



THE WRANGLER

1st Edition

Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation New Dawn

April 2011



Just Get It Done!



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The WRANGLER

*The Official
4th Sustainment Brigade Magazine*

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*To the Soldiers, Civilians, and Family
Members of the Wrangler Brigade*

Dear Team Wranglers,

It is hard to believe that two months have already passed since we departed Fort Hood, Texas. We all arrived safely to Contingency Operating Base Adder (in Tallil, Iraq) and quickly began to adjust to our new operating environment.

In the short time that we have been at COB Adder, we have completed a smooth transition with the 224th Sustainment Brigade from California, and have already conducted Transition of Authority ceremonies between two battalions and four

companies.

We would like to welcome the Soldiers and their Families from the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), from Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 54th Quartermaster (QM) Mortuary Affairs, from Fort Lee, Virginia; and the 1729th Maintenance Company, from Havre de Grace, Maryland to the Wrangler Team.

Currently, we are supporting two division areas of operation consisting of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and civilians south of Baghdad. I am extremely proud of all the men and women who are making this support possible; they display dedication, pride, and courage each day as they continue to be the driving force behind our success.

Finally, I want to send a big Texas "thank you" to our rear-detachment, the 13th ESC, Families, friends, and Community Partners back home for your continued support and encouragement.

I want you to know that we are also proud of the wonderful job that you are doing back there to keep us focused on our forward mission. You are an important member of Team Wranglers. Thank you again! WRANGLER 6, Just get it done!

**4th Sustainment Brigade
Commander
Col. Ron Kirklin**

WRAN



***To the Soldiers, Civilians, and Family
Members of the Wrangler Brigade***

First, let me say it is indeed an honor and privilege to be serving with the 4th Sustainment Brigade as we embark on this historic deployment. We've been tasked with overseeing the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment in Iraq and no other unit is better for the job. We have trained hard and I have no doubt that we are prepared for the road ahead. Our Soldiers are the best at what they do and they do it with a level of professionalism that is unmatched. I trust that everyone in this command will do his or her best to ensure a successful mission.



Just over a month ago, the entire brigade arrived safely to Iraq and hit the ground running and I thank you for your hard work and motivation. The Wranglers I see every day make me proud to still be serving in this great Army.

We have a busy year ahead of us, with many goals to accomplish so challenge yourself and your fellow Soldier. Remember every day here is a chance to learn something new and each day will present new challenges, attack them head on. Hold yourself to a high standard and understand your role within the ranks and in doing so you will continue to shape this great brigade.

Leaders, challenge your subordinates by giving them more responsibility and allow them to make tough decisions. Without highly competent and motivated Soldiers, we will not be able to achieve what we set out to do. Take action every day when approaching your job and your Soldiers, for this will create stronger Soldiers and a better Wrangler Team and organization.

To the Soldiers that are now a part of the Wrangler brigade, know that in this short time I have recognized your commitment and the increasing sacrifices that you have made. Continue that effort and maintain a good attitude each day. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

To the units who will depart in the next couple of weeks-thank you for your service. Continue to uphold the standards as you close out your tour in Iraq and have a safe trip home.

The mission will be demanding in the coming months, but with the continuous effort of all our Soldiers, I'm sure we will be victorious as the end draws near and we redeploy to our respective home stations.

Lastly, to our Families and friends back home, I want to thank you for your unwavering support to the Soldiers of this brigade. You play a vital role in the success of our mission here. Your part in the Wrangler Family will never go unappreciated. WRANGLER 7

**4th Sustainment Brigade
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R. R. Frey**

GLERS

Brigade Command Sergeant Major's Corner



YOU'RE THE
MOST HARDCORE
WRANGLER IN
THE UNIT
UNTIL YOUR FACE
GOES THROUGH
THE WINDSHIELD.



Just get it fastened.

CRUZEVIEW

Ziggurat Of Ur Continues To Leave Soldiers In Awe

Article by Spc. Danielle Lagunas-Valles
749th CSSB UPAR



Sgt. Edward Matthey, a radio telephone operator and a Miami, Fla., native; Sgt. Maj. Scott Waterhouse, an operations noncommissioned officer and a Concord, Calif., native; and Spc. Ruby Uribe, a material management specialist and a Bakersfield, Calif., native; all with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), visit the Ziggurat of Ur recently near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Danielle Lagunas-Valles)

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – While standing near the 6 Pazzi restaurant, one can see the ancient Ziggurat of Ur, near Contingency Operating Base Adder. Built in the 21st century BC, the Ziggurat of Ur is a famous location to visit for Soldiers while on deployment in Iraq

Spc. Ruby Uribe, a material management specialist in the support operations supply and services shop with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment

Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Bakersfield, Calif., native, visited the historical site recently, and was in awe of its history.

“I was intrigued by the history behind these foundations and the state of the remaining structures despite how long they have been around,” said Uribe.

Uribe is on her first deployment and felt that going to see the Ziggurat would be a good experience to learn about something new. An Iraqi named Dhaif

spoke during the tour about the history behind the multiple structures.

Dhaif is the third-generation historian from his family to give tours of the Ziggurat.

“The whole history was so interesting,” said Uribe. “What stood out to me the most was when he talked about the burial rituals and how they buried up to 70 people in one tomb. It’s so different than what our burial rituals are today. It makes you think about how much things have changed over time.”

The tour not only consists of seeing the famous Ziggurat, but also seeing the remains of the Prophet Abraham’s home. Abraham is the father of the Abrahamic religions.

“Abraham’s house was the best part of the tour,” added Uribe. “It’s amazing that the structure has been there for so long and it’s still standing; it was just a beautiful site.”



CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – There were cheers and tears in the town of Meadowlakes, Texas, as family and friends bid farewell to their very own hometown hero.

Maj. John Michael Williams, a staff logistics officer for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, is the husband of Royann Alexander and a father of three. He was escorted by town police officers, fire trucks and other community members.

“My wife and three young children are extremely supportive of my devotion and dedication to serve our country and I am proud to defend it,” Williams said.

Williams and his staff play an important role in aiding the unit by providing logistical support to its customers

and subordinate units throughout Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

“I am truly honored to serve our great nation, although I miss my family very much,” he said. “During my first deployment to Iraq in 2003, I pledged to my wife and God that if I had to return to Iraq four or five times, I would do it in order to ensure that we set conditions so that my children do not have to return to this place 15 to 20 years from now. I suppose God took me up on that offer, as I am on my fourth tour to Iraq.”

Williams’ family and friends in his hometown plan on having a welcome-home parade as soon as he redeployes back to his home station.

Soldier Leaves For Fourth Tour

Article by Maj. LaKeshia Warren
4th Sustainment Brigade



Maj. John Michael Williams, a staff logistics officer with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Marble Falls, Texas, native, waves goodbye to his family and friends during a parade that was held in his honor for his upcoming deployment to Iraq. This will be Williams’ fourth deployment to Iraq, but he says that as long as future generations benefit from his work overseas, he’ll go again and again. (Photo courtesy of Royann Williams)

Ammo Specialists Join ‘Super Bullets’ On COB Adder

Article by Staff Sgt. Shedric Mason
2nd Det., 8th OD Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Leaders and Soldiers with the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), recently welcomed three new ordnance Soldiers to the Ammunition Supply Point on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Spc. Andrew McAllister, an Atlanta, Ga., native, Spc. Xavier Rice, a Radcliff, Ky., native, and Sgt. Michael Kingsland, a Buffalo, N.Y., native, are the newest members of the “Super Bullet” team. These ammunition stock control specialists, who recently arrived with the 4th Sust. Bde., provide assistance in completing the various tasks that make the ASP mission successful on a daily basis.

As this is the first deployment for both Rice and McAllister, Rice said he hopes the experience will help expand his knowledge of his military occupational specialty.

McAllister agreed, saying that he enjoyed working at the ASP because “the workflow is the right mix of paperwork, ammunition, accounting and physical labor.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan Hammonds, the Ammunition Supply Point accountability officer, and a Craigsville, W.Va. native, said that the deployment was a great opportunity for the Soldiers to learn and that they are able to “see and work with different

types of ammunition.”

“They are truly an asset to the team,” said Hammonds about the three Soldiers.



Spc. Andrew McAllister, a native of Atlanta, Ga., Spc. Xavier Rice, a native of Radcliff, Ky., and Sgt. Michael Kingsland a native of Buffalo, N.Y., all Soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), stand in front of the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, at the ammunition supply point, Contingency Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shedric Mason)

Wranglers Receive Friendly Welcome To COB Adder

Article by Pfc. Amy Lane
Public Affairs Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq -- In a friendly twist on the traditional right seat - left seat, Soldiers with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), hosted a meet and greet dinner to welcome the 4th Sustainment Brigade, to Iraq.

Wrangler leaders attended the event hosted by their Dragonslayer counterparts at the Memorial Hall on Feb 27. While the units have already been working side by side for several days, it was an opportunity to interact in a more relaxed and social environment.

Wrangler Soldiers arrived at Adder at the end of February, as the 224th is preparing to head home after spending a year deployed. Wranglers will help finalize the drawdown of American troops throughout the year and prepare to hand over responsibility to the Iraqi government.

Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sust. Bde., thanked the 224th Sust. Bde., a National Guard unit out of California, for opening their temporary home to the Wranglers.

“We appreciate everything you’ve



Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, chats with Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at a meet and greet dinner Feb. 27 in Memorial Hall on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The 4th Sust. Bde., is replacing the 224th Sust. Bde. as the only brigade providing sustainment operations to service members in United States Division - South and as the to close out COB Adder later this year. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)

done” he said. “We do this every day but we know that you left your jobs and your homes to be here.”

Kirklin assured his counterpart, Col. Lisa Costanza, that his team will take over where her team will leave off.

“We look forward to working with you for the next week,” he said. “And

just know that my team is here to close this place out successfully.”

Costanza took a moment to address the Wrangler team and offered her best wishes.

“Thank god for the Wranglers, for the Dragonslayers, and for the Army!” she said. “Please be safe.”



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Dragonslayers Partner With Iraqi Forces

Article by Pfc. Amy M. Lane
Public Affairs Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – As American troops prepare to withdraw from Iraq, they are passing more and more responsibilities on to the Iraqi forces. An important part of this is providing space and facilities for them to expand.

In preparation for the expansion of the Iraqi Air Force, the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), turned over part of Contingency Operating Base Adder when they signed a tenancy agreement March 2, passing approximately 18

buildings to Squadron 70 of the IAF.

“This is an important milestone,” said Capt. Kevin Coo, of the 224th Sust. Bde. “This is a major part of the process in passing the base over to the Iraqis.”

Iraqi forces must pass an inspection by the Ministry of Defense in order to complete the eventual base turnover. One requirement to pass is acquiring more facilities

“This tenancy agreement brings us one step closer to assisting the Iraqis in establishing security in their country,” said Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet, of the 224th

Sust. Bde., who signed the agreement

Lt. Col. John Hickey, commander of the incoming special troops battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC, was present at the signing.

“This is the beginning of our partnership with Iraqi forces as we prepare for our transfer-of-authority from the 224th Sustainment Brigade,” said Hickey.

“And it signifies the beginning of what will ultimately be the complete transfer of the base when we complete the mission,” he added.



Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet, with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), signs a tenancy agreement with an Iraqi Air Force official March 2 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The agreement, which turns over approximately 18 buildings to the Iraqi Air Force, will allow them to expand. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)

4th SB Wranglers Take Over For Dragonslayers

Article by Pfc. Amy Lane
Public Affairs Specialist



Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Killeen, Texas native, and Command Sgt. Major Erik Frey, a Fort Hood, Texas native, uncased their unit's colors at a transfer of authority ceremony March 9 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The unit replaced the 224th Sustainment Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq -- As the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), wrapped up their mission in Iraq, the 4th Sust. Bde. accepted the task of picking up where the Dragonslayers left off at a transfer-of-authority ceremony at Memorial Hall March 9.

Brig. Gen Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC and a Maryville, Mo., native, attended

the ceremony.

“Our operational strategy now is very different than when the Dragonslayers first entered this country,” he said. “We are now in the final phases before our work is placed in the hands of Iraq.”

He thanked the Dragonslayers for their service, and spoke of how both brigades have a part in writing history as they prepare for withdrawal of all U.S. troops by the end of the year.

“Wranglers, I charge you to continue providing the same level of support without missing a beat,” he said. “Your brigade [and] your Soldiers will see completion of our mission in Iraq. I know you will do your

best.”

Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sust. Bde., and a Killeen, Texas, native, acknowledged the hard work of the 224th Sust. Bde. and expressed his appreciation to Col. Lisa Costanza, their commander and a Long Beach, Calif., native.

“Thanks for doing a magnificent job, Dragonslayers,” he said. “You set the conditions for our success here. We are

very prepared for the upcoming mission. We are already in the driver’s seat, so let’s get it started. Wranglers just get it done.”



Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Killeen, Texas native, and Command Sgt. Major Erik Frey, a Fort Hood, Texas native, salute the flag at a transfer-of-authority ceremony March 9 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The unit replaced the 224th Sustainment Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)



Lt. Col. John Hickey, commander of the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Killeen, Texas native, and Command Sgt. Major Paul Coleman, a Fort Hood, Texas native, uncased the battalion colors at a transfer of authority ceremony March 9 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The unit replaced the 224th Sustainment Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)



Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade and the 224th Sustainment Brigade bow their heads in prayer at a transfer of authority ceremony March 9 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)

“Outlaws” Test Marksmanship Skills On COB Adder

Article by 1st Lt. James Schafer
632nd Maint. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), qualified on their individual weapons March 10-11 on COB Adder.

Though the Soldiers of the 632nd Maint. Co. are approaching their redeployment soon, they continue to press forward with their daily mission, and that includes their routine training to include weapons qualification.

“Outlaw” Soldiers conducted range operations and qualified on every weapon system in their arsenal, and each firer qualified on his/her weapon.

“I’m looking around at everyone out on the range today, and most Soldiers are wearing a smile,” said

Staff Sgt. Sheena Sanders, a platoon sergeant with the company and a Los Angeles native. “It’s a great day to be in the Army.”

Sanders said the competitive nature of the training helped motivate the Soldiers, and it outlined to them the importance in attending the range.

“The 632nd Maintenance Company range was very successful to me,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Blocker, a construction equipment repairer supervisor with the company and an Irma, Wis., native. “The Soldiers who participated in qualification were definitely set up for success. The safety

Spc. Karissa Fussell, an operating room specialist with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Gardiner, Maine native fires her weapon at the range on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq March 10. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anderson McCarthy)

personnel on the range did a great job coaching the Soldiers and ensuring all range operations were adhered to.”



Sgt. Tobias Carson, a wheeled vehicle mechanic supervisor with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Macon, Ga. native watches the range safety clear his weapon at the range on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq March 10. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anderson McCarthy)



565th Quartermaster Takes On JDC Mission

Article by 1st Lt. Patryk Korzeniewski
565th Quartermaster Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq –Soldiers from the 565th Quartermaster Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), took on the joint distribution mission March 13.

“Having the Joint Distribution Center is great, it gives us a chance to be in the thick of closing down the base,” said Spc. Jessica Thomas, JDC operations and a native of Goldsboro, NC.

The mission consists of tracking, loading, and unloading of wheeled vehicles. Soldiers at the Joint Distribution Center send daily reports to their battalion to track what came in, what went out, and how long

it has been at the Joint Distribution Center.

“This is a good challenge for me,” said Staff Sgt. Kepha Ricketts, the JDC noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a New York, N.Y., native. “I am looking forward to being the NCOIC of the JDC. I am certain the mission will get done.”

“Safety is very important, it is stressed throughout the company,” said Sgt Scotty Breux, a JDC vehicle loading noncommissioned officer.

Three soldiers and one NCO handle the loading and

unloading of vehicles. One Soldier drives the vehicle, while the other two act as ground guides, with one guide in the front and one in the rear. An NCO is present to ensure the job is done safely.



Sgt. Christopher Monge, a Joint Distribution Center noncommissioned officer with the 565th Quartermaster Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Dallas, Texas native, guides a Humvee onto a ramp at the JDC on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq March 12. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Patryk Korzeniewski)

Soldiers Reinforce Marksmanship At Adder

Article by 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — Soldiers with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), conducted marksmanship training March 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The purpose of the training was to allow soldiers to qualify on their weapons and, for those who were already qualified, to become more proficient with their assigned weapon.

“It’s a good opportunity for Soldiers to hone their skills in theater,” said Spc. William Blanch, a Lawton, Okla., native who participated in the training.

The platoon leader of 3rd platoon, 1st Lt. Matthew Franz, an Orlando, Fla., native, was the officer-in-charge of the range.

“It’s a good opportunity for Soldiers to hone their skills in theater”

-Spc. William Blanch-

“It’s good to get some training in,” said Franz. “These warriors deserve the very best.”

Staff Sgt. John Adams, an Arlington, Texas, native who fired on the range, provided similar sentiments, saying that this training not only helps them in “maintaining Soldier skills while deployed,” it also prepares Soldiers for what might occur out on a mission.

Staff Sgt. Jason Birdsall, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the range, and a La Mesa, Texas, native, assisted Franz and helped to ensure each of the firers “were trained to standard,” said Birdsall.



Sgt. John Freeman, a native of Paris, Texas, 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), counts down the allotted time for the qualifying firers from the range tower March 14 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army photo by 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney)



Range safeties with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), observe the firer, 1st Sgt. Ken Baker, a Paradise, Calif., native, as he qualifies with his M9 pistol March 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army Photo by, 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney)

Wrangler Brigade Welcomes the 189th CSSB

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq –At a transfer of authority ceremony March 17, one battalion marked the beginning as the other marked the end of their deployment.

The 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion ceremoniously ended their tour in support of Operation New Dawn by handing over responsibility to the 189th CSSB, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



Capt. Amanda Milner, company commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and native of Hartford City, Ind., stands in front of her formation March 17 during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The 189th deployed out of Fort Bragg, NC and is currently conducting operations ranging from Deployment and Redeployment operations and the running of a Joint Distribution Center. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

The 189th will be working alongside the 4th Sust. Bde., which recently arrived at Contingency Operating Base Adder.

During the ceremony the 189th's command team, Lt. Col. Robert De Lacy, a native of La Crescent, Minn. and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Williams, a native of Newport News, Va., uncased the battalion colors signifying their joining of the Wrangler Brigade team.

Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sust. Bde., spoke to attendees and welcomed the "Superchargers" to the

team before concluding with his unit's motto: "Just get it done."

"The 189th is integral to the support of Al Asad's military and civilian personnel," said Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R. Frey, the top noncommissioned officer for the Wrangler Brigade. "We're looking forward to this battalion's opportunities to take part in the closure of the Iraq campaign."

Frey said the drawdown mission is a different type of deployment than his previous experiences in theater.

"This is a historical mission that we and the 189th are part of. There aren't steady operations and we aren't here to improve

upon what prior units occupied," Frey said. "It's about supporting units around the country and ensuring they all exit safely."

According to Maj. Erica White, the battalion executive officer and a Danville, Va. native, the 189th's role consists of deployment and redeployment operations and running an empty container control point.

"We are here with just under 80-personnel and are also operating a joint distribution center for logistical support

with supply and cargo," White said. "It's a 24/7 operation that we have nine Soldiers and 11 civilian contractors dedicated to."

White said that her battalion was initially slated to deploy to Afghanistan last fall but their mission changed.

"We are not running a traditional CSSB operation which consists of the command and control of numerous internal and subordinate companies. But we have adjusted well and are ready for what's ahead," White said.

White and the 189th's area of responsibility is the central region of Iraq and Frey said he knows the natives of Fort Bragg, NC, are up to the task.

"This is a great team that is led well," he said. "The Wrangler Brigade is proud to have them as a part of our team."



Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks at a transfer of authority ceremony at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq March 17 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center. The 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion took over for the redeploying 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Kirklin and the Wrangler Brigade have recently arrived at Contingency Operating Base Adder and the 189th will be working alongside the brigade as a subordinate unit from Al Asad. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Two Sets Of Brothers Serve In Same Company

Article by Spc. Spring Smith
1-163rd CAB, B Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING

BASE ADDER, Iraq— A Soldier's comrades are like Family in many ways. They train together, deploy together, and go through some of the greatest and most stressful days of their lives together.

For four Soldiers in Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), this is especially true, because the unit has two pairs of brothers serving together.

Staff Sgt. Evin Hansen, a Florence, Mont., native, has been in the Montana National Guard for nine years and is on his second deployment. His brother, Spc. Kiel Hansen, also of Florence, has been in the military for almost three years. This is his first deployment.

Kiel Hansen said he joined the Army because he wanted to serve his country alongside his brother and other people from their hometown.

"It is an honor to be here serving with my brother and it is a great

experience," he said.

Even though there is a difference in rank between the two, Evin said there is no awkwardness because he is not in his brother's direct chain of command; they serve in two different convoy escort teams.

"It does make it easier knowing there is Family you can talk to every day, but it doesn't affect my mindset," he said. "It's a unique experience that most people don't get, and serving is a Family tradition."

The Hansens have a long military history within their Family; their father served in Vietnam.

Spc. Hansen Paskell, a Kalispell, Mont., native, joined the Montana National Guard as a combat medic in 2007. His younger brother, Spc. Kyle Paskell, joined as an infantryman while Hansen was doing his Advanced Individual Training. This is the first deployment for both Soldiers.

other in the same platoon and even in the same squad.

Hansen said he enjoys having his younger brother serve with him, because he doesn't see his brother very often when they are home. Being here together allows them to see more of each other.

"It's good to see my brother doing something very positive with his life, and



Staff Sgt. Evin Hansen and Spc. Kiel Hansen, brothers with the B Company 1st Combined Arms Battalion-163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and natives of Florence, Mont. take time out from convoy support mission preparation on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (US Army photo by Spc. Spring Smith)

working with him is going to be one of the definitive memories I will have of our relationship," he said.



Spc. Hansen Paskell and Spc. Kyle Paskell, both infantrymen and brothers with the B Company 1st Combined Arms Battalion-163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and natives of Florence, Mont. pause for a photograph on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (US Army photo by Spc. Spring Smith)

"One of the main reasons I joined was because my brother had a baby on the way," said Kyle. "I wanted to be able to support him and watch his back."

He said he knew they would serve together because there is only one infantry unit in Montana. Now they serve alongside each

Both of the Paskells' parents have had siblings deploy, but this is the first time their children have deployed.

"They are having mixed feelings," said Hansen. "They feel nervous and scared, but they're also proud."

Like the Hansens, the Paskells say that deploying together doesn't affect their mindset or their ability to complete their mission.

"No matter what might be going on, he will always be my brother and I will always love him," said Kyle.

Outlaws Look Back At Their Accomplishments

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Each unit has its own impact during a deployment. Some units directly support the mission of the operating base where they reside. For others, like the 632nd Maintenance Company, the demand for their specialties stretches throughout an entire theater of operation.

Soldiers of the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, are looking back at their accomplishments as they prepare to depart theater.

Capt. Jesus Pena, the 632nd



Sgt. Natasha King, a small arms weapons repairer and native of Fort Pierce, Fla. disassembles a Squad Automatic Weapon March 23 in order to properly replace the rear sight in the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Armament Repair Facility. King and fellow 632nd Outlaws will be returning to Fort Stewart, Ga. after a year deployed in support of Operation New Dawn at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Maintenance Company commander and a Del Rio, Texas, native, said his company's mission during the deployment was providing field-level maintenance, force protection, convoy-security missions, and combat-recovery operations for Contingency Operating Base Adder, United States Division-South, and United States Division-Central.

But that's only the tip of the iceberg.

According to one of Pena's leaders, Sgt. 1st Class Flournoy Tyson, a track and automotive section non-commissioned officer and a Warwick, Ga., native, his Soldiers deserve praise.

"The Soldiers in the track and automotive section did an awesome job while here," Tyson said. "They had no knowledge of working on heavy vehicles like the heavy-equipment truck prior to the deployment. After six months, they had it mastered."

Tyson said that the mechanics in his shop were primarily light-wheel skilled, but with the help of civilian contractors working alongside them, they picked up on things quickly.

They even competed in job completion with the mission support team section that focuses on quick-

fixes for units coming to Adder from all around USD-S.

"What normally is a six-day



Spc. Roger Burwell, an all wheel mechanic and native of Grand Ledge, Mich., works to replace the main body harness for a humvee March 23 in the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, track and automotive section. Burwell and the 632nd Maintenance Company. "Outlaws" are ending their year-long tour in support of Operation New Dawn at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, in the coming weeks and will return to Fort Stewart, Ga. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

turnaround for units to get their issues fixed became, at times, only a two- to three-day process," Tyson said. "Later in the deployment, the Maintenance Support Team was sending us work because they saw how efficient we had become."

The MST completed more than 900 job orders in supporting convoy operations passing through COB Adder. Collectively, the automotive sections also assisted the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, during the drawdown of combat arms units from Iraq last year.

The armament repair facility completed around 640 jobs in weapons repairs and gauging.

"We are capable of fixing any

See OUTLAWS Page 17

OUTLAWS Continued from page 16

weapons system,” said Sgt. Natasha King, a section non-commissioned officer and a Fort Pierce, Fla., native.

The section agreed that their tour highlight was when they lent a helping hand to a 4th Infantry Division unit. Staff Sgt. Brian Redding, the shop’s non-commissioned officer-in-charge, and a North Pole, Alaska, native, said they spent 50 days ordering parts for and repairing a M242 Bushmaster, automatic machine gun for a M2A3 Bradley tank.

Because of their work, they saved tens of thousands of dollars for the unit.

“If we have the parts and our normal personnel strength on hand, the turnaround on our work is down to a matter of hours,” Redding said.

First Lt. Raymond Patterson, the company’s maintenance control officer, knows exactly why his unit was able to achieve so much during their deployment.

“A lot of personal motivation and help from our contractors drove our success,” Patterson said. “I was so impressed by our Soldiers taking their technical skills and becoming experts in such a short period of time.”



Spc. Christopher Smith, a native of Walnut Cove, N.C., and a construction equipment repairer for the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, works to replace the hydraulic hoses on a 10K Atlas Forklift. Smith and his fellow “Outlaws” may be on their way out the door, but their mission effectiveness will leave a lasting mark on operations here. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)



4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF THE **TEAM WRANGLERS**





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Lt. Col. Robert De Lacy, commander of the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a La Crescent, Minn. native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Williams, uncase the battalions colors during a Transfer Of Authority ceremony March 17 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Maribel Granados)

Superchargers Accept Historic Mission

Article by 1st Lt. Kristen Adams
189th CSSB UPAR

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion transferred authority to the 189th CSSB, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in a ceremony at the White Elephant Theater March 17.

The Transfer Of Authority ceremony, which was officiated by Col. Ron Kirklin, commander of the 4th Sust. Bde. marked the end of a 12-month tour for the 240th CSSB, who will return to Ft. Lee, Va.

“Over the course of our tour we look forward to contributing to the immense task of sustaining operations while simultaneously redeploying personnel, equipment, and supplies,” said Lt. Col. Robert De Lacy, commander of the 189th

CSSB and a La Crescent, Minn. native. “It is a privilege to serve during this final chapter of military history.”

Though the unit was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan this fall, De Lacy, received a warning order in late November 2010 to deploy the 189th CSSB to Iraq by the end of July. They arrived in February.

“I look forward to supporting the Wrangler Brigade and 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command mission over the course of the next year,”

De Lacy said. “It is a historic mission and I have full confidence that the Supercharger Battalion is more than up to the challenge.”



Command teams from the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 240th CSSB, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), present arms during a Transfer Of Authority ceremony March 17 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Maribel Granados)

Allied Trade Specialist And The Functional Side Of The Arts

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ—Anyone who has been to Contingency Operating Base Adder in the last year has probably seen the work of the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), allied trade specialists.

Whether it includes security gates, ovens at the Iraqi dining facilities, newly repaired engine heads, modified mine

resistant ambush protected vehicles, or sight adjusters for M16A2 assault rifles, the shop has done it all.

During the platoon’s tour, they have completed an estimated 1,200 fabrication and repair projects.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clarence Anderson, the officer-in-charge of the shop and a Chicago native, said most jobs are created by customers simply walking in on a daily basis to make a request

relationship in daily operations.

In the last year, incoming Soldiers learn both machining and welding.

Sgt. Justin Fritter, a Soldier with the 632nd Maint. Co., is new to the ATS shop, but has a machinist background the Yuma, Ariz., native, created a knife and display for his first practice project since learning the welding aspect of the job.

“Mixing the two sides [of the job] is the best thing; they were meant to be together,” he said. “I spent time as an automotive technician before joining the Army, rebuilding engines, and it was the most fun I had. It’s why I decided to join this field when enlisting.”

He intends to go back to his hometown and open his own machining and welding shop that creates parts for obsolete farm equipment.

Fritter said he’d prefer to have a small shop so he can be more hands-on and allow his customers to choose him for affordability rather than buying it new elsewhere at a steeper cost.

“Things are run by computers a lot today and this designates a person to pushing buttons on the machines and letting it do all the work,” he said. “I’d want to do it myself.”

Soldiers in the ATS shop have kept photos over the course of the year of their more memorable projects, including the commander’s cup belt. They’ve also made Army ranks for doors and unit emblems and logos. They’ve even made a three-pronged flag stand for their battalion.

“This job is certainly the more functional of the arts,” Fritter said. “But there is plenty of room for creativity.”

“We have supported KBR [Kellogg, Brown and Root], and various brigade combat teams as well as the entirety of Adder while here,” he said. “Some of our hottest missions were welding jobs on security gates and the equipment inside the gyms. Most jobs took five to seven days to complete.”

“We have Soldiers working as welders and machinists,” added Anderson, who has 16 years of service.

He said that the Army struggled for 10 to 12 years by keeping the two different military occupational specialties divided, despite their close, hand-in-hand



Sgt. Justin Fritter, an allied trades specialist for the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), continues work on a lathe machine. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)



Spc. Charles Patrick, an Allied Trades Specialist with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), grinds down a piece of metal March 14 in preparation to perform a welding project. He and fellow Soldiers within the Allied Trades shop and the 632nd will be ending their tour in the coming weeks. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Wrangler Leader Proves Age Is Just A Number

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Toby McGhee, the officer-in-charge of the Property Book Office for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Hopkinsville, Ky., poses with fellow PBO Soldiers Sgt. 1st. Class Enrique Torres, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Sgt. Eric Meza, a PBO NCO, and Spc. Reasad Doha, a PBO clerk, March 21 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. McGhee and his PBO shop are currently deployed in support of Operation New Dawn. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ -- Chief Warrant Officer 3 Toby McGhee, the officer-in-charge of the property book office for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hopkinsville, Ky., native has defied stigmas about age and experience during his time in the Army.

At 32 years old, he's logged nearly 13 years in uniform, six of which were spent on the enlisted side reaching the rank of staff sergeant before becoming a warrant officer.

"My friend and I were the youngest warrants to have ever gotten selected in the quartermaster corps," he said.

"Others had the perception that I was very young and had to prove myself. I feel that I know what I'm doing and I've always taken pride in that."

McGhee enlisted in 1998 as a unit supply specialist and immediately went to airborne school after basic combat training.

"My mentality when I joined was to be independent," McGhee said. "When I came in, I didn't know anything about the Army. I just knew that guys wore uniforms."

In 2003, McGhee and some friends volunteered to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He said it was

a chaotic time for him because he had so much responsibility and dealings in millions of dollars of equipment.

"I was made the property book noncommissioned officer for the Army material command logistics support element," McGhee said. "I had no officer above me. It was just me and I was responsible for requesting replacement vehicles for battle losses from Kuwait to Joint Base Balad."

Even though it was tough, McGhee knows he was better for it.

NUMBER Continued from page 21

NUMBER Continued from page 20

“I had never handled things at such a high level before,” he said. “I benefited greatly from it and it gave me a different view of logistics.”

He received a bronze star for his work during the deployment. Then McGhee’s mentor at the time, an ordnance officer, convinced him that the warrant corps would offer him more control over his career.

“Initially I didn’t want to go warrant,” he said. “In fact I really didn’t know what I wanted to do but he really sold me on the idea.”

McGhee put in his packet not thinking he’d be selected because the Army had just recently decided to lower the selection requirement to five to seven years in service. It had previously been 10 to 12 years.

“The quartermaster corps was the first to start recruiting at five to seven years. A friend and I were basically guinea pigs,” McGhee said.

Since becoming a warrant officer, he has deployed to Afghanistan and has been a member of the “Wrangler”

brigade for the last two years.

The Wranglers are currently deployed in support of Operation New Dawn with the mission of sustaining and reposturing of forces throughout Iraq.

McGhee and his property book office maintain accountability of the unit’s property book holdings across theater. He knows the tempo in his office will speed up this summer as they help the brigade and its subordinate units close out.

“We won’t have anyone to transfer things over to when we leave,” he said. “Our job will be to put everything our units have into the system so United States Forces-Iraq can tell us what to do with it. We’ll be the last stop for units to clear out of theater.”

Even with so much responsibility, McGhee said he has total confidence in his team.

“We built a good team before we came here, he said. “We know what needs to get done and at the end of the day, it’s all the same job.”

Looking into the future when the

Wrangler Team’s tour is over, McGhee wants to continue experiencing new things in the Army.

“When I was at Fort Lee, Va. for the advanced warrant officer course in 2008, I was asked to become an instructor for the basic course geared towards new warrant recruits,” he said. “So I look forward to having an opportunity to teach there.”

Even if he doesn’t get that opportunity, McGhee said he enjoys getting a variety of experiences.

“Being in a sustainment brigade has been good and has given me a different view of how the Army operates,” he said. “I just want to continue leaping around and seeking new experiences.”

McGhee figures he’s on a downhill slope towards 20 years of service, and when that day comes, he’ll evaluate whether or not he’s still enjoying his work and then think about retirement.

“Right now I’m not even thinking about it,” he said. “I don’t know what I’ll do when I get out but I know I’ll more than likely be working.”

SUDOKU



The rule are simple. All you have to do is fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the number 1 through 9. **Remember**, each puzzle has only one solution.

**Puzzle: Intermediate
Solution on Page 23**

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

Female Soldiers Hold Important Leadership Position

Article by Spc. Christiana Bankole
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, IRAQ -- Throughout history, women in the Army have accomplished significant achievements that have allowed the world to take notice and realize how far the Army has come by allowing women to hold important leadership positions.

Female Soldiers in leadership positions within the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), contribute to these achievements daily.

Women in transportation companies are in the minority, and the Roadwarrior family is no exception.

Capt. Stacey N. Jelks, the company commander, and a Bloomingdale, Ill., native, has commanded the Roadwarriors since last year. Jelks, who said that her work as company commander is challenging, also expressed that the role would be demanding for either gender.



Cpl. Jermeika Rivera, with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Tallahassee Fla., native, helps another Soldier work on spreadsheets inside the 15th Trans Co. headquarters on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army photo by Spc. Christiana Bankole)

“It is a big challenge, regardless of gender,” she said. “When I was a second lieutenant, I was the only female officer in a forward support company attached to an infantry battalion, so now I enjoy my position as a commander and the challenges that go along with it.”

Cpl. Jermeika Rivera, the company’s supply noncommissioned officer and a Tallahassee, Fla., native, has held her position since September 2010. She said being a woman in a demanding position has allowed her to become a better leader for her Soldiers.

“I would advise any female Soldier in a leadership role to not be intimidated,” explained Rivera.

Staff Sgt. LaCerishia Johnson, platoon sergeant for first platoon, and a New Orleans native, has been a platoon sergeant for the last two months. Johnson, whose ultimate goal in the Army is to become a warrant officer, said acknowledging women and their accomplishments is very important



Capt. Stacey N. Jelks, company commander and a native of Bloomingdale, Ill., receives a briefing from Sgt. 1st Class Jemse Cruz, a senior truck master and a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico at the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Feb 28. (U.S Army photo by Spc. Christiana Bankole)

“There was a time when the role of women in the military was restricted to being nurses,” said Johnson. “Now we have come so far to where women are in charge of masses of Soldiers.”

Staff Sgt. Antonia Silva-Warren, a truck master with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Chicago native assisted in the operations for the Roadwarrior Family for three months.

“I encourage women to use this challenge of future leadership,” said Silva-Warren. “If they turn that into a positive, it will push them to become great leaders.”



Staff Sgt Antonia Silva-Warren, a truck master with 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a native of Chicago talks on the phone Feb. 28 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army photo by Spc. Christiana Bankole)



Spc. Carmen Guzman a heavy wheeled vehicle operator and a native of El Paso, Texas; Staff Sgt. LaCerishia Johnson, platoon sergeant for 1st platoon and a native of New Orleans, La., and Spc. Jason Smith, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator and a native of Whiteville, N.C. work at 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Feb. 26 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Christiana Bankole)

Flag Football Serves As Morale-Booster For Team

Article by Sgt. Mitchell D. Pearson
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING

BASE ADDER, Iraq - The love for sports can offer satisfaction and ease for Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, and the Soldiers with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have had their share of competition with other units.

Soldiers of the 15th Trans. Co., known as the Roadwarriors, have participated in numerous sporting events, including the current flag football tournament.

This has allowed both the Soldiers and leadership to build morale and team spirit. With ongoing missions, the Roadwarriors have to pull together with limited participants to make a team.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Green, the company's headquarters platoon sergeant and a Stuttgart, Ark., native, believes the Soldiers take the game seriously.



Spc. Tywain Courtland, a supply specialist with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Montgomery Ala. native, walks off the field alongside his teammates at the conclusion of a flag football game where the Roadwarriors won the tournament Feb. 19 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army photo by Sgt. Mitchell D. Pearson)

"Sometimes there's just a small amount of troops here to play football," he said. "However, the Soldiers who are here allow fun and the desire to win to go hand in hand."

Staff Sgt George Warren, 3rd platoon sergeant with 15th Trans Co. and a Hampton, Va., native, has confidence in

his teammates.

"I have much confidence that my peers in this game we're playing will help each other to win the championship," he said.

Spc. Tywain Courtland, a supply specialist with 15th Trans Co., and a Montgomery, Ala., native, feels many lessons are learned in the game of football

"The sports we have come together to play has built a strong bond within the company," he said.



The Soldiers with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) take a break during flag football to coordinate their next move in the tournament Feb. 19 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S Army photo by Sgt. Mitchell D. Pearson)

Puzzle Solution From Page 21									
8	9	7	1	3	5	6	2	4	
3	2	1	7	4	6	8	5	9	
6	5	4	9	8	2	7	1	3	
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9	4	2	8	7	3	1	6	5	
4	1	3	5	9	7	2	8	6	
2	8	9	3	6	1	5	4	7	
7	6	5	4	2	8	3	9	1	

Maintenance Soldiers Prepare For Transition Home

Article by 1st Lt. Thomas N. McKay
632nd Heavy Maint. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – As the weather starts to warm up, the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is beginning to cool down. After ten months of hard

work, it's time to start preparing to head back to Fort Stewart, Ga.

There are many things that must be accomplished to facilitate a smooth transition for the replacing unit and to make sure that the company can leave theater. One crucial task is the packing and shipment of equipment and supplies.

Blocker, a qualified container inspector, is making sure the unit's containers are ready to be shipped. He is responsible for inspecting several units' containers before they leave Iraq to ensure their safety and reliability. Though Blocker cannot be the official inspector for his own company's containers, he can oversee the process of loading them and identify faults in order to ensure the official inspections go smoothly.

"It's not particularly complicated, but it is very important to identify any faults and correct them before the containers are shipped," he said.

The company has more than 20 containers to ship back to the United States. Every container has to have a specific load plan, and the equipment inside must be properly secured.

"The Army has very specific standards about what we can and cannot ship home and how it must be packed," said Staff Sgt. Michael Blocker, a senior construction equipment repairer with the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Gleason, Wis., native.



Staff Sgt. Michael Blocker, with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), examines a container in the company's yard. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Thomas N. McKay)

I AM STRONG.

INTERVENE
When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT
You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent Sexual Assault. I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE
We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to engage and keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Assault. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest ... together.

**I am strong.
I am ARMY STRONG.
And so are you.**

Loyalty Duty Respect Selfless Service Honor Integrity Personal Courage Loyalty Duty Respect Selfless Service Honor Integrity Personal Courage

Soldiers Keep In Touch Through Social Media

Article by Staff Sgt. Steven Adams
749th CSSB UPAR



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Baranovic, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a Cape Girardeau, Mo., native, communicates with his family back home by using Skype. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Adams)

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—The development of social media and other forms of rapid mass communication has changed the way the world communicates, and deployed Soldiers are not excluded from these changes.

While service members previously relied on writing letters home, modern communication methods often allow for nearly constant contact.

Staff Sgt. Eric Callagher, the sustainment automation support management office noncommissioned

officer-in-charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), described the methods he uses to keep in touch with his wife.

“I use different things depending on what I’m doing,” he said. “If it’s personal, I write a letter. If we’re doing taxes, I use e-mail.”

Service members are not allowed to use many services such as Facebook and Skype on government work computers, but Internet access is often available in living quarters and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities.

“I’m old-school, I just use the phone,” said Sfc. Todd Cole, a battle captain with the company and an Orange County, Calif., native.

Even during recent years, Soldiers have not always had choices when communicating with people from home. Staff Sgt. Gregory Crowe, a battle noncommissioned officer with the 749th CSSB HHC, and a Long Beach, Calif.,

native has deployed to Iraq multiple times.

Often, he said, he did not have access to the Internet.

“The technology improvement has been awesome,” he said. “We used to have to wait hours at call centers just to use the phone for 15 minutes.”

Capt. Jayson Markham, a battle captain with the 749th CSSB HHC and a Fullerton, Calif., native said he uses the Internet to communicate with his wife and two children.

“I don’t use Skype,” he said. “I use Yahoo, because when everyone else is online it seems to be faster.”

The reason why service members communicate has remained constant through the years; to stay connected to Family and friends.

Sfc. Jorn Guilbert, the company’s battle NCOIC and a Fajardo, Puerto Rico, native uses Skype to contact his wife and three daughters.

“I use Skype so I can see a little piece of home,” he said.

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CREW Specialists Work To Keep U.S. Convoys Safe

Article by CW2 Samuel N. Voight
632nd Maint. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - Counter Remote-Control Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) specialists work to keep convoy escort teams safe from remote-controlled IEDs along the roads and highways.

Spc. Harold Davis, a computer

detections systems repairer with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a Clarksville, Tenn. native, has spent hours working with the CREW field service representative to keep the 632nd Maint. Co.'s convoy escort teams safe.

used by the enemy," he said.

To become a qualified CREW specialist, Davis attended a 40-hour course taught by the 224th Sustainment Brigade. In the class, he learned how to set up spectrum analyzers to verify the correct software was installed on the CREW devices. He also learned to load firmware and software and how to download the mission logs.



Davis ensures that the CREW devices remain fully mission-capable at all times. He also makes sure they have the most current software and are accounted for in accordance with standard operating procedures and regulations.

"It is imperative that the CREW specialist knows what they are doing," said 1st Lt. James Schafer, the executive officer for the 632nd Maint. Co., a native of Dardanelle, Alaska. "If the [CREW Vehicle Receiver/Jammer] is not working, lives could be at risk."

Specialist Harold Davis, a computer detections systems repairer with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Clarksville, Tenn., upgrades a Counter Remote Control Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare device on March 19 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Samuel Voight.)

"It is important that the CREW devices have the most current software to counter current threats

Davis said he is glad he attended the course, because he has a direct impact on keeping his fellow Soldiers safe while they are traveling along the roads and highways of Iraq.



WRANGLER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



People from across Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq gathered to watch competitors muscle their way through four events in a Morale and Welfare Recreation run Strong Man competition April 9. Male weight classes stretching from lightweight, middleweight and heavyweight as well as a female division waged themselves in a dumb bell carry race, tire flip time trial, and a humvee push and pull event. Vehicles used at the event also included Polaris Gators were provided by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Winners and those placing second in their respective weight classes received medals and trophies at the end of the competition. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Warrant Officer Leads By Example

Article by Staff Sgt. Arthur Taradejna
749th CSSB UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – U.S. Army Recruiting Command doctrine states that the purpose of the warrant officer is to serve in specific positions that require greater longevity than the duration of commanders and other staff officers. The extended length of these assignments results in increased technical expertise as well as the leadership and management skills that make them so effective for the Army.

Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Alexander, the battalion maintenance officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Paso Robles, Calif., native, tries to embody the warrant officer standards as an adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor to both enlisted and general commissioned officers.

“A warrant officer is a trainer and a

mentor of Soldiers,” said Alexander. “If you’re willing to learn, I’m willing to teach.”

He thinks a good candidate to join the warrant officer corps is a noncommissioned officer with ten years of experience in his or her military occupational specialty with good technical ability.

“A warrant officer is a hands-on trainer,” said Alexander. “Most of us are from the enlisted side and went through the ranks, so we can relate to the Soldier on the ground.”

The decision to go warrant is the best choice he ever made, he said.

“There were three reasons I decided to go warrant,” he said. “First was the encouragement from my command. Second was to fill the need of the shortage of warrant officers in the field of maintenance. And the third was the leadership potential I saw to train Soldiers.”

Alexander began his career in the Army in 1982 after transferring from the Naval Reserves. He said the lack of opportunities in the Naval Reserves prompted him to join the Army side of the armed forces.

He began his Army career as a track vehicle mechanic. He served in a multitude of positions with artillery companies, forward support battalions and ordnance companies. This gave him the well rounded technical expertise that prepared him for the warrant officer corps.

In the year 2000, at the rank of sergeant first class, Alexander graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala., where he became an ordnance warrant officer. Ordnance warrant officers are the Army’s premiere maintenance and logistics system experts, leaders, trainers, mentors, and advisors.

Alexander’s full-time job is as the electronics repair supervisor at Camp Roberts, Calif., where he also is the armament supervisor



Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Alexander, the battalion maintenance officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Paso Robles, Calif., native, discusses how to provide supplies to support subordinate units with Captain Sara Alan, the battalion S4 officer-in-charge with IHHC, 749th CSSB and a Salinas, Calif., native. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Arthur Taradejna)