

ANACONDA TIMES

DECEMBER 13, 2006

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

All Aboard!

Army keeps logistics mission
moving over open waters

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COLLISION

ARMY AIMS HIGH TO
GROUND AIR FORCE

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Vol. 3, Issue 49

USASMA looking for NCO
input into new book

The Long Hard Road

Afghanistan and Iraq

The U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) will produce a book for NCOs which will provide historical data on significant operations in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF).

The intent of this book is to collect the experiences of NCOs serving and leading troops supporting the Global War on Terrorism and to identify the battlefield experiences of NCO leadership applied at the operational level. The book will also serve NCOs as a reference and historical review.

Current OEF/OIF historical data, in many cases, omits the viewpoints and perspectives of NCO leadership on the battlefield and may, in some instances, fail to include significant input from NCOs -- input that would often make a particular mission fail or succeed.

To ensure the success of the book, we are asking for case studies from NCOs who served in OEF/OIF.

We will consider all input but prefer case studies. It is essential that submissions provide a natural progression from the identification of a mission, problem, or situation all the way through the resolution.

Progression through the entire process should be clear to the reader.

USASMA will accept submissions from the entire NCO Corps, active component, reserve component and Army National Guard. Email submissions should be sent to atss-s@bliss.army.mil, or mailed to the Director, School Secretariat, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, TX 79918 no later than Jan 15 2007.

The point of contact at USASMA is Jesse McKinney, Director, School Secretariat, DSN 978-8383, or Comm. (915) 568-8383.

On Point

"Without receiving continual supplies and personnel, coalition forces would not be able to function effectively against the insurgents who want to stifle rebuilding Iraq for a better tomorrow." - Sgt. Sara McEathron

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TOUCHDOWN AFTER TOUCHDOWN!

Spc. Bryan Hurd dances between two defenders for extra yard after catching a pass during the second half of the annual Army versus Air Force intramural football game on Dec. 3 at Killein field here.

Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

"I will always place the mission first."

I am Spc. Anthony Allen, from Chicago
1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment >> Rifleman



Servicemembers get a taste of first Americans' culture

by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- In accordance with National American Indian History Month, an observance honoring the culture was held here Nov. 28.

The observance included a guest speaker, information about Native Americans' contributions to the United States, and some background on Native American military history.

"Even though we are the smallest (in number) race in America, we have done our part," said Santos Hawks Blood Suarez, a Kellogg, Brown, & Root convoy commander stationed here, and the keynote speaker of the celebration.

Suarez, a member of the Chiricahua Apache Nation and originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, told of the dwindling number of Native Americans in the U.S., some of their beliefs, and the contributions they have made to American society.

"In the minds of most Americans, we are the first Americans, unfortunately, we are the last Americans," Suarez said of his race's small population.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census bureau, Native Americans make up about one percent of the nation's total population.

Suarez has been a speaker on Native American traditions at colleges and high schools in the United States for more than 15 years. He said he likes to speak to groups because not everyone knows or understands Native American heritage.

"The history books that were written were never accurate," Suarez said.

He said military personnel might be among the Americans who don't know much about Native American customs, so he was glad he had the chance to share his views. This was Suarez's second appearance in front of a military audience, his first one was earlier this year in Tallil.

"I wasn't planning to educate the troops out here," Suarez said in an interview. He said he came to Iraq simply to do his job as a truck driver, but when colleagues found out he was also a lecturer, eventually he was asked to speak.

An Air Force veteran and son of a Korean War Prisoner of War, Suarez said he's proud to be serving his country in Iraq, and that it reminds him of what it used to be like in the military.

"A lot of people in America forget when they sleep in their warm beds at night where that freedom comes from," he said.

Suarez said most of his opinions of history, are shared within the Native American community.

"The only thing Columbus discovered was that he was lost," Suarez said with a smile. He told of Native Americans' blemished past, and struggle to survive during some of the darkest points in his culture's history.

While there are some resentments still held about Native American's ancestors treatment, Native Americans are very patriotic, he said.



Photo by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Santos Hawks Blood Suarez, a Kellogg, Brown, & Root convoy commander stationed here, leads a group of participants in a Native American dance during the Native American observance held Nov. 28 here.

"Per capita, we have more medals of honor than any other race," Suarez said.

He gave his opinion on the Thanksgiving holiday, saying that while he was growing up, he was taught that there shouldn't be just one day set aside to give thanks, but being thankful should be an everyday mindset.

Suarez said many of the English words we use and foods we eat today were originally Native American. Although different Native American tribes have different languages, common English words such as "ok" were originally derived from some Native tongue, Suarez said.

Some other Native American contributions to modern American life are popcorn, beef jerky, chewing gum, and lacrosse.

"This month is important because it teaches the difference between tribes, and raises awareness of our culture," he said.

At the closing of the observance, Suarez asked participants to form a circle while he showed them a Native American dance, followed by what he called the Apache war expeditionary song, and a prayer over the troops.

Participants linked hands and stepped around in a circle while Suarez sang in his native language. He held a medicine wheel and a sacred pipe, which he said he carries with him on each convoy he goes on.

He handed out tobacco to each person in the circle, and

asked them to hold onto it as he sang. Suarez said he wanted to pray over the troops, because he cares about each of them.

"I was more interested to honor the warriors here than to educate," he said. "It's a high honor for me."

Suarez said he hoped the servicemembers would take away some inspiration, as he comes from a nation of warriors.

Sgt. 1st Class Roland F. Lee, and Spc. Jasper Sage, who were present at the observance, are both members of the Dine tribe.

Sage, a combat engineer from Counselor, N.M., with the 92nd Engineer Battalion said the observance was very educational.

He said that Apache traditions are similar to Dine, but they speak a different dialect. Sage thought Suarez's take on Native American feelings were accurate, especially on the topic of Thanksgiving.

Lee, a platoon sergeant from Wide Ruins, Ariz., with the 952nd Engineer Company agreed.

"It was informative for people who don't know the heritage...but all tribes are different," he said.

Suarez said he was glad to have the chance to share his people's customs during, but that he is also looking forward to getting back onto the road.

"It's an honor to risk my life out there, because that's what warriors do," he said.

ANACONDA TIMES

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402nd Army Field Support Brigade
411 Engineer Brigade
164th Corps Support Group
657th Area Support Group

1/34 Brigade Combat Team
45th Sustainment Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
593rd Corps Support Group
15th Sustainment Brigade

There's a new Fox in the field

by Ted Rhoades

Army Material Command PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Several units in Iraq provide upgraded Reconnaissance Fox Vehicles to facilitate life-support missions.

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade currently offers a swap-out program for vehicles on the battlefield. It strategically places state-of-the-art combat vehicles to the troops closest to the battle-front, said Maj. Christopher Romero, the assistant product

manager for reconnaissance and platform integration.

"Our task in fielding the M93A1P1 FOX recon vehicle (upgraded M93A1) is to provide the war fighter with enhanced capabilities that improve survivability and lethality," Romero said.

So far, eight platoons with the 1st Cavalry Division have been outfitted with the upgrade prior to deploying to the Iraqi theater, he said. This is the first fielding that actually brought the FOX directly to the Iraqi theater.

"We brought it to the war fighter," Romero said. "The in-theater fielding program will be expanded to many other units throughout Iraq."

The Common Remote Operated Weapon Systems is a major enhancement the 402nd AFSB added to the FOX system. Crows allows the gunner to operate the weapon remotely from within the vehicle. This reduces exposure to enemy observation and fire.

"The CROWS repetitive allows us to

operate our mission buttoned up while still manning our primary weapon systems," said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron W. Brady, a platoon sergeant for the 1/14th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker), currently supporting the 25th Infantry Division.

Brady said his platoon performs radiological survey missions in Iraq.

"Before, without the CROWS, we were unable to conduct our recon mission while manning our coax weapons system," Brady said.

"We feel safer in the new vehicles," said Capt. Joseph Miller, platoon leader for 1/14th CR. "The new capabilities make us more lethal and more survivable. I have now become essentially an infantry-based platoon, but without dismount capability."

Romero said he is appreciative for the support the 402nd AFSB, as they have helped his unit to make fielding possible.

"We synchronized together to make this fielding successful," Romero said.

Spc. Nathaniel Crudup, an alternate gunner on the CROWS said they now have much more fire power with the upgraded system.

Gunners were previously required to walk rounds to the target, whereas, now rounds can be fired on target immediately, Crudup said.



Soldiers install slat armor to the side of the upgraded Reconnaissance Fox Vehicles here on LSA Anaconda.

Photos by Ted Rhoades



Staff Sgt. Christopher Waters makes final checks to his vehicle after he receives his upgraded FOX recon vehicle at LSA Anaconda.

What's the worst Christmas present you have ever received?

Sgt. 1st Class Elondre A. Johnson



"I've always gotten what I wanted for Christmas."

Sr. Airman Michael T. Gurnsey



"One year I didn't get anything for Christmas."

Pfc. Aliah S. Charles



"My grandma gave me a jean dress with elephant-ear sleeves, and she made me wear it!"

Spc. Jose L. Herrera



"A rainbow-colored scarf from an aunt that I didn't see that often. She didn't know I wasn't into stuff like that."

“Cornhusker” Soldiers proud to re-enlist

by Capt. Kirk J. Ludlow

HHD, 867th Corps Support Battalion

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 867th Corps Support Battalion, continue to show their commitment to the Army and the National Guard by reenlisting.

In November, there have been four reenlistments. Two of the Soldiers belong to the Communications Section and two belong to the Personnel Section.

The Soldiers are stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq with the HHD, 867th Corps Support Battalion. The quartermaster battalion is from Omaha, Neb.

Sp. Jacquelyn Hespen, Norfolk, Neb., is a mother of two and works at Tyson Foods in Madison, Neb., when not deployed.

She decided to extend her enlistment on Nov. 3 to take advantage of the incentives the Army offers to Soldiers choosing to increase their commitment while overseas.

Her initial enlistment of six years was nearly up when she extended her enlistment. Her duties in the Army are those of an administrative specialist in the personnel section.

Sp. Damon Schlenker lives in Gering, Neb., with his wife, Cristal and their three children.

He has served 14 years and reenlisted for six more years on Nov. 11. Schlenker works with Hespen in the personnel section where he also works as an administrative specialist.

Sp. David Bulin of Lincoln, Neb. is a high school teacher. He teaches science, math, and physics and spends time volunteering with children by conducting science workshops.

In addition to teaching and an avocation in the military, he also works for Target. Bulin works as the battalion information management officer. As the end of his first six-year commitment drew near, he decided to extend for a year while considering his long-term plan.

Sgt. Jennifer Holmes is a member of the Colorado National Guard. She considers Birmingham, Ala., home. She augments the Communications Section as she is the Senior LAN Manager.

Holmes will approach her 15th year in the service and decided to extend for six more. Prior to the deployment, Holmes worked as a data center manager.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Winterstein is the battalion retention NCO. He provides information about benefits and handles the reenlistment paperwork for all the Soldiers that fall under the command of the 867th CSB.

Seven companies comprise the 867th CSB. Since arriving in Taji, Iraq, Winterstein has reenlisted six HHD Soldiers.

The total number of reenlistments for Winterstein is more than 130 in the Battalion.

On Nov. 23, Winterstein received a coin and recognition from Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, the commanding general, Multi National Corps-Iraq.



Sgt. 1st Class Keith Woodward, 605th Transportation Detachment noncommissioned officer in charge of LSV 4, checks the horizon for other watercraft that may cross the path of his ship during a mission in the Persian Gulf on Nov. 27.

Logisticians travel Persian Gulf to support mission

story and photos by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait—Soldiers attached to the 605th Transportation Detachment (Logistical Support Vessel 4: William Bunker) said they are one of the best kept secrets in the Army.

“We are all Soldiers, we just happen to be on a boat,” said Chief Warrant Officer Cramer Claxton, chief engineer for LSV 4. “We are the Army’s Navy.”

Cramer said that not many people know the Army operates watercraft on a regular basis.

“Not only does the Army own watercraft, we have more ships than the Navy,” he said with a grin.

The Army uses its ships for logistical missions where naval vessels are used more for force protection.

“We carry supplies from port to port and the Navy provides security as we enter different ports,” said Chief Warrant Officer Charles West, vessel master for LSV 4.

West, who has been commanding ships for more than four years, said his ship and crew is deployed to Kuwait to move cargo from port to port in the Persian Gulf.

He said the lineage of Army warrant officers derived from open sea missions.

“The first warrant officers in the Army were responsible for mine defense in major ports,” West said with pride. “They became the Army Mine Planter Service, a part of Coast Artillery on July 9, 1918. And that was the day the Army warrant officer was born.”

Even with its strong military history, some Soldiers serve their entire military career and never know about a mission the Army has been doing since World War I.

“My recruiter didn’t know anything about my military occupational specialty was when he first read it,” said Sp. Bridget Dudenake, seaman on LSV 4. “We had to look it up in a book that listed all the Army specialties.”

Dudenake, a Big Sandy, Mont., native, was a chemical specialist before she changed her classification to work on a ship. “I have been working on ships for more than a year and some of my friends still don’t believe me when I tell them what I do in the military.”

Most Soldiers who work on Army ships voluntarily chose to do so, but other personnel never knew that their military career would allow them to sail around the world.



Staff Sgt. Evans, a member of the engineer crew onboard LSV 4 checks the oil levels in one of the ship’s main engines during a mission in the Persian Gulf on Nov. 27. Members of the crew must constantly check the engine and other component of the ship to ensure they are working properly.

Sp. Branden Graham, a food services specialist onboard LSV 4, said he had no idea the Army had boats until he reported to duty and sailed to Alaska.

Graham said he and two other food service Soldiers prepare meals for the crew of about 30 while on missions.

“I have been a cook on ships for the past 11 months and I love working for this crew,” he said. “We are a tight-knit family ... and I have thought about changing my MOS to become a seaman.”

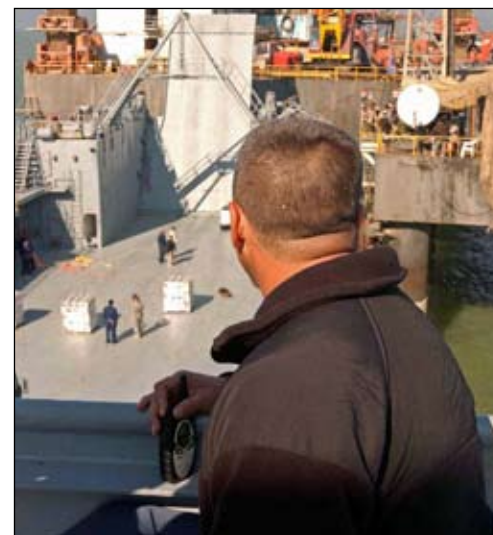
The detachment is a part of Logistical Task Force 24 here, but they only spend a short amount of time on land.

“Our mission is to provide worldwide transport of combat vehicles and sustainment cargo,” said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Woodward, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge. “We also perform tactical re-supply missions by transporting all track and wheeled vehicles.”

Soldiers aboard the ship must learn to be self-sufficient while in open waters.

“Our crew can fix close to 80 percent of the problems that occur on this vessel,” said Claxton. “When we are on missions, we can only rely on each other to accomplish the objective, so we have learned to be resourceful.”

To prevent maintenance issues, Claxton said the engineer crew has to conduct more



Chief Warrant Officer Charles West watches his crew as they prepare to unload fuel and cargo after pulling onto the dock of an observation platform during a mission in the Persian Gulf. More than 800 checks during their daily preventative maintenance checks and services.

West said the fact that not many people know about their job does not change the importance of their mission. He has been working on ships his entire career and feels he has the best crew to accomplish their mission.

“This is one of the smartest crews I have ever worked with,” said West. “Our mission is to move cargo in the Persian Gulf and return home safely ... and this crew makes it look easy.”

Combat Stress Control

113th Medical Company (CSC)

829-1402

individual counseling by appointment or walk-in

command referrals

services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

STRESS MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

HOME FRONT ISSUES

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
4:30 TO 5:30 P.M.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

ANGER MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
1:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

ANXIETY AWARENESS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
1:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

SLEEP HYGIENE

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
4:30 TO 5:30 P.M.

GOAL SETTING

WEDNESDAY
4:30 TO 5:30 P.M.

DEPRESSION AWARENESS

MONDAY AND TUESDAY
1:30 TO 2:30 P.M.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

WOMEN'S GROUP

THURSDAY
8 TO 9 P.M.

COMBAT ADDICTIONS GROUP

WEDNESDAY
7 TO 8 P.M.

for more information, email:
melissa.kale@us.army.mil

Balad 'Port Dawgs' help limit ground convoys

by Staff Sgt. Alice Moore

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- With each push of a pallet onto an aircraft flying out of Balad Air Base, another dangerous convoy mission is avoided and lives are potentially saved.

The 'Port Dawgs' assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Aerial Port Flight, ensure assets are delivered to

forward operating locations throughout Iraq.

"We provide the unique capability to put massive amounts of personnel and equipment on the ground in a matter of hours," said Master Sgt. Jerry Miller, air terminal operations center and freight superintendent, deployed from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. "We transport the 'bullets and beans' to the fight and then provide replacement parts and people through airpower."



Photos by Air Force Master Sgt. Kirk Clear

An Iraqi Air Force C-130 sits on the runway at Balad Air Base, Iraq, awaiting cargo to be loaded. The Iraqi Air Force recently moved its first coalition cargo within the area of responsibility.



Tech. Sgt. Craig Mills jokes with 1st Lt. Jay Kim and Sr. Airman Tonia Lemcke during Bingo here. Mills is a flight superintendent assigned to the 732nd EMSG and is deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

The flight, responsible for the loading and unloading of personnel and equipment from aircraft, move approximately 26,000 passengers and 8,000 tons of cargo a month, said Lt. Col. Zev York, 332nd ELRS commander deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

According to York, one convoy mission involves approximately 20 vehicles and 55 soldiers. With each convoy approximately 240 tons and 80 pallets get delivered.

"For instance, if we fly 1,000 tons by air, then we keep about 80 trucks and more than 200 soldiers off the road," he said.

Airlifting provides a safer means to deliver much need supplies and people as well as the capacity to deliver more at any given time, York said.

"The more we move by air the less we move by road," York said. "Airlift provides a quicker and safer way to deliver the cargo and personnel to accomplish missions."

The flight is broke down into five key areas -- ATOC, load planning, ramp services, cargo processing and special handling.

ATOC provides all command-and-control coordination for the flight. Load planning ensures all cargo scheduled for airlift meet weight and balance requirements. Ramp services ensure cargo is loaded and unloaded onto aircraft. Cargo processing handles the build up and breakdown of pallets and special handling deals with any hazardous material and human remains.

"Our finest hour comes when we are able to respectfully return the remains of those who gave all in helping Iraq transition to democracy," Miller said.

The flight is also responsible for coordinating and certifying hazardous cargo movements with other locations and ensuring safety when loading the cargo onto aircraft. Miller said the aerial port here is responsible for the building and breakdown of equipment to ensure it's ready for air travel.

In addition to the port's day-to-day responsibilities the 'Port Dawgs' recently became a part of history when they worked with the Iraqi Air Force during their first mission of delivering coalition cargo within the area of responsibility.

"This was pretty significant because it's actually showing the progress that is being made here," said Airman 1st Class Colton Markowski, ramp services journeyman deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. "It's bringing us one step closer to achieving our goal of helping to transition this country into a more democratic nation."

The flight also recently began operating out of their new aerial port complex. The complex provides 1,388,000 square feet of concrete pavement, in which 48,000 square feet are covered in the form of the new Balad Aerial Port Control Center and Air Freight Warehouse. Construction of the facility took about a year in a half to complete.

"Everything was in sand and rocks before," Markowski said. "This new facility allows us to operate a lot smoother and more efficiently."

Markowski said he's able to best sum up the port's mission in the simplest way.

"We basically provide anything you need to complete the mission," Markowski said. "Our airpower is going to get you timely service and we have fun doing it."



*Carrie
Underwood*

LIVE IN CONCERT

8 p.m.

Saturday

Sustainer Theater

Limited seating available, doors will close once the theater is at full capacity -- show up early or get locked out
<<< absolutely no bags or video cameras allowed inside Sustainer Theater >>>

Father promotes son in Iraq

by Master Sgt. Charles A. Wheeler

36th CAB Public Affairs Office

LSAANACONDA, IRAQ—William Stacy Timmons was recently promoted to specialist. His company commander did not pin on his new rank however, it was someone who has known him much, much longer. His father, Chief Warrant Officer William Greg Timmons did the honors.

Father and son are deployed together with E Troop, 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade.

William G. Timmons has been in the Army National Guard for 28 years and is the full time training officer for E Troop, based in Tupelo, Miss. William S. Timmons joined the National Guard after his high school graduation and had only fourteen days at home between completing his initial entry training and shipping out to Ft. Hood for pre-deployment training.

Father and son are happy about being deployed together. "I am proud of him, not too many people get to go into a combat zone with their son," said the senior Timmons. Even their duty positions are related, dad is a pilot, while William S. is a crew chief. "He breaks em and I fix em," he said with a big smile.

On the same day he got promoted, William S. was awarded the Iraqi Campaign Medal. William G. was awarded the same medal on the same day, but this is his second time to receive it, the first coming in 2003 when he served here. His son had seen pictures of them sleeping under the aircraft wings with an Army-issued shelter half for protection

from the elements during that tour. Would this time around see the same living conditions? William S. did not know what to expect when he received his orders for Iraq, but he has been pleasantly surprised by the living conditions here.

Father and son are looking forward to

their Rest and Relaxation leave, which they are taking at the same time. William G. said that after many years as a military spouse, his wife is accustomed to the occasional separation when duty calls, but with their son now deployed along with dad, it is more of a bittersweet experience for her. This will

make their leave, and a few months later their homecoming, very special indeed.

When they return home from Iraq, William Stacy is planning on attending Officer Candidate School. He will then go to flight school and become an Army Aviator, just like dad.



Spc. William Stacy Timmons and his father, Chief Warrant Officer William Greg Timmons pose for the camera during a recent promotion ceremony.

Photo by Spc. Candy Reichel



Saturdays
8 p.m.
MWR WEST

THINK SMART
Conserve water FOR ALL OF US
WATER SMART

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**U.S. ARMY
RESERVE**

BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNING...

LTF 24 TRAVELS LONG MISSIONS TO KEEP COALITION FORCES MOVING

story and photos by Sgt. Kevin McSwain



CAMP ARIFJAN,

Kuwait—They drive more in one month than most units do in a year.

The heavy equipment transporters of 96th Transportation Company have a very unique mission.

“Soldiers in this unit accomplish a completely different mission than any other unit,” said Lt. Col. Edward McGinley, 24th Transportation Battalion commander.

“These Soldiers’ convoys span over 800 miles across Iraq during a single mission, delivering supplies from one forward operating base to another.”

McGinley said some Soldiers cover more than 1,600 miles of road and across about 10 different battle spaces from the start of the mission to its completion.

Due to their logistical mission, Logistical Task Force 24 has a special relationship with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). McGinley said not only does he rely on the 96th, which is a part of 13th SC (E); he also depends on the sustainment command to secure its area of responsibility.

“We are very reliant on the units responsible for the routes in their area,” he said. “We are very grateful for 13th SC (E), for their support over their entire area of operation.”

McGinley said while route clearance is an important factor in how fast they can transport supplies, it is only a small part of the mission.

“Units in these areas are also defeating the enemy’s efforts on main service roads,” he said. “They are not only clearing routes, they are actively seeking the people responsible for the production and placing of the explosive devices.”

Most of these convoys are lead by junior officers and noncommissioned officers.

“A lot of our convoys are run with a staff sergeant as the convoy commander,” he said. “These NCOs step up and take on a great responsibility and accomplish each mission they are assigned.”

The 96th TC’s deployment rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is just as unique as their mission.

“We deploy on six month rotations and then we go home for six months,” said 2nd Lt. Marri Zarlenga, 1st platoon (Outcast) leader with 96th TC.

Zarlenga, a Fairfax, Va. native, said this is the second convoy she has been in charge of this deployment, and she depends on the experience of her Soldiers to accomplish the mission.

“Many of my Soldiers are here on their third deployment and they have more experience communicating with the local nationals, who make up a large part of our convoys,” she said.

If the platoon is not on the road delivering supplies to different logistical support areas, they are training for the next time they have to convoy through Iraq.

“We have to be prepared for the enemy’s tactics and procedures just like every unit that goes off any base in Iraq,” said Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Cook, assistant convoy commander. “The difference between us and them is the fact that we will usually see two or three different tactics due to the fact that we travel through so many regions.”

He said servicemembers have adapted to every change the enemy has thought of and continue to accomplish their missions.

“In OIF III, our convoys consisted of over 100 vehicles, now we complete the same mission with less than 40,” he said. “This helps protect Soldiers from unnecessary harm and allows us to move faster on our convoys.”

The Soldiers of 1st platoon said the missions are difficult but they understand the importance of their success.

“It is our job to deliver supplies to the major logistical support areas in Iraq,” said Zarlenga. “We sustain the sustainers.”



A heavy equipment transporter, being operated by a driver with the 96th Transportation Company, carries another HET to the loading docks in preparation for a convoy to LSA Anaconda.



2nd Lt. Marri Zarlenga, convoy commander, climbs down from her heavy equipment transporter after conducting a final equipment check prior to leaving Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Nov. 26.



Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Cook, assistant convoy commander, leads his Soldiers in prayer before they begin their convoy.



A gun truck from the 1st Platoon "Outlaws" escorts two civilian transporters to the start point of the convoy leaving from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

LSA ANACONDA RELIGIOUS SCHEDULE

Religious schedule subject to change

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Saturday 8 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 7:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Air Force Hospital
Monday - Friday 5 p.m. Tuskegee

Sacrament of Reconciliation

30 minutes prior to each mass

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 10 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday 10 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 4 p.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Church of Christ

Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Prayer

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Friday Shabbat Service

Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Eastern Orthodox Prayer Service

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday, 11 a.m. MWR East Building
Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

Protestant Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building
Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel

Wednesday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 8:15 a.m. Air Force Hospital
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 8:15 p.m. Air Force Hospital

Non-Denominational

Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel
Non-Denominational Spanish
Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Guardisman keeps point on convoy security

Traditional gender roles doesn't keep one female off missions, roads

by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

Anaconda Times Editor

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Leading from the front is the nostalgic motto for any noncommissioned officer, but for Sgt. Sara McEathron, she takes that motto and lives it everyday in Iraq – literally.

McEathron, an ammunition specialist assigned to A Company, Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division spends her days and evenings in the lead security vehicle supporting 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) logistics convoys – providing first-hand contact information vital to the safety of the vehicles behind her.

“It’s my job to clear the route for the convoy by looking for obstacles and threats and to ensure that the convoy is safely able to transport all personnel and goods to their final destination,” said the native of Lino Lakes, Minn. “Without receiving continual supplies and personnel, coalition forces would not be able to function effectively against the insurgents who want to stifle rebuilding Iraq for a better tomorrow.”

Although she isn’t with the front-line infantry units, supporting the logistics mission is just as important, if not more, she said.

“Providing security for the logistics convoys is a responsibility that I do not take lightly,” she said. “Hunting for improvised explosive devices, possible ambushes, and anyone trying to harm or delay our convoy is personally important to me as I get to use the skills from my Army training to protect valuable personnel and supplies.”

The 30-year-old Minnesota Guardsman



Sgt. Sara McEathron, assigned to the A Company, Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, takes a short break before the convoy security briefing during a Dec. 6 mission leaving Camp Adder supporting a 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) convoy supplying important logistical needs to various forward operating bases in and around her company's area of operations.

said the responsibility of keeping the personnel in the convoy safe behind her security vehicle is what keeps her alert and constantly searching for threats.

McEathron joined the Army Reserves in 1995, and spent eight years as a hospital food service specialist.

“Since I was young I knew I wanted to be a part of the Army,” she said. “It was something I felt in my core to serve and give back to this great country that has provided my family and me freedoms that

others do not have.”

With Operation Iraqi Freedom in full swing and increased chances of being deployed crossed her mind, McEathron still decided to enlist in the Minnesota Army National Guard for one year.

Assigned to her current company, she spent five months at Camp Shelby, Miss., learning her new military occupational skill, as well as refreshing her warrior task skills and convoy security training.

She said being a female in the Army was easy when it is one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Things changed in Mississippi.

“Once our brigade was activated, things became more difficult,” she said. “Training was competitive and being in an all-male squad I felt it necessary to prove that I was as good as they were.”

She said she soon gained respect from her team and is now easily viewed as “one of the guys.”

“I have a job that may be viewed as more masculine than other jobs,” she said. “When I get up in the turret I can see the looks of concern on the faces of my fellow

soldiers. Am I good enough to be up there? What if I get hurt or even killed?”

Regardless of other’s attitudes towards her role in a gun truck, McEathron said she is grateful to be given the opportunity to serve in a combat role.

“It’s a great step towards females serving in all areas of our military,” she added. “I try to learn as much as I can and have a willingness to take on new challenges without being pessimistic. This has helped my experience here to be positive.”

McEathron said males and females both present different strengths and weaknesses here in Iraq.

“Working together may be an effective strategy for a majority of tasks the army is presented with,” she said. “The way one perceives a situation will make or break a person in this environment.”

Whether she’s inching a convoy through a thick, dangerous sand storm, or moving through a small village interacting with the local residents, McEathron is reminded each day why she joined the Army.

The first time McEathron went on a general patrol of the assigned area of operations she drove through some small villages.

Not knowing what to expect, hundreds of small children ran toward her vehicle.

“They ran up to us waving, giving us the peace sign, thumbs up, or ask for water,” she said. “I remember the feeling that gave me, it was a sense of purpose and it confirmed that we were here for a reason and that the citizens of this country were grateful for our presence here.”



Photos by Spc. Jennifer Mueller

McEathron carefully checks her weapon systems and ammunition prior to each leg on her route during the Dec. 6 convoy security mission.



Prior to leaving the safety net of the guarded walls of forward operating bases, McEathron and her security team review route intelligence, rules of engagement, safety issues and other vital information leading to success.

1744th takes on new mission with success

by Staff Sgt. Glen Chrisman

1744th Transportation Company

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – When the 1744th Transportation Company was mobilized in June, its Soldiers thought they were going to be hauling cargo throughout Iraq.

That changed the next month when they began training in Camp Atterbury, Ind. The Illinois Army National Guard unit, from Streator, was told they would no longer be driving tractor trailers and began training for a new mission as a force protection company.

Sgt. Matt Summerfield of Mount Carmel, Ill., said the new mission makes him feel like a real Soldier. While the training at Camp Atterbury was grueling, Summerfield maintains it toughened the unit up.

“We trained so much that we came over here and found out we were more prepared than we thought we would be,” Summerfield said. “It made the job a lot easier.”

After three months of training, the 1744th landed in Iraq in early October and has embraced their new job. The company is responsible for protection and overwatch for about 20,000 Soldiers that travel throughout Central Iraq.

While some units provide convoy escort services for the vehicles on the road, the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell
Spc. Ryan Schnied, 20, from Anna, Ill., fills out proper paperwork after looking over the Armored Security Vehicle during preventive maintenance checks and services.

1744th's main mission is providing security escort services to military and civilian vehicles that become inoperable and need to be recovered.

1st Sgt. Royal Schaefer of Quincy, Ill., said the unit has adapted well to the changes and overcome adversity. While some Soldiers were

nervous at the change in mission, Schaefer said they have performed their duties above and beyond what anyone expected.

The changeover provided a number of unique challenges for the company. One of the most obvious was adjusting to a new vehicle.

Rather than driving military semis, the

Soldiers had to get accustomed to driving an Armored Security Vehicle. The ASV is one of the newest pieces of equipment the military has to offer.

The turret and armament system is designed specifically for missions like the 1744th is running. It provides more security to Soldiers than most other vehicles on the road.

Spc. Nathan Klein of Sublette, Ill., feels safer doing recovery missions as opposed to over-the-road truck driving.

“The up-armored vehicles provide so much more security for us than our tractor-trailers did,” said Klein.

Although the ASV was introduced in 1998, it wasn't been until last year that units began to use them in combat. Klein says it's good they are getting new equipment which better protects them from the enemy.

Recovery missions aren't the only duties Soldiers in the 1744th have. The Soldiers also perform tower guard duty, making sure the perimeter of the base is secure, work with Iraqi civilians on a daily basis, and perform various other jobs that are needed throughout Anaconda.

Schaefer said the various jobs the company has been tasked with shows their diversity and shows the Soldiers are eager to do anything they can to make a difference.

Wagonmasters walk to Taji

13th SC(E) Soldiers, families work together to go the distance to keep fit, bring Texas, Iraq closer together

by Capt. Myra Diaz

Brigade Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade,

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - From opposite sides of the world, Soldiers in Camp Taji, and their spouses in Fort Hood, Texas, are participating in an event to meet somewhere in the middle.

The concept is simple. Soldiers from the Brigade Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, and their spouses in the battalion Family Readiness Group keep a log of how many miles they have walked or run each week.

The distances are added together to reach the ultimate goal: to cover the distance from Fort Hood to Camp Taji before the deployment ends. The distance between the locations is 7,343 miles.

“I am so excited that our spouses are involved,” said Terry Garcia, the wife of Lt Col. Victoriano Garcia, 15th Brigade Troops Battalion Commander. “I look forward to seeing how far they walk each week, and when we meet in the middle we will celebrate.”

Her husband agreed.

“It's a great concept,” Garcia said. “Spouses proposed this concept as a means of getting in shape and to try to bring us closer. The walk will bring many benefits, and when it's all over we can see where we all stand.”

Currently, the BTB has been deployed for over 100 days and, even though they just started tracking their miles two weeks ago, they already have logged more than 200 miles.

“It is a good idea to make that connection between people at home and us. I enjoy tracking my miles” said Chaplain (Capt.) Troy Morken, 15th BTB Chaplain.

“The Taji Walk is a great opportunity for families to strengthen their relationships,” said Capt. Melbert Roldan, HHC, 15th BTB Commander. “It's difficult to strengthen a relationship when separated by geographical distance. In order to maintain a strong lasting relationship it takes work from both parties. The Taji Walk is just one method of many that is out there.”



Hanukkah Celebration



Sunday at Provider Chapel at 6 p.m.

Monday at Tuskegee Chapel at 6 p.m.

Tuesday at Freedom Chapel at 6 p.m.

Rearrange the letters in each Word Merger to form two words using all the given letters only once. Then rearrange these same letters and merge them into one long word.

VEHICLES

B					
R					
A					
S					
H					

[illegible]

-
1. EIINPPRTS
2. AEGILNRTV
3. BBCEIRSSU
4. ENOOPPRTU
5. AEFHMORSU
6. CEEINPRTT
7. ACEGHILRT
8. AEILLRLTY

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Thursday, Dec. 14

Friday, Dec. 15

Saturday, Dec. 16

Sunday, Dec. 17

Monday, Dec. 18

Tuesday, Dec. 19

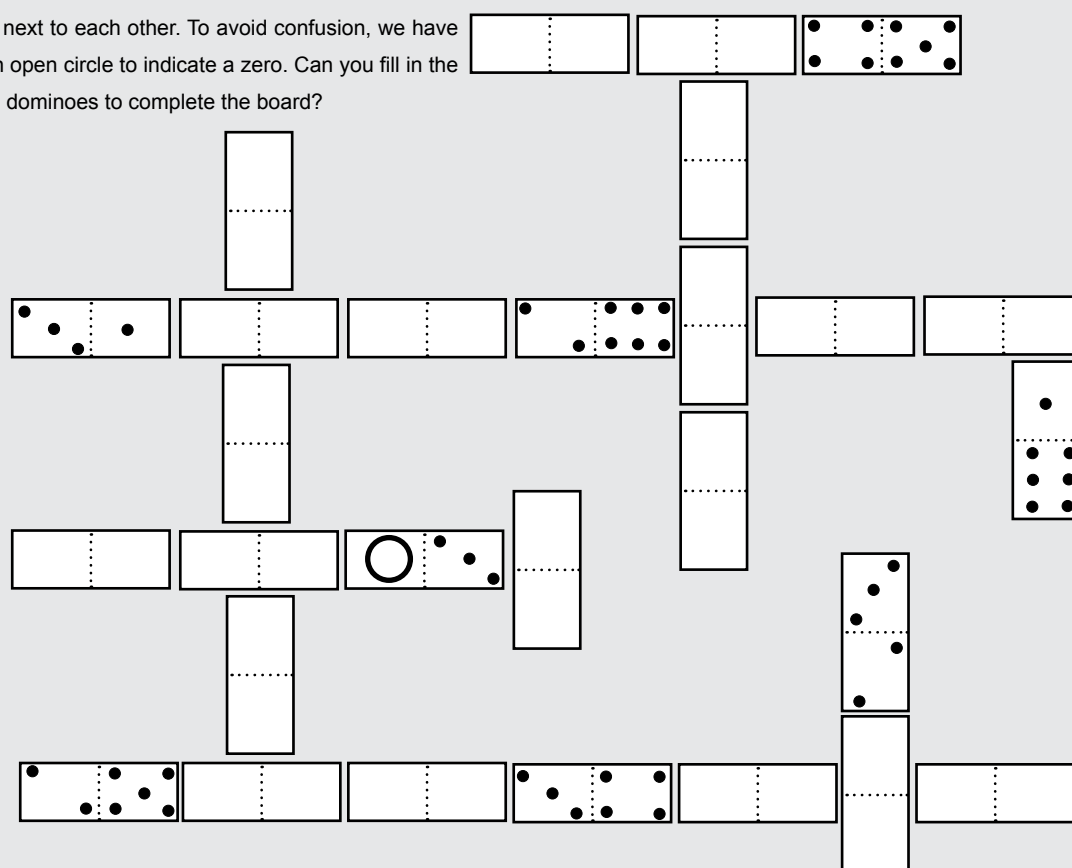
5 p.m. Blood Diamond (R)
8 p.m. Santa Clause 3 (G)

MIND TICKLER

A supermarket advertises that if you spend \$200 at their store you will receive a coupon to get 10 percent off your next order. You spend \$200, receive your coupon, and place your order the next week for \$50. How much of a discount are you getting for all the money you have spent with them?

In this game, you use all 28 dominoes that are in a standard set. Each one has a different combination from 0-0, 0-1, 0-2 to 6-6. Domino halves with the same number of dots lie next to each other. To avoid confusion, we have used an open circle to indicate a zero. Can you fill in the missing dominoes to complete the board?

MISSING DOMINOES



December 13**Aerobics**

6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Yoga

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Rock Climbing Class

8 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

8-Ball Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Madden '05

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

9-Ball Tourney

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

DJ Classes

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 14**Tae Kwon Do**

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

NOGI Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Level 2 Swim Lessons

7 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Level 1 Swim Lessons

8 p.m.
Indoor Pool

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

Your one-stop connection to activities around LSA Anaconda
to add your activity to the event calendar, email anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Battlefield Ground

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 15**Aerobics**

5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Chess Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

4-4 Volleyball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Caribbean Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 16**Aerobics**

noon to 1 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Open Court Volleyball

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

500m Fins/Kickboard

9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Salsa Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

Tae Kwon Do

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

NOGI Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Level 2 Swim Lessons

7 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Level 1 Swim Lessons

8 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Command & Conquer

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Dodgeball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 17**Aerobics**

5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

100m Butterfly

10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Spades Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

4-4 Volleyball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Caribbean Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 18**Aerobics**

noon to 1 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Open Court Volleyball

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

One-Mile Swim Race

10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Salsa Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 19**Open Court Volleyball**

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Green Bean Karaoke

8 p.m.
Green Bean Coffee Shop

5-5 Basketball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Poker

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

December 20**Aerobics**

6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Rock Climbing Class

8 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

One-Hour Swim-A-Thon

Two-Person Teams
5:30 a.m.
Outdoor Pool

Jam Session

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Hope and Freedom Tour 2006

hosted by our Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston

COMING NEXT WEEK

- Comedian and best-selling author

AL FRANKEN

- **LEEANN TWEEDEN**, co-host of "Best Damn Sports Show Period" on the Fox Sports Network

• **DARRYL WORLEY**

- Hip Hop group **THE WASHINGTON PROJECTS**
- Country recording artist and former Army Ranger **KENI THOMAS**;

- Country recording artist **MARK WILLS**;
- **DALLAS COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS**

no bags or video camera's allowed



Team Army Strong stands in huddle and talks over their strategy prior to playing in the annual Army versus Air Force intramural football game on Dec. 3 on Killein Field here.

Army shoots down Air Force, 25-7



Pfc. Erick Williams catches a touchdown pass from Staff Sgt. Darren Maute during the second half of the Army versus Air Force intramural football game.



Army Staff Sgt. Darren Maute dodges defenders as he gains extra yards after a quarterback sneak in the second half. Maute through three touchdown passes in the half to help Team Army Strong beat the Air Force.

Air Force GPS-guided bombs couldn't stop Army Strong during easy game for Soldiers

story by Staff Sgt. Angela Archie
photos by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq --- Team Army Strong defeated Team Air Force in their annual intramural football game by a score of 25-7 on Dec. 3 at Killein Field here.

Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert M. Jimenez, 394th Adjutant General Company, was the most valuable player after racking up five quarterback sacks.

Staff Sgt. Darren Maute, quarterback for the Army, matched Jimenez's intensity on the offensive end by scoring one touchdown and passing for three others.

After the Army scored on their first drive with a five yard run by Maute, the Air Force quarterback, Senior Airman Alan Shea quickly responded with a 60 yard touchdown run tying the score at 6-6.

After a successful extra point conversion by the Air Force, the score was 6-7. This was the only time that the Air Force led the game.

Shea, hounded throughout the game by the Army defense, was held to just one touchdown.

The Army scored three touchdowns in the second half to secure the victory.

"They played well, had a good game plan and they executed it," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Brison, team captain for the Air Force.

The Army was presented with the team trophy by Capt. Charlie Mack, co-sponsor of the event and the Air Force players were presented with miniature footballs as a consolation prize.



Army Staff Sgt. Darren Maute receives the snap after he calls a play during the game. Maute ran the ball in himself and scored the first points of the game, to put Army ahead 6-0.



Soldiers from Team Army Strong hold up the championship trophy after defeating the Air Force 25-7 during the annual intramural football game on Dec. 3.

No one is more professional than I

story and photos by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown



I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership.

I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

Sgt. Kevin B. Wellnitz, assigned to the 657th Movement Control Team, joins 29 other new NCOs in reciting *The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer* during a recent induction ceremony here.

13th SC(E) welcomes newest NCOs during induction ceremony

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq –More than 30 new sergeants assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were inducted into the noncommissioned officer ranks Dec. 1, at an initiation-type ceremony here.

The NCO induction ceremony is a celebration of newly promoted Soldiers joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps, according to FM 07-22.7 Appendix F. The ceremony also serves to honor the memory of those men and women of the NCO corps who have served with pride and distinction.

Highlights of the ceremony included a reading of "Boots of the NCO," a Lighting of the Candles ritual, "A Soldiers Request," and a speech by Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain, the 13th SC(E) command sergeant major.

"We are at war and the Army needs our leaders to be better than the leaders in the past," Fountain said.

Fountain spoke, inspiring the new NCOs to do their best at every task they undertake.

"Your whole life must change because the world expects you to lead their sons and daughters into combat and bring them back home safely," he said.

A little bit of NCO history was given through the reading of "Boots of the NCO."

"With boots on, U.S. Soldiers have fought wars, policed cities,



Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain, the 13th SC(E) command sergeant major addresses the newly promoted during the induction ceremony.

stood between hostile forces, provided humanitarian relief, rescued civilians...and died," says an excerpt of "Boots of the NCO." "No matter where, or when, or what the mission, an Army NCO was there...wearing boots."

Three candles were lit, and each held their own special meaning. The red candle

represented valor, the white purity and innocence, and the blue candle represented justice.

As the new NCOs were formerly inducted into the corps, they crossed under an archway symbolizing their passage from lower-enlisted Soldiers.

A lower-enlisted Soldier faced the group of newly-inducted NCOs and read "A Soldiers Request," charging the NCOs to train him as a symbol of how all NCOs should train their Soldiers.

"Treat me with respect, sergeant, for no heart in the world is more loy-

al than the American Soldier," says part of the request. "I shall leave this Army knowing with my last step and my last breath, that my fate was always safest in your hands."

The new NCOs responded by reciting *The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer*.

Sgt. Rovelyn B. Vioria from Honolulu, Hawaii, an aerial ECP administration agent with the 657th Area Support Group, who was promoted in July said she liked the ceremony.

"It was really nice, it gives you a reality check," Vioria said.

Of her tour in Iraq so far, she said she is enjoying her new responsibilities as an NCO.

"I'm in a learning process," she said.

Vioria said when she returns to the states, she thinks Soldiers assigned to her might have more respect for her because she has had the experience of serving in Iraq.

Sgt. Timothy A. Lansdale of Kauai, Hawaii, the billeting NCO for the 657th ASG, who was also promoted in July agreed.

"The ceremony was a good experience...it gave me a feeling of belonging," he said.

Lansdale said being an NCO has built up his self-confidence, and that he'll be taking home more knowledge to pass on to other Soldiers.

"Every Soldier should be able to learn from their NCO," Lansdale said.



Sgt. 1st Class Annette L. Nunnally, assigned to the 4th CMMC, 13th SC(E) stands at attention after she lights three candles during the ceremony.