



The Expeditionary Times

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Workers embrace cultural differences

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Spc. Daniel Pease, a Wayland, Michigan, native; Spc. Thomas Bradfield, a Winnebago, Ill., native; and Sgt. Benjamin Pitts, a Dallas native, all with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) compete in a litter relay race during a competition recently at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Competition strengthens tactical skills

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. BLAIR GRIMES
512TH QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., celebrated the holidays with a unique competition that tested skills, inspired friendly competition, and built crew camaraderie.

There were no footballs in sight for this “bowl.” Instead, there were 24 eager Soldiers and six Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles standing by for a fierce competition that would challenge skills necessary for any successful personnel security detachment team.

The competition sought to test skills that all members of the PSD team needed to accomplish every mission successfully. The platoon was broken down into six teams, consisting of three members each: the truck commander, the driver, and the gunner.

“The competition was the epitome of technical and tactical operations, and conjured up strong competition,” said the truck commander of the winning team, Sgt. James Cassidy, a Soldier with the 512th QM Co., and a Savannah, Ga., native. “The event was a nice alternative to sports.”

He added that even though most of the tasks were fairly simple, the pressure of competition challenged each team mentally and physically.

The events included terrain feature identification on the Blue Force Tracker, a litter relay race, casualty evacuation, exiting the MRAP using the emergency escape hatch, donning full battle gear and entering the vehicle, attaching the weapons

mount, and other tasks that challenged the platoon.

The other members of Cassidy’s winning team included his driver, Spc. Joshua Preston, an Arcanum, Ohio, native, and their gunner, Spc. Greg Jerkins, a Gilbert, Ariz., native. Preston said that the hardest event for him was parallel parking because he had the extended mine-rollers on his truck, while Jerkins’ favorite was the emergency escape hatch event because it showed how fast Soldiers can get out of the truck under pressure.

The competition ended with a litter relay race, during which each team member acted as a casualty while the other two carried him or her to the finish line.

“The litter carry was the hardest because you realize the true weight of your battle buddies and the amount of physical exertion it takes to move them,” said Jerkins.

At the end of the day, three teams placed, but all walked away with strengthened skills.

Heavy metal band Avenged Sevenfold stops in Iraq to shake up service members’ holiday season

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Giving the gifts that truly matter

MAJ. LUCY M. DER-GARABEDIAN
15TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION CHAPLAIN

While many customs surround the birth of Jesus Christ, the use of a tree, exchange of gifts, and manger scene is universal, but at the same time, remains unique to the particular culture of each country. Each community depicts the story and characters in light of its own history, value, and need. But the essence of Christmas remains the same.

In Lebanon, the tradition associated with glittering, beautiful and fancy trees with big family banquets changed through the years of uncertainty and war. Unable to hold and afford the luxury of the past, we had to hunt for new possibilities, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in the midst of suffering and injustice. Even on Christmas Eve, when people had to spend the night at shelters, the Christmas spirit transforms the hatred of the fighters outside to create sanctuary inside shelters, where families pray, sing, cry, share

and encourage each other. A Christmas that is painful, but still sweet and meaningful.

A big part of our Lebanese Christmas celebration was the giving and receiving of gifts. In the past we used to think about the monetary value of gifts. As the circumstances of our lives changed, we had to be open and creative to find new ways of celebrating the birth of our Lord.

We learned that gifts don't need to be things; they can be gifts of ourselves, the gift of time, thoughtfulness, concern, compassion, love, understanding and tolerance. Lebanese Christians learned to share the gift that is within, the gift of self, which is free but costly at the same time — the gift that while you give you receive and you are enriched and renewed, the giving of self which is the most precious gift one can offer or receive.

Isn't this the message of God's incarnation? The outstretching hand rather than somewhat impersonal but beautiful presents?



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EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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The Weekly Standard: Corrective training Part II

MASTER SGT. ARNETT COOPER
103RD ESC IG



Commanders must ensure that the nature of training or instruction is not punishment. AR 600-20, paragraph 4-6(b), states that corrective training should not be used in an "oppressive manner to evade the procedural safeguards applying to non-judicial punishment."

An example would be a Soldier who is late for formation and is ordered to clean the orderly room after hours. This is a form of non-judicial punishment under UCMJ, Article 15, FM 27-1, Chapter 7, which also provides guidance to commanders on corrective training. The rationale is that if a Soldier perceives corrective training or instruction as punishment, all training and instruction will be degraded and their value jeopardized.

The IG recommends you use a DA Form 4856, Developmental Counseling Form, to annotate the plan for corrective training. Then, if the Soldier does not meet the standard you can annotate the result. If the Soldier does not meet the standard, you can consider if this failure is for a reason that might

lead toward a form of non-judicial punishment. If the Soldier is still unable to achieve the standard, you might determine that the Soldier is not fit for military service and can consider potential options for separation.

Just remember, corrective training is defined as extra or enhanced training to aid in the facilitation of a desired action or performance. There's no more "smoke 'em 'til they puke." When all else fails, use the DA 4856 and ensure that "Further incidents of this nature could lead to UCMJ action" is added at the end of the counseling summary.

The bottom line is this: Authority to impose corrective training is granted to a leader to correct sub-standard performance by subordinates. Having a Soldier do corrective training through physical exercises is wrong. PT is NOT a solution for a Soldier to overcome identified deficiencies (Special conditioning programs are appropriate for Soldiers who have difficulty meeting unit fitness goals or Army fitness standards. Such programs will not be punitive; they must be designed to improve the fitness level of Soldiers, AR 350-1). You can't violate one standard in order to fix another. The training, instruction, or correction given to a Soldier to correct deficiencies must be DIRECTLY RELATED to the

deficiency. It must be oriented to improving the Soldier's performance in his or her problem area. Such measures assume the nature of training or instruction, not punishment. A Soldier's commander or noncommissioned officer in the chain of command may observe deficient behavior and authorize corrective training. A member of the Soldier's chain of command should be present to supervise the corrective training session and ensure the corrective training is executed to standard.

The Army is an institution that is responsible for the moral climate it fosters, and commanders at all levels are charged with the responsibility of maintaining a healthy command climate. Corrective training is designed to help Soldiers improve. For more information, reference FM 6-22 (Army Leadership), AR 600-20 (Army Command Policy), AR 27-10 (Military Justice), and FM 27-1 (Legal Guide for Commanders).

Your local IG is here to help and we are available to help you if you have questions or need assistance—especially when it comes to clarifying standards or policies. Let's all continue to make better Soldiers and stronger leaders through their proper development.

Combat Stress: Ways to cope with the holiday blues

HM2 MICHELLE HOSTETLER
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

- Epictetus

Once again, the holiday season is quickly approaching. For many of us, this is not the first holiday we have spent away from home. But for others, it might be. Here are some helpful tips and reminders to help you get through this holiday season without turning into the Grinch, or Mr. Scrooge.

Stay involved! Even though you are in Iraq as opposed to your home back in Smalltown, USA, that does not mean you have to miss out on the activities. If you have a family, draw

your children some holiday trees or ornaments to color. They can decorate the house with them, or they can send them back to you so you can decorate your CHU. Surprise your significant other by ordering her flowers, or send an unexpected greeting card. Get up an hour early and sneak in an extra video chat. There are simple ways you can stay engaged with your family when you are far away. Connecting with your loved ones gives you the self satisfaction of being "in the action" while you are in the action over here in Iraq.

Be optimistic! You are not with your family back in the States for the holidays, and that can be disappointing, but neither is your battle buddy. Projecting a positive attitude will lighten the mood for you and those around you. Plan a unit get-together, play games, do activities, or volunteer at the USO. Stay engaged and active in the community, it may help the time pass quicker. It may also decrease your feelings of sadness and being homesick. Plan activities outside your

CHU and bring your battle buddy with you!

Give thanks! Sometimes it is easy to be upset and feel cynical about a situation or about the things you do not have. Try to look at the situation differently. Concentrate on the positive qualities you possess or the positive aspect of a situation and remember to be thankful. Take a few minutes and list the items for which you are thankful. A few that come to my mind are good benefits, a steady paycheck, good food, reliable friends, a loving family, and the peace of mind to appreciate that even though I am away from my family, I can provide them with all they need.

Remember, you are not in this alone. If you feel alone or overwhelmed, please seek assistance from your battle buddy, your unit chaplain, or Combat Stress Control. Services are available to help you with your emotional, mental and spiritual well being. We are all in this together. The 85th Combat Stress Control team wishes you a safe and blessed holiday.

Advanced technology helps troops maintain skills

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT BARTHELEMY
108TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq— In addition to executing their primary mission of convoy logistics patrols throughout central and western Iraq, Soldiers with Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), continue to maintain their war fighting skills at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq.



The unit recently completed weapons training and qualified 100% of its troops on their M-4 rifles.

According to Capt. Tom Porter, commander of A Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Natchitoches, La., native, the training included a night fire and chemical mask qualification, as well as meeting the military requirements of firing at a standard rifle range.

"For the night fire and chemical mask portion, the platoon utilized the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a high-tech rifle range simulation device that allows Soldiers to experience the effect of firing at night with their night vision goggles and in a chemically contaminated environment," said Porter. "The EST 2000 was a great tool, as it allowed the troopers to experience multiple repetitions while conserving ammunition. The troopers were able to fire on the EST 2000 as many times as they wanted and they all enjoyed the training."

The Soldiers also completed combat lifesaver re-certification for their training year 2011 requirements.

CLS training for select individuals is required by the Army annually, and ensures that Soldiers are competent in advanced buddy aid, said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Barthelemy, platoon sergeant with A Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Campti, La., native.

In addition to CLS re-certification, the Soldiers initiated training on warrior tasks for the fiscal year 2011. In light of the reduced training time available once the platoon redeployed, the unit's leadership will ensure that the majority of their warrior training tasks are completed prior to the squadron's redeployment sometime in December.



Soldiers with Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), engage targets in the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 rifle range simulator during marksmanship training recently at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq.

"The guys enjoy the training," said Barthelemy. "It is definitely a welcome break from the rigors of convoy escort missions. The change of pace makes the time seem to pass by more quickly."



First Lt. James Kim, a chaplain with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Oakland, Calif., native, along with other members of the 224th Sust. Bde., met with Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, Army chief of chaplains Nov. 25 during his Thanksgiving Day visit in the Warrior's Café dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Senior leader surprises troops with holiday visit

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the commander of United States Division-South, and Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, Army chief of chaplains, paid a Thanksgiving Day visit Nov. 25 to Soldiers with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and other residents of Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Brooks and Carver, joined by members with the 1st Infantry Division Army Band and leaders of the 224th Sust. Bde., visited the Warrior's Café dining facility for lunch at COB Adder to meet with Soldiers and wish them a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

After meeting with several Soldiers with the 224th Sust. Bde., Brooks joined the serving line alongside Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Long Beach, Calif., native, to serve lunch and wish all a happy Thanksgiving.

Carver made Thanksgiving truly special for one Soldier by performing the role of reenlisting officer and administering the Oath of Reenlistment.

"This is my fifth Thanksgiving over here

in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Carver. "If I can't be with my wife and my kids, it's great to be here with my Army family, and just to see the great work that's being done here. The morale is high, and the troops' spirits are up on a holiday like this. It's great to see all the great food that's being set before you like Thanksgiving at home with your loved ones. Again, my thoughts and my prayers are here with you."

First Lt. James Kim, a chaplain with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sust. Bde., and an Oakland, Calif., native, spoke with Carver and ate the holiday lunch at Warrior's Café. He shared his thoughts on the event.

"It puts me in awe, for them [Brooks and Carver] to visit us," said Kim. "Thanksgiving means to be grateful for what we have and [for] serving our country, but also being [grateful] for everything in our lives, our family, and everything we have."

Spc. Ishmael Alvarez, a chaplain's assistant with the 224th STB, and an Ontario, Calif., native, was happy to meet the generals and to share the holiday meal with his fellow Soldiers.

"It was great he [Carver] stopped by to see us, and he served us some good food," said Alvarez. "I got a picture with him. I thought I would never be able to meet him."

Before leaving, Carver gave a special message: "Happy Thanksgiving to all the



Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, Army chief of chaplains, performed the role of reenlisting officer and administered the Oath of Reenlistment to one Soldier during a Thanksgiving Day visit Nov. 25 in the Warrior's Café dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

troops serving here in U.S. Division-South, and all the family back home in the United States. All the American people continue to

keep you in their thoughts and their prayers, and I'm so proud of what you do on a daily basis over here on this mission."

Historical Ziggurat of Ur inspires, entertains

STORY BY
SGT. BLAKE PITTMAN

110TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—



Often referred to as the Cradle of Civilization or the Fertile Crescent, the region of Iraq through which the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow is home to some of the earliest signs of human settlement. Contingency Operating Base Adder is located in this area, and is visible from

the top of the Ziggurat of Ur, a stepped pyramid located in one of the earliest cities known to man.

First Lt. Matthew Bonnette, a chaplain with the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Blakely, Ga., native, has been guiding Soldiers with the 110th CSSB on tours of the monument and its surrounding ruins.

“It’s kind of a rare opportunity we have to learn about the culture of the people who built the Ziggurat,” said Bonnette.

The Ziggurat is a large structure of clay bricks surrounding a mound of earth, and was originally built approximately 4,000 years ago to serve as the cultural center of Ur, and served as a shrine to the city’s patron deity, the moon god Nanna. Though impressive, the Ziggurat isn’t the only noteworthy feature of the city. Ur is believed to have been the home of Abraham, the father of the Abrahamic religions, which include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

“I don’t go out there for the Ziggurat,” said Bonnette. “I go out there for the culture and to walk the grounds that Abraham walked because he’s an important figure that I learned about early on.”

Bonnette said his favorite part is standing near the building where Abraham is thought to have lived, and reading the scripture that names Ur as his home before leaving for the land of Canaan.

Bonnette has made ten trips to Ur so far, and hopes to resume making two to three trips a week for the month of December. Soldiers visiting the city can travel by bus, but an armored escort is required and service members must wear their protective equipment and carry their personal weapons. At the Ziggurat, the group is met by Mr. Dhiyf Mahsen, third generation curator and narrator for the Ziggurat, and a Tallil, Iraq, native.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anthony Edwards

Capt. David Howell, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Howell-Dallas, Ga., native; Maj. John Lowe, executive officer of the 110th CSSB, and a Newnan, Ga., native; and 1st Lt. Matthew Bonnette, a chaplain with the 110th CSSB, and a Blakely, Ga., native, stand atop the Ziggurat of Ur near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

“The curator is very knowledgeable,” said Bonnette. “I’m always learning something new about the other sites or his culture.”

Mahsen inherited his position from his father, and his grandfather was part of the original expedition to excavate the city in the early 20th century. He leads tour groups pointing out artifacts and informs visitors about the history of the site, as well as describes the cultural importance that certain areas would have had to the inhabitants. Mahsen even offers anecdotes about his time as curator under the

regime of Saddam Hussein, including one incident that led to him being taken to prison when he tried to persuade authorities not to take a tourist’s camera. Pictures weren’t allowed at the time, but visitors now can take as many photos as they like. Taking artifacts from the site is prohibited, however. If visitors want souvenirs, they must purchase them from the small store at the site, or at a store in the COB Adder Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, which is run by Mahsen’s brother.

Residents of COB Adder can arrange trips for their Soldiers by contacting their unit chaplains.

Soldier recognized as ‘hometown hero’ on R&R



Sgt. Kale Baldwin (right), a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Wetumka, Okla., native, assists Spc. Michael Simpson, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Monticello, Minn., native, while inspecting a recovery winch on a heavy equipment transporter prior to a mission Nov. 20 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. MADISON MATAKAS
15TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Sgt. Kale Baldwin, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Wetumka, Okla., native, serving at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, has become a “hometown hero.”

Baldwin, deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, found himself on his way home from Iraq for his rest and recuperation leave. Upon his arrival, he was given a surprise hometown gathering; earning him a place in Wetumka’s history as the first hometown hero since the Vietnam era. His family, friends and fellow townspeople put the celebration together to show recognition for Baldwin’s return home as a Veteran. Baldwin said he was “overwhelmed, to say the least.”

During his time at home, he participated in a Veterans’ Day program at the local school where his children, Aubrey, 9, and Mike, 8, attend. Baldwin later said that during his deployment overseas, the local citizens have gone out of their way to help his wife, Missy, and family with babysitting the children while she works on Saturdays, along with other acts of kindness in appreciation of her sacrifices while Baldwin was gone.

Baldwin said he was taken aback by all the attention he received upon his return home for R&R leave. He said he was truly humbled by his small town recognizing him as a hometown hero, and that he was unaware of the honor and how long it had been since another service member had been acknowledged in this fashion.

After his time in the service, Baldwin plans to share his experiences abroad to help others understand the hardships of the time away from family, the hazards in combat, and what an honor it is to serve one’s country in the armed forces.

Recycle yard transfer ensures clean base, clean air

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— As the responsible draw-down of U.S. forces and equipment from Iraq continues, so does the U.S. military's efforts to shrink its footprint in Iraq prior to turning over all remaining occupied bases to the Iraqi government. One step in this process includes relocating and maintaining the functional recycle yard at Joint Base Balad.

The recycle yard was recently reallocated for other requirements, which created a need for all the material to be moved from its location on the east side of JBB to its current location on the west side; several civilian contractors, directed by the civil affairs section with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in conjunction with the Iraqi Based Industrial Zone, went to work Nov. 27 to make sure the transfer was completed smoothly.

When the current company took over the recycle yard in its new location, all of the material was left in the previous yard, and Sgt. Jeremy Manges, IBIZ noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 103rd ESC, and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, was tasked with coordinating the transfer. Manges said that the recycled material included scrap wood, metal, thousands of water bottles, and other various forms of recyclables that military units and civilian contractors no longer needed. Collectively, thousands of pounds of material needed to be transported several miles from one side of JBB to the other.

Coordinating the manpower proved to be the simpler part of the project; Manges just needed to make a few calls.

"The people we had out there [working in the recycle yard] were from the Department of Public Works here on base," he said. "We just spoke with them [the DPW] and got permission to use their people to do the labor part of it, so we just had to coordinate getting the workers out there...and then taking them back to the DPW once the work was done for the day."

Beginning on Saturday, Nov. 27, and all throughout the week, the civilian workers spent the day, from about 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., loading all of the recycled materials into several large recycling dumpsters. When the dumpsters were full, a tow truck would stop by to drop off another empty dumpster, pick up the full ones and transport them to the new recycle yard.

Manges said that the old recycle yard will be left vacant for the duration of the U.S. occupation of JBB, and that the project was a part of the preparation to turn the base over to the government of Iraq in the best shape possible. "We just had to clean it up to prepare to give it back to the Iraqis once we leave...so we can give the base back [looking] better than how we got it. [The recycle yard] helps clean up the ground and clean up the air as well," added Manges.

Transferring all the excess scrap material was imperative to ensure that the recycle yard continues to be maintained, even though its location and ownership changed; it is one step that further allows for a smooth, clean base transfer when the time comes.

"We don't want to leave a mess behind for the Iraqis to pick up," said Manges. "We want them to be able to sustain everything once we leave."



A civilian contractor with the Department of Public Works helps sort and load recycled materials into large containers Nov. 30 at the old recycle yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. All the recycled material needed to be transported to the yard's new location on the other side of the base.

FMRT yard serves as cultural melting pot for workers

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— There are a few new faces at Joint Base Balad's Fixed Mobile Redistribution Team yard, but the mission remains intact.

Just shortly after bidding farewell to some of their Honduran workers, the 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), welcomed 34 Iraqi employees.

Their primary responsibility is to work alongside the remaining Honduran workers in emptying and sorting equipment from containers sent from throughout the country to the yard, which is one of three of its kind in Iraq. While this could have potentially been a roadblock due to the language barrier, Staff Sgt. Valarie Lockridge, the FMRT noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 289th QM Co., and a Brooksville, Fla., native, said communication has flowed very well. Some of the workers speak English; they've served as translators for the Iraqi and Spanish-speaking employees.

"It's funny because some of the guys who do speak English gave themselves nicknames so I could identify them," said Lockridge. "I'm surprised, but the communication flows. We're all learning from each other."

She added that the workers have eagerly picked up on the mission. They work quickly, and have shown a dedication to the job.

"When they first got here, I told them I



Staff Sgt. Valarie Lockridge (right), the Fixed Mobile Redistribution Team noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 289th Quartermaster Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Brooksville, Fla., native, goes through scrap material that was sorted by the Iraqi workers who recently began working at the FMRT.

didn't care how fast they were, I just wanted safety," she said. "You would never know these guys just got here; we're like a team."

"A lot of them have an extremely hard work ethic," added 1st Lt. Kyle Sissom, the FMRT officer-in-charge with the 289th QM Co., and a Kansas City, Kan., native.

"They're really eager to please whoever's in charge."

Capt. Keith Stutts, the Plans and Operation Cleansweep OIC, explained that the Iraqi workers represent more than just extra help. They have actually become a mission multiplier.

"They gave us the capability to maneuver more MRT teams out to outlying [forward operating bases]," he explained. "It also gives the Iraqi workers a sense of purpose, that they are doing their part. This gives them a chance to earn a living and provide for their families."

Ordnance team assists in ammunition disposal

STORY BY
SPC. AARON WATERS
8TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), assisted Explosive Ordnance Disposal team members with a controlled demolition of unusable ammunition recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The ammunition supply point often receives ammunition that is not usable by U.S. Forces in Iraq. Every piece of ammunition that is turned in to the ASP is checked for serviceability and placed in the appropriate condition code. Ammunition that is categorized as unserviceable (condemned), or condition code "H," is destroyed for safety purposes, ensuring Soldiers do not use dangerous or malfunctioning rounds.

Second Plt., 8th Ord. Co. Soldiers assisted EOD by transporting the ammunition over to the EOD range for disposal. EOD members ensured that all of the Soldiers received a safety brief before stepping onto the range. Once the Soldiers unloaded the ammunition from the trucks, the EOD experts took over. The EOD Soldiers laid out the faulty or unserviceable ammunition in specific patterns to ensure that everything was destroyed effectively and efficiently. All non-essential personnel then moved back to a safe distance so that the final preparations for the demolition could take place.

"It's interesting to finally see all of the preparation for a controlled detonation," said Pfc. Keith Gonzalez, Standard Army Ammunition System Modified clerk with 2nd Plt. 8th Ord. Co., and an Oxnard, Calif., native. "You always hear the detonation but never really see everything that goes into it. I'm looking forward to the end result of all this work."

EOD Soldiers usually conduct controlled detonations every week. They will also conduct burns for all unserviceable ammunition that can be destroyed by a simple fire. About 10 minutes before every demolition, personnel on the base hears a voice on the intercom announcing a warning. Shortly after that, Staff Sgt. Michael Hawes, EOD noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 663rd Ordnance Company yells, "Fire in the hole!"



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Michael Beagle

Depicted is the end result of a controlled detonation. Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), assisted Explosive Ordnance Disposal team members with a controlled demolition of unusable ammunition recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Ammunition supply point provides important support

STORY BY
PFC. VICTORIA PRESCOTT
8TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with 2nd platoon, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), took charge of all operations at the ammunition supply point in support of Operation New Dawn recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

An ASP receives, configures, inspects, manages, issues, ships and retrogrades

ammunition stocks in support of U.S. or coalition forces. A world within itself, an ASP has numerous entities that contribute to the success of the military's fighting force.

Originally created by "1st Mag," the 8th Ord. Co. during Operation Iraqi Freedom II – OIF III, the ASP is once again under control of the 8th Ord. Co. With more than 45 Soldiers including noncommissioned officers, one officer, and one warrant officer, "2nd Mag" will be able to accomplish the mission at hand with mechanics, ammunition specialists, stock control clerks, and unit movement officers.

The Ordnance Corps began on May 27, 1775, as a committee to study the methods of ammunition procurement and storage. Throughout the years and during many wars,

the Ordnance Corps stands as one of the military's oldest entities, and has a prestigious record and proud tradition dating back to the Revolutionary War. Standard Army Ammunition System Modified operators are an integral part of the ASP, and often get overshadowed by the ammunition specialists.

Sgt. Lorraine Sian, senior ammunition stock supply logisitian with 2nd Plt., 8th Ord. Co., and a Los Angeles native, handles all matters pertaining to stock accountability, resource transportation, and personnel management.

"We have had a lot of training prior to our deployment," said Sian. "I feel confident that our platoon can accomplish the mission successfully for the next year."

Other than SAAS-MOD, there are several aspects of the ASP that keep it running. Staff Sgt. Brian Womack, ASP noncommissioned officer-in-charge with 2nd Plt., 8th Ord. Co., and an Opp, Ala., native, handles all ASP operations. He ensures that inventory counts are accurate, customer units are taken care of, the ASP is properly maintained, and manpower is distributed within the ASP. He also ensures that the NCOs in charge of shipping and receiving materials, and the ammunition pads, are constantly enforcing standards and doing the job correctly.

"My position is high, but I have the utmost confidence in my NCOs and Soldiers that they will successfully complete the mission given to us in support of Operation New Dawn," said Womack.

Fixed Interrogator identifies, tracks critical supplies

STORY BY
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 ANDREIA SPENCE
240TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq— Soldiers with the 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), installed an electronic cargo interrogator at an outbound gate recently, in order to capture all cargo leaving the Joint Distribution Center at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Smith, the JDC noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 240th CSSB, and a Dallas native, explained how the interrogator identifies and tracks cargo.

"The Savi SR-650 Fixed Interrogator is part of an innovative, reliable solution for real-time, end-to-end visibility of goods and critical assets moving through supply chains," said Smith. "It provides long-range, omni-directional communication that enables effective monitoring of hundreds of items over a 300-foot radius. Customers attach a radio frequency



Sgt. Dontrell Jordan-Tyson, joint distribution Soldier with the 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, adjusts an interrogator at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

identification tag to their cargo before it is shipped that enables them to track their cargo as it moves throughout the

theater of operations."

Smith described the consequences of not having an interrogator.

"Without the interrogator at the outbound gate, communication between the customer and their cargo is broken, resulting in a sense of uncertainty on the customer's part," he said. "This is usually the point when the phone begins to ring with inquiries as to where their cargo is located."

Sgt. Dontrell Jordan-Tyson, JDC day-shift NCOIC with the 240th CSSB, and a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, explained the benefit of the cargo interrogator.

"Since the addition of the Savi SR 650, we have been able to focus on the JDC instead of fielding calls from customers throughout theater who want to know if their cargo has left the yard," said Jordan-Tyson.

According to Staff Sgt. Brandon Wingo, JDC mid-shift NCOIC with the 240th CSSB, and an Augusta, Ga., native, the interrogator reads an average of 100 RFID tags weekly.

"The addition of the Savi SR-650 has undoubtedly improved the Joint Distribution Center's efficiency and contributed to improving overall customer service," he said.

Troops showcase talent, entertain crowd

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The lounge at Joint Base Balad's Morale, Welfare and Recreation center was filled to capacity as Soldiers with the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), gathered for the unit's talent competition Nov. 26.

Acts ranged from singing, dancing, poetry and instrumentals. Even a magic act made it to the stage. Participants represented nearly every company within the brigade, with three who would eventually be chosen as the winners.

The top prize of \$200 went to Sgt. Iputaua Proctor, an administrative noncommissioned officer with the 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th CSSB, and a Pago Pago, American Samoa, native, and Spc. Natasha Irving, a container repair yard vehicle driver with the 289th QM Co., and a Carson, Calif., native. The two got together and performed a native Polynesian dance that had many of the audience members on their feet, clapping along.

"When they said we would have a talent show, it made us think we do have a talent that we want to show everybody," explained Proctor, who said she and Irving had been dancing together since 2007.

Even those who didn't win said they had a good time. Pfc. Marlow Seavers, a cook with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th CSSB, and a Memphis, Tenn., native, said he jumped at the opportunity to sing in the show.

"Singing has always been a part of what I want to do, so while I'm out here, why not use it?" said Seavers.

He added that he was slightly disappointed about not winning, but complimented the talent in the show.

"There was a lot of good talent up there," he said. "But I did my best, and I'm proud of what I did."

Lt. Col. Anthony Bohn, commander of the 13th CSSB, and an Avon Park, Fla., native, said talents like Seavers' were the reason the unit hosted the show.

"The goal was about creating positive memories with



The audience cheers for their favorite acts during the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), talent show held Nov. 26 in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

everything that we do here," said Bohn. "We wanted to showcase the talent within the battalion and share that amongst everyone else within the battalion."

"We decided to do this because it's the holiday weekend, and people were thinking about home, so we decided to

bring the battalion together," added Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Richards, senior enlisted advisor of the 13th CSSB, and a Phenix City, Ala., native. "It just always amazes me the amount of talent we have within a battalion like this. It was a good time for everybody."

'The goal was about creating positive memories with everything that we do here. We wanted to showcase the talent within the battalion...'

- Lt. Col. Anthony Bohn



FAR LEFT: Pfc. Marlow Seavers, a cook with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Memphis, Tenn., native, sings "Swagtastic" during the battalion's talent show held Nov. 26 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

LEFT: Sgt. Iputaua Proctor, an administrative noncommissioned officer with the 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Pago Pago, American Samoa, native, and Spc. Natasha Irving, a Container Repair Yard calamar driver with the 289th QM Co., and a Carson, Calif., native, perform a Polynesian dance during the battalion's talent show held Nov. 26 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Trans. Soldiers carry out hefty drawdown mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. TROY WHEELER AND
1ST LT. SHARIA RODRIQUEZ
14TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING STATION KALSU, Iraq

As Operation Iraqi Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn, the 80th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Movement Control Battalion, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was charged with effectively balancing two critical priorities: facilitating the base closure of Convoy Support Center Scania, while establishing and synchronizing the theater hub distribution operations at Contingency Operating Station Kalsu.

"The management of one convoy support center is always demanding, but how about two high volume convoy support centers approximately 45 miles apart from each other," said Capt.

Evelyn Ogwu, the commander of the 80th MCT, and a Faison, N.C., native.

CSC Scania, the most utilized CSC in theater, provided support for more than 2,000 vehicles monthly. This posed a major problem for the 80th MCT, located at COS Kalsu. The Kalsu CSC was designed to only support a third of the capacity of CSC Scania.

"Kalsu simply required more space to support the responsible drawdown of forces."

Staff Sgt. Jerry Gramke, an Arlington, Texas, native, and Sgt. Robert Williams, a New London, Conn., native, both noncommissioned officers with the 80th MCT, were chosen to oversee the project at CSC Scania, while 1st Lt. Sharia Rodriquez, officer-in-charge and Houston native, and Sgt. 1st Class Justin Patterson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and a Catskill, N.Y. native, both from the 80th MCT, took charge of the mission at COS Kalsu.

"We immediately began to devise a plan to accommodate the new influx of convoys projected to utilize the COS Kalsu convoy support center," said Patterson, drawing knowledge he gained from previous deployments that was applicable for the mission at hand.

Over a 90-day period Gramke, Williams and members of the 80th MCT accomplished the successful closure of CSC Scania.

"I enjoyed being a part of a mission that allowed me to support my fellow Soldiers as they traveled up and down [a main supply route]," said Williams.

Despite the Kalsu CSC still being under construction, the goal was to ensure more

support capability.

"We wanted to ensure that the final drawdown of Iraq in the New Dawn era would be seamless," said Ogwu. "The 80th MCT command team recognized that, with additional staging lanes and the completion of pre-staging lanes construction, the Kalsu convoy support center could double in convoy support capabilities from 450 trucks to 900 trucks. It was without question that additional staging lanes are crucial to enduring the next surge."

With COS Kalsu being one of the smallest operating bases in Iraq, a potential location for the staging lanes needed to be identified. The newly assigned Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd Amored Cavalry Regiment, welcomed the idea of additional staging lanes.

"COS Kalsu's Convoy Support Center is a critical piece in Operation New Dawn, and we are willingly supporting the cause," said Lt. Col Timothy Luedenkin, RSS commander, and a Richland, Mich., native.

The NCOs and Soldiers with the 80th MCT immediately engaged in transforming an abandoned motor pool into their new convoy support center expansion area. The transformation had to be conducted in several phases, including properly turning in equipment, realigning T-walls, moving a building and constructing two bridges, prior to constructing the new lanes.

'We are confident that the hard work by the leaders, NCOs and Soldiers of the 80th MCT will result in absolute success in the final drawdown of [forces from] Iraq.'

- Capt. Evelyn Ogwu

"We are turning the abandoned equipment, containers and HAZMAT [hazardous materials] back into the Army supply system," said Staff Sgt. Larry Garcia, an NCO with the 80th MCT, and a Sunnyside, N.Y. native.

Staff Sgt. Michael Jones, an NCO with the 80th MCT, and a Raliegh, N.C., native, explained how this would happen. "Once the area is cleared of excess equipment, the task of realigning over 200 T-walls has to be performed," he said.

Supported by contractors, the T-wall realignment was complete in a few days. Relying on support from the 3rd ACR Regimental Engineer Company, two bridges were placed, connecting the old staging lanes to the new lanes.

The final piece of constructing the area into staging lanes remains a work in progress.

"As the 80th MCT moves forward in completing this project, we are confident that the hard work by the leaders, NCOs and Soldiers of the 80th MCT will result in absolute success in the final drawdown of [forces from] Iraq," said Ogwu.

"We are honored to play a major role in this historic event," she added."



The 80th Movement Control Team, 14th Transportation Movement Control Battalion, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was charged with effectively balancing two critical priorities: facilitating the base closure of Convoy Support Center Scania, while establishing and synchronizing the theater hub distribution operations of Contingency Operating Station Kalsu.

Biggest Loser fitness contest motivates Soldiers

STORY BY

PFC. ASHLEY N. REITEN

394TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE, SPEICHER, Iraq

Soldiers with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were put to the test recently when the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander

told them they would have an opportunity to participate in a weight-loss program to win prizes and achieve their personal goals during their deployment at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Thirteen participants from the unit, based out of Fremont, Neb., spent 12 weeks working toward winning the Biggest Loser competition and changing their appearances.

"I cannot take full credit for this program; I got the idea from a fellow commander," said Capt. Roy L. Stiff, HHC commander and an Omaha, Neb., native. "I used the concept and tweaked it to my liking, then titled it the Biggest Loser after the popular weight-loss television show."

The idea of the competition was created prior to the unit's arrival at COB Speicher and was carried out from Aug. 1 until Nov. 1. In order to receive one of the prizes, Soldiers had to participate in physical training throughout the week as well as weekly weigh-ins and measurements.

Even Soldiers not participating in the competition came to support the competitors. Sgt. Glenn R. Shannon, a Bellevue,



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt Constance A. Oberg

Sgt. Jeremy J. Stover, Pfc. Noah O. Harvey and Pfc. Ashley N. Reiten, all with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were recognized for their work and dedication during the Biggest Loser weight loss competition.

Neb., native, was there during morning physical training to encourage Soldiers, and was a battle buddy during weigh-ins.

"I was just being a battle buddy while bettering myself,"

said Shannon.

"[The program] built unit cohesion; those not involved still checked up and helped build confidence" said participant Sgt. Jeremy J. Stover, the 394th CSSB support operations handling specialist and a Kearney, Neb., native. "If someone was motivated to get up and do it, I was motivated, too."

Spc. Terrance C. Almond, an Omaha, Neb., native, was the administration clerk during the Biggest Loser program.

"I put all of the information in the computer and kept track of weekly progress," he said.

The progress of the unit was noticeable in both appearance, pounds and inches lost. Stiff was pleased with the results.

"Eighty-six pounds were lost, and that is a great success," he said.

Stover won first place, and was awarded a three-day pass to Freedom Rest, located at COB Speicher or Victory Base Compound, and runs similar to a hotel where Soldiers are able to enjoy their time off. Stover was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the HHC commander, and a \$50 gift card. Pfc. Noah O. Harvey, the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office help desk worker with the 394th CSSB, and an Omaha, Neb. native, received second place, and was awarded a two-day pass to Freedom Rest, a Certificate of Achievement, and a \$25 gift card. Third place was awarded to Pfc. Ashley N. Reiten, the 394th CSSB strength manager and an Omaha, Neb. native, who was given a one-day pass to Freedom Rest, a Certificate of Achievement, and a \$10 gift card.

Veterans' Day run is important to all service members

STORY AND PHOTO BY

SGT. GLEN BAKER

224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq

Nearly 300 Soldiers, Airmen and civilian contractors participated in the Veterans' Day Fall Classic 10K Run held Nov. 21 at Contingency

Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The event was hosted by the Soldiers with the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Shreveport, La.

First Lt. Angela Fry, administration and personnel officer with the 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and an Eros, La., native, described how the event was supported.

"The Troopers of the 2-108th Cavalry Squadron came out in full force to support the event, whether by actually running in the event or providing a service in the extensive coordination," said Fry. "Capt. Mike Ruffin and his team really put a lot of effort ...to make the event so successful. These troops also put a lot of their personal time into all the details that are required to pull something like this off."

Capt. Mike Ruffin, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a New Orleans native, was the officer in charge of the event. He also finished in fourth place out of 260 runners with a time of 38 minutes, 52 seconds.

First Lt. Lena Bertrand, equal opportunity officer with HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt., and a Lafayette, La., native, explained why the event was held.

"The title of the run explains the meaning of this event for me," said Bertrand.

"Veterans' Day will hold a significant spot in 2-108th Cav. hearts because of the ultimate sacrifice that two of our Soldiers made for us. The Veterans' Fall Classic 10k was in honor of Maj. Wayne Culver and Pfc. Bryan Hanes. They are our heroes and we feel [they are] watching over us and taking us home."

Bertrand described the significance of the event for the 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt.

"The motivation for this event is that this will be our last COB Adder post-wide run because we are due to leave very soon, and it was one last representation of the 2-108th Cav. on COB Adder," said Bertrand. "This event pulled all our Soldiers of 2-108th Cav. and PMO [Provost Marshall Office] together, no matter [their] rank, as a cohesive unit to make a lasting impression."

Bertrand explained how the 2nd Sqdn., 108th Cav. Regt. made the event successful.

"An event of this magnitude takes many parts, and I feel that the 2-108th Cav. and the Provost Marshall's Office really made this event a success," she said. "[No] small detail was...left undone which made the event run smooth."

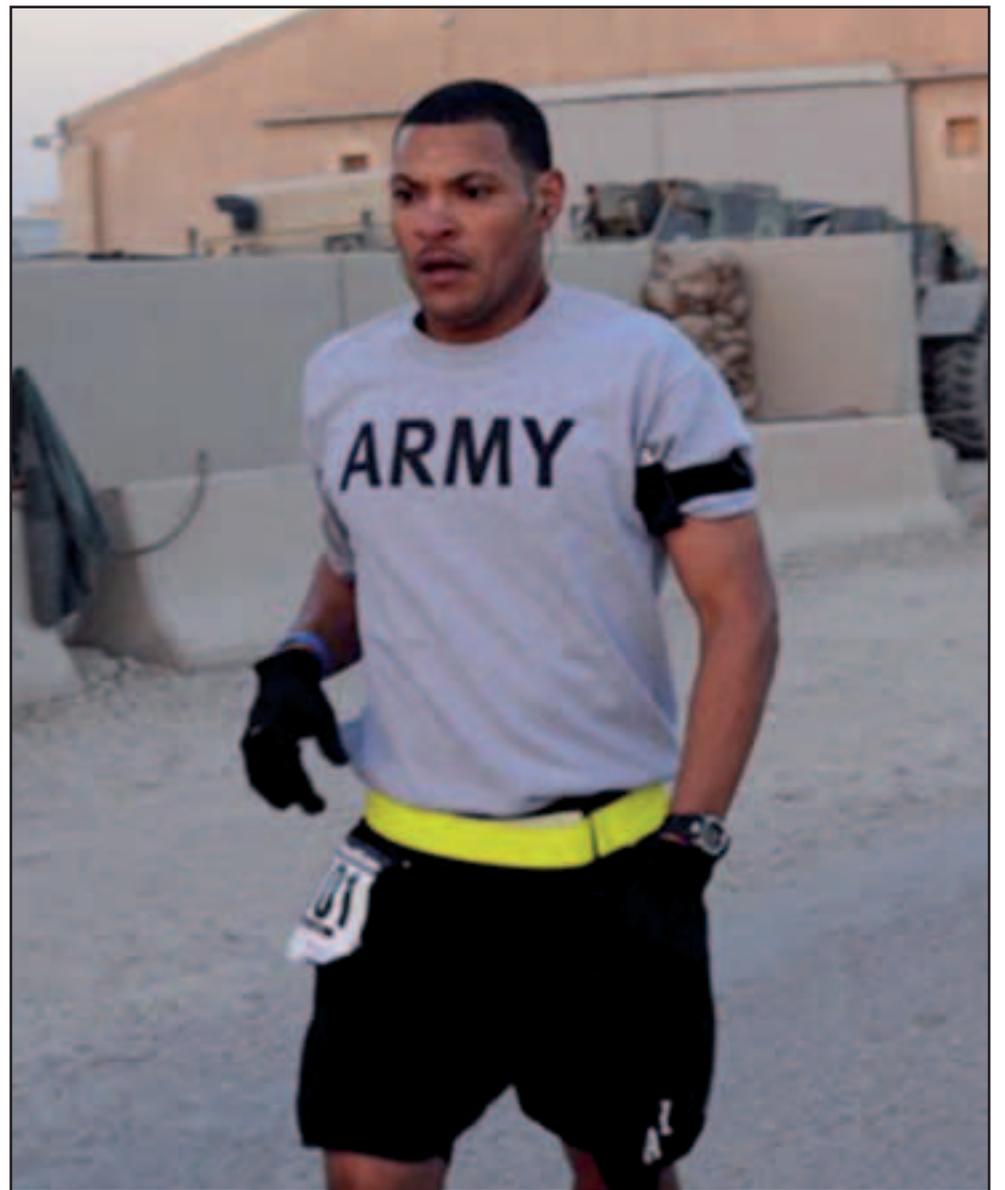
"The support received from our home state was overwhelming, which makes our reason for being here indispensable."

Maj. Evelyn Estep, deputy garrison commander and executive officer with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sust. Bde., and an Owings, Md., native, described what the event meant to her.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for all units at COB Adder to get together," said Estep.

Sgt. Alanna Bergstrom, mortuary affairs specialist with the 224th Sust. Bde., and an Andover, Md., native, explained why she participated in the event.

"It meant a lot to me to participate in it," said Bergstrom. "I did it in honor of people who are currently serving and for people who sacrificed their lives for our country."



Capt. Mike Ruffin, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a New Orleans native, finished in fourth place out of 260 runners with a time of 38 minutes, 52 seconds at the Veterans' Day 10K Fall Classic run Nov. 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Ruffin was also the officer in charge of the event.



Avenged Sevenfold played to a crowd of approximately 1,000 service members and civilian contractors Nov. 29 at Holt Stadium, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Avenged Sevenfold heats up Iraqi desert

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Approximately 1,000 service members and civilian contractors attended a United Service Organization concert featuring Avenged Sevenfold Nov. 29 at Holt Stadium at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Avenged Sevenfold extended their two-month European tour to several U.S. bases in Iraq.

“We said, this year, if you guys are going to be over here for Thanksgiving, we’re going to come play for you,” said M. Shadows, the lead singer of Avenged Sevenfold.

The band put on a great live show that really engaged the audience, despite a conspicuous lack of “moshing.” They played two extra songs to augment the hour-long set.

A highlight of the show was when Shadow pulled a member of the audience onstage to share the microphone for a cover of the song “Walk” by Pantera.

“There are no words for it,” said Spc. Linda Wiebalck, quartermaster and chemical equipment repair specialist with the 298th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Hicksville, N.Y., native. “I’m a huge metal fan. I love Avenged Sevenfold, and I love Pantera even more.”

Back home in New York, Wiebalck is an audio engineer at Sam Ash Music and plays bass guitar in the band Broken Life.

“I would have felt guilty going up there if it had been any other band,” she said.

After the show, the band posed for photos with fans in a reception room at Holt stadium. A large portion of the audience took advantage of the opportunity to meet



Crowds react with intense energy during Avenged Sevenfold’s performance Nov. 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The band stopped in Iraq after their European tour to show their support for the troops.

the band and create a lasting memory.

“It was absolutely a great show, especially the references to Pantera,” said Sgt. James Cassidy, a squad leader with the 512th QM Co., 13th CSSB, and a Savannah, Ga., native. “A picture with the band will be a good memory to have of my third tour in Iraq.”

Avenged Sevenfold is finishing a tour to promote “Nightmare,” their most recent album and the last to feature former-drummer James “The Rev” Sullivan who died last year. The band’s current drummer is Mike Portnoy, formerly of the band Dream Theater.

“I want to send our thanks from Avenged

Sevenfold for everything you guys do for us back home, it means everything in the world to us,” said Shadows.

The show was a great chance for JBB’s hard rock and metal fans to see a great performance by a band they know and love, and judging by the size of the crowd, they were well received



Leaving bad dealers for good ones

SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



In the continuing series regarding purchasing/leasing vehicles, we left off last week at the dealership, where my friend and I had bargained to a price on his used Blazer ZR-2, which was coming off a lease that both parties had agreed to.

To refresh your memory, there was no reason to make a deal on the new vehicle (another ZR-2, with a bigger engine) because it was already incentivized. Then, when the salesman was doing the paperwork, he priced the new Blazer at \$2,000 over the advertised price.

The manager became defensive when we called him over regarding the reason it was \$2,000 more than the clearly advertised price on the vehicle. The first words out of his mouth were, "We can't sell you the new vehicle for that price, not with what we are giving you for the trade."

A few dynamics were at work here. First of all, the sale price on the new ZR-2 was clearly stated; there was no fine print. It would be one thing to have a price advertised on the window with a caveat explaining any additional considerations. It would also have been beneficial to the dealership to let us know during negotiations that the trade-in price quoted to us was conditional on everything else: i.e., any deals that are currently being advertised are null and void based on any specific issues they may have with your trade-in.

This is exactly what he came back and reiterated. I explained to him that the offer does not state anything regarding a trade. It simply offers the new ZR-2 for a specific price, no questions asked. Unless of course, you are this particular dealer. After an initial stare-down (quite comical, my friend offered later), we left the building, as I made sure to let whoever may have been listening that we would go take our business to an honest dealer.

In retrospect, this screams no trade-in better than all of my articles speaking about it combined. If my friend sold his vehicle outright, we would have had a sweet deal that day, dishonest dealer and all. Alas, he had a lease, and we were stuck.

Off we went to a dealer who I knew from my old hometown. We explained what happened a little earlier in the day. The dealer, who was an old friend from way back, nodded in acknowledgement when I said who the perpetrators were. See, in this business, if you do that to people, word spreads, even to honest dealers, about how not to sell vehicles.

The dealer was completely honest from the start. "You're not going to be pleased with what I can give you for the trade on the leased ZR-2, but I will give you a fair market price that will be competitive." Refreshing! He then gave us a price on the new ZR-2 by showing us what he paid for the vehicle.

He was giving us the rebate and asking us for \$300 over invoice. It was not as good a deal as what the dishonest dealer was offering, and \$500 less for the trade, but the fact the he was up-front from the start and honest enough to give us his price was enough to close the deal.

Word on the Street

What is your favorite Avenged Sevenfold song?



"My favorite Avenged Sevenfold song is 'Bat Country' because it's the first one I heard. I also really like 'So Far Away' because it's an awesome tribute to their drummer who passed away."

Spc. Linda Wiebalck, quartermaster and chemical equipment repair specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103 Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Hicksville, N.Y., native



"I don't really have a favorite Avenged Sevenfold song, but I am a fan of their latest album, 'Nightmare.'"

Spc. Charles Williams, electronics repair specialist with the 298th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103 Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Altoona, Pa., native



"My favorite Avenged Sevenfold songs are 'Bat Country' because it's the first one I heard, and 'City of Evil' because it just rocks."

Spc. Garrett Weimer, wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103 Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Altoona, Pa., native

Holiday Service Schedule

All services at Provider Chapel unless otherwise noted

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

- Dec. 8: Immaculate Conception - 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day - 11 a.m.
- Jan. 1: Mary the Mother of God - 11 a.m.
- Jan. 2: Epiphany - 11 a.m.

PROTESTANT

- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7 p.m. at MWR East
- Dec. 25: Christmas - 9 a.m.
Lutheran MS - 8 a.m.
- Dec. 31: Watch Night - 10 p.m.

PAGAN/WICCAN

- Dec. 21/22: Yule - at Provider Chapel Annex (Time TBA)

Test your Holiday knowledge!

Can you guess the names of these Christmas carols and songs from these, uh, non-traditional titles?

1. Approach Everyone Who Is Steadfast
2. Ecstasy Toward The Orb
3. Hush, The Foretelling Spirits Harmonize
4. Hey, Minuscule Urban Area Southwest Of Jerusalem
5. Quiescent Nocturnal Period
6. The Autocratic Troika Originating Near the Accent of Apollo
7. The Primary Carol
8. Embellish The Corridors
9. I Apprehended My Maternal Parent Osculating with a Corpulent, Unshaven Male in Crimson Disguise
10. I'm Fantasizing Concerning a Blanched Yuletide
11. My Singular Desire For The Impending Yuletide Season Is Receipt Of A Pair Of Central Incisors.
12. During the Time Ovine Caretakers Supervised Their Charges Past Twilight
13. Celestial Messengers From Splendid Empires.
14. The Thing Manifest Itself at the Onset of a Transparent Day
15. The Tatterdemalion Ebony Atmosphere
16. The Coniferous Nativity
17. What Offspring Abides Thus?
18. Removed in a Bovine Feeding Trough
19. Creator Cool It Ya Kooky Cats
20. Seraphim We Aurally Detect in the Stratosphere
21. Valentino, The Roseate Proboscised Wapati
22. Father Christmas Approaches the Metropolis
23. Ag Glockenspiels
24. The Slight Percussionist Lad
25. The Antlered Quadruped With The Cerise Proboscis.
26. The Event Occurred At One Minute After 11:59 PM-Visibility Unlimited.
27. Ornament The Enclosure With Large Sprigs Of A Berry-bearing Evergreen.
28. Anticipation Of This Noel's Memento's: Nil.
29. The Approach Of The Holiday Commemorating The Birth Of Christ Is Becoming Evident.
30. During the Dark Hours When Herdsman Attended Their Charges.
31. A Trio of Non Occidental Potentates Is Our Identity.
32. A Meteorological Melody Is Manifest.
33. The Yuletide's Diurnal Dozen.
34. Please Permit Pristine Precipitation.
35. 'Rimey', The Mannequin of Crystalline H2O.
36. Our Desire Is Your Yuletide Cheer.
37. Aged Matriarch Plowed Under By Precipitous Darlings.
38. Are You Experiencing Parallel Auditory Input?
39. Endeavor to Personally Experience Singular, Minuscule Yule!

Answers: 1. O Come All Ye Faithful 2. Joy To The World 3. Hark The Herald Angels Sing 4. O Little Town Of Bethlehem 5. O Holy Night 6. We Three Kings, of Orient are 7. The First Noel 8. Deck The Halls 9. I Saw Momma Kissing Santa Claus 10. I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas 11. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth 12. White Shepherds Watched their Flocks By Night 13. Angels From The Realms of Glory 14. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear 15. O Holy Night 16. O Christmas Tree or Oh Tannenbaum 17. What Child Is This 18. Away In A Manger 19. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 20. Angels We Have Heard On High 21. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer 22. Santa Clause Is Coming To Town 23. Silver Bells 24. The Little Drummer Boy 25. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer 26. It Came Upon The Midnight Clear 27. Deck The Halls With Boughs of Holly 28. I'm Getting Nothin' For Christmas 29. It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas 30. White Shepherds Watched Their Flock By Night 31. We Three Kings Of Orient Are 32. There's A Song In The Air 33. 12 Days of Christmas 34. Let It Snow 35. Frosty The Snowman 36. We Wish You A Merry Christmas 37. Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer 38. Do You Hear What I Hear? 39. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

THE EIGHTH DAY OF HANUKKAH

The eighth day of Hanukkah (or Chanukah) is the last day of the Jewish holiday; it is often referred to as Zose Chanukah, Zos Chanukah or Zot Chanukah. It marks the day on which the great miracle of the oil occurred in Jewish history, and is notably important because it embodies all of Hanukkah.

As Jewish faith and history tell, Hanukkah celebrates the successful rebellion of the Jewish people against the Syrians in the Maccabean War of 162 BCE, which resulted in the survival of Judaism. After the victory, the Jewish people rededicated the Temple and re-lit the menorah. As the story is told, there was enough consecrated oil to keep the menorah burning for one day, and it would take eight more days to resupply. Miraculously, the small amount of oil lasted all eight days, which is why Hanukkah is also known as the Feast of Lights.

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

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Which Baroque composer wrote The Four Seasons?
- How many valves does a trumpet have?
- Of what kind of dance did Johann Strauss become 'King' in the late 19th century?
- Which female singing voice lies between soprano and contralto?
- Who was the youngest Beatle?
- Who had a 1966 hit with 'Good Vibrations'?
- To what section of the orchestra do the bassoon and clarinet belong?

1. Vivaldi 2. Three 3. Waltz 4. Mezzo-soprano 5. George Harrison 6. The Beach Boys 7. Woodwind

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
12:30 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)

** For holiday services, refer to page 12*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel 433-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

***Current as of Dec. 8, 2010**

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Open Court Volleyball: Sunday 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m.	Caribbean Night: Friday 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday 7:30 p.m. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday 8 p.m. H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday 8 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday 8 p.m. Dominos: Saturday 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 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: Thursday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday 8-10 p.m.	7 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat. 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
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UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 12/08/10

COLLEGE BB: Ohio State @ Florida State, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN Sports
NHL: St. Louis Blues @ Chicago Blackhawks Live 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE BB: Michigan @ Clemson Delayed 1 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 11:30 p.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 12/09/10

NBA: Memphis Grizzlies @ Atlanta Hawks Live 3 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: San Antonio Spurs @ Los Angeles Clippers Live 6:30 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE BB: St. Mary's @ San Diego State, Live 7 p.m. AFN Sports

Friday 12/10/10

NFL: Houston Texans @ Philadelphia Eagles, Live 4 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Miami Heat @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE BB: UCLA @ Kansas, Delayed 1 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Football, Delayed 4 p.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 12/11/10

NHL: New York Islanders @ New York Rangers, Live 3 a.m. AFN Prime Pac
COLLEGE: Illinois @ Fresno State, Live 6:15 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: College Gameday, Live 6 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 8 p.m. AFN Xtra

Sunday 12/12/10

COLLEGE BB: North Carolina State @ Syracuse, Live 1:30 a.m. AFN Xtra
UFC: The Ultimate Finale, Live 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: 2010 SEC Championship Game, Delayed 11 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live Football, 9 p.m. AFN Sports

Monday 12/13/10

NFL: Live Football, Midnight AFN Sports
NBA: Golden State Warriors @ Oklahoma City Thunder, Live 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE FB: Bowl Selection Special, Delayed 4:30 p.m. AFN Sports
NHL: Pittsburgh Steelers @ Baltimore Ravens Delayed, 9 p.m. AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Sports Lounge': Conference championship, BCS

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



This weekend college football will determine the pecking order the Bowls will utilize after the Conference Championships decide official Bowl Conference Championship series participants.

They come from "automatic qualifying conferences," in addition to other rules that allow schools that are not affiliated with a conference or are "non-AQ" conferences, to join the fun.

Officially, there are six automatic qualifying conferences: the Big Ten, the Big Twelve, the Atlantic Coast, the Southeastern, the Big East, and the Pacific Ten. The SEC, Big Twelve, and ACC have conference championship games. The Big Ten, Big East, and Pac-Ten do not. If there is no outright winner in these three conferences (Oregon has already clinched the Pac Ten), then there is either a head-to-head tiebreaker, or, as is the case with the Big Ten this year, a three-way tie that is settled by final, pre-Bowl BCS standings between Ohio State, Wisconsin

and Michigan State.

All of the aforementioned possibilities are vying for a spot in the BCS games, which consist of the National Championship Game, the Rose, Sugar, Orange, and Fiesta Bowls. There are 10 slots open, six of them will be taken by the six AQ conferences. The remaining four slots can be filled a number of different ways, and are determined by a rather involved set of computer rankings, strength-of-schedule formulas, and some would say random rules designed to help or hinder teams, depending on how you look at it.

For example, if Notre Dame, an independent, finishes in the top eight, they are guaranteed a BCS Bowl game. If a champion from a non-AQ conference, like Boise State of the Western Athletic Conference, finishes ranked in the top 12, or ranked in the top 16 and higher than at least one BCS conference champion, they will also receive an automatic berth. Only one team from the non-AQ conferences is authorized a possible BCS bid, while the BCS conferences mentioned earlier can have no more than two.

Clear as mud, huh? My predictions, based on the above convoluted information, are these: Oregon will win over Oregon State in the "Civil War" game at

Corvallis, vaulting the Ducks to the BCS Championship game. The conference championships? Take Oklahoma over Nebraska in the Big 12 championship. I just like the way the Sooners are playing right now, they have been more consistent than the Huskers.

In the ACC, take the money and run with Virginia Tech, a team once given up for lost with early season losses to Boise State and James Madison. They are playing good football right now and should beat Florida State.

The SEC Championship game is a rematch between undefeated Auburn and South Carolina. The Gamecocks led into the fourth quarter in the regular season matchup, but look for Cam Newton and the Tigers to take their place in the NC game against Oregon.

All Connecticut has to do to get the automatic bid from the Big East is beat South Florida. If they don't, look for West Virginia to get the bid.

So here is my scenario for BCS Bowls only. The National Championship game will feature Oregon and Auburn, the Rose will have Wisconsin and Texas Christian, the Orange will feature Virginia Tech and Connecticut, the Fiesta: Oklahoma and Stanford, and the Sugar: Ohio State and Arkansas.

Avenged Sevenfold album more than heavy metal

BY SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"NIGHTMARE!!!!!! Now your nightmare comes to life!" Sings M. Shadows to open Avenged Sevenfold's newest Album "Nightmare."

The album was released July 27, but was almost scrapped because of a tragic event in the band. On May 29, 2009, Jimmy "The Rev" Sullivan, Avenged Sevenfold's drummer, was found dead in his home.

To honor their friend, Avenged Sevenfold (or A7X) worked to finish the album that they had begun with Sullivan. Recruiting Mike Portnoy, the drummer from Dream Theatre, to help finish the studio tracks of "Nightmare" and join A7X on their 2010 tour.

For those new to the band, A7X has their own unique blending of music that is more than "scream," and has

more connection to the listener than quick and heavy drums like in most metal music. They forgo such labels and create their own sound that is more captivating than staying in a single genre. A good example of A7X expanding across multiple music styles is track six, "So Far Away":

*How do I live without the ones I love?
Time still turns the pages of pages book it's burned
Place and time always on my mind
I have so much to say but you're so far away*

This song contains the drums and bass like an alternative band, but the vocals and guitar of a metal band.

M. Shadow, the lead vocalist for A7X, is the strength of the band, and really shows it during great songs like "Nightmare" and "Welcome to the Family." His ability to scream and sing during the songs is a credit to him as

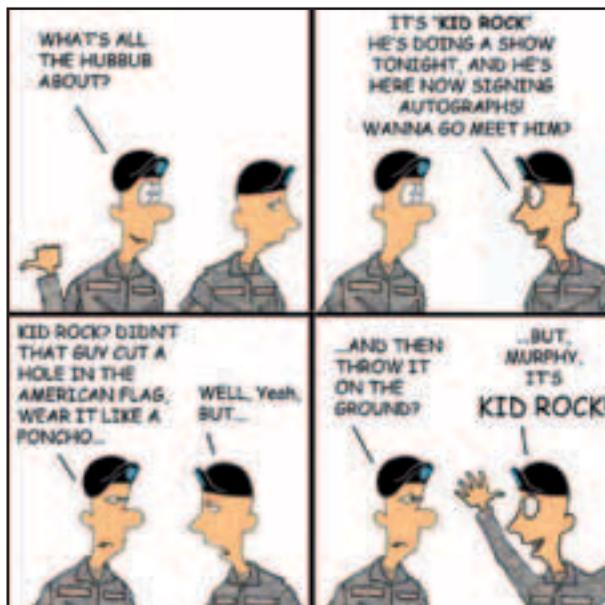
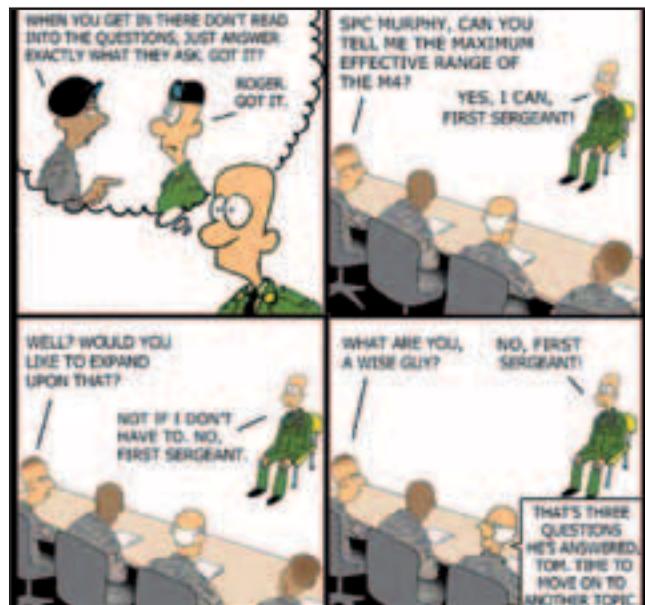
a performer.

Zacky Vengeance, the rhythm guitarist and supporting vocalist for A7X, helps with some serious dark melodies and a great sound. The listener can especially hear it in the song "Danger line." The dark and moody melodies help give Shadows' lyrics a more metal sound.

The real question is if Portnoy does justice in memory of Sullivan. For those die-hard A7X fans out there, if you play Sullivan and Portnoy together, there is very little difference in their styles. Portnoy does an excellent job of matching Sullivan's playing style and keeps his memory alive with his performance on the album.

The entire album is full of songs that are a powerful farewell to Sullivan and the rest of the band. The band members' underlying strength to remember their friend gives this album its emotion and makes "Nightmare" worth the purchase. There is no doubt that it gets 5 out of 5.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday December 08

5 p.m. Tangled (PG)

8 p.m. The Social Network (PG-13)

Thursday December 09

5 p.m. Tangled (PG)

8 p.m. Life As We Know It (PG-13)

Friday December 10

6 p.m. Jackass 3D (R)

9 p.m. The Tourist (PG-13)

Saturday December 11

2 p.m. Jackass 3D (R)

5 p.m. The Tourist (PG-13)

8 p.m. RED (PG-13)

Midnight: The Tourist (PG-13)

Sunday December 12

2 p.m. The Tourist (PG-13)

5 p.m. RED (PG-13)

8 p.m. Jackass 3D (R)



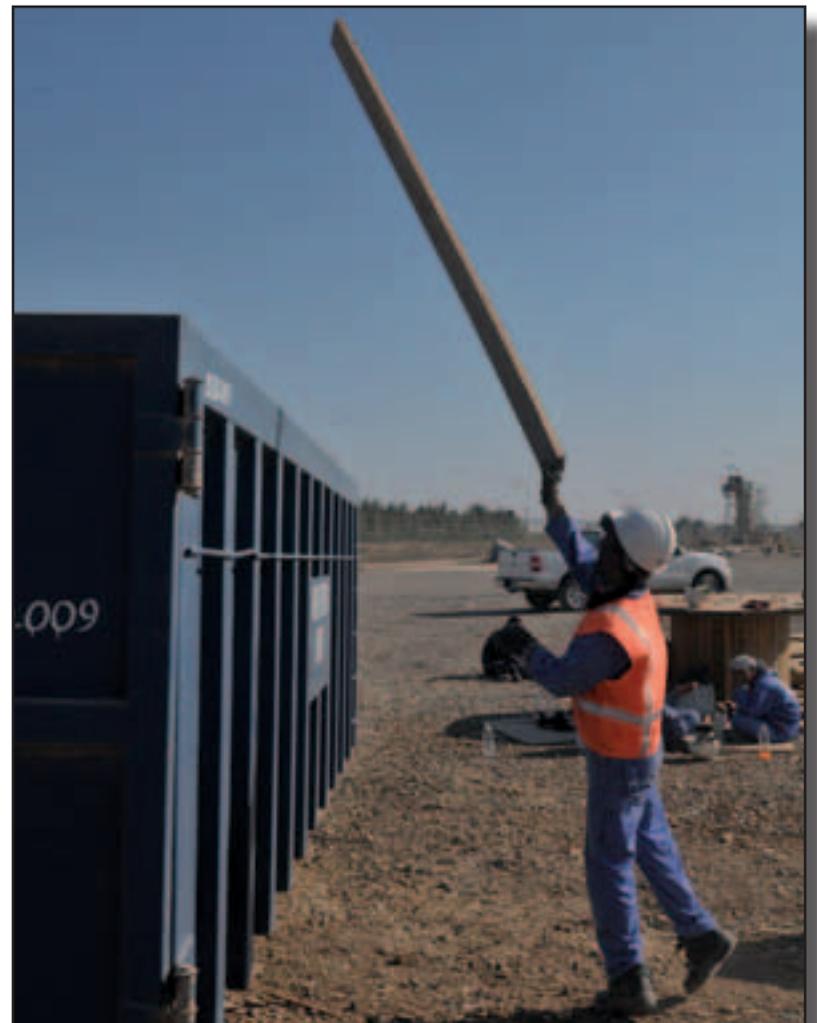
U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nathan Lavy

Spc. Ishmael Alvarez, a chaplain's assistant with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Ontario, Calif., native, along with other members of the 224th Sust. Bde., meet Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, Army chief of chaplains, Nov. 25 in the Warrior's Café dining facility on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Keeler

Matthew Sanders, known by his stage name, M. Shadows, pumps his fist to the drum beat as he fires up the crowd during the Avenged Sevenfold concert Nov. 30 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Shadows wanted to thank the service members from the bottom of his heart for the sacrifices that they make, he said to the crowd.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter

A civilian contractor with the Department of Public Works helps sort and load recycled materials into large containers Nov. 30 at the old recycle yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. All the recycled material needed to be transported to the yard's new location on the other side of the base.

**** The Expeditionary Times staff welcomes photo and story submissions. If you have a story idea or would like to submit your work, please contact us at escpao@iraq.centom.mil.**