



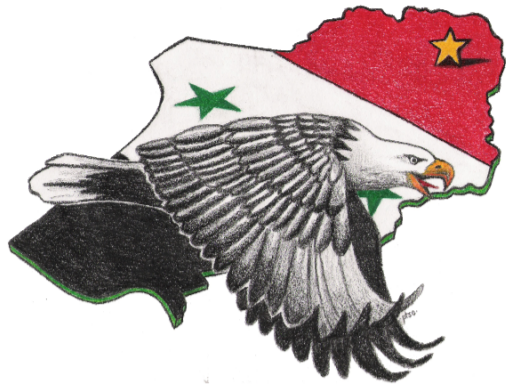
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LIFELINER **WEST**

"If you want it done, call the 101!"

Volume 2, No. 14 *Deployment Edition*

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, IRAQ

June 15, 2006

828th QM Soldiers run missions in Iraq

By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
207th MPAD

Transportation is a major part of the war effort for servicemembers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 828th Quartermaster Company from Wilkes Barre, Pa., works from Q-West Base Complex moving supplies and Soldiers from Q-West to the surrounding areas.

The 828th Soldiers move Class I through IX supplies, and drive to Balad, Mosul, Tikrit and other locations in Iraq. The unit has escorted Kellogg, Brown and Root, run gun truck missions and used a platoon to support the elections last December.

"We moved 1,700 barriers in support of the elections," said Capt. Ralph Ledbetter, the commander for the 828th.

Running missions as a team took time to develop. The unit has Soldiers from 11 different states and 43 different units. The unit's first battle assembly took place in March 2005, with more than 150 Soldiers staying in a hotel. Buses and flights were coordinated to get the Soldiers from their homes to the unit for their initial meet-



Photo by Sgt. Mitch Armbruster

Continued on Page 2 Spc. Jason Gueck tightens a bolt on the wheel of truck in the 828th Quartermaster Company's motor pool.

Staying the course: Quartermaster Soldiers complete 13.1-miler

By 2nd Lt. Suzanne Schultz
142nd Corps Support Battalion

On 29 April 2006, a team of Soldiers from the 1/506th Quartermaster Company put their running skills to the test in the COB Speicher Rock-n-Roll Half Marathon.

SFC Victor Cabrera of Newport News, VA and SFC Terryl Green of Grand Rapids, MI went stride for stride for the entire race. SGT Swilenn Tavarez of Richmond Hill, NY recruited 2LT Suzanne Schultz of Sparta, NJ to run with her on the 13 mile course. SSG Joseph Walker of Leesburg, VA and SGT Tremayne Sanders of Houston, TX also participated in this event. 2LT Carla Campbell of St. George's, Grenada also finished the race along with several of her Soldiers to include PFC Jason Rhoads of Hopewell, VA.

SGT Diya Shakoor of Temple Hills, MD captured first place for the company. SPC Ligia Sutton of

Houston, TX, SPC Marc Susa of Pearl City, HI, PFC Jason Kellam of Brownwood, TX, and PFC Stephen Bouldrey of Sikeston, MO were also participants of the run. Even SFC Shelia Hamilton of San Antonio, TX, who is recovering from a recent surgery, completed the full course accompanied by her battle buddy, SSG Vicenta Robinson of Columbus, GA.

This was truly a positive and beneficial experience for everyone involved. The Soldiers who coordinated the event did an excellent job of placing water stations throughout the course, which were decorated for the occasion. Each station was manned with highly motivated personnel encouraging every racer as they made their way through the miles.

This was an exceptional example of how teamwork, perseverance, and training can pay off. The next day we might have all been suffering from some sore muscles, but we all had a great sense of accomplishment.



142nd CSB Courtesy Photo

Pictured here: The 506th Quartermaster Half Marathon team rests after completing the run at FOB Speicher.



LIFELINER WEST STAFF

Brigade Commander

Col. James D. Scudieri

Brigade Command Sergeant Major

CSM Stephen D. Blake

Public Affairs Officer

Sgt. 1st Class Lori Simmons

Art & Graphics

Sgt. Patricia Tso

Contributing Writers

Sgt. Mitch Armbruster

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Arneson

Spc. Raymond Beard

1st Lt. Edward Bouldin

Sgt. Melissa Gary

1st Lt. Albert Lee

2nd Lt. Suzanne K. SchuLtz

Spc. Richard Vogt

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828th QM

Continued from Page 1

ing.

"Just to get cohesion took a couple of months," Ledbetter said. "We had to send 126 Soldiers to school. We had 21 original Soldiers from the company."

The 828th worked together and is now running missions consistently and with great success. The unit was nominated for a unit excellence award based on the complexity of their deployment.

Ledbetter picked two Soldiers to fly back to Washington, D.C., to accept the award.

Awards aside, the 828th remains professional in all aspects of their service.

"All my Soldiers are highly motivated," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Hoover, a squad leader and combat logistics patrol commander for the 828th. "They're trying to win the hearts and minds of the people. We are working toward less confrontation."

Busy roads are a problem for trucks, and CLPs are stuck waiting for traffic to clear. Hoover explained Soldiers with the 828th show the Iraqi people on the roads of Iraq respect.

"We do our best not to show force. We're not out there to make enemies," he said.

Staff Sgt. Brett Schrader, a CLP commander for a mission during the elections with the 828th, stated that his Soldiers work to the best of their ability, which makes the job of a leader easier.

"We got hit by an IED (improvised explosive device), everyone knew what to do," he said.

Schrader knew his team could handle the situation and their reaction enabled him to focus on getting his team to safety because of his team's quick and accurate reaction to the incident.

Schrader admitted thinking of his Soldier's safety



Photo by Sgt. Mitch Armbruster

Sgt. Shawn Isby, a maintenance NCO with the 828th Quartermaster Company, discusses a plan for fixing trucks with Sgt. William Risler, a maintenance NCO with the 828th, at Q-West Base Complex.

makes being a CLP commander stressful each time the unit goes on a mission, but he is confident his Soldiers know what they are doing.

Helping during the elections has left an impression on the Soldiers of the 828th. They were given a mission with a positive impact in the country and they succeeded. Soldiers met the people of northern Iraq and were welcomed into their homes for dinner. Through it all, one important idea has stayed with the leaders of the 828th.

"The people we came with are the people we are going home with," said Hoover.

Ledbetter agreed redeploying with all of his Soldiers would be their biggest accomplishment, regardless of all of the successful missions they've done.

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725th, IA Soldiers supply coalition partners

By Sgt. Melissa Gary

725th Transportation Company

"The bottom line is if you did not bring the fuel we would not be able to function" says SGT Osamu Asato a 98G from East Hampton, NY. Asato is one of the American liaisons at the Republic of Korea Camp Zaytun located in Northern Iraq.

The fact that they are needed to keep this base fully functioning is what drives the 725th Transportation Company to deliver DF2 and MOGAS on a bi-monthly basis.

The mission is not long or especially difficult but it poses its own set of challenges. It is a true example of the cooperation and patience needed to conduct a mission involving coalition forces.

The 725th TC must first travel to the village of Mahkmur where they pick up the Iraqi Soldiers who must escort them into the Kurdish city of Irbil. The Iraqi Soldiers enjoy participating in the mission. "We have learned much from the American Army and will apply what we learned to our own missions" says 1stLT Messoud Alu, a 9 year Army Veteran with time also served in the Kurdish Militia.

As the American and Iraqi Soldiers proceed north the dynamics of the convoy change as the Iraqi Army provide front and rear security into the green zone. "It is good to cooperate with the Iraqi Army because it gives them and us the confidence to move forward with their independence" said SPC James Gore, a gun truck crew member.

Upon arrival at Camp Zaytun the tables are turned on the American Soldiers as they are asked for their ID cards and allowed to enter only after a

Korean Soldier accounts for each Soldier.

The importance of their arrival is obvious in the special accommodations provided by the Korean Army. The mess hall is opened and food is prepared for the Soldiers while the fuel is downloaded from the tankers. This is where the American and Iraqi Soldiers get to spend some time with each other.

The Iraqis usually stay in their own group on the other side of the mess hall but as the number of missions has grown so has the comfort level between the two groups. Communication is limited but on this particular night was helped along by a Jackie Chan movie on the big screen TV. As American and Iraqi Soldiers cheered and laughed together at a Chinese movie on a Korean Base.

Once the tankers are downloaded the Soldiers need to refuel prior to heading back down south. The Korean Soldiers are quick and very capable at completing their mission. Once the trucks are fueled the American, Iraqi and Korean Soldiers have some time to compare weapons, take pictures and communicate through the common bond of Soldiering. There are a lot of hand signals and laughter involved in this communication.

"This enhances the relationship with each other." Said 2ndLT Seo Sangjin, of the joint mission. After the 725th holds a convoy brief and prayer prior to departure camera flashes can be seen as everyone takes last minute pictures and goodbyes in 3 languages are called out.

Tired Soldiers feel satisfaction that Camp Zaytun will be fully functional and the Korean Soldiers are also pleased. "We express mutual and reciprocal fel-



Photo by Sgt. Melissa Gary

Korean and U.S. Army Soldiers look at a weapon together during a 725th TC mission to Irbil.

lowship and sincere gratitude for the American Transportation Company." Says a smiling 2ndLT Sangjin as the large group Soldiers he just took a picture with leave in their vehicles.

109th Transportation Company reaches out to help fellow Soldiers



Photo courtesy of 109th Transportation Company

A truck from 109th TC hoists a container while helping 3rd ACR redeploy.

By Spc. Raymond Beard
109th Transportation Company

The 109th Transportation Company (109th TC) gladly veered from its normal mission to help other Soldiers.

Half of the 109th TC was tasked to assist with the transporting of 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment's (3rd ACR) equipment from Forward Operation Bases (FOB) in northern Iraq.

109th personnel ran two combat logistical patrols (CLP) to FOB Sinjar in order to upload vehicles and other equipment 3rd ACR used to complete its mission while in Iraq. There was one CLP to FOB Rabiah as well.

The 3rd ACR has completed its mission in Iraq and has redeployed to Fort Carson, Colorado.

Many units have been called upon to do their duty during time of war. Commanders strive to fulfill their units' obligations with honor and return home safe.

"3rd ACR gun trucks provided secu-

rity throughout the entire mission" said Capt. Josh Nichols, Executive Officer of the 109th TC who is from Colby, Wisconsin.

Northern Iraq was plagued with plenty of rain, which turned a lot of areas into slushy mud pits.

"All the mud makes it a little harder to do my job, but it still gets done" says Pfc. Raymond Daniels a truck driver from Luling, Texas.

This particular mission took place from February 7 to 12. The 109th TC brought 31 tractor trailers to get the job done.

The 109th TC helped Soldiers of the 3rd ACR return home to their loved ones, which is something we all look forward to while deployed.

The 109th Transportation Company recently redeployed to its home station. It was succeeded by the 423rd Transportation Company.

Congratulations to all the Soldiers on a job well done!

265th MCT keeps Q-West air hub running smoothly

By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
207th MPAD

Q-West Base Complex (QBC) had very few aircraft landing or flying from the post in 2005, but things have changed and flights are moving with more regularity from the base.

The 265th Movement Control Team, from Fort Lewis, Wash., runs the passenger terminal for fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters at QBC and helps all passengers get to their destinations whether on missions, leave, or going on pass. The 265th took on the new mission last October.

Staff Sgt. Enoc Santos, the passenger terminal NCOIC, described the mission as moving cargo and passengers from Q-West to the surrounding areas.

"We deal with what comes in and goes out of Q-West," Santos said.

Santos said his job is a satisfying one. However, to get satisfaction from the job Santos and his Soldiers had to put some work into the facility and the way they approach customers to make things better for the passengers.

"When we got here we had helicopters," said Santos. "Now we have fixed-wing and helicopters."

"Transportation is an important part of our mission," said Spc. Anthony Depetre, a transportation management coordinator with the 265th working at the passenger terminal.

Santos and his team's workload have also increased because they are now sending Soldiers directly to Kuwait for leave.

Soldiers from the 101st Sustainment Brigade's Support Operations

Center and the passenger terminal gathered data and



Photo by Sgt. Marshall Thompson

Staff Sgt. Enoc Santos, passenger terminal NCOIC with the 265th Movement Control Team, works with a civilian contractor to make sure the manifest has the correct number of passengers on the flight line at Q-West Base Complex.

compiled numbers on Soldiers going from base to base for leave.

"We did reports and number crunching," said Staff Sgt. Violeta Valdez, an administration clerk with the 203rd Personnel Support Battalion working alongside the 265th at the passenger terminal.

The 265th was positive they could support direct flights to Kuwait for Soldiers going on leave.

"We were doing double the work," Santos said. "Now we have one move rather than two moves."

According to Valdez, documenting the numbers and tracking people was a necessity to make the change, and she feels things have gotten better now that QBC sends out more flights and the flights should increase in the future, she said.

"It's more convenient for everybody," Santos said about the direct flights for leave.

"Units are happy because travel time has decreased. Before, Soldiers had to leave two or three days early from Q-West to get to Kuwait. A person was gone for an extra week."

The 265th Soldiers also upgraded the facilities at the terminal. A waiting area with a television and movies is available for Soldiers. The waiting area has all the amenities servicemembers might need before a flight.

"It's our Soldiers that do the work," said Staff Sgt. Robert Jackson, a 265th movement control supervisor. "There are long days, but the Soldiers don't complain."

Jackson said the unit puts the time into everything they do because they know what it means to their customers.

The 265th put in paperwork to get a nearby building renovated. When renovated, the building will give them a place to house passengers in case a flight is delayed or cancelled.

The 265th believes their job is about customer service and taking care of a passenger's needs.

"It's nice to go home at night knowing you have done everything possible to get the mission done," Santos said.

Santos explained it isn't always easy to get everybody on the flights personnel have requested. Passengers are discontent when flights are canceled or diverted.

"When flights get cancelled, people look at you like it's your fault," said Santos. "The most challenging thing is you need to keep your composure and have good customer service."

However, Santos and his crew realize the importance of each passenger's situation.

"We're helping out fellow Soldiers, especially those going on emergency leave," said Depetre.

The 265th uses whatever assets they have to get people where they need to go. They check other forms of air travel and often investigate the other terminals on nearby posts to find out if they have better options for the customer.

Santos said the mission is satisfying and Soldiers reward them for their hard work with a smile.

"When I see people leave happy, that is the most rewarding part of the job," said Santos.



Photo by Sgt. Marshall Thompson

Spc. Anthony Depetre, a transportation management coordinator, and Staff Sgt. Robert Jackson, a movement control supervisor with the 265th Movement Control Team work to make an area outside the terminal more comfortable for passengers.



QBC Soldiers keep watch for illegal purchases

By 1st Lt. Albert Lee
305th Quartermaster Co.

Printers, multi-purpose tools (gerbers), briefcases, watches: these are some of the items that have filtered through the 305th Quartermaster Company Multi-Class Supply Support Activity (SSA) located on the Q-West Base Complex. The items in and of themselves are not the problem if ordered through the proper supply channels.

What constitutes an illegal off-line purchase is one where the purchased item has not been ordered through the proper supply channels therefore resulting in a non-funded transaction. Off-line orders made from units to the General Services Administration, without going through the proper channels, is in direct violation of policies as set forth by the Department of the Army.

On February 18, 2006, a memorandum signed by the Headquarters Department of the Army, John J. Argodale (Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army) wrote "When abused, off-line purchases result in a negative impact on the total army supply chain and the Army's financial records. Without accurate visibility of demands, we can not accurately forecast to meet future needs."

Prior to the United States Army Audit Agency (AAA) identifying non-funded off-line orders, many of these illegal purchases made it through the supply channels virtually unnoticed. In a letter to the Pentagon Telecommunications Center dated December of 2005, the AAA identified over \$2 billion worth of off-line orders. Since March 9, 2006, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and the Army Joint Reconciliation Program (JRP) have monitored off-line orders through a thorough review process.

The 305th Multi-Class SSA has its own control measures in place to assist with minimizing fraud, waste, and abuse. For example, the 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations (SPO) will



Photo by 1st Lt. Albert Lee

Soldiers sort through a box of ordered supplies at the 305th Quartermaster Company Multi-Class Supply Support Activity hub.

notify the SSA of requests ordered off-line.

These requests are canceled immediately at the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) level and customers are notified. Occasionally, customers may not be able to request an item due to the National Stock Number (NSN) being obsolete or inactive. SPC Rios, a Stock Control clerk with the 305th Quartermaster Company, assists customers by attempting to provide a valid NSN.

She often educates other Soldiers assigned to the SSA, such as PFC LeGrande of the 317th Maintenance Company, and Anthony Roberts, a KBR contractor, by keeping them informed of the constant changes in the Army supply system. The Stock Control section also posts messages and e-mails from other sources on the SSA's customer bulletin board to increase awareness.

However, customers still continue to deviate from the proper procedures of requesting items even-

though these items will come in through the SSA. These items can be tracked through verification and identification. When an item comes in marked for the individual or unit instead of the SSA, it is probable that this item was an off-line order.

Another way to identify an off-line purchase is the priority assigned to the item doesn't match the unit's Force Activity Designator. SPC Reynoso, a Customer Issue clerk with the 305th Quartermaster Company, helps verify appropriate material release orders for corresponding items. If the item is purchased off-line, it is evident that the assigned document number is not present on the verification list and not accounted for in SARSS. The only way to identify the item to the customer is through their Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DODAAC).

The Army policy is very clear on the issue of illegal offline purchases. Although the means to track offline purchases is fairly new, there has been some success with catching potential abusers. Some units who have used the supply system to their advantage have been subject to UCMJ actions. In one instance, in late 2005, a unit was caught purchasing close to \$30,000 worth of non-funded supplies. Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) requested through the unit's major command for the total amount spent to be reimbursed.

The Multi-Class SSA is one of the many supply systems in place to provide top notch customer service to assist our Soldiers in the fight for freedom. As the primary source for receiving various classes of supplies, the SSA must ensure that customers are in compliance with Army standards pertaining to the supply system. By educating customers on proper ways to order items through the use of SARSS, the Government Purchase Card system, and other supply methods, we can increase customer awareness of the supply system and decrease illegal off-line purchase activity.

TF, CA: Creating an oasis

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Arneson
4-11th FA

AL KISIK, Iraq – It may not look like much, but the silently humming machine in the corner is what keeps everyone healthy.

The water filtration system installed in the 3rd Division (IA) Dining Facility in Al Kisik is the lifeblood of the unit. This clean drinkable water keeps the food sanitary, soldiers hydrated, and the unit combat ready to prosecute the Counter Insurgency fight.

Fighting, however, was the last thing on the minds of the members of the 401st Civil Affairs Team. They were on a fact finding mission to provide clean water for the residents of the Tigris River Valley over 75 km away.

The residents of the western areas are plagued with well water that contains excessive amounts of sulfur. These sulfates make the water undrinkable and detrimental to crops. Clean water would add the potential for increased Agro-Business throughout the TRV.

The systems are currently being managed by three Iraqi's contractors in Al Kisik and are relatively maintenance free.

According to Mr. Shukar Khssur Shaukt, the filters have been in place for two years and have been easy to



Mohammed Jasem Mohammed explains how he checks the water filters to Capt. Patrick Sheppard, A CO, 52nd IN.

run and maintain. "We currently use two systems to provide clean water for cooking, drinking and laundry facilities" The only problem is that no one remembers who installed them.

With this information in hand the Civil Affairs Team and members of TF 4-11 set off to contact the manufacturer of these machines.

The first lead was a dead end as the original manufacturer; Sta-rite Inc. had sold the water filter division. But through the power of the internet and helpful folks back home the new owners were contacted. According to CPT Patrick Sheppard, Fire Support

Officer, A CO, 52d IN: "It is only through the improved security situation that these projects can precede. We hope to provide clean water to the residents of our area. This project will ultimately benefit all the citizens and local commercial enterprise in the Tigris River Valley."

TF 4-11 FA hopes to begin installing systems like this throughout the western desert regions of its Area of Operations. TF 4-11 Cdr, LTC Scott Wuestner stated, "I will consider our mission here a success if we can bring drinking water to villages that have never known clean water in a hundred years."



This machine and another like it provide drinking water to the 3rd Division (Iraqi Army) in Al Kisik.



IA Honored

By Sgt. Rachel A. Brune

The Mayors Cell and Task Force Thunder commanders honored local Iraqi Army soldiers for their role in suppressing a major insurgent threat.

Lt. Col. Scott Wuestner, TF 4-11th commander, and Col. James Grayson, 53rd FA Brigade commander, presented them with certificates and other tokens of esteem during a short luncheon at the dining facility May 6 here.

Brig. Gen. Ali, commander, 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division (Iraqi Army), commended his troops for their actions, speaking harshly against what he called the "black terrorists," as he refers to the anti-Iraqi forces.

The Iraqi soldiers enjoyed lunch at the dining facility as they listened to the remarks.

Sustainment Brigade NCOs cover miles in road march

By Sgt. Mitch Armbruster
207th MPAD

Q-West is quiet in the early hours before dawn. Just outside the 101st Sustainment Brigade area, Soldiers gather for a five-mile road march.

The darkness reveals a glow from the stars and chemlights placed on helmets and gear.

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake, the 101st SB command sergeant major, organized the event to give nearly 150 NCOs located on FOB Endurance the opportunity to talk and relate to each other during their deployment to Iraq.

Soldiers from the 101st SB and 71st Corps Support Battalion came together for a morning of training and got the chance to talk and share their experiences in Iraq.

The NCOs started the road march at 5:30 a.m. in the dark. Blake gave some Soldiers the incentive to be in the front of the pack by offering a coin to the first person to finish the event.

All of the NCOs participating in the road march took the time to help each other out and make sure their fellow Soldiers stayed motivated.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lori Simmons

Sustainment Brigade NCOs display the rocks they rucked on the NCO march.

"Road marches are mentally tough," said Blake at the start of the event.

All of the NCOs participating finished the event and some Soldiers in the group stayed together and took the time to talk and discuss issues, while others challenged themselves to be the first to finish.

"I've been doing the road marches since I took over," said Blake. "This is a good way to draw NCOs together."

Blake uses the road march as a tool to mentor and develop his NCOs while getting some physical training into a

busy schedule. Normally he walks with one or two Soldiers to get to know them and their needs.

He has rucked more than 100 miles with his NCOs and has his Soldiers add a rock to their rucksacks for extra weight. However, the rock has a meaning, as Blake explained to the Soldiers.

"You are all a part of something," Blake said. "You are NCOs moving mountains one rock at a time. Moving those stones, we all did it together."

Blake said the road march is a creative way to teach, coach and find out

about his Soldiers.

"I can't make decisions if I don't know my NCOs," said Blake. "I try to be inspiring. I truly believe in inspirational leadership."

Blake was trying to motivate the NCOs but more importantly, he wanted them to see they don't have to be defeated by distance or be stuck on e-mail. Soldiers can get information out in different ways and change is good, Blake explained.

"It was a good way to get NCOs together," said Master Sgt. Kimberly Heiss, a platoon sergeant with the 454th Transportation Company.

Heiss felt NCOs rallied around the idea of a road march dedicated to the NCO corps.

Sgt. 1st Class Vernon White, an assistant truck master with the 725th Transportation Company felt the road march was motivating and nice to see the other leadership together for an event.

"It all came together," said White.

"Slow down and stay focused," said Blake to the NCOs. "You don't know how much I truly appreciate what everybody brings to the fight."

Maintenance Soldiers service Area 51

By 1st Lt. Edward Bouldin
317th Maintenance Company

The 317th Maintenance Company assumed responsibility for Q-West Base Complex's Area 51 Mission on 16 November 2005 and has been doing an excellent job ever since. In doing so, the company has assumed a large part of the FOB's Force Protection role which encompasses the Third Country National (TCNs) from countries as far as Africa and Contracted Local National (LNs) holding Area 51. The mission of Area 51 is to provide a central point for all support personnel to enter and exit QBC.

Upon entry into QBC, LNs and TCNs are processed through the Entry Control Point (ECP). Their identification and cargo is verified and inspected for contraband such as weapons and alcohol. Once the vehicles are cleared they are guided into Area 51 where they are inspected by 317th Maintenance Company Soldier's. After the trucks are inspected they are placed into rows according to their time of arrival. While in the holding area Warrior Soldiers ensure all TCNs and LNs remain within the confines of the area and ensure there is no theft, violence, or use of contraband.

The Area 51 detail is broken down into three shifts of ten personnel. Each shift has a Sergeant of the Guard (SOG), Assistant Sergeant of the Guard (ASOG), and 8 guards. The Area 51 personnel train for three days on escalation of force procedures, identification of proper badges worn by LNs and TCNs, communications via SINGARS and ICOM radios, and cultural awareness prior to assuming duties.

Warrior Soldiers must be properly trained and courteous because for some of the TCN and LNs they are the first Americans they have met.

"We get TCN's from all over the world here; Africa, Turkey, Indonesia, and some of them have never seen an American," says SSG Williams, one of the SOGs at Area 51. "For the most part, the TCNs and LNs are impressed with the treatment they get from us. They mostly argue amongst themselves when ever there is any."

The guards allow the TCNs and LNs a chance to rest and relax prior to getting back on the road as



A forklift operator maneuvers a container into position during operations at the 317th Maintenance Company's Area 51 at Q-West.

well as perform random inspections of vehicles to ensure they have no alcohol, drugs, pornography, or stolen fuel. During these searches if contraband is found it is confiscated and reported in the log to BDOC.

The contraband is turned into the Movement Control Team and they dispose of it. "One of the biggest things is stolen fuel and objects used to steal fuel because it is so cheap here in this country," says SSG Williams. To date, the Area 51 Personnel have been instrumental in the recovery of more than 2,000 gallons of stolen fuel and over 48 alcoholic beverages and 20 pornographic materials and drugs.

Another duty of the Area 51 personnel is to provide food and water to the personnel residing in the yard. At anytime, between 70 and 100 TCNs and LNs can be seen receiving meals and beverages from the guards.

In conclusion, the Warrior Soldiers of Area 51 provide a huge service to FOB Endurance and for the TCNs and LNs. They have been very helpful in the identification of contraband and prohibited items entering the FOB and fostering good relations with the drivers and the Soldiers.

664th supplies the force

By Sgt. Dylan Shaw
664th Ordnance Company

ASP Scorpion is the northernmost ammo supply point operating within the Iraqi theatre. It is just one of a large network of ammunition operations that ensure that both American and Iraqi troops have the necessary munitions to provide force protection and counterinsurgency operations on and off Q-West Base Complex.

The 664th Ordnance Company Detachment arrived in Iraq in October 2005 and after a quick handover of responsibility from the 163rd Ordnance Company, an Army Reserve unit from California, began to shape ASP Scorpion into an efficient, customer-driven undertaking.

Supplying two divisions and some separate brigade-sized elements with Class 5 munitions can be a daunting task especially considering that the Detachment has 44 soldiers. The unit provides its own 24-hour on-site security as well as managing day to day operations, making them basically a stand alone unit. The detachment's soldiers include a handful of combat veterans but the majority of its members are straight out of AIT.

The unit's Soldiers have taken pride in improving the look and layout of ASP Scorpion by painting the concrete barricades, re-stenciling sand faded signs, and establishing a permanent staging area for outgoing ammunitions.

Recently, stationary lights were installed on each storage pad for night operations and gravel was brought in to cover the dirt and mud brought on by the recent rainy season. The acquirement of a new 4,000 lb. forklift allows ammunition to be manipulated in the confined spaces of earth covered bunkers.

The 664th's motto, "One Team, One Fight" exemplifies the cohesiveness of the detachment and it's dedication to serving customer units. Whether providing ammunition for a major offensive or issuing a case of ammo for a platoon sized qualification range, this is one detachment proud to be doing their part for the whole.

454th Trans. raises the "steaks"

By Spc. Richard Vogt
138th MPAD

Soldiers of the 454th Transportation Company own the roads when the stakes are high. They are responsible for logistical movements of supplies in northern Iraq. They sometimes like to up the ante and raise the 'steaks.'

"I'll buy you a steak and cook it for you if we get hit by an IED and it stays there," said Spc. David Haynes, driver, challenging Spc. Jonathan Haslop, gunner.

The 'it' in question was a steak that someone placed on the vehicle bumper before the convoy began. The 454th was bringing fuel from Q-West Base Complex to Forward Operating Base Warrior.

It is a mission they are familiar with because they do it often. It is also an unpredictable mission. On this trip, Haynes and Haslop rode with assistant convoy commander Sgt. Isaiah Loar.

"We pretty much live on nicotine and caffeine when we're on the road," Haynes said. "But we love being out there. I like the job, the responsibility of keeping everyone safe and making sure nobody gets hurt. I'd rather be out here doing this than be anywhere else."

Haynes said that he joined the military for the excitement which he found in his current job. He said he plans to extend his tour in Iraq with five of his friends in the company, including Haslop.

"I like to push myself and see how much I can do," Haynes said. "If I didn't join then I wouldn't know."

"It's a great job," Haslop said. He joined the military two-and-a-half years ago after deciding that he needed to do it. He is on his second tour in Iraq and said that he likes the camaraderie.

"I'd rather be on the road eating MREs [meal, ready-to-eat] rather than eating at the DFAC [dining facility] and staying on the FOB [forward operating base]," Haslop said. "I hate the safe jobs. It's a constant adrenaline rush. My last tour we got hit with IEDs over 200 times."

Haslop was involved in a huge fire-fight on Easter Sunday in OIF II.

"I don't remember flipping the S.A.W. [squad automatic weapon] off safe," Haslop said that his instincts took over when things started getting crazy.

These Soldiers are trained for it, starting with the convoy commander, who is the Soldier responsible for everyone and everything in the convoy. It is a demanding job because convoy operations can be unpredictable.

On this convoy, one of the trucks got a flat tire outside the wire. On the return trip, a tow bar broke in a tight turn. A convoy commander never knows when something will happen.

The company made a bonfire while waiting for the fuel to be off-loaded. They traded jokes and told stories of their adventures, making the bond between each member even stronger than it was. They let the fire burn down and then mounted up for the drive back and some much-needed sleep. The steak, by the way, made it back to base.



Photo by Capt. Dustin Adams

Local leaders and businessmen listen to Vice Governor Kherso's remarks.

Area Security Councils stand up

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Arneson
4-11th FA

QAYARRAH, Iraq – With little fanfare and no trumpeting of horns the Iraqi Civil Government has taken over the responsibilities of the Coalition Forces in the Tigris River Valley area of Nineveh Province.

The Regional Security Council meetings were held once a month on the nearby Forward Operating Base (FOB) Q-West and were hosted by CF. Now; the new Area Security Councils (ASC) take place in such diverse areas as the ruins of the ancient city of Hatra, a former fort known as the Star Palace and in the Cities of Mahkmur and Qayarra.

These new ASC's have become an Iraqi-led meeting that deals with the issues of daily life in this mainly agricultural area of Northern Iraq. Gone are the contentious issues of security that no longer plague this mixed Sunni Kurd area and instead the focus is on

such items as cooking gas distribution, high school exams for seniors, and continued expansion of electrical infrastructure and water filtration systems.

With the focus no longer on security, Karach City Mayor Barzan Said Kaka recently suggested the official focus of the meetings be changed to an Area Services Council since improving services to their area was now a priority.

This sentiment was echoed by the Mayor of Qayarra Mayor Saleh Hassan Ali during his local ASC that coincided with the opening of a new District Iraqi police station, "Congratulations to all of us for the formation of a new Iraqi Government.

These sentiments were shared by BG Aziz, the Qayarra District Chief of Police, who praised the cooperation that led to this day when meetings of this type were held on the open streets of his city and other areas.

Fathers' Day? This team can spend it together ...

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Heiss
454th Transportation Company

It all started in 1973, at that time a young man by the name of Robert Duncan joined the United States Army. He served as an aircraft mechanic, stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Army was a lot different back then and Private Duncan was up for the challenge.

Married at the age of 25, he and his new bride decided to start a family. Then soon after his beautiful daughter Jessica was born. Priorities changed and Robert decided he would finish his active duty tour and join the IRR.

Three years passed by and Robert decided to make the military a part of his life again. This time around, he decided to join the Army Reserves. "Once a soldier, always a soldier" he said. His new duty station was with the 706th, located in Mansfield, Ohio. Sgt Duncan served proudly from 1981-1996 as a cargo handler, and after 15 years of service he tucked his BDU's back in the closet, thinking that would be the last of his military career.

In 2002, a Duncan was back in uniform, however this time it wasn't him but his daughter Jessica. Jessica joined the Army reserves, following in her fathers footsteps and hoping to attend college after basic training. On November 1st, 2003, plans changed for Jessica when she was involuntarily transferred to the 847th personnel support battal-



Photo by Master Sgt. Kimberly Heiss

Sgts. Robert and Jessica Duncan, a father-daughter team with the 454th Transportation Company.

ion and activated for deployment in support of OIF 2. Jessica served her tour in Kuwait as an airport liaison officer.

"I'm glad I had the opportunity and the experience. I learned a lot about myself and what I was capable of doing," Spc. Duncan said. Before her tour was over Spc. Duncan was promoted to Sergeant, this made her father very proud.

It was difficult letting my daughter go, especially off to a foreign land Robert Duncan remembers. But, I knew she would do a good job and make me proud. Jessica safely returned home in January of 2005.

Then the call came once again, Sgt Jessica Duncan was off to Camp Atterbury, IN for her current units deployment. This time Robert Duncan was reluctant to send his daughter off alone. "You go, I go" he says. After being out of the military for 10 years he decided it was time to come back in. In September of 2005 he did just that, he joined the 454 Transportation Company, out of Delaware, OH. He soon caught up with his little girl in Camp Atterbury, where they trained together on convoy operations.

November 15th 2005, the Duncan's arrived in Kuwait, then off to Iraq soon after. Currently they both serve at Camp Endurance, located in Northern Iraq. Sgt Robert Duncan serves on CLP's (combat logistic patrols) while his daughter Sgt Jessica Duncan serves as an Operations Sergeant.

SGT Robert Duncan is glad to be back in the saddle again, serving in OIF 4 with his daughter. "I'm very lucky to have a daughter like her, she makes me very proud" SGT Robert Duncan said. SGT Jessica Duncan is no longer walking in her father's foot steps, their taking those foot steps together.

FUN

Sunday

QBC Unplugged Coffeehouse 2000

Monday

Tournaments Galore!

Tuesday

Acting Class 2000

Wednesday

Salsa Lessons 1900
Guitar Lessons 2000

Thursday

Tournaments Galore!

Friday

Alternating Country & Hip Hop Night
2100

Saturday

Flea Market 0800-1600
Alternating Karaoke & Latin Night 2100

Need something to do?
Come on by MWR!

FITNESS

Sunday

Take a break!

Monday

Abs & Core Conditioning 0530
4-Week Weight Training Program 1000
Spinning Class 1600
Dynamic Abs 1700
Cardio Kickboxing 1800
High Impact Step Aerobics 2000

Tuesday

Extreme Abs & Core Conditioning 0530
Yoga & Mat Pilates 1900
Abs & Glutes 1800 & 2000
Spinning Class 2000

Wednesday

Abs & Core Conditioning 0530
4-Week Weight Training Program 1000
Spinning Class 1600
Dynamic Abs 1700
Cardio Kickboxing 1800
High Impact Step Aerobics 2000

Thursday

Extreme Abs & Core Conditioning 0530
Yoga & Mat Pilates 1900
Abs & Glutes 1800 & 2000
Spinning Class 2000

Friday

Abs & Core Conditioning 0530
4-Week Weight Training Program 1000
Spinning Class 1600
Dynamic Abs 1700
Cardio Kickboxing 1800
High Impact Step Aerobics 2000

Saturday

Abs & Glutes 1800
Yoga & Mat Pilates 1900
High Impact Step Aerobics 2000
Spinning Class 2000



A Soldier's Reflection...

By Spc. Logan Wood
584th Maintenance Co.

COB SPEICHER, Iraq - In the Army, one of the few luxuries we are often afforded is the ability to spend the type of quality time our families deserve.

With our work schedules and frequent deployments, some of us have grown to find that kind of family feeling from the people we associate with on a daily basis.

I have had the pleasure of working in my unit's motor pool. For most of the Soldiers I work with, this is our first deployment.

Therefore, a lot of the experiences that we go through, we only have each other to turn to. When a casualty occurs or a wife or husband cheats, we often only have each other to turn to for some comfort.

I don't think anyone really knows how important they really are to someone or to a group of people until they have experienced having everything they love taking away from them.

I feel lucky that I have fellow Soldiers who are great men and women whom I can confide in and share my experiences and pain with. I recently got married to the woman of my dreams, but I realize that I have spent the better part of my first year of marriage with the crew of Soldiers I work along side of in the motor pool.

We all have problems or demons that we most confront on a daily basis. When I think back on the time that I spent on COB Speicher and the trials and



Spc. Logan Wood confers with a fellow mechanic.

tribulations that not only myself but the personnel of my company went through and overcame, I am filled with a sense of pride.

For some of us, we came out here as complete strangers to one another, and when we finally leave we'll leave as a family.

Leadership: 142nd commander pushes the initiative

By Spc. Yolanda Moreno Leon
138th MPAD

MOSUL, Iraq -- Every commander in the United States Army has a different approach when it comes to managing their own units.

Some like to have a "tight fisted" control, and others let their junior officers and enlisted have more independence and control in the performance of their duties.

For Lt. Col. Ronald Green, 142nd Corps Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, and native of Fairfield, Ohio, his unique leadership style pushes junior enlisted Soldiers to take the initiative very early in their young careers.

"I believe that people will rise to the occasion, rise to what the expectations are," said Green. "If you expect them to be mediocre, than that's what they will be."

According to Green, every Soldier in my unit will have the opportunity to run a rock drill, which is completed before convoy missions. They stand in front of everyone and they ask us the questions.

"They can call on officers, senior enlisted, whenever they need to, to get the question answered," he said. "These young Soldiers have to know how to take over a mission; you never know what can happen outside the wire."

Green said these Soldiers are acting two or three grades above their pay level, and he is very blessed to have such a diverse unit that wants to get the job done.

"Here we have a group of people that have come together, and they are



Lt. Col. Ronald Green prepares to take the first trip in the new Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer June 14.

energized, and we have some great leadership from the bottom up," said Green. "We work as a team; nobody can win this war by themselves.

According to Green, nobody can be successful in this Army by themselves; it has to be a team effort.

"To see it in action, to see it in the eyes of a private first class who stands up, and acts as if he is the sergeant major of the Army, briefing with all the confidence, and all this confidence in the world is great," said Green. "I am here to make these young Soldiers the best they can be."

OFF THE WIRE: News from the American Forces Press Service

Zarqawi's death plunges Al Qaeda in Iraq in disarray

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press

BAGHDAD, June 15, 2006

– Al Qaeda in Iraq is in disarray and confusion following the death of its terrorist boss, and the Iraqi government is moving forward quickly to provide security for its capital city, coalition officials said today at a news conference.

Army Maj. Gen. Bill Caldwell, a coalition spokesman, said Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's death June 7 helped set the conditions for a huge step forward in the security picture of Iraq.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced the beginning of Operation Together Forward yesterday. Iraqi forces are leading this operation and it is designed to cripple or shut down the terrorist network in and around Baghdad, officials said.

Iraqi soldiers and police are operating traffic-control points, rolling roadblocks, cordon-and-knock missions, and many other tac-

tics to find and capture or kill insurgents who target innocent Iraqis.

Coalition forces are participating in some operations, but are mostly acting as a quick-reaction force to be called on if needed.

Coalition officials are pleased with the speed Maliki is demonstrating in his effort against terrorists.

"The people of Baghdad are sick of the terrorist strikes in the neighborhoods and streets," said a Multinational Force Iraq official. "The Iraqis are getting results."

Since Zarqawi's death June 7, there have been 452 Iraqi and coalition operations, Caldwell said.

The vast majority of the operations, though, were Iraqi-only (143) or coalition-Iraqi combined operations (255). The operations netted 759 anti-Iraqi forces and killed 104 terrorists. The patrols also uncovered 28 arms caches.

An official with Multinational Division Baghdad said it amazes him

that officials are still finding so many weapons caches more than three years after the operation that toppled Saddam Hussein.

"Of course, the entire country was one large arms cache," he said. "And we're not finding new weapons. But there is enough of the old to keep everyone busy."

Zarqawi's death allows Operation Together Forward to be even more effective than planned. The operation's intent is to disrupt terrorists in Baghdad, Caldwell said.

"Removing the personal threat of Zarqawi disrupted the Al Qaeda network," he said. "This forced the terrorists to reshuffle their leadership, dislodging them from their quarters leading in to the capital. These factors alone have set the conditions for Iraqi security forces to establish the foundation for unity, security and prosperity for the people of Iraq."



AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE

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Country Time!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Duga

Country singer Toby Keith stands in the "air gunner's" hatch of a Stryker Brigade Combat Vehicle. Keith performed for Soldiers and civilians May 31 on Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq, as part of a series of shows for the troops throughout the theater.



Photo by Sgt. Julie Nicolov

Toby Keith performs an acoustic set with guitarist, Scott Emrick, at Camp Victory, Iraq, May 17. Part of the concert was broadcast on the 40th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards show.

"Never Forget:" Site Dedicated to Pentagon's Sept. 11 Victims

By Sgt. Sara Wood, USA

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 15, 2006

– In a solemn ceremony under sunny skies, the ground that nearly five years ago was the scene of a catastrophic attack was today dedicated to the memory of those killed.

Senior Defense Department leaders, Cabinet members, members of Congress, family members, friends and Pentagon employees gathered for the ceremony to mark the start of construction on the Pentagon Memorial, which is being built at the place where hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We remember all who hallow this ground - the passengers of American Airlines Flight 77 and the men and women, military and civilian, who worked here and quietly and capably served their country," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said at the ceremony. "Today we claim this ground for them, for their families, and for the brave servicemen and women who have volunteered to go out to meet our nation's enemies and to keep our country safe."

The Pentagon Memorial, which is set to be completed in 2008, will cover a two-acre site and will contain 184 illuminated benches representing each of the people killed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, with lighted reflecting pools beneath each bench.

Jim Laychak, president of the Pentagon Memorial Fund and whose brother David was killed in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, said today's ceremony repre-

sents a high point in years of work to make the memorial a reality. "Today marks a positive outcome from a tragic day," he said.

Today's ceremony is also about remembrance of the victims, Laychak said. He said he will remember the way his brother laughed and hugged, and the bond they shared.

"That's what will become the essence of this place," he said. "It will be a place for remembering our loved ones."

Abraham Scott, whose wife, Janice, a budget analyst, was killed in the Pentagon attack, said he remembers his wife's fun-loving attitude and her love for children. If she could have seen today's ceremony, she would have been overwhelmed, he said.

"I think she would be extremely elated," he said, choking back tears. "She would be happy and proud of the work that all of us are doing today to keep their memory alive."

When family members of those killed here on Sept. 11 return to the completed memorial, they will be flooded with memories, not only of loss, but also of love, laughter and happy times, Rumsfeld said. That is the reason this memorial is being built, and will be the most important thing it will accomplish.

"This memorial was meant for you, to offer some comfort," Rumsfeld said to the attending family members. "We have talked over the years and now you can know that we will never forget."

The memorial will also serve as a reminder to any-



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley, USN

The memorial stone is unveiled at the site dedication.

one who would attack the U.S., Scott said.

"I think that this will prove to the terrorists that we will not bend to their will," he said.

During the ceremony, Rumsfeld, representatives of the Pentagon Memorial Fund and the memorial designers unveiled an inscribed memorial marker stone. The stone reads: "We claim this ground in remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001 to honor the 184 people whose lives were lost, their families, and all those who sacrifice that we may live in freedom. We will never forget."