at swimming pools. After seven years of war in Iraq, Bentley sees success.

Bentley's unit, the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, held a ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Nov. 3, marking the end of their year-long tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Before leaving Iraq, the battalion's aviators shared encouraging words for the future of the country, referencing several indications of success they have seen from their bird's eye view.

The battalion deployed to Iraq last November from Katterbach, Germany. While the nature of Army aviation's mission has not changed since then (aviation units support ground forces, regardless of the nature of their mission), the Iraq they have been flying above has

"What I've seen flying above Iraq shows me that the war hasn't been a waste of time," said Bentley. "Looking down at kids in paddle boats, families going around a Ferris wheel in Baghdad, that shows there's some normalcy starting to go back into the country.

"It makes me proud, that what we did here over these past years has meant something;



A U.S. Army Black Hawk pilot turns his head to check his aircraft's gauges while flying over Baghdad this summer. The pilot belongs to the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the last aviation brigade to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the only aviation brigade supporting Operation New Dawn.

that all the casualties that have occurred in Iraq have not been in vain."

Spc. Ryan Hadfield, a Black Hawk crew chief, started to see a change first-hand this September with the start of Operation New Dawn.

"There's been a huge improvement over the last year," said Hadfield. "We started off our deployment doing air assaults, and

then transitioned to a more peaceful role of moving people around the battlefield. It was go, go, go, picking up troops and taking them to the fight, and now it's a more routine state of support operations."

Hadfield and many of the battalion's helicopter crews worked up to the last minute of their unit's deployment, totaling more than 16,000 hours of flight time. Replacing

the battalion is the 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment, a similar aviation battalion from California. The new battalion replaced the 3-158th as part of the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, the last aviation brigade to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the only aviation brigade supporting Operation New Dawn.



Spc. Steven Shader, a truck commander with the 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Urania, La., native, guides his vehicle to be staged prior to his convoy escort mission in support of Operation New Dawn Nov. 7 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

## MRAP maintenance important before missions

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. JENNIFER JOHNSON  
199TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION

### CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with Alpha Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have been working to maintain Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles since April 7 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Tasks such as changing air, oil filters and tires on an MRAP vehicle require the work of a team.

At home station, changing tires takes less than an hour, depending on the experience of the person doing the labor and the size of the vehicle, said Staff Sgt. Gateson Celeston, a platoon sergeant with A Co., 199th BSB, and a St. Martinville, La., native.

“At home, changing tires is not that difficult because of the absence of the heavy armor,” said Celeston. “However, on the MRAP, the sheer presence of armor is what makes the task tedious, so I require my crews to conduct proper preventive maintenance checks and services on their vehicles together.”

For the Soldiers currently deployed with A Co., 199th BSB, maintaining their large

fleet of MRAPs to provide convoy escort teams to support logistical nodes in Iraq is a daunting task.

According to 1st Sgt. Christopher Beeson, senior enlisted advisor of the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cav. Regt., 224th Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC, and a Pineville, La., native, since temperatures during summer months are intense, they have a tendency to slow down the speed of work on the fleet of MRAPs. Soldiers continuously hydrate based on their work/rest plan to combat dehydration while maintaining their vehicles.

“Staying hydrated while maintaining vehicles or anything else in this environment is extremely important,” said Beeson. “Dehydration is hazardous to one’s health, makes the convoy escort teams vulnerable, and affects combat readiness.”

Preventative maintenance checks and services (PMCS) are conducted before, during, and after the operation of any military equipment, allowing Soldiers the opportunity to become completely familiar with the vehicle.

“It is important to find any potential issues with a vehicle before the mission rather than neglecting to do it,” said Sgt. Cody James, a truck commander with A Co., 199th BSB, and a West Monroe, La., native. “By not locating issues early, it makes the mission that much harder, and it puts Soldiers at risk.”

According to Staff Sgt. Donald Gore, a motor sergeant with A Co., 199th BSB, and a Pollock, La., native, by completing the



(Left to right) Sgt. Lydian Miles, a convoy security driver and an Alexandria, La., native; Sgt. Trenton Johnson, a mechanic and a Winnfield, La., native; and Staff Sgt. Rashard Powell, a truck commander and an Atlanta native, all with A Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), replace the glow plugs in their improvised explosive device protective equipment prior to their mission Nov. 10 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

required maintenance services, the convoy security Soldiers are able to stay on top of recurring issues to avoid taking their vehicle off the road.

Gore said that PMCS can reduce the occurrence of injuries, improve effectiveness

while securing their convoys, and increase operator situational awareness through the use of their equipment. “It is extremely important that PMCS is completed in order to keep the trucks fully mission-capable,” he concluded.

# CRSP yard imperative in responsible drawdown

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ZANE CRAIG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq**— When Soldiers with the 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), arrived at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, in August 2010, they were confronted with the task of replacing 450 personnel with 150 to operate six Central Receiving and Shipping Points at bases throughout Iraq.

The 403rd ICTC CRSP personnel reduced the number of containers in the yard at VBC by 60 percent in the last two weeks in support of the United States Forces-Iraq sustainment and responsible drawdown of forces.

“We receive and ship out all containers and cargo within Iraq,” said 1st Lt. KiAnna Walker, officer in charge of VBC CRSP yard with the 403rd ICTC, and a Suffolk, Va., native.

The cargo they handle can be almost anything, including vehicles, housing units, tanks, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and various types of equipment.

“If it can be strapped into a pallet or put into a container, it can be shipped,” said Walker.

At VBC, 30 Soldiers are doing what 60 Soldiers did before August with no problems. The work tempo has not changed due to a lack of personnel.

“My Soldiers work hard and get the job done,” said Walker.

She credits that hard work and effective training for the success of the unit’s operations. Upon arrival, the 403rd ICTC also became more proactive, using e-mail and phone calls to ensure local customers received their containers in a timely fashion.

Customers can refer to contractors, other units, or facilities, such as the Army Air Force Exchange Service, that send cargo to or receive cargo from the CRSP yard.

The emptiness of the yard is palpable, even to a visitor who had never seen it full of containers and the equipment needed to move and sort them. That relative emptiness does



**Spc. James Cunningham, cargo lane noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Akron, Ohio, native, coordinates a cargo lift with his crew Nov. 11 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.**

not imply a lack of work still to be done. The drawdown is ongoing, and even sustainment requires that cargo be moved throughout the country.

“The CRSP yard works just like a post office,” said Spc. James Cunningham, the cargo lane noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 403rd ICTC, and an Akron, Oh., native.

Cunningham, with one other Soldier, oversees 13 civilian

contractors to make sure they get the right cargo in and out of the yard and follow safety and hazardous materials guidelines.

“There’s no such thing as a typical day here,” said Cunningham. “It all depends on the customers.”

Soldiers with the 403rd ICTC provide a great example of how to do more with less to sustain the troops in Iraq, while facilitating a responsible drawdown of forces.

# Improved M4-A1 rifle could save money, lives

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ZANE CRAIG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq**— The Army has ordered 12,000 new M4-A1 carbine rifles from Colt, and plans to order 25,000 more early in 2011 to gradually replace the older model.

The new M4-A1 differs in several ways from the older model.

“The new version has some perks as well as some downfalls,” said Spc. Dave Hanson, a small arms repair specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), currently stationed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and a Washington, Ill., native. “It can lay down a lot of fire, but the amount of ammunition you use increases the combat load.”

The main difference is that the new M4-A1 can fire fully automatic instead of the burst function of the old M4. The barrel is heavier to dissipate the heat that builds during sustained firing.

“The automatic function creates more recoil than the three-round burst,” said



**Staff Sgt. Bobby Moore, armament section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Altoona, Pa., native, shows how there is one trigger disconnect in the new M4-A1 rifle (top), Nov. 18 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

Staff Sgt. Bobby Moore, armament section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 298th SMC, and an Altoona, Pa., native.

“The whole key to the burst function was to allow you time to reacquire the target.”

The war fighter on the ground will need to

exercise discipline to regulate the use of the ammunition.

Hanson said that he likes the idea of updating everyone with one uniform weapon to both save money and simplify the repair process. Moore added that although most M-series parts are interchangeable, he has thousands of parts in his stock, and many could be eliminated at great savings to the taxpayer.

JBB’s small arms repair shop is tucked away in a nondescript corner of the 298th SMC’s auto repair yard, occupying a row of tiny buildings containing the staff and supplies to service the range of non-artillery weapons present on the base.

Five soldiers constitute the only such unit remaining at JBB since the civilian contractors left last month as part of the ongoing responsible drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq.

The small arms shop handles many tasks, including annual gauges of weapons and repairs; the vast majority of which can be completed within a day.

The new M4-A1 carbine rifle has the potential to greatly increase the amount of firepower at the disposal of every service member who carries it into battle. Though its benefits come with some drawbacks, its addition to the military arsenal has the potential to save money and lives.

# Maintenance Soldiers inspect weapons systems

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CW2 JOHNNIE L. HARVEY, JR.  
632ND MAINTENANCE COMPANY

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

**ADDER, Iraq**— The 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provided battalion-wide technical inspections for convoy security teams (CSTs) prior to going out on a security mission recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The 632nd Maint. Co. armament shop provided small arms support to the CST by performing technical inspections on a .50-caliber crew-serve weapon and other weapons systems, ensuring each weapon functioned properly prior to going out on security escort missions.

“As a civilian working alongside the Soldiers of the 632nd Maint. Co., I share my technical knowledge and prior service experience with the Soldiers, which assists in the troubleshooting and diagnosis process of the weapon and weapon systems,” said Dana Worthy, armament repairer with Olgoonik

Logistics, LLC, and a Powder Springs, Ga., native. “Together, the 632nd Maint. Co. Soldiers and civilian armament technicians will continue to provide outstanding support to all units that support Operation New Dawn.”

The Soldiers benefit from training on weapon repair, ensuring maximum mission-readiness.

“It allowed me the opportunity to cross-train on small arms repair work, making me a well-rounded Soldier in the armament section,” said Spc. William Grimaldo, fire control system repairer with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Northridge, Calif., native. “It also made the week fly by, which is always a good thing in Iraq. The technical inspection allowed us as direct support level maintenance to go more in depth, finding deficiencies that wouldn’t have been noticed by the operator or crew. We replaced all deficiencies, and the weapon was test-fired prior to being returned back to the convoy security team.”

Sgt. Ronald Turner, fire control system repairer with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Detroit native, said the training was successful.

“We were able to find out how well Soldiers could actually shoot their weapon system,” he said.



(Left to right) Spc. Joshua Freeman, an armament repairer with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Decatur, Ala., native; Spc. William Grimaldo, a fire control system repairer with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Northridge, Calif., native; and Mr. Dana Worthy, an armament repairer with Olgoonik Logistics, LLC, and a Powder Springs, Ga., native, perform a technical inspection on a .50-caliber machine gun for the convoy security team recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

# ‘Communication warriors’ keep information moving

STORY BY  
1ST LT. DEREK BOYD  
108TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER,

**Iraq**— Soldiers with Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Shreveport, La., help communicate effectively and efficiently by sustaining electronic warfare operations at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

According to Sgt. Ne-Kwan Perkins, signal systems support specialist with B Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a New Orleans native, B Troop did not just need Soldiers who could communicate; they needed “communication warriors” who could automate, transmit and receive voice and data information. They needed Soldiers to keep the unit informed and ready to respond during the unit’s long convoy escort missions to support logistical nodes throughout Iraq.

“Our commo team really stepped up with the confidence and skills needed to get the job done,” said Capt. Stanley Westmoreland, commander of B Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Shreveport, La., native, while discussing Perkins, Sgt. Ruben Silva, information management officer with B Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Shreveport, La. native, and Sgt. Lucian Hughes, communications specialist with B Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Plain Dealing, La., native.

Silva worked to maintain, process, and troubleshoot military computer systems and operations within the unit, and dealt with the difficult issues of communication and connectivity in a combat zone.

“Despite all the automations assistance from the civilian automations field service representatives, it was still more practical and less time consuming for me to handle the majority of our automation needs on my own,” said Silva.

Silva was able to acquire additional skills in the electronic warfare operations area to ensure that B Troop’s convoy escort teams were reasonably protected from the threats of improvised explosive devices. During mission briefs, pre-

combat checks, and vehicle maintenance days, Silva operates his spectrum analyzer, ensuring the counter explosive team’s counter remote control improvised electronic explosive device warfare vehicle receiver/jammer system is operating at its maximum potential for each mission. If not, the vehicle does not roll.

Hughes’ ability to provide technical assistance as well as installing, maintaining, and troubleshooting signal support equipment and terminal devices were additional assets for the communications team at the onset of the deployment, said Westmoreland.

“We have been exposed to only the kind of challenges that a ‘commo warrior’ would dream of,” said Hughes.

With Perkin’s previous deployment to Iraq and her knowledge of operating and maintaining tactical and strategic transmissions, single and multi-channel high frequency radio systems, and maintenance of tactical and defense satellite communication systems, the communications circle for convoy escort teams is complete.

“My deployment last year with the 225th Engineer Brigade did not contain the level of communication challenges that we have faced here with the transition between the variances of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles,” said Perkins. “We had to get dirty.”

Describing the effects of their mission to assist with the responsible drawdown of U.S. Forces in Iraq, Perkins and Silva referred back to their history in the Marines.

“Overcome and adapt,” the two said simultaneously, regarding a popular Marine Corps saying that has been adopted by the Army.

“This deployment has been a great experience,” said Silva. “Information Systems Operator-Analyst School ... prepares you for the demands of a unit’s automated combat needs, and I am a stronger information specialist because of it.”

To describe his deployment experience, Hughes made reference to a quote from Gen. Colin Powell: “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

Perkins truly immortalized the cavalry traditions with her statement: “While Bravo Troop, 2-108th brings the thunder during battle, we, their communications warriors, call down the lightning.”



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Thomas

(Front to rear) Sgt. Ruben Silva, information management noncommissioned officer, and a Shreveport, La. native, Sgt. Ne-Kwan Perkins, signal systems support specialist, and a New Orleans native, and Sgt. Lucian Hughes, communications specialist, and a Plain Dealing, La., native, all from Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), inspect communications equipment on a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle before a convoy escort mission recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

# 'Demon Fury' event tests Soldiers' combat skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

SPC. ROLAND HALE

ENHANCED COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**— Sixty U.S. troops deployed to Iraq were up before sunrise Nov. 7 to compete in Demon Fury, a unit competition testing the full spectrum of their combat skills.



The competition was hosted by the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, an aviation unit from Fort Riley, Kan. Members of the brigade from around Iraq travelled to Camp Taji for the competition.

Demon Fury, named after the brigade's nickname, the "Demon Brigade," began in the early morning hours with a six-mile road march. The march was followed by several events, including a weapons range, an obstacle course and an event in which participants provided medical care to simulated casualties. Demon Brigade troops also appeared before a board and faced a mystery challenge testing their land navigation skills.

"Today's competition was put together to select the NCO [noncommissioned officer] and the Soldier of the Year for 2010 for the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Thomson, the senior NCO for the brigade. "We've got over four thousand Soldiers in this brigade, and we wanted to do something that was challenging and fun that would select the best of the best."

Months of training paid off for Pfc. Johnathon Sprinzl, who finished the road march in under an hour.

"I just want to stand out amongst my peers and excel," said Sprinzl. "I ran all six miles... running is a whole lot different in all this gear."

"I had to buckle down and dig deep to find my way through the obstacles," said Spc. Ryan Bradley, who finished just ahead of Sprinzl on the road march with a time of



Sgt. Derek Czerniak, a Soldier serving on Camp Taji, Iraq, with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, crawls under a barbed wire obstacle Nov. 7 during Demon Fury, a competition designed to test the full spectrum of Soldiers' combat skills.

54 minutes.

Preparation for Demon Fury took several months, said Sgt. Maj. Gregory Pace, the brigade's senior operations NCO. Pace, who worked with several other NCOs to organize the competition, said that events like this are critical to troops' welfare and morale.

"It takes a lot of motivation and training and guts to do this," said Pace. "Soldiers need competition here and there; this is a great way to do that."

The competition provided a healthy challenge for Pfc. Mark Bilog, who finished the

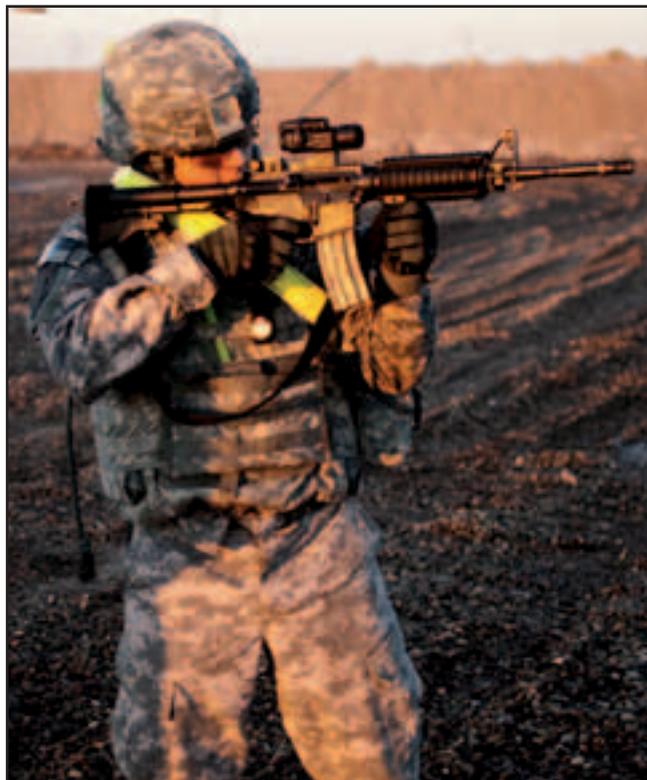
road march in just over 70 minutes and navigated the obstacle course just seconds before the cutoff.

"I need to find out where the massage parlor here is – I'm beat," said Bilog, "but I'm glad I did this. It gave me motivation and a goal: to be in the best shape of my life."

The day culminated at Camp Taji's dining facility with an awards ceremony rewarding the brigade's top competitors. The brigade named Bilog the 2010 Soldier of the Year and Staff Sgt. Joseph Riddle the 2010 NCO of the Year.

Riddle and Bilog were awarded Army Commendation Medals, slots in an Air Assault training school, and several small gifts from the brigade's command. But the prize the winners said they look forward to the most is a four-day stay at Freedom Rest, a facility on Camp Victory, Iraq, designed to give Soldiers a break from the arduous routine of deployment.

"Awesome," said Riddle, describing his victory with one word. "I worked hard to get here, but I wouldn't be here without my team, everybody from my company."



Spc. Bradley Kelly, a Soldier serving on Camp Taji, Iraq, with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, fires his weapon Nov. 7 during Demon Fury, a competition designed to test the full spectrum of Soldiers' combat skills.



Spc. Ryan Bradley, a Soldier serving on Camp Taji, Iraq, with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, applies a tourniquet to a simulated casualty Nov. 7 during Demon Fury, a competition designed to test the full spectrum of Soldiers' combat skills.



Sgt. Richard Mansford, a Soldier serving in Iraq with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, carries a fuel hose during a unit competition recently. The competition, called the Sustainment Games, put troops in Army maintenance and support vocations against each other in several timed events ranging from forklift operations to setting up a fueling point for aircraft.

## Deployed troops take center stage in competition



Spc. Christopher Millard, a Soldier serving in Iraq with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, hoists a tire onto a vehicle during a unit competition recently. The competition, called the Sustainment Games, put troops in Army maintenance and support vocations against each other in several timed events ranging from forklift operations to setting up a fueling point for aircraft.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

SPC. ROLAND HALE

ENHANCED COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**— Soldiers serving with an aviation brigade at Camp Taji, Iraq, faced off during a unit competition recently, testing their technical expertise in areas ranging from vehicle operations to equipment maintenance.

The Sustainment Games were organized as a morale-building event, and gave support troops a chance to show off and stand out from their aviation peers. During the competition, the competitors were neither pilots nor gunners, but fuelers and mechanics who took center stage in the unit-wide competition.

“I think it means a lot to them,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Alexander, senior noncommissioned officer with the 601st Aviation Battalion, and a Lacey’s Spring, Ala., native. “It breaks up the daily routine of a deployment, and they get to see who is the best— from mechanic skills to driving skills.”

The 601st Avn. Bn. hosted the games; the battalion deployed in March from Fort Riley, Kan., as the designated support asset of the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize how good some of these guys are at what they do,” said 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Wood,

a Manhattan, Kan., native, and the officer in charge of the competition. “This was a chance for our guys to get out of the office and show everyone what it takes to do their jobs.”

Perhaps the most challenging event of the day was setting up a forward arming and refueling point, where helicopters can land for fuel and armament. Several teams of Soldiers took turns competing for the best times in building a FARP.

“They had to set up a series of 50-foot hoses that could support the refueling of four aircraft,” said Wood. “It involves a lot of running around in the heat, hooking up nozzles and stretching out the hoses.”

Spc. Christopher Vibbert, a mechanic with the 601st Avn. Bn., and a Van Wert, Ohio, native, helped his team set up their FARP. A mechanic by trade, it was a new experience for him.

“I was lost out there, throwing hoses all over the place, but my team backed me up and we did pretty good,” said Vibbert. “It was a friendly atmosphere, and I think everyone was here to support the teams and have fun.”

For Spc. Jeremiah Pringle a competitor and a Florence, S.C., native, the competition came at just the right time. The unit has been deployed to Iraq for nearly nine months, and its Soldiers eagerly await their return home. In the meantime, Pringle said, events like this keep the troops’ morale up.

“We’ve got a couple months left, and we’re doing good,” said Pringle.

“Just like this competition, motivation and dedication is all it takes, and we’ll be home soon.”

# Container turn-in part of responsible drawdown

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. SETH CHURCH  
632ND MAINTENANCE COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provide valuable armament, munitions, welding, equipment, and vehicle maintenance to the various 224th Sust. Bde. units at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Recently, they managed the turn-in of more than 25 non-seaworthy containers in record time.

Second Lt. Derrick Smith, armament platoon leader with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Ragland, Ala., native, and Sgt. Ronald Turner, armament repairer with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Detroit native, ensured that the faulty containers were turned in to the container supply system.

Smith, the appointed container manager with the 632nd Maint. Co., planned, coordinated, and began movement of the containers as directives came down the chain of command in the form of e-mails, fragmentary orders, and verbal orders.

“It was short notice, so we got on the move as soon as we could,” said Smith. “With only a short time to empty the containers, the entire chain of command was involved, from squad leaders up to the company commander. The first sergeant provided the guidance to all platoons that the suspense must be met at all costs, even if it meant working late for the day.”

Turner, the container noncommissioned officer-in-charge, supervised, guided and helped the Soldiers who were tasked to clean the containers, sort the equipment, and properly store it elsewhere. “We’ve made a lot of progress and have actually found a great bit of equipment



Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), work to unload non-seaworthy containers recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

the previous unit left behind,” he said. “We are going to turn in anything that we don’t need and properly account for the rest.”

# Combat lifesaver skills important for all Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CW2 SAMUEL N. VOIGHT  
632ND MAINTENANCE COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**— Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment

Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), participated in a combat lifesaver course sponsored by the 224th Sust. Bde. recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Capt. Jesus Pena, commander of the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Del Rio, Texas, native, said that he wants his Soldiers to attend the CLS class because his company provides convoy security to combat logistics patrols and combat recovery missions. The 632nd Maint. Co. Soldiers perform maintenance on large vehicles, electrical components, and weapon systems. An accident could occur at any time, and someone might have to perform first aid to save a Soldier’s life.

“With all of our personnel CLS qualified, it enables quick response times to urgent situations,” said 1st Lt. James Schafer, platoon leader and convoy security team officer-in-charge with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Dardanelle, Ark., native. “When it comes to the loss of life, limb, or eyesight, a quick reaction could make the difference.”

The course is taught by Spc. Glenn Leyesa, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC, and a Sacramento, Calif., native. He said it would be good for all Soldiers to attend a CLS class—especially Soldiers who perform duties off the base.

Leyesa uses a crawl-walk-run method to introduce the basic lifesaving techniques. The first day includes slide presentations and classroom discussion on the techniques and equipment. The second day incorporates



Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), expand a Talon II litter to transport a Soldier during the hands-on portion of a combat lifesaver course Oct. 7 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

hands-on training that allows the Soldiers to practice what was discussed in class. The final day includes an exam followed by a lane training exercise.

Spc. Joe Crosby, a communication security repairman with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Jonesboro, Ark., native, said he liked the way Leyesa taught the class, and that

during the practice exercise, Soldiers had to use everything they learned during the course.

“The course was very good and a great refresher for skills I already knew,” said Crosby. “It also taught new lifesaving techniques and introduced new equipment.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clarence

Anderson, allied trades technician with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Chicago native, said that the hands-on experience prior to encountering a real-life situation is very important to saving someone’s life. Anderson added that the worst-case scenario is a Soldier trying to perform lifesaving techniques without applying them in a training environment.

# Staff assistance visit ensures mission readiness

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. LENA BERTRAND  
108TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**—Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), conducted a staff assistance visit to inspect convoy escort teams (CETs) to promote readiness recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Staff assistance visits provide the integrity of a squadron commander's mission and intent.

"In order to ensure that the convoy escort teams are thoroughly prepared to conduct a convoy mission, a staff assistance visit is administered with the help of the staff of HHT, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cav. Regt.," said Capt. Michael Ruffin, commander and S3 operations officer with the HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a New Orleans native. "This visit can be utilized as the eyes and ears for the top leadership of the squadron and reinforce the guidance that has been given to the troop or company. It is also to provide the tactical/technical procedures to help the squadron convoy escort team as a whole."

The success of the mission can be contributed to all aspects of the squadron. The CETs take the bulk of the operation, but it will start from the top, which covers command and control.

"The staff member that holds the knowledge and expertise comes through prior to the convoy escort teams leaving the wire to inspect and spot check the trucks and Soldiers to ensure that they have all that is needed," said Maj. Keith E. Robinson, the S3 operations officer-in-charge with the HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Prairieville, La., native. "This inspection will give the squadron commander assurance that his Soldiers have the tools necessary to prepare for



**Sgt. Paul Bryant, communications noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Shreveport, La., native, prepares to check the communication part of the staff assistance visit inspection checklist to ensure that the convoy escort team has correct frequencies on proper channels at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.**

almost anything that comes their way. It provides a common operations picture among all convoys."

Areas of inspections cover the basic necessities such as

proper paperwork to operate the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, programming the frequencies for the radios, and be able to do a proper function check on all weapon systems.

"Since the beginning of the staff assistance visit, the rolling CETs have become more productive toward communications and more familiar with the systems in play," said Sgt. Paul Bryant, communications noncommissioned officer with the HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Shreveport, La., native. "I believe that the SAVs [staff assistance visits] are ideal for ensuring the operators fully understand the steps in ensuring their communication systems are operating to their full potential, and that a Soldier not only shoots and moves but also has to communicate."

"I do not mind conducting SAVs," said Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Spurlock, squadron supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Shreveport, La., native. "It makes me feel like I'm doing my part by ensuring the safety of the Soldiers and the mission."

The HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt. staff has embraced this duty without hesitation because they feel that they contribute to the fight and the mission.

"We instituted this upon our arrival to Iraq," said Lt. Col. William Rachal, commander with the 2nd Sqdn, 108th Cav. Regt., and a Breau Bridge, La., native, while explaining his reason for implementing this program in his squadron. "It gives the staff a perspective of what our CETs go through on a daily basis making the staff more proficient in their development of plans and orders. Secondly, it helps ensure synchronization ensuring the commander's intent is understood by subordinate commanders, leaders at all levels within the troop and companies and the staff. This additional duty is normally outside the scope of their everyday job description, but taking care of Soldiers and ensuring that they are prepared will support the ultimate mission for this deployment, which is supporting our country and returning home to our love ones."

# Transportation company receives new troops in 'family'

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. JASON BIRDSALL  
15TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**—Soldiers with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd

Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), received a few new assets recently to help

them accomplish their mission in Iraq.

First Lt. Matthew Franz, a new platoon leader with the 15th Trans. Co., and an Orlando, Fla., native, is now a part of the "Rough Ryders."

This is Franz's first deployment in Iraq, and he said he's looking forward to the experience. "It is my privilege to be a part of the 15th Transportation family and to be able to work with the best Soldiers in the Army, he said.

Cpl. Stephen Oliver, a heavy wheel vehicle operator with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Fort Smith, Ark., native, is on his

second deployment in Iraq. Oliver said that he lives by the Army's core values because "integrity is the one thing no one can take from you."

"If you've lost it, you've lost it on your own," he said. "Never go so far as to tell lies, for you can see me better than I can see myself."

Spc. Jermika Rivera, a supply specialist now with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Tallahassee, Fla., native, is on her first tour in Iraq.

"If we ain't talking about supply, we ain't talking about nothing," she said.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Yeary, a senior wheeled vehicle mechanic now with the 15th Trans. Co., and an Okemah, Okla., native, is assigned to the maintenance section, keeping the unit's vehicles ready to roll. He is on his second deployment to Iraq.

"Take pride in what you do, and always leave it in better condition than you received it," he said.

These new Soldiers all bring a different experience and skill set with them. They each contribute to the mission in different ways, and each is a welcome addition to the 15th Trans. Co. family.

# Soldiers reflect upon deployment, make plans for home



**Sgt. Christopher Henderson, a firefighter with the 60th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Iowa City, Iowa, native, smiles as he fills out paperwork for his block-leave packet recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.**

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. CHRIS WEYANT  
60TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq**—Soldiers with the 60th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), took a moment recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, to discuss their vacation and future assignment plans.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my two little girls and my wife," said Spc. Martin Green, an ammunition handler with the 60th Ord. Co., and an Atlanta native. "It's been a long year away from home, and I can't wait to get back. While I'm back in Colorado, I'm also looking forward to going snowboarding."

Sgt. Lesley Denny, an ammunition sergeant with the 60th Ord. Co., and an Edgemont, S.D., native, decided that it will be all about the family when she gets home. "I'll be spending time with my family and coaching wrestling," she said. "I'm also going to go visit my parents and grandparents for the first time in five years."

Spc. Yasmeen Thomas, a stock control clerk with the 60th Ord. Co., and a Newark, N.J., native, said she just wanted to pick up her kids in Pennsylvania. "After that, I'll be trying to get orders to go to Hunter Army Airfield at Ft. Stewart," she added.

Spc. David Warren, unit movement specialist with the 60th Ord. Co., and a Salem, N.H., native, said he looks forward to 30 days of relaxation on leave when he gets home. "It's been a really busy year and the down time sounds really nice about now," he said.

For all the Soldiers with the 60th Ord. Co., returning home means something different, but they all agree that they're going to enjoy their well-deserved time off.



## Advantages and pitfalls of leasing a vehicle

SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



What are the advantages of “renting” a vehicle as opposed to buying it outright (well, owing the bank for the note, anyway)? This option is viable for many buyers because of the versatility it affords them.

When leasing a vehicle, it is important to realize that you don’t own it. Most lease terms vary between two and four years, with three being the most prevalent. So, in three short years you will be turning the vehicle back into the dealership, and making a number of determinations. You can buy the vehicle from the dealer, trade it in and buy a new vehicle (or used), or trade it in for another leased vehicle, which is the most popular choice people make.

The reason for leasing again is, for many, the chance to drive a new car every three years. It’s the number one reason. There are some important factors to consider, however. You must keep the vehicle in top condition, i.e., free of any major dings or dents, and faithfully service it per factory guidelines, with service records to back it up. However, the biggest factor is the miles that are put on the vehicle.

Males drive more than females, according to National Highway Safety Transportation Administration numbers. They average roughly 17,000 miles a year on average, from the age of 20 to the age of 64. Females average about 5,000 miles fewer than that. The national average overall is more than 15,000 miles per year from those same ages. That figure is well over the miles usually given to you as “free” on a leased vehicle, which is 12,000 miles.

The reason this is important is because after those miles, you are charged for each extra mile, which varies anywhere from 5 to 20 cents. If you drive the average mileage each year, that would be 3,000 miles over the 12,000 allowable per year, and when your lease ends, based on three years, you would owe the dealer \$5,400 in back-end fees. The obvious choice for consumers is to drive less, which is why the leasing business usually caters to people who put fewer miles on a vehicle.

There are other expenses with a lease. Insurance rates are usually higher for leased vehicles since lease coverage may include gap insurance, which pays off what is still owed on the lease in the event the car is totaled. And, since you turn in your car every three years, if you lease a car that requires a down payment, that expense will come out of your pocket each time you get a new lease.

Leases also have several aspects that make them good choices over buying a new car, like the fact that up-front, out-of-pocket expenses are generally lower. For example, the down payment is usually low. Monthly payments are much lower than loan payments, and leases are often easier to obtain than a loan. Maintenance costs are next to nothing, since most warranties for new cars last three years, which is usually around the same amount of time as the average lease period.

There are other things to consider if you choose to lease. Next week I will give you a real-life example of what can happen when your lease is up and it’s time to either lease again or purchase a vehicle.

### CAB from page 1

“I was happy to bring my team back alive and safe,” he said. “As lead vehicle, I have to make sure everything is straight for everybody.”

As the CABs were presented to the Soldiers, Rojas made a joke with the team that he said rings true.

“I told them, ‘This is the last one. Don’t you ever get another one, or I’ll be upset at you,’” he said with a laugh. “It’s like the command sergeant major said, the CAB and the Purple Heart are two awards that you never want to get. Hopefully, that’s it.”

# Word on the Street

## What are you most thankful for?



**“I’m thankful for my family and friends for making being over here in Iraq easier by writing letters and e-mails and sending care packages.”**

Spc. Dave Hanson, small arms repair specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Washington, Ill., native



**“I’m thankful for my squad for being here for me during transitions in my life and for Skype so I can talk to my daughter.”**

Spc. James Frantz, small arms repair specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Altoona, Pa., native



**“I’m thankful for my wife, for being in my corner and being supportive. She’s made this deployment much easier than it could have been.”**

Staff Sgt. Bobby Moore, armament section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Altoona, Pa., native

# THEATER PERSPECTIVES

**“Once again, Iraqis are showing their determination to unify Iraq and build its future and that those impulses are far stronger than those who want Iraq to descend into sectarian war and terror.”**

President Barack Obama said Nov. 13 in Seoul

**“Our current focus in the last stage of our operation here is to continue to develop the Iraqi economic infrastructure within the local communities.”**

Lt. Col. Brian Radliff, regimental deputy commanding officer of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, on the renovation of the Babylon Historic Ruins Museum

**“As Iraqis continue their progress, they will have a committed and consistent partner in the United States.”**

Hillary Clinton, U.S. secretary of state, promised Friday

**“...The Iraqi army leadership have a lot of experience. I’ve learned a lot from them. It’s been more than just a partnership, it’s been somewhat of a friendship as well.”**

Maj. Christopher Adams, an advisor for Iraq’s 2nd Commando and Department of Border Enforcement, on the progress that has been made while advising and assisting the Iraq Security Forces

**“I promise the people of Anbar that al Qaeda would not return again because the people of Anbar have defeated them.”**

Ahmed Abu Risha, president of the Iraqi Conference Awakening, on pursuing al-Qaeda until the end. Awakening Forces, who were formed by the U.S. Army in 2006, were able to return the security to the Anbar cities after years of violence and attacks, which were often adopted by al-Qaeda militants

## COURAGE, OPTIMISM OVERCOME

There have been just three quadruple amputees to survive the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Marine Cpl. Todd Nicely is thankful to be one of them. Severely wounded on March 26 from an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan while leading a security patrol on foot, Nicely is optimistic as he continues progressing in his recovery. His wife, Crystal, has been by his side through the entire process as he learned how to perform basic tasks with his new, prosthetic limbs. She and about 50 fellow Marines were present when Nicely was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with V device for valor Sept. 17 at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Despite the long road to recovery still ahead, Nicely remains diligent and courageous as he and Crystal overcome this obstacle. “All you can do is be thankful you’re alive, which I am,” said Nicely.

### *Cpl. Todd Nicely*

- An Arnold, Mo., native who was in charge of 12 Marines in the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines.
- The Marines in his platoon took immediate action to slow Nicely’s bleeding after the explosion, saving his life prior to his medical evacuation by helicopter.
- Following his injury, Nicely has endured several surgeries, physical therapy and strengthening exercises to learn how to use prosthetic limbs.
- Awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with V device for valor, for his meritorious work prior to the explosion.

*“I’d like to ... thank my platoon for getting me back. If it wasn’t for you guys, I don’t think I’d be alive today.” - Nicely, following his award ceremony Sept. 17 at Walter Reed Medical Center.*



# Sudoku

**Level: Hard**

The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Last week's answers

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

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

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Which is the second longest river in Africa?
- Which 100-mile long waterway links the Mediterranean and the Red Sea?
- In which country is the Aswan Dam?
- In which country are Tangier and Casablanca?
- Who was the Egyptian president who was assassinated in 1981?
- Which country was called Upper Volta until 1984?
- Which narrow stretch of water separates North Africa from Spain?

1. Zaire, formerly Congo 2. Suez Canal 3. Egypt 4. Morocco 5. Sadat 6. Burkina Faso 7. Strait of Gibraltar

# 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** 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

**Saturday** 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

### LATTERDAY SAINTS

**Sunday** 1 p.m. Provider 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)

*\*Starting at the end of November, the Sunday 12 p.m. Gospel service will no longer be available*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**PLEASE CALL:**

Gilbert Chapel 433-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

**\*Current as of Nov. 24, 2010**

# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. <b>EAST REC- REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. 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 Jui-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. <b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> 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. <b>H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday 8 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. P90x: Mon., Sat., 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Jam Session: Wednesday 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 p.m. <b>WEST FIT- NESS CENTER</b> 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. <b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



# UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Wednesday 11/24/10

COLLEGE BB: Live Midnight AFN Sports  
COLLEGE BB: Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports  
COLLEGE: Live Football 4 a.m. AFN Xtra  
NBA: Delayed 11 a.m. AFN Sports  
COLLEGE: Live Football, 12:30 p.m. AFN Sports  
NBA: Miami Heat @ Orlando Magic, Live 4:30 p.m. AFN Sports

### Thursday 11/25/10

COLLEGE BB: Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports  
NBA: Live 3 a.m. AFN Sports  
COLLEGE: Live Football, 4 a.m. AFN Xtra  
NBA: Live 5:30 a.m. AFN Sports  
NFL: New England Patriots @ Detroit Lions, Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports

### Friday 11/26/10

NBA: Washington Wizards @ Atlanta Hawks, Delayed 12:30 a.m. AFN Sports  
NFL: Cincinnati Bengals @ New York Jets, Delayed 5 a.m. AFN Sports  
COLLEGE: Live Football, 9 a.m. AFN Sports  
COLLEGE: Live Football, 4 p.m. AFN Sports

### Saturday 11/27/10

NBA: Houston Rockets @ Charlotte Bobcats, Live 3 a.m. AFN Xtra  
NBA: Golden State Warriors @ Memphis Grizzlies, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN Xtra  
NHL: San Jose Sharks @ Vancouver Canucks, Live 6 a.m. AFN Prime Pac  
COLLEGE: College Gameday, Live 6 p.m. AFN Sports

### Sunday 11/28/10

COLLEGE: Live Football, 11 a.m. AFN Sports  
NASCAR: Ford 300, Delayed 12 p.m. AFN Xtra  
COLLEGE: Football, Delayed 2 p.m. AFN Xtra  
COLLEGE: Football, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN Xtra  
NASCAR: Ford 400, Live 9 p.m. AFN Xtra  
NFL: Football, Live 9 p.m. AFN Prime Atl.

### Monday 11/29/10

NFL: Football, Live 11 p.m. AFN Prime Atl.  
NFL: New York Giants @ Philadelphia Eagles, Live 4:15 a.m. AFN Sports  
NHL: New York Islanders @ Atlanta Thrashers Delayed 7:30 a.m. AFN Xtra  
NFL: New York Giants @ Philadelphia Eagles, Delayed 9 p.m. AFN Sports

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'The Sports Lounge': BCS Bowl projections

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



We are getting down to the nitty gritty in college football. Conference championship games, for those conferences that hold them, happen on Dec. 4, and other conference races will be done by Nov. 27

for the most part.

Currently, Oregon, whose offense was somewhat humbled this last weekend with their nail-biting 15-13 win over California, sits in the top spot in the Bowl Championship Series standings, undefeated, and, until last weekend, untested. You can bet teams that have a realistic shot at playing them will be reviewing game tapes of the Cal game to see what the Bear defense did to slow them down.

Auburn is No. 2, and fell behind 21-7 last weekend before blasting Georgia. A cloud is hovering over the program, however, as allegations that Heisman Trophy candidate Cam Newton, or people close to him, offered Mississippi State his

services for pay prior to his signing with the Tigers. It will not affect where Auburn will go, unless the team is affected directly from the allegations.

That brings us to Texas Christian, who is No. 3, and Boise State, No. 4. I have pointed out a couple of times already why I do not believe these teams should compete for the title. Strength of schedule, in my opinion, is a huge factor when considering how high a team should be ranked. Yes they are both unbeaten. But who have they played? Can you imagine what Oregon would do in the Western Athletic Conference or Mountain West? Sure, they may pull out wins in bowl games. TCU could even win the National Championship game over someone. That is not the point I am arguing. Should they, given the schedule they play, be in a position to even compete for it? I say no.

The five BCS games in play are the National Championship, and the Orange, Rose, Sugar, and Fiesta Bowls. There are tie-ins to most of these bowls, at least historically. It doesn't always play out like this, but unless a team has been picked for the National Championship, the bowls mentioned

try to follow these tie-ins. The Rose traditionally takes the Big Ten-Pac Ten champions, the Sugar takes the Southeastern Conference champion, the Fiesta takes the Big East champion, and the Orange takes the Atlantic Coast Conference champion.

How will it play out? I am picking Oregon and their high-scoring offense in the National Championship game. I truly believe that Alabama will knock off Auburn, allowing TCU to move into the other spot to play for the title. I think the Rose will take Wisconsin from the Big Ten, but because of an obscure rule, has to choose, if available, a non-qualifying conference champion: in this case, Boise State.

The Fiesta will have to take a mediocre Pittsburgh squad against most likely Nebraska. Look for a bloodletting by the Huskers in that one. The Sugar Bowl will take the SEC champions, and I think it will be Auburn.

Lastly, the Orange will take Virginia Tech, and I believe they will take on Alabama. I know many will think Stanford should get that final spot with a projected record of 11-1, but I think 'Bama's win over Auburn puts them in.

## 'Men Who Stare at Goats': enjoyable at all levels

BY SPC. ZANE CRAIG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"The Men Who Stare at Goats," based loosely on a book of the same name by Jon Ronson, is the comedic adventure of a reporter who comes to cover the war in Iraq and gets involved with a little-known

Army unit of psychic spies called the New Earth Army.

The film was released in 2009, directed by Grant Heslov. It stars Ewan McGregor as Bob Wilton, the reporter, George Clooney as Lyn Cassady, the psychic spy Wilton meets, and Jeff Bridges as Bill Django, Cassady's mentor.

Bob Wilton leads a comfortable life as reporter for the Ann Arbor Daily Telegram until his wife leaves him for his boss. Devastated, he seeks to prove himself and make a new start by covering the Iraq War.

In Kuwait, he meets Cassady, who explains his former job as a U.S. Army psychic spy, a "Jedi Warrior" trained to develop parapsychological skills such as invisibility, remote viewing, and phasing (or walking) through walls. Wilton sees the journalistic potential of Cassady's story. Cassady is happy to explain the whole history of the program, which we

experience through flashbacks.

Cassady takes Wilton into Iraq, where they are kidnapped by a gang of criminals and rescued by a private security detail. When the group is caught in a fire, Wilton and Cassady escape and wander through the desert in pursuit of Cassady's mission that he received in a vision from Django.

Later, they encounter Larry Hooper, formerly of the New Earth Army but now a war profiteer who has gone over to the dark side, using his "powers" to aggrandize himself. Django, having been kicked out of the Army for conducting an experiment with LSD that resulted in a death, works for Hooper.

Wilton makes it back to the states with his story, but the only part that gets exposure is about how he was "tortured" by being made to listen to the Barney theme song while a captive.

This film was based loosely on real people. Django, Jeff Bridges' character, was based on Lt. Col. Jim Channon, a Vietnam veteran who proposed to organize the military along New Age lines and released a First Earth Battalion manual.

Major Gen. Albert Stubblepine, who has a parallel in the film, was an enthusiastic supporter of this, and during the late 1970s and early 1980s Channons ideas were entertained, if not endorsed and implemented, by some influential figures.

The idea that the Army could train a new generation of super-Soldiers with powers that exceed the known mental capabilities of humans was at least partially inspired by the Human Potential Movement. This movement within psychology says that all people have enormous untapped potential that, if developed, can allow them to experience a life of happiness, creativity, and fulfillment.

A tangible imprint of this thinking on Army officialdom is the recruitment slogan "Be All You Can Be" (1980-2001).

A major arc of the movie is how these ideas that seemed to have some credibility in the post-Vietnam years had lost out to a less creative, less idealistic outlook by the time the Iraq War began.

If you happen to be the kind of person who doesn't care to ruin a funny movie with analysis, you will still enjoy the movie. Good humor can function on several levels at the same time.

"The Men Who Stare at Goats" is enjoyable throughout, though the ending could be better. Also, I like Ewan McGregor very much but, they would have been better off using an American in the role because his accent was awful.

I give it a 4/5. It's a good movie, and it engages your mind at all levels, from humorous to deeply thought-provoking.

## PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday November 24

5 p.m. Easy A (PG-13)

8 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13) (1st Run)

Thursday November 25

5 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13) (1st Run)

8 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13)

Friday November 26

Theater reserved for Blue Diamond Comedy Tour

Saturday November 27

2 p.m. My Soul To Take (R)

5 p.m. Case 39 (R)

8 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13)

Mid: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13)

Sunday November 28

2 p.m. My Soul To Take (R)

5 p.m. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (PG-13)

8 p.m. Case 39 (R)



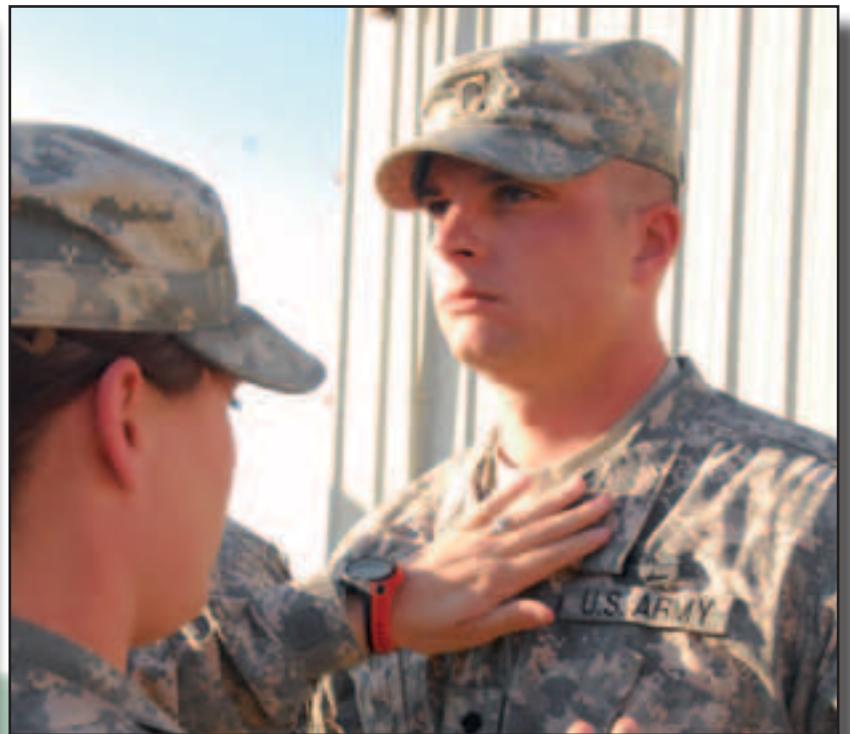
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Roland Hale

Pfc. Jennell Waelty, a Soldier serving on Camp Taji, Iraq, with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, swings across an obstacle, Nov. 7, during Demon Fury, a competition designed to test the full spectrum of Soldiers' combat skills.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Zane Craig

Contractors construct a table at the central receiving and shipping point, Nov. 10 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. Soldiers with 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are tasked with overseeing six CRSP yards throughout Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson

Capt. Vanessa Parker, commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Cincinnati native, pins the Combat Action Badge onto Spc. Slade Shadle, the lead vehicle gunner with the brigade's Personnel Security Detachment and a Brownwood, Texas, native.

# We Succeed