



SUSTAINER
THE MAGAZINE OF THE 3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

05 - 07

A TRIBUTE TO THE
SACRIFICE, SERVICE
& SUCCESS
OF THE
3RD CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND



SUSTAINER

Operation Iraqi Freedom Special Edition



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FROM the Editor

When faced with the mission of reflecting a year's worth of 3rd Corps Support Command accomplishments in the mere 44 pages of this special edition Sustainer, I initially thought it was an impossible task. With more than 20,000 Soldiers spread throughout Iraq and Kuwait, working an average of 12 hours a day, seven days a week, the COSCOM's downrange accomplishments wouldn't fit in a 44,000 page publication.

For every unit, there's more than a 1,000 stories of mission success, camaraderie and dedication. For every Soldier, there's a message of selfless service, commitment and loyalty, generating more than 20,000 more stories. Add 20,000 additional features about the families and friends who have supported their deployed Soldiers from afar. Throw in a few more thousand stories of Soldiers going above and beyond what was required of them, for the sake of the mission and their fellow COSCOM Soldiers. To top it all off, it would take a countless number of stories to express the vital role the support Soldier continues to play in the war on terrorism.

With these incredible numbers before me, I realized it would take me a lifetime to even begin to do justice to our Soldiers' accomplishments. My realization didn't make the 44 blank pages disappear, and my nagging desire to recognize my fellow COSCOM warriors' contributions forced me to search for a way to complete this massive mission.

I decided to take a lesson from all of you and erase the word impossible from my vocabulary. I thought about those of you who deployed with COSCOM and other units during the initial Operation Iraqi Freedom, only to faithfully return for this deployment. I thought about the Soldiers and units who adjusted fire, taking on completely foreign missions for the sake of our overall success. I thought about our COSCOM Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during this deployment, giving their lives for our country.

In moments like these, I am thankful to have a job that allows me to learn about what you all do, because from you I gain motivation. The pages that follow are a tribute to the sacrifice, service and success of the 3rd Corps Support Command. If nothing else, I hope this special edition helps you realize that you have been a part of something huge, and your service will forever be felt by the people of Iraq, and appreciated by your fellow Americans.

Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson
Editor/Layout & Design
3rd Corps Support Command

* Special thanks to the Soldiers of the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs and 64th Corps Support Group Public Affairs for your contributions and support of Sustainer magazine.

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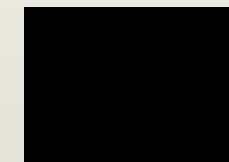
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All submissions will become property of the Public Affairs Office and are subject to editing as deemed appropriate.

The Sustainer is published quarterly using offset press reproduction.
Printed circulation: 15,000.

Submit story ideas/comments to:
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COMMANDING GENERAL'S message

THANK YOU! - I believe these two words are the most important words I can say to capture my final message to all of you ... Soldiers, leaders, civilians, family members, friends.

THANK YOU for:

- making a difference in my life, personally and professionally.
- making a difference in the lives of others ... your own family, your unit, your battle buddy, the Iraqis, your community, your family readiness group, our military – present and future, and most importantly, our Nation!
- serving ... selflessly serving and sacrificing personal pleasures and comfort for something much bigger than yourself.
- your positive attitudes, endless energy and focus until the mission's complete.
- and, **THANK YOU** for being an integral part of the team ... part of the solution ... critical to our mission success and completion.

Being your commander for the past year has been an extraordinary experience for me. There have been life-changing moments and events, new relationships and friendships, and a scrapbook of memories that will never be surpassed in my lifetime.

THANK YOU for being the ones who filled those pages of memories – the words, the photos, the emotions, the smiles, the touches, the tears, the ribbons, the awards, the honors, and the final seal of duty, honor and country that will be forever pressed on my heart and mind.

God bless, keep and strengthen each of you as you journey back home to new babies, new assignments, new adventures... my life is better for having had you in it ... our TEAM and our world is better because of YOU.

Rebecca S. Halstead
BG, USA
Commanding

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S WORDS

As this deployment draws to an end and we have the opportunity,

I would suggest that we concentrate more on the positive aspects and not dwell on things that did not go as expected. Our character is made and developed each and every day by our life experiences, both good and bad, and it is because of those experiences that shape who we are. I like to think that despite everything that may have occurred during this past year we have all gained something in some way. I would like to remind you that you are engrained in the history of the Iraqi people. Our efforts are changing the future for millions. Once freedom takes hold in the Middle East it will spread and provide the people a better way of life, a way of life they choose, not one that is dictated to them through fear.

There is no way that this huge transformation could have happened in the year we served, but during our year we have made significant progress toward making that dream a reality. We have built schools to educate the children of Iraq; these are the future leaders of the country. We have supplied and established hospitals for the people, providing them healthcare like they've never had before. Iraqis are providing law enforcement, they are serving in their military, they are trying so desperately to take charge of their own destiny, and in time they will. They have an established government that is by the people, for the people. The infrastructure has grown and become more stable. They are recognized by the world as a country that has leadership at the helm, instead of a third world nation led by a lunatic. Yes over the course of the last year

many things happened to better Iraq, but many challenges lay ahead. We must be patient, it took the United States decades to get our democratic federal government to where it is today, and we experienced many of the same challenges that the Iraqi people now face, but in the end freedom will prevail, and a better, stable, free Iraq will endure and you played a critical part in that.

So try and reflect back on the things you have learned or gained during this deployment. The new friendships you have forged or the education that you may have achieved. Perhaps this experience has given you insight to what you really hold true in your life.

Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Schmitt (center) poses with now fellow Command Sergeants Major Victor Blade (left) and Michael Sanchez.



I caution you to be patient when you get back home. A year is a long time and things will have changed, both in you and with your family. Keep your expectations about your homecoming realistic and don't try to rush into making up for lost time. Unfortunately some of you will want to drink as much alcohol as possible, it would be a shame to end a successful deployment by getting into trouble or hurting yourself or someone else.

Once again I would like to say it has been a long year, full of challenges, memories and many lessons learned, through the good times and not so good, happiness and despair, we have completed our mission and are going home.

I am extremely proud and thankful of each and every warrior who chooses the humble profession of being a Soldier, and will look back on this for many years to come and know I was part of a great team that changed the course of history for millions.

“WARRIOR SEVEN”
Karl E. Schmitt
Command Sergeant Major
Multi-National Corps - Kuwait
Special Troops Battalion



being the bridge

what does it take to be a warrant officer in today's Army?

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Matthew Anderson, the 3rd COSCOM fusion cell SPO technician, (second from right) poses with members of Task Force Bandit during a battlefield circulation mission.

Though their ethos declares that they will always place the mission first, the 3rd Corps Support Command warriors who've sacrificed during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 will each face personal decisions as they redeploy to the next chapter of their military service. Many enlisted Soldiers may consider attempting to replace their chevrons and rockers with bars, some considering a turn down the warrant officer path. Rather than list the requirements and processes for becoming a warrant officer, 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Specialist Sgt. Mary Ferguson sat down with Chief Warrant Officer 5 Matthew Anderson to learn about his career and life as a chief warrant officer and what characteristics he thinks a Soldier must possess to succeed down that path.

Tell me about your life in the Army - I've got about 28 years in the Army, active duty. I came in right out of high school to go military police, and I had never intended to stay in the Army this long, but those three years as an MP didn't really translate into something I wanted to do when I got out. So, I went to that big old MOS [military occupation specialty] book and the quartermaster field seemed like something I wanted to do and it had airborne too, which meant extra money. So I said, ok, I'll do airborne supply. I went to jump school with the 82nd Airborne and that really set the stage for the rest of my military career, and I met the love of my life, my wife, and started a family. I spent three years with the 82nd. I reenlisted and went to Germany for the first of my three tours there. I was a squad leader then a platoon sergeant, and the chain of command saw warrant officer "stuff" in me. It just seemed to me that we were going through a range of changes in logistical automation systems at that time and most of the folks were blown away by that, and it was a right place, right time thing for me, because I seemed to excel at that, leading me to the warrant officer field.

What role does a warrant officer fill? You've got the two worlds in the Army. You've got the officer corps, made up of the guardians and directors, envisioning operations, but then you have the actual executors or the enlisted. There is a translation process that goes on between the two worlds, and the warrant officer is the translator, having a foot in both worlds. A warrant officer has to have the interpersonal skills to be that bridge between the two worlds. Yes, we are typically respected by both officers and enlisted, but that respect is earned.

How does this roll translate into what you have done during this deployment? Well, I chose to deploy with COSCOM this time. I was about four days from the stop loss date, but that

date was constantly shifting, and Lt. Col. Kelly [19th Support Center Commander] called me and told me I was off the hook, that I didn't have to deploy, but in the Army I was raised in you don't leave your team on the eve of a deployment, so I deployed with the COSCOM ... and it's been great. As the master chief of the COSCOM, I guess you could call me the super SPO tech. I receive more than 300 emails a day about everything. I am identifying problems and coming up with solutions primarily in supply areas, meaning food, water, fuel, etc., but also in maintenance, information systems, distribution, transportation, and knowledge management. I am the bridge on all technical channels, the bridge between enlisted personnel and officers, the bridge between strategic and tactical operations, and the bridge between current and future operations. I guess you could call what I do crisis management. In essence that is a warrant officers job, know everything and be able to relate and bridge it all to everything else.

What would you say to those lower enlisted Soldiers who are facing career decisions like whether or not to stay enlisted, or try for OCS or even go warrant officer?

Bear with me as I answer this, remember I was enlisted at one point too, but I think there are four things that happen to good noncommissioned officers in this Army. They either go OCS, they go warrant officer, they go the tactical NCO route from platoon sergeant to first sergeant to command sergeant major, or they get out of the Army. A fifth thing can always happen, they choose to just stay the course and some do that as well, but really I think it is an up or out process for good NCOs in this Army. I think if a Soldier decides they are ready to move out of their comfort zone, they have to really think about what they want. They may see their chief and think, he or she really knows their stuff, but they are working a

lot of extra hours ... and the reality of it is the pay is not that much more and as a warrant officer they will never command Soldiers, but some may want that. They may see their chief working issues and solving problems and think that is something they would like to do. The warrant officer entry program used to be brutal. It was basically a combination of West Point, OCS and Ranger school, and the wash out rate was high, but now it is not nearly as difficult, so Soldiers shouldn't fear that myth. I want people to go into the warrant officer corps with eyes wide open. They shouldn't always believe the perceptions they may have about being a warrant officer. Instead they should really sit down with a warrant officer and understand what it takes.

In your opinion, what does it take to be a successful warrant officer?

I've given out three senior warrant officer letters in my entire time as a warrant officer, because I won't even think about giving you a letter until I have known you for at least a year. I am observing you, not your technical expertise because that is all trainable. I want to know if you have that "give a crap" factor in your heart, and this is a perfect environment to observe that. I want to know what you are like with 20 hours of work in you, day after day. I want to see how you think, how you go through the decision making process deliberately and not so deliberately, because what I'm looking for in someone who is a potential warrant officer, is can you think, and how do you think, and how do you handle stress. Also, I want to know, as an NCO, how do you interact with officers? If you can't build your team, if you can't coach, train, mentor your team, forget it. I can't put the "give a crap" in your heart. I can teach you the technical things, you could be the smartest tech. in the world, but without the "give a crap" in your heart you will not be a successful warrant officer.



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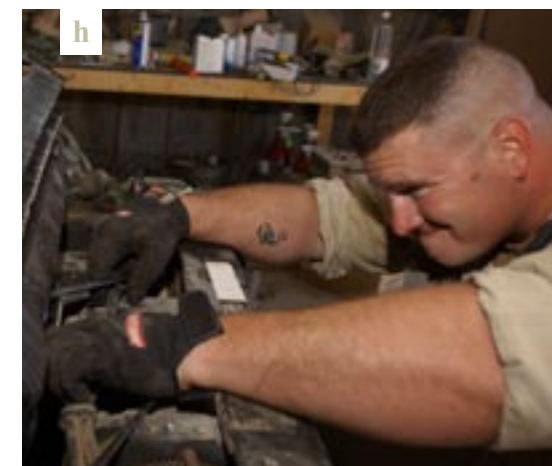
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(a) COSCOM Soldiers patrol the roads of Iraq. (b) Pfc. Derick C. Shelton, an HHC, 3rd COSCOM mechanic, works on a humvee. (c) Sgt. Elsira Wedderburn, the 317th Maint. Company retrograde NCOIC, directs a pallet (d) an MNC-K Soldier visits the range at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (e) 40th CSG Soldiers demonstrate vehicle recovery procedures. (f) Staff Sgt. Craig Stanford, 377th Trans. Company, tightens the chains on an M109 Paladin on Camp Taji. (g) Soldiers train on firing a 9mm pistol. (h) A COSCOM mechanic works through the heat to repair a humvee. (i) Task Force Bandit huddles together following a Purple Heart ceremony.

COSCOM *In Action*

... a "through the lens" look at a few of the countless forward missions performed by the more than 20,000 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers who consistently sustained the line throughout theater during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Photos courtesy of 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs, 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 4th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 101st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs, 64th Corps Support Group Public Affairs and Multi-National Corps – Kuwait Soldiers.



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(a) A 400th Quartermaster Co. Soldier restrains a mock insurgent during the unit's Mountain Warrior Olympics.

(b) Spc. Larry Carlson, a 400th Quartermaster Co. receiving specialist unpacks a box of panel markers at the unit's warehouse.

(c) Col. Jannett Jackson, the 40th CSG commander, visits an injured Iraqi boy at the LSA Anaconda hospital.

(d) Spc. Richard Morgan, HHC, 3rd COSCOM, plays his trumpet.

(e) Sgt. Hiram Provorse, a light-wheel vehicle mechanic with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery, works on a vehicle in their motor pool.

(f) Some retrograde equipment did not make it to the turn-in on its own wheels.

(g) Maj. Mark L. Higdon, a 4th Sustainment Brigade surgeon, examines a Soldier's mouth.

(h) Perched on a rooftop of an elementary school, a Soldier observes a March 25 civil affairs operation conducted by the 48th Brigade Combat Team, at Al Harza Village, Iraq.

(i) Staff Sgt. Chris Ruth (left), a convoy commander with the 812th Quartermaster Co., helps 2nd Lt. Lee Blumenfeld, a platoon leader with the 58th Quartermaster Co., familiarize himself with the M203 grenade launcher.

(j) Sgt. Ryan Parker, a mail clerk with the 795th Postal Co., secures a bundle of mail to be sent to the states while working in the operations center of the post office in Mosul.

(k) HHC, 3rd COSCOM Soldiers stand in formation during the October 2005 transfer of authority ceremony on LSA Anaconda.

(l) Soldiers from Task Force Bandit wait for a Purple Heart ceremony to begin.



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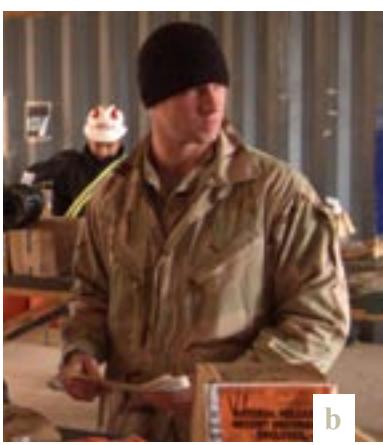
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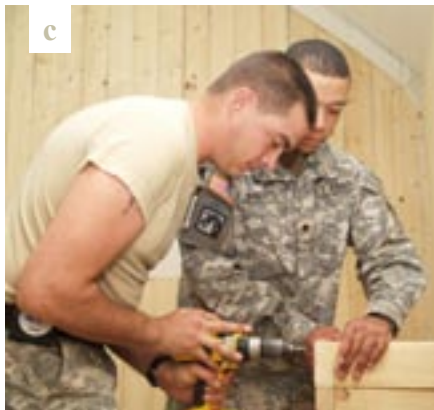
(a) Soldiers prepare the firefighting equipment for a practical training exercise at Camp Taji.



(b) COSCOM Soldiers deliver a donated Dialysis machine to Medical City, Baghdad.



(c) Spc. Andrew Maletti braces a board for Spc. Jason Rhoads during construction on one of the projects completed by MNC-K Soldiers.



(d) Master Sgt. Scott Shank, the Task Force Bandit NCOIC, is geared up and mission ready.



(e) A Civil Affairs team prepares to deliver medical books to the hospital in Balad.



(f) Lt. Col. Barbra Sherer, the 3rd COSCOM deputy chaplain, joins Spc. Christopher Robbins, a 3rd COSCOM chaplain assistant, in prayer.



(g) 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) Soldiers qualify with their weapons at LSA Anaconda's Smith range.



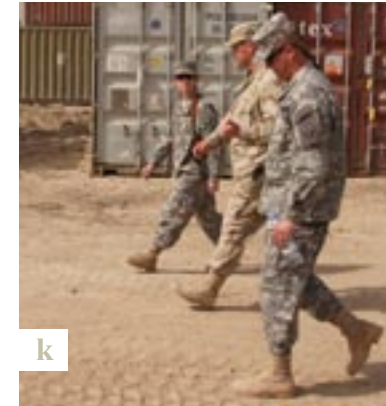
(h) 1st Sgt. Thomas Kelly, the HHC, 3rd COSCOM first sergeant, marks his company into position for a Purple Heart ceremony.



(i) Soldiers practice administering an IV during day two of the four-day long combat lifesaver course ran by the medical personnel of the 4th Sustainment Brigade.



(j) Spc. Kenneth J. Scarlett and Spc. Calvin D. Rich, both Avenger crewmembers with 48th BCT's Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, secure a cargo strap on a trailer at the Camp Taji Central Receiving and Shipping Point.



(k) Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, the 3rd COSCOM commanding general, visits the 4th Sustainment Brigade's Central Receiving and Shipping Point.



(l) A fireman guides a two-man team as they maneuver with the high pressure fire hose, during a training exercise.



(m) 35th Area Support Group Soldiers move giant palm trees from one area on LSA Anaconda to another.



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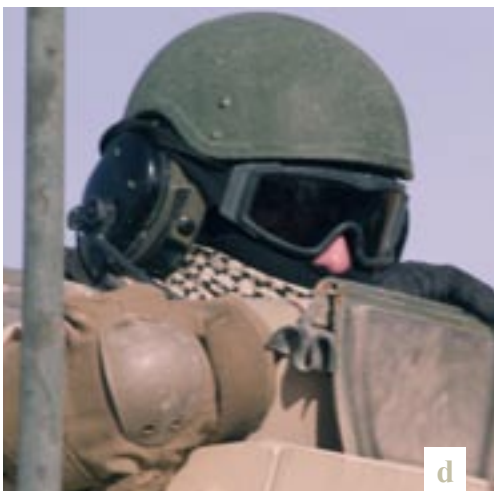
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(a) Staff Sgt. Dennis Lombardi (left) and Sgt. Kevin Stewart fix a truck at the 1116th Transportation Company's mechanic tent in Logistical Support Area Adder.

(b) Soldiers from the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment grab some footage on the road.

(c) Staff Sgt. Chris Ruth, a convoy commander with the 812th Quartermaster Co., helps familiarize Soldiers from the 16th Corps Support Group with the M203 grenade launcher during a range exercise near Tallil.

(d) A COSCOM Soldier protects himself from the sandy conditions during a trip to Trebil.

(e) Soldiers prepare to act like mock casualties during a mass casualty exercise on LSA Anaconda.

(f) Sgt. Chris Marshall, the 3rd COSCOM commanding general's driver, gets ready for take off.

(g) Spc. Esther Edmond of 2nd Detachment, 408th PSB, fires an M-9 Pistol during a range exercise at Whitehorse Range, near Tallil, Iraq.

(h) 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) Soldiers receive a briefing before qualifying on their weapons at LSA Anaconda's Smith range.

(i) Sgt. Matthew Mullen, the 181st Trans. Bn. Skunkwerks shop NCOIC, cuts a piece of metal during the December filming of Monster Garage.

(j) Spc. Adam Schweitzer and Spc. Vanessa Trinidad, patient escorts with C Company, 205th Area Support Medical Battalion, take a litter out of their humvee to move into the hospital on LSA Anaconda.

(k) Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth Preston talks with COSCOM Soldiers in front of the unit's headquarters on LSA Anaconda.

Civil Affairs

Story by Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson

M

any a sunrise lit the paths of 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 as they traded the secure perimeters of their bases for the questionable roads of Iraq. Fueled by a confident anxiety, they mentally and physically prepared themselves for each mission, ensuring all Soldiers were tactically and technically proficient in their individual roles, qualified and trained on their weapon systems, covered from head to toe in protective gear, and well aware that they may encounter insurgent resistance. But, in many moments, it was not their rifles and marksmanship abilities that contributed to the war on terrorism. It was rather a weapon embodied deep beneath their body armor and a skill housed in the patriotic beat that thumps behind the US ARMY tape on their uniforms, which spearheaded those contributions. That weapon – their hearts. That skill – compassion.



Capt. Lorene Rodan, 256th Movement Control Team, plays a game with local girls on a humanitarian mission to the Kurdish village of Soyra.

Photo by SGT Ashley Rice, 101st SB PAO



Maj. Manuel Wong, a 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs officer, escorts Omar, a young Iraqi boy, and his father to the National Iraqi Assistance Center in Baghdad. Photo by Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson



3rd COSCOM and 29th BCT Civil Affairs Soldiers pose and civilians pose for a photo with Ma'rwah Ahteemi and her father. Photo by Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson

The 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs office led a variety of downrange missions, encouraging and providing fellow Soldiers with the opportunity to fire those non-lethal weapons and exercise that humane skill during their time in Iraq.

"If you really think about it, the majority of what we [coalition forces] are doing in Iraq now is civil affairs driven," said Lt. Col. Albert Zakaib, the 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs officer.

"We are transporting supplies on their [Iraqi's] roads daily and operating in their country and we must be aware of the impact we have on these people, we must work with them and respect them," Zakaib added. "Civil military operations is essential to strengthening our foundation between us and the local population so we can work together to create a better Iraq."

The 3rd COSCOM civil affairs shop faced different circumstances than the ones their predecessors, 1st COSCOM civil affairs, operated under. The challenges created by the transfer forced Zakaib and his team to brainstorm alternative ways to effectively continue impacting the Iraqi people.

"1st COSCOM could go into the local villages three or four times a week for whatever missions they wanted," Zakaib explained. "With the change in battle space ownership after 1st COSCOM left, we no longer were allowed to just go out into the villages. Everything had to be cleared with battle spaces' maneuver commanders."

Adjusting fire to the limited outside-the-wire missions, the team concentrated their efforts in other areas; operating the COSCOM-wide linguist program, manning the Logistical Support Area Anaconda's Civil Military Operations Center, serving as a humanitarian supply hub for civil affairs teams, acting as a linking liaison for the Operation Iraqi Children program, monitoring land management concerns around the LSA, influencing a variety of cultural relations projects, working with the National Iraqi Assistance Center to assist several injured Iraqis, and serving as the driving force behind a number of other missions geared toward building our bond with the Iraqi population.

Maj. Patrick Howard, the 3rd COSCOM deputy civil affairs officer, managed the linguist program, which catered to all COSCOM units' translator needs.

"If a unit, or section, needs a linguist they submit

a request explaining why they need the translator, and if it is approved, then I step in and handle the assignment of that linguist," Howard explained. "There are different categories of linguists. Some are local nationals, some are American citizens, and each level has a different security clearance making them eligible for certain missions."

Without the linguist program providing reliable resources for communicating with the local population, many of the other civil and even combat operations would be nearly impossible.

Two interpreters, Hasna Abdalkogi and Maitham, worked directly with the 3rd COSCOM civil affairs office during the deployment, meeting the office's full time need for communication.

"Communication is a key part of our mission here," Howard said. "If we can't explain ourselves, or understand the Iraqi people, then how can we expect them to want to work with us?"

The LSA Anaconda Civil Military Operations Center serves as a venue for communication to prove its importance, as civil affairs Soldiers welcome Iraqi issues, in hopes that something can be done to improve the locals' way of life.

"During the last rotation, the 29th Brigade Combat Team civil affairs office ran the CMOC, but their replacement, the 48th Brigade Combat Team didn't have a civil affairs section," said Maj. Manuel Wong, a 3rd COSCOM civil affairs officer and the CMOC officer in charge.

"After shadowing the 29th BCT, we stepped up and took charge of the CMOC," Wong explained. "A normal CMOC would have up to a detachment of Soldiers, from all MOSs, but we ran a scaled down version, with only four Soldiers."

A CMOC is normally stood up following conflict to help groups like the police force, the army, the municipal works and other local experts get the local government up and running again, he said.

"We have all the modern technology inside the wire, but out there, they don't have that," he explained. "Face-to-face is the only way to help the Iraqi people rebuild and improve their country, and a CMOC provides that place for Iraqis to come and have that face to face contact with U.S. forces."

The CMOC is not simply for government or community improvements. Local Iraqis can also visit the center to make claims on land encroachments, look for missing family members, and seek

guidance or assistance on a variety of other issues, Zakaib said.

While missions like the CMOC opened arms of assistance and welcomed the Iraqi people, operations like the humanitarian hub maintained by the 3rd COSCOM civil affairs office supplied the hands of civil affairs teams, hands that reached out and gave to the local villages' inhabitants.

"We receive humanitarian donations from non-profit organizations, church groups and individuals, and Staff Sgt. Andrei Mikheev manages the storage of those supplies," Zakaib explained. "Civil affairs and maneuver teams come by and load up on supplies before heading out on missions into the local villages."

The hub usually supplies missions in an area of operation of about a 30 km radius around LSA Anaconda, but the 3rd COSCOM office has sent supplies as far as Tallil and out west to the Marines, he added.

The nonprofit organization Operation Iraqi Children generates the majority of school supplies managed by Makheev. Howard is the officer in charge of the liaison operations between OIC and the Iraqi children.

OIC was founded by American celebrities and organizes an enormous effort to provide much needed school supplies to Iraqi children so they can truly benefit from the newly built schools in their communities, Howard explained.

The organization receives donations from a wide variety of groups and individuals, and ensures that the supplies are neatly packed in kits to be distributed by civil affairs and maneuver teams.

When those teams roll out of LSA Anaconda's entry control points to deliver those supplies, acres and acres of farm land cradle the roads they travel. Unlike in the areas surrounding Baghdad or other

city-locked installations, the communities outside of LSA Anaconda rely on an agriculturally backed economy.

"We are visitors on this land," Howard explained. "Because the land itself is the source of the local population's livelihood, our impact on the land around the LSA must be managed."

Howard is the officer in charge of land management projects and issues.

"If we want to expand our perimeters at entry control points for example, it is important that we communicate that with the local farmers and make sure they are compensated for their land if we are using it," he said.

On a larger, long term scale, the 3rd COSCOM civil affairs called on military engineers and coordinated with local sheiks to begin a project that will improve the canal systems that run along the outsides of the installation's perimeters.

"The canals provide water to local villages and are essential for farming," Howard explained. "Working together with the Iraqis to clean up and start planning for improvements to the canals shows that we care about their lives and land."

Though water and land are perhaps the local population's most valuable resources, the Iraqi children are arguably the true source of power behind the country's future.

Recognizing this, the 3rd COSCOM civil affairs office focused on the Iraqi children in many of its cultural relations oriented projects. One of those projects involved provided Disney movies in Arabic for viewings in local schools.

"The idea is to show the Disney movies that we and our children have seen to the children of Iraq, many of whom may have never even seen a movie before," Wong explained. "Anything we can do to help these children understand that Americans are

here to help them, and get rid of negative thoughts they may have about us, because they are future of Iraq."

Wong also joined his fellow civil affairs Soldiers in extending an extra level of assistance in several special cases. He worked with the National Iraqi Assistance Center initiating the process of getting at least two young Iraqis who were injured by U.S. forces fire necessary medical attention.

Ma'rwā, a teenage Iraqi girl whose family was victim to accidental mortar fire, lost several relatives and was paralyzed during the 2003 incident.

"We took over where the 29th BCT left off with Ma'rwā's situation, continuing work to get her to the U.S. for further treatments," Wong said.

Wong personally escorted Omar, a 3 year old Iraqi boy whose family vehicle was involved in a check point incident, to the NIAC in Baghdad. Omar was medevaced to LSA Anaconda's hospital where his burns and injuries were treated for several months, until he was discharged.

"In situations like Ma'rwā and Omar's we tried to do more than the usual condolence payment for their injuries," Zakaib said. "Nobody is perfect, and in war innocent people are often injured, but we try to acknowledge our mistakes by doing what we can for the Iraqis that are caught in the crossfire."

Zakaib and his team didn't only extend this extra level of assistance to young Iraqis.

"We had a 60 year old Iraqi woman being treated in the base hospital and nobody knew who she was or where her family was, so we attempted to find them," Zakaib explained. "Sometimes we come across Iraqis who are injured and have no identification on them at all so it makes it difficult, but we still try to locate their families."

The office also worked with the Iraqi army in placing two Iraqi army officers in the LSA Anaconda hospital to help locate injured Iraqi Soldiers' units and relocate them for long term treatment if necessary.

"Iraqi Soldiers occupy more than 70 percent of the bed space in the hospital here, while they make up only 30 percent of the incoming patients," Zakaib said. "Having the Iraqi officers there will free the much needed bed space and re-link the injured Soldiers with their units and families."

Whether their downrange missions touched the lives of Iraqi farmers, children, elderly, injured or Soldiers, the 3rd COSCOM civil affairs team found ways to make a difference in Iraq during their deployment without ever chambering a round in their rifles. Many of their accomplishments were evident immediately in children's smiles or in the grateful handshakes of local farmers; others will continue to reveal themselves for years to come as those children become adults and those farmers are graced with successful seasons.



Operation Helping Hands

Story and photo by
Sgt. Rachel Brune
101st SB Public Affairs

Soldiers from across the 142nd Corps Support Battalion brought smiles and toys to children in one of Iraq's northernmost provinces during a humanitarian assistance drop in Dahuk, Iraq, June 21.

"The 142nd enjoys this just as much as the kids enjoy it," said Lt. Col. Ronald Green, battalion commander. "This will stay in the minds and hearts of my Soldiers."

Soldiers handed out Beanie Babies, sports uniforms, soccer balls, teddy bears and candy, donated by a variety of organizations in the United States, said Capt. John P. Smith, battalion chaplain.

"This [mission] provides us with the opportunity to see Iraq in the daytime and see how we're providing liberation to the Iraqis," Smith said. Battalion Soldiers normally conduct combat logistical patrols during the nighttime hours.

Upon arrival in the Dahuk area, the local civil affairs unit, Company C, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, a Reserve unit from Utica, N.Y., welcomed the Soldiers with breakfast and a cultural awareness briefing.

Navy Lt. Kim DaCosta spoke to the Soldiers regarding the culture and customs of the primarily Kurdish area they were to visit.

Two lines of neatly-dressed girls sang a song with clapping motions for the Soldiers, as the mayor of the town presented Green with a Kurdish flag.

The children sat in a large semicircle as Green spoke to them through an interpreter, telling them of the gifts his Soldiers had to give them.

"I believe we've made an impression on this village," Green said. "I think we were able to do a great thing."



“If you really think about it, the majority of what we [coalition forces] are doing in Iraq now is civil affairs driven.”

Lt. Col. Albert Zakaib
3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs officer

Soldiers work with Iraqi troops in distributing Operation Iraqi Children kits.
Photo by Spc. David Chapman

Sustaining *the* Home Front

By Eric Jones, Family Readiness Support Assistant

*R*ewind back to last fall when 3rd Corps Support Command troops from Germany and the U.S. loaded buses and planes, marking the beginning of their yearlong support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. Our heroes pulled away prepared to complete their tasks and focused on the job at hand, but what happened to those who waved goodbye as the buses departed? The sacrifice and support of wives, husbands, children and volunteers formed the 3rd COSCOM's Family Readiness Groups ... together these groups were dedicated to "Sustaining the Home Front," so their Soldiers could focus on "Sustaining the Line Forward."

Besides the bake sales and newsletters, what do FRG's do? In Wiesbaden, home of the 19th Support Center, 27th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control) and the Special Troops Battalion, there were two combined events. The first, a combined holiday party, packed the area cafeteria with holiday spirit. The second, a spring barbeque and Amazing Race competition, brought the families together during the last half of their loved ones' deployment.

In Bamberg, spouses from the 71st Corps Support Battalion increased family readiness by creating holiday stockings out of old Battle Dress Uniforms. The stockings, filled with treats, were sent to their heroes downrange. The group also traveled to Czech Republic on a shopping expedition, and enjoyed an Independence Day luau.

Families in Hanau, home of the 16th Corps Support Group, opened the holiday season with a Christmas tree lighting party that brightened the eyes of all the children. The 16th CSG also marked the halfway point with a party.

The various companies of the 485th Corps Support Battalion supported their families with activities reflecting different holidays. The 596th Maintenance Company held a Halloween Party that trick or treated more than 100 children of deployed Soldiers. The FRG also held a Valentine's Day ball at Darmstadt's Escape Club. The 485th CSB's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment held a special Mother's Day luncheon where each mother was given a rose. Some of the redeployed companies have already conducted marriage and

family life reintegration retreats upon the reunion of Soldiers and their families.

What deployment recap could be complete without discussing our "Hollywood Unit" FRG? The 181st Transportation Battalion families had a great time seeing their heroes on TV's Monster Garage. The FRG also gave their young warriors at home a battalion-wide Easter party.

In addition to these organized celebrations and events, our Germany and U.S. families focused daily on keeping their daily spirits high during the separation from their Soldiers. We wrote countless letters and emails, we send care packages, we listened during phone calls and we spend many moments simply pausing from hectic schedules to remember and recognize our deployed Soldiers.

Our FRGs success over the last year was directly driven by our rear detachments' support. "The best FRGs have one thing in common, great rear detachments! The two are inseparable," said Ernest Dudley, the 485th CSB family readiness support assistant.

Looking back, while we all missed our Soldiers tremendously, we did make some new friends and strengthened existing friendships, because of our common mission of "Sustaining the Home Front!"

As we transition from FRGs supporting deployed units, to FRGs welcoming home our heroes, we should take the opportunity to shake each others' hands; each group has accomplished their mission!

Sustaining *the* Line

forward

our Soldiers & their Missions

19th Support Center
27th Transportation Battalion (MC)
16th Corps Support Group
40th Corps Support Group
35th Area Support Group
64th Corps Support Group
101st Sustainment Brigade
4th Sustainment Brigade
Brigade Combat Team
Multi-National Corps - Kuwait



19th Support

Story by
Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson



Center



With colors cased and duffle bags packed, 19th Support Center Soldiers boarded planes nearly a year ago, embracing the mission awaiting them in Iraq. Their deployment sparked the growth of the giant that is the forward 3rd Corps Support Command, a giant with arms and legs stretching throughout theater, attacking multiple missions. More than 20,000 Soldiers from eight different brigade sized elements formed those arms and legs during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, while the lean 19th Support Center kept the giant's head and heart alive.

In its garrison home of Wiesbaden, Germany, the 19th Support Center is a single company battalion, but in its forward home on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, the tigers were a four-company force, which included the 3rd COSCOM command group, primary and special staff.

As 3rd COSCOM's Special Troops Battalion's command group and staff was forming the nucleus of Multi-National Corps – Kuwait, the Soldiers from its Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd COSCOM, joined 19th SC on the road to Iraq.

"We actually arrived in Kuwait as four separate companies: HHC, 19th SC, HHC, 3rd COSCOM, 19th Materiel Management Center and 3rd COSCOM's CONUS Augmentation," said Maj. Gary Spearow, the 19th SC executive officer. "We meshed together to form the deployed versions of the two headquarters companies."

The 19th MMC and 3rd COSCOM CONUS Aug. are both reserve units.

When the battalion reached its final deployment destination, the 207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and the 319th Quartermaster Detachment (POL) completed the 19th SC's expanded ranks.

With quadrupled troop numbers, the 19th SC

adopted a variety of new missions via its downrange tigers.

"In Germany the 19th SC is the Corps Materiel Management Center, meaning we maintain and oversee support of all supplies and maintenance for the corps," Spearow explained. "The original 19th SC Soldiers do that same mission while deployed."

The battalion's influence spread across theater through its operation of the Corps Distribution Center.

"It's hard to put in words the accomplishments," Spearow said. "The billions of gallons of fuel, water, ammo and other supplies we've managed is mind boggling."

Among those places that depended on the 19th SC's support during deployment, was the 3rd COSCOM headquarters building on LSA Anaconda, home to the COSCOM's joint operations center.

"We've picked up the Special Troops Battalion mission of providing life support for the COSCOM headquarters," explained Command Sgt. Maj. Wallace Sreaves, the 19th SC command sergeant major. "We handled the water and fuel for the C-Rear, and coordinated with the area support group in supporting the base as a whole."

19th SC Soldiers filled the seats in the headquarters joint operations center, monitoring the countless COSCOM missions being executed on a daily basis throughout theater. There the 19th SC formed the COSCOM's head and heart, sending messages and channeling support to the unit's outstretched arms and legs.

Force protection, including support of the personal security details for both Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, the 3rd COSCOM commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood, the unit's command sergeant major, was another mission the 19th SC would usually not perform.

"Normally we would just be a part of the force protection," Sreaves said. "But during this deployment we actually oversaw and maintained the force protection mission."

"Command Sgt. Maj. Wood's battlefield circulation generated nearly 100 missions, traveling between 50,000 and 60,000 miles," he added.

HHC, 19th SC and HHC, 3rd COSCOM mechanics kept those trucks running, and a group of the battalion's Soldiers from a variety of military occupation specialties volunteered to form Task Force Bandit, the task force that executed those missions.

The 319th Quartermaster Detachment (POL) Soldiers added a fuel handling element to the battalion's arsenal of mission capabilities, further contributing to the 19th SC's impact throughout theater.

Tigers manned the COSCOM Warrior Support Center on LSA Anaconda, which served as the unit's forward hub for special staff operations:

Chaplain, Retention, Inspector General, Human Relations/Equal Opportunity. The 3rd COSCOM Civil Affairs and Judge Advocate General offices were also operated by 19th SC Soldiers.

Soldiers from the 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Office shared their downrange foxhole with the 207th MPAD for the majority of their deployment, creating the Sustainer magazine, the Anaconda Times newspaper and News Reel Anaconda.

The unit's command staff recognizes the morale of the Soldiers and the strength of the noncommissioned officers as the key elements of the successful fusion of the 19th SC's diverse elements into a solid supporting force.

Regardless of each company's previous identity,

“The billions of gallons of fuel, water, ammo and other supplies we've managed is mind boggling.”

Maj. Gary Spearow
19th Support Center executive officer

they all came together to accomplish the missions, missions that are often taken for granted or overlooked but were essential in keeping the COSCOM running, Spearow said.

19th SC forward Soldiers reflect a broad spectrum of skills and experiences. They are active duty and reserve Soldiers. They are everything from mechanics to lawyers. Despite the diversity represented by the battalion's downrange members ... they all shared a common bond during this deployment, they were all Tigers!

27th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control)

Story by
Spc. David Chapman



While many 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers may not be able to physically see their mission in motion, the Soldiers of the 27th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control) can often observe the impact they make on Iraq as they watch trucks roll through entry control points or planes fly from bases throughout theater.

Though the 27th Transportation Battalion (MC) headquarters is located on Logistical Support Area Anaconda, many of the battalion's Soldiers do not call LSA Anaconda home.

"We have 24 teams, at 19 FOBs in Iraq, this includes three entrance points into Iraq from Turkey, Jordan and Kuwait," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick, the 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) command sergeant major.

"We have 354 reserve and active duty Soldiers and a work force of about 420 civilians," he added.

The battalion's role is vital to the overall war on terrorism, and directly influences a multitude of other missions.

"Movement control is making sure that we get the food, fuel and water to where it needs to be. That stuff is constantly moving into the theater and we control every bit of its movement," said Maj. Mark Evan, the 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) executive officer. "If a convoy moves into Iraq, we track, manage and program it. That's all us. Every unit who wants to move stuff works through us."

"We impact the combat logistics, like combat support movement in theater. It is important that the battalion has engineers clearing the routes of IED's

and repairing the routes damaged," Evans said. "We have to be key players in the synchronization of those moves so that when we move the materials over the road, we are not getting in the way of anyone else."

In addition to the logistical necessities associated with movement control, 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) Soldiers are also focused on making sure trucks can safely and quickly reach their destinations, avoiding contact with improvised explosive devices or other insurgent forces.

As with most units, the battalion eagerly accepts the challenge of improving their operational systems.

"When we got here we tried to place a heavy emphasis on moving supplies by air. Then we were moving about 3,000 pallets a month," Riddick explained.

"Now we are moving about 16,000 pallets a month. I do not know the exact number of trucks that takes off the road, but if we can keep even one Soldier off the dangerous roads, then that is what is important," he said.

"If it can be put on a plane that's what we will do," Evans added. "When we took over we had no

direct support helicopters, so if the 3rd COSCOM wanted to move something by air they had to wait in line with everyone else. Now we have four helicopters and four airplanes that supplement us."

Though the battalion's Soldiers are dedicated to their missions, the unit is not always about just work. The command emphasizes taking care of Soldiers, even those in the more remote locations like Trebil, which is on the Jordanian border.

"Before the Soldiers depart for areas like Trebil, I sit down and talk to them and let them know that they are going to a desolate place. We are also always trying to make things better and more comfortable for them out there," Riddick said. "We also like to make sure we let them know that they are doing a great job despite the less than perfect conditions, and we appreciate them."

While places like Trebil may offer only the basic necessities, the ability to communicate with their family, friends and fellow Soldiers is still incredibly important for Soldiers' morale.

"I can live without things as long as I have

"We have provided oversight to more than 27,000 3rd COSCOM convoys, totaling at least 604,000 trucks."

Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick
27th Trans. Bn. (MC)

phone and internet to stay in contact with my family," Evans said.

The command attributes the organizational skills and work ethic reflected throughout the battalion to the leadership of its noncommissioned officers.

"The vast majority of the NCOs are phenomenal; they are on their own out there and they don't have anyone looking over their shoulders," Evans explained.

This integrity-driven leadership is crucial to the flexibility and mission tempo involved with movement control in a deployed environment.

"We move all the food and fuel coming in and out of country. We move about 1.7 million gallons of fuel every day," Evans said.

"The teams have 100 to 150 combat logistics patrols going everyday, totaling about 2,000 trucks," Riddick said.

"We have provided oversight to more than 27,000 3rd COSCOM convoys, totaling at least 604,000 trucks," he added.

As the 27th Trans. Bn. (MC) ends their time in Iraq, they can proudly tally the number of movement missions they've made possible, but more importantly than a number on a piece of paper, they can reflect on their everyday accomplishments that affected many throughout theater.

16th Corps Support Group

Story by
Staff Sgt. Engels Tejada
207th MPAD

16th CSG units have hauled all sorts of supplies, including more than 160 million gallons of fuel, 35,700 boxes of meals ready to eat, and 945,600 bottles of water.



as the Soldiers of the 16th Corps Support Group prepare to redeploy and reflect on the months of missions they've completed since arriving at Camp Adder almost a year ago, the Linebackers can proudly hand over the massive responsibilities involved with conducting supply operations throughout southern Iraq.

Since arriving in October 2005, 16th CSG Soldiers have driven more than 2.3 million miles, mostly between Kuwait and Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

16th CSG units have hauled all sorts of supplies, including more than 160 million gallons of fuel, 35,700 boxes of meals ready to eat, and 945,600 bottles of water.

In addition to supporting the logistical patrols to LSA Anaconda, the 16th CSG has conducted supply support operations for at least 10 bases, many of them home to coalition forces.

The Linebackers support camps Cedar II, Scania, Charlie, Delta and Echo, to name a few. They've also worked with members of the British, Japanese, Australian and Salvadoran forces, and they shared their home station of Camp Adder with the Italians, the third largest coalition force in Iraq behind the American and British militaries.

The diverse missions have presented many, which the command has overcome thanks to the efforts of the subordinate units, said Maj. David Jaillite, the support operations and transportation officer for the 16th CSG.

"The companies – the way they manage their truck assets and their personnel, is very effective," he explained.

"They manage each combat logistics patrol to maximize the amount of cargo and [transportation requests] throughout the theater," Jaillite said.

He also credits a command team that consists of "some of

the best NCOs I've ever worked with" for coordinating all the units' movements.

"They are awesome," Jaillite says of the NCOs who work with him at the command's operations

center. "They are experienced and they come together to work as a team. It takes a lot of coordination to manage the [movement requests], to put together the [combat logistics patrols] and to have a safe run from Tallil or wherever their origin to their destinations and then ultimately back home."

Though most of their area of operations is relatively free of insurgent activity, members of the 16th CSG and subordinate units all face the possibility of attacks while on the road.

To stay ready, the 16th CSG designed and implemented a series of training ranges during which the Soldiers familiarized themselves with several weapon systems, including machine guns and grenade launchers.

The ranges have been crucial in keeping the troops safe, said Staff Sgt. Bryan Posta, a platoon sergeant for the command's civil affairs office.

"The ranges sharpen the Soldiers' skills and give them confidence in their weapon systems so that by the time they've completed the training, there is no doubt in their minds that they are a combat multiplier," Posta said.

While acknowledging the need to be prepared for anything while on the road, the Soldiers are focused on their individual tasks and know they have made and are continuing to make a difference.

Soldiers have found much satisfaction in helping local Iraqis at 15 different schools and 11 clinics, said Sgt. Cedric Wolters Jr., a squad leader with the 16th CSG.

"It feels good to help the Iraqi people get back on their feet and to know that I'm doing my part to help this country develop a stable democracy," Wolters says.

Of course, noble and important as their many forward missions have been, the Soldiers have missed their family and friend and as they redeploy into their loved one's arms, they can carry with them the pride of their deployment's accomplishments.



40th Corps Support Group

Story by
Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson

I *Imagine the 3rd Corps Support Command is a huge wheel, with Logistical Support Area Anaconda as the center of that wheel, and all the other corps support groups throughout theater forming the rim of that wheel. Without spokes connecting the center to the rim, the wheel goes nowhere, said Col. Jannett Jackson, the 40th Corps Support Group commander. “We [the 40th CSG] are the spokes!”*

Most of the approximately 1,900 forward 40th CSG Soldiers live and work on LSA Anaconda, the major hub for all supplies and resources traveling into and out of theater.

Whether in the 548th Logistics Task Force or the 181st Transportation Battalion, each 40th CSG Soldier’s mission, however diverse it may seem, contributes to the strength of the spokes that run from LSA Anaconda to the forward operating bases throughout Iraq.

“While the other COSCOM CSGs are supporting servicemembers and missions in their areas, we are pushing fuel, supplies and equipment from Anaconda to them,” Jackson said. “We have served as the flex brigade in many ways, adjusting our missions to make things happen.”

Though 548th LTF is primarily a quartermaster element, its downrange mission expanded to meet the COSCOMs needs. The unit became the LSA Anaconda area of operation’s primary vehicle recovery team.

“The 548th reduced the recovery time for downed vehicles from two and a half hours to 30 minutes,” Jackson said. “That adds an element of confidence to our units on the road, knowing that we will be there to get them if they break down.”

A group of 548th LTF Soldiers demonstrated their recovery procedures during Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker’s Christmas day visit to LSA Anaconda.

The 181st Trans. Bn., a Germany-based COSCOM unit, began the deployment performing their intended mission of transporting supplies via combat logistical patrols, but as operations changed, the battalion began serving as security escorts for the commercial trucks carrying the supplies.

As supplies come in and out of theater, they travel through LSA Anaconda’s Joint Distribution Center and Forward Redistribution Point, both operated by 40th CSG Soldiers.

“We also took over the Central Receiving and Shipping Point,” Jackson said. “We reorganized the operation there, achieving a more efficient system.”

All of these points play an essential role in effectively moving equipment in and out of theater, directly contributing to the 40th CSG being able to improve their ability to push things out to the other FOBs, she added.

“40th CSG Soldiers have traveled more than 3 million miles during this deployment, making runs to more than 40 FOBs throughout Iraq,” she said. “That’s 75 percent more miles than were traveled in Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, and that’s possible because of the lessons learned and the improvements made.”

In addition to streamlining the processes for receiving, storing and delivering equipment and supplies, 40th CSG Soldiers perform unique missions aimed at increasing safety for those who travel outside the wire.

A group of 181st Trans. Bn. Soldiers continued a potentially life-saving mission as they reclaimed the Skunkwerks shop for the Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 rotation.

“Skunkwerks is basically an under armor shop,” explained Sgt. Matthew Mullen, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the shop. “We provide additional protection for humvee crews – the drivers, the passengers, the gunners – by adding under armor, double bumpers, hood scopes for air reductions, side mounts for small arms and turret boxes with ballistic glass.”

Several of the Skunkwerks Soldiers and Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Graham, the 181st Trans. Bn. com-

mand sergeant major, joined Jesse James in a December downrange filming of his Monster Garage television show. The crew accepted James’ challenge to convert a gutted humvee into a Monster Garage vehicle. The show aired on the Discovery Channel, boosting the morale of the unit’s Soldiers and family members back home.

548th LTF Soldiers also found ways to challenge themselves while boosting morale during the last year.

April’s Mountain Warrior Olympics benefited all competitors by merging training with fun through seven competitive events ranging from the Army Physical Fitness Test to water survival events.

When 40th CSG Soldiers aren’t running recovery missions, escorting combat logistical patrols, streamlining distribution processes or making the roads safer, they are supporting the troops on LSA Anaconda.

“We are not only the flex brigade, we are the corps support group for Anaconda,” Jackson said. “Working with 35th Area Support Group, we help maintain the base’s everyday operations.”

Jackson, a National Guard Soldier, attributes her unit’s downrange flexibility, success and high morale to the one team, one fight attitude the Soldiers possess, and the blurred boundaries between National Guard, reserve and active duty Soldiers.

The mission accomplishments and contributions of 40th CSG Soldiers reveal that they aren’t plain old everyday spokes on a wheel. They are efficient, sleek, stable spokes designed to spin the wheel that is 3rd COSCOM smoother, faster and safer than ever before.

35th Area Support Group

Story by
Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta



The 12 square miles of land inhabited by more than 25,000 servicemembers and civilians on Logistical Support Area Anaconda must be maintained daily. Three hundred and twenty-five thousand meals must be served, 3,000 bags of laundry must be cleaned, 4,700 tons of trash must be collected and at the end of each day roughly 19,000 individuals may simply want to check their email. For the past year, about 100 Soldiers from a National Guard unit out of Missouri have been ensuring that services such as these are available at LSA Anaconda.

The 35th Area Support Group supports the 3rd Corps Support Command by ensuring that Logistical Support Area Anaconda, the deployed location of the 3rd COSCOM headquarters, and a downrange home for many COSCOM Soldiers, operates efficiently and effectively.

“The LSA resembles a small city,” said Col. Mark W. Hampton, the 35th ASG commander.

“It has an airfield, a hospital, dining facilities, post exchanges, libraries, a theater and several Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities,” Hampton said.

Other services maintained by the 35th ASG include the provost marshals office, installation chapels, construction areas and housing facilities.

Since the 35th ASG’s arrival in theater in October 2005, aside from maintenance, its members have worked diligently to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and civilians on the LSA by implementing standards on resources like water, electricity and the use of controlled fires.

“Over 1.4 million gallons of water is used everyday at the LSA,” Hampton explained. “So if the canal (stemming from the Tigris River) goes down, we have contingency plans in place.”

Plans such as closing the wash rack, a facility used to wash and clean vehicles, monitoring the water supply for showers, and using underground well systems are some of the ways that the 35th ASG has maintained the operational functionality and prevented water shortages on the LSA.

Another area of emphasis during the entirety of the deployment has been electricity. The LSA uses about three times more electricity than the current systems were previously equipped to handle for daily operations, Hampton said.

At the beginning of the deployment, our Soldiers resorted to spot checking generators for functionality, but now they have begun to improve the systems by placing sub-compact generator stations in key locations around the LSA, he added.

The newer and more powerful systems will

reduce the number of generators used four to one and include a back up generator. In effect, buildings should not experience power outages which were common during the beginning of the year.

Lastly, controlled fires have been a challenge throughout the year as the 35th ASG strove to improve the air quality - a concern of many inhabitants of the LSA.

The 35th ASG has made an effort to reduce the area and frequency of controlled fires to further improve the air quality.

“When we arrived in country, the area used to burn 600 to 800 tons of trash, was 23 acres large. Throughout the deployment we have reduced the actual burning area to five acres. Through government contractors, we have organized and separated the trash into metal, cement and biodegradable materials. Roughly one third of the land has been cleared of debris,” he said.

Above all else, the 35th ASG has contributed to the success of other units in theater by providing exemplary customer service, Hampton said.

“People like to work with us and it is because our unit embodies the army value of respect. Each of our Soldiers genuinely cares enough to help each customer and address

their needs in a timely and efficient manner,” he explained.

“This deployment was a positive experience for me and my Soldiers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Gary D. Blackorby, 35th ASG. “We have worked together with all services here and their active, reserve and guard components. This tour has been like a puzzle that together we have all completed. It has been a learning experience and a success.”

The 35th ASG only had one year to make a difference but in that year they maintained the functionality of LSA Anaconda and improved the use of water, electricity and terrain. Hampton and Blackorby attribute their units’ success to their Soldiers’ level of customer service.

As the war on terror continues, one thing is certain: evidence of the 35th ASGs progress and contribution to the fight shines in the ruddy complexion of clean, well-fed servicemembers and civilians, and their accomplishments may be appreciated by a replacement unit that has been primed for success.

“This tour has been like a puzzle that together we have all completed. It has been a learning experience and a success.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Gary D. Blackorby
35th Area Support Group

after ending its tour of duty in the western region of Iraq, the 64th Corps Support Group returns home with the satisfaction of knowing what they accomplished had never been done before.

The 64th CSG concluded operations with a transfer of authority ceremony in July, handing over all responsibilities of the austere region to the 593rd Corps Support Group out of Fort Lewis, Wash., after nearly 12 months of combat operations.

The unit's Soldiers provided logistical support to more than 50,000 joint and coalition forces; the commander voiced pride in her Soldiers' accomplishments.

"Our main mission (in Iraq) was to support both joint and coalition forces," said Col. Cassandra V. Roberts, 64th CSG commander. "Our primary support was to the Marine's combat forces."

"We set a standard for joint forces support," Roberts said, citing words the Marine Regimental Combat Team commander spoke to her – "We didn't know what we needed, but it was always there."

The 64th CSG participated in multiple major joint forces operations such as Operations Sayaid II, Steel Curtain and Liberty Express.

One of the operations was executed by coalition forces in early November 2005, just two months after the 64th CSG arrived in country.

Operation Steel Curtain was a joint military endeavor and the 64th CSG provided all classes of supplies,

pushing fuel, ammo, rations and water in large quantities to sustain the joint and coalition forces during the momentous operation; operations such as Steel Curtain often increased op-tempo.

The intent of Steel Curtain was to blunt the intrusion of foreign insurgents crossing the Syrian border and joining the Iraqi insurgency. The operation was important in that it was the first large-scale deployment of the new Iraqi Army.

Roberts credited the success of the 64th CSG mission to her Soldiers and to the commitment they made to one another.

"I made a commitment to my Soldiers and them to me," Roberts said. "I provided the best available equip-

ment, up-to-date intelligence, and the best possible training. Our Soldiers executed the mission."

Under the modular army concept, at one point the 64th CSG integrated 17 different companies and detachments from active guard and reserve components all over the globe, she said.

"We molded them into a cohesive war fighting unit ... those organizations left their parent units to join us and we made them a part of our team as we provided support to both U.S. and coalition forces in Al Anbar," she explained. "Our Soldiers were prepared to engage and defeat the enemy, if necessary, because our Soldiers were always certified, trained and ready."

Major Gen. Daniel Hahn, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq deputy commanding general, also commented on the 64th CSG efforts and expressed his appreciation for their service during the unit's awards ceremony.

"Leaders (in the CSG), as well as the NCOs, are the best I've seen in 30 years," Hahn said.

The 64th CSG operated in a very dangerous environment, said the MNC-I DCG, speaking of Al Anbar province in the unit's area of operations.

Ar Ramadi is the core of the insurgency where the enemy is well schooled in intimidation tactics and torture and the CSG operated in the thick of it, Hahn added.

The central-Iraqi city of Ramadi is the capital of Al Anbar province, where most of the 64th CSG missions originated.

During the Iraqi national elections, the unit set up concrete barriers and barricaded voting centers throughout Anbar, most notably in Ramadi and Fallujah, both considered to be insurgent hot beds. The unit was a mainstay during the election period, providing safety for those willing to participate in their country's elections.

Additionally, the 16th CSG's logistics task forces were collocated with the com-

bat arms field teams for both the Army and the Marine Corps during major combat operations.

By all accounts, many said the elections were a success. Voters - men and women - streamed to more than 30,000 polling stations set up across the country.

Following the elections, the unit continued to set standards for logistical support within the 3rd Corps Support Command.

"During our tenure, we developed an in-house up-ar-

mored modifications center that was both approved and adopted by the Army Materiel Command for the theater operations," Roberts said.

"We also developed a Class I water distribution system that was designed, built and tested by the 64th CSG and is currently in use in theater in addition to being looked at by AMC for possible Army-wide distribution," she added.

Midway through their tour, the 64th CSG endured a total swap of 30,000 Marines, requiring them to reestablish a battle rhythm with their Marine counterparts.

The commander expressed an admiration for the Marines they spent countless days and nights working alongside.

"We were able to learn and understand how the different services operate," Roberts said. "It has been the best logistics' job that I've had in my entire career. Learning how another service combats the enemy so you can sup-

port them was an undeniable adventure."

Before the 64th CSG took on their joint mission, there was no doctrine that governed how they were supposed to tactically support the other services; they had to develop their own.

"We set the standard on how to support joint forces on a non-linear battlefield," Roberts said. "Our largest supported force was the Marine Corps, and the 2nd Marine Division thought so highly of the support they received from us in combat, they authorized us to wear their Combat Patch."

"I'm proud to say that our Soldiers have always met or exceeded my expectations; a true testament to their spirit; it was their spirit that allowed them to achieve success during this long deployment," she said.

During their time in Iraq, the Soldiers of the 64th CSG demonstrated their ability to adjust to the fading line between combat and support operations as they diligently and consistently provided essential support in often dangerous territory, always placing the mission first.

64th Corps Support Group



Story by
Spc. Fabien Ortega
64th CSG Public Affairs

101st Sustainment Brigade

Story by
Sgt. Rachel Brune
101st SB Public Affairs

As America entered the theater of operations in World War II, the 101st Airborne Division was activated in 1942 at Camp Claiborne, La. The first commander, Maj. Gen. William C. Lee said the unit had no history but had a “Rendezvous with destiny.”

In mid-2005, the 101st Sustainment Brigade, based at Fort Campbell, Ky., became the first fully transformed sustainment unit of action to deploy into a combat theater of operations.

During a recent awards ceremony at Q-West Base Complex, Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, the 3rd Corps Support Command commanding general, congratulated the Soldiers of the brigade for their hard work during the past 12 months on the ground.

“You have made history in so many ways,” Halstead said.

The brigade headquarters, along with the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion, arrived in Iraq in August of last year, relieving the 917th Corps Support Group.

Once in theater, these Soldiers were quickly joined by the 561st Corps Support Battalion, also from Fort Campbell, who took over operations at Forward Operating Base Speicher.

The 142nd Corps Support Battalion, from Fort Polk, La., was already going full speed ahead at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

The 71st Corps Support Battalion, from Bamberg, Germany, joined the brigade a months later.

Immediately, transportation companies began logging long miles on combat logistical patrols. Some units, such as the 71st CSB’s 828th Quartermaster Company, were known as “in lieu of” units, performing a totally new job with the skill and dedication of seasoned professionals.

Other units, such as the 142nd CSB’s Battery B, 2-5th Field Artillery, were tasked with the combat arms mission of providing security for missions delivering mail, retrograde material, fuel and other classes of supplies wherever they were needed most throughout northwest Iraq.

During the Iraqi referendum in October, 2005, and January’s elections, units such as the 109th Transportation Company and 551st Cargo Transfer Company hauled barriers to election sites to help provide safe and secure areas for Iraqi citizens to exercise their right to vote in the new democracy.

Other units concentrated on cargo handling and logistics.

The 305th Quartermaster Company ran the General Support Hub on Q-West, accepting trailers and pallets of cargo, directing loads and packaging materiel for ground and air transport.

Maintenance units such as the 561st CSB’s 584th Maintenance Company, the 142nd CSB’s 872nd Maintenance Company, and the 71st CSB’s 317th Maintenance Company kept combat logistics patrols on the road and moving.

In addition to maintaining and repairing vehicles, the 584th and 872nd ran convoy recovery teams, a quick reaction force poised to leave the base at a moment’s notice to recover vehicles from

accidents and enemy activity.

In addition to keeping the coalition forces well supplied and mobile, 101st Soldiers also played a part in training the new Iraqi forces.

Sgt. 1st Class Winston Gasu and Sgt. Seth Brown of the 71st CSB, taught at the Q-West Iraqi Police Academy.

On July 24, the first complete iteration of classes graduated from the 71st CSB’s Iraqi Army Logistics Training Course. The logistics Soldiers taught their Iraqi counterparts automotive maintenance, power generation maintenance, armament repair and drivers training.

As the 101st Sustainment Brigade prepares to redeploy to Fort Campbell, a new memorial in the headquarters building pays tribute to the four Soldiers killed in the line of duty.

Sgt. Ivan Alarcon of the 473rd Quartermaster Company, Cpl. Donald E. Fisher and Pfc. Antonio Mendez-Sanchez of the 40th Transportation Company, and Sgt. Jose M. Velez of the 773rd Transportation Company, each gave their lives for their country.

At the awards ceremony, Halstead asked each Soldier to turn to his or her neighbor, shake each other’s hand, and say to each other: “Thanks for making a difference.”

The time has come for the brigade to hand authority and responsibility for service support to the 45th Sustainment Brigade from Hawaii. Although the 101st SB is returning to the States, the sustainment mission will be continued by dedicated logistics professionals until the mission’s end.



4th Sustainment Brigade

Story by
Sgt. Joshua Salmons
4th SB Public Affairs

during an April visit to the 4th Sustainment Brigade's headquarters at Camp Taji, Iraq, Maj. Gen. James Thurman, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, noted how brigade efforts throughout Baghdad had helped supply and enable his and other coalition units to fulfill their missions.

"I know you all are doing great—none of my camps ever say they're running out of anything," he said.

The visit was one of many from generals and commanders from units throughout theater during the past year, touring the battalions and personnel of the "Wranglers"—the brigade tasked to provide service support to Multi-National Corps—Iraq in the Multi-National Division—Baghdad area of responsibility.

Few Wranglers could have envisioned the challenges ahead when first arriving on the forward operating base that would become their Operation Iraqi Freedom 05 - 07 home, just a few miles north of Baghdad. But in that time, the brigade's Soldiers would provide a myriad of invaluable services to the area—from the normal battery of tasks like camp security, convoy operations and logistical support, to spearheading new, more efficient systems of supply; equipping war fighters with the latest humvee enhancements; and training and equipping the first independent Iraqi logistical unit of the new Iraqi army.

What began as just a few hundred active-duty Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, grew to a full brigade of more than 3,000 troops spread over three different camps once joined by subordinate battalions. Units from Alaska to Puerto Rico, active duty, reserve and National Guard, all donned the Wrangler patch.

"It's pretty smooth operating with different components," said 1st Lt. Landon Mills, Company G executive officer, Special Troops Battalion. Company G is a brigade asset made up of personnel from units throughout Taji, charged with providing camp security for Taji

and operating the quick reaction force.

Once convoys began to pour out of brigade yards at Camp Taji and the Victory Base Complex, the Wranglers started to look at developing better ways to move supplies throughout their area of operation. The answer: to turn yards on Taji and the VBC into Consolidated Receiving Shipping Points.

The CRSP concept was a new method of Army logistical thinking. The idea focused around the "hub" system where packages are sent to regional centers and then distributed to destinations through regularly-traveled routes.

With the old system, a request to move a piece of cargo from Camp Taji to Camp Victory on the VBC would require a unique convoy be requested, formed, and sent from Taji to Victory, and then return empty, explained Maj. Michael Melendez, the brigade transportation integration officer.

Moreover, convoys could carry loads to and from destinations, instead of just accomplishing one movement request per mission, leading to more efficient use of resources. A unit that needed cargo moved or delivered with the old system could expect to wait two weeks; the brigade has trimmed that down to six days, Melendez said.

A piece of cargo can be tracked from arrival to theater to delivery to the customer. This total control minimizes lost items and keeps it moving quickly, explained Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perez, truck master with the Puerto Rican Army Reserve's 432nd Transportation Company.

According to unit records, the Wranglers have tracked nearly 28,000 pieces of cargo delivered through its Taji and VBC CRSP yards since starting the new system in May. They have also retrograded 10,600 pieces out of theater—that is shipped unusable, unneeded, or damaged vehicles and parts to Kuwait to be repaired, sent back to the states, or put back in the supply system.

Ensuring Soldiers are safe within their humvees was another priority for the Wranglers during their deployment. Procuring and installing humvee enhancements like additional armor, combat locks for safer door operation, and gunner restraints to keep Soldiers strapped in to vehicles during rollovers became a major mission for the fabrication and automotive shops across the brigade motor pools. As additional enhancements like the turret ballistic "Pope" glass and internal vehicle crew voice communication systems became available, the brigade moved to install those as well.

While the larger shops on Taji and VBC could handle customers from hundreds of units as they came in, fly-away teams were formed and sent out to additional camps.

"The benefit of fly-away teams is that the customer doesn't have to go into harm's way to get safety upgrades," said Staff Sgt. John Mickens, the team NCOIC

for the Forward Operating Base Falcon fly-away team, detached from the 503rd Maintenance Company, based out of Logistical Base Seitz.

More than 11,200 enhancements have been installed by the brigade's battalions to date, including 1,100 by the small fly-away teams on four camps outside of the

normal brigade area of operation.

Endeavoring to go beyond coalition logistics, the brigade also took on the responsibility of assisting the military transition team serving as advisors to the Iraqi 6th Motorized Truck Regiment on the Iraqi side of Camp Taji.

The Wranglers were able to assist the MiTT in teaching the Iraqis the value of military intelligence, proper maintenance and the role of the NCO (something the Iraqi army historically has lacked), said Maj. Earl Mack, team chief for the 6th MTR MiTT, assigned to the brigade. On August 3rd, the 1st MTR was officially assigned to the 6th Iraqi army division. The new Iraqi logisticians are a legacy for the Wranglers to have left behind, having passed their knowledge and expertise to a new generation, and a new ally.

"With the two teams I work(ed) with, we (had) been working as one team. We feel like we are brothers and forget that we are Iraqi or American," said the 6th MTR commander.

While continuing their assigned mission in the clos-

The Wranglers have tracked nearly 28,000 pieces of cargo ... retrograded 10,600 pieces out of theater ... installed more than 11,200 humvee enhancements ... delivered more than 85 million gallons of fuel ... ran more than 5,000 combat logistical patrols ... driven more than 3.5 million miles ...

ing months of their deployment—delivering 85 million gallons of fuel, running 5,000 combat logistical patrols and driving 3.5 million miles; the brigade also did its best to leave a legacy, through new systems of supply, safer equipment and future logisticians.

Wranglers "Just Get It Done!"

Brigade Combat Team

Story by
Maj. Brent Flachsbart
1/167th Cav. squadron operations officer

When 3rd Corps Support Command first arrived in theater in October 2005, the 29th Brigade Combat Team provided base security for Logistical Support Area Anaconda. Soldiers from the 48th Brigade Combat Team then relieved the 29th BCT. As of publication date, the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team's 1st Squadron of the 167th Cav. is responsible for the mission.

The 1st Squadron of the 167 Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition) is a Nebraska National Guard unit with its headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. Prior to mobilization, the unit was a Heavy Division Cavalry Squadron with M1 tanks and armored personnel carriers, but when mobilized it went through a re-organization to become the primary RSTA squadron for the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team.

The 1/167th was originally mobilized to provide base security for Taqqadum, and had several units attached from the 1/34th BCT, when it was redirected to Logistical Support Area Anaconda where it relieved the 48th Brigade Combat Team's 2-44th Air Defense Artillery Battalion from Fort Campbell, and is now responsible for LSA Anaconda's base security mission.

The squadron began with four units and by its arrival at LSA Anaconda it had adopted five more units, a growth that did not go without challenges. We have four units that provide security for the base's entry control points including the, critical gravel yard. Every convoy, military patrol, or local national who comes onto the LSA passes through the ECP and is thoroughly inspected, scanned and processed by the squadron's Soldiers who work in full gear every day.

The gravel yard processes and inspects every load of gravel that is brought on base for constructing all concrete, parking lots and roads on the LSA. One company provides the quick reaction force for the LSA, responding to indirect fire attacks and

unexploded ordnance, and providing security for explosive ordnance disposal.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Troop runs the Joint Defense Operations Center. Within the JDOC, Soldiers and airmen are able to integrate every available resource on the LSA to counter threats against the base. Using the combined efforts of the towers, ECPs, combat patrols, Air Force fighters and working in coordination with the 3-29th Field Artillery Battalion, the JDOC has set the standard for base defense integration in Iraq.

HHT's Squadron Aid Station also supports many units. The unsung heroes of the squadron reside in the maintenance company. They work long hours to keep the vehicles, generators and equipment running.

The squadron's Soldiers do more than just base security. One company performs combat logistics patrols for movements between Baghdad and Forward Operating Base Speicher.

The remaining two units execute unique missions on the LSA. One provides security for the FOB inside the LSA, and the other executes the air defense mission, an exciting and worthwhile mission inherited from the 2-44th Air Defense Artillery Bn.

In the end though, success for the squadron will not be measured by the number of miles traveled or vehicles that we processed at the ECPs.

The final measure will be that the Soldiers who deployed with the squadron return to their families and friends who are supporting and encouraging them every day to make a difference for the Iraqi people.

Multi- National Corps- Kuwait

Story by
Sgt. Mary E. Ferguson

many of the hundreds of thousands of servicemembers who pass through Kuwait on their journey to Iraq may not notice the levels of logistical links that bind the country's deployment and redeployment operations, and that's exactly what Multi-National Corps - Kuwait Soldiers hope for ... they handle the "how" of the journey to Iraq so onward moving troops have the time and energy to "get their minds right" for the mission ahead, and that's the MNC-K warriors' contribution to the fight.

The current heartbeat of Multi National Corps-Kuwait started in October 2005, when a group of less than 100 3rd Corps Support Command Soldiers gathered in a tent at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. While their fellow COSCOM Soldiers prepared to move north, those few Kuwait-destined troops immediately began to form the bonds that fuel MNC-K operations.

"When we gathered in that tent for the first time, there were Soldiers from Special Troops Battalion, 3rd COSCOM CONUS and 19th MMC (Material Management Center)," said Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Schmitt, the MNC-K and STB command sergeant major. "I didn't see a group of reservists and a group of active duty Soldiers ... I saw a group of dedicated Americans."

Those "dedicated Americans" work day and night at various locations throughout Kuwait, each playing an integral part in the Joint Reception Staging and Onward movement process of all 3rd COSCOM and corps separate units as they move north to Iraq or redeploy to their home stations.

"We ensure that the units get through the processes successfully, safely and in a timely manner, and that they take advantage of the opportunity training available at Udairi Range (at Camp Buehring)," explained Lt. Col. Phillip Mead, the MNC-K deputy commander and STB commander.

While Camp Buehring hosts the nucleus of MNC-K, including the command group and staff, the coalition's Soldiers are literally spread across Kuwait, performing the multitude of missions necessary to successfully facilitate the movement of personnel and equipment from their home stations to their deployment destinations and then back to their home stations.

The MNC-K Soldiers who live and work at Ali Al Salem as

part of the Corps Personnel Processing Center escort incoming servicemembers and distinguished visitors to their appropriate locations and handle every area of all emergency leave and temporary duty situations.

Once delivered to Camp Buehring, incoming personnel complete mandatory training and receive a variety of briefings at the camp's facilities. MNC-K Soldiers operate and maintain many of these facilities, like the newly renovated Improvised Explosive Device training tent and the unique HEAT (Humvee Egress Assistance Training) tent, while also monitoring ammunition ordering and safety issues.

"It is incredibly important that when units arrive in Kuwait and then Iraq that they have not only their personnel, but also their equipment to perform their missions by the required date of delivery and TOA (transfer of authority) date," Mead said.

A small group of MNC-K Soldiers physically monitor and track the arrival and departure of 3rd COSCOM and corps separate units' containers at the Port of Ash Shuaybah and other surrounding ports.

While they are there to greet the awakening glares of incoming servicemembers, MNC-K Soldiers are also there to send off the accomplished and anticipating smiles of redeploying troops.

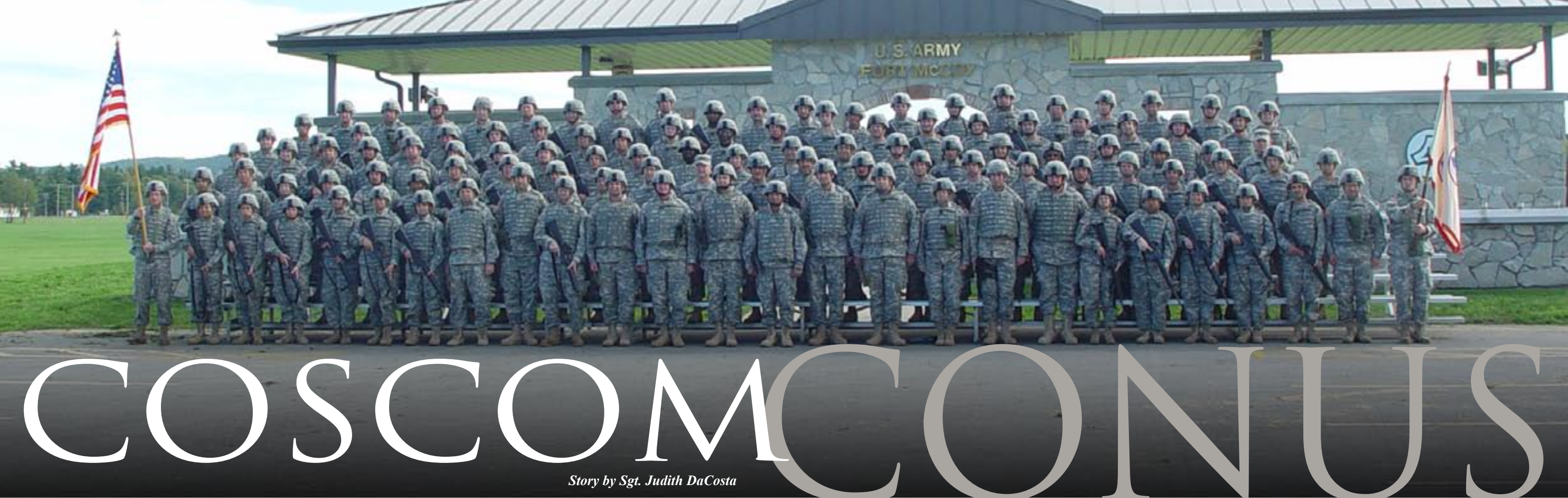
In a tent in the sands of Camp Virginia a handful of Soldiers from 3rd COSCOM CONUS augmentation form the MNC-K redeployment cell.

As if completing the steps above for more than 42,000 personnel hasn't been a grand enough mission for the small, yet mighty MNC-K, the coalition also serves as the rear two command post for Multi National Corps - Iraq, said Col. Mikel Burroughs, the MNC-K and 19th MMC commander.

"I, the rest of the command staff and some of our key staff section's Soldiers constantly travel the roads between the different MNC-K pods," he said.

"I will probably have traveled more than 12,000 miles by the end of our tour," he added.

If a lull in troop traffic presents itself, chances are an MNC-K Soldier will be diligently working on some side project to improve the coalition's facilities and operations, because the coalition's unofficial motto seems to be, "let's make this place better than it was when we got here."



Story by Sgt. Judith DaCosta

The 3rd COSCOM Continental United States Augmentation unit's doctors, lawyers, safety officers, chaplains, gunners, truck drivers, administrative personnel and many other individuals of versatile civilian backgrounds and occupations deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with their active duty Germany-based counterparts, joining the COSCOM's overall mission of providing logistical support throughout theater during Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07.

Each Soldier is a hero in his or her own right. Their names and accomplishments will be written, documented and filed for some state historian or curious relative to stumble across someday. But for 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers, today's pride of accomplishment may not be found in a list of names or in the number of deeds completed at the end of this deployment, but rather in their own personal sense of accomplishment.

Collectively, these Soldiers have fulfilled their duty and taken pride in completing their administrative and supportive role for the Army, while also developing friendships throughout a COSCOM of more than 20,000 servicemembers; forming bonds that may last, and for some have lasted, a lifetime.

Upon their arrival in theater, COSCOM CONUS Soldiers were immediately confronted with the challenges and fears of living in a combat zone.

For many Soldiers from the CONUS group, the greatest challenge in theater has been the separation from fam-

ily, said Maj. Stephen R. Quigg, a 3rd COSCOM Chaplain and one of two 3rd COSCOM CONUS Chaplains.

The tour, which began July 18, 2005 with the Soldier Readiness Process in Des Moines, makes for a long separation from family and friends, he added.

Despite the challenges of this separation, the CONUS warriors found ways to cope and adjust, one of which included simply being there for each other.

"I would say that there is an atmosphere of support from 3rd COSCOM that is not found in many units Army-wide," said Sgt. Christopher Rosevelt, the COSCOM CONUS chaplain's assistant.

Both inside and out of their work environments, recreation events and worship services, unit members have found lasting friendships by overcoming the barrier between reserve and regular Army components.

For example, Soldiers with Task Force Bandit, three of whom are 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers, while scouting Iraqi roads, experienced numerous instances of enemy contact.

Experiencing an attack is like exiting an aircraft for the first time in flight, said 3rd COSCOM CONUS Master Sgt. Scott M. Shank, the COSCOM NCOIC of the Task Force Bandits.

Whether you are a reservist or regular Army Soldier, you are focused on making sure you do everything right and you trust that those around you are doing the same; there is no room for butterflies or second guessing the

Soldier next to you, he said.

When the Bandits traveled outside of the wire, the collective goal was survival, said Sgt. Tyler S. Bauman, a 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldier and 3rd COSCOM Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood's driver.

Aside from the friendships gained on the roadways of Iraq, unit members also lost a friend and Army brother during their deployment.

On Jan. 7, 2006 a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter holding the life of 44-year-old Maj. Stuart M. Anderson of Peosta, Iowa never returned to Balad, Iraq.

The helicopter reportedly crashed during a storm - a storm that may perpetually remind 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers of the fragility of life and the ever-present possibility of death.

It was a long night as word of the incident spread by mouth and through controlled Internet lines, and the bonds among the unit members gave many strength to handle their loss.

Shortly thereafter, a memorial service honored Anderson's life and provided a means for 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers from other bases to come together, share their grief and offer their support to each other.

"We have to look after those we have and cherish them while we have them," said Maj. David J. Hanson, 3rd COSCOM CONUS Staff Judge Advocate Chief of Legal Assistance and a friend of Anderson.

Despite the hardship, said Hanson, this trial has not

driven us apart but rather it has fueled our determination to succeed in our mission in Iraq so that we may honor his memory.

Overall, 3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers performed their duty, withstood trials and remained honorable, said Maj. Steve A. Nichols, 3rd COSCOM CONUS Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander.

During their deployment, CONUS Soldiers filled offices, motor pools and towers. They traveled the roads of Iraq, extended aid to the Iraqi people, and dedicated themselves to their individual missions. They helped form the foundation of Multi-National Corps - Kuwait, carried out essential daily operations throughout the COSCOM, and employed their civilian skills to constantly improve their unit's foxhole.

3rd COSCOM CONUS Soldiers' accomplishments extend beyond the space filled by a name, a photo or even a news article. They were called upon to deploy alongside their fellow Soldiers, and they each rose to the occasion. Whether the deployment was unpleasant or pleasant, difficult or easy, long or short, each Soldier has undoubtedly grown.

On Sept. 16, the unit will cease to exist. May the CONUS Soldiers maintain their integrity and remember the lessons they have learned, Nichols said.

Upon deactivation, 3rd COSCOM CONUS is tentatively scheduled to transition into the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

 **SUSTAINER**
Operation Iraqi Freedom Special Edition