

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 22

SUSTAINERS REMEMBERED

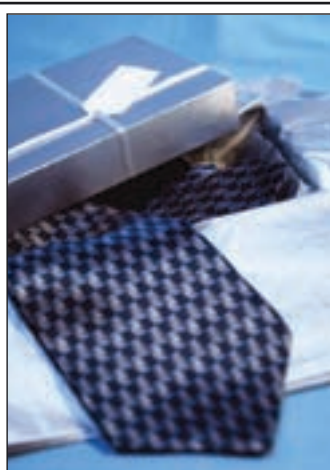
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HELPING HAND

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supplies from Taji Soldiers
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DFAC OPERATIONS ON DISPLAY

COB Adder shares DFAC
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Are you deployed to Iraq with your father this Father's day?

Send us your Father's Day
messages with a HiRes photo by
June 10.

Photos and messages will be
published in the June 17 Expedi-
tionary Times.

Please include you and your
father's full name with rank, unit
information, base location in
Iraq and any message or shout-
out to your Family.

For more information or mes-
sage submission, send an e-mail
to Staff Sgt. Tonya Gonzales
at: expeditionarytimes@iraq.
centcom.mil

391st CSSB hands over reins



Lt. Col. Ronald E. Pacheco Jr., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. David C. Emerick, 391st CSSB senior enlisted leader, case the 391st CSSB colors as they transfer authority to the 264th CSSB during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq May 25. The 391st CSSB, from Bamberg, Germany, shipped 27,165 pallets, 2,773 containers and 6,784 pieces of Class VII materials during their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion transferred authority to the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a ceremony here May 25.



The 391st CSSB, an active-duty unit from Bamberg, Germany, provided key logistical support to its subordinate units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lt. Col. Ronald E. Pacheco Jr., 391st CSSB commander, recognized his Soldiers' hard work and dedication to the mission while deployed

to Iraq.

“Over the last 15 months, the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company have performed their duties with extreme professionalism and dedication,” Pacheco said. “From the first moment when we took over the logistical mission from the 927th CSSB, my staff identified areas that required improvement and immediately emplaced procedures and directed changes that en-

See **TRANSFER**,
Page 6

Members of the combined Color Guard, comprised of 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 264th CSSB Soldiers, prepare to retire the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq May 25.



332 ESFS Blotter

May 21 - May 27

VEHICLE COLLISION:

A reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk to report a vehicle collision. Security forces were dispatched and arrived on scene making contact with the vehicle driver. The driver stated via AF IMT 1168 that while driving Southbound on New York Avenue a vehicle passed in the opposite direction and collided with the driver's side mirror of his vehicle. The other vehicle did not stop after striking the mirror.

HIT AND RUN:

A reporting party came to the law enforcement desk to report a hit and run collision. SF made contact with the RP and assisted him in completing a written statement. The RP stated he was told by a co-worker of damage to his vehicle. The RP further stated the damage was not present prior to arriving at DFAC #2 and he did not know how it happened. Investigation revealed an unknown vehicle backed into driver's side door causing the damage.

MAJOR VEHICLE COLLISION/SINGLE VEHICLE ROLLOVER:

Security forces radioed the Joint Defense Operation Center to report a vehicle collision. SF were dispatched and made contact with the vehicle driver who made a statement via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant. The driver stated he was traveling northbound on Victory Loop and came across a bend in the road. The driver applied the brakes and the wheels began shaking causing the vehicle to move into the opposite lane. When the driver attempted to turn right he swerved into the dirt median and tipped the vehicle on the driver's side.

NIPR: 443-8602
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332 AEW Installation Safety Gram

May 2009



Safety Advisories

Construction operations are constantly being performed through out JBB, in particular the Perimeter Road and Sapper Street intersection. The construction operations here consist of excavations approximately 10 to 12 feet below grade. The road is currently closed and is predicted to reopen mid July. All construction zones are off limits to unauthorized personnel.



Health Concern



It has been brought to the attention of the Installation Safety office that a number of people who received smallpox vaccinations prior to arriving at JBB have been utilizing the base pool. Anyone with open lesion, even if it is covered with a bandage, ARE NOT AUTHORIZED to enter the base swimming pool. Individuals must wait until the scab falls completely off prior to swimming in a public pool. Be sure to read the base pool rules prior to entering the pool area. As a reminder never dive into the shallow end of the pool. Designated diving areas are clearly marked at the JBB pool. The consequences can be severe. Personal risk management and situational awareness can prevent unnecessary injuries.

Requirements for operating "Low-Speed Vehicles" (LSV's) on JBB

1. DOT, PETZL, Black Diamond, or Kevlar helmet is required and passengers are not to ride in the back or bed of vehicles. *For more info see Part C of Base Traffic Safety Policy.*
2. Seatbelts, reflective belts or vests must be worn at all times. *(Day or Night)*
3. All LSV's must pass an inspection by Installation Safety Bldg # 8056 and be registered at the Pass and ID office located in Bldg # 7460. *(An Exception to Policy letter is required prior to roadway operations.)*
4. Always review the manufactures specifications prior to operating an LSV.
5. *(IAW) LSA Balad 190-5 Para 4-8* Four-wheelers are not allowed on the roadways

June 2009 Calendar
June is National Safety Month
June 12- 19: Army Birthday Week

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 3^d ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net

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304th Sustainment Brigade
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555th Engineer Brigade

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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.

Chaplain's Corner

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

-2 Timothy 4:7

In my life, I have attended many races. I can't remember how they started, but I can remember how they ended. As we move closer to the end of this deployment, people will not remember how they started; they will remember how it ended.

Fight a good fight by doing the best job you can for the next unit coming to assume responsibility. Ensure the continuity books and slides are updated. Make sure that materials and data CDs are accessible and available for easy use. Some had to create slides and continuity books from nothing, so the tendency is to make the next group do the same thing. You don't have to be like the group before you - they left you with nothing, so please don't do the same to the group after you. Fight a good fight; set the next unit up for success.

Get on the airplane with a good conscience knowing that the race is completely finished and there is no undone work lurking in the crevasses of darkness. Your faithfulness is to the people coming in after you. Make them proud. When they are proud of your handoff, then you have finished the race.

You are all doing a great job; and note, the group that will validate "our good job" will be the 13th ESC. They will not know how we started the race; they will know how we finished. Finish the race with honor and integrity-that's "Army Strong!"

By U.S. Air Force CH (CPT) Dwayne Jones, 3^d ESC chaplain

HOOAH OF THE WEEK



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy

Maj. Larita R. Williams, the deputy comptroller for 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and native of Rockville, Md., is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week." Williams was recognized for her outstanding performance working with multi-million dollar contracts.

How to nominate a "Hooah of the Week"

Nominations must be turned in to Sgt. Gregory Gayfield by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

For any questions, to request a nomination form or to submit a service member's name for nomination, e-mail: Gregory.Gayfield@iraq.centcom.mil.



"The Weekly Standard"



"We must work together to develop our leaders and to decrease stigma, change Army culture and create a rapid shift to socialize positive attitudes toward effectively addressing behavioral health issues."

**- Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army**

A Mental Health Evaluation (MHE) can negatively impact the commander and service member (SM) if handled improperly. Routine (non-emergency) MHEs must be completed in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 6490.4 to ensure the rights of the SM are protected at all times.

The commander has the responsibility for determining whether to make a referral. If a referral is necessary, the commander first shall consult with the mental healthcare provider to discuss the SM's actions and behavior that led to the commander's decision. The provider shall give advice on whether to conduct the mental health evaluation as routine or on an emergency basis.

When making a routine referral, the commander shall forward a memorandum to the commanding officer of the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) or clinic. The memorandum, at a minimum, shall include the information set forth in the DoD policy.

The SM will acknowledge the reason for the referral and his/her rights by signing the memorandum. Signed copies of the memorandum shall be provided to the SM two business days prior to the routine evaluation. This allows the SM time to exercise his/her rights. The commander shall not offer the SM an opportunity to waive his/her right to receive the memorandum and statement of rights where it concerns the MHE process.

Additional information on MHE referrals is available on our NIPR website at <https://www.jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/sustainer/specialstaff/IG/default.aspx>.

By Maj. Scott Peters
3^d ESC Inspector General

Our organization is comprised of nine Inspectors General dispersed throughout the 3^d ESC area of operations with five offices; each one co-located with a Sustainment Brigade in order to provide the command with the best possible support.

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MAJ Scott Peters (Deputy)
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LTC Timothy Norton

AFTH 'unleashes' new recovery program for patients

BY STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Trained in explosives detection, narcotics detection and more, military working dogs here are now assisting in a different type of fight: the fight to rehabilitate patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital.

Members of the AFTH medical staff here held the first session of the K-9 Visitation Program May 15, a program that works to further patient recovery after injury or illness through animal-assisted therapy.

The "pet project" of Staff Sgt. Janice Shipman, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group intensive care unit aerospace medical technician, the program brings members of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group's K-9 unit and the medical staff together with one goal in mind: patient recovery.

"We are working together to make (the patients) feel good about themselves and about healing," said Shipman, who is deployed here from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

"From my experience, with their injuries, (patients) focus on that so much that just being able to have a distraction even for a little bit helps them heal," continued the Phenix City, Ala., native.

An AFTH patient, Army Staff Sgt. Vannell Baerrien said his experience with the K-9s has made a difference in his healing process.

"Being here with the dog has helped me relax a lot more," he said. "It has helped me to be able to take a deep breath and exhale, so to speak. This has been a

wonderful and welcomed event."

Army Sgt. Marc Dowd, also a wounded warrior at the AFTH, shared common feelings regarding the K-9 Visitation Program: "(The program) gave me a chance to get out. Being able to get out here, especially with a working dog, is a great environment to be in."

Therapy dogs fall under the category of animal-assisted therapy. While MWDs here are not specifically trained as therapy dogs, the program serves to augment their given military duties as explosives-detection and narcotics-detection dogs, in addition to serving as therapy for wounded servicemembers.

Overall, the program gives K-9 handlers a great chance to train their dogs to work closely with others besides the handlers, said Tech. Sgt. Joseph Throgmorton, 332nd ESFG kennel master.

"These are military working dogs; when they are on-duty on-base, we generally do not let people pet them," said Throgmorton, who is deployed here from Hill AFB, Utah. "However, we have a unique mission here. Our dogs are working with non-K-9 handlers in close quarters of vehicles off-base and need to become comfortable around others."

The program has done just that for Staff Sgt. Kristen Smith, 332nd ESFG K-9 handler, and her explosives detection MWD, Cezar.

"Whenever you're training the dog around Coalition forces, you want to make sure he's not aggressing on people you don't want him to aggress on," Sergeant Smith said. "This (program) furthers that training because when we are

riding in HMMWVs and we are out patrolling, we try to train them (MWDs) on how they are going to act around Coalition forces."

Smith and Cezar were one of two K-9 teams to participate in the initial session of the program.

Scheduled to be held at the AFTH twice a month at a minimum depending on the K-9 unit's operations tempo, the visitation program will be available to other 332nd ESFG K-9 handlers and their MWDs.

Smith said she was happy to have participated in the first session and hopes to continue participating.

"If the patients want to see Cezar, I will bring him over," she said, deployed here from McGuire AFB, N.J. "I think this is a really good program. It furthers our training and helps the patients."

Furthermore, the native of Johnstown, Pa., said participating in this program has helped her see the fruits of their training.

"(Being a part of this program) boosted my confidence that the training we are doing is paying off," she said. "Cezar is already good around people, but any additional training is always good for the dog."

In addition to helping patients in their recovery process and the K-9s in their training, Shipman said she hopes the program will serve yet another purpose: educate both the medical staff and the security-forces members about each other's missions.

"I hope this will give people a new understanding about what the K-9 unit



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Diliana Ayala

Spc. Than Kywe, an Air Force Theater Hospital patient, shares a laugh with Cezar, a 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Group explosives-detection military working dog, during the first session of the K-9 Visitation Program here May 15. The program works to further patient recovery after injury or illness through animal-assisted therapy.

does and help in bringing us together," she said. "The K-9 unit will see what we do as a medical staff, and us as a medical staff will see what they do. They save lives just like we do. We will work together with the common goal to heal our patients."

AF QRF team conducts air-assault training from Army helos

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN GORDINIER
332nd AEW Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Airmen from the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron jumped in and out of Army helicopters from the C Company, 1-137th Aviation Regiment, during air-assault training here May 23.

"The purpose of air-assault training is to add another option of infiltrating a targeted area," said Master Sgt. Jose Zuniga, 532nd ESFS quick reaction force noncommissioned officer in charge. "In QRF operations, whether proactive or reactive, the elements of speed and surprise can be critical to a successful mission as terrain can be a limiting factor."

Overall, the QRF team's mission is to respond to attacks against JBB. Usually, the QRF uses combat vehicles to respond to indirect-fire attacks, but now they are training to respond via helicopters to increase response time and security.

"This training will allow us to have an aerial capability and aid us in a faster response," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Burke, 532nd ESFS truck commander and QRF member. "If we can come out here and get spun up in a helicopter, we can get to an area quicker than driving there by vehicle."

"Also, this training gives us basic aircraft familiarization," added the Cincinnati native deployed here from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. "We are going to learn entry, exit and operation measures. We are going to be going through the drills on how to tactically deploy from the aircraft."

While up in the air, Burke said the QRF team will



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tiffany Trojca

Airmen from the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron's quick reaction force team go over their training mission before boarding an Army helicopter from the C Company, 1-137th Aviation Regiment, here May 23. The 532nd ESFS QRF is often called "outside the wire" to investigate indirect-fire attacks.

also learn terrain familiarization.

"We can pick out target reference points, so we can show personnel a different view and give more specific directions," he said. "As a truck commander, I'm able to see visual maps every day, and I can tell my troops where to drive with specifics from the map. In this training, I can learn different reference points like a water treatment facility or a bend in a river and give them (troops) more specifics on the route to take."

During the training, two helicopters loaded with approximately 20 QRF members took off and performed multiple touch-downs to deploy the team and then take off again.

"For training, the scenario was to pretend as if we were getting dropped off outside the wire responding to an attack," said Staff Sgt. Cliff Rood, 532nd ESFS truck commander and QRF member. "The helicopter would swoop down; we would dismount the aircraft, go prone, and take up security. The helicopter would then depart, and we would go about our simulated mission."

After conducting air-assault training multiple times, the 1-137th Aviation Regiment helicopters circled JBB to give the Airmen a viewpoint of outside-the-wire terrain and reference points, before landing back down on the helicopter pad upon training completion.

"The training went extremely well as the integration of Army aircrews and Air Force security forces was seamless," Zuniga said. "The practical application and hands-on training provided the realism and experience necessary to support the QRF mission."

"It was an awesome experience," Sergeant Burke said. "Getting the opportunity to deploy out of a helicopter is definitely exhilarating."

Rood agreed:

"It was also great to do this with my fellow 532nd ESFS members, especially since it was the first time for most of us," said Rood, a native of Albuquerque, N.M., and also deployed here from Kirtland AFB. "There are plans for us to do air-assault training a few more times during our deployment to keep us prepared to respond to indirect-fire attacks."

Sustainers setting new goals to quit smoking

BY CAPT. NATALIA MERCEDES-WILLIAMS
UPAR, 18TH CSSB, 16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Several Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion here have a determination to quit smoking before re-deploying this summer.



Staff Sgt. Payten Redfearn, a native of Thomasville,

Ga., and the 18th CSSB chaplain's assistant noncommissioned officer in charge said, "A few weeks back I was approached by Pfc. Christine Wells from Manilla, Ind., about the possibility of her quitting smoking. I knew that this was something that a lot of people in the company were thinking about doing, so we invited others to join the "Smoke Out!" group."

"The reason I quit smoking is because I decided it was time to start making healthier choices in my life, so I began to eat healthy and do more PT (physical training). I figured while I

was at it, I might as well quit smoking too," he said.

It was something that Redfearn's wife, Alaina, had been asking him to do for a long time. He figured since it was going to be difficult, he might as well do it now.

The class teaches Soldiers the utilization of cessation techniques, medication such as Zyban, nicotine patches and gum, while facilitating the transition from the high levels of nicotine intake to lowering the levels in the body.

"My last cigarette was 14 December 2008 at 2359 hours. With the help of

the gum, the chaplain, and a lot of will power, I have been smoke free since," said Redfearn.

The COS Marez-East physicians and other healthcare workers have relied primarily on counseling to treat tobacco addiction. However, combining counseling with pharmacotherapy has achieved the highest cessation rates with Soldiers.

Wells comments that she wants to quit smoking after five years, "because she is tired of the smell and she wants to run two miles without thinking she is going to pass out."

419th CSSB supports Security Agreement

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. ALEX D. SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — As the U.S. closes combat outposts in urban areas to demonstrate their commitment to the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement, many Coalition units across Iraq will work harder to deal with increased movement of troops and equipment.



"Any time you move maneuver forces around the battlefield, we go into demand," said Lt. Col. Kristan L.K. Herricks, the commander of the 419th CSSB, speaking on the increased demand for her battalion's transportation assets.

The increased number of missions coincides with the closure of many outposts in Baghdad—the 419th CSSB's primary area of operation.

Herricks, a resident of Irvine, Calif., described the movements as a "consolidation of force" occurring in the Baghdad area as the U.S. hands over joint security stations to the Iraqis.

"We're really moving barriers from one location to another—breaking down one area, building up another area to increase its infrastructure," said Capt. Michael A. Hallinan, the transportation division officer in charge for the 10th Sustainment Brigade, whom the 419th CSSB falls under.

One such move occurred recently on the outskirts of Sadr City. Transportation assets of the 419th CSSB moved approximately 200 barriers from around JSS OI Mod, a small outpost recently returned to the Iraqis. These barriers were moved to another JSS that is expanding its motor pool.

The 419th CSSB's also participated in the U.S. closure of Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah, a camp of nearly seven square miles returned to the Iraqi military March 31.

"Rustamiyah was a huge movement that took place," Hallinan said. "That was really the first major involvement



A forklift removes concrete barriers off the back of a 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion palletized load system vehicle at Camp Taji, Iraq May 8. The 419th CSSB is supporting the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement by assisting in the closure of camps and joint security stations in the Baghdad area.

they've (the 419th CSSB) had in supporting the Security Agreement."

Herricks said she expects her battalion to take part in nearly every JSS closure in Baghdad in the coming weeks and months.

Iraqis don't necessarily have the same force-protection requirements as the Army, Herricks explained, which is why some assets—including concrete barriers and other equipment—are moved to where they are needed more.

Part of the 419th CSSB mission also

involves augmenting smaller units, such as brigade support battalions, that may have trouble keeping up with resupply at camps to which troops are relocated to, Herricks said.

"I expect that we will probably see our augmentation uses go up," she said.

When asked how she feels about commanding a unit contributing to the Security Agreement commitments, Herricks replied: "I feel very privileged. It feels like we are a part of history."



The 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion "Wolfpack" sign hangs in the command group building at Camp Taji, Iraq May 7. The 419th CSSB is supporting the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement by assisting in the closure of camps and joint security stations in the Baghdad area.

In Baghdad, the transportation and convoy security elements of the 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Irvine, Calif., are also keeping busy with missions.



On the Web

3D SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

<http://www.army.mil/3rdesc>

Soldiers discuss future of Iraq medical logistic operations

BY SGT. ALEX D. SNYDER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Approximately 80 Soldiers from across Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States met for a bi-annual medical logistics conference here May 19-21.

The conference, hosted by the Texas Army National Guard's 111th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, gave medical logisticians a chance to network and discuss future operations in Iraq.

The fate of excess medical supplies in

Iraq, as the U.S. responsibly withdraws troops from Iraq during the next year, was among the topics of discussion. In February, U.S. President Barack Obama called for the number of troops in Iraq to drop to between 50,000 and 35,000 by August 2010. There are about 135,000 troops currently in Iraq according to an official spokesman for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

"We should see significant changes in the (Iraq Theater of Operations), both at the end of the year and into the beginning of the next year as a result of the responsible draw down," said Lt. Col. Anthony J. Lopiccolo Jr., the officer in charge of logistics for the Task Force 44 Medical Command, the unit

responsible for the oversight of medical care for all of Iraq at Corps-level and above.

Lopiccolo said that units should review their stock of medical supplies and decide what supplies they have little use for. These items, he said, should be returned to the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency for reissue-possibly to units in Afghanistan.

"If we're going to start downsizing people," Lopiccolo said, "we need to also start downsizing material."

"We're still trying to be good stewards, save Army money, save taxpayers money," said 1st Lt. Christopher R. Alviar, the support operations medical logisticians officer in charge for the 111th

MMB. "We can't just be giving everything away, destroying everything. There has to be a process that we all need to follow."

Other topics of discussion at the conference included the state of Iraqi medical logistics, pharmaceutical operations, optical fabrication (eyeglasses), medical maintenance and theater blood operations.

The conference also included a tour of JBB's medical logistics warehouse, which is run by the 111th MMB and is the main supply hub for medical supplies in Iraq. The 111th MMB is tentatively planning another conference in the fall, Alviar said.

TRANSFER Continued from page one

hanced the capability of both military and contracted support."

"Thanks to the brigade staffs and command teams from the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and our parent unit, the 16th Sustainment Brigade," Pacheco continued. "Our Soldiers benefited greatly from the support we received and we appreciate everything that they did for us while we were here."

During its combat tour, the 391st CSSB transitioned nine units, conducted over 12 non-lethal engagements at 15 locations, oversaw the construction of a \$17 million Class III steel bolted tank fuel farm, and started construction on the Class I climate controlled facility.

The 391st CSSB also shipped 27,165 pallets, 2,773 containers and 6,784 pieces of Class VII materials.

Home based at Fort Bragg, N.C., the 264th CSSB and Coalition forces will have a role in executing task set in the security agreement commitment for the next 12 months. Lt. Col. Shane DeBusk, 264th CSSB commander, thanked the 391st CSSB for their work in theater, and preparing his Soldiers for the work that lies ahead of them in the next year.

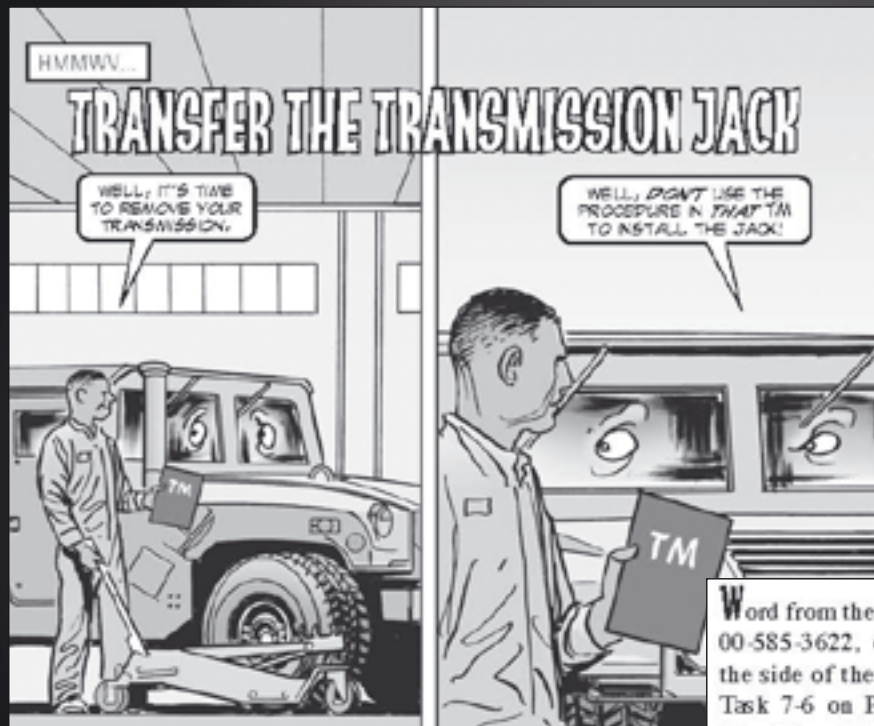
"I'd like to thank Lt. Col. Pacheco and his staff for the professional and thorough transition plan you put into place and executed with my staff," said DeBusk. "You have done your job well and can depart in good

conscience knowing that these Soldiers will be cared for and we will continue to run the ball down the field."

"Our mission over the next 12 months will be monumental. To put it into perspective, it took logisticians of another era 5 years to withdraw forces and equipment out of Vietnam. We will do it in half of that time," Debusk continued. "Few now appreciate how hard this will be, but I believe historians will regard what joint logisticians are about to do as one of the most significant military logistics feat in history. To accomplish this task, we must be forward leaning, agile and innovative in our thinking, always keeping the end state in mind."

Safety Topic of the Week

SAFETY



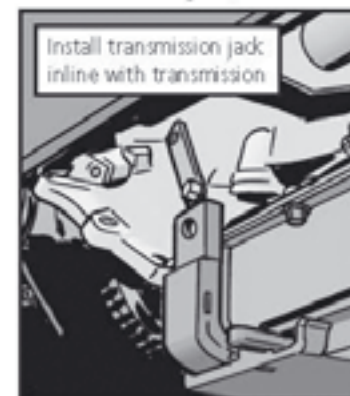
Courtesy of PS Magazine. For service members using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online:
<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/psonline.cfm>

Word from the field is that the Gray model MM-2000 transmission jack, NSN 4910-00-585-3622, can't be installed correctly from the side of the vehicle shown in the drawing in Task 7-6 on Page 7-11 of TM 9-2320-280-34 (Jan 96, w/Ch 2, Jul 04). So TACOM LCMC plans to make this clear in a future update to this TM and TM 9-2320-387-24-2.

The transmission jack should only be installed inline with the transmission, **not** at a 90° angle to the transmission. The open front of the jack should face the front of the vehicle. This allows a support to be placed near the rear of the engine. It also allows you to properly install the transmission on the jack.

This same information is found in TACOM MAM 08-035. Use this link to eyeball it online:

https://aeaps2.ria.army.mil/commodity/Mam/Tacom_WN/08/mam08-035.html



Soldiers, Sailors train in EOL course

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers and Sailors trained together in the first joint Equal Opportunity Leaders Course here May 11-15.

The course trained service members to be EOLs, a representative for their commander and assist in overseeing the morale of a unit in terms of EO.

“It’s a resource and accountabil-

ity to make sure that all the units and personnel are making sure everyone is treated equally regardless of their race, religion, gender, national origin, to prevent sexual harassment and to give us tools to get that information out (to) make sure everyone understands what is expected of them,” said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Lauri Bland, the leading petty officer for Navy customs section one.

Master Sgt. Tuynuykua Jackson, the equal opportunity advisor for the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), informed base leaders of the course during a leader’s meeting,

including Air Force, Army and Navy service members. “The master chief of the Navy thought it would be a good thing for his Sailors to attend,” Jackson said.

The six day course lasted from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and was condensed from a 14-day course; 29 students completed the course-27 Soldiers and two Sailors.

“I now know how to say hooah correctly,” joked Bland, a Chicago, Ill., native. On a more serious note she said, “I learned that you have to address a Soldier, Sailor’s behavior, not so much the individual. You won’t change anyone’s attitude necessarily, but make

sure their behavior is appropriate.”

“The class is very important because it teaches Soldiers at the end of the day to go out and advocate for people to treat people how they want to be treated, to treat people with dignity and respect, and to learn that our military service is one of the most diverse groups that anybody could work for or work with,” said Jackson, a Biloxi, Miss., native.

“At the end of the day, when you have a (service member) that comes back to you and says thank you; it means more than anything to me,” said Jackson.

Q-West inducts new NCOs into Corps

BY SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Forty-six new non-

commissioned officers were officially inducted into the corps of non-commissioned officers during a ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex here May 16.

After a traditional rendition of “The Watch,” a reading of “The Boots of the NCO,” and a hearing of “The Soldier’s Request,” the new NCOs from the 16th Special Troops Battalion and the 30th

Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, officially accepted the responsibilities and the proud heritage of the NCO corps by reciting the “Charge of the NCO,” and walking under crossed sabers onto the stage to receive their copies of the NCO creed.

Guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde., exhorted the new leaders to take their responsibilities seriously.

“Simply being promoted does not make you a leader,” Spencer said. “Leaders are professional Soldiers that know and exude Army values. You are the very first level of authority, training, discipline and leadership in your

unit. You will lead from the front, set the example and never-I stress this-you will never ask your Soldiers to do anything that you have not already done or will not do yourself.”

Spencer emphasized the importance of the NCO corps to Army leadership.

“Your leaders depend on you to ensure that your Soldiers are trained and cared for at all times,” Spencer said. “You will care for them by ensuring that they are trained and prepared to fight, win, and most importantly survive on the battlefield.”

Sergeants Marcus and JoAnna Davis, husband and wife, assigned to the 16th STB, 16th Sust. Bde., were proud to be inducted together.

“It is an honor to be inducted with

my husband,” said JoAnna, a native of Brewton, Ala.

Marcus was also proud to be inducted with JoAnna. The two married during this deployment, Dec. 5, 2008.

“I’ve been in the Army for a while, and this isn’t my first deployment,” said Marcus, a native of Jacksonville, Fla. “But being inducted with my wife made me really proud, and made this deployment special to me.”

Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer left the new NCOs with a final thought.

“Lastly, just know that every Soldier ever needs is just one good sergeant to make an impact,” Spencer said. “NCO’s lead the way. Deeds Not Words. Army Strong!”

The 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) presents

234th ARMY BIRTHDAY 5K RUN

JOINT BASE BALAD
HOLT STADIUM
14 JUNE 2009
0545 to 0700
1000 T-SHIRTS

POC: SSG Stacy Giles at 433-2004 or stacy.giles@iraq.centcom.mil or SGT James Gregerson at 433-2004 or james.gregerson@iraq.centcom.mil

Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our Nation. From the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror, our Soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs.

This 234th birthday commemorates America's Army - Soldiers, Families, and Civilians - who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong both here and abroad. Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is without a doubt, the strength of our Nation.

Sustainers Remember

BY SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Sustainers honored fallen U.S. Service Members during a Memorial Day ceremony here May 25.



Remembering their own, Soldiers of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) laid a wreath beside pictures of the nine ESC Soldiers who died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10,

that was near a Boots-Helmet-Rifle memorial display located in the entry way of the ESC Headquarters.

“The importance of Memorial Day can never be overstated. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices and services of the American service members,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general, addressing approximately 150 Soldiers at the ceremony. “Today we pay respect to the memory, courage, competency and commitment of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who sacrificed their lives to build a better future and defend freedom.”

The nine 3^d ESC Soldiers honored at the ceremony were:

- Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Woodham, 37, of Rogers, Ark.; assigned to the 39th Brigade Support Battalion, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas Army National Guard, Heber Springs, Ark.; died July 5, 2008 in Camp Adder, Tallil, Iraq.
- Army Staff Sgt. Brian K. Miller, 37, of Pendleton, Ind.; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment, 76th Brigade Combat Team, Indiana Army National Guard, Fort Wayne, Ind.; died Aug. 2, 2008 in Abd Allah, Iraq.
- Army Sgt. Jose E. Ulloa, 23, of New York, N.Y., assigned to the 515th Transportation Company, 28th Transportation Battalion, Mannheim, Germany; died Aug. 9, 2008 in Sadr City, Iraq.
- Army Sgt. Kendall Carne, 28, of Rockingham, N.C.; assigned to the 503d Maintenance Company; died Aug. 16, 2008 while home on leave in Hamlet, N.C.
- Army Spc. Bradley S. Coleman, 24, of Martinsville, Va.; assigned to the 51st

Transportation Company, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Mannheim, Germany; died Oct. 29, 2008 at Marez, Iraq.

- Army Sgt. James M. Clay, 25, of Mountain Home, Ark.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas Army National Guard, Little Rock, Ark.; died Nov. 13, 2008 in Anbar province, Iraq.
- Army Sgt. Kyle J. Harrington, 24, of Swansea, Mass.; assigned to the 542nd Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.; died Jan. 24 in Basra, Iraq.
- Army Sgt. Daniel J. Beard, 24, of Buffalo, N.Y.; assigned to the 147th Postal Company, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Wiesbaden, Germany; died April 3 in Al Diwaniyah, Iraq.
- Army Pvt. Justin Hartford, 21, of Elmira, N.Y.; assigned to the 699th Maintenance Company, Fort Irwin, Calif.; died May 8 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq

“We acknowledge our debt to those that have given their lives for their country’s freedom, justice and liberty,” said Lt. Col. Wilbert C. Harrison, the 3^d ESC chaplain, during the invocation. “May we never forget the value of their sacrifice, nor the nobility of their courage, nor the tenacity of endurance which has purchased for us peace, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Lally highlighted the history of Memorial Day explaining it was first enacted to honor fallen Union Soldiers from the American Civil war. He said it was later expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

Today’s Soldiers remember those who have gone before them and will never forget the lessons of bravery, loyalty, commitment and honor of Soldiers in past wars including World War I, World War II, Vietnam and the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Each of you share a professional bond that exemplifies the extraordinary service of Americans in uniform throughout the years,” Lally said. “The Veterans of our past wars would be proud of how this generation of Soldiers carries on their proud legacy.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr., 3^d ESC Command Sergeant Major, laid a wreath to remember nine 3^d ESC Soldiers who died while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during a Memorial Day ceremony at the 3^d ESC Headquarters, Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 25.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

“Taps” was played by Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Young, 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron as the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Honor Guard lowers the American flag during a Memorial Day ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 25. The ceremony, and a speech by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general, was in honor to pay respect and remember those fallen service members who sacrificed their lives to defend freedom.

Sustainer leadership sustaining momentum

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The company commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), handed over the reins of leadership during



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), salute during the singing of the National Anthem at the HHC change of command ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 22. Capt. Brian W. Pilch assumed command of the unit from Capt. Brian D. Costa.

a ceremony here May 22.

Capt. Brian W. Pilch assumed command from Capt. Brian D. Costa, HHC's company commander since May 2007.

"It's somebody else's turn to experience what I've experienced so they can become a better officer," said Costa, of

Norwell, Mass. "(Pilch) is going to be fantastic. He's got the right attitude."

Costa said HHC is a little different from a typical line company. Costa and 1st Sgt. Jeffery W. Burnsworth watched the unit grow from 23 Soldiers to over 400 Soldiers, Airmen, and National Guardsmen, almost the size of a battalion.

Another big difference is that the unit is composed almost entirely of officers and senior noncommissioned officers, and the average service time is 15-16 years, Costa said.

Although one of the junior-ranking officers, Costa said he was the one with command authority at the company level. This gave him the unique opportunity of being even a one-star general's company commander, referring to Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding officer, 3^d ESC.

"Will I ever tell him what to do? No. Will I sign his leave form? Yes," Costa said with a smile.

Burnsworth, the company first sergeant, admitted HHC's role is largely administrative, but necessary to support the 3^d ESC's mission. The 3^d ESC provides single headquarters command and control for operational level sustainment and distribution management in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

"I think what we do here at the HHC enables them to do their mission to support the other Soldiers out there," Burnsworth said.

Costa and Burnsworth work with se-



From left to right: Col. Marvin S. Whitaker, the chief of staff, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); Capt. Brian D. Costa; Capt. Brian W. Pilch; and 1st Sgt. Jeffery W. Burnsworth prepare to conduct a change of command during a ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 22. Pilch assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3^d ESC, from Costa.



nior staffers to coordinate when to do training so it doesn't affect their primary mission. Even senior officers are required to do basic Soldiering tasks and training, such as doing a physical fitness test or going to a range to qualify on weapons systems.

"It's going to be hard to let go," Costa said, referring to the change of command. "I'm excited and ready to move

on, but at the same time it's been such an honor to be (HHC's) commander."

In his speech after assuming command, Pilch said he looked forward to working with and for the Soldiers of HHC.

Costa will continue his service with the 3^d ESC as a plans and operations officer until the unit redeploys to Fort Knox, Ky.

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Trans NCO re-enlistment, a memory of a lifetime

BY 1ST LT. CHARLES YORK
UPAR, 233RD TRANS. CO., 391ST CSSB, 16TH
SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — For one transportation Soldier from Contingency Operating Base Speicher, her re-enlistment ceremony here was a memorable one.

Staff Sgt. Amethia Stevenson, human resources noncommissioned officer, 233d Transportation Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, requested that Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, commanding general, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), administer the oath of enlistment during a ceremony April 22.

"Having the 3^d ESC commander preside over my re-enlistment ceremony was a rewarding experience," said Stevenson, a native of Hopkinsville, Ken. "I am definitely looking forward to the rest of my military career."

Stevenson, a native of Hopkinsville, Ken., said this was her fourth re-enlistment, but her first deployment.

The 233rd Trans. Co., under the 391st CSSB in Iraq, and from Fort Knox, Ky., met its re-enlistment



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Richard Kral

Staff Sgt. Amethia Stevenson repeats the Oath of Re-enlistment by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during a re-enlistment ceremony at Joint Base Balad, April 22. Stevenson, member of the 233rd Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade and is a native of Hopkinsville, Ky., she requested the commanding general to conduct the Oath of Re-enlistment, and this is her fourth.

goals for the fiscal year 2009 in the first quarter after 78 Soldiers in the unit re-enlisted. The unit primar-

ily transports equipment using Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) systems.

Staff Sgt. Richard Kral, retention noncommissioned officer in charge, 233rd Trans. Co., and a Fredericksburg, Va., native, assisted more than 120 Soldiers with information and requests for re-enlistment since August 2008, despite a drop in bonuses.

"I have seen re-enlistment bonuses drop significantly in the past months and in some cases Soldiers who would have re-enlisted weeks prior would have seen almost \$5,000 more in re-enlistment bonuses."

Soldiers in their initial term and mid-career term have decided to put a few extra years under their belts and this has kept the company's re-enlistment NCO very busy. With requests such as duty assignments in Korea and Hawaii, Kral has been constantly bombarded with questions from the Soldiers and the leadership of the company as well.

Re-enlistment has definitely been a popular topic within the 233d Trans. Co., over the past few months. Many have been re-enlisting for various reasons, but all seem to be content with their choices. The Soldiers reviewed all the re-enlistment option, and most have taken the opportunity for a lasting military career.

Transportation Soldiers combat mid-tour fatigue

BY 2ND LT. KAILEY VILCHES
UPAR 70TH TRANS. CO., 391ST CSSB,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Soldiers in the 70th Transportation Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are combating mid-tour fatigue with up-to-date combat training here.

During recent recovery and escort battle-drill, Soldiers were required to use their knowledge gained in previous exercises, while at the same time being challenged in leadership roles. Specialists and sergeants in the platoon were assigned as key leaders for the lanes and were evaluated on combat reports, command and control in maneuvers and navigation to pick-up site.

The Mannheim, Germany-based 70th Trans. Co. Soldiers are in the tenth month of their 15-month deployment.

Capt. Patrick Henrichs, commander, 70th Trans. Co., and Seattle, Wash., native, challenged key leaders in the company to counter mid-tour fatigue by refining platoon-level performance standards.

Normally the company keeps a high pace and aggressive posture in battalion and brigade-required trainings such as counter improvised explosive device lanes, combat lifesaver certifications and weapons familiarization and qualification, said Heinrichs.

"I asked the platoon leadership to go beyond required training by diligently planning and executing exercises and drills tailored to their sections," Heinrichs said.

Soldiers of second platoon performing in area recovery and escort missions completed the traffic con-



courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Colan Roberts, platoon sergeant, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Alfredo Reyes, squad leader, 70th Trans. Co., test communication equipment before transportation Soldiers head out onto recovery and escort battle-drill lanes at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. The training was dual-purpose, said Capt. Patrick Henrichs, commander, 70th Trans. Co., and Seattle, Wash., native. "As the last company in the 3^d Expeditionary Sustainment Command to do a 15-month tour, I thought it was especially important we take this period in the middle of our tour to reassess and refocus our training priorities," Henrichs said. The Mannheim, Germany-based Soldiers of the 70th Trans. Co. are currently on the tenth month of a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

trol exercises, practical navigation and recovery, and escort battle-drill lanes.

With this comprehensive approach, Soldiers were able to focus on individual improvement by performing repetitive yet increasingly more complex tasks, Henrichs said.

Company leaders were also challenged. Lieuten-

ants submitted a list of training concepts and goals for approval. Platoon leaders critically evaluated priority areas for focus within their perspective sections, and then leaders mapped out decisive plans for meeting goals in training.

Staff Sgt. Michael Toyco, of Abilene, Texas, led recovery and escort battle-drill lanes.

"This experience was good for me because it required me to work with the lieutenant, almost like a platoon sergeant needs to, in order to meet a set objective," said Toyco. "She identified for me her concept for training and desired end-line result. Then I got busy planning how to make it happen."

The commander said the training has been essential in combating mid-tour fatigue.

"As (one of) the last companies in the 3^d Expeditionary Sustainment Command to do a 15-month tour, I thought it was especially important we take this period in the middle of our tour to reassess and refocus our training priorities," Henrichs said.

By making the platoon leaders and platoon sergeants accountable for planning training and benchmarking success, Henrichs said he was able to develop a keen and alert team in company leadership. The flexibility in platoon-level exercises has been essential to combating unit mid-tour fatigue.

And leaders have to evaluate performance, identify deficiencies and tailor a plan to achieve goals, Henrichs said. It is not only keeping Soldiers and leaders actively engaged in the mission, but it is building a deep sense of accomplishment in the transportation company.

"In addition to meeting all standards and tasks of assigned missions, all platoons are successfully hitting their targets in training, strengthening morale in the sections and building team cohesion," said Henrichs.

On the Web



Task Force
Muleskinner

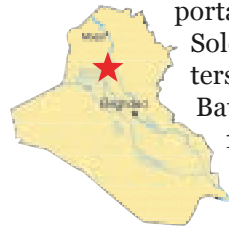


10th Sustainment Brigade, Camp Taji <http://www.taskforcemuleskinner.army.mil/mm.asp>

Sustainer helps Soldiers through mail call

BY SPC. JESSICA BURDGE
UPAR, 2ND BN., 146TH FA REGT.,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Mail call is an important time of day for Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment here.



The burden of securing and delivering the Soldiers' mail falls on the shoulders of Spc. Joshua Medford and Pfc. Katherine Brathovde. After six months in Iraq, the two clerks have delivered approximately 2,028 articles of mail to their fellow Soldiers.

"This has been a great opportunity for me," said Medford, an Olympia, Wash., native. "When I deliver mail to the Soldiers in the battery, there's always at least one person whose day I've made better. There have been times when I've seen a Soldier upset and depressed—simply by giving them



courtesy photo

Spc. Joshua Medford, mail clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, hands a package to a Soldier.

their mail, it turns their day around 180 degrees."

During his time on rest and recuperation, Medford had an idea for some of the Soldiers in his unit that weren't receiving mail.

"I had three Soldiers that hadn't received much of anything, and it

showed," said Medford. "So I went to the store and put together three boxes for guys who weren't receiving any mail. I had recently married my wife so we sent the boxes out with a picture of our wedding in each box."

"Christmas time was crazy," laughed Medford, recalling this past Christmas surge of mail. "One day I pulled in to pick up mail — I didn't bring a big enough truck — there were four pallets of mail for the Soldiers in the battery. Believe it or not, my name wasn't on the mail roster that day."

Medford and other Soldiers often receive toys in the mail to give to local Iraqi children.

"My parents and my wife sent stuffed animals for us to give to the kids," Medford said. "It makes me feel like I'm giving something to this country."

But in their line of mail room clerks, the job of delivering mail has its ups and downs.

"Granted I may have mail for a Soldier one day, but the next week or two or three they may not receive any — it

still feels good that I get to give them their mail and make their day — but sometimes I just feel awful that I have to tell someone that they didn't receive any mail when they ask. Every one of us is far from home, and I feel bad when they don't receive anything for a while," he said.

For Medford, this is his second deployment with the Washington Army National Guard's 81st Brigade Combat Team.

"Last deployment I received mail from Family consistently and I've always shared with the other guys," he said. "It felt like the right thing to do."

The two HHB mail clerks have one of the many duties of an administrative team. Brathovde joined the Washington Army National Guard 14 months months ago and deployed with the 81st Brigade Combat Team in September 2008 assigned to HHB, 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., administration section. Brathovde resides in Lacey, Wash., and has yet to drill with her home station.

Iraqi Army, Taji Sustainers foster education at local Iraqi school

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. MICHAEL P. SYNER
10TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SALAH AD-DIN PROVINCE, Iraq — Soldiers from the 10th Sustainment Brigade and the 2nd Battalion, 36th Iraqi Army Brigade delivered donated school supplies to the Al Mustaqbal School, located in the town of 50 Dar North, here May 3.

The convoy of two vehicles filled with school supplies met a group of Iraqi Army Soldiers at the school. The supplies were off-loaded into the head master's office and the Iraqi and

American Soldiers began to distribute them to the students.

"It felt good delivering the school supplies to the kids. They all seemed really excited to get them. I wasn't expecting to get crowded passing out notepads," said Spc. Evan L. McLaren, a Manassas, Va., native and intelligence analyst with the brigade.

The children were excited to receive the gifts, especially candy, said McLaren. The Soldiers went around to all the students delivering school supplies and candy, but had been one final treat—soccer balls. The kids accepted the soccer balls with smiles and joy.

After the 10th Sust. Bde., Muleskinner Soldiers accumulated a sizeable amount of supplies (papers, notepads, pen-

cils, pens and books and bags) the mission was coordinated, said Maj. James D. Brown, the brigade's intelligence operation officer in charge, and an Englewood, Colo., native.

"I [started collecting] supplies in January, after I had heard someone here on Camp Taji was collecting them. I thought it would be a good event for the Muleskinners to support, so I sent an e-mail back home to my mom and she put the word out to have people send supplies to me in Taji," said Staff Sgt. Joel L. Mathie, an intelligence operations non-commissioned officer for 10th Sust. Bde.

The delivery of school supplies was a success for both the Muleskinner Soldiers and the Iraqi children.



Spc. Evan J McLaren, an intelligence analyst with the 10th Sustainment Brigade and Manassas, Va., native, passes out notebooks to the students of the Al Mustaqbal School in 50 Dar North, a town in the Salah ad-Din province, Iraq May 3.



287th Sustainment Brigade, COB Adder
<http://www.287susbde.com/>



ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE

Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World

Soldiers from the Polynesian Dance Group called Nesian Connection let out boisterous shouts as they begin to perform a Polynesian style dance during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, May 28



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour



By Lt. Col. Teresa Ryan,
332nd Expeditionary Medical Group

The coming of midnight on the 31st of December 1999 was not greeted with the usual revelry of New Year's Eve by many Americans. Instead, there were expressions of dread and apprehension as the new century loomed. Fears that computers across the world would fail circulated fueled by rumors that technological systems would be unable to recognize the New Year and would reset themselves to 1900. The "Y2K" fear, or millennium bug, inspired many Americans to empty their bank accounts for cash-in-hand, stock their pantries with non-perishable foods and bottled water, and purchase alternate energy generators. The first challenge of the New Year and the new century for many people was to simply survive the change from 1999 to 2000.

America survived the transition from 1999 to 2000 with equanimity. We are only nine years into the new century, standing on the threshold of a newly opened door. Yet the events of the past nine years have served to confirm John K. Kennedy's statement that "Change is the law of life". Globalization, exploding advances in technology, and shifting demographics in the American citizenry have created a need for leaders at all levels who will transform individuals of different social, cultural, economic, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds into cohesive groups directed towards a common goal.

Our successes as a nation have relied

heavily on leaders whose vision and appreciation of diversity allowed them to shape change rather than respond to change. Harry Truman served as Vice-President under Franklin D. Roosevelt, who signed Executive Order 9066 into law. That order led to the internment of hundreds of Americans of German and Italian descent and thousands of Japanese-Americans. But upon taking the office of president, Truman praised the valor and patriotism of the 442nd Infantry, a unit of Japanese-Americans recruited from the internment camps. The 442nd became the most highly decorated combat unit of its size in WWII, and Truman personally pinned the seventh Presidential Unit Citation on the unit's colors. The bravery of the 442nd Infantry and the distinguished service of the Tuskegee Airmen in the European theatre moved Truman to sign an order on July 26, 1948, desegregating the military.

It is fitting that a member of the 442nd and Medal of Honor winner, Daniel Inouye, was one of the first to propose that the first ten days of May be designated Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Second Lieutenant Inouye risked his own life in the 442nd's battle to rescue the ensnared "Lost Battalion," until a sniper's bullet shattered his right arm. Lieutenant Inouye would ultimately lose that arm but stayed in the fight, throwing grenades with his left hand un-

til he collapsed. In 1959 Inouye became the first Congressman from the new state of Hawaii and the first American of Japanese descent to serve in Congress. On-lookers reported that when Congressman Inouye raised his left hand to take the oath of office, many prejudices against Asian and Pacific Americans engendered by the war in the Pacific were laid aside.

Leaders like President Harry Truman and Congressman Daniel Inouye did not merely respond to change; they embraced principles that allowed them to shape change. "Any denial of human rights is a denial of the basic beliefs of democracy and of our regard for the worth of each individual", Truman stated in 1948, the same year the military was desegregated. Daniel Inouye overcame prejudice, grievous injury, and the loss of his dream to attend medical school, and has become the third most senior member of the U.S. Congress, receiving many awards for his work on behalf of the American military from the Air Force, Navy, and United Service Organization. Both of these leaders found themselves in a changing world and have left us with a legacy that challenges each of us. We cannot wait for changes that will enrich our world, but we must take the lead in shaping change that will allow every American to enjoy the freedoms that were fought for and won by men and women of every cultural, ethnic, and national origin.

ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2009



By Sgt. Ronald Hayden
HHC, 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt.

The theme this year for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is “Leadership to Meet the Challenges of a Changing World.” I’m not Asian. In fact, until I got sunburned the other day at the pool, I was one of the whitest soldiers on Joint Base Balad. I do, however, understand the impact Asian Americans has on the Asian continent and the Pacific. This essay will help relay my understanding of the Asian Pacific American (APA) theme.

I would first like to start out by deciphering this year’s APA theme. The first word, Leadership, is one that everyone, especially people serving in the military, should understand, but most would have a tough time defining. “Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it,” a quote from Dwight D. Eisenhower. This one word has several meanings, and can be interpreted in many ways. In fact, the U.S. Army has established core values of a soldier using an acronym of the word, LDRSHIP (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage). In any case, it is fitting that this year’s APA theme begins with the word Leadership.

The next piece of this theme is “Challenges of a Changing World.” One could spend years writing about these challenges, and much more than a two page essay. However, if we closely relate these challenges to the APA, we can narrow this field down to two key issues: Economy and Politics.

The Economy is the greatest challenge to our changing world. The APA has a heritage that spans the Asian continent and across the Pacific. Yet the biggest challenge is for them is to reach beyond their heritage, and open up their world to a global economy, expand their culture to other places in the world, and give people who are unaware of this culture a firm understanding of the history and success of the Asian people.

In a world of challenges, Politics also plays a key role. One could argue that politics, and the peo-

ple who play the games of politics, are part of the problem of our changing world. But did you know that Asian Americans contribute more money per person to political parties and candidates than any other racial, ethnic, or religious group? In doing so, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding Asian-supported political events, to include stereotyping, a lot of prejudice, and of course, racial profiling. These are all issues the Asian culture will have to overcome in this changing world. I believe the United States is a very flexible society. It takes the right person with the right message to bring about hope and prospects of change, as demonstrated by the election of a black U.S. President, Barack Obama.

For the Democratic Party, these people demand their voice be heard. Two-thirds of all registered Asian Americans are democrats. The Republican Party has also heard their voice, and so far, former President George W. Bush has named the most Asian Americans to top federal positions than any other President. It is crystal clear that Asians play an important role in politics.

I hope that this short essay has brought needed recognition and appreciation of the diversity within the Asian American community. Sure there are differences in everyone’s opinion. People tend to gage ethnicity, age, education, income, English proficiency, political view points, and a wealth of other barriers to determine who to follow. I think in the years to come, the Asian community and the Asian Pacific Heritage, spanning the Asian continent, across the Pacific, and in the United States, will play a much larger role than many can even imagine.

I would like to close this essay with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King:

“Individuals must be judged on the content of their character and what they do -- not on the color of their skin or their ethnicity.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Air Force Staff Sgt. Lorena R. Quiral from Yigo, Guam, performs a Polynesian style dance with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group Polynesian Dancers during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, May 28. Quiral, a Health Services Management Technician with the 332nd EMDG out of Los Angeles Air Force Base, was one of several dancers to perform during the luncheon.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2009



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Sgt. Hasimani T. Malungahu, from Liahona, Tonga, and member of the 304th Sustainment Brigade, Spc. Jayme Curley from Samoa, with the 669th Maintenance Company, Spc. Albert A. Taisague from Yona, Guam, with the 509th Forward Support Company and Isaac J. Patris from Saipan, with 561st Engineer Company perform a traditional Polynesian dance called the "Pate Pate" during the Asian Pacific American Heritage luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Iraq May 28.



By Pvt. Brandon Messenger
HHC, 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt.

Asian Pacific American heritage month recognizes the significant contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our nation through education, government, and leadership. This year's department of defense theme is... "Leadership, meet challenges of a changing world"

In an effort to fully recognize Asian Pacific Americans, contributions to the United States and the military, congressmen Frank Horton and Norman Mineta, introduced Asian Pacific Heritage week in 1977. On Oct 23rd, 1992, Congress unanimously voted to expand this celebration from one week to one month. May was chosen as Asian Pacific American month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7th, 1843.

Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to the growth of America in every walk of life for more than 200 years. From the arrival of Chinese and Filipino immigrants during the early 18th century through today, Asian Pacific Americans continue to contribute in the development of our nation. The dedication and valor of Asian Pacific American men and women can be traced in every American battle since the civil war.

Currently Asian Pacific Americans bring with them cultural talents and skills that have proven valuable during military and diplomatic events. In the war on terrorism according to the U.S Census Bureau, there are over 325,000 Asian Pacific American Veterans that have served our country.

During Asian Pacific American heritage month commands are encouraged to take time to recognize and celebrate the dedicated service and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans, both past and present, to our country and corps.

IA Preventative Medicine Team tours Adder's DFAC

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq –Visitors from the Iraqi
Army's preventative
health and food prepara-
tion teams, 10th Divi-
sion Iraqi Army toured
the dining facility
here April 28.

"They're here to see our process, to see how we operate our DFAC," said Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, 287th Sustainment Brigade senior food service noncommissioned officer in charge. Addressing the visitors, Wilson said "one of our main concerns is keeping our areas clean and our food at the right temperatures to avoid people getting sick."

The preventive health team is Maj. Aqeel Muslim Nafea, medical clinic officer in charge; Lt. Rasoul Mohammad, 10th Div. IA public health officer; and Mohamad Aoda, IA DFAC manager.

Civilian DFAC manager, Kevin Sovoy, showed the refrigerated trailers outside the DFAC. "We check the temperature every four hours to make sure it remains steady," he said. "There is a separate trailer for ice – food and ice cannot be stored together for hygienic reasons."

Nafea asked about the expiration

dates on the food. Sovoy said they arrange the stock so the oldest stock is used first. The group was surprised that dry goods were kept cool in an air-conditioned trailer. He said summer temperatures in Iraq are extreme enough to affect the dry goods. Paper and plastic ware are the only items not stored in the air conditioned trailer.

Next, was sanitation. Savoy said there was no trash in the DFAC compound and the restrooms were kept clean and located a good distance away from the DFAC. Trash is emptied and washed out every few hours.

"We keep these clean – all day, every day. Refuse draws pests. Anything we can do to reduce their numbers keeps the diners safer," said Savoy.

He explained that all diners must have appropriate clothing- to dine and work while in the DFAC. Sandals, clothing permeated with diesel or other strong fumes, tank tops or sweat drenched clothing aren't allowed in the facility for the diner's safety and hygienic purposes.

After donning headgear, the group went into the kitchen as another civilian contractor took over the tour.

Civilian Savka Smildil showed the group the warming oven and how each food item must be labeled with the date and time. "It can be in the warming oven for no longer than five hours," Smildil said. Food held longer than five hours will be discarded.

"We use a progressive system to



Master Sgt. Paul Wilson, 287th Sustainment Brigade senior food service noncommissioned officer in charge, explains the cleaning process to Lt. Rasoul Mohammad, 10th Division Iraqi Army public health officer, during a tour of the Heroes dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq April 28.

avoid waste," Smildil said. "Our cooks only make a few pans to start and replace as necessary throughout the meal."

Smildil then showed the vegetable and meat preparation areas. They are kept separate to avoid cross-contamination. The refrigerator and freezer temperatures are monitored consistently to avoid bacterial growth and in-

sure freshness. Products are also date labeled.

"The Iraqi Army continues to strengthen their sanitation and food preparation practices," said Master Sgt. Dennis Soper, COB Adder logistics management assistance team NCOIC. "This tour highlights how diligently the U.S. Armed Forces work to ensure our troops are kept healthy and well-fed."

Female Soldiers bond in women's seminar at Q-West

BY SPC. ERIN M. SMITH
16TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Female Soldiers took

off their rank and called each other by their first name during a women's seminar here May 8 and 9.

The informal seminar included a praise dance, poem readings, and raffle drawings for inspirational items such as bible cases,



books, and bath and body kits. Organizers kicked off the event with an icebreaker where Soldiers sat by someone they didn't know, and wrote as many words as they could think of from the letters of the other Soldiers name.

"We, as women have to support each other," said Capt. Antinita Graham, event organizer and 16th Sust. Bde., support operations officer. "We are the minority on this base. I think women need to be reassured that our issues are important and often overshadowed by mission and uniformity. We lose our identity as women, and I wanted to do a support group where

we could be ourselves."

Some of the topics covered during the seminar included, "How do I look?" "Let's talk about sex," "Single and hating it?" "Hurt, angry and getting over it," "A case of the blahs," and "Beat down." These topics addressed issues such as worries and insecurities about self image, sex, being single, anger management, depression, and abuse.

For "Hurt, angry and getting over it," Capt. Angela Velasco, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., performed a skit based on her life experiences and carried rocks that represent-

ed the burdens of her anger and hurt feelings.

"I did it for my own healing process," said Velasco. "You go through something that's hard and ugly, and use it for people's benefits. The reason I share my story is to turn something ugly to beautiful. We need to know that we're not alone, but a lot of women feel isolated."

Spc. Vernita Bunyan, with Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, said the seminar was meaningful for her.

"It was an eye opener," said Bunyan. "Coming here opened up my heart."

Lonestar State Sustainers train on MRAPs

BY SPC. SAMANTHA PAREDES
UPAR, 949TH BSB, 419TH CSSB,
10TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Texas Army National

Guard Soldiers of Foxtrot Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, were taught the driver's training course on the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle here May 2.



The course consisted of classroom and hands-on training to include how to properly maintain and troubleshoot the MRAP vehicle. While the students became familiar with the vehicle operations and the auxiliary components inside the vehicle, the students also learned the use of the tools outside of the vehicle.

Proper ground guiding procedures and maneuvering through obstacles were taught to the students. Although quite challenging, the students had to learn to drive the vehicle with other traffic safely and had a chance to drive at night using driver's vision enhancement

equipment.

Prior to the course completion, all the students tested their knowledge of what they learned. The training was a great opportunity for the Soldiers at Camp Taji in order to become knowledge and confident in using the equipment.

The student drivers of Company F, 949th Convoy Security Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade prepare for their daytime drivers training on the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle at Camp Taji, Iraq May 2.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anthony Fowlkes

SAFE SUMMER

NO ONE GRILLS ALONE

- Use grills in well-ventilated areas.
- Never leave a grill unattended once lit.
- Keep fire under control.
- Wear safe clothing.

Have fun and look out for each other this summer. Do your part to protect our Band of Brothers and Sisters.

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<https://safety.army.mil>
ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG
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Paving the Road to Reconstruction

BY MAJ. JOHN STRAHAN
555TH ENGINEER BRIGADE

BALAD, Iraq – One hundred twenty-five men sat patiently in the city hall chambers. The mayor and other government officials stood before them. One by one they waited for their names to be called.

As each man was recognized, he stood up and walked to the podium to receive his graduation certificate here.

These men joined the ranks of more than 300 graduates of the Civil Service Corps (CSC) concrete and asphalt training program. In addition to the ceremony, two other graduations were held in the Iraqi cities of Samarra and Ad Dujayl.

The CSC program, coordinated by the 555th Engineer Brigade from Ft. Lewis, Wash., is just one of the brigade's ongoing missions designed to support Iraqi reconstruction and economic development.

"I saw this as a chance to make a difference," said Navy Lt. j.g. William Moiles, engineer officer assigned to the 555th Eng. Bde., and CSC project coordinator since November 2008.

Moiles, from Soldotona, Ark., explained the CSC was designed to provide students a chance to learn a trade.

"We first targeted former members of the Sons of Iraq and the Concerned Local Citizens," said Moiles. As the two groups downsize, many were suddenly out of work. "We wanted to give them sustainable employment skills," he said. Over time, the program expanded to include area residents who were eager to learn and looking for employment.

"We were paying these men to attend the training," said Moiles. "I structured it so their pay was directly related to their attendance and performance." Students could earn up to \$300 a month while learning a skill and improving area roads at the same time.

The money to pay the students and the cost of the program was provided by the Coalition forces from the Demobilize, Disarm and Reintegration (DDR) funds.

Moiles also had to establish a relationship with the contractor providing the training. Instructors, supervision, equipment and materials were provided by Green Dream, an Iraqi construction company with offices in Baghdad and Balad.

"This contractor was definitely behind the program. They even developed a system to reward the students with gifts for their performance," said Moiles.

The size of this program and the numbers of work sites required assistance from additional engineer units. Elements of the 5th Engineer Battalion

provided much needed support on the ground once the project was underway.

First Lt. Cody West, the battalion contracting office representative, coordinated this support. "We had personnel from the 509th, 561st and 571st Engineer Companies involved," he said.

Soldiers made weekly visits to CSC work sites in Samarra, Ad Dujayl and Balad. West, from Piedmont, Okla., explained the purpose of the visits, "Our Soldiers would check to see if the students had what they needed. We often filled requests for shovels or water. Also we were concerned with safety on the work site."

Second Lt. Nathan Kim, of the 5th Eng. Bn., conducted many of the daily checks at the worksites.

"We wanted to make sure things were done to standard, and see if the students needed any support," said Kim. "We definitely let the students know that we cared by bringing them water or tools when they asked for them," said Kim, from Orlando, Fl. Less than three months into this deployment Kim quickly learned the benefits of such programs. "This project reminds me of the saying, 'teach a man to fish and you'll feed him for life,'" said Kim.

There were four phases to the program. Phase I started with basic road



Navy Lt. j.g. William Moiles stands with a group of Civil Service Corps students after distributing comfort items at one of the work sites in Balad, Iraq. Moiles saw this as a way to build relationships and reward the students for their performance.

sanitation. In this beginning phase, students cleaned specific sections of the roads. "You could see the difference after they were done," said West. "Removing the trash and clearing the edges of the roadway made it difficult for insurgents to plant an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in that area," said West. "Cleaning an area also improved local morale," he added. "It gave people a renewed sense of pride."

In Phase II the students learned



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. John Strahan

Khadom Falah (wearing brown shirt), a student leader in the Civil Service Corps, reviews final payroll documents with a fellow student following the graduation ceremony.

crater repair. This phase produced unexpected results. "We actually had students find IED's," said Moiles. After preparing the site, students were taught how to properly fill and patch the craters. As the students moved forward in the program, Phase III provided heavy equipment operation

"We certified the students at four different levels," said Moiles. The levels included laborer, craftsman apprentice, craftsman and foreman. "With these certifications the graduates could prove their training to a potential employer," added Moiles.

One of the graduates, Ahmed Abraham, spoke proudly about the course. "I have been in the program since the beginning and I have learned to work with concrete and asphalt," said Abraham, from Al-Jozerate, Iraq left the CLC to learn a trade that would help him find work.

Earning a foreman's certificate required students to demonstrate both technical proficiency and leadership potential. Khadom Falah possessed these traits. Falah, a former CLC member and is now a project manager.

"During the training, I supervised 14 students," said Falah, from Al-Hodhery, Iraq.

Following the graduation, the students had a chance to meet local contractors who were there to recruit new employees, to include personnel from the Balad municipality. City officials recruited twenty students for local road repair jobs.

Reflecting over the past six months, Moiles is satisfied with the CSC program. "It has been an excellent experience to work with the Iraqis in this capacity and to have a chance to see the benefits of my efforts," said Moiles.

The project manager from the Green Dream contracting company described the CSC as a great success. Salman Ahmed from Al-Shumary, Iraq was pleased with the results. "This will provide jobs and opportunity for the men who are not employed," he said. "We have rehabilitated these men for good jobs instead of working for the insurgents who have no pride. These men you see today, they have pride."

Highlander combat medics and Balad Airmen deliver 'medical aid' to Balad Iraqis

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CAPT. MIKE VINCENT
UPAR, HHC, 1ST BN., 161ST
INF. REGT., 304TH SUST. BDE

BALAD, Iraq – The streets are bustling with families returning from the date fields some piled into pickup trucks, and sharing the road with the neighborhood



Iraqi children holding an injured girl. Hutch reached into his medic bag, containing every conceivable first aid item, in anticipation of an event like this. Hutch treated the infected area, bandaged it, and gave the girl's older brother a tube of antibiotic cream with treatment instructions.

Hutch was approached by another child, and then another and another. This was repeated throughout the afternoon, and Hutch continued to take away

in the military. We treat medical conditions that we would never see back home or even when treating Soldiers here at JBB."

Sgt. 1st Class Chad B. Bennett of Rathdrum, Idaho, and chief medical noncommissioned officer in 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., explained how they became involved with the project.

"We went to a medical conference in December and got to know many of the key people in the OIF medical community. A doctor in Baghdad with the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) mentioned the Air Force's mission around JBB and their need for medics. We contacted the 532nd ESFS and they said they would love to have us," Bennett said.

"We have executed over 150 missions since the beginning of April and our medics have treated over a hundred Iraqi patients. This mission gives us the opportunity to reach out to the Iraqi community," said Sgt. Robert P. Mulrooney of Bellingham, Wash. "Often times, the villagers are turned away at the local hospital. So, we treat them on the scene. If it's more than we can provide, we do our best to coordinate with 532nd physician's assistant, Air Force Capt. Laura J. Dart of Offutt, Neb., to recommend a higher level to the nearest civilian hospital."

Dart, chief medical officer with the 532nd ESFS, said, "Our primary mission is security. The outside patrols conduct missions for terrain denial, making our presence known to insurgents and others who mean us harm."

the pain and replacing it with a smile on the kids' faces.

The 532nd ESFS is responsible for perimeter security around surrounding Joint Base Balad and continuing an established relationship with the local citizens of the villages and farms. Hutchinson explained, "In 2004, we set up in a school or vacant lot and did what we could with what we had. Today, we are supposed to step back and let the Iraqis take over. But, in many cases, they still don't have the resources available to take care of the people. So, we try to assist in any small way we are able to."

Hutchinson, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and a certified paramedic with Sunnyside Fire Department in Washington State said, "We see very small villages around JBB, as compared to Baghdad. It seems the people who live in these villages live hand to mouth on a daily basis. We may be the only medical provider they will ever see while we are on patrol. It's the greatest job I have ever had



Staff Sgt. Gregg O. Hutchinson of Sunnyside, Wash. and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment medic examines an Iraqi girl's face and arms while her older brothers look on during a patrol outside Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

cows; all making their way through the village traffic. The sounds of children playing and vehicle horns are heard in all directions. The aroma of cooking lamb mixed with car exhaust filled the early afternoon air.

Suddenly, the village was overcome with a different sound. The sounds of Coalition convoys fast approaching. As quickly as the convoy came, so did Iraqi children. The children ran with the same anticipation an American child would to greet the neighborhood ice cream truck. The Air Force's 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron 'Lion' patrol with their 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment 'Highlander' combat medics had arrived.

"The war has changed," says Army Staff Sgt. Gregg O. Hutchinson of Sunnyside, Wash. Hutchinson, a 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt., combat medic, dismounted his vehicle when the inevitable summons came, "Get Doc up here!" The call was for an injured Iraqi girl.

Hutchinson, also referred to as "Hutch," was met by several



First Lt. James C. Sims of Vancouver, Wash. and the TF 1-161 Battalion Medical Officer provides security with the 532nd Expeditionary Security Squadron during a patrol outside Joint Base Balad

"The patrol members visit with local residents and find out how their community is functioning. Along the way, we are able to render care to the people we encounter," he said. "Our Army combat medics have seen countless numbers of injuries. The medic's high level of medical knowledge combined with their vast experience with patrols and convoys outside the wire make them an immeasurable asset."

"Many times, we see the same people and treat them with an ongoing injury," said Spc. Bradley V. Peters of Sunnyside, Wash.

"This allows us as Soldiers

to build relationships and it makes the people feel we are not here to harass them, but to help them and let them know we actually care," Peters continued. "With the work that we do, the insurgents may think twice about attacking us if we can provide medical care for their children. It may make that decision that much harder."

In three months, Peters and the Airmen of the 532nd continually check-up on a four-year-old Iraqi girl who was victim of severe oil burns from a kitchen fire.

The Highlander medics and the 532nd ESFS frequently visited with supplies, clothes and medicine to ensure the girl is properly healing. "The burn is almost completely healed and looks a thousand times better than it did when we first saw it," said Spc. Ryan C. Smith of Richland, Wash. "We try to see her as often as we can."

"It's more fulfilling to be out with the Iraqi people," said Mulrooney. "We have a great impact on the Iraqi people with this mission and I think we have opened their minds on which we are as American Soldiers."

"I couldn't think of anything better I could be doing with my life right now. It truly feels like we have made a difference here," said Peters.



Spc. Bradley V. Peters of Sunnyside, Wash. and Airman from the 532nd Expeditionary Security Squadron conduct dismounted patrol operations south of Joint Base Balad.

Maintenance & Supply

Courtesy of PS Magazine. Soldiers using Army equipment needing more information for on-going equipment issues and challenges, visit PS Magazine online: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/psonline.cfm>

Topic of the Week



Take Inventory Digital

Dear Editor,
Digital cameras make it very easy to take pictures of equipment and then transfer it to your computer. So we've used digital technology to make keeping track of our inventory simpler. We lay out all the items we're responsible for and take a digital picture of each item. After we transfer the pictures to a computer we add the name/description, UIC, NIN, serial number, and on-hand quantity to each item's picture. All of that should be available in the property book. Once you have all the pictures and information stored in the computer, it's simple to make any needed changes as inventory changes. This method greatly eases the transition for a new CO because he may not be familiar with all the equipment he's assuming responsibility for. With this, he can match the pictures to his equipment to see what he's getting. Of course, once you have all this information stored in your computer, make a copy of it in case your computer crashes.

SGT S.L.
CW2 W.R.
D Co- 1-82d ARB
R Snapp NC

Editor's note: A picture is worth a 1,000 LDNs. Thanks for the suggestion.

Education Fair

Hawaiian Style

OPEN INVITATION!

Joint Base Balad
Blackjack Education Center

June 5
Starting 16:00 hrs

Call for More Details:
DSN 433-2099



- Fun Games
- Tuition Assistance Information
- Drawings & Prizes
- Class Schedules

Are You Ready to Play Volleyball?
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AVON WALK for BREAST CANCER

2ND Bn., 402 AFSB



Celebrating Survivors

AVON WALK for BREAST CANCER COMES TO BALAD WALK WITH THE 2ND BN., 402 ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE IN SUPPORT OF THE AVON WALK FOR BREAST CANCER

Date: June 13, 2009
Place: Joint Base Balad
Starting Location: Holt Stadium
Show Time: 0530
Start Time: 0600
Distance: 3 miles
Free T-Shirt

For more information or to register contact:
CPT Prosser / Jacqueline Gerald
Email: adam.l.prosser@mmcs.army.mil
Commercial PH: (732) 427-5130 x 4574
Email: geraldj2@mmcs.army.mil
Commercial PH: (732) 427-5130 x 8704 or 6561

JOIN FORCES WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AVON WALKERS IN THE USA

Sudoku

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.

Level: Medium

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

Last weeks answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What eastern U.S. state attracts the curious to its town of Le-Roy, home to the *Jell-O* Museum?
2. What 1994 movie kept reminding audiences that "Stupid is as stupid does?"
3. What NBA star, weak from Ramadan fasting, still managed to grab his 10,000th career rebound, in 1995?
4. What make of 1963 auto fetched a record \$11 million when it was sold in 1998?
5. What shallow border river has been described as "too thin to plow and too thick to drink?"

1. New York 2. Forrest Gump 3. Hakeem Olajuwon 4. A Ferrari 5. The Rio Grande

JOINT BASE BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL	MASS
Sunday 0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel 0930 Provider Chapel 1030 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel 1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel	Saturday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) (Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment) 2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side) Sunday 0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1100 Provider Chapel 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel Thu 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel Mon, Wed, Fri 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Mon-Fri 1130 555th Engineer Brigade Bldg 7200
GOSPEL	JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES
Sunday 1100 MWR East Building 1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1900 Provider Chapel	Friday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Saturday 0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Saturday 1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
CONTEMPORARY	ISLAMIC PRAYER
Sunday 0900 Chapel-Near Iraq/MWR East 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155) 1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side) Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	Friday 1230 Provider Chapel
HISPANIC PROTESTANT	PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP
Saturday 1930 Provider Chapel	Thursday 1900 The Shack Saturday 1900 The Shack
LITURGICAL -Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian	GREEK ORTHODOX
Sunday 1500 Gilbert Chapel (H-6)	Sunday 0900 Provider Annex
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	For Further Information Please Call:
Saturday 1000 Provider Chapel	Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703 Provider Chapel: 433-2430 Freedom Chapel: 443-6303
CHURCH OF CHRIST	
Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)	
LATTER DAY SAINTS-(MORMON)	
Sunday 1300 Provider Chapel 1530 Freedom Chapel (West Side) 1900 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed.- 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat.- 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu.- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m. 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat.- 8-10 p.m.	Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Tue., Thu.- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Soccer: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	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 p.m. Yoga: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	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.	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.
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Joint Base Balad Bulletin

JBB Plastic Model Club meets every Wednesday at MWR-East, 1900-2100. Questions, contact Maj. Brian Nomi at 433.2836 or brian.nomi@iraq.centcom.mil

Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at the Dragon's Den of the Air Force Theater Hospital from noon to 1 p.m. Questions, e-mail Maj. Daniel Webster at Daniel.Webster@iraq.centcom.mil

The re-opening of the Joint Base Balad-East side Bazaar is scheduled for June 6, 8:45 a.m. The Bazaar daily operating hours (except Friday), is 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will sell various items from office supplies to local Iraqi made goods. The new location is located next to Sami's Restaurant.

Check CHUsdays

Each **TUESDAY** Check The Following in Your **CHU**

1. Power strips are free of debris and clothing
2. Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
3. Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
4. Smoke detector is operational
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly

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

NEVER LET YOUR BUDDY FIGHT alone

Be Willing to Listen

Not all Wounds are Visible

Prevent Suicide.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

TOBYHANNA FRA

We are located at Bldg 6828 Victory Loop N behind the Education Center at JBB

DSN: 312-987-5130, OPTION 1
EXT 6363/6364 HIT "#"
TYAD_FRA_Balad@mmcs.army.mil

Computer Repair

Exchanges and DX

Printer Repair

We repair:

- Laptops
- Desktops
- Printers
- HP copiers
- Digital Senders
- LCD Monitors
- UPS
- Cisco Switches

We exchange:

- Batteries
- A/C Adapters
- Keyboards

We DX:

- HIIDE , PRC 112, HCLOS, TBC, CAISI

****GOVERNMENT EQUIPMENT ONLY!****

To open an account with us... just bring a signature card and an assumption of command letter.

Iraq according to Opet

CAMP VICTORY "MOTHER OF ALL POOLS"

Hum... You Guys NOTICE ANYTHING WEIRD?

All... NO MEMBERS of the opposite Gender?

Whose idea WAS THIS?

© M. BAKER 2007

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

1SG?

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Oh... I GUESS HE'S NOT HERE.

ARMY

WELL, HE MUST STILL BE IN THE AREA. HIS ACU TOP IS HERE.

HIS ACU TOP THAT HAS VELCRO NAME TAPES.

TIM, DON'T YOU DARE!

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SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, June 3

5 p.m. Dragonball: Evolution
8 p.m. Night At The Museum

Thursday, June 4

5 p.m. Night At The Museum
8 p.m. Terminator Salvation

Friday, June 5

2 p.m. Hannah Montana
5 p.m. State of Play
8:30 p.m. UP

Saturday, June 6

2 p.m. State of Play
5 p.m. UP

Sunday, June 7

2 p.m. UP
5 p.m. Fighting
8 p.m. State of Play

Monday, June 8

5 p.m. State of Play
8 p.m. Hannah Montana

Tuesday, June 9

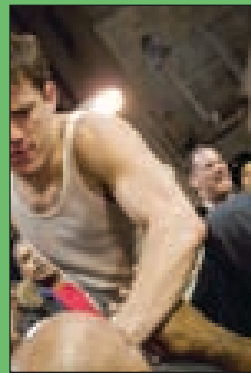
5 p.m. UP
8 p.m. Fighting

(Schedule is Subject to Change)

Fighting



A small-town boy hustling his way through the big city forms an uneasy alliance with a scam artist who inducts him into the violent world of bare-knuckle brawling in A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints writer/director Dito Montiel's unforgiving urban action film. Arriving in New York City with little more than the shirt on his back, Shawn MacArthur (Channing Tatum) makes ends meet by selling counterfeit goods on the street. But times are tough and money is short, and just as things are starting to look grim, Shawn crosses paths with crafty con artist Harvey Boarden (Terrence Howard). Harvey instantly recognizes Shawn's natural talent for street fighting, and offers to help the uneasy newcomer make some quick cash on the bare-knuckle circuit. But making a living by brawling isn't easy because the system is hopelessly corrupt, and the only people who really come out on top are the rich businessmen who place wagers on the disposable fighters. Still, Harvey's instincts were right, and Shawn quickly makes a name for himself by taking down every opponent who crosses his path, including mixed martial arts champs, veteran pugilists, and ultimate fighters. As each bout becomes more intense, Shawn realizes that his only hope for escaping this dark world is to face his fiercest opponent to date.

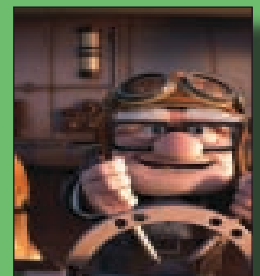


UP



From Disney Pixar comes 'Up,' a comedy adventure about 78-year-old balloon salesman Carl Fredricksen, who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip: an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell. From the Academy Award-nominated director Pete Docter ('Monsters, Inc.'), Disney Pixar's 'Up' invites you on a

hilarious journey into a lost world, with the least likely duo on Earth. 'Up' will be presented in Disney Digital 3-D in select theaters.



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 6/3/09

New York Mets @ Pittsburgh Pirates, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Cleveland Indians @ Minnesota Twins, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Baltimore Orioles @ Seattle Mariners, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas Rangers @ New York Yankees, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
2009 French Open: Men's Quarterfinal (Roland Garros; Paris, France), Tape Delayed 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 6/4/09

Boston Red Sox @ Detroit Tigers, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
Philadelphia Phillies @ San Diego Padres, Live 6 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 French Open: Women's Semifinal (Roland Garros; Paris, France), Live 3 p.m. AFN/sports
Oakland Athletics @ Chicago White Sox, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra



Friday 6/5/09

Chicago Cubs @ Atlanta Braves, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
Philadelphia Phillies @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
ESPN Films: Kobe Doin' Work ** Spike Lee's documentary is an intriguing look at one of America's most loved and most hated superstars, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/xtra
2009 NCAA Baseball Super Regionals: Teams TBD, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 6/6/09

2009 Stanley Cup Playoffs - Eastern Conference Finals, Game 4: Pittsburgh Penguins @ Carolina Hurricanes, Live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Colorado Rockies @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
The Memorial Tournament: Third Round (Muirfield Village GC, Dublin, OH), Live 10 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
FOX Saturday Baseball Game of the Week: Minnesota Twins @ Seattle Mariners, Live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 6/7/09

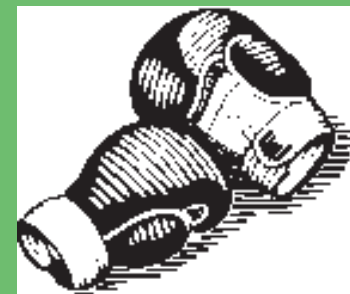
2009 Stanley Cup Finals - Game 2: Teams TBD, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Seattle Sounders FC @ Chivas USA, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Detroit Shock @ Los Angeles Sparks, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tampa Bay Rays @ New York Yankees, Live 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
US World Cup Qualifier: Honduras vs United States (Chicago, IL), Tape Delayed 7 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 6/8/09

Sunday Night Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies @ Los Angeles Dodgers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Los Angeles Angels @ Detroit Tigers, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series: United Associations Route 66 NHRA Nationals (Chicago-Joliet, IL), Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
2009 NCAA Baseball Super Regionals: Teams TBD, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 6/9/09

Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Diego Padres, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Monday Night Baseball: Tampa Bay Rays @ New York Yankees, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
2009 Stanley Cup Finals - Game 3: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
Detroit Tigers @ Chicago White Sox, Live 6 p.m. AFN/sports



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jacob Lopez, a native of San Antonio, Texas, attached to Crazyhorse Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, inspects barrels filled with vehicle parts during a recent combined reconnaissance patrol in the industrial sector of the town of Taza, with counterparts of the Iraqi Police, in Kirkuk, Iraq May 16.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati

U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Bryan Briggs, a native of Killen, Texas, attached to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, "high fives" an Iraqi child during a visit to the city of Altun Kapri, Iraq May 18.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sergeant Ali E. Flisek

An Iraqi soldier from the 21st Brigade, 5th Army Division, adjusts his distance and degree before shooting a mortar round at a target during a 60mm mortar training course at the Kirkush Military Training Base, Diyala, Iraq May 18.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati

U.S. Army Spc. Joseph West from Idaho Falls, Idaho, attached to Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, distributes pens and notebooks to Iraqi children, during a visit to the city of Altun Kapri, Iraq May 18.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Airmen Dedicate 3 New Buildings to Iraqi Air Force

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Members of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq Coalition Air Force Training Team handed over three new buildings to the Iraqi Air Force in traditional dedication ceremonies.

Among the new facilities were an avionics testing facility, a communications building and a munitions storage area.

According to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Angel Olivares, CAFTT base support unit director, the new facilities will greatly enhance the capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force.

“The projects were designed to provide the Iraqi Air Force here at Taji with the basic infrastructure to allow it to complete its flying and training missions,” Olivares said.

The avionics testing facility is unique because the equipment inside is from Russia and utilizes more than six different electrical power supply variations. The facility was designed to allow the phase testing of all MI-17 and Huey electronic components.

“There are only two facilities of this type in the world – one in Russia and now one here in Taji, Iraq,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bonnie Trajanowski, CAFTT air advisor. “It will give the Iraqi Air Force the capability to test and make adjustments to all the avionics equipment, to include: all the instruments, the auto pilot and radios on the Mi-17.”

Trajanowski, a native of New Britain, Connecticut, who is deployed from Barksdale AFB, La., said the biggest challenge for her team has been receiving all the Russian equipment, translating the operating procedures into English so Coalition advisors can understand, and then re-translating into Arabic for the Iraqi Air Force. She said it was a necessary step to ensure the success of the Iraqi aerial mission.

“With the shortage of parts and aircraft, we have to ensure that these helicopters are performing at the optimal level and with this new facility we can now make sure that happens,” she said.

The second facility dedicated to the Iraqis was the communications building, which is also a one-of-a-kind for the Iraqi air force.

“It is designed to house all the communication needs for the entire base, to include phone, internet and radio and will be utilized to service all repairs on those capabilities,” said Olivares, who is deployed from HQ NATO SHAPE, Belgium, and is a native of El Paso, Texas.

The third and final facility the Iraqis took over was a new munitions maintenance and storage area, modeled after the munitions storage facilities used by the U.S. Air Force. The maintenance facility consists of three bays designed to conduct maintenance on rockets, chaff and/or flares and ammunition, and also has office space for the technicians.

“The significance of this munitions area is that we have increased the capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force by 400 percent,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Otis T. Reed, munitions advisor to the Iraqi Air Force. “This building will now be used for weapons checkout and munitions inspections as well as munitions building.” Reed is deployed from Luke AFB, Ariz., and is a native of Arkansas.



GoI makes big gains in Sol pay reconciliation

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – Government of Iraq members of the Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation, Iraqi Army and U.S. Military forces oversaw another series of paydays in Multaka, starting May 18, and saw a dramatic decrease in the number of SoI that were ineligible to receive payment.

In April, 228 Sons of Iraq in the village of Multaka, Iraq—or approximately one-quarter of the total registered members—were turned away on payday because of discrepancies with the list that their 12th Iraqi Army Division pay agents received from Baghdad.

“They [IFCNR, 12th IA Div. and SoI] made a big jump this month,” said 2nd Lt. Chris Freeman, the fire support officer for Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

They reduced the total number of ineligible to receive payment by more than 90 percent, from 228 people not getting paid in the Multaka area, to 18 in a one month span, he continued.

Most of the major issues with lists came when we switched payment from U.S. military forces to the GoI, said Capt. John Denney, the commander of Company C.

The administration of the pay lists was the biggest source of the problem initially, he explained. There were minor discrepancies in the spelling of names, which led to the original SoI members not being paid for the first month that the 12th IA Div. was responsible for making the payments for the 848 on the payrolls in Multaka from US forces.

But the IFCNR, IA soldiers and SoI worked since last month to get the list fixed, and they did a great job of getting it a lot closer to being completely accurate, said Freeman.

For the individuals who were supposed to receive payment last month, there was one month of back pay waiting for them in addition to this month’s payment.

“It is still a work in progress getting all the names right,” explained Freeman. “They are definitely working out their issues, though.”

Freeman emphasized that the U.S. Military is strictly

in overwatch and that IA pay agents were the ones drawing the money from the bank, issuing the payment, and noting discrepancies with the list so they could report them to the GoI.

“We owe these guys a good handoff before we leave,” said Denney. “We just want to make sure that it [the transition] goes well.”

Government builds economic plan in Ninewa

MOSUL, Iraq – Local government, business and agricultural leaders from the Shekhan district and economic advisors from the Provincial Reconstruction Team met to discuss economic stability and growth in Ninewa’s northern-most district May

20.

Bob Jachim, PRT economic project coordinator, said the meeting’s purpose was to conduct an “economic reconnaissance” for the region which relies primarily on agriculture.

“Our goal is to work with district residents and their ideas to provide economic stability in the region,” said Jachim.

According to Shaban Abdullah, vice mayor of the district, the community has seen a rise of internally displaced families. The majority are from southern Iraq. Abdullah said the PRT advisors bring hope of renewed economic development to the area.

“We hope the reconstruction team will be able to help our people,” said Abdullah, adding more agriculture may bring increased industry to the district.

“Displaced families were a secondary reason for us to take a look at the economic stability of Shekhan,” Jachim said. “There are more than 3,600 displaced families living here. We needed to assess the situation and see how we can facilitate some sort of employment for them as well.”

Participants discussed conservation tillage farming—a technique that requires no plowing from season to season and produces a higher crop yield—and an agribusiness model to expand their market. They also discussed funding for supplies and equipment.

“One of the big issues that came out of the discussions was securing loans for their farms,” said Maj. Dominic Kusomoto, the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division civil military operations officer.

“The Iraqis are willing to secure and pay for loans, but traveling to Mosul to do their banking presents its own challenges. One of the suggestion are establish an agriculture bank so they could secure loans locally,” Kusomoto added.

Jachim said the next step will be to come up with project ideas that will be successful in the community. “These project ideas are then given to the communities so that they can begin planning them and figuring out how to implement them,” he said.

Agriculture and business projects have been implemented in six other districts throughout Ninewa as well. According to Jachim, these projects can be used as a model for the Shekhan district.

“Another economic impact these projects have is they put money directly back into communities and serve as a successful model for neighboring communities to follow,” said Jachim.

Sustaining the Line



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Former West Point classmates Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, and Maj. Gen. James Hodge, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command commanding general, share a laugh together during Hodge's visit to the 3^d ESC headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, May 30.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Soldiers, Airmen, contractors and foreign nationals sprint from the starting line for the beginning of the 16th Sustainment Brigade's 16 km Memorial Day run at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq May 24. A relay team of four male Soldiers from the 574th Quartermaster Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., won the race with the fastest time of one hour 11 minutes and 35 seconds. The fastest individual runner, Sgt. Corey Duever, 378th Movement Control Team, finished the event in 1:13:06. Capt. Kirstie Roy, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, was the fastest female, with a time of 1:30:37.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Beau Stefka

Staff Sgt. Jerry Downer, a native of Lilesville, N.C., noncommissioned officer in charge with the 10th Sustainment Brigade personnel security detail team helped Spc. Thomas Smutney, a Fort Worth, Texas native, exited out of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Egress Trainer at Camp Taji, Iraq May 2. This trainer used by Soldiers of 10th Sustainment Brigade PSD is the first Soldiers to utilize this piece of equipment at Camp Taji and will keep Soldiers trained and react to roll over to prevent injury and save lives.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian J. Samuels

Soldiers from the 590th Quartermaster Company qualify Soldiers on their assigned weapon at Caughman Range, Camp Liberty, Iraq.