

JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
 Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

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Vol. 1, Issue 18

Soldiers, Iraqis provide educational future to children pg. 12-13

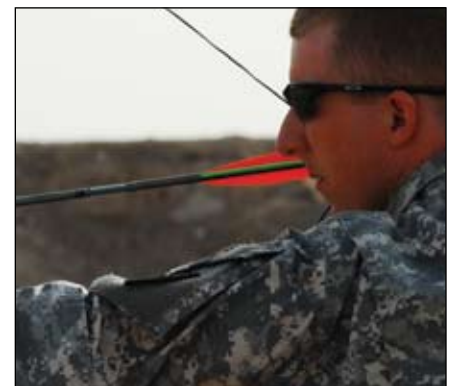


Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

A Soldier with the 7th Sustainment Brigade hands out sandals during a visit to the Al Ashyabb school Sep. 25 at Al Fawaz, Iraq. The 7th Sust. Bde. and citizens of Al Fawaz joined forces to expand the schoolhouse from a two-room mud shack to a six-classroom, and two-office building with a garden area.

**SoAF visit
Balad Airmen**

See page 5



Adder holds first archery tournament

Servicemembers unite through ancient form of marksmanship

See page 9

Balad honors Hispanics

Servicemembers come together to remember and honor Hispanic culture during Hispanic Heritage Month

See page 17

Iraqi Army logisticians, U.S. sustainers participate in 5th IA logistics conference

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

KIRKUSH MILITARY TRAINING BASE, Iraq – Iraqi Army logisticians and their Coalition partners gathered in an Iraqi Army logistics conference in Kirkush, Iraq, Oct. 8.



Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., Col. Therese O'Brien, commander of the 55th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Fort Belvoir, Va., and

Brig. Gen. Steven L. Salazar, the commander of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, attended the conference to provide advice on procedures and training for vehicle repair and Class IX, repair parts, for the Iraqi Army's supply system.

Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers filled every seat and lined the walls of the room as the conference began. Brig. Gen. Munaam, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Iraqi Army, opened the conference and discussed several recent issues.

According to Munaam, instead of issuing or installing new engines, 3rd line maintenance companies have repaired 257 humvees, preventing the IA from spending more

money. Munaam also gave guidance to 5th IA leaders that push packages, a set of generic parts, were available at the Taji National Supply Depot, but would not have everything to meet the 5th IA's requirements. Munaam said that \$10 million in humvee parts would be purchased in the near future.

Munaam also addressed the group about accountability for the vehicles. After vehicles were destroyed or deemed non mission capable, the vehicles would be transferred out of the inventory. There were previous problems when vehicles were not on modification tables of organization and equipment or MTOEs. In one example Munaam used, out of 87 vehicles, 86 were not accounted for.

To solve the problems of accountability, Munaam said each division would have its own internal committee to review the packets transferring vehicles out of the inventory. He gave the divisions 30 days to account for the vehicles and get them out of the inventory before the joint headquarters would collect the packets, making the process last approximately two months.

Munaam addressed the problems occurring with lack of operator maintenance of the vehicles causing engines to break down. Munaam referred to an incident when Munaam

See **KMTB**, Page 15

PMO Blotter: 27 Sept. – 2 Oct.

UXO Found at Incinerator Pit: A KBR Contractor notified the Security Forces of a UXO discovered in the incinerator pit. Fire and EOD were dispatched. Upon arriving on scene, EOD determined the UXO to be an empty shell casing.

Barment Issued: An FN contractor was issued a barment from JBB for violation of MNC-I policy.

Possible G01 Violation: Security Forces Patrols were dispatched to the distribution mail center for report of suspected G01 Violation. Upon arrival and investigation it was determined that no violation had occurred.

Medical Emergency: Security Forces Patrols were dispatched to the report of a medical emergency. A Soldier was determined to be having a seizure and was transported by EMS to the AFTH emergency room for further treatment.

Damage to Government Property: A Soldier reported to Security Forces damage to her assigned government vehicle. After exiting the DFAC from lunch, she noticed the rear window of her vehicle was shattered and a three inch long scratch on the hatch of the vehicle.

Unwanted/unwarranted Verbal Gestures: A Soldier reported to Security Forces that she was approached by four Ugandan Guards. The guards began to touch and verbally accost the Soldier. The Soldier struck one guard in the face and departed the scene to inform her chain of command. Due to the lack of illumination, the Soldier was not able to give a detailed description of the suspects.

Suspicious Package/Letter: Personnel within Bldg 9210 reported to Security Forces of a suspicious letter at their location. SF Patrols arrived on scene with Fire and EOD. EOD personnel performed precautionary tests of the envelope. It was determined that the letter posed no threat to Coalition Forces.

Found Property: A civilian entered building 7168/Eagle's Nest to turn over personal belongings discovered at Bus Stop #2. Security Forces received the property and placed it into safekeeping until notification of the owner could be made.

Damage to Personal Property: A civilian entered building 7168/Eagle's Nest to report damage to personal property. He further stated that upon exiting his quarters at 0800, he noticed the back window of his vehicle was smashed out. A report was completed and the complainant was advised to inform his chain of command and report back to building 7168 after 72 hours for a copy of the report.

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:

NIPR- 443-8602

SIPR- 241-1171

Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

LEGAL ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

3^d ESC Military Justice Report

In a General Court-Martial convened this month, a Soldier was found guilty of two specifications of Possession of Child Pornography.

- Soldier pled guilty to subscribing to a child pornography website and possessing child pornography.
- Soldier received a Bad Conduct Discharge.
- Soldier received 10 months confinement.
- Soldier received reduction from E7 to E1.

Sustaining the Line!

LEGAL ALERT

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

18 OCT 2008

3d ESC FLIPL Report

2 Soldiers charged for lost NVGs

Item	Description	Action	Cost
NVG	Soldier lost his NVGS one hour after conducting a sensitive items inventory	Soldier Charged	\$1,949.10
NVG	Soldier dropped his NVGS while at the ice point. When soldier retraced steps to find his NVGS he found them on the ground crushed.	Soldier Charged	\$1,614.50
AN/PSN-13	After conducting a sensitive items inventory, they discovered that a NAV SET/AN/PSN-13 was missing.	Loss to government	\$2920.78
PEQ-15	Soldiers mounted PEQ-15 on a crew weapon system on a BGT(Big Gun Truck). PEQ-15 was believed to be jarred loose and lost due to rough terrain and multiple speed bumps throughout the route	Loss to government	\$1,418.00

AC of S G4
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
DSN: 318-433-2023

Sustaining the Line!

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

INTEGRITY

Do what's right, legally and morally.

*"The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."
— General Norman Schwarzkopf*

ARMY VALUES

ARMY STRONG.

OPERATION SUSTAINER STRONG 2008

Reenlistment with the 3^d ESC Commander
Brigadier General Michael J. Lally

Operation Sustain Strong

Veterans Day – November 11th 2008 – Joint Base Balad

Open to All
Active, Reserve, and National Guard
Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen
assigned to the 3^d ESC
and Joint Base Balad

For More Information,
Contact your Career Counselor or Retention NCO

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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371st Sustainment Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
20th Engineer Brigade
55th Sustainment Brigade
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
CJSOTF-AP
76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
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Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

Sustainers partner to restore clean water production for towns in southern Iraq



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Christopher J. Gauthreaux

An Iraqi worker sands one of the reverse osmosis water purification system's tanks during refurbishment at Al Fawaz, Iraq. The project was spearheaded by Chief Warrant Officer Christopher J. Gauthreaux, a civil affairs officer with Fort Eustis's 7th Sus. Bde.

by Sgt. R.J. Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

AL FAWAZ, Iraq – A team effort between the 3rd ESC's 7th Sustainment Brigade, the Department of State's provincial program manager, and local Iraqis helped restore clean water production, to several villages and tribes in Dhi Qar province, Oct. 1.

Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Gauthreaux, a civil affairs officer from Fort Eustis's 7th Sust. Bde. and Charles Thomas, the provincial program manager for Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces for the Department of State, spearheaded the Summer-long civil infrastructure project.

The project came to the attention of the team earlier this year when local shaykh reported a number of Al Fawaz villagers were getting sick as a result of consuming water from an existing purification system. Starting in late July, Gauthreaux and Thomas teamed up to organize the purchase of parts necessary to completely refurbish the existing reverse osmosis water purification unit and upgrade it with an overhead delivery system.

It was a "total refurbishment. We replaced all (the) filters, cleaned and painted the entire system," said Gauthreaux. "Most importantly, an overhead delivery system was installed. Prior to this, a 4,000 gallon water truck was filled with a garden hose in order to distribute water to the villages in need.

This process generally took about three to four hours. Now, they can do it in about 15 minutes. Also, the fact that this project was a refurbishment was much cheaper than what it would have been to install a new unit."

The project has done more than purify water - it has revived the spirits of the grateful villagers.

"Before the project was done, the Al Bedur had to boil the water and people were getting sick," said Thomas. "Now I hear they are in good shape and are very happy."

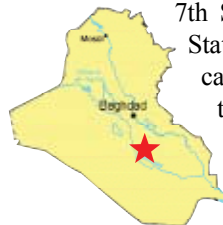
Thanks to the refurbishment of the ROWPU and the installation of an overhead delivery system upon it, "over 3000 inhabitants, including five tribes will have fresh, uncontaminated drinking water," said Gauthreaux.

As an added benefit, the project was finished with a top-of-the-line membrane filter.

"The membrane filter is the most critical part of the reverse osmosis system, as it filtrates 99 percent of the bacteria and solids that affect the water," said Gauthreaux. "Basically, if you place salty, bacterial infected water under approximately 800 pounds per square inch, what comes out is filtered water."

In the end, the project employed 12 local Iraqis and took 45 days to complete. The system will require two employees to maintain.

The project was financed by Iraqi Commanders Emergency Response Program funds and cost approximately 40 million Iraqi Dinar or roughly one-sixth the cost of a total replacement of the ROWPU including an overhead delivery system.



'Hooah' Soldiers of the week



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Staff Sgt. Daniel Dobbs, an Houlton, Maine, native and information services supervisor for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected one of this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week."



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Warrant Officer Tameka Hall, Sanford, Fla., native and Class VII manager for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected one of this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week."

What I want to be

by 1st Lt. George Fowler

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – “I am in the military because my wife was in,” explains Spc. Marcus Tims, a supply specialist, from Little Rock,



Ark.

Tims' wife was deployed with the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2003, shortly after giving birth to their child. Tims, a civilian at the time, was able to take care of their child while she went to Iraq. “I wanted to change the roles and be the one to deploy while she stayed back to raise our children,” said Tims.

Tims enlisted in the Arkansas Army National Guard as a supply specialist and has enjoyed his career so far.

Not only is Tims in the National Guard, but he also works full time for the Arkansas Army National Guard doing...yep, supply. He is an interior manager for the state, helping mobilizing units get all their necessary equipment, managing all the ammunition for units, and also the clothing accounts.

“I give a lot of credit for my military success to Sgt. 1st Class Mizell,” a native of Monticello, Ark. and the 1123rd Transportation Company operations sergeant, said Tims, “He is like my military father figure.”

Currently, Tims is deployed as a supply specialist with the 1123rd Trans. Co. at Camp Taji, Iraq, and is attached to the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, an Indiana Army National Guard unit, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

After returning from his current deployment, Tims wants to become a supply warrant officer to continue his military career, both in the National Guard and on the full-time side.

When not providing supplies for others, Tims enjoys spending time with his children, A'nyia and Marcus, Jr.; visiting his parents; “fixing up” his cars; and playing basketball.

His little brother, Keith, is looking to follow in his footsteps, both in his love for basketball and in joining the military. Tims explains, “I am trying to be a positive example for him, especially in loving what I'm doing and doing what I love.”

Hard work for 101st

by 2nd Lt. Latoray Washington

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - With five and a half months down and several more to go, Charlie Detachment, 101st Financial Management Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, has not lost sight of their mission.



Over this past quarter, there have been lots of improvements and achievements for the Commander's Emergency Response Program cell and the Commercial Vendor Services office.

The CERP cell has made major improvements in the workplace. Where there was once just an open space with no distinction and not much storage space, there is now a friendly office environment - complete with counters to separate the staff from the customers. This change has greatly improved the atmosphere of the workplace.

Sgt. 1st Class Osama Omari, a paying agent, said “I love the new counters. It makes it look more like an office.”

Another paying agent, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Kerns, added, “I like the counters. It gives it some separation between the customers and the office personnel.”

Creating an office friendly work space is only one of the many improvements within the detachment. The CERP cell has also taken the time to update all old files and organize the office and business for future references. From rearranging the container which stores all the old files, to updating the processes in the workplace. You name it, they have done it.

Last month, Staff Sgt. Mark Rich, a quality assurance non-commissioned officer and native of Miami, conducted an inspection on 1st Lt. Parris Watson, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, and 2nd Lt. Latoray Washington, a native of West Helena, Ark., that ended with an all green marks for internal controls.

In addition to the needed improvements, three Soldiers were recognized with promotions.

Charlie Detachment will continue to make a big impact over the next several months as the look forward to completing the mission and returning home.



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Al Iraqiya reporter, Hasan Abd Rahman Nima, interviews Mohammed Hassan Mahmood, Ad Dujayl mayor, during the Iraq media day, about the Sept. 12 VBIED attack and the progress being made to repair the affected areas and to prevent future attacks of this type from happening.

Iraqi media tours Ad Dujayl VBIED site

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

AD DUJAYL, Iraq – Members of the Iraqi media toured the site of a recent vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack that took place in downtown Ad Dujayl on Sept. 12.



The tour was a part of the Iraqi media day held, providing the Iraqi media opportunities to interview Ad Dujayl key leaders, merchants, and local citizens and about the economic growth, effects of the VBIED, and to publish the opportunities and progress of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone. With this, the Iraqi media will have the opportunity to better communicate the information to an Iraqi audience.

Hosting the media during the tour were members of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, who provided security and overwatch of the Ad Dujayl area and VBIED blast site.

“My guys, do they shoot artillery? Yes. Do they walk the streets here and patrol just like light infantrymen? Absolutely. But at the end of the day, the most important thing that makes a difference here is treating the population with dignity and respect,” said Lt. Col. John Dunleavy, commander of the 2-320th.

“The largest weapon we have in this country is not a gun truck or a MRAP, but when a Soldier gets out of his humvee and walks the streets and talks to the local population.”

Attending the Media Day were media outlets that included Salah ad Din TV, Al Iraqiya-TV, Reuters and Biladi TV. While on the tour, these outlets were able to speak with local citizens and leaders about the VBIED attack and the progress IBIZ has made to the local area.

“Being able to visit this area will give us the opportunity to reveal the good and bad about the people, our government, and if our government is doing the right thing for the people,” said Al Iraqiya-TV reporter Hasan Abd Rahman Nima, through an interpreter. “We want to reveal the big picture of what's going on in the area to the people so that they get the full idea of things.”

During the event, Muhammed Hassan Mahmood, mayor of Ad Dujayl, spoke to media members about the progress his town has made since the attack and the steps the town has taken to continue the progress.

“Many people lost jobs in the attack and we're just wanting to help them make repairs to the area and get their businesses up and running again,” said Mahmood. “The I-BIZ project with the Coalition Forces has helped the area in getting more progress and a better life.”

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Secretary of the Air Force meets Balad Airmen, discusses AF's goals

by Senior Airman Thomas Trower

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley visited Joint Base Balad Oct. 13 to learn about the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's contributions to the Global War on Terrorism and to share his vision for the future of the Air Force.

Airmen throughout the 332nd AEW showcased their capabilities during a tour that included the Air Force Theater Hospital, the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron, the 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron and a segment on how Airmen live in Iraq.

"What an honor it is to be serving back with you in the world's finest Air Force," Donley said, referring to his past service as acting Air Force secretary in 1993. "You are on the front lines of the war, and you have become one of the premiere wings in the U.S. Air Force."

Donley addressed the Air Force's top five near-term priorities: reinvigorate the Air Force nuclear enterprise; partner with the joint and coalition team to win today's fight; develop and care for Airmen and their families; modernize the aging air and space inventories; and reclaim its acquisition excellence. He said the best way to accomplish these goals and recapture the Air Force's long-standing reputation of excellence is to return to basics.

"We have to maintain precision and accountability across the board, not just in the nuclear mission," he said. "Just because we're at war doesn't mean we don't follow the technical orders or the checklists. I think that if we get back to the Air Force core values - integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do - and we live those core values every day, we're going to be just fine."

The 22nd secretary of the Air



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Lisum

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley presents a quilt to Marine Cpl. Zhenya Killeen during a visit to the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Oct. 13. Killeen was injured while trying to prevent damage to a snatch block on a wrecker truck. Surgeons could not save his ring finger but did save the rest of his hand. Killeen is deployed to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines Motor Transport Company, from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Force said he is often asked what the Air Force provides to the current conflict, and he always gives the same answer - one that is focused on airlift and air refueling; special operations; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and aeromedical evacuation.

"As I watch the deployment pattern and visit with the Airmen out here in the theater, I know that the Air Force is 'all in' fighting the GWOT," he said.

The secretary said he reminds people of the "air bridge," which the Air Force provides through its airlift and air refueling capabilities, allowing Servicemembers to carry out their missions.

"That air bridge is a national asset that we sometimes take for granted, but it underpins essentially what our global capability is all about," he said. "The expeditionary nature of today's military depends on this air bridge and air tanking capability."

In addition, Air Force special

operations forces have fought alongside warfighters from other services since the earliest phases of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom here, Donley said. The special operations Airmen have played a key role in ensuring America's ability to conduct precise and effective airstrikes at any time and place without warning.

He praised Airmen for successfully integrating air, space and cyberspace capabilities to make unmanned aerial systems a powerful force multiplier above the battlefield.

"It's such a tremendous capability - it didn't even exist 10 years ago - but you have taken on this new technology and figured out how to network it all together," he said. "That's the biggest eye-opener I've seen in my days in theater: the extent to which the United States Air Force, a service that has always relied on technol-

ogy throughout its history ... has figured out a way to network all these capabilities to provide joint warfighting capabilities that the United States never had before. And you have built it all in just the past five or 10 years. My hat is off to you."

The AFTH and its accompanying aeromedical evacuation operation have also played a key role in the survival of Servicemembers across the battlefield. The AFTH, the equivalent of a Level one trauma center in the United States, sees more than 335 patients per month, including coalition Servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and Iraqi citizens.

"You are operating the most capable and seamless (aeromedical evacuation) system we've ever had," Donley said. "From the point of injury, to this great hospital at Balad, all the way back home - the survival rates in this conflict are higher than they have

been in any previous conflict, and the time it takes to get wounded (Servicemembers) back to the United States is shorter than it has ever been."

Visiting Joint Base Balad and other locations in theater has been an eye-opener, the secretary said.

"All of the positive things I've been able to convey about the Air Force's contributions to the GWOT have not only been confirmed but multiplied tenfold," he said. "The contributions you are making to the joint fight are essential in every way I can possibly think of."

The contributions are based in part on Air Force technology, but more important than the technology is the Airmen who use it to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace.

"What makes the technology work is the people - it's you who take the equipment and figure out not only how to maintain and sustain it, but how to take it to its most effective level of performance and how to integrate it into other capabilities," he said. "Integrating capabilities across our missions and functions in the Air Force is one of the most important competencies we employ in the joint fight, and you do it very well."

The secretary finished his Airmen's Call with kudos for the 332nd AEW. After telling numerous people about the wing's successes in Iraq, he said he feels confident taxpayers are getting their money's worth.

"If the American people understood what it takes to undertake these global operations, they would have a better understanding of all the contributions that you are making, and I'm determined to make sure they will learn more about the role that you are playing out here," he said. "I'm anxious, now that I have seen firsthand what you are doing here, to go back and speak to your families, congressmen, senators and everyone who will listen about the great job you are doing."

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d ESC Public Affairs Office for scheduling.
E-mail Lee.Fowler@iraq.centcom.mil

WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

SUNDAY 7:30 A.M. AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
 9:30 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL
 10:30 A.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 11 A.M. CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
 5:30 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 7:30 P.M. AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

SUNDAY 11 A.M. MWR EAST BUILDING
 NOON FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 12:30 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 7 P.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9 A.M. MWR EAST BUILDING
 10:30 A.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 2 P.M. CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
 8 P.M. EDEN CHAPEL
 7 P.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 8:30 P.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 WEDNESDAY 8 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 11 A.M. LUTHERAN-PROVIDER CHAPEL
 3 P.M. EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN GILBERT CHAPEL (H-6)

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)

PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL

PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M. CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN. PRIOR TO MASS)
 SATURDAY 5 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 8 P.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 SUNDAY 8:30 A.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 11 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL
 11 A.M. AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
 MON-SAT 11:45 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL
 THURSDAY 11 A.M. AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
 MON,WED,FRI 5P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL
 FRIDAY-HOLY HOUR 7 P.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

SUNDAY 1 P.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL
 3:30P.M. FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
 7 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY 6 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 SATURDAY 8 A.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
 6 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M. EDEN CHAPEL

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M. EDEN CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL
 SUNDAY 4:15 P.M. GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL

EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M. PROVIDER CHAPEL ANNEX

**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*



Who: Former members of all our Armed Forces on Joint Base Balad

What: Participate in interviews for the 3rd ESC's Voices of Veterans Project

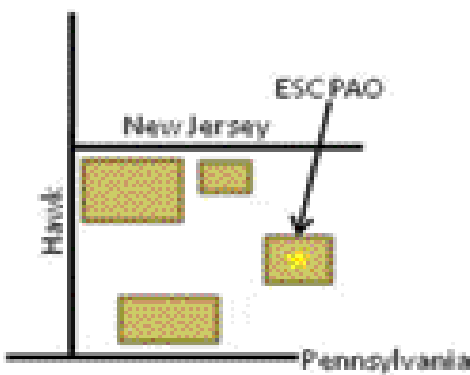
Where: BLDG 7508, 3rd ESC PAO

When: Every Monday, 6 October thru 3 November - 1100-1300 hours

Why: We appreciate your service and want to hear your story!

- Where did you serve?
- What units were you in?
- What lessons do you have for today's Servicemembers?
- Do you have a VFW or Legion Post you want to say hi to?

"We'll have a cup 'o Joe waitin' for ya!"



Contact: ESC PAO @ 433-2412 or 483-4608 or escpao@iraq.centcom.mil



30 years under the hood, Tibbs still good

by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Expeditionary Times staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sometimes, you meet a Soldier and can tell from the get go, just by looking them over, they have been around the block a few times; they have been there and done that - a lot. At six foot one, he is a slender looking man with hands that have had their share of nicks and cuts. In general conversation he is soft spoken with a very outgoing and pleasant personality and seems very interested in the Soldiers he talks to. But from across the small courtyard in his office complex, you can hear him laugh with a booming voice, as most first sergeants learn to develop.



After arriving in Iraq, 1st Sgt. James E. Tibbs, from Company D, 113th Forward Support Company, whose current duty assignment is the Logistic Training and Advisory Team senior - enlisted maintenance advisor, 1st Sustainment Brigade, was reassigned to support the third line maintenance shop in Taji as the senior NCO. With his three decades of maintenance experience, the U.S. Army tasked him to help the Iraqi Army set up a monumental undertaking of developing and implementing a training plan that involves maintenance on all vehicles and equipment at the maintenance shop.

More than 37 years ago Tibbs, from Corydon, Ind., joined the Army before he was drafted into the military. Like for most teenagers of the day, Vietnam was calling, and he wasn't sure what to expect. He soon found out he would grow up faster than he thought.

"The biggest thing was enlisting in September of 1971," said Tibbs. "With a very low draft number of 15, I figured I was going (into the military) one way or another. I was 18 years old, just out of high school,

still young and immature. The Army gave me direction, discipline and within months of graduation, I went from being a standard Kentucky teenager, to a Soldier in the United States Army. I had to grow up fast."

His interest was in electronics and mechanics. Tibbs knew that with training the military would provide, he could use the skills as a civilian when his enlistment was up. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test showed his mechanical potential was higher than in electronics, so from the beginning, he seemed destined to become a mechanic.

Growing up in Kentucky, Tibbs was shipped off to Basic Training at Fort Knox, Ky., and following his trip to Fort Jackson, S.C., for his Advanced Individual Training, Tibbs was sent to Korea to be a wheeled vehicle mechanic. Having never traveled far from home as a young man, he was unfamiliar with the different cultures in the U.S. much less in another country.

"I spent 13 months working as a 63B in a motor pool at Camp Casey, Korea," said Tibbs. "I had just graduated high school and had not been out of a five state area my whole life, never mind out of the country. It was a very maturing experience to say the least. Being in a different country, with a different way of life was quite an experience," he said.



1st Sgt. James E. Tibbs
Logistic Training and Advisory Team

"I feel I am making a difference and am able to give some of my knowledge and skills to the Iraqi Army Soldiers"

Tibbs headed back to Ft. Knox after Korea and after his enlistment was up, he wanted to try his hand at being a civilian mechanic, as he had planned, and opted to separate from the military. It wasn't long until he realized his calling was the military, and after four years as a civilian, he was looking for a way back in.

"I got out of the military thinking I could do better, and I was doing alright," said Tibbs. "I guess the bottom-line is I missed it. Needless to say, I was only in the civilian world for a short period

of time, and then it was back into the military."

Returning to active duty would have meant him going from a sergeant to a private first class. Not wanting to lose the rank and pay, Tibbs turned his attention to the Indiana Army National Guard in New Albany, Ind., which would allow him to keep his E-5 status and continue working in the motor pool as a mechanic. The following year, Tibbs was fortunate enough to receive a full time civil service job as a mechanic in the same motor pool that he now runs.

"I have been in the military 33 years in September," said Tibbs. "I spent a total of 6 years on active duty and 27 years in the Indiana Army National Guard. I will have 30 years total time in October of 2009 as a dual status (military technician)."

The first crucial steps of setting up a plan

in Taji, Iraq, included developing standard operating procedures; a safety program; and creating a partnership with the Iraqi Army's deputy commander of third line, Lt. Col. Ishaan, to mentor him on the day to day operations of a maintenance shop.

"I am very proud to have been chosen, along with nine other Soldiers, to help stand up one of the first LTATs in Iraq," said Tibbs. "We are laying the ground floor for the Iraqi Army to become self reliant, and for the U.S. military to be able to draw down out of Iraq someday. I feel I am making a difference and am able to give some of my knowledge and skills to the Iraqi Army Soldiers at the maintenance facility here. Even though there are language and cultural barriers, we are Soldiers helping Soldiers as 'One Team, One Fight' and we are getting the job done."

This deployment is quite a bit different from his first deployment to Korea, which had not been in a war for 20 years. Now, he is in the country fighting for its survival while the Iraqi Army becomes self-reliant and sustains itself logistically in the largest third line wheeled vehicle maintenance facility in Iraq.

"This has been a great experience and one that has enriched my life and ... has taught me a thing or two," said Tibbs. "As they always say, 'You are never too old to learn something new,' even at this old man's age."

After returning from Iraq, Tibbs plans to get the unit back together, functioning and training as a Forward Support Company. Tibbs also plans to retire from his technician job next year, but he is still unsure if he will stay in the Army National Guard.

"I am 55 years old so I have another five years I could stay in the military until my mandatory retirement," said Tibbs. "The best part of being a first sergeant in the Guard is being able to take all I have learned over the last 33 years, and use it to help train, guide and mentor Soldier into being the best they can be, whether they are

Hoosier Guardsmen receive Purple Hearts, Combat Action Badges

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Members of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team personal security detail received the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge during a ceremony at the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters at Joint Base Balad Oct. 1.

The Soldiers, who serve as the security detail for 3rd ESC leaders, received the awards as a result of their actions during an improvised explosive device attack during a movement from Camp Speicher to JBB in June.

Receiving the Purple Heart and CAB during the ceremony were Staff Sgt. Stephen Vance, an operations noncommissioned officer and La Porte, Ind., native and Spc. Brent Crouch, a St. Paul, Ind., native and PSD gunner.

Both Soldiers received the award commonly referred to as "the award no one wants, but everyone respects," as a result of injuries sustained from the blast.

"When I was pinned with the Purple Heart, it was probably the most emotional day of my life," said Vance. "I'm really fortunate that this is one of the instances where this award wasn't given out posthumously."

During the ceremony, Spc. Andrew Ault, Spc. Joshua Caston, and Spc. Timothy Nance received the CAB for their roles in the IED attack. The CAB is awarded to Soldiers actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement.

"Receiving the CAB makes me feel proud," said Ault, a Medora, Ind., native and PSD team driver. "It was the proudest day of my life."



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Members of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team personal security detail are congratulated for receiving the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Action Badge during a ceremony at the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) headquarters at Joint Base Balad. The Soldiers received the awards as a result of their actions during an improvised explosive device attack on their convoy from Camp Speicher to JBB in June.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw.

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade, presents Iraqi Army Col. Abdulhafidh Nsayf Jassim, commander, 3rd Motor Transport Regiment, a brigade coin as a token of U.S. and Iraqi partnership. Col. Jassim said that he considered the coin a medal for all of his Soldiers and appreciated the support from U.S. and coalition forces.

Sustainers partner to revamp Iraqi warehouse system

by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
16th Sustainment Brigade

AL KASIK, Iraq — Soldiers from the 574th Quartermaster Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment

Brigade, are training Iraqi Army Soldiers on warehousing procedures as part of a logistics training assistance team here.

“When we got here you needed a shovel to find parts,” said Sgt. 1st

Class Josie Martinez, LTAT non-commissioned officer in charge, 574th Qm. Co. “Now we have set up a system to track parts.”

Martinez and his team of three have spent the last four months establishing a warehousing system for Class IX, repair parts, with the Iraqis. The team, along with its Iraqi counterparts, has sorted out nearly 7,000 pieces of equipment.

“It was a mess,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Jean-Louis, logistics assistance trainer, 574th Qm. Co. “Now, all storage has a label and location identified and it’s almost to U.S. standards.”

The Port-au-Prince, Haiti, na-

tive said that working alongside the Iraqis is very rewarding.

“Getting them to be self-sufficient has been priceless,” said Jean-Louis. “What we are doing is very important because without class IX, nothing moves.”

The Soldiers’ work has not gone without notice from the Iraqi Army leadership on base.

“The U.S. Army has been excellent in helping us get parts and organizing them,” said Iraqi Army Col. Abdulhafidh Nsayf Jassim, commander, 3rd Motor Transport Regiment. “As a result of their work, the maintenance has done very well.”

Sustainers treat burned Iraqi boy, spread goodwill

by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

16th Sustainment Brigade

HABUR GATE, Iraq — Medics from Logistical Task Force Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, treated an Iraqi child at the aid station here Oct. 6.



The boy, who had suffered second-degree burns to his chest and abdominal area, was brought to the clinic by his father who works at the Habur Gate customs yards.

“I’ve always had a soft heart for kids,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel De Luna Jr., aid station noncommissioned officer in charge, LTF-A. “So I told him that we would help out his son.”

The father, who lives more than an hour away from the base, drove back home to pick up his son.

“The kid was scared, but his dad was right there calming him down,” said Spc. Jayson Clark, medic, LTF-A. “We gave him a stuffed teddy bear and he really took to it and stayed pretty calm.”

Clark, a native of Kalamazoo, Mich., cleaned and dressed the wound the young Iraqi boy got after reaching for a pot of boiling water and knocking it over.

“We see a lot of burns with the kids here,” said Clark. “With kids in the states, it’s ‘a- kid-jumps-off-the-couch-and-bumps-a-knee,’ here it’s burns.”

After the medics treated the child, they taught his father how to clean and bandage the wound so it will heal properly.

“We gave his father a 5-day supply of medicine so they wouldn’t have to keep driving that long distance,” Clark explained. “Normally we would want to see them every day with a burn like that.”

Clark has been an Army medic for two years but has also served as an emergency medical technician for seven years between the Read City and Kalamazoo fire departments in Michigan.

Clark said he joined the Army as a change of pace and wanted to do a little bit more.

“I like what I’m doing here,” said Clark. “People talk. The Iraqis go back and say that the Americans are taking care of them and the word spreads. In time, the people realize we’re not the bad guys.”

Shout Out from home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the Expeditionary Times newspaper.

Contact the 3^d ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

MNF-I
TFSAFE
Check CHUsdays
MNF-I
TFSAFE

Each Tuesday Check The Following In Your CHU

- ✱ Power strips are free of debris and clothing
- ✱ Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
- ✱ Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
- ✱ Smoke detector is operational
- ✱ Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
- ✱ Room is neat and orderly

This Simple Act Could Save You, Your CHU and Your Buddy Too

Soldiers come together to compete in COB Adder Archery Tournament



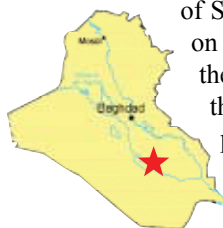
Photo by Pfc. C. Evann Harbison

An aerial photo of the archery tournament as shooters stand at the line on COB Adder, Iraq.

by Pfc. C. Evann Harbison

7th Sustainment Brigade

COB ADDER, Iraq – In the early hours of Sept. 28, shooters stood on line, bows drawn, and their sights fixed upon their targets while competing in the Contingency Operating Base Adder Archery Tournament.



Usually, Servicemembers would only be able to participate in events like this in the United States, however, thanks to Capt. John Gray, the supply officer in charge of the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians located on COB Adder had a chance to learn a new sport and compete in a tournament for prizes while in theater.

The idea for the archery range and competition came to Gray in June of 2007. Gray, a member of an Internet hunting forum discussed this idea with other friends and enthusiasts when he was contacted by various members offering to sponsor him and his unit while overseas.

A mass e-mail was sent throughout the

lists of members telling them all of Gray's plans, and was quickly responded to by various websites and companies offering to donate supplies and equipment to their venture.

Tom Bennett and Roy Grimes, directors for the National Archery in the Schools Program, were also members of the Internet forum and offered to send Gray templates and instructional material to him in order to start teaching classes to the various Soldiers and DoD Civilians.

"To see the generosity of the outdoor community back home coming together to support the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines deployed to Iraq was amazing."

Capt. John Gray
142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Once the equipment arrived and the classes began, the students across COB Adder began taking up the sport on their own, asking various questions as to where they could find their own equipment and ranges back in the States.



Photo by Pfc. C. Evann Harbison

Capt. Shawn Sanborn, Financial Management Officer, 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, draws back for his final qualification shot during the COB Adder Archery Qualifications on September 28, 2008, Iraq.

"The volunteers who donated their time constructed a range for all skill levels. It was amazing!" said Capt. Shawn Sanborn, financial management officer for the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sus. Bde. "I have a new hobby thanks to Capt. Gray introducing me to archery."

A student and tournament shooter, Sgt. Joseph Moyer, personnel noncommissioned officer for the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sust. Bde. said that "The range was great, it felt like having a little piece of home right here in Iraq and it's definitely a morale booster for COB Adder. Also, the fact that

I got a chance to shoot in an International Bowhunting Organization world qualifier all the way out here definitely makes this an experience that I will never forget."

The archery competition took place at the new 3D Archery Range on COB Adder. Winners of their classes and subclasses were invited to compete in the 2009 International Bowhunting Organization World Tournament.

The winners of the hunter class, advanced hunter class, and bowhunter open each won donated hunting trips from members of the Internet forum, as well as camouflage.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Q-West 'Souq' opens dialogue between Sustainers and Iraqi provincial partners

by Sgt. Keith Anderson

16th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq

—As local Iraqis hawked their rugs, decorative glasses and garbs from tents and tables, area shaykh, municipal leaders, Iraqi police officials, Iraqi Army leaders and others from the Ninawa Province met with Q-West military leaders and U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction Team officials at a "souq" here Oct. 4.

In Arabic, a souq is a marketplace or bazaar, but also a neutral location to meet, trade and talk, and officials hold one monthly here.

"People overlook the importance of this," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Shanahan, event and communication noncommissioned officer in charge, Mayor's Cell, Q-West. "It is us doing our part to bring villages together for a stronger Iraq. They can talk about their issues and differences in a neutral setting."

"Here we make friends and share culture," said Taha Yusif, a translator on the base, and a former Iraqi Air Force air traffic controller. Yusif said there were several larger souqs held weekly in the province, but that this one was the only one where leaders could meet with U.S. Army officials to address regional concerns.

This souq was the first occasion for some provincial leaders to meet with the base's new command team, Col. Martin Pitts, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sustainment Brigade. The sustainment brigade from Bamberg, Germany, assumed authority here Aug. 9. It has command and control over Q-West and is responsible for sustainment operations throughout northern Iraq.

Mahmood Al Tabour, city council chairman for the nearby



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Col. Martin Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde, meet with leaders from the Ninawa province at the October 'Souq' on Q-West Oct. 4.

"It is us doing our part to bring villages together for a stronger Iraq."

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Shanahan
16th Sustainment Brigade

city of Qayarah, was one of the first to address Pitts.

Al Tabour, through a translator, reminded the colonel of previous agreements base officials had made, and asked for help repairing the pumps and water lines at the Qayarah pump house, to get more water to city residents.

"As long as we can get six hours of water per day, that'll be plenty for everybody to store," Al Tabour said.

Pitts told Al Tabour that four of the eight pumps were being replaced at the moment, and the remaining pumps would be replaced soon, and that the base was working with the Army Corps of Engineers and others to find a more permanent solution to the region's water shortages.

Other leaders addressed issues such as hospitals, schools, eco-

nomics development, and security concerns.

Local PRT representatives weren't surprised by any of the concerns addressed at the meeting, but said that the process was important, and that they looked forward to working with the 16th Sust. Bde. to address regional concerns.

"This is a meeting where the shaykh and leaders expressed once again the sentiments they've expressed for years," said Tim Knowlton, PRT outgoing leader. "The government of America is interested in Iraq becoming a fully-functional democratic society. It's important that we assist the legitimate and elected government through projects like the rule of law, good governance, and political and economic development."



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Spc. Robert Dennison, a Soldier from the Indiana Army National Guard, introduces himself to Camiran Hussein, a 24-year-old local Iraqi vendor at the October "souq" at Q-West Oct. 4.

After addressing the concerns of provincial leaders and sharing a lunch of chicken strips and rice, Pitts thanked everyone for coming out to the souq.

"We are glad to be here and

we are committed to the Ninewa province," Pitts said. "We are grateful for the great relationships we have, both on and off the base, and look forward to meeting with you again."

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Medical logistics Soldier receives battlefield promotion

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A member of the 551st Medical Company (Logistics) became one of the first medical personnel to receive the newly authorized battlefield promotions earlier this year.

Sgt. Terrence Holmes, a native of Branchville, S.C., and the noncommissioned officer in charge of a forward distribution team, was promoted from the rank of corporal to sergeant May 16 through the Army's one-year pilot program that was reactivated to reward Soldiers for extraordinary performance in a combat environment.

To qualify for a battlefield promotion, Soldiers must be serving in Iraq or Afghanistan for Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The program waives time in service and time in grade requirements for Soldiers in the grades of E-1 through E-5.

Holmes, who was promoted based on the recommendation of his brigade's command staff, was the only candidate chosen from a pool of 4500 applicants in his career field. Capt. Marc Welde, commander of the 551st MLC, said Holmes has been a great benefit to the company.

"When (the unit) deployed, we were short NCOs," said Welde, an Ogden, Utah, native. "Our distribution team in Al Asad needed an NCO, so Sgt. Holmes got an opportunity to shine."

Welde said during the first seven months of the 551st MLC's deployment, Holmes, a corporal at the time, outperformed some of his higher-ranking counterparts, successfully providing logistical support to the area's combat support hospitals and combat logistics patrols. Holmes and his four-Soldier staff met or exceeded demands despite being hundreds of miles away from any of his command's senior leadership.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eugene Jeffers, the senior-ranking enlisted member of the 62nd Medical Brigade, was part of the leadership that selected Holmes. Jeffers said when reviewing a Soldier's qualifications,

their performance should speak for itself.

"This NCO was performing a mission that was seventy-five percent more efficient than another Soldier who held staff sergeant rank," said Jeffers. "He had good time management, Soldier development, Soldier welfare . . . Every time we went to inspect (Holmes') office, his vehicles were squared away, his Soldiers and their rooms were up to standard and he was doing what he should. Conversely, some sergeants in similar position weren't doing half as much."

Jeffers pointed out that all of the Soldiers in theater are working hard, but that Holmes' efforts reflected what define leadership in the Army: the ability to provide purpose, direction and motivation.

"Ability is what you are capable of doing . . . (Holmes') performance was outstanding," said Jeffers. "Many people have the ability to do many things; Sgt. Holmes is an example of someone getting out and doing things."

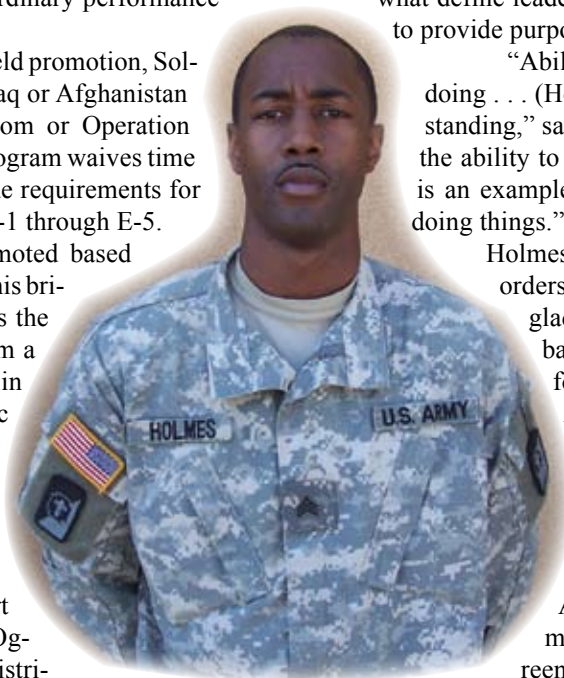
Holmes, who received his promotion orders through email, said he was glad the Army came up with the battlefield promotion concept. A former Marine who joined the Army in 2006, Holmes said the promotion didn't change his performance but served as motivation.

"Getting the battlefield promotion made me feel the Army could be a place for me," said Holmes, who recently reenlisted for six years. "I've had great opportunities and potential to grow within the Army."

Welde hopes Holmes' success will mean more opportunities for other Soldiers.

"He's a great example – Soldiers look at him and go 'Wow!,'" said Welde. "The Army has a regular progression of promotion, but when you go above and beyond and (perform) at a higher grade, you can be noticed. (Battlefield promotions) give Soldiers hope that they can be rewarded for their actions and not have to wait their regular time."

For more information on battlefield promotions, Soldiers should reference Milper Message 08-094 and/or contact their unit S1/G1 and first sergeant.



Sgt. Terrence Holmes

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service is the Department of Defense activity that is responsible for the disposal of scrap and hazardous property generated by DoD activities, as well as the demilitarization of equipment.

Disposal of any of this property by a means other than DRMS requires approval of the combatant commander and concurrence from the Defense Logistics Agency.

DRMO Balad is here to provide the deployed warfighter with a simplified reference for turning in DEMIL required, scrap and hazardous excess property on a DD form 1348-1 (Turn in Document). It will provide answers to basic questions and should be used in conjunction with the Defense Materiel Disposition Manual (DoD 4160.21-M), the Environmental Final Governing Standards, operations plans and service specific directives and instructions.

A list of all references, publications, and manuals can be found in the back of the customer service handbook located on the Joint Base Balad mayor's cell website. This handbook contains the basic information needed for a contingency operation.

NW
Corner
of JBB

Victory
Loop

DRMO

Hours of Operation:

Turn-In: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 08:00-17:00
Reutilization: Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday 08:00-17:00
Sundays Open by Appointment Only.

Location: Building 4255 North Victory Loop,
Phone: DSN: 312-661-7444 x6010

Email address: DRMS-ME Balad Personnel (DRMS-ME@dla.mil)
Additional details and information can be obtained from the DRMS website
at <http://www.dla.mil/default.aspx>.

"We want YOU" for 3d ESC's Operation Sustainer Strong

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – This Veterans Day, Servicemembers assigned to the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) have the opportunity to reenlist with the 3d ESC's commander, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally.

"Operation Sustainer Strong is the 3d ESC's way of saying 'Thank You' to all of our men and women in uniform who have made the decision to continue to serve and want to reenlist," Lally said. The event is

open to all Active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen serving at Joint Base Balad; or any Servicemembers at other bases who fall under the 3d ESC.

Lally said his command chose Nov. 11, Veterans Day, because it represented a perfect day to say thank you to the current generation of veterans.

He said the ceremony will be tailored to servicemembers reenlistment commitments and the 3d ESC and Joint Base Balad leadership are doing their best to make it an enjoy-

able and memorable event.

"I truly appreciate their service and if they want to continue to serve, I would be honored to swear them in," Lally said. "I highly encourage their participation so I can personally thank each and every one of them for their continued service."

Originally, Veterans day was known as Armistice Day and the day that marked the end of the "war to end all wars," or World War I. In 1938, the word Armistice was replaced with Veteran's and, in 1954, it became, by act of Congress, the day to honor American Vet-

erans from all wars.

"These men and women proudly serve and work hard to provide outstanding sustainment and distribution support to our Warfighters, day in and day out," Lally said. "They deserve our gratitude and we will provide a quality ceremony which recognizes their service."

For more information on Operation Sustainer Strong and how you can take part in this momentous event, please contact your career counselor or retention office for details.

School will Sustainment B



Iraqi leaders inspect the nearly reconstructed Al Ashyabb school Sep. 25 at Al Fawaz, Iraq.



An Iraqi flag flies in front of the nearly reconstructed Al Ashyabb school Sep. 25 at Al Fawaz, Iraq. The 7th Sustainment Brigade and citizens of Al Fawaz have joined forces to expand the school house from a two-room mud shack to a six-classroom, two-office building with a garden area.

be cool thanks to 7th brigade, local Iraqi leaders

Story and photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

AL FAWAZ, Iraq – While security continues to improve in southern Iraq, members of the 7th Sustainment Brigade continue to partner with local communities in Dhi Qar Province to increase civil capacity. An ongoing project to rebuild the Al Ashyabb School is scheduled for completion on Nov. 1 and is another step in the brigade's continuing effort to encourage goodwill and Iraqi empowerment.



The 7th Sust. Bde. dispatched its civil-military operations team to help facilitate the transformation of a two-room mud shack in Al Fawaz into a building featuring six classrooms, two offices and an area dedicated to gardening.

Through the Iraqi Commander's Emergency Response Program, the brigade helped coordinate the labor, supplies, and engineering needed to renovate the Al Ashyabb grade school. Local officials estimate about sixty students from ages 6 through 12 will attend the school. Children from Al Batha, a neighboring city separated from the school by the Euphrates river, are also being encouraged to attend. A bridge was constructed by the Al Batha city council to make traveling to school easier.

"This school has a really good structure and will motivate kids to come," said Chief Warrant Officer Chris Gauthreaux, the project purchasing officer with the 7th Sust. Bde. "Before, kids didn't want to come to school because the structure was made of mud and they were worried (the room) would cave in on them."

Gauthreaux said the school will be fully funded and have teachers provided, in accordance with a letter from the Dhi Qar provincial development reconstruction committee.

"This was funded by Iraqi money and we have Iraqi citizens rebuilding their country," said Gauthreaux. "When you see about a dozen military-aged males working for Iraqi dinar to rebuild the infrastructure of their community, it makes you feel good. They are so thankful to work . . . and I am happy that it is going towards a positive area."

Local resident Mohammad Al Zauhairi served as a contractor for the construction. He said working with military officials was a rewarding experience for himself and his community. Gauthreaux, he said, was especially helpful by being available to discuss what could and could not work.

"Through my work with the U.S. military, we learn from one another . . . how to design (and) be honest when doing a project," said Al Zauhairi. "Most times Chief and I are in touch with each other to solve problems. If I have issues, I can email him."

All the leaders were hopeful that the school would be considered for future projects, such as a soccer or basketball court. Al Zauhairi said the people would like to have somewhere to keep the kids and the teenagers busy, somewhere that would keep them from making or getting into trouble. Al Zauhairi finished his thoughts, saying it was a great thing for American forces to support his community.



An Iraqi flag flies near the former Al Ashyabb schoolhouse Sep. 25 at Al Fawaz, Iraq.



A group of Iraqi schoolchildren sit on desks during the reconstruction of the Al Ashyabb school Sep. 25 at Al Fawaz, Iraq.

Major efforts to keep Iraq's resources intact

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

AL ASAD, Iraq – To battle the monotony of a deployment in Iraq, many Soldiers rely on their hobbies as a source of entertainment. Soldiers have different hobbies but not many can say their hobby has helped improve the studies of the Iraqi environment.



Maj. Randel Rogers, the plans and policy officer for support operations for the 371st Sustainment Brigade, is also an environmentalist trying to take the steps necessary to preserve and protect the natural history and resources of Iraq.

Rogers, a Galloway, Ohio, native, with a Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Management from Ohio University, said he has been studying nature since he was four, when he picked up his first rock. Rogers has taken it upon himself to share this hobby with others in his unit by creating a four-page newsletter called Al Asad Au Natural, which details the different wildlife around Al Asad, Iraq.

"I've always been interested in nature and wildlife, and for about the last 12 years, I've been interested in bird watching, so it's natural that (I bird-watch) wherever I travel. It's a hobby that goes everywhere with you," said Rogers, a member of the Ohio Ornithological Society and volunteer naturalist for the Franklin County Metroparks.

"Coming to Iraq was exciting for me because it's a chance to see another group of birds that I wouldn't normally get to see at home," he said.

Rogers said he has seen more than 70 different species of birds since being deployed to Al Asad. In fact, Rogers carries a set of binoculars with him at all times to view birds. He has also traveled all over the world bird watching.

"I do a lot of camping and am currently trying to top the highest point in all 50 states," he said. "I did number 36 just before we deployed."

Rogers also uses his hobby to educate others

and promote awareness to the Soldiers and their Families in his unit. Rogers said the newsletter he creates allows family members back home to see things their Soldiers are seeing over here and it gives them a connection and something to talk about.

Rogers has helped to create a partnership between the society and Nature Iraq, an Iraqi non-governmental organization dedicated to the preservation of Iraq. He said the ornithological society has dedicated itself to raise funds for purchasing equipment and field guides for Nature Iraq.

"I really think this demonstrates the idea of building bridges between the American people and the Iraqi people and the common goals that we can work towards," Rogers said.

He said the members of the OOS have raised nearly \$1,000 to purchase field guides and equipment for Nature Iraq to use for its surveys of Iraq's important bird areas.

Rogers is also a dual status technician with the Ohio Army National Guard as the Assistant Superintendent for the Ohio Combined Support Maintenance Shop. He is also working on a master's degree in history.

Though being a Soldier is his primary mission here, Rogers has made it a priority to preserve the natural resources Iraq has to offer and teach Soldiers the significance of the environment they are currently living in.

"It is important to understand the environment and mitigate the impact we have on it to the extent that we can and still accomplish our mission," Rogers said. "If the land is worth defending, it is worth taking good care of."



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Write a "LETTER TO THE EDITOR"



- Likes/dislikes
- Changes
- Story ideas
- Base policies

- Soldier-related events
- Tell the CG your thoughts
- Serious inquires only



expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Combating deployment stress on front lines

by Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp

407th Air Expeditionary Group

ALI BASE, Iraq -- Stress comes in all forms and people deal with it differently. While deployed, people can have more stressors and if left untreated could lead to something more serious.



"All of us pay the price when we're deployed," said Maj. (Dr.) Bryan Davidson, officer in charge of the Combat Stress Control Clinic here. "People who've had multiple deployments are seeing more stress, and it can take its toll."

Post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, affects as many as one in six servicemembers, according to a Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program study released in February 2008.

PTSD results from an inability to process a traumatic or potentially traumatic event. Davidson said symptoms include being easily startled, reliving the event through things like nightmares, disturbing thoughts about the trauma and avoiding things that remind someone of that event.

Once military members return home, they can seek out local mental health specialists for help with PTSD, but finding help while deployed has sometimes proven more difficult.

"We want people to know that if they are continuing to have problems, there is help," Davidson said.

The Combat Stress Control Team here is available to talk to servicemembers having a difficult time while deployed and to ensure Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors can complete their wartime missions. Davidson noted that people who have experienced trauma are not guaranteed to have PTSD.

"We are a force multiplier," said Maj. (Dr.) L. Lynn Pauley, 732nd ESS Combat

Stress Control Detachment commander, whose team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and mental health technicians provides mental health care services throughout Southern Iraq. "By reaching out to troops, we can sometimes prevent stress reactions from becoming more serious psychiatric disorders. In our clinics, we can treat 98 percent of personnel and return them to duty."

PTSD differs from combat stress in duration and severity. Davidson, also a psychologist, said it is normal for people to have many symptoms of anxiety following something similar to a life-threatening event.

"Part of our job is to remind them that their reactions are to be expected. In combat stress, most people who experience traumatic events do just fine over time," he said.

However, there are a few who may be diagnosed with PTSD, and who after months or years have symptoms that are still severe enough to cause continued impairment in their daily lives, he said.

Combat stress is any stress associated with a deployment, not just stress associated with actual combat, said Davidson, who is deployed from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "In some ways, it might be better to reword our title to deployment stress control, especially now that we're seeing less action."

Pauley, a psychologist by trade, said prevention is half of the mission here, while the other half is outreach. A servicemember can visit the clinic to receive a personal assessment and counseling to help treat his symptoms. The outreach portion allows providers and technicians - Army and Air Force - to go to units for morale visits and give open-forum classes such as sleep enhancement and anger management.

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life for the (service members) here," Davidson said. Lack of sleep is a very big problem,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp

Maj. Laura Lien teaches a "One-Shot/One-Kill" performance enhancement seminar to Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Ali Base, Iraq, Oct. 13.

whether it's adjusting to the mission or just getting boots on the ground and adjusting to the environment.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chauncey Simms, an aviation boatswain mate (fuels specialist) at Camp Cedar, Iraq, said he and his co-workers know the impact of combat stress and participate in the classes offered when the team visits.

"When we sit through the courses, I notice a difference in how we interact with each other," said the Sailor, who is deployed from Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. "Considering where we are and the mission we're doing, I notice a big difference in their attitude and how they carry themselves. It was pretty bleak in the beginning, but now there's a better outlook on everything overall."

Simms said he's noticed a difference in himself, too.

"I wasn't really good at dealing with stress before, but now it's a lot easier to sit

and work on things instead of beating myself up," said Simms. "The combat stress team taught me ways of trying to get rid of that stress."

Pauley said people should not be afraid to seek help if they are facing challenges while deployed. She said a false "stigma" is sometimes created for those who see a professional.

"It keeps people from coming to see us and creates bigger problems in the long run. Plus, it blocks us from fully accomplishing our mission," said Pauley, who is deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. "The only ramification is when a troop waits too long to get help and shows up here ready to harm themselves or harm someone else."

If a servicemember thinks he shows signs of combat stress, such as trouble sleeping, irritability, anger or anxiety, Pauley said her team is available to assist anytime.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Faraj, a translator for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) translates an Iraqi colonel's comments to Brig. Gen Michael J. Lally (left) about complications with oil leading to non-usable engines in Kirkush, Iraq Oct. 8. Lally is commander of the 3d ESC based out of Fort Knox, Ky.

KMTB, from Page 1

and Lt. Gen. Adullah inspected 21 humvees in a division and discovered 14 without engine oil and seven without water in the radiators. Munaam mentioned the fact that, in 5th Division, 67 humvees need engines.

Munaam informed the commanders they would have access to 10 million dinars for vehicle parts. He advised the money be used in smaller increments, adding that larger requests would have a higher chance of disapproval. He told the commanders to be patient because it would take time to attain the funds.

Munaam also asked for commanders to take care of the equipment that is paid for with the funds provided. The room reverberated with the sound of laughter when Munaam spoke of an instance when parts fell out of a container when Munaam opened the doors.

After Munaam finished addressing the commanders, Iraqi leaders discussed all the matters addressed by the general. Lally and Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, the commanding general for the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, gave advice to the IA leaders, including recommendations on courses to help train the IA on logistics.

After the conference was dismissed, Col. Muhammed led Coalition Forces leaders on a tour to see the 3rd line Repair and Maintenance Company humvee and engine repairs, welding shop, carpenter section and recovery assets. The officers were able to see first hand how the maintenance on the vehicles had affected the engines and how the IA were working to improve the process.

Sustainer laundry specialists bring cheer to Warfighters

by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

16th Sustainment Brigade

COMBAT OUTPOST HEIDER, Iraq — Sustainers from the 137th Quartermaster Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, provide much needed services to 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers at COP Heider.



“We’re morale boosters,” said Spc. Armando Rodriguez, laundry specialist, 137th QM Co., a reserve unit out of El Monte, Calif. “It has gotten a lot better since we got here.”

Rodriguez, 22, from Los Angeles, is part of a five-man shower, laundry and clothing repair unit that takes care of the nearly 200 Soldiers at COP Heider.

“We made some changes from the last team that was here,” said Staff Sgt. Mario Carlin, SLCR team noncommissioned officer in charge, 137th QM Co. “We fold their clothes and we have a 24-hour turn-around time on laundry.”

The team is constantly dealing with the weather elements in Iraq. During the summer months they do laundry at night to stay out of the heat, and have to do maintenance every Sunday on their laundry equipment because of the dust.

“A couple of us have deployed before, so we have adjusted to the environment in order to complete the mission,” said Carlin.

The 36-year-old from Los Angeles said that his goal was to not only keep morale high on base, but to leave his mark with the Soldiers he served. “Leaving here with the 3rd ACR knowing that a reserve unit could do it as well as active duty Soldiers, that’s the ultimate goal,” he said.

1st Sgt. Patrick Van Hecke, first sergeant, Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, has noticed a difference from the last team that serviced the base.



Photo by Sgt 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

Spc. Armando Rodriguez, laundry specialist, 137th Quartermaster Co., a Reserve unit out of El Monte, Calif., checks for lint in the laundry advance system at Combat Outpost Heider, Iraq, Oct. 6. Rodriguez, 22, Los Angeles, Calif., is part of a five-man shower, laundry and clothing repair unit that takes care of the nearly 200 Soldiers at COP Heider.

“The last team I had was good, but these guys are getters,” said Van Hecke. “They are proactive and go out of their way and it’s a morale booster any time you have a group like this taking care of you.”

259 CSSB 55 SB 3 ESC Air Force

Native American Month 5K
November 8, 2008
Joint Base Balad, Iraq

When: 0600 November 8, 2008
Where: Holt Stadium

FIRST 450 finishers will get a T-Shirt!!

No registration required

Commemorative Prizes: Male and Female 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place.

POC:
SSG Narcomey, Adrianna
adrianna.narcomey@iraq.centcom.mil
or CPT Kee, Marvin
Marvin.kee@iraq.centcom.mil

Sustainers and JBB welcome USTRANSCOM commander



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Gen. Duncan McNabb, commander of United States Transportation Command, is briefed on the operational procedures at the Corps Distribution Center by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, during his visit to the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Joint Base Balad Oct. 15.

Joint Base Balad

The 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Command Chaplain's Office
Joint Base Balad Spiritual Fitness Breakfast
Date: 23 October 2008
Time: 0700
Location: The Oasis DFAC 1

Theme: A Community United;
Spiritual Fitness in a Joint Environment

Guest Speaker: MNC-I Command Chaplain
CH(COL) John P. Hash

3d ESC hosts Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Servicemembers across Joint Base Balad attended the Hispanic Heritage Month Luncheon, hosted by the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in the Audie Murphy Room at the Oasis Dining Facility Oct. 15 to recognize Hispanic American Servicemembers.

“This is to celebrate 40 years of Hispanic Heritage (celebrations) that was started under President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 and was expanded to a full month ... from 15 September to 15 October under President Ronald Reagan,” said Chief Warrant Officer Edwin Perez, the chief of strength management, personnel and awards for the 3d ESC and the master of ceremonies for the luncheon. “Under President Ronald Reagan, Hispanic Heritage Month became public law on 17 August 1988.”

The luncheon began with a brief welcome and the singing of the national anthem by Capt. Lisa Kopczynski, the Public Affairs Officer for the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and a prayer by Maj. Carlos O. Correa, the 55th Sustainment Brigade’s chaplain. After the prayer, the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s commander, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, and Maj. Carlos Hugo Morales, the deputy personnel officer for the 3d ESC and guest speaker for the luncheon, cut the Hispanic Heritage Month cake.

The guests enjoyed lunch and a slideshow depicting famous Hispanic Americans and their contributions to today’s society.

Morales delivered a few crowd-pleasing anecdotes before telling the audience



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Maj. Carlos Hugo Morales, the deputy personnel officer for the 3d ESC, cut the cake for the Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon held in the Audie Murphy room at the Oasis Dining Facility on Oct. 10.

why he believes he was chosen to speak at the luncheon.

“In my career, I have met many individuals from different countries that maybe, at the beginning, they joined our armed forces to better their life and that

of their families, or in some cases, they join the force to obtain citizenship,” said Morales.

“Regardless,” Morales continued, “when bullets start flying and when you know what hits the fan, in a heartbeat, we

know that these individuals, these warriors, will do whatever it takes to defend our nation - no matter what.”

He said that when combat logistics patrols are hit, it doesn’t matter what gender, race or color the person at our side is; we know we can depend on the person next to us.

“That to me is getting involved,” he said. “To serve and defend our nation.”

Morales was presented a certificate by Lally. Lally also presented the top three Hispanic Heritage Month essay contest winners with award certificates for their essays.

Maj. Andrew E. Montoya, the plans officer for the 3d ESC’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, won first-place in the contest. Spc. Leslie Maldonado, a member of the 356th Quartermaster Company, won second-place and Sgt. Abraham Huitz, a member of the 546th Area Medical Support Company, won third place in the contest.

“The purpose of the (essay) contest is to enhance the educational awareness by highlighting some of the achievements and contributions that many Hispanic Americans have made to this nation and our world,” said equal opportunity leader for the 555th Engineer Brigade, Staff Sgt. Casandra A. Arvizu.

Staff Sgt. Robert C. Lockert, the National Guard’s theater career counselor for the 3d ESC, sang “American by God’s Amazing Grace” by Luke Stricklin, followed by the closing remarks for the luncheon.

“I’m an American first, above race or party affiliation, and I’m very proud of my ancestry,” Morales said as he wrapped up his speech. “I am an American Soldier.”



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

97 new noncommissioned officers are inducted into the Corps

Soldiers raise their right hands and repeat the Noncommissioned Officer’s Charge during a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony on Joint Base Balad Oct. 15.

Medical task force awarded for excellence in retention

by 1st Lt. Chris J. Patterson

56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— As the saying goes, “Nobody manages your career better than you do.” While true in many regards, having a dedicated and knowledgeable retention noncommissioned officer certainly doesn’t hurt.

Staff Sgt. Audrey Ramos, retention NCO for the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, assisted numerous NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers in making informed decisions about their careers and lives; a responsibility that she takes seriously.

Because of Ramos’ efforts, the 56th MMB’s higher headquarters presented the 56th with the Retention Excellence Award for Operation Enduring Freedom 07-09. The 56th MMB Task Force commander, Lt. Col. Scott Putzier, presented the award to Ramos on behalf of the 62nd Medical Brigade’s commander and command sergeant major.

“I am very proud to present this award to Sergeant Ramos,” said Putzier. “Not only did she earn this award for herself, but she earned it for our entire task force. She really has done a great job.”

With multiple career options open to Soldiers, creating and signing a reenlistment contract is serious business. Ramos ensures each Soldier she reenlists has access to the latest options, bonuses or other



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel R. Stephenson

Staff Sgt. Audrey L. Ramos, Task Force 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion Retention Noncommissioned Officer, is presented the Retention Excellence Award for OIF 07-09 by Task Force Commander Lt. Col. Scott J. Putzier, on behalf of the 62nd Medical Brigade. Her efforts enabled TF56 MMB to far exceed the organic mission reenlistment rate for a unit deployed to a combat zone.

enticements, and it shows in her outstanding retention statistics.

The 56th MMB surpassed the organic mission reenlistment rate with a 128 percent overall mission success rate for Fiscal Year 2008. Since the unit first arrived to Iraq in November 2007, more than 1.5 million dol-

lars in bonuses have been awarded to individuals throughout the task force, with 110 total reenlistment contracts completed — a noteworthy accomplishment.

The key to a successful retention campaign, according to Ramos, is to champion the wishes of Soldiers, but to be honest and

upfront about the reality of their options.

“When Soldiers clearly understand their options, they can make better decisions and choices that they are ultimately happy with,” said Ramos.

In order to keep the Soldiers well informed, Ramos always strives to be as knowledgeable as possible on the ever-changing policies of retention. She attended the 40-hour Mobile Retention Training course to learn about the Army’s latest reenlistment initiatives, which she passed on to potential reenlistees while hosting seven retention briefings for 56th MMB NCOs and Soldiers.

In addition to hosting more than 100 memorable reenlistment ceremonies, Ramos assisted with the coordination of a mass reenlistment ceremony with General David Petraeus at the Al Faw Palace July 4th, 2008, where six proud 56th MMB Soldiers raised their right hands and extended their service.

Task Force 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., is a multi-faceted medical battalion providing medical logistics, blood support, combat stress control, preventive medicine and veterinary services throughout the entire theater of operations, with subordinate units and teams situated at various outlying sites. Their headquarters, based out of Joint Base Balad, is currently serving a 15 month deployment.

Servicemembers give for a cause



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command commander, sign their 2008 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas Pledge Cards together in the wing conference room, kicking off the Joint Base Balad CFC-O campaign. The CFC-O gives servicemembers the opportunity to donate to the charitable organizations of their choice, including local, national and international organizations that reach diverse groups.

POC: SSgt Cassandra Carter 443-7147

POC: YN2 Walker 443-6406

Operation Iraqi Freedom

RED TAIL 56

Open to all Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard noncommissioned officers

When: Every Thursday at 1700

Where: H-6 Recreation Center Theater

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Expeditionary Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

Wisconsin

- As people used to smuggle it in from Illinois, all yellow butter substitute is banned.
- State Law made it illegal to serve apple pie in public restaurants without cheese.
- While all cheese making requires a license, Limburger cheese making requires a master cheese maker's license.

Wyoming

- All new buildings that cost over \$100,000 to build must have one percent of funds spent on art work for the building.
- It is illegal to wear a hat that obstructs people's view in a public theater or place of amusement.
- Any person who fails to close a fence is subject to a fine of up to seven hundred and fifty dollars.
- You may not take a picture of a rabbit from January to April without an official permit.

Arizona

- Hunting camels is prohibited.
- There is a possible 25 years in prison for cutting down a cactus.
- When being attacked by a criminal or burglar, you may only protect yourself with the same weapon that the other person possesses
- If you bother the cottontails or bullfrogs, you will be fined.

Sudoku

Level: Medium

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

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

Last weeks answers

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

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Upcoming sports on AFN



Wednesday 10/22/08

NHL on Versus: Boston Bruins @ Buffalo Sabres, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN2 College Football: Ohio @ Temple, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Washington Capitals @ Calgary Flames, live 4:30a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 10/23/08

NHL: Dallas Stars @ New Jersey Devils, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 MLB: 2008 World Series - Game 1 Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 NHL: Edmonton Oilers @ Chicago Blackhawks (JIP), live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 FIM World Superbike: Brands Hatch - Race 2, tape delayed 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: 2008 World Series - Game 1: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: 2008 World Series - Game 1: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 10/24/08

ESPN College Football Primetime: Auburn @ West Virginia, live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 World Series - Game 2: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 NHL: Edmonton Oilers @ Colorado Avalanche (JIP), live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 AMA Motocross Lites: Millville, tape delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN College Football Primetime: Auburn @ West Virginia * 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, tape delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 2008 World Series - Game 2: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 2008 World Series - Game 2: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 10/25/08

NHL: New York Rangers @ Columbus Blue Jackets, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: ESPN Preseason: Washington Wizards @ Cleveland Cavaliers, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Boise State @

San Jose State, live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 NBA: ESPN Preseason: Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Los Angeles Lakers, live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA: Preseason: Denver Nuggets @ Los Angeles Clippers, live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Boise State @ San Jose State, tape delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 10/26/08

College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 2008 World Series - Game 3: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 90: Silva vs Cote (Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL), live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 Breeders' Cup World Championship, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
 2008 World Series - Game 3: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL: Week 8: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 NFL: Week 8: Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: Week 8: Teams TBD, live 10 p.m. AFN/sports
 NFL: Week 8: Teams TBD, live 10 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

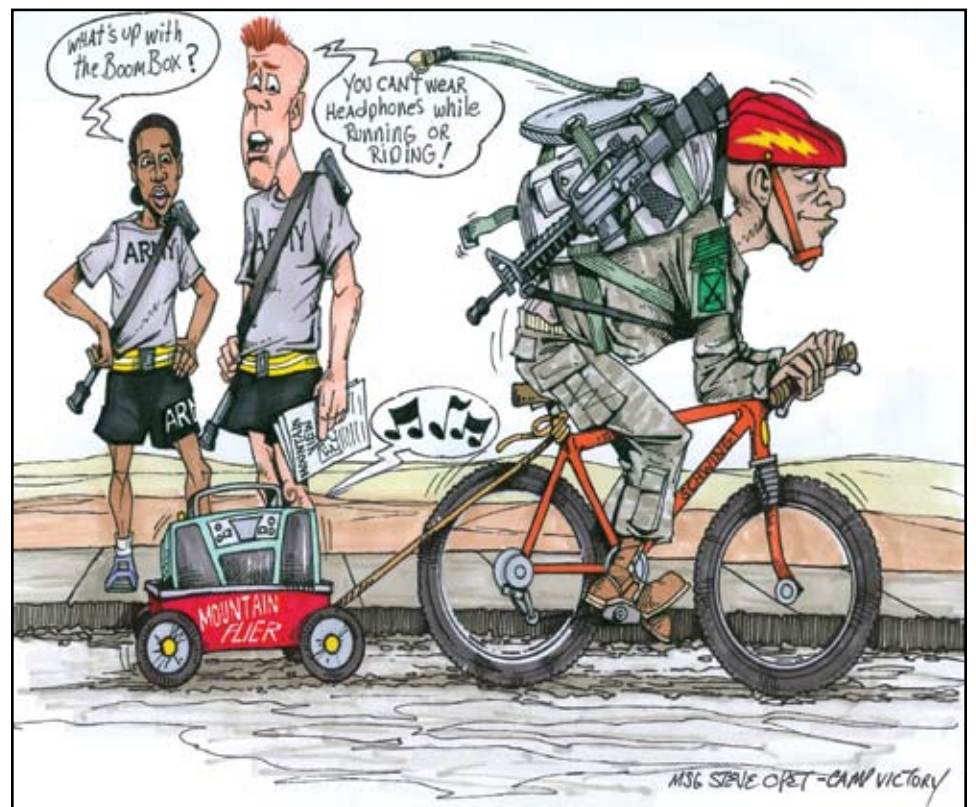
Monday 10/27/08

MLB: 2008 World Series - Game 4: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 ESPN2 College Football Primetime: UCF @ Tulsa, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
 UFC 90: Silva vs Cote (Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL), tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
 2008 World Series - Game 4: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
 UFC 90: Silva vs Cote (Allstate Arena, Rosemont, IL), tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
 MLB: 2008 World Series - Game 4: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 10/28/08

NHL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 8: Indianapolis Colts @ Tennessee Titans, live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NLB: 2008 World Series - Game 5: Teams TBD, tape delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
 NLB: 2008 World Series - Game 5: Teams TBD, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Iraq according to Opet



Then & Now of Balad

Sustainer Theater

by Maj. Timothy Horton

Expeditionary Times staff

I arrived here in late June of 2003 as the advance party of the 458th MCT, 3d COSCOM. The indoor theater that was eventually named "Sustainer Theater" was partially gutted and never used. The few folding seats that were left were broken; there was no movie equipment, and no double roof. The 3d COSCOM used the lobby as a reception area for ceremonies such as patch and coin presentations. Behind the indoor theater was an outdoor theater. It is still there and the movie concession and projector house is now "Sami's" restaurant. This is where commands would have movie nights and the Soldiers would bring chairs and MREs to watch whatever movie the unit had in its library. The illuminated screen made a picture perfect target for enemy mortars and we stopped doing that.

Then 2003

Now 2008



Gain a new perspective.

Own the Edge through Composite Risk Management, or CRM

<https://crc.army.mil>



JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Swim Lessons:
Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m.
Tue., Thu., Sat., -
6:30 p.m.
AquaTraining:
Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.

EAST FITNESS

CENTER

Open Court Volleyball:
Sunday- 6 p.m.
Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
5:30-6:30 a.m.
Yoga Class:
Mon., Fri.- 6-7 a.m.
Step Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
5:30 p.m.
Conditioning Training
Class:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 7:15-
8 p.m.
Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:

Mon., Wed., Fri.-
9-10 p.m.

MMA Training:
Mon., Wed., Fri.-
10-11 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics:
Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m.,
5-6 p.m

Edge Weapons & Stick
Fighting Combative
Training:
Tue., Thur., Sat., -
8-10 p.m.

EAST RECREATION

CENTER

4-ball tourney:
Sunday- 8 p.m
8-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m
Karaoke:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Swing Class:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Table Tennis:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.

9-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Night:
Thursday- 8 p.m.

6-ball tourney:
Thursday- 8 p.m.

Caribbean Night:
Friday- 8 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes
Tourney:
Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker:
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

H6 FITNESS CENTER

Spin:
Sunday- 9 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m.,
8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m.,
9 p.m.
Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m.,
9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.

Boxing:
Sunday- 4 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.

Boot Camp:
Sunday- 8:45 a.m

Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.

Power Abs:
Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.

Friday- 9 p.m.

CC Cross Fit:
Monday-Saturday-
10:30 p.m

Cross Fit:
Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45

a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.,
6 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m.,
3 p.m.

Sunday- 5:45 a.m.,
7 a.m., 3 p.m.

P90x:
Monday- Saturday- 4:30

a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.

12 a.m.

Soccer:
Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.

Yoga:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.

MCAP Level 1:

Friday- 8 p.m.

5 on 5 Basketball:
Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION

CENTER

Bingo:
Sunday- 8 p.m.

Texas Hold'em:
Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m.,
8:30 p.m.

8-ball tourney:
Tuesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.

Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.

Spades:
Wednesday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.

Salsa:
Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.

9-ball:
Thursday- 2 a.m.,
8:30 p.m.

Karaoke:
Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

Dominos:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Darts:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

WEST RECREATION

CENTER

Green Bean Karaoke:
Sun., Wed., 7:30pm

9-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m.

Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Foosball tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Jam Session:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m

8-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m

Guitar Lessons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m

Game tourney:
Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Enlisted Poker:
Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Officer Poker:
Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Squat Competition:
Saturday- 8 p.m.

WEST FITNESS

CENTER

3 on 3 basketball
tourney:
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6 on 6 volleyball
tourney:
Friday- 7 p.m.

Aerobics:
Monday, Wednesday,
Friday- 7 p.m.

Body by Midgett Toning
Class:
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.

Dodge ball Game:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

Furman's Martial Arts:
Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m.

Gaston's Self-Defense
Class:
Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m.

Open court basketball:
Thursday- 7 p.m.

Open court soccer:
Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m.

Zingano Brazilian Jui
Jitsu:
Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, October 22

5 p.m. Traitor

8 p.m. Disaster Movie

Thursday, October 23

5 p.m. Bangkok Dangerous

8 p.m. Body Of Lies

Friday, October 24

2 p.m. College

5 p.m. The House Bunny

8:30 p.m. Quarantine

Saturday, October 25

2 p.m. The House Bunny

5 p.m. Quarantine

8 p.m. College

Sunday, October 26

2 p.m. Quarantine

5 p.m. College

8 p.m. The House Bunny

Monday, October 27

5 p.m. The House Bunny

8 p.m. Quarantine

Tuesday, October 28

5 p.m. Babylon A.D.

8 p.m. College

(Schedule is subject to change)

Movies This Week

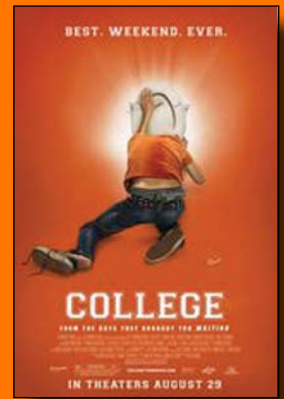
Quarantine



Jay Hernandez, Jennifer Carpenter, and Johnathon Schaech star in this remake of Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza's successful, Spanish-language horror film [REC], which follows a television reporter and her cameraman as they fall under a mysterious quarantine issued on an inner-city apartment building. Television reporter Angela Vidal (Carpenter) and her trusty cameraman (Steve Harris) were documenting a night in the life of a Los Angeles fire station crew when the firefighters were summoned to a nearby apartment building to answer a routine 911 call. Upon arriving at the scene, Angela and company discover that police have already arrived to investigate the blood-curdling screams ringing out from one of the apartments. One of the women living in the building has been infected with something terrible, but what? When a few of the other residents are viciously attacked, they try to escape and discover that the CDC has quarantined the building. The officials in charge won't relay any information to those trapped inside the building, and it's impossible to seek information from the outside since telephone, Internet, television, and cell-phone access have all been cut off. By the time the quarantine is lifted, the intrepid cameraman's chilling footage provides the only evidence of the horrors that unfolded on that terrible night

College

After his girlfriend dumps him, high-school senior Kevin (Drake Bell) does not feel like attending freshman orientation weekend at Fairmont University, but his pals (Andrew Caldwell, Kevin Covais) drag him along anyway. Once there, the teens hook up with members of the rowdiest fraternity on campus, who introduce them to the college party scene, as well as a few pretty sorority girls.



The House Bunny

Sexpot Shelley Darlington (Anna Faris) lives comfortably at the Playboy Mansion, until a jealous rival gets her tossed out on her tail. With nowhere else to go, she winds up at Zeta Alpha Zeta sorority. The seven socially inept Zetas will lose their house unless they can attract more pledges; to do that, they need to learn the ways of makeup and

men from an expert.

Movies
Coming Soon



Movies
Coming Soon

Photos around Iraq



Photo by Spc. Daniel Herrera

After a long day of conducting a weapons cache search in the rural region of Zoba, Iraq, Oct. 4, 2008, U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, head back to their rally point to end the operation. The site has been historically known to hold countless hidden weapons caches.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Caskey

U.S. Army Col. Richard Francey, 41st FRIES Brigade commander, speaks to Iraqi children at a local school on Oct. 9, 2008, in Al Haay, Iraq. The event was part of Al Haay Day, which encompassed a medical evaluation, Iraqi press conference, school book distribution, and Joint Security Station site assessment, all of which helped to establish Coalition presence in Al Haay.

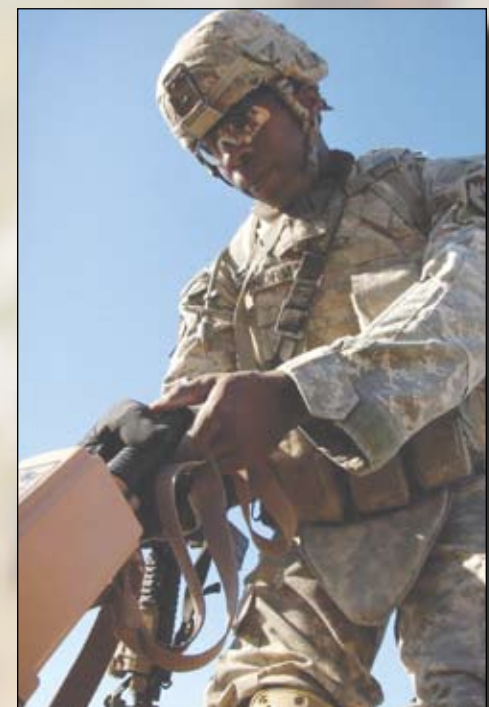


Photo by Spc. Daniel Herrera

U.S. Army Spc. Binta Norman, Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, scans the ground for hidden weapons cache using a metal detector, Oct. 4, 2008.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Micky M. Bazaldua

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Hall, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 327th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, takes a minute to pet a puppy while clearing the Owja Desert of Iraq, Oct. 10, 2008.

News around Iraq

Meghdad IP station receives validation

KIRKUK, Iraq – A Kirkuk Provincial Iraqi Police station received its validation in a ceremony held Oct. 12 in Kirkuk, Iraq. The station was validated based on its consistent and proven record of providing security for all the people of Kirkuk.

This validation comes after a close working partnership with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment and is a culmination of the hard work of both the Kirkuk police force and the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division Soldiers.

“They are brave policemen who stand out in the city on a daily basis and face any danger that may come at them,” said Lt. Col. Dennis Sullivan, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment Commander. “My battalion has a simple saying. It is deeds, not words. That saying fits as well for the Meghdad Police, who everyday let their deeds speak louder than any words they may say.”

Life at Baghdad Zoo slowly returns to normal

BAGHDAD – Life at the Baghdad Zoo is slowly returning to normal as security continues to improve in the Iraqi capital.

“After Coalition forces pushed into Iraq, ousting the Saddam Hussein regime in 2003, the zoo and surrounding park were left unattended and desolate,” said Staff Sgt. Paul Sanford, with the 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Multi-National Division – Baghdad. “Animals were abandoned, stolen or freed by looters and the park grounds were vandalized.”

It was nearly two years before Coalition forces began to seriously focus their efforts on the zoo after troops gained a foothold on the adjacent International Zone, which provided the opportunity for Dr. Salah, the Zawra Park Director, and Dr. Adel Mousa, the zoo’s director, to truly begin rebuilding the area.

Their efforts, combined with the efforts of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, have brought life back into the zoo.

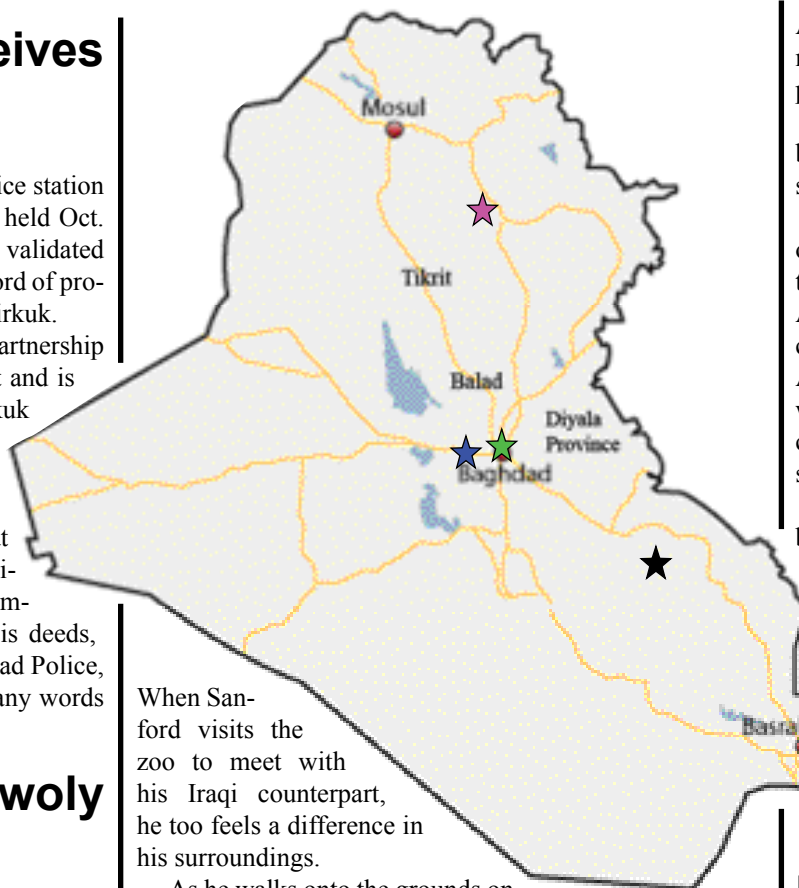
“The people of (Iraq) visit the zoo quite frequently,” said Sanford, who works closely with the zoo’s director. “It is a central location that helps them see the future of Iraq as a revitalized society and continues to build family relationships and a sense of normalcy in an area so often torn by hardship and conflict. Visiting the zoo and the surrounding Zawra Park area is as much a family outing here in Iraq as it is in the United States.”

When Iraqi Security Forces and MND-B cracked down on Special Groups extremists and sent many fleeing the area, it brought new life and a sense of normalcy back to the Iraqi people.

“The current security situation has been one of stabilization and peace in the area, drawing more families from their home and into the park and zoo for leisure and recreational activities once thought to be too risky to chance,” said Sanford. “The continued efforts of both Coalition Forces and the Government of Iraq have allowed people who once only ventured out for necessity to stray far from their homes at times, even if just to see the new tigers, Hope and Riley, now being proudly displayed there and considered a large success by both the zoo staff and Coalition Forces.”

Mousa said he now sees a secure place for people from all over Iraq to visit.

“The people are all smiling; they are happy,” the zoo director said.



When Sanford visits the zoo to meet with his Iraqi counterpart, he too feels a difference in his surroundings.

As he walks onto the grounds on the zoo, just as many do daily, he finds himself walking along a marble walkway with an array of birds on either side.

“As you walk from cage to cage, you will almost definitely notice the significant difference in cleanliness of the area,” Sanford said. “Trash is placed in trash cans and sidewalks are kept swept and clean.”

“As you make your way around, you will see families laughing and smiling, couples holding hands and children tugging on their parents to point out some fascinating creature. It is truly an experience – just as fulfilling for Soldiers often surrounded by the frustrations of war and the rebuilding of a country as it is for families often thrown into chaos by acts of seemingly random (violence).”

When leaving the zoo’s grounds, one will most likely be reminded of how much every nation has in common no matter how different they are seen.

“The building of families and friendship is the core message provided by the Baghdad Zoo, and it is a message certainly not lost on those of us lucky enough to be a part of that,” Sanford said.

Micro-grant program helps build local economy

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq – Leaders of the 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, recently implemented a micro-grant program designed to assist in building the capabilities of local businesses in the 9Nissan neighborhood in eastern Baghdad.

The micro-grant program, based in U.S. dollars, said 2nd Lt. Clayton Hendon, platoon leader for 1st Pltn., Co. D., 1st Bn., 66th Arm. Regt., is for the exclusive purpose of improving the capabilities of local businesses in providing their particular goods or services.

To accomplish this Iraqi Security and Coalition forces conduct combined patrols through the neighborhoods and identify legitimate business owners who have a desire and a need to participate in the program. The process has another benefit in that it provides the company’s leaders opportunities to engage local leaders and develop ties to the communities.

The company commander evaluates the requests to determine which applicants can best employ a micro-grant.

Applicants whose businesses have been established for many years, as well as those who have a great wealth of experience, are always strong candidates, explained Hendon.

The micro-grants are presented to the local businessmen by unit leaders, normally with the Iraqi units alongside in a show of solidarity, he added.

“Senior Iraqi military and civilian leadership in the area often attend the micro-grant payout, showing commitment to the people they serve as well as cooperation with their American counterparts,” said Hendon. “With the grant come explicit instructions on the proper use of the funds. Among these requirements, business owners must agree with their signature about the amount of money they receive, and that they will use it to improve their business as stated in their application.”

The platoon’s Soldiers said interacting with the local business leaders is rewarding in that they can see tangible results in the area.

“It’s great to see the reaction we get when we help these stores,” said Staff Sgt. James Grider, a section leader for 1st Pltn., Co. D. “People come from all over the neighborhood wanting to be a part of this program.”

He said the program has been so successful to date because the locals want to help build their community.

ISF, Coalition forces make way to al Hayy

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces conducted three simultaneous civil military cooperation missions in al Hayy Oct. 9.

Operation “Hayy Day” included a combined medical effort, a humanitarian assistance visit at an elementary school and a visit to the al Hayy mayor’s office.

Doctors from the 41st Fires Brigade and Cuscatlan Battalion XI worked with Iraqi doctors from the Shahed Dr. Fereez Hospital during the CME.

“This is a joint program between the Ministry of Health and Coalition forces, and working with them helps to get rid of old barriers,” said Dr. Maher, Wasit Director of Health.

Coalition doctors shared current medical techniques and treatments with the Iraqi doctors, while they treated and provided medicine to over 260 citizens of al Hayy.

“Today’s activities are just an example of how the government of Iraq along with the support of Coalition forces is making life better for the average Iraqi,” said Col. Italo Bastianelli, 41st Fires Bde. surgeon.

At the same time as the CME, Soldiers from ISF, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment and the 41st Fires Bde. Civil Affairs Team visited the Beirut Elementary School.

There, members of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police distributed new school books to the children, while the civil affairs team handed out 500 backpacks.

“The ISF have been a tremendous help today by providing the security at the school and handing out school books to the kids,” said Staff Sgt. Melissa Powell, 41st Fires Brigade Civil Affairs team sergeant.

The third part of Operation Hayy Day was the IP, IA and CF leadership visiting the local government in al Hayy.

Major General Abed al-Haneen, Wasit Provincial Directorate of Police; Brig. Gen. Abed Jabir, 32nd IA Bde. commander and Col. Richard M. Francey, Jr., 41st Fires Bde. commander, visited each part of the operation, ending with the visit at the mayor’s office.

“At the school you saw kids that have just started school and it touches your heart to see their bright, smiling faces. At the hospital, you see kids with devastating illness and that same heart that was happy is now torn,” Francey said. “I wish my doctor’s could fix it all, but I guarantee that they’re not short of a caring heart.”



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Servicemembers come together to hone their knife and stick fighting skills during edge weapons and stick fighting combative training at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Air Force Staff Sgt. Mona Killian, a member of the 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medical Squadron based out of Andrews Air Force Base, Wash., practices her knife blocking skills at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Air Force Capt. Reginald Crisostomo, a member of the 332nd Expeditionary Air medical Evacuation Flight based out of Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, practices his knife blocking skills at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Spc. Jodhua Milligan a member of the B company 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and Senior Airman Matthew Tippett, a member of the 332nd Expeditionary Air medical Evacuation Flight based out of Lackland Air Base, Texas practices their knife blocking skills during edge weapons and stick fighting combative training at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Staff Sgt. Robert Estrom prepares to block as Staff Sgt. Ryan Nutter lunges with his practice knife during edge weapons and stick fighting combative training at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24. Both Soldiers are members of B company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, based out of St. Paul, Minn.

Air Force Tech Sgt. Christopher Harwella member of prepares to block as Air Force Staff Sgt. Fabrizio Lamarca lunges with his practice knife during edge weapons and stick fighting combative training at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24. Both Airmen are members of member of 332nd Emergency Medical Group based out of Lackland Air Base, Texas.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Air Force Staff Sgt. Larry Jones, a member of 332nd Expeditionary Air medical Evacuation Flight, lunges with his practice knife after blocking a strike during edge weapons and stick fighting combative training at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Oct. 24.