

13th SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

# SUNBURST

FORWARD

THE PULSE OF GLOBAL LOGISTICS

## A MATCH MADE IN **BASEBALL**

How one Soldier decided to POP the QUESTION p. 14

"When the building started to collapse,  
I started to run"

## 9/11 Survivors Talk about Experience

p. 20

## THE 13TH SC(E) TAKES COMMAND

p. 8



IRAQ

YO YO YO. WHO'S THROWING THE TOGA PARTY? ---- NO, I SAID TOA WE'RE BACK

## MUSIC: **DROWNING POOL** Rocks Anaconda

on **USO** Tour p. 28



# CONTENTS



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## COVER STORIES

- THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SC(E) TAKES COMMAND p. 8
- A MATCH MADE IN BASEBALL p. 14
- 9/11 SURVIVORS TALK p. 20
- DP ROCKS ANACONDA p. 28
- RAMADAN p. 7
- BOTTLED WATER COMES TO TQ p. 19
- SC(E) SOLDIERS TRAIN FOR IRAQ p. 24
- LET ME SEE YA' GRILLZ p. 27

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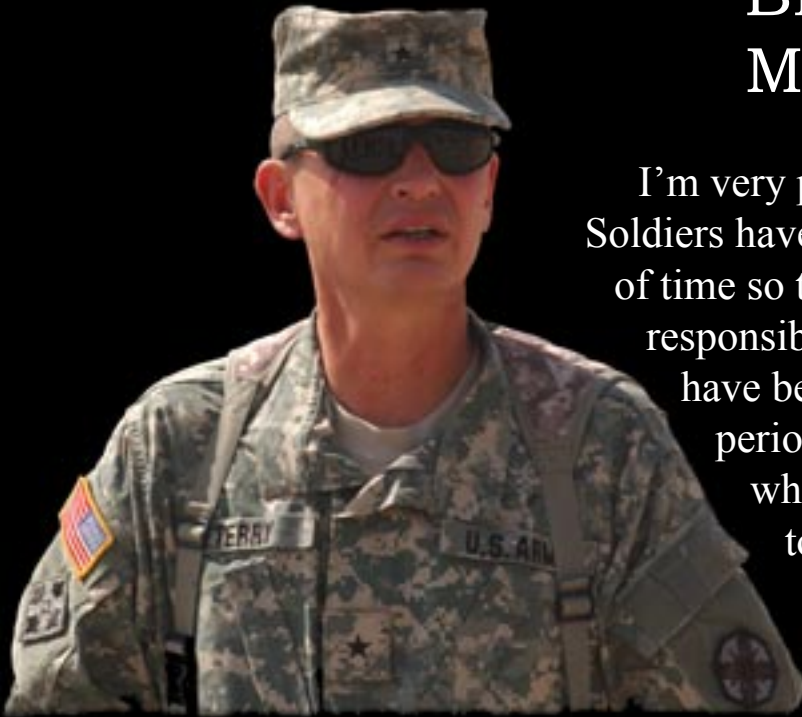
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## **STAFF SECTIONS**

p.4	<b>CG COMMENTS</b>
p. 5	<b>CHAPLAIN'S CORNER</b>
p. 6	<b>TRIVIA</b>
p. 15	<b>CENTERFOLD</b>
p. 26	<b>TRIVIA ANSWERS</b>
p. 22	<b>DIVERSITY</b>
p. 24	<b>MONTHLY HOROSCOPE</b>



## BRIGADIER GENERAL Michael J. Terry



I'm very proud of how our leaders and their Soldiers have come together in a very short period of time so that the critical missions they are responsible for are being executed as if they have been on the ground for a much longer period of time. Everyone, from the troops who are patrolling outside of our bases, to the Soldiers who are on the road, in danger, every day and night, to the Soldiers who are supplying, maintaining, administering and ensuring that we keep on schedule,

to a person, is focused on mission accomplishment.

I am also pleased with how we have joined with our fellow Service partners in conducting our operations. What I've seen is a true team effort with the Air Force, Navy and Marines in just about every critical area. This fight could not be won by any individual Service. Having said that, we are equally in partnership with our Department of Defense, Department of the Army and contractor civilians. It takes all of us to do this right and that is exactly what is being done.

Finally, I'd like to give my sincere thanks to all of the families. Just knowing that we have our loved ones at home supporting us gives us the strength to carry on.

BG Michael J. Terry  
*Provider 06*



# 13TH SUSTAINMENT (EXPEDITIONARY) COMMAND





# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

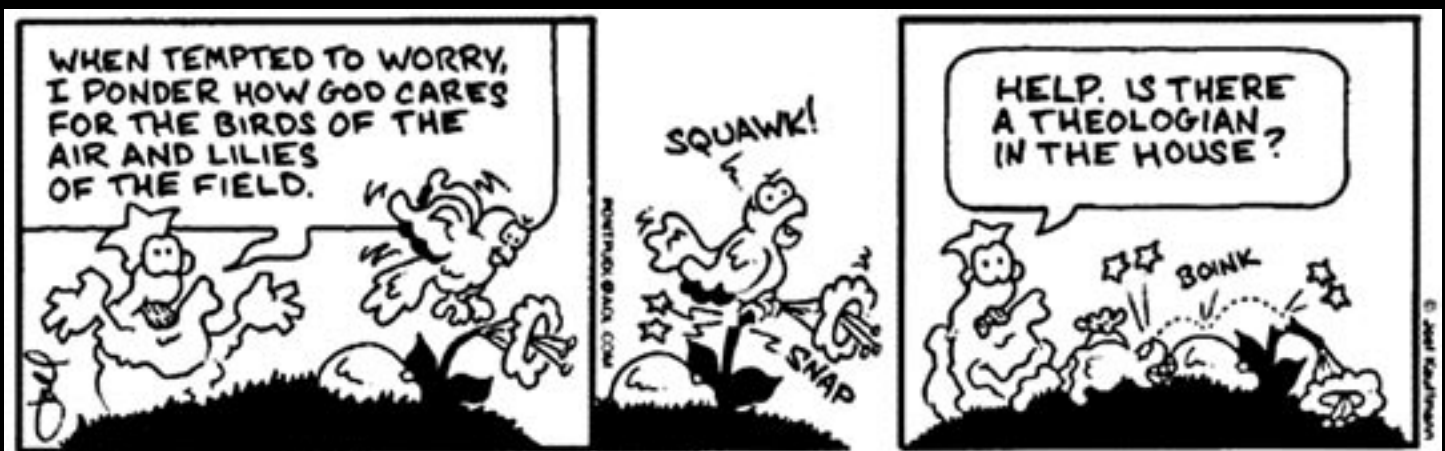
There was a time in my life when I was tired, bone tired. A number of things had happened in the tiny community where I lived, the deaths of 4 significant members in the community in the space of 1 month, my car broke down and I had to find another one, and my dad had open heart surgery. I was beginning to feel like the Biblical character, Job.

The next month during drill weekend the strain must have shown on my face when we had our staff meeting in the reserve hall at Ft. Sill, because the Commander came up to me and told me a story. It went like this, "I was very strong and lean in high school and very fast. I ran the mile on the track team, but I was having problems. I always led the pack through the first three and a half laps, but on the homestretch I was getting beat. One day after I had lost by a whisker, my track coach pulled me over and said a single sentence that

changed my life: 'Always remember that the other man is just as tired as you are.' Now, Chaplain, you haven't said it but I can tell it: You're tired. But this is the moment when you must not give in. Just remember that others have gone through what you're going through, and they didn't lose the race. And they were as tired as you are. Keep your chin up and keep running."

There are times when all of us need to collapse and rest. There are other times when we need to tighten our jaw and "keep on keeping on." And sometimes the encouragement of a friend can make all the difference between winning or losing the race.

Hebrews 10:24-25....."Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.....encouraging one another."



# JUST A LITTLE TRIVIA

1. Which U.S. Military Service Falls Under the Department of Transportation During Peacetime?
2. Which U.S. Military Service Does Not Have Warrant Officers?
3. Where Does the Army's Infamous 61 Day Ranger School Begin? (The Course Consists of Instruction at Several Places)
4. How Many Days of Leave (Vacation Time) Does a Person in the Lowest Enlisted Grade (E-1) Earn Each Year?
5. Other than the Air Force, Which Military Service Requires the Highest General ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery) Test Score in Order to Join?
6. How Many Articles Does the Military Code of Conduct Contain?
7. In the Enlistment Oath, Who Do Military Enlisted Personnel Swear to Obey the Orders of?
8. Who is the Youngest Person to be Promoted to the Rank of Brigadier General in the History of the United States Army?

Answers on page 26

## GUESS WHERE?

The Sunburst staff is constantly out there where ever you can find a 13th SC(E) unit. While on the road we take pictures of places that we visit. Can you guess where we took this picture. Look on page 26 for the answer.



A large, dark silhouette of a mosque minaret with a crescent moon on top, set against a bright, hazy sky at sunset. The sun is visible as a bright glow on the right side of the image.

# Ramadan

Story by  
Sgt. Joel F. Gibson

Ramadan is coming, Ramadan is coming! Alright it's actually already over, but what exactly is it?

We hear about it all the time. We know it's important to members of the Muslim faith. But could the average non-Muslim Soldier explain the significance of the holy period?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. This year, Ramadan fell between Sept. 24 and Oct. 23.

But wait! You just said it was a month. Islam uses a lunar calendar, each month begins with the sighting of the new moon. Because the lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar used elsewhere, Islamic holidays "move" each year.

Why the ninth month? Islam teaches that it is during the month of Ramadan that Muhammad first transcribed verses that would later become the first verses of the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam.

For more than a billion Muslims around the world Ramadan is a "month of blessing" marked by prayer, fasting, and charity.

Muslims practice sawm, or fasting, for the entire month of Ramadan. This means that they may eat or drink nothing, including water, while the sun shines. Fasting is one of the Five Pillars (duties) of Islam. As with other Islamic duties, all able Muslims take part in sawm from about age twelve.

Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which in 2006 occurs on Oct. 24. Literally the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," Eid al-Fitr is one of the two most important Islamic celebrations (the other occurs after the Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca). At Eid al-Fitr people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family.





*The 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sustainment  
Command  
(Expeditionary)  
Steps Up*





Story by  
Spec. KaRonda Fleming









he 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unfurled its colors as it accepted the responsibilities handed over by 3rd Corps Support Command in a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 16.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of 13th SC(E), officially took over the theatre sustainment mission from Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, commander of 3rd COSCOM, hours before she redeployed to Wiesbaden, Germany.

“The 3rd COSCOM has established a reputation for excellence that will be tough to sustain—but I promise you we will,” Terry said. “This is truly a historic day in the future of our Army.

“The path to today’s ceremony has been long and we could not stand here ready to seize the torch without the countless hours put in by your staff over the past year,” he said complementing Halstead for the work done here, by her unit.

It is the second deployment in Iraq for both commands.

“Thank you for joining us on this historic day as 3rd COSCOM, the last corps support command to deploy to combat, transfers responsibility to the 13th SC(E), the first sustainment command to deploy to combat,” Terry said.

The 13th SC(E)’s primary mission is to provide combat support and combat service support in the areas of supply, maintenance, transportation, and field services. The 13th SC(E) will also play a critical role in training Iraqi logistical units.



ormerly 13th COSCOM, it restructured and redesignated into its current structure in February, and will play a key role in redesigning the logistics battlefield in Iraq to better support the Army’s newly transformed combat units.

On its first deployment in Iraq, the 13th SC(E) processed 2,000 tons of mail, averaged more than 200 convoys a day, and was responsible for quality of life improvements for the joint forces.

Halstead talked briefly about her command’s undertakings during the past year.

She said out of nearly 3,000 vehicles on the road each night, many of those belonged to 3rd COSCOM.

Halstead also spoke about the pride of working with the Iraqi soldiers and civilians here.

“Iraqi’s show great courage, and are fighting to protect their families,” she said.

Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, commander of Multi National Corps-Iraq, who opened the ceremony, spoke of the progress being made in Iraq.

“We’ve driven a wedge between Iraqi terrorists, and those who want a free and democratic Iraq,” Chiarelli said. “(This) transfer of authority is a symbol of America’s unwavering commitment to the people of Iraq.”

3rd COSCOM’s motto, “Sustain the line,” will now be replaced by 13th SC(E)’s, “Phantom support.”

“Our Soldiers are now trained and ready to accept the mantle. On behalf of the Soldiers of the 13th I make this promise—we will continue to sustain the line,” Terry said.

# 657th ASG takes helm of Mayor's Cell

Story by  
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell



*657th Area Support Group's Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Young uncases the unit colors with Col. Stephen T. Nakono, commander of the 657th ASG, Aug. 29, at LSA Anaconda.*

"Aloha and good morning." With those words Col. Stephen T. Nakano and the 657th Area Support Group took charge of the logistical support area's Mayor's Cell from the Missouri Army National Guard's 35th Area Support Group during a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Aug. 29.

From housing to force protection, Nakano said the Fort Shafter-based unit traded their sunglasses and sandy beaches of Hawaii, for ballistic goggles and the rocks covering nearly every parking location.

"It is an honor for me to stand here today, commanding and representing the 657th Area Support Group as we take our next step into history and fulfill the destiny of this outstanding unit," Nakano said.

The 657th ASG, an Army Reserve unit from the 9th Regional Readiness Command, spent the past eight months training for a mission that each week will have more than 150,000 people using Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities, 24,000 bags of laundry washed, 335,000 meals prepared, 600 tons of trash disposed, and 62,000 people riding the 14 local bus routes, according to the Mayor's Cell. "We have been tirelessly preparing for the mission," he said about force protection and life support on Anaconda. Nakano said his Soldiers are ready to meet the master planning objectives for Anaconda.

"We will provide for a better future for all of Soldiers, airmen, sailors, Marines, Department of Defense civilians, contractors and host nationals living and working on Anaconda," he said.

Nakano thanked the 35th Area Support Group commander, Col. Mark W. Hampton, for a transition that would lead his unit to success. "Thank you for the warm Missouri hospitality extended to the 'Warriors from the Pacific Rim,'" he said. "Your willingness to share information about the keys to success in maintaining a safe and secure environment has made for a smooth transition between our units."

The 35th ASG spent the past year changing from a division support command to an area support group, Hampton said. "You then organized to become a garrison command with the unique mission of keeping LSA Anaconda running smoothly and safely," Hampton said to his troops. "We remained flexible, quick to adapt, and respond to the daily challenges of the unit mission."

Hampton said that although his Soldiers aren't on the front lines, they are still making a difference. "We've helped units be more successful at their own missions by affecting and shaping the environment in which they work," he said.

Nakano closed the ceremony and began his year-long adventure on Anaconda. "Aloha and Maholo," he said.

## 164th CSG SUPPLY TRAIN ONLINE

Story by  
SpC. Amanda Solitario

With their colors unveiled, Col. Megan P. Tatu and the 164th Corps Support Command accepted the reigns from their predecessors, the 40th CSG, during a transfer of authority ceremony on Sept. 2. "The fact that the width and breadth of your smiles these past 10 days has equaled those of the Soldiers going home has been great to see and speaks volumes," said Tatu, the 164th CSG commander.

The unit, headquartered in Mesa, Ariz., is responsible for pushing fuel, water, and other supplies to the American Forces all over Iraq while providing security for the shipment of those commodities. In addition, the unit conducts vehicle recovery missions around the country. "We are honored to have been asked to answer our nation's call and we look forward to serving," Tatu said.

The 164th CSG, an Army Reserve unit from the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, spent the past three months tirelessly preparing for their tour in Iraq.

"I know you will carry this spirit of teamwork and pride throughout the year," she said about the residual energy in her unit. From the weeks at their home station in Arizona to the months at Fort Bliss, Texas, Tatu said the mission-ready unit is finally relieved to be in place.

Tatu expressed her gratitude to Col. Jannett Jackson, 40th CSG commander, and to the unit for setting the groundwork for a successful deployment. "We would like to thank you for setting the conditions for a smooth transition," she said. "Your staff has been forthcoming in



There is an influx of new Soldiers in Taji following the recent transfer of authority here that replaced the 4th Sustainment Brigade with the 15th Sustainment Brigade.

During a Sept. 3 uncasing of the colors ceremony, the 15th SB unfurled their flag and battle streamers and placed it proudly in front of their headquarters building to establish their position for the next year.



*Col. Aundre F. Piggee, commander of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, fixes the brigade battle streamers on the brigade colors during a brief ceremony in Taji.*

Story by  
Spc. Alexandra  
Hemmerly-Brown

training plan that began pre-deployment preparation six months ago, he said. "Our Soldiers are well trained, highly motivated, and I'm confident we are ready to execute the mission before us with pride," Piggee said.

Piggee thanked his Soldier's family members who are sacrificing during this deployment, and also the central Texas community for their continued support along the way. "The Soldiers we have now will be the best trained and best prepared Soldiers and leaders for the future of this Army and Nation," he said.

The mission of the more than 3,400 Soldiers that make up the brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas, will be initially the same as their predecessors, but with some key differences, said Col. Aundre F. Piggee, commander of the 15th SB. "This is an awesome responsibility for me personally," Piggee said. The brigade, which provides logistical support for all units in the Baghdad area, transports supplies, supports personnel and equipment, and provides convoy security amongst other duties. "I've visited every logistical unit in the Baghdad area to ensure I had a full and complete picture of how logistics operates in this area of operations," Piggee said.

Piggee, a native of Texarkana, Ark., said the biggest difference in the unit's mission, will be its focus on training Iraqi soldiers so they can operate independently. "Success for us will be the correct training of our logistical counterparts in the Iraqi army," Piggee said. "If when we leave, they can take over and accomplish their mission internally, we will have been extremely successful."

Piggee said his expectations for the coming year are that his Soldiers exercise safety in everything they do, execute their mission to standard, and are always combat ready. He thinks those expectations will be achieved in part because of the way their predecessors worked to prepare them. The departing 4th Sustainment Brigade had a detailed and focused

their information and has encouraged open dialogue with their TOA partners."

As the 40th CSG departs the logistical support area, they leave with their heads held high on a job well done, Jackson said. Traveling more than 3 million miles to more than 40 bases in Iraq, the 40th CSG was the supply link between Anaconda and the forward operating bases throughout the theater. Jackson told the Soldiers to be proud of their accomplishments, and that people back home are very appreciative. She shared a personal letter about one such man in Ohio to make her point.

"Norm is one of those everyday characters you pass by in the mall or who sits next to you in church," she said, reading from the letter. This man sits outside an Ohio bank everyday rain

or shine, with patriotic music blaring, and his American flag flapping in the wind, Jackson said. All he wants to do is show his support for the troops and encourages others to do the same. Jackson addressed both the incoming and outgoing Soldiers and said to know that what they do here is important. With the 40th CSG colors cased, Tatu said goodbye to Jackson and her unit.

"It is time we wish you all Godspeed and a joyous reunion with your families, who too have sacrificed just as much as those of us who wear the uniform," she said.

*Col. Megan P. Tatu, commander of the 164th Corps Support Command, takes time to step away from the podium and talk to the visitors of Transfer of Authority ceremony between the 164th CSC and the 40th Corps Support Group on Sept. 2.*





# I WATCH MOMENTS IN HIS EYES

STORY BY SSG. DUSTIN PERRY

When Sgt. Adam Marti asked his girlfriend to marry him, she stood silently for 15 seconds before accepting his proposal. Hesitation like that normally wouldn't bode well for someone on the asking end of such a momentous occasion, but Marti knew it might happen when dealing with a satellite delay.

A nervous Marti, the liaison officer with Task Force THUNDER here, proposed to Heather Rock, his girlfriend of 18 months, during the fifth inning of a Sept. 30 baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and the Chicago White Sox.

"I worked up the plan over a month in advance with the idea that it would be something she would remember for a long time," he said. Marti, a native of Mankato, Minn., was being projected onto the Metrodome's towering Jumbotron screen via a live feed when he popped the question in front of more than 45,000 screaming fans. He had been planning the surprise for a month, which was made official when TC, the Twins' mascot, slipped an engagement ring on Rock's finger.

"She was completely surprised when I asked her, then she said, 'Yes, of course I will,'" said Marti. "I felt relieved because I was anxious. It turned out great." Marti coordinated the proposal in conjunction with Military Appreciation Night, which was being held at the ballpark that night. About 40 of the couple's friends and family members were there, watching the game from reserved skybox seats.

Rock knew she was going to see her boyfriend that night but had no idea he was going to ask what he asked. She believed Marti had been given the chance to participate in a live video message with his mother because she had recently divorced and had two sons serving overseas. Marti's brother Ryan, who is stationed in Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq, stood next to him during the broadcast.

Under this pretense, local media personnel were able to conduct "secondary" interviews with Rock without raising suspicion or giving away the surprise – which, on a few occasions, almost happened. An initial batch of tickets with the phrase "Congratulations Heather & Adam!" printed on them was recalled before the game, and the same message was displayed in the outfield an inning earlier than the actual proposal. Rock saw neither.

After greeting his family and friends, Marti dropped to his knee and said he had a question for his girlfriend. He asked the crowd to applaud or boo depending on her response, but almost everyone had caught on at this point and immediately started cheering. "Heather told me she had a problem hearing me because of how loud the crowd was," said Marti. After the proposal, Marti was able to talk to his new fiancée on a cell phone until the end of the game.

"Everything went perfect," said Marti. "She told me she couldn't have imagined (my proposal) to be any better, and she couldn't have been more surprised. It's not every day you get to totally overwhelm your significant other."





# Bottled Water Comes to TQ

Story by  
Staff Sgt. William Taylor



How far would you go for a cold drink of water when stationed in the hot deserts of Iraq? The Army travels great distances and uses hundreds of combat logistical patrols to ensure Soldiers, Marines, and other service members and contractors stay properly hydrated with fresh, bottled water. After much thought and planning the military has turned to the construction of Bottled Water Plants on larger camps to ease the strain of sending convoys over the dangerous roads of Iraq to retrieve the liquid gold that is bottled water.

The 593<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Group, 13<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Fort Lewis, Washington took on the mission of providing raw lake water to the Oasis Bottled Water Plant located at Camp TQ, Iraq. The plan included using a modified Tactical Water Distribution System or TWDS (pronounced “Twids”), from the shores of Lake Habbaniyah to the bottled water plant site. Soldiers purify the water three times via Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) at the Oasis, and then bottle it in one-liter bottles for distribution throughout the Anbar Province.

Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Reyes, Staff Sgt. Michael C. Wolowinski, Staff Sgt. Ricky F. Fairchild, Spc. Jose M. Villegas, Spc. Anthony L. Cummings, Spc. Jonathan C. Lavender, Spc. Smith, and Spc. Katherine E. Bowman emplaced and operated the TWDS equipment for this vital mission. These Soldiers, with the exception of one are all shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists, and not trained on doing water treatment missions.

Cpt. Sarah A. McQuarrie and the NCOIC conducted a reconnaissance of the hose route to ensure there were no severe bends or obstacles between the bottled water plant and the pump near the lakeshore.

Imagine unrolling a 500-foot, 350-pound cinnamon roll that twists out of control with every wrap. Master Sgt. Ronald E. Gill remarked, “Any time you are dealing with six inch hose that is 500 feet long, you should know that it is going to take a lot of work”. However, the Soldiers found a safe and effective way of unrolling the TWDS

hose in short order. Using a forklift, a 5-Ton Cargo truck and tons of elbow grease and sweat, the Soldiers laid out 4000 feet of TWDS hose-line.

After laying the hose, the team still had to attach the hose to the pump,

emplace the modified strainer, and test the hose-line. After ensuring these last steps occurred, Bowman had the honors of the initial startup of the pump. Bowman was impressed with the operation. “We had a large ditch to get the hose over, our vehicles kept getting stuck in the sand, but we worked as a team and got the mission done early. This plant will help everyone in this area”. As the pump began operation, the Soldiers walked the entire length of the hose-line using the relay method to check for leaks or other problems that might impair operations. With no problems identified, the mission of delivering water to the Oasis was complete!

“Our vehicles kept getting stuck in the sand, but we worked as a team and got the mission done”





# SOME COLORS DON'T RUN





# THE WHITE AND BLUE JANUARY RUNS







# 13TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

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*DEFINING MODERN L*



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**STAY  
STRONG**

**ARMY**

**STRONG!**

**LOGISTICS**



# Captain Survives WTC, Fights War on Terror

Stories by  
Spc. Kyndal  
Hernandez

*Capt. Thomas Sullivan, 773rd Transportation Company, gearing up for a fuel supply mission.*



Iraq (Sept. 3, 2006)  
- Five years after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, an Army captain and World Trade Center survivor, commands a New York unit deployed to Iraq.

Capt. Thomas Sullivan, commander of the 773rd Transportation Company at Q-West experienced the attacks on the World Trade Center from the 95th floor of the South Tower. He and Soldiers from this New York Reserve unit participated in a remembrance ceremony in honor of the victims of Sept. 11. Sullivan worked for Fiduciary Trust Company International as a performance analyst since 1996. Until Sept. 11, 2001, the company's office occupied four floors of the South Tower.

On that day, Sullivan arrived at work at 7:30 a.m. just like any other day, but a broader smile may have revealed he had good news to share. "I had gone into my office to send out e-mails to friends and family members to tell them the news that my wife was pregnant with twins," Sullivan said. After clicking the "send" button, he made his way to his boss' office to share the exciting news with him. "As we sat there in his office laughing and joking," Sullivan explained. "I noticed something out of the corner of my eye."

**At that moment – about 8:46 a.m. – the first plane hit the North Tower.**

"We both jumped to the floor, and I could feel the concussion and the heat immediately," Sullivan said. As the deputy fire warden for his floor, Sullivan instinctively began evacuating all personnel on his floor after the explosion. Sullivan was 30 floors closer to escape – on the 65th floor stairwell – when the second plane hit the South Tower just 13 stories above him. "The building shook unbelievably. I could feel a subtle burst of warm air and light debris and dust coming down the stairwell." By then, a throng of people poured into the stairwell for the long journey to the ground floor. But when they finally made it, they could not exit the building because of glass and other debris falling dangerously from the building. Along with the crowd, Sullivan turned back to the stairwell in hopes of finding another exit through the basement.

**A few minutes after he made it to the street, the South Tower began to collapse.**

"When the building started to collapse, I started to run but the thick cloud of dust that came made it very difficult to see and breathe," Sullivan said. He made it to the Staten Island Ferry but to his dismay, it was closed. Like thousands of other people, he began walking toward the Brooklyn Bridge for the long journey home. "As we were walking to the bridge, the North Tower collapsed. It collapsed right in front of our eyes." After walking about eight miles, Sullivan found a phone to call his family. He said it had been more than two hours since anyone had heard from him. His family had feared the worst.

"The next few days were worse than the event itself," Sullivan explained. "I had received dozens of calls from my friends' and coworkers' family members, asking if I had seen their loved ones." Months later, Sullivan continued to have trouble coping with the tragedy he had been through.

"I went to ground zero once to assist, but I could not bear for too long. They seemed to have all the help they needed, and I was not up for the task physically or mentally." Sullivan said it took him a few months to deal with the events that transpired that day.

"My service to this country and being here on the memorable day of Sept. 11 is how I honor the people who lost their lives that day. That was a day that should be remembered forever, a day we as Americans should pay tribute to, and a day that I will never forget."



Sept. 11 Remembrance



# Ground Zero Cop a Transportation Company ‘Top’

As his unit's trucks leave this logistics hub each day, a first sergeant is driven by the Sept. 11 events in New York City where he experienced the aftermath of the terrorist attacks as a policeman at Ground Zero.

Deployed to Q-West with New York's 773rd Transportation Company, 1st Sgt. Vincent Mannion said he feels a sense of obligation to honor the victims of Sept. 11. Along with other Soldiers from his reserve unit, Mannion participated in a remembrance ceremony hosted by the 71st Corps Support Battalion.

Mannion described the morning of Sept. 11 as a typical end of a long shift. He and his partner were finishing their plain clothes assignment when a radio message urged them back to the command station. "We heard sirens and saw fire trucks everywhere," Mannion said. "We knew something big had happened, but we weren't sure what." When they found out one of the towers had been hit by a plane, Mannion first thought it was another accident. "A few years before, a small aircraft had accidentally hit one of the towers, so that was our first thought," he said.

**As they drove to the command station, they heard the second tower had been hit as well.**

"At that point, we knew it was not an accident," Mannion said. "We immediately thought the worst and were trying everything we could to get back to command as soon as possible." Once there, Mannion rushed to change into his uniform. As he was putting on his gear, he watched television coverage as the first tower collapsed.

"I had a lot of mixed emotions at that moment," Mannion explained. "I knew right then and there, the entire world had changed. We wanted to call our families and let them know we were okay. We couldn't. The job came first." On the following days, Mannion did his job guarding the tunnels, but constantly offered his help at Ground Zero. Eventually, his offer was accepted.

"At first, we weren't allowed to go down

because they said they had enough people to help," Mannion explained. "Of course our job was important guarding the tunnels, we just wanted to do more to help. When they let us down there, we became part of the bucket brigade and the rescue efforts." The "bucket brigade" consisted of police officers, firefighters and volunteers who would painstakingly sift through the rubble with rakes and buckets looking for any kind of identification – or remains.

"We were digging for anything significant, anything that would give people closure," Mannion said. "It was really sad because there were police officers and firefighters actually looking for their friends, and fathers looking for their sons."

**"It was something I will never forget,"** he added.

The most memorable moments were the tributes to the victims who were found at Ground Zero, Mannion said. Each time victims were found, the brigade of volunteers stopped their work to salute, or pay respect, as the remains were transported out of the "hole" on a stretcher draped with an American flag.

Because of his experience, Mannion said he was compelled to do his part in the War on Terrorism. He has served 23 years in the military, and is on his third deployment – serving in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I came out here by choice. The Army didn't say 'Hey, you have to go.' I said to the Army, 'I want to go.'"



*1st Sgt. Vincent Mannion, 773rd Transportation Company, prepares for a fuel supply mission.*

## Army of One? Pretty Much

Story by  
Maj. Jay Adams

**I had an epiphany a while back in a dining facility.**

If I had paid attention at the Public Affairs Officer Qualification Course I would have had a thought—maybe even an interesting thought. Big words are as welcome at PAOQC as Mel Gibson at Hanukkah. They are anathema—another two dollar word—must have been the Kuwaiti heat on my way to Iraq. The point is I didn't pay attention so I had an epiphany.

**On the question of diversity, we really are an Army of One.**

I was in the process of combining PT and breakfast—trying to carry the three DOS (days of supply in loggie speak) they stack on one plate while deployed is kind of like entering ESPN's Strongest Man Competition. Just prior to muscle failure, I sat down and had my epiphany.

In regards to equality, the Army does pretty well at what American society is trying to achieve. The DFAC looked like America. In fact, the DFAC looked like the United Nations General Assembly—except all the delegates sported U.S. Army over their hearts. Surrounding me I saw men and women, who in the words of that great philosopher Bill Murray, must have been “kicked out of every decent country in the world.” Black and white. Hispanic. Pacific Islander. Asian. In that dining facility on this morning, they were all green—well—all shades of pixelated gray. Soldiers. American Soldiers.

I don't know their stories. I don't now how they ended up in the same place at the same time in the same uniform with the same mission and the same values. I don't know their story. But I know mine.

I suppose I came into the Army a prisoner of my own experiences—my own prejudices—just like everyone else. I grew up in a very homogenous small town. The alleged Great American



*A diverse group of Soldiers enjoys a meal at Dining Facility #1, Camp Buehring, Kuwait.*

Melting Pot seemed pretty abstract to me. I found that in the Army, it's not only a way of life, it's essential for mission success. The small snap shot of diversity I observed in the DFAC had me reflecting on my own experiences.



*Lt. Gen. Russel Honore commander of relief effort in New Orleans*



"I want to win every thing," barked my black drill sergeant as he welcomed me into the Army. "If they give out an award in Alpha Battery for taking out the trash, we are going to win it. For an American Soldier victory is the standard and you WILL meet my standards." I vaguely recall a few expletives mixed in for emphasis. Somewhere between pushing Oklahoma dirt and the final parade field I bought in to his program. I would have followed that man to the end of the earth.

In my first company command, my first sergeant was an outstanding African-American NCO from Mississippi. My standardization instructor pilot—essentially the instructor pilot's instructor pilot—was female; and as you would expect the SIP to be, the best pilot in the Troop.

This was of course a prelude to the epiphany. I grew up as an officer in an aeroscout platoon.—an all mal bastion at the time. About the time I left my flight platoon to be a support platoon leader, the military opened the scout and attack helicopter world to females. My first command was my first experience with women in the air cavalry. When the first sergeant retired, his replacement was one of the best NCOs I have worked with. She was female. But to me she was just First Sergeant. To the Soldiers of Outlaw Troop, she was the best first sergeant in the squadron.

My first sergeant during my second command was also female. I thought I had won the lottery in my first command but sometimes lightning strikes twice. She is now the Command Sgt. Maj. of an Aviation Battalion in combat.

My boss from the previous year is a female colonel of Filipino descent who "might have the strongest file of any transportation officer in the Army." Those are not my words; those are the words of a fellow transportation officer in casual conversation.

My battalion commander is Puerto Rican. My headquarters just replaced Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command in Iraq. She had spent the last year commanding one of the largest organizations in Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, an African American infantryman, was so intelligent and eloquent he was personally plucked to be the military's spokesperson during the initial stages of Iraqi Freedom. In the no good deed goes unpunished department, the Army was so impressed his next assignment was as the Army's Chief of Public Affairs. I subscribe to his public affairs vision daily.

I supported hurricane relief operations in Louisiana under Lt. Gen. Russel Honore', the bureaucracy busting, cigar chomping, African-American hero of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita.

Gen. John Abizaid, the senior military commander in the most turbulent region of the world, is an Arab-American. The Army, and a lot of talent, opened a few doors for Colin Powell.

These are just a few examples of outstanding Soldiers I have turned to for leadership. I was too caught up in their abilities to really notice gender or race or heritage. Whatever ignorance—whatever prejudices I carted into the Army, have faded like a distant puff of smoke. I consider myself a pretty good Soldier—but countless times in my career I have been bested by females, blacks—pick a group and I have known Soldiers from that group that were better than I.



*Col. Christine Gayagas, the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), receiving a briefing on a new million dollar communications shell*

The Army is certainly not perfect. It is an imperfect organization manned by imperfect people. The Army of One campaign may have had its critics, but on that morning, in that dining facility it seemed spot on.

As our Army struggles to help Iraq transition to democracy and overcome its own ethnic strife, perhaps the Iraqi people can take a closer look at the men and women wearing those pixelated gray uniforms. There is an awful lot of diversity beneath that Velcro; they are diverse in heritage—united in purpose.

Does the Army still have a ways to go? Sure. But one Soldier's story—my story—suggests we are not far off.

Army of One? It is at least an interesting thought—and the very foundation behind Army Strong.

# SC(E) SOLDIERS TRAIN FOR IRAQ

STORY BY SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON

Most Soldiers put in long hours of pre-deployment training in the weeks leading up to an overseas deployment. Due to the constraints placed on Soldiers and leaders during the early stages of a deployment, few have time to think about the training they'll need once in theater.

Part of this training requirement is met by the Multi National Corps – Kuwait Soldiers who provide briefings and facilitate transportation to ranges. But people must man those ranges, people with knowledge of modern military tactics and advanced combat weapons application.

Enter Military Professional Resourcing Incorporated, a private company that employs former servicemembers to train current servicemembers, leaving unit leadership free to focus on the administrative aspects of going north from Kuwait to Iraq.

As Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), prepared to go north, MNC-K and MPRI administered several essential classes.

The first class given to the Soldiers of the SC(E) was a friendly vehicle recognition class taught by Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Rogan, a cavalry sergeant major with The 1<sup>st</sup> Queen's Dragoon Guards, senior cavalry regiment of the line of the United Kingdom. During his brief, Rogan spoke of the importance of knowing not only coalition forces vehicles, but also hand signals and mannerisms of servicemembers of allied nations.

The next class administered to the logistics Soldiers was on a subject that is uppermost in many deployed Soldiers' minds, improvised explosive devices.

A corporal from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Support Command used videos and visual aids to impart a better understanding of what can be found on roadsides in Iraq.

The Soldiers of the SC(E) participated in a range most had never seen the likes of before, the vehicle borne improvised explosive device range.

The MPRI instructor giving the class, started by describing procedures at most entry control points.

After receiving the classes, the Soldiers took live ammunition to firing areas where plywood cars riding on rails approached them at roughly 30 miles per hour.

Proper actions included using escalation of force

procedure, which basically means the Soldiers were not supposed to fire until they were certain the vehicle operator, a firing range silhouette, had hostile intent towards the Soldiers manning the ECP.

Once the





*All names of civilian contractor (MPRI) personnel have been changed in accordance with their wishes of anonymity.*



sergeant of the guard was certain the vehicle would not stop, he instructed his Soldiers to fire on the vehicle. Computers recorded the hits the Soldiers made on hostile targets, and also incidental shots on targets identified as noncombatants. As expected, the hits on the hostile targets far outnumbered those on noncombatants.

"I thought it was definitely helpful, said Spc. Daniel A. Olsen, a paralegal specialist with the SC(E), emphasizing the vehicle borne IED training as a particular highlight.

The instructors at the close quarters marksmanship and Convoy Live Fire training site spoke of the importance of the training given there, "This training familiarizes servicemembers with convoy techniques that could be the

difference between life and death in Iraq," said MPRI instructor Joseph Schtucke.

"All of the instructors here are retired E-7 through E-9," said MPRI Instructor Gregory Hallen, "All of the instructors came from Special Forces, Rangers, or light infantry."

Many of the logistics Soldiers had to disregard training they had in the past, "It's more realistic than training I've had in the past," said Staff Sgt. Raymond B. Dharsono, a paralegal Noncommissioned Officer in the SC(E).

After CQM, the Soldiers drew vehicles from the motor pool on site and rehearsed a convoy. After many rehearsals, they conducted the convoy in two stages.

During the first stage of the convoy, the Soldiers utilized blank

rounds, and were met with problems ranging from civilian traffic, to roadside bombs, to disabled civilian vehicles at traffic chokepoints.

In the second stage, the Soldiers were issued live ammunition and practiced techniques used when facing direct fire. An emphasis was placed on full identification of threats before engagement, punctuated by a silhouette with a cardboard pitchfork, held in a similar fashion to the way the threats were holding their cardboard AK-47's.

The MPRI instructors finished the training by praising the Soldiers for their vast improvement, Hallen stated, "Over the course of the past couple of days, you've all improved exponentially at conducting convoy operations, good luck up north!"

# Trivia answers

1. Coast Guard
2. Air Force
3. Fort Benning,  
GA
4. 30 days a year
5. The Coast  
Guard
6. Six
7. The President  
& Officers
8. Galusha Pennypacker received a brevet  
promotion to Brigadier General after the  
Second Battle of Fort Fisher at the age of  
20.



Guess Where Answer: Russian Manufactured Sukhoi 27 in Al Asad







# Let me see

# ya' grillz

*tooth  
decay easy predator for unsuspecting  
servicemembers*

Story by  
SpC. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Soldiers have plenty of things to worry about while being deployed, so it's easy to believe one of the furthest things from their minds is dental health.

Col. Ariel Jusino, general dental officer of C Co., 205<sup>th</sup> Area Support Medical Battalion here, and a National Guard Soldier from San Juan, Puerto Rico, said Soldiers' dental health often deteriorates during deployments.

"Sometimes Soldiers are so busy, they don't have enough time for good hygiene habits," Jusino said.

One study, undertaken in 2004, showed that 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers sent to Iraq for six months returned home with more than two-and-a-half times the number of cavities they had before deploying, according to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command.

Consumption of sugary foods and inadequate dental hygiene contribute to a decline in

Soldiers' oral health in the field, Jusino said. Chewing tobacco also greatly accelerates the formation of cavities, he said.

Jusino said cavities are caused by a combination of factors including the density of saliva, genetics, hygiene, and bacteria.

Another danger to dental health is the non-potable water used in the latrines in Iraq, he said.

Researchers at the Dental and Trauma Research Detachment at Great Lakes, Ill., are working with a tasteless peptide, known as KSL, which helps break up the film which forms on teeth and kills the bacteria that cause oral disease, according to the AMRMC. The researchers concluded last year, with the help of Dr. Patrick Deluca at the University of Kentucky, that chewing gum is the best way to deliver KSL.

"That water hasn't been treated for human consumption," Jusino said.

They support the Troops and

# DROWN POOL

Story by  
Spc. Amanda Solitario





and the SOLDIERS know it

ING



As the guitarist struck the first chord, the crowd surged toward the stage for a better view of the four performers. The beat of the music vibrated through the night air as bottles of water shot out into the sky raining down onto hundreds of screaming fans.

With every move from the tightly packed crowd, clouds of dust flew over the more than 3,000 servicemembers and civilians who rocked out in a high-energy concert with the Nu-Metal band Drowning Pool at Holt Memorial Stadium.

"For us to be here is an honor," said lead singer Ryan McCombs, who joined the group last

July shortly after Jason Jones' departure in June. Jones replaced the original singer Dave Williams after his death in 2002.

According to the bass player, Stevie Benton, it was ironic for the band to play for the troops on the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11. After the tragedy in New York, one of Drowning Pool's most popular songs, "Bodies" was removed from many radio stations. Those opposed to the lyrics said it reminded the public of the victims jumping

from the twin towers. Benton said the meaning of the song was deeply distorted by the critics, and the way it was perceived was all wrong.

Despite the views of some, the

**"You don't usually get that from a band of this caliber."**

song soon gained momentum in the military and was even used in training videos.

"We felt very vindicated and happy," Benton said. "It turned into a positive and motivating song."

The members of the band said it was unbelievable to be in Iraq five years later playing that very tune for the troops.

"It is sweet justice," said C.J. Pierce, the guitarist.

After a moment of silence to remember the lives lost in Sept. 11, Drowning Pool took to the stage, turning the





dirt field into a raging mosh pit. Some fans even dared to crowd-surf above the sea of uniformed personnel.

The band said they love to watch the troops escape from the realities of war and lose themselves in the music for just a little while. "It is nice for us to give everybody a mental break from the seriousness that goes on out here," said Mike Luce, the drummer.

The four rockers had their own combat experience only hours before the show. While touring the Air Force Theater Hospital, the base took indirect fire, which almost resulted in the canceling of their performance. Luce said after visiting Anaconda and seeing things first-hand, he gained a new perspective on what daily life is like for the troops. "It blows your mind," he said.

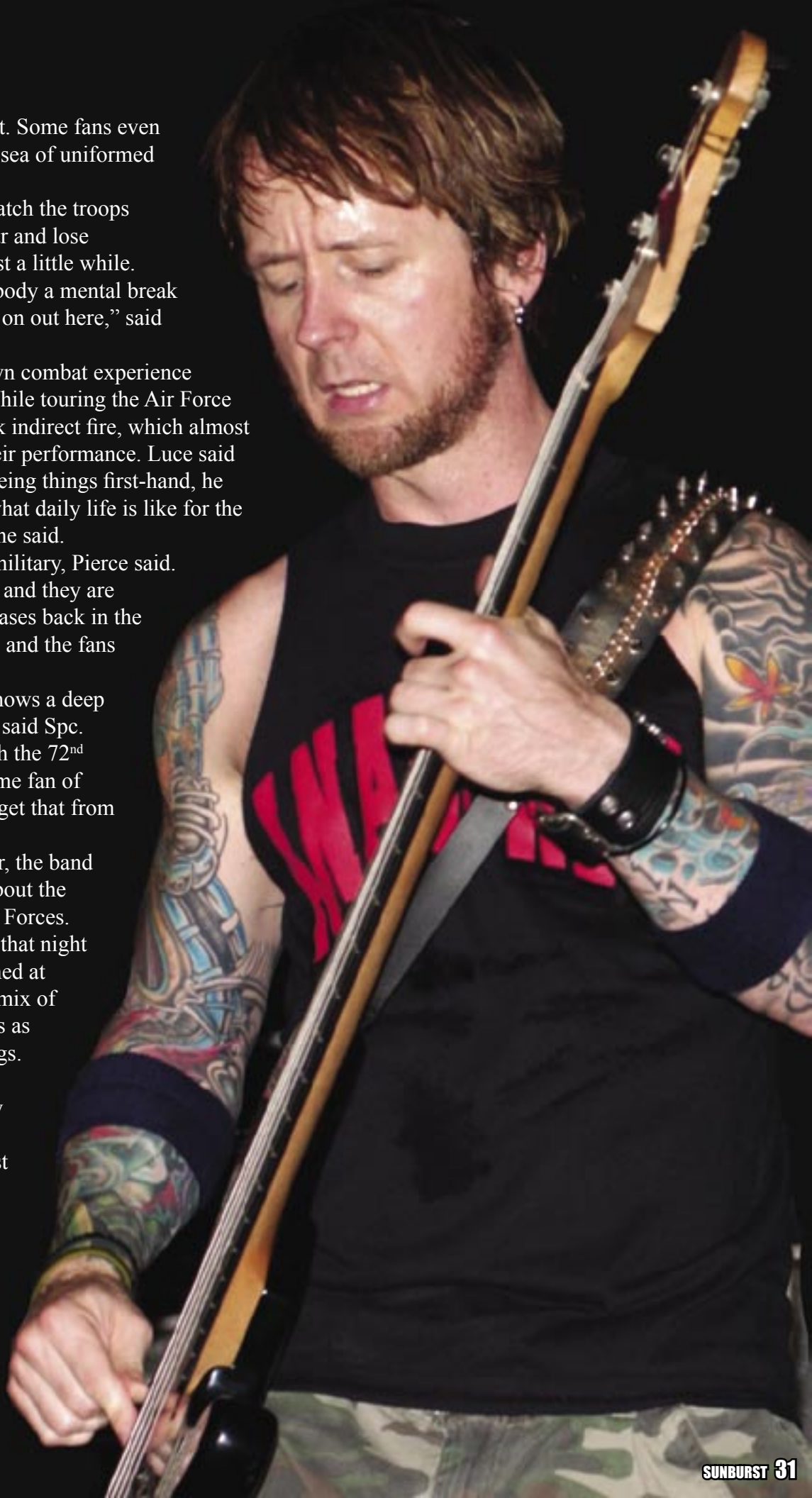
Drowning Pool admires the military, Pierce said. This is their second USO tour, and they are always playing near military bases back in the states. They support the troops and the fans know it.

"For them to be here today shows a deep appreciation for the Soldiers," said Spc. Nicholas Hogan, a Soldier with the 72<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion, and a long time fan of the group. "You don't usually get that from a band of this caliber."

After their previous USO tour, the band was inspired to write a song about the men and women of the Armed Forces. They played the untitled track that night for the servicemembers stationed at Anaconda. The concert was a mix of some of their most popular hits as well as several unreleased songs. Drowning Pool hopes the new album will hit retail shelves by March of next year.

"The troops are hearing it first which is awesome," Pierce said. "We are giving them a treat."

After the show, the group took the time to shake hands, take pictures, and sign autographs for the sweat and sand streaked faces of their fans.



The background of the slide is a photograph of two military vehicles, possibly Humvees, driving on a dirt road in a desert environment. The scene is captured at sunset or sunrise, with a bright, hazy sky and long shadows. The vehicles are silhouetted against the light. In the distance, there are mountains and several tall, thin poles. A portion of a yellow and blue sign is visible on the right edge of the image.

# Sustaining Forge

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