



The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

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C-IED



Jackal system enhances safety

Page 5

Glory



Toy bear returns to kindergarten class

Page 6

Head Hunters



Team set to play in Tostitos Bowl

Page 7



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of United States Division-South, administers the Oath of Reenlistment to Spc. David Molina, garrison logistics specialist with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Pinole, Calif., native; Sgt. Roque Caprile, senior local area network manager with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Los Angeles native; Master Sgt. Adais Garcia, force protection noncommissioned officer with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Coachella, Calif., native; Master Sgt. Dennis Evans, S6 noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Fullerton, Calif., native, at the brigade headquarters recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

USD-S leader reenlists deployed troops

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— The commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, has always emphasized building strong relationships.

In that spirit of true teamwork, the commander of United States Division-South, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, paid a special visit to Soldiers with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC, to reenlist Soldiers recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Brooks, along with staff officers and noncommissioned officers with the 224th Sust. Bde.,

toured the brigade's headquarters and spoke with Soldiers from various sections within the brigade prior to the reenlistment ceremony.

After meeting with dozens of Soldiers and completing the tour, Brooks initiated the reenlistment ceremony by stating the importance and significance of reenlisting.

"I always appreciate any opportunity to reenlist Soldiers who stay in the Army and be part of the team, because it's a privilege for an officer to do that," said Brooks. "The officers get to administer the oath, and in the oath each person vows that they will indeed obey the orders of the president and the orders of the officers appointed over them. So when an officer gets to reenlist Soldiers, it's an honor.

"No Soldier stays in an Army they don't want to be a part of," he continued. "We're all here because we choose to be here, but you're part of a really small population, who actually has said,

'Yes, I will serve': about one percent [of the U.S. population]. To be able to serve the nation and the state is a terrific thing. These four Soldiers who have decided to stay in are solid and decided to stay for all the reasons that give us personal satisfaction and direction that makes life worth living, and service worth giving."

Brooks administered the Oath of Reenlistment to four Soldiers, and then presented each with a special coin and words of appreciation and congratulations.

Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Long Beach, Calif., native, gave her thoughts on the ceremony and feelings of partnership between the 224th Sust. Bde., USD-S and the 103rd ESC.

"From day one, back at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, when the ESC commander, Brig. Gen.

REENLIST cont. page 4



Troops prove themselves deserving of the title Soldier/NCO of the Quarter at JBB

Page 8

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

FROM BRIG. GEN. MARK W. CORSON
103RD ESC COMMANDING GENERAL

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. LEROY HAUGLAND AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON TO OUR SERVICE MEMBERS THROUGHOUT IRAQ AND TO THEIR LOVED ONES, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND EMPLOYERS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR THOSE LITTLE THINGS YOU ALL DO THAT REMIND US OF THE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON, WHICH HELPS US FEEL A LITTLE CLOSER TO HOME.

DURING THIS TIME OF REFLECTION, AS I LOOK BACK ON EVERYTHING IT TOOK TO GET WHERE WE ARE HERE IN IRAQ AND THE THINGS PROGRESSING BACK HOME THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST, I AM SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU AND WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

I OFFER MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE DIFFICULT JOB YOU DO EACH DAY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM. I WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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The Weekly Standard: Tattoos? Learn the rules first

MAJ. ERIK VERHOEF
103RD ESC DEPUTY IG



According to a Scripps Howard News Service study, 30 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 to 34 have tattoos. That percentage drops to 28 percent of Americans under the age of 25.

Because the percentage of Americans sporting tattoos has increased so much, the Army changed the tattoo policy in 2006. So what is allowable and what is not?

Tattoos and brands are now allowed all over the body with the exception of the front of the neck and face, and even that has an exception. Tattoos are allowed on the back of the neck, which the Army defines as anything behind the ear. Tattoos are not allowed on the throat or in front of the ear lobe.

Does that mean anything goes with tattoos and brands? No, the Army still does not allow skin art that is extremist, racist, sexist, or indecent. What can a commander do when a Soldier shows up in formation with a prohibited tattoo? The commander cannot order the tattoo removed. However, he can counsel the Soldier that the tattoo is not authorized due to its nature or location. In that counseling, the commander will point out options the Soldier has for removing the

tattoo and that the Army may even pick up the cost. The commander may discharge the Soldier if the prohibited tattoo is not removed.

What about that exception for tattoos on the face? The Army does allow permanent makeup on the face like permanent eye-liner, eyebrows, etc. With that said, the make-up needs to be conservative and complement the uniform and complexion in both style and color. Sorry ladies and gentlemen, no purple eyebrows.

Now what about those unwanted tattoos? Many hospitals on military bases now have the tattoo removal lasers. Removing a tattoo takes at least five to six treatments depending on the size and color of the tattoo. Is your unwanted tattoo really dark? If so, you are in luck because dark colors are easier to remove than light colors. Tattoo removal is not a perfect process; the skin where the tattoo was will always look a little different.

And now, a word of caution because, as you know, tattoos are fairly permanent. Tattoos are acceptable in the Army and they will not hurt your career. But when making tattoo decisions, make sure you look to future employment. Think of where you may be 10, 15, or even 20 years from now. Many jobs, especially ones where you deal with the public, still frown upon tattoos. A quick Google search showed that getting a job was harder for someone with visible tattoos.

For further information on rules and regulations, contact the Inspector General near you.

Inspector General Contacts

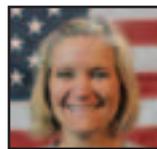
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Master Sgt. Arnett Cooper (NCOIC)

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DSN 433-2125

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Combat Stress: A holiday message from SFC Albert

MAJ. LORIE FIKE
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



The holiday season has arrived, and the 85th Combat Stress Control (CSC), along with Sergeant 1st Class Albert, would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and

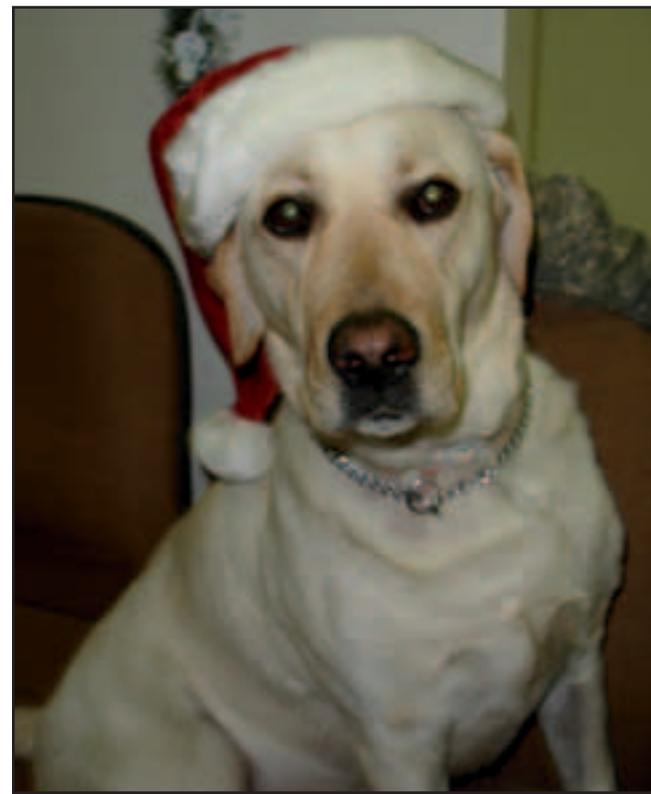
New Year. As many of you know, Albert is our animal-assisted therapy dog located at Joint Base Balad, and the 85th CSC is fortunate to have Albert as a force multiplier.

Research has shown animal-assisted therapy can decrease blood pressure, decrease stress, decrease anxiety and increase feelings of well-being. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and DOD civilians' response to Albert's presence is amazing. Sample comments include: "Petting him made my day" or "I was having a bad day until I saw SFC Albert." After observing Albert and his interactions with people, it is easy to determine why he is such a valuable asset. In fact, humans can learn a lot from observing Albert's interactions and his approach to situations. First thing in the morning, Albert greets us with a rambunctious wag of his tail and a rush to greet us. He is excited about the day, and he is excited to see us. The positive feedback he provides makes us feel good and feel worthy.

Just think, if we approached our co-workers with the same enthusiasm, obviously not a wag of the tail but perhaps a welcoming smile, a pat on the back or a sincere greeting, it may brighten their day and make them feel worthy too. Albert has a zest for life, and he loves to eat. He is not judgmental, but instead is eager to meet new people.

People can learn so much by observing the way Albert or their own pets rejoice in life's simple moments. An article in Parade.com recommended that people learn to celebrate each day and learn to live in the moment as dogs do. They don't regret the past or worry about the future. If we can learn to appreciate and focus on what's happening in the here and now, we'll experience a richness of living that other members of the animal kingdom enjoy.

We at the 85th CSC understand that it is stressful to be deployed during the holidays, but sometimes the way we choose to approach the day can determine what the day brings for us. Starting today, celebrate the many gifts that are hidden in the ordinary events of your own life. Albert loves to make new friends and get personal attention. His job here in Iraq is to help individuals through their deployment, decrease stress or just bring a small part of home to Iraq. If you feel that Albert would bring joy to your day or help you or your unit through the holiday season, please call the 85th CSC Clinic at 483-3385 to set up an appointment time.



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Ceremony marks one unit's end, another's beginning

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Formations of troopers with the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, and Soldiers with the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, gathered to conduct their transfer-of-authority ceremony in Memorial Hall Dec. 12 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Soldiers with 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., assumed the squadron's mission of providing convoy security for the various missions and units of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), providing free flow of multi-class logistics throughout United States Division-South and central Iraq.

The ceremony's honored guests included Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commander of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, COB Adder garrison commander.

"It is with tremendous pride that I stand before the fine troopers of the 2-108th Cavalry Squadron," said Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Long Beach, Calif., native. "As your brigade commander, I am so very proud of what you have done during your tour here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. This unit's accomplishments are unparalleled with any other unit due to the distance and frequencies our Soldiers drove day in and day out, in every convoy. Your efforts in securing our logistics convoys ensured that all units throughout the IJOA [Iraq Joint Operations Area] had

what they needed and had it on time."

On Jan. 5, the troopers of Louisiana's National Guard Squadron, headquartered in Shreveport, La., were mobilized in support of OIF and OND until starting their convoy security mission in April. The 2nd. Sqdn, 108th Cav. Regt. history dates back to the Civil War in 1861, and has proudly served during WWI, OIF, Hurricane Gustav, and now OND.

"Today we turn over the mission of providing security to logistical convoys throughout Iraq to the very capable hands of the Griz Battalion [1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt.]," said Lt. Col. William Rachal, squadron commander and a Breaux Bridge, La., native. "The critical nature of the mission, sustaining our existing forces in Iraq with the classes of supply, is a great one. Nothing can happen if the flow of food and fuel is impeded in any way. I know the Soldiers of the 1st of the 163rd [Inf. Regt.] will conduct each convoy with the diligence and knowledge that they have proven during their training at Camp Shelby.

"Troopers of the 2-108th Cavalry: We began our mission in April 2010 — since then, the squadron has escorted over 32,000 trucks on nearly 700 missions from Bucca to Balad," added Rachel. "You have ensured that 110 million gallons of fuel have reached the force safely allowing others to accomplish their mission."

Today, the Soldiers of Montana's National Guard, headquartered in Belgrade, Mont., assume command of this vital mission. The 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., history dates back to 1889 and has proudly served in the Philippines, WWII, Bosnia, several state emergencies, OIF, and now OND.

"To the troopers of 2nd squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment: I have been equally impressed with your focus on helping the Griz battalion throughout this relief-in-place," said Lt. Col. Theodore Hull, commander of the 1st CAB,



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Glen Baker

Lt. Col. William Rachal, squadron commander and a Breaux Bridge, La., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Vanzant, senior enlisted advisor with the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Campti, La., native, case their unit's colors at a transfer-of-authority Dec. 12 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

163rd Inf. Regt., and a Helena, Mont., native. "To the Soldiers of the 1-163rd Combined Arms Battalion: You are the best trained, most disciplined unit that I have ever served with. You are ready for the mission, and I know that every one of you shares my objective of accomplishing our mission here while safely bringing every Soldier home."

REENLIST from page 1

[Mark] Corson gave his initial guidance to me, he was very clear: For sustainment operations to be effective, there must be a relationship between the supporting unit [the 224th Sust. Bde.] and the supported unit," said Costanza. "Today, we see just one more example of the strong relationship and bonds that have been built between the USD'S and the 224th Sust. Bde.

"The 224th Sust. Bde. Soldiers were honored to have Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks reenlist four Soldiers. It was a simple but important ceremony, as it sent many messages: [That] we are 'one team,' [that we are] mutually supporting, [that] Soldiers continue to display selfless service, and most importantly that Soldiers remain the number one most valuable asset we have in the Army, Army Reserves, and National Guard."

Master Sgt. Adais Garcia, a force protection NCO with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Coachella, Calif., native, reenlisted for three years and shared his thoughts on the ceremony.

"It's great to be coined by a two-star general, and it's a good feeling knowing that he came down to swear us in," he said.

Garcia, who has more than 30 years of Army experience, had a message for Soldiers thinking of reenlisting and continuing to serve.

"My advice to the young guys is: If you enjoy it, stay in," he said. "The Army needs great leaders, and to continue to teach the junior enlisted coming up through the ranks, to continue to give guidance and motivation and support their officers. Pick the job you want to do. It's about tackling obstacles. Everything is going to be coming your way, but you're there to give support to whoever is in charge. So think positive, and any negativity that comes your way, you need to know



Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of United States Division-South, displays his reenlistment coin and speaks to Soldiers prior to administering the Oath of Reenlistment and reenlisting four Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at the brigade headquarters Dec. 1 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

how to turn that negativism into positivism."

Sgt. Roque Caprile, senior local area network manager with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Los Angeles native, reenlisted for an additional three years and received a \$2,500 bonus.

"I feel good," he said. "I feel that I am contributing to the greater good. If you want to reenlist, think deep into your reasons. Do

you want to contribute to the greater good, while not just thinking of yourself? Like back in the States, if you think things aren't going so great, or think, I might have to go to Iraq. Think to yourself, 'Okay, no problem. I'm doing it because someone has to do it. If it's not me, it's just going to be some other guy who's someone else's child.'"

The two other Soldiers who reen-

listed were: Master Sgt. Dennis Evans, S6 noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Fullerton, Calif., native, who reenlisted for an additional three years, and Spc. David Molina, garrison logistics specialist with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sust. Bde., and a Pinole, Calif., native, who reenlisted for an additional six years.

Warrior Challenge promotes esprit de corps

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. ANGELA CERVELLI
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), competed in the Warrior Challenge event Dec. 11 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"It was fun and challenging," said Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Marzette, S6 noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 240th CSSB, and a Cleveland native.

Seven teams competed in the event early that Saturday morning. Each team consisted of one female Soldier and four male Soldiers.

"In anything you are faced with along your path, the courage to stand up and put forth your best effort is half the fight," said Sgt. Earl Grater, an operations shop NCO with the 240th CSSB, and a Pottstown, Pa., native. "Most can play games or sports, but only a few can be part of a Warrior Challenge."

The seven teams competed in six events in a two-hour period. The events included a litter carry, push-ups, sit-ups, a one-mile run, a 100-yard Humvee push, and a weapons event (disassembly and assembly).

"The challenging events were a great way to foster teamwork," said 1st Lt. Alan Sanfratella, supply officer with the 240th CSSB, and a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., native.

The winning team received certificates of achievement, a gold medal, and an Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate worth \$100.

Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, took first place and second place.

After the sixth event was over, there was a three-way tie for 3rd place.

Each of the three teams picked their top three males and



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Sewell, a squad leader in the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and a Monroe, Ohio, native, leads his team in the litter carry event during the Warrior Challenge Dec. 11 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

their female to compete in a relay race of one lap around the track to break the tie.

After a compelling lead gained by Sgt. Amber Hester, orderly room NCO with the 240th CSSB, and a Salters, N.C., native, her team managed to beat out the other three teams and take third place.

"The Warrior Challenge event was a great opportunity for our service members here on Al Asad to experience some great competition, challenge themselves physically and mentally, build some teamwork, and most importantly, have fun," said Lt. Col. Skip Adams, commander of the 240th CSSB, and a Nokesville, Va., native.

Jackal C-IED system increases safety outside wire



Pvt. Chase Coonse, security forces driver with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Prineville, Ore., native, and Pfc. Tom Sabblot, a security forces driver with A Co., 3-116th Cav. Regt., and a Winchester Bay, Ore., native, study and train on the Jackal system, a new counter victim-operated improvised explosive device system, Dec. 1 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— More than 40 Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), attended training Dec. 1 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, on a new counter victim-operated improvised explosive device system that has recently been implemented in Iraq.

The Jackal system is the newest member to the family of IED-Defeat equipment and is currently in the operational assessment phase of development. It transmits a high-power waveform designed to counter the IED threat that coalition forces face in today's combat environment.

"The system is designed to save lives," said Chris Lewis, United States Division-North Jackal lead field service representative. "It will...essentially mitigate the threat before they put our service members in danger."

The Jackal system was first introduced in the spring of 2010, said Marty Scanlon, theater program manager for Jackal training, and a Tobyhanna Army Depot representative. After testing and training on the equipment, the Jackal was put into field combat usage in August 2010.

To date, there are many Jackal systems

available, several of which are located throughout USD-N.

"We have the highest density percentage of Jackal systems in the world here in northern Iraq," said Scanlon. Additional Jackal systems are currently under production through Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., he added.

Scanlon and Lewis both agreed that new equipment was essential in protecting service members from enemy threats.

"New equipment shows that we are evolving and improving," said Lewis. "We are constantly trying to make things better and save lives."

Scanlon echoed his comments by saying that service members need to be one step ahead of the enemy.

"I can't stress the importance of keeping up with the tactics and techniques of the insurgents," said Scanlon. "Every day that we learn how to defeat some threat out there, they are working on another threat. It's a constant battle to keep up with them."

Many of the 3-116th Cav. Regt. Soldiers who went through the training said they are excited to try out the new equipment, based on the high marks that their predecessors, the 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, have placed on the equipment.

"This is huge improvement over what we had my first deployment," said Spc. Stefan Stevenot, security forces driver with Company A, 3-116th Cav. Regt., and a North Bend, Ore., native. "I feel safer heading outside the wire."

Students' toy bear boosts deployed troops' morale

STORY BY

1ST LT. RAYMOND PATTERSON
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), welcomed Glory, an honorary member of their company, and a Columbus, Ga., native, visiting from Ms. Julie Jackson's class of students at the Lonnie Jackson Academy in Columbus, Ga., to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Glory was no ordinary visitor — not a living, breathing, human being, but a symbolic Ty® Beanie Baby, sent from the academy by Jackson's kindergarten students, to give their moral support to the 632nd Maint. Co. at COB Adder. Equipped with a journal and instructions, Glory frequented each of the shops of the 632nd Maint. Co., and was photographed everywhere she went.

Since Glory's departure from the Lonnie Jackson Academy, the young boys and girls who sent her on her way have been anxiously awaiting the bear's return. In transit from Iraq to the U.S., she had the opportunity to travel with Soldiers returning home on leave.



Courtesy photo by Mrs. Ruth Burgess

Ms. Julie Jackson's kindergarten class at the Lonnie Jackson Academy in Columbus, Ga., sent a stuffed bear named Glory to Iraq to travel with Soldiers from the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

She stopped off in Ireland and Atlanta along the 14-hour trip. She travelled with 1st Lt. Raymond Patterson, the automotive platoon leader with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Lewiston, Maine, native, and was accompanied by other members of the company: Sgt. Shadrick Green, Sgt. James Whipple, Spc.

William Ward, Spc. Evan Wilson, and Pfc. Robert Cooley.

Once she returned to the U.S., Glory was on vacation with the Patterson family: 1st Lt. Raymond Patterson, a platoon leader with the 632nd Maint. Co., and Mrs. Andrea Rodrigue-Patterson, at Tybee Island, Ga.

After fun in the sun, and a final stop at the Patterson residence, Glory was finally able to rest her feet from a fun-filled adventure, and will soon be heading back to her point of origin to rejoin the kindergarten students, having successfully completed the mission by bringing a message of hope and moral support to the 632nd Maint. Co.

"While Glory's time with us was short, she had great adventures and met a lot of new people here in the 632nd [Maint. Co.]," said Spc. William Ward, a Soldier with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Newnan, Ga., native. "I hope she goes back to the kindergarten [class] of Lonnie Jackson Academy with a sense of excitement and inspiration for the young boys and girls."

Glory touched the Soldiers with the 632nd Maint. Co. in many ways, and they hope that the bear's adventures can touch the kindergarten students as well.

"As the bear goes back to Georgia, I hope the children remember the photos of themselves and the bear, as well as the bear's adventures, and ask themselves in years to come, 'What was that all about?'" said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Deviney, a senior automotive maintenance technical expert from the 632nd Maint. Co., and a New York native. "Maybe then, they will have an interest in what we are accomplishing today, and recognize they were as much a part of the history we are building here."

Deployed couple confronts hardship with partnership

STORY AND PHOTO BY

SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—

Many Soldiers have wives, husbands, boyfriends and girlfriends back in the States. It certainly occurs to these Soldiers to imagine what it would be like if that loved one shared their room here instead of the roommate they have or the empty bed in the other corner of the room.

Sgt. Matthew Scott, a logistics management specialist with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, and Staff Sgt. Shayla Scott, a property book office noncommissioned officer with the 103rd ESC, and an Adel, Iowa, native are a married couple deployed together at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

"The biggest advantage to having both of us here is getting to see each other every day," said Matthew.

The Scotts work in separate areas but share meals, a gym routine and a Containerized Housing Unit. At home in Iowa, the Scotts left their new home and two dogs, both chocolate lab/German short hair mix.

"The hardest part of deploying was finding someone to take care of our house and our dogs, Sophie and Ramiro," said Shayla.

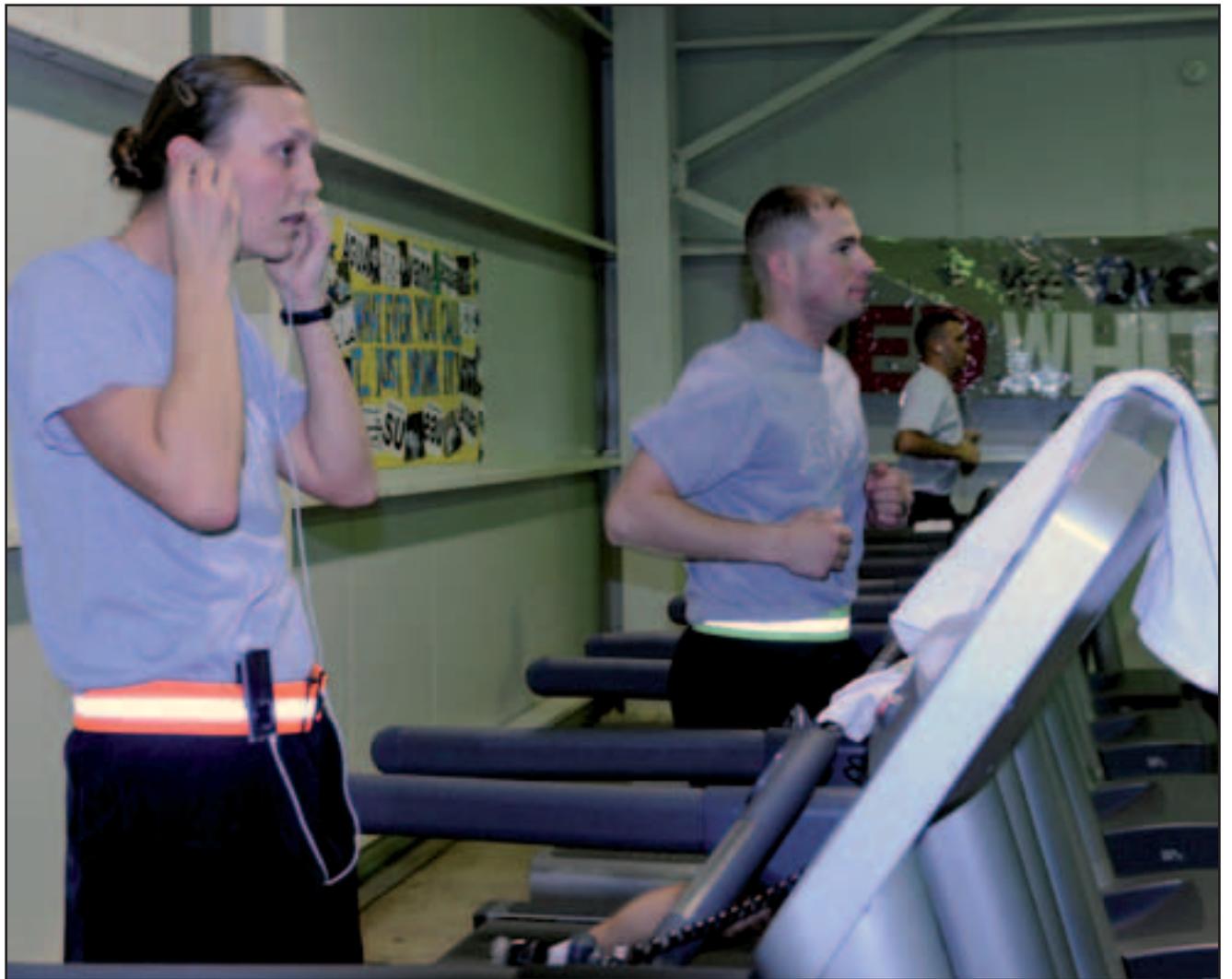
Since purchasing their house in September of 2009, the couple has spent more time here in Iraq than at their home.

"It's kind of hard making that nice hefty payment every month and not getting to enjoy it," said Matthew. "It's a nice, nice house for a couple of 26 year-olds."

The Scotts have been married nearly two years and have been together as a couple for three years. They began dating after Shayla's first deployment to Iraq. This is Matthew's first deployment.

"The best part of having him here is the support to deal with stuff going on at home," said Shayla. "It's much easier to discuss stuff like that with him than with a roommate."

The Scotts draw a contrast between the freedom to do a whole range of activities they enjoy, such as walking their



Staff Sgt. Shayla Scott, a property book office noncommissioned officer with the 103rd ESC, and an Adel, Iowa, native, and Sgt. Matthew Scott, a logistics management specialist with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Des Moines, Iowa native, are a married couple deployed together at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

dogs and riding their motorcycle, and the fairly routine and regimented lifestyle here in Iraq.

"We've been tested and struggled since we left," said

Matthew. "But it's nice being able to talk to that person right there, to touch them, feel them, instead of trying to reach out through the phone. I guess you could say it's bittersweet."

Operation Evergreen sends live trees to troops

STORY BY
SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Operation Evergreen provided 60 real, freshly cut Christmas trees to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for the 2010 holiday season.

The Ohio Christmas Tree Association sent more than 300 trees to six locations in Iraq this year.

OCTA started Operation Evergreen in 1995 by sending 29 trees to U.S. forces in Bosnia. By 1999, the donations included other decorations such as garland, ornaments, cards, pictures, flags and CDs with homemade greetings and Christmas carols.

“We have school children, retirees, Veterans, civic groups and more who make, collect and send the ornaments,” said Amy Galehouse, coordinator of Operation Evergreen for the Ohio Christmas Tree Association, and a Doylestown, Ohio, native. “On packing day we even have school groups show up to the Ohio Department of Agriculture to help us stuff the ornaments and trees into the boxes for overseas shipment. Sometimes people with family members serving show up to help and leave without even giving us a name.”

The trees are cut, packed and shipped around Veterans’ Day so they arrive in country between Thanksgiving and the first week of December. Federal Express provides the free shipping.

“On behalf of the Ohio Christmas Tree Association, I would like to wish a very merry Christmas to all who are serving overseas,” said Galehouse.



Courtesy photo

Volunteers with the Ohio Christmas Tree Association work on packing up live Christmas trees to ship to troops overseas. Operation Evergreen began in 1995 by sending 29 trees to U.S. forces in Bosnia, and has evolved into the large project that it is today; this year, the OCTA sent more than 300 trees to six locations in Iraq.

Head Hunters set to play in Tostitos Bowl at JBB

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Dedication, perseverance, intensity and high expectations are a few words used to describe the Head Hunters, the football team from the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, that strives for perfection by remaining undefeated through eight games and two tournaments.

The team was selected to participate in the 2nd annual Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl, sponsored by Frito-Lay and the USO, on Dec. 21.

The bowl puts teams of former college and NFL stars and coaches together with deployed service members, in this case the 13th CSSB’s Head Hunters, in a head-to-head flag football game. The highlights of that game are scheduled to be played at halftime of the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on New Year’s Day.

“I am very excited and very amped up for this game,” said Capt. Brian Harper, operations officer-in-charge with the 13th CSSB, a Forest, Miss., native, and running back for the Head Hunters. “This is going to be an experience that a lot of people do not get to go through.”

The experience was a hard-fought victory for the Head Hunters. Every morning, each player goes to practice before the sun rises so they can perfect and hone their skills on the field, said Staff Sgt. Jamiaen Slade, the 13th



First Sgt. Ryan Willis, senior enlisted leader of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a New Iberia, La., native, and coach/cornerback of the Head Hunters team, runs a screen pass during practice in preparation for the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl Dec. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

CSSB human resources noncommissioned officer, a Newport News, Va., native, and center and tight end for the Head Hunters.

team,” he said.

The team’s motto is, “Go hard,” said 1st Sgt. Ryan Willis, senior enlisted leader of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th CSSB, a New Iberia, La., native, and coach of the Head Hunters. The team believes and lives that motto on every play and every facet of their lives, at work and on the field.

“The thing that drives these guys is their competitiveness,” said Willis. “Because of their competitiveness and the way they all sync together, they make it look easy. At the end of the day, they will be rewarded by being able to play in something of this magnitude. This is going to be a good, fun day and the HHC Head Hunters will represent and lead the way.”

The team will play head-to-head with some of the greats of the game, including Andre Reed, Antonio Freeman, Jim Kelly, Jevon Kearse, Lavar Arrington, and coaches Bobby Bowden, Gene Stallings, said Sgt. Louis Davis, motorpool noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 13th CSSB, a Washington D.C., native, and defensive and offensive line backer for the Head Hunters.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for us,” said Davis. “I’m very excited about it.”

Each teammate agreed with Davis, saying that they are honored to be able to participate in the game. They were also unanimous in saying that although their team worked hard for this opportunity, the game isn’t about their reward or recognition; the game is for all of the troops and their families back home.

“It’s not all about us,” said Sgt. Bruce Adams, orderly room NCOIC with HHC, 13th CSSB, and a Prichard, Ala., native. “It’s about saluting the troops, the real heroes, the real celebrities.”

“A lot of people work 12 to 18-hour shifts, but regardless of their workload, they are up every morning to practice with the

Soldiers prove themselves

‘It was an awesome competition because it made you think in new ways.’

- Sgt. Daniel Wisckol

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—One Soldier and one noncommissioned officer with both the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and the 224th Sustainment Brigade competed in the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) NCO/Soldier of the Quarter challenge Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Spc. Susan Avina, a quartermaster and chemical equipment repair specialist with the 540th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC, and a Sheboygan, Wis., native, beat Spc. Luvern Wheller with the 224th Sust. Bde. in the Soldier of the Quarter competition.

Sgt. Daniel Wisckol, brigade transportation manager with the 224th Sust. Bde., and a Menlo Park, Calif., native, beat Sgt. Jumon Mathis with the 3rd Sust. Bde., in the NCO of the Quarter competition.

All the Soldiers won competitions at the company, battalion and brigade levels before competing at the ESC level. This competition differed in several ways from previous NCO/SOQ competitions held at JBB.

“What we did differently from what the 13th [ESC] did and from our first event in September is that we added an Army Physical Fitness Test, weapons qualification, various warrior tasks, a timed written essay and a mystery task to the standard board,” said Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, senior enlisted leader of the 103rd ESC, and a Cresco, Iowa, native. “The reason we did that is to level the playing field. Everyone is taking the APFT at the same time with the same conditions and the same graders. Same with weapons qualification and the essay.”

Creating a level playing field for competitors by standardizing as many events as possible was an over-arching goal for the command to really test the Soldiers’ skills.

“I would have liked to have had an extra day to add some night tasks and a ruck march to further test them physically and mentally, because that’s where we really find out who shines and who is the best of the best,” said Haugland.

Even with only one day of competition, the Soldiers were tested extensively. Their day began before dawn with the APFT, followed by the boards for the rest of the morning.

“We kept it going all day,” added Haug-

land. “One thing rolled right into another into another.”

After lunch, the competitors went to the firing range in the Special Forces compound. The competition then moved to the east gym for a series of timed warrior tasks such as land navigation, radio communications and a medical lane.

“I had to think most on the commo lane,” said Avina. “I had no experience with it.”

The goal of this challenge was to avoid memorization and regurgitation of facts, and to test the Soldiers by making them react to the unexpected, according to Haugland.

“It was just an awesome competition because it made you think in new ways,” said Wisckol. “I work at a desk job for most of my duties as a Soldier and this gets me outside in the field.”

This event was well planned and thought out given the available resources, according to both the organizers and the participants. Haugland and the 103rd ESC had been planning this event since before the last board in September, with a new vision that encompassed both a more level playing field and a more challenging competition.

“As we saw the number of sustainment brigades reduced in conjunction with the responsible drawdown of forces, it allowed us to ramp up the competition, given the time we would have used if more Soldiers had been participating,” said Haugland.

These factors led to a successful and challenging NCO/SOQ event for the 103rd ESC at JBB.

“It feels awesome to win,” said Wisckol. “It’s cool knowing you gave it your best shot and still came out on top even with such good competition.”

Haugland said it is “quite a big deal” to be named Soldier of the Quarter within a general officer command such as the 103rd ESC.

The competitors agreed that they felt both nervous and excited going into the events and feel relieved that they are over and are generally satisfied with their performances.

“There were events where I was very proud of myself and others that I can improve upon before moving to the next level,” said Avina. “Winning is bittersweet because I told God I’d be thankful if I won and thankful if I didn’t win so I could focus on other things besides preparing for the next level of competition.”

Both Avina and Wisckol encouraged other soldiers to continue to test themselves because learning is an ongoing process and junior enlisted Soldiers are the military’s future leaders.



Sgt. Jumon Mathis, a water purification specialist with the 82nd Water Detachment, 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Virginia Beach, Va., native, completes the two-mile run as part of the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Participants and their sponsors stand with Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland (center), senior enlisted leader of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Cresco, Iowa, native, at the conclusion of the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

‘Winning is bittersweet because I told God I’d be thankful if I won and thankful if I didn’t win so I could focus on other things besides preparing for the next level of competition.’

- Spc. Susan Avina



ABOVE: Spc. Susan Avina, a quartermaster chemical equipment repair specialist with the 540th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Sheboygan, Wis., native, finishes assembling an M-240B assault rifle at the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

TOP LEFT: Spc. Luvern Wheeler, assistant squad leader with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Fayetteville, N.C., native, performs a combat life saver exercise during the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



BOTTOM LEFT: Sgt. Jumon Mathis, a water purification specialist with the 82nd Water Detachment, 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Virginia Beach, Va., native, participates in a land navigation exercise as Sgt. Maj. Robin Kane, knowledge management office noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and a Huntington Beach, Calif., native, judges during the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Women's Symposium recognizes female service members

STORY BY
SGT. MITCHELL PEARSON
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), showed appreciation and shared information about female Soldiers during the Noncommissioned Officers Women's Symposium held Dec. 2-4 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Hosted by the 110th CSSB, the event took place at several venues across COB Adder, Iraq.

The event displayed different strengths and discussed great dedication for their lives as American Soldiers.

"I am greatly proud of being an America Soldier serving next to my husband in this new era of the military," said Cpl. Jermeika Rivera, a supply sergeant with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Tallahassee, Fla., native. "Soldiers in the 15th Transportation Company took time out of their workday to give thanks and understanding to their female Soldiers for a while. The event gave the Soldiers a chance to put aside their differences and appreciate having one another close during this time of year."

The event proved to be successful by the number of Soldiers who attended to support it, said Staff Sgt. Antonia Silva-Warren, heavy equipment transporter squad leader with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Chicago native.

"Taking time from the day just to be with other female Soldiers truly goes to show how many women are in the military today," she said.

To celebrate the event and the efforts of the female Soldiers in the company, Silva-Warren made a collage of pictures and memories. She presented it to Capt. Stacey Jelks, commander of the 15th Trans. Co., and a Bloomingdale, Ill., native.

"I'm honored to accept this wonderful collage of our female Soldiers," said Jelks. "The Women's Symposium has allowed us an opportunity to display our female Soldiers' hard work and efforts toward our mission here."

The company first sergeant helped present the frame to Jelks before hanging it in her office at COB Adder.

"This plaque will be displayed in my office where I can proudly look at it on a daily basis," said Jelks.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Steven Clements

Staff Sgt. Antonia Silva-Warren (center), a squad leader with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Chicago native, presents Capt. Stacey Jelks (left), commander of the 15th Trans. Co., and a Bloomingdale, Ill., native, with a collage of memories from their deployment in recognition of the dedication and hard work of female Soldiers, along with 1st Sgt. Gussie Bellinger, senior enlisted leader with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Charlotte, N.C., native, recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Incoming battalion commander is 'no stranger' to Balad

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. PAT CALDWELL
3-116TH CAVALRY REGIMENT



Lt. Col. Phil Appleton, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks during a transfer-of-authority ceremony earlier this month at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Appleton is no stranger to JBB, having served on the base in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— One might call it déjà vu.

Lt. Col. Phil Appleton, the commander of eastern Oregon's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is no stranger to Joint Base Balad.

The battalion, consisting of National Guard units from across eastern Oregon, arrived here in late November as part of a yearlong deployment process.

Appleton, who grew up in La Grande, Ore., spent his first tour of duty in Iraq at the former Iraq Air Force base. Back then, though, the facility was in shambles. Pounded by American air power during the invasion of Iraq, the base was basically closed down.

"It was dusty, tore up," he said.

Appleton's unit from Lake Oswego, Ore., was essentially tasked with helping the U.S. Army rebuild the base.

"We were able to get a lot repaired," he said. "Many of the things we started or completed are still in place. There is running water, a second sewer treatment plant. All the dining facilities we planned are in place and completed."

One of the biggest challenges early on at Balad was repairing and sometimes creating the base communication system.

Appleton, who worked at a telecom company in civilian life before his deploy-

ment in 2003, toiled with another officer to help create a new communication blueprint for the base.

As the Army developed a plan to link the base with fiber optics, it encountered a number of hurdles, each one seemingly more complex than the one before. Eventually, Appleton enlisted the assistance of network engineers at his former company and developed a project analysis for the Army.

"I knew the base was going to be a substantial presence," he said.

The crucial issue to building a strong communication network was initial planning and viable expectations. Appleton said placing the right amount of "wire" for a communication system as the lines are dug was pivotal.

"If you put a shovel in the ground, you have to lay enough wire so you never have to dig it up," he said.

Appleton said he takes pride from the fact his Guard unit played such a key role in JBB's early history. He also conceded that the situation in Iraq is far different than the one he encountered in 2003.

"It is good to see the Iraqis take more control of their own country," he said.

He admitted, however, that while a transformation is evident, it will not arrive overnight.

"No, [Iraq] will never be America," said Appleton. "It will take generations to change."

Appleton said knowing the base before his arrival delivered many advantages, including one big one.

"I don't have the same 'have to get used to everything on the base' [attitude]," he said. "I already know where everything is."

Oregon Soldiers arrive at JBB, hit ground running

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. PAT CALDWELL
3-116TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Noah Siple wasted no time last week coaching his Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard.

As the Guardsmen from The Dalles' Company A, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), arrived at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, he delivered a clear, concise message.

"When I picked them up at the airport I said it was game time," said Siple.

A Co. hit the ground running, sending Guardsmen out on the road to conduct convoy escort missions within 24 hours of landing at JBB. Now that they have totally taken control of the security mission from Louisiana's 3rd Bn., 156th Infantry Regiment, they are slowly becoming familiar with the new environment.

Siple said there will be a transition period for his Guardsmen.

"The vigilance piece is still in order, finding out what is normal, what isn't," he said. He added that learning the environment will not be an easy task.

"We are trained to identify the IED [improvised explosive device] indicators," he said.

Siple also noted that there is a clear differ-

ence between the Iraq of 2004-2005, when the 3rd Bn. deployed here the first time and today.

"What the brigade focused on in 2004 and 2005, you know, the bad guys are everywhere; well it's not like that anymore," he said.

During their first deployment, an Iraqi vehicle trying to close in on an American military convoy could translate into an attack. Siple said that's usually not the case now.

"It is probably a guy going to work, not blow up your convoy," he said.

Every Guardsman in A Co. must deal with a transition process, even the Veterans, explained Siple.

"[The Veterans] are realizing this is a

totally different Iraq," he said. "The brand new guy and the Veteran are in the same boat."

One of those Veterans is 1st Sgt. Brian Nation, senior enlisted advisor with A Co., 3rd Bn., who noticed that there are already some clear differences between this tour and the 2004-2005 deployment.

"We [in 2004-2005] did everything from clearing villages to searches," said Nation. "Now we are escorting convoys."

Nation said that signs of the drawdown in Iraq are evident. "You can see it," he said.

For the next few weeks, A Co. will begin to learn the spider web of roads that slice across the unit's operational area in Iraq.

"That's the primary focus now," said Nation.

Combat patches given to unit for time in country



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristie Hatch

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Mason (front), platoon sergeant with the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), prepares the detachment for their combat patch ceremony recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY BY
PFC. VICTORIA A. PRESCOTT
8TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), held their combat patch ceremony recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The ceremony began at 8:00 a.m. with the arrival of Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Andrews, senior enlisted advisor with the 110th CSSB, and Lt. Col. David Scheideler, commander of the 110th CSSB, and a Beatrice, Neb., native, who were the distinguished guests. In accordance with army regulation, the deployed Soldiers earned the right to wear the 82nd Sust. Bde. patch on their right shoulder. They received their initial patch after a challenging 30-day period.

"I feel that it is a great honor to fight for my country, and this being my first deployment, the awarding of this patch is a representation of our sacrifices," said Pfc. Keith Gonzalez, Standard Army Ammunition System-Modernized clerk with 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., and an Oxnard, Calif., native.

"It was an honorable experience that made me proud as a leader knowing that I am responsible for my Soldiers' safe arrival home," said Sgt. Ashley Brown, a section sergeant with 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., and a Reidsville, N.C., native.

Many 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and leaders said they are proud to be serving their country in support of Operation New Dawn.

QM troops reach deployment milestone with ceremony

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Soldiers with the 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), gathered to conduct their patching ceremony recently at the post chapel at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

It was a big event for the Soldiers with the 565th QM Co., as the combat patch signifies a deployment milestone of at least 30 consecutive days. First Lt. Grant Workman, a platoon leader with the 565th QM Co., and a Chicago native, said, "It feels good to finally have the patch; it has been something we have been waiting for since we arrived in country."

Lt. Col. David Scheideler, commander of the 110th CSSB, and a Beatrice, Neb., native, presided over the ceremony and patched the Soldiers, and handed out certificates to each of them.

"It's good to finally get this," said Spc. Jeffrey Mock, a storage clerk and warehouse worker with the 565th QM Co., and a Las Vegas native. "We have been waiting a long time."

Once the ceremony was complete, it was business as usual for the Soldiers as they returned to their place of duty.



Soldiers with the 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), gather to conduct their patching ceremony recently at the post chapel at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



Web help with vehicle purchasing

SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



In my final chapter on buying vehicles, both new and used, I thought I would give you some great websites and explain exactly what they offer that will greatly assist your purchasing experience, as well save you money along the way.

As I have mentioned, I have helped purchase dozens of vehicles for friends and family over the last decade, and saved thousands of dollars doing so. I would not have been able to do that had I not been cognizant of the assistance available to me via the World Wide Web.

There are literally hundreds of sites that offer help in this regard; I will focus on a few I've used that I believe offer the most comprehensive information that you need to be able to make an informed decision at the dealership.

My favorite site is Edmunds; I believe they offer the best choices of buying used and new vehicles, as well as all of the things I have discussed the last 10 weeks, such as incentives and rebates, reviews including customer message boards, loans, etc. They also show you exactly what many dealers will not show, which is the invoice price, or price the dealer paid the manufacturer for that particular vehicle.

At www.edmunds.com, you will find their website is also very user-friendly. They have makes and models for new vehicles on the front page, as well as for used, an incentives link to check for rebates or great deals on low annual percentage rate loans, and additional links at the top and bottom of the front page for reviews, tips and advice, maintenance, and forums.

I drive a Subaru Impreza WRX STI, a hard-charging sports sedan built for world rally circuit racing, and used Edmunds almost exclusively during the buying process. Using that as an example, you can simply click on Subaru, then WRX STI, which then takes you to the page that gives you every comprehensible view of the vehicle, inside and out.

In addition, it gives you a tool that shows the "true cost to own," with a "view details" link that explains prices that go into how much you really pay for your vehicle, such as depreciation, taxes and fees, financing, fuel, insurance, maintenance, and repairs. It's a handy feature that explains just how much that vehicle will cost you based on owning it for five years and driving it 15,000 miles a year.

Here is an example of the description of my vehicle line from the Edmunds site:

"Browsing through the 2011 Subaru Impreza lineup is akin to strolling down the cereal aisle at the supermarket. There's something here for everyone, ranging from the sensible base Impreza 2.5i hatchback to the wickedly fast WRX STI sedan. With such a wide-ranging lineup, it can actually take a bit of time to figure out what kind of Impreza you want."

Lots of great advice here, much more than can fit into a column. Other sites that I have used that I would recommend are Kelley Blue Book, found at www.kbb.com, which offers many of the same features as Edmunds as well as focusing more on used car trade-ins. I would also recommend www.carbuyingtips.com, which is a catchall for everything we have discussed, and zeros in on actual customer reviews and complaints from auto dealers who are angry that others get a great deal. Happy shopping!

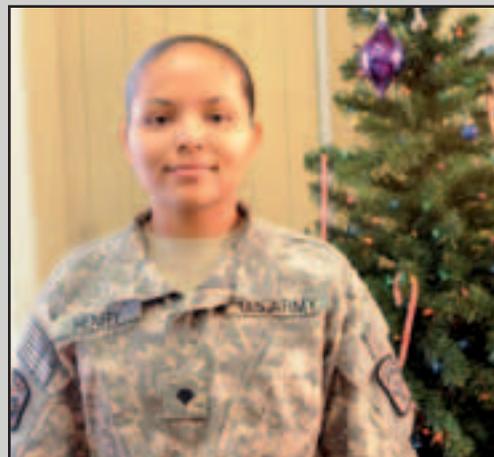
Word on the Street

What would you like for Christmas?



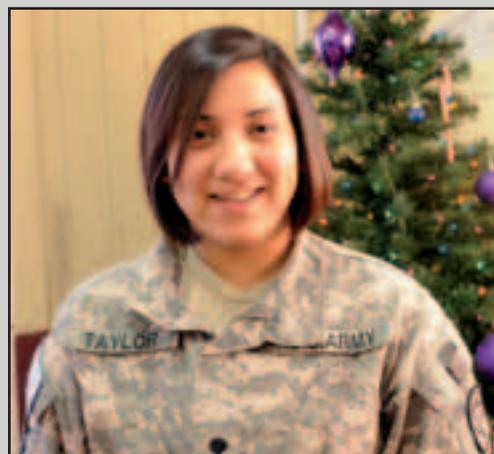
"What I want for Christmas is to see my wife, because I miss her and want to see her again."

Pfc. Hassan Walker, financial specialist with the 9th Financial Management Company, 22nd Human Resource Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Huntsville, Ga., native



"What I want for Christmas is for my family to be happy, and to know that I am safe."

Spc. Kateesha Henry, financial specialist with the 9th Financial Management Company, 22nd Human Resource Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Beaufort, N.C., native



"What I want for Christmas is candy canes because Christmas and candy canes just go together."

Spc. Evelin Taylor, financial specialist with the 9th Financial Management Company, 22nd Human Resource Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Grand Prairie, Texas, native



THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“We have followed with relief the supporting stand of the international community to Iraq, its people, the political process and the democracy...”

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Thursday when hailing the U.N. Security Council's decision to lift the Saddam-era sanctions against Iraq, which were imposed on the country in 1990

“Iraq's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity are vital for the stability and security of our region and the international community.”

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who was in New York on Wednesday for a high-level U.N. Security Council meeting on Iraq, reiterated Ankara's stance of attaching high importance to Iraq's territorial integrity

“While most people think of roads, sewers and communications when it comes to infrastructure, what is equally important is a vibrant livestock food and animal science industry.”

Robert Malinowski, acting director of the Information Technology Center in Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, regarding a group of MSU veterinarians that are helping Iraqi farmers and veterinarians rebuild the country's livestock food industry, adopt new animal science technologies and educate its farmers and producers

“He gave his soul to the country. He believed in God. That made him great.”

Mrs. Alaahin Hassan said of her son, Bilal Ali Muhammad, an Iraqi police officer, who was killed by a suicide bomber during a religious procession. Muhammad chose to throw himself onto the bomber, blunting the explosion's impact on Shiite worshippers

“We have the desire to be in the coming government. We want to be partners and not [just] contributors.”

Former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's statement on Friday regarding his plan to join a new Iraqi government led by Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki

SMART SOLDIERS, SMART PHONES

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan progress, so does the technological advancement within the military in order to keep up with this progress. Currently, according to Army Times, the Army is planning on integrating smartphones into Soldiers' standard issue equipment in 2011. That's right. Along with fatigues and Gerber tools, Soldiers may choose to obtain an iPhone or another variation of smartphone that the Army will offer, and the Soldier will not even have to pay the monthly bill. The devices will allow Soldiers access to information they need, when they need it, and are considered “force multipliers” meant to enhance the way the Army trains and fights.



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

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the oxygen-carrying protein found in the red blood cells of the body?
2. Where in the human body do you find the alveoli?
3. A bone is joined to a muscle by which structure?
4. What is the biggest bone in the body?
5. Which part of the brain controls the heart rate?
6. What is an overgrowth of fibrous tissue, usually produced at the site of a scar?
7. Which human body organ weighs about 2 kilos?

1. Hemoglobin 2. Lung 3. Tendons 4. Femur 5. Medulla oblongata 6. Keloid 7. Liver

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. 22, 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., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 2 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. 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., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 2 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday 8 p.m.	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 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Spades: 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. WEST REC- REATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday 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. 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: Wednesday 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 12/22/10

NHL: Live Football, Midnight AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Southern Mississippi vs Louisville, Live 4 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Dallas Mavericks @ Orlando Magic, Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN Sports
TENNIS: Federer vs Nadal, Live 9 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 11:30 p.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 12/23/10

NHL: Live Football, Midnight AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Texas @ Michigan State, Live, 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: Live Football, 3:30 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Utah vs Boise State, Delayed 3 p.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder @ New York Knicks, Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN Sports

Friday 12/24/10

NBA: Live Football, Midnight AFN Sports
COLLEGE: : Navy vs San Diego State, Live 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
NBA: San Antonio Spurs @ Orlando Magic, Delayed 11:30 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 11:30 AFN Sports

Saturday 12/25/10

NFL: Live Football, Midnight AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 3:30 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: Hawaii vs Tulsa, Live 4 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Chicago Bulls @ New York Knicks, Live 8 p.m. AFN Xtra
NBA: Boston Celtics @ Orlando Magic, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN Xtra

Sunday 12/26/10

NBA: Miami Heat @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 1 a.m. AFN Xtra
NFL: Dallas Cowboys @ Arizona Cardinals, Live 3 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Miami Heat @ Los Angeles Lakers, Delayed 11 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live Football, 9 p.m. AFN Sports

Monday 12/27/10

NHL: Phoenix Coyotes @ Dallas Stars, Live 4 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live Football, 10 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live Football, 2:30 p.m. AFN Sports
NFL: San Diego Chargers @ Cincinnati Bengals, Delayed 9 p.m. AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Sports Lounge': Bowl predictions, part I

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



The Bowl season is about to get under way. These are my picks; let's see how I do, and feel free to compare with how well you do if you are so inclined. This Saturday, Dec. 18, features the first three bowls. The first is Brigham Young vs. Texas-El Paso in the New Mexico Bowl. While UTEP should enjoy somewhat of an advantage being closer to El Paso, I pick the Cougars to win and finish 7-6. Ho hum.

Next up for that day is the Humanitarian Bowl in beautiful, cold Boise, Idaho, and their iconic blue "smurf turf." Take the Fresno State Bulldogs and the money to defeat Northern Illinois. The last game of the day is the New Orleans Bowl pitting Ohio vs. Troy. Wonder how many fans will be there? Take the Bobcats of Ohio.

On Dec. 21, we are treated to the Beef O'Brady's Bowl in St. Petersburg, Fla. Really? It features Louisville against Southern Mississippi. Pick the Cardinals and have a cold

one with a steak sandwich. On the 22nd, we have the Maaco Las Vegas Bowl, which showcases Utah and Boise State. Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Take the Broncos to thoroughly demolish the Utes.

On the 23rd, San Diego State plays Navy in the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego. I'm picking the hometown Aztecs to take out Navy. Still upset about their ninth straight beating of the Army. The next day has Tulsa at Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl. Must be nice, huh? The hometown Warriors will walk away with this one.

Dec. 26 showcases the Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl in Detroit, and Florida International is taking on Toledo. How many will make it to this game? My prediction? 20,000 paid. I'm being generous, it's the holiday season. Take Toledo, by the way. Moving on to the 27th, we start getting serious. Take the Air Force to run all over Georgia Tech in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport.

On the 28th is the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla., and I will pick West Virginia over North Carolina State. The late game that night is my beloved Hawkeyes against Missouri in the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz. Gotta go with

the Hawks, because it is blasphemy not to.

Three games are on tap for the 29th: the Military, Texas, and Alamo Bowls in Washington D.C., Houston, and San Antonio, respectively. Look for Maryland to take out East Carolina in the Military, Illinois to down Baylor in the Texas, and Oklahoma State to beat Arizona in the Alamo.

There are four games on the 30th, the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas, the Pinstripe Bowl in the Bronx, N.Y., the Music City Bowl in Nashville, Tenn., and the Holiday Bowl in San Diego. Look for Army to bounce back with a win over Southern Methodist in the Armed Forces, Syracuse to beat Kansas State in the Pinstripe, Tennessee and home cooking over North Carolina in the Music City, and Nebraska to blast Washington, again, in the Holiday.

On New Year's Eve, there are four more games, The Meineke Car Care Bowl (take Clemson over South Florida), the Sun Bowl (I'll take Notre Dame over Miami), the Liberty Bowl (go with Georgia over Central Florida), and the Chick-fil-A Bowl (I'll pick South Carolina over Florida State).

Next week I will pick New Year's Day as well as the Bowl Championship Series games.

'Christmas Vacation': A holiday film that will never die

BY SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," the third installment in National Lampoon's Vacation film series is a modern holiday classic written by John Hughes, based on his story "Christmas '59" from the now-defunct National Lampoon Magazine.

"Christmas Vacation" was directed by Jeremiah Chechik and stars Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Juliette Lewis and Johnny Galecki as the Griswolds. Randy Quaid plays Eddie, Ellen Griswold's cousin, an unemployed mobile home resident.

In the first two movies of the Vacation series, the Griswolds leave their home to visit Walleyworld and Europe, respectively. "Christmas Vacation" begins with a family trip to the woods to find the perfect Christmas tree, which ends up being about five times larger than a standard one.

This is not the vacation implied in the title, though, as most of the action takes place in the Griswold's home. This is a vacation into the alternate universe of the unnatural holiday impulse to corral disparate members of an extended

family into the same space and force them to enjoy it. The greatness of this movie emanates from the comedic failure of Clark Griswold's idealistic attempt to force this Rockwellian concept of a traditional Christmas on his family.

In keeping with his tendency to go overboard, Clark festoons his house with 25,000 lights in no discernable pattern. When he assembles the family in the front yard to unveil the masterpiece, it fails to turn on. When it finally does, though he never figures out how, it hilariously disrupts the couple next door from enjoying an intimate moment. The couple next door is there to act as a foil to the Griswolds; they have no children and appear not to celebrate Christmas.

There are so many hilarious incidents in the film, I won't drone on endlessly about them, especially as I'm sure many of you are familiar with it already.

Christmas vacation is the first of the series in which Audrey is older than Rusty. Although in general I like the cast of all the early films, I always thought it was weird how the actors playing Audrey and Rusty change every time.

This also has the distinction of being the last of the actual National Lampoon Vacation series. Vegas Vacation, released in 1997, had much of the original cast reprise their roles, but was not affiliated with National Lampoon and, although I

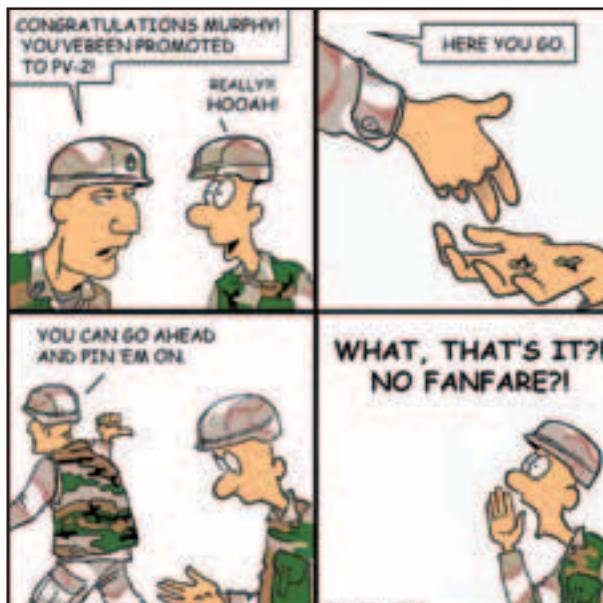
enjoyed watching it at the time, is just not in the same league as the original three. Also, there are apparently two more films added to the series in the 2000s as part of Hollywood's chronic lack of creativity, which leads to dozens of unnecessary sequels and remakes. I won't debase this article by mentioning the names of these movies.

To my regret, I only watched "Christmas Vacation" for the first time this week. I have enjoyed the other films in the series for years, but somehow, I wasn't even aware this movie existed until the approach of the holidays this year. It fully lived up to my high expectations, set by the first two classics of the Vacation series.

I highly recommend "Christmas Vacation" for a deployment Christmas movie. It is funny and sentimental at the same time. Judging by the average age of the Soldiers in the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), which is 37, many of you are likely to have seen this movie several times over the past 21 years or to have seen it some time ago but not recently.

I chose to review a classic for this week's edition because there are so many classic Christmas movies from far back into the history of film that don't suffer from repetitive viewing, with this movie clearly among them.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday December 22

5 p.m. Paranormal Activity 2
8 p.m. Skyline

Thursday December 23

5 p.m. Saw VI 3D
8 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia

Friday December 24

5 p.m. How Do You Know
9 p.m. Tron: Legacy

Saturday December 25

2 p.m. Megamind
5 p.m. Tron: Legacy
8 p.m. How Do You Know
Midnight: Tron: Legacy

Sunday December 26

2 p.m. How Do You Know
5 p.m. Tron: Legacy
8 p.m. Due Date



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

Lt. Col. Theodore Hull, commander of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Belgrade, Mont., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood, senior enlisted advisor with the 1st CAB, and a Corvallis, Mont., native, uncased their unit's colors, signifying assumption of command of their mission in Iraq during their transfer-of-authority ceremony with the 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, Dec. 12 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers

Sgt. Bruce Adams, orderly room noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a Prichard, Ala., native, and captain and wide receiver/safety for the Head Hunters, practices for the Tostitos "Salute the Troops" Bowl Dec. 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Zane Craig

Sgt. Jumon Mathis, a water purification specialist with the 82nd Water Detachment, 512th Quartermaster Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), does sit-ups for two minutes as part of the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter competition Dec. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.