

ANACONDA TIMES

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

Top Cooks

13th SC(E) crowns top food service specialists

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GAMETIME

LSAA's winter softball league comes to a close

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GREEN LIGHT!

13th SC(E), 332nd AEW work together to deliver aerial resupply during Operation Iraqi Freedom
See Page 8



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.
Six 1,200 pound bundles of water and Meals Ready to Eat are dropped off a C-130 Hercules to support the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s 82nd Sustainment Brigade in Iraq Feb. 16. The C-130 crew is assigned to 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron from Balad Air Base.

463rd air crew delivers Army supplies to ground troops

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlos Diaz

U.S. Central Command Air Forces

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Eight aircrew members delivered six 1,200-pound bundles of resupplies during an air drop Feb. 16 in Eastern Iraq.

Their mission was to resupply ground troops with water and meals-ready-to-eat.

The aircrew charged with this responsibility was deployed from the 463rd Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. They're assigned to the 50th and 61st Airlift squadrons, respectively.

The eight-man crew consisted of Maj. Matthew Lewis, aircraft commander; Capt. Matthew Reece, pilot; 1st Lt. Matthew MacFarlane, co-pilot observer; Capt. Eric Fancher primary navigator; Capt. Kenny Bierman, instructor navigator; Tech. Sgt. Darrel Jackson, flight engineer; Tech. Sgt. Oliver Osborne, primary loadmaster and Staff Sgt. Daniel Maslowski, secondary loadmaster.

After a highly-detailed intelligence briefing, the loadmasters departed to perform their mission preparation.

After their mission prep was complete, three aerial-porters from the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron loaded the bundles into the aircraft.

Once inside, a team of Army riggers assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) began to secure and tighten the bundles with an incredible attention to detail.

"With this new system, we're using the technology in today's Army to keep everyone safe," said Warrant Officer David Bird, airdrop system technician assigned to the 600th Quartermaster Detachment.

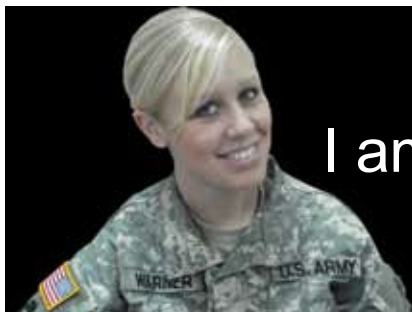
The 13-year Soldier said his team's been practicing its entire career.

"We're a close-knit family," he said about his eight-member rigger crew. "To see something like this go through is worth it for us."

Once the joint airdrop inspector Senior Airman Andrew Strazzinski inspected the load for safety and correct rigging procedures, the 14-year-old C-130 Hercules was ready for takeoff.

The bundles were airdropped once the aircraft was positioned at a 7-degree-high nose drop angle. Using simple gravity, the bundles slid off and the huge parachutes immediately deployed.

See DROP, Page 4



"I am an expert and I am a professional."
I am Spc. Sheri Warner, from Portage des Sioux, MO
HHC, OSACOM >> Aviation Operations Specialist



13th SC(E) Soldiers battle to be the best

Seven brigades bring their top Soldiers to Anaconda for quarterly competition

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- Soldiers deployed across Iraq flew to Logistical Support Area Anaconda to compete in the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) quarterly boards Feb. 15 and 16.

On the first day, nine noncommissioned officers and their sponsors entered the Distinguished Visitors Quarters with their minds set on one thing—conquering the Audie Murphy merit board.

The four noncommissioned officers who were inducted into the Audie Murphy Club were:

- Staff Sgt. Terry Childs, a network systems platoon sergeant with the 45th Sustainment Brigade. Childs is from Detroit, Mich.

- Staff Sgt. Michael Griffin, a support operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 169th Cargo Transfer Company. Griffin is from Cape Girardeau, Mo.

- Staff Sgt. Brian Mooberry, a maintenance platoon sergeant with 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. Mooberry is from Lacon, Ill.

- Staff Sgt. James Walsborn, an assistant truck master with the 497th Transportation Company. Walsborn is from Okanogan, Wash.

On the second day of the boards, 11 junior enlisted and 11 NCOs arrived at the DVQ to compete for the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter.

The winner of the Soldier of the Quarter board was Spc. Clifford Michael Nelms, a construction equipment mechanic with the 98th Maintenance Company. Nelms is from Hazlehurst, Ga.

The winner of the NCO of the Quarter board was Sgt. Michael Blarek, a noncommissioned officer with the 657th Movement Control Team. Blarek is from Yorktown, Va.

A panel of five sergeants major and a staff sergeant, who has a spot on the Audie Murphy

Board as a symbolic substitute for its namesake, vote on who will be welcomed into the elite organization.

“It is a reward for exemplary noncommissioned officers,” Walsborn said. “You have to prove yourself throughout your career.”

Audie Murphy, who served during World War II, was one of the greatest combat Soldiers in the history of the United States. He was decorated with every single American medal for valor, along with three French medals and one Belgian medal.

The Audie Murphy Board tests the Soldiers on a variety of subjects, such as physical fitness standards, the wear and appearance of the Army uniform and the chain of command. The thing that sets the Audie Murphy Board apart from other Soldier boards is the situational questions, said Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Hunt, sergeant major for the 82nd Sustainment Brigade.

These questions can range from what the NCO would do if he had a Soldier struggling in physical training to what a Soldier should do if they come across and improvised explosive device on the road.

“You have to be ready for every situation that can come up in day-to-day life,” Walsborn said.

Hunt said the Audie Murphy board is harder on the younger and inexperienced Soldiers for this reason. He also said that there is no set study guide for the Audie Murphy board.

“It is a gauge of character,” he said. “It is not so much the question and answer portion.”

It takes a lot of time, dedication, and hard work preparing for the Audie Murphy board, said Sgt. 1st Class Johan Ponder, a platoon sergeant with 497th Transportation Company.

Ponder was Walsborn’s mentor through the weeks of preparation. Already a member himself,

Ponder spent more than 4 hours a day with Walsborn trying to get him physically and mentally prepared to stand before the board.

Walsborn, who has been in the Army for 10 years, said as a new member he would like to expand and enhance the official Audie Murphy website for future candidates.

Dressed in their best uniforms with dirt-free weapons slung over their shoulders, nervous Soldiers one-by-one entered the conference room where the Soldier and NCO Board members were ready to drill the individuals on their military knowledge.

“Essentially, what you are looking for is the best of the best,” Hunt said.

Those who sat waiting for their turn in front of the board busily read from their leader’s handbook or looked each other over for uniform flaws.

Each Soldier spent almost 30 minutes with the members of the board.

At the end of the day, Spc. Clifford Michael



Staff Sgt. James Walsborn, an assistant truck master with the 497th Transportation Company sits at the position of attention in front of a panel of sergeants major for the Audie Murphy board Feb 15.



Spc. Anna Cain, an integrated family of test equipment operator with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, carefully studies for the Soldier of the Quarter board



Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Lewis, a truck master with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, fixes the uniform of Sgt. Myrick Lewis, a quality assurance and control NCOIC with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade. Lewis represented the 82nd SB in the 13th SC (E) NCO of the Quarter board.



(Above) Noncommissioned officers stand in front of the Audie Murphy board Feb. 15. The NCOs were asked questions about physical fitness, the appropriate wear of the military uniform and the history of Audie Murphy. (Right) Sgt. 1st Class Johan Ponder, a platoon sergeant with the 497th Transportation Company, addresses the Audie Murphy board members Feb. 15. Ponder, already a member of the Audie Murphy Club, served a mentor for one of the prospective candidates.



13th SC(E) NCOs inducted into the Audie Murphy Club



Staff Sgt. Terry Childs
a network systems platoon sergeant
from Detroit, Mich.



Staff Sgt. James Walsborn
an assistant truck master
from Okanogan, Wash.



Staff Sgt. Brian Mooberry
a maintenance platoon sergeant
from Lacon, Ill.



Staff Sgt. Michael Griffin
a support operations NCOIC from
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

ANACONDA TIMES 13th SC (E) Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry

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Anaconda Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Anaconda Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

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15th Sustainment Brigade

Girls' school in Abu Ghraib benefits from Iraqi Army, coalition support

by Spc. L.B. Edgar

7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD -- The life of an Iraqi girl was forever changed in the chaotic aftermath following an improvised explosive device attack. The Hamid Shaban neighborhood in the district of Abu Ghraib was the target, but an innocent girl was inadvertently the victim. Tragically, a stray round from an Iraqi Army soldier, fired in defense, missed its mark and struck the harmless child at play.

In a gesture of good will Iraqi Army soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, visited the wounded youngster's place of learning, the Hamid Shaban Girl's School, to provide humanitarian assistance Feb. 15.

Though money and supplies won't remove the bullet, the gesture does help the healing process, said the combat medic who evaluated the girl, Spc. Zachary Bosh, who is attached to the military transition team (MiTT) supporting the Iraqi battalion, which is based on Forward Operating Base Constitution.

"She was shot through the side and they believe the bullet stopped by her spine. They can't do surgery here at the local hospitals because their technology and funds aren't good enough," said the native of Pittsburgh. "She just wanted to know if we could help her get better. She wants to be a normal kid. She wants to run. She wants to walk without people assisting her."

Removing the bullet may cause paralysis because of the bullet's proximity to the girl's spinal cord, but for now she can walk with assistance and maintains

movement of her limbs, Bosh said.

The battalion operations officer, Lt. Col. Jabar, lead the humanitarian assistance mission and spoke with the girl, as well as her school's principal.

"He's making peace with the situation. He's talking to the family, the friends and her. He is trying to see what we can do to help them," Bosh said of the Iraqi colonel. "Money won't bring back the bullet, but it eases the situation."

The Iraqi girl was not the only student who benefited from the visit.

The Iraqi troops brought shoes, toys and stuffed animals for the 1,300 girls, students attending grades 6th through 12th, said Lt. Col. Ryan Rydalch, the MiTT chief for the battalion.

"The big thing here is to get the people to trust the Iraqi Army," said the native of Rexburg, Idaho.

Virtually the only Iraqi government presence the residents of Hamid Shaban see are members of the Iraqi Army. The goal of humanitarian assistance missions is to develop the Iraqi Army as a problem-solving entity for the Iraqi government, Rydalch said.

One sign of progress came when a neighborhood dispute was peacefully resolved when Jabar acted as a mediator. A woman approached Jabar and informed him she had received a notice of eviction from someone who did not own the property she was occupying, Bosh said.

"Today we had a civilian come up to him (Jabar) and discuss a housing dispute. I don't think that would have happened six weeks ago. They would not have had the confidence in the Iraqi Army to do that," Rydalch said.

Restoring the faith of Iraqi citizens in their armed forces is just one of the



Lt. Col. Jabar, the operations officer for 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, speaks with a resident of Hamid Shaban during a visit from Iraqi Army soldiers and their supporting U.S. military transition team to the Hamid Shaban Girl's School Feb. 15. The woman sought assistance from the Iraqi Army in mediating a dispute with a neighbor over property.

missions for MiTTs, which are "... a major part of the plan to allow U.S. forces to exit Iraq in an orderly fashion," Rydalch said.

The MiTT troops, a unit of American active duty and reserve component Soldiers, assists, advises and supports the restoration of the Iraq's security forces, Rydalch said.

"I think the idea of the MiTT is absolutely outstanding. When done right, it is probably the best tool in the war right now. The MiTT teams are helping the country build itself back up. The people

(need to) trust the IA and know they're going to do things essential to getting the country up and running," Bosh said.

One sign of the progress between Iraqi troops and the local community is the school itself. Students of the Hamid Shaban Girl's School had completed testing the day of the humanitarian assistance mission. Thanks to the Iraqi Army, the security situation had improved enough in Hamid Shaban to allow the school to reopen.

The 1,300 students are able to receive an education denied to them just a year

ago, Rydalch noted.

"That's definitely progress," Rydalch said. "It probably won't make any news story or broadcast, but I think it helps the school. It definitely helps the security of the neighborhood the school is located in."

Though one little girl was a victim of Hamid Shaban's security challenge, she continues to attend the community's school, which is a sign of progress. However, she goes to school every day with a bullet lodged in her back as evidence there is work yet to be done.

Soldier honored with Silver Star for combat actions

by Staff Sgt. Gary Witte

Anaconda Times Staff

AR RAMADI, Iraq -- A Soldier who helped pull his wounded men from a burning vehicle and ran alone through the streets of Ramadi to get them evacuated was awarded the Silver Star Jan. 27.

Staff Sgt. David S. Anderson, a section leader with 1st Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry with Task Force 1-37 under 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, was also presented the Army Commendation Medal with Valor during a ceremony on Camp Ramadi.

Two other Soldiers from the same unit, Staff Sgt. Jason P. Trumpower of Norwalk, Ohio, and Spc. Edward Reyes of Coral Springs, Fla., distinguished themselves in the same Sept. 24 incident and were awarded Bronze Stars with Valor.

Anderson, who is from Batesville, Miss., said he doesn't care for the publicity surrounding his award.

"I'm just glad I was there to take care of my Soldiers and bring them home safely," he said. "To me, I was just doing my job and what I was trained to do."

According to the narration of their awards, the incident began when a dismounted team was attacked during an operation and several men were wounded. Trumpower, a section leader, led his Bradley Fighting Vehicle in an attempt to evacuate the Soldiers after a tank accompanying him had trouble negotiating the narrow streets.

The vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, disabling it and critically wounding the driver. Trumpower, pinned in the vehicle, maintained security and notified higher headquarters of the situation.

Anderson, who was also responding to the call for aid in his Bradley Fighting Vehicle, linked up with Trumpower and began evacuating the crew as another vehicle dealt with the dismounted casualties. Anderson was directing his vehicle back to Camp Ramadi when it, too, was disabled by an IED, wounding five inside.

The explosion knocked out communications and caused a fire in the rear compartment. Anderson, who had been outside checking his gunner and driver, attempted to let down the rear ramp and the troop door, but both were jammed.

Trumpower, with severe wounds to his hands and face, tried to get the cargo hatch open. With Anderson's help, the two men were able to open it wide enough to evacuate the vehicle. Reyes, although also wounded and disoriented by the flames, found the fire suppression handle and doused the blaze long enough for everyone to escape.

Once everyone was out, Anderson took a rifle from the vehicle and single-handedly made sure there were no enemies within a nearby building, while Trumpower guarded the wounded and Reyes, a medic, evaluated and stabilized them.

After they moved the wounded into the building, Anderson attempted to

retrieve a radio and smoke grenade to signal their location, only to find both destroyed in the vehicle. Knowing the wounded driver was going into shock and could bleed to death without immediate evacuation, Anderson ran about 400 meters to try and get the attention of a nearby tank crew.

Unable to get the attention of the tank, he ran further down the road to wave down a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, then led it back to where the wounded were and supervised the loading of the casualties.

Col. Sean McFarland, commander of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, presented each of the men their awards and praised the heroism they exhibited. He cited their actions as examples of living the "Warrior Ethos."

"They didn't give up," McFarland said. "They did not leave their comrades behind."

Trumpower said after the ceremony that he counted himself lucky for the other Soldiers present who helped take care of the casualties. He said he remembers the incident "like it just happened yesterday."

"Sometimes I guess I would rather not have the award and not have those things happen," Trumpower said.

Reyes said he hasn't thought much about the incident, but he was grateful his actions were held in high regard.

"We were pretty much alone out there," Reyes said. "It could have gone dramatically different than it did."

Both Reyes and Trumpower were also presented the Army Commendation medal during the ceremony.

DROP, from Page 1

"My job, as the primary loadmaster, was to make sure the load goes out as advertised," Osborne, who's a formal training unit instructor in the 714th Training Squadron at Little Rock AFB, said.

As a career field instructor, he stressed the importance of communication.

"We had an open-line of communication," he emphasized. "Communication was the key because we listened to each other, backed each other up and kept two eyes on everything."

His young counterpart, 27-year-old Maslowski, was anxious to complete his first combat airdrop.

"My adrenaline was pumping the entire time," the redheaded loadmaster said. "It was exciting because I constantly kept doing more than one thing to stay ahead of the game."

"This for me has peaked all other deployments; I experienced first hand what we train for," he continued.



Maj. Matt Lewis, the C-130 Hercules aircraft commander, briefs his crew in preparation for employing the first Joint Precision Air Drop System mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Feb. 16. JPADS is a new air drop system used by C-130 crews to drop cargo at higher altitudes with improved accuracy. Major Lewis is assigned to the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

Combat Stress Control

(13th 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
3:30 TO 4 P.M.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

HOME FRONT ISSUES

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
5 TO 6 P.M.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANGER MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANXIETY AWARENESS

WEDNESDAY
3 TO 3:30 P.M.
SATURDAY
10:30 TO 11 A.M.

SLEEP HYGIENE

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
6 TO 6:30 P.M.

GOAL SETTING

MONDAY AND THURSDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

DEPRESSION AWARENESS

WEDNESDAY
2 TO 3 P.M.
SATURDAY
10 TO 10:30 A.M.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

WEDNESDAY
9 TO 11 A.M.

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melissa.kale@us.army.mil

829-1402



Bruce Ottenwess, a General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Airframe and power plant mechanic based out of Creech Air Force Base, Nevada conducts pre-flight checks before launching the "Predator" MQ-1 unmanned aerial vehicle from Balad Air Base, Iraq Jan. 31, 2007. The 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron's mission is to provide real time aerial reconnaissance to deployed theatre commanders. The predator squadron is assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and provides convoys throughout Iraq with an eye in the sky. In addition to its reconnaissance mission, the Predators help defend Balad Air Base in conjunction with the base's Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC.) The Predators can engage any potential hostile insurgent activity.

Silent eye in the sky: Predators keep constant vigil for base defense

by Senior Airman Candace Romano

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Anyone outside the Balad Air Base perimeter thinking of causing harm to those working and living here better think again. They're being watched from above by a Predator - one with keen eyesight.

As the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle flies virtually undetected in the lower atmosphere, it keeps a silent, constant vigil with its state-of-the-art reconnaissance cameras over the terrain surrounding Balad for suspicious activities.

An essential part of the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron's mission, members operating and supporting the Predator protect the lives of Balad personnel by providing base defense through armed, airborne reconnaissance.

"We're doing as much as we can in devoting our resources toward base defense, searching for IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and watching for suspicious activities," said Capt. Matt Wieder, 46th ERS director of operations and Predator pilot. "Our strength lies in the fact we're virtually undetected, can provide real-time video, and have the ability to strike if needed. What the insurgents don't know is we're watching things as they happen."

In the event of mortar attacks, the Predator can locate the origin and pass on intelligence to ground forces that can then apprehend suspects. In the past three months, approximately 25 insurgents were apprehended through Predator base defense missions, according to Maj. Craig Babbitt, 46th ERS commander.

Thanks to its 'round-the-clock eye-in-the-sky and immediate-strike capabilities, IED locations can be detected and passed on to convoys, and direct threats to the base can be



U.S. Air Force Capt. Mike Edmonston, a 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron Predator pilot and Airman 1st Class Shawn Weigman, the Predator sensor operator, perform the descent and arrival checklist at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

neutralized.

"The Predator provides base defense by countering rocket and mortar attacks and providing protection from IEDs," said Airman 1st Class Lucas Froschheiser, 46th ERS Predator sensor operator. "The Predator is saving lives and keeping people inside the wire safe, even if they don't hear or see it in the sky."

While the engine can be described as resembling the sound of a small Cessna aircraft on takeoff, the UAV is nearly inaudible from the ground when flying at normal altitudes. The highly developed Multi-spectral Targeting System sensor aboard the aircraft provides a live

video feed, which the pilot and sensor operator on the ground are able to watch for suspicious activities.

According to Froschheiser, the UAV's optical resolution capability allows it to detect and track suspicious activities and movement from as high as 25,000 feet. The Predator also carries AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, which are guided to the target by the sensor operator.

Predator video feed is monitored in real time, around the clock, by Airmen and Soldiers responsible for the defense of Balad and Logistical Support Area Anaconda. The joint effort employs a variety of sensors and tactical

surveillance to monitor the installation's perimeter and surrounding areas.

"We report any suspicious activities to the Predator," said Capt. Steve Lovett, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. "In minutes, we can be on top of the activity, confirming it through our cameras and the Predator feed."

Quick reaction times and joint operations benefit both services, working together for base defense, and avoiding putting security forces personnel in harm's way.

"The technology and resources the Air Force and Army employ save lives every day, whether they are coalition or Iraqi forces," said Lovett. "It's a combined, seamless effort with Airmen and Soldiers working together, all on the same page, incorporating information from the Predator."

With all the manpower, aircraft and equipment working around the clock to ensure the safety of the base and protect its resources, Balad personnel can sleep a little easier knowing every second of the day, someone is watching out for threats or suspicious activities.

"We stay on our toes, always adapting and challenging ourselves," said Froschheiser. "We never allow ourselves to become complacent in base defense."

Do you know of a good story?
we need YOUR help
tell us what you or your unit does here on LSAA
anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Unit provides critical support for combat troops in Ramadi

by Staff Sgt. Gary Witte

Anaconda Times Staff

AR RAMADI, Iraq – For Staff Sgt. Oscar Kalip, his work at the Ramadi fuel farm is never boring. For one, he and his unit have the chance to meet everyone when they come to fill up their vehicles.

When asked what else keeps the job interesting, the concussion of an outgoing round fired from the base shakes his office.

“Like that,” Kalip said with a smile.

His unit, the 24th Quartermaster Company, is part of the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (Forward Logistics Element) at Camp Ar Ramadi. This Forward Logistics Element’s mission covers a wide range of support services, ranging from logistic convoys to helping add armor to Humvees.

Since unit arrived in October, the Forward Logistics Element has supported 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and with the recent transfer of authority, now supports the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division’s mission.

“It’s a good job,” 1st Lt. Abraham Goepfert of Stoughton, Wis., said. “I’ve enjoyed just about the entire thing. You run into just about every unit one way or the other.”

Goepfert, the OIC for the Forward Logistics Element, said they have worked to streamline operations and improve communications since taking

on regular logistics convoys between Ar Ramadi and Camp Taqqadum

“We’ll bring in supplies from TQ and then we also ship stuff back,” he said.

The shipments can consist of water or vehicles such as Abrams tanks, Bradleys, and Humvees, he said. Sometimes, they’ll be shipping off battle-damaged vehicles or bringing new ones to the base.

“Every day is different than the day before,” Goepfert said.

In addition to moving supplies, the unit has also been part of missions in the streets of Ramadi by transporting and placing the concrete barriers used in constructing Combat Outposts.

Soldiers with the 264th CSSB have helped build six such outposts throughout the city, thereby helping extend the security and reach of Iraqi Security Forces.

The unit regularly supports Iraqis in other ways, since the water it handles goes to the Iraqi Security Forces. The Iraqi units also use the Ramadi fuel farm.

Kalip, who is from Tallahassee, Fla., is on his third deployment to Iraq. He said he has 11 people who work round-the-clock shifts, seven days a week, to serve all the military branches and even civilian contractors who work throughout the area.

“You could say this is the heart of Ramadi, right here,” Kalip said. “We’re the lifeblood of the force over here.”

Safety is a major consideration for



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Witte

Pfc. Derek A. West of Bossier City, La., a fueler with the 24th Quartermaster Company takes down information from personnel who come to the Ramadi fuel farm to fill up their vehicles.

the unit, which has faced a few close calls from incoming mortar rounds.

“Everybody I’ve got out here is responsible,” Kalip said, noting his pride for those in his unit.

For many of his Soldiers, it is their

first deployment and an “eye opener” for them. Kalip said he chose Ramadi as where he wanted to serve during this deployment.

“I like being where the action is,” he said

Avoid Trans Fat Warns Army Nutritionist

FORT LEE, Va. - New York City is banning trans fatty acids from its restaurants. Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wendy’s, Chili’s and Ruby Tuesday have already eliminated trans fat from their menus.

The preoccupation with removing trans fat comes from the latest research showing that even small amounts of this fat in the diet can have harmful health effects, according to the Harvard School of Public Health.

Tens of thousands of heart attacks and cardiac arrests could be prevented if trans fat were removed from the industrial food supply, according to HSPH researchers.

Studies show that for every 2 percent of calories consumed from trans fat, the risk of coronary heart disease increases by 23 percent.

Dining facilities at Fort Lee and many other installations are moving away from trans fat products and oils, said Johnnie Durant, Installation Food Program manager.

“We are trying to buy as many products as we can that don’t have any trans fat, like canola oil,” Durant said. But, “we’re looking at a new oil because canola oil doesn’t fry as well as regular trans fat oil. We’re concerned about it because of the health of the Soldier.”

For someone who consumes 2,000 calories per day, 2 percent of total calories represents 40 calories from trans fat - about the amount found in a medium order of French fries.

Since Jan. 1, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires manufacturers to list the amount of trans fat per serving in their products on the Nutrition Fact panel.

However, trans fat does not have to be listed if the total amount of fat in the food is less than 0.5 gram per serving. In other words, a product with 0.49 grams of trans fat per serving does not need trans fat listed on the nutrition label, even though two servings of crackers could very well amount to nearly a gram.

Al Asad opens new Internet cafe for 563rd Soldiers

by Capt. Sharon L. Tolbert

593rd Corps Support Group

Al Asad Airbase, Iraq – The 593rd Corps Support Group opened up a new Internet Café/Phone Center in the Chuville living area on Al Asad Airbase on Jan. 8.

The facility will support more than 1,000 troops from all services with increased access to the Internet and DSN phone lines.

Construction of the facility took several weeks and was a combined effort from Soldiers throughout the unit. The once-abandoned shower trailers were transformed into two high-speed

facilities, complete with 24 cubicles able to accommodate 12 phones and 12 computers in each.

The additional access to the Internet and the phone lines has made it easier for Servicemembers to stay in contact with their love ones, officials said.

The facility is operated by the 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

To give more Soldiers access to the facilities, time limits have been placed on how long each customer can use the phone or the Internet. Currently, there are only five computer systems and five phone lines available for use, but the maximum capacity of the café will be filled in a couple of months.



Photos by Staff Sergeant Kenneth Gallagher

(Right) Soldiers make moral phone calls at the new facility that recently opened. (Below) Soldiers are able to check their MySpace accounts at the new Internet Cafe located on Al Asad Airbase.



LSAA Soldiers tear down past to build the future

92nd Engineer Battalion, Iraqi Army work together during landmark mission

story and photos by Sgt. Jon Cupp



Boston, Mass. native, Sgt. Adam DeLorey, an engineer with the 92nd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, prepares to bulldoze some abandoned buildings in the city of Husayniyah, Iraq Jan. 30

HUSAYNIYAH, Iraq – Logistical Support Area Anaconda's 92nd Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade, Iraqi Army troops from the 5th Special Troops Company, 2nd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized), and Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment tore down remnants of this city's past Jan. 30 to pave way for its future during a joint operation here.

During the operation, Iraqi Army troops and U.S. Soldiers conducted a cordon and search and then tore down several abandoned buildings from which terrorists conducted operations, hid weapons caches and executed improvised explosive device attacks. The buildings were destroyed to prevent their further use by insurgent forces.

After Iraqi soldiers and artillerymen from Battery A, 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt. cleared the area of civilians near the abandoned buildings, the 92nd Eng. Bn. Soldiers used heavy equipment—bulldozers and back hoes—to knock the walls of the buildings down.

"This is a great event for the Iraqi security forces and the people of Husayniyah," said Maj. John Haubert, an operations officer for 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt. "Any time we can help improve the security of the Iraqi people—it's a good event.

"The people here want to see a safer Husayniyah and a safer Iraq. They don't support insurgents using abandoned buildings in their town to harm Iraqi civilians, Iraqi security forces or coalition forces."



During a joint operation, Portland, Ore. native, Staff Sgt. James Malcolm (center), an artilleryman with Battery A, 1st Battalion talks to a local Iraqi man in Husayniyah, Iraq about recent insurgent activity in the area that had been conducted in abandoned buildings which were being demolished as they spoke. Iraqi Army Soldiers and U.S. troops had the buildings demolished to prevent their further use by insurgents.

Haubert, a native of Fort Lewis, Wash., added that building up the security of the area will also help Iraqi and coalition forces as they continue bringing future projects into the city.

Working with the Iraqis, U.S. civil affairs units and others, the Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 37 FA Regt. have already helped bring in several projects aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of Husayniyah.

These on-going projects have included providing gravel for roads, rewiring the city's powerlines, a new Husayniyah fire

station, a new city council building, sewage systems and providing area schools with supplies, heaters, air conditioners and water purification systems.

Spc. Jeff Thompson, a field artilleryman with Battery A, said he understands the underlying importance of clearing the Husayniyah landscape of havens for insurgents.

"When you look into the faces of the children and see them happy, it makes you see how important and worthwhile the things are that we do here," said Thompson, who hails from Grand Island, Neb. "Protecting them is protecting Iraq's future and what we did today gives the terrorists one less place to hide—one less place from which they can harm someone, especially these children who are out here playing everyday."

Lynchburg, Ohio native Pfc. Daniel Shepherd, also an artilleryman in Thompson's battery echoed his sentiments.

"This is a just cause, and gives us the chance to work with the Iraqis to rid them of terrorist threats," said Shepherd.

Thompson added that, as with the day's joint operation, he always looks forward to working the IA troops and hopes to continuing building bridges of cooperation with them.

"The Iraqi Army is alright, and they're very squared away," Thompson said. "You can tell they get better at what they're doing every day.

"What I'm taking away from the experience is an understanding of another country, their people, ways of life and customs and a better understanding of myself," he said.



Engineers with the 92nd Engineer Battalion, assigned to the 411th Engineer Brigade, based at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, knock down the walls of an abandoned building with a back hoe



Bricks and mortars fell when some abandoned buildings came down in Husayniyah, Iraq



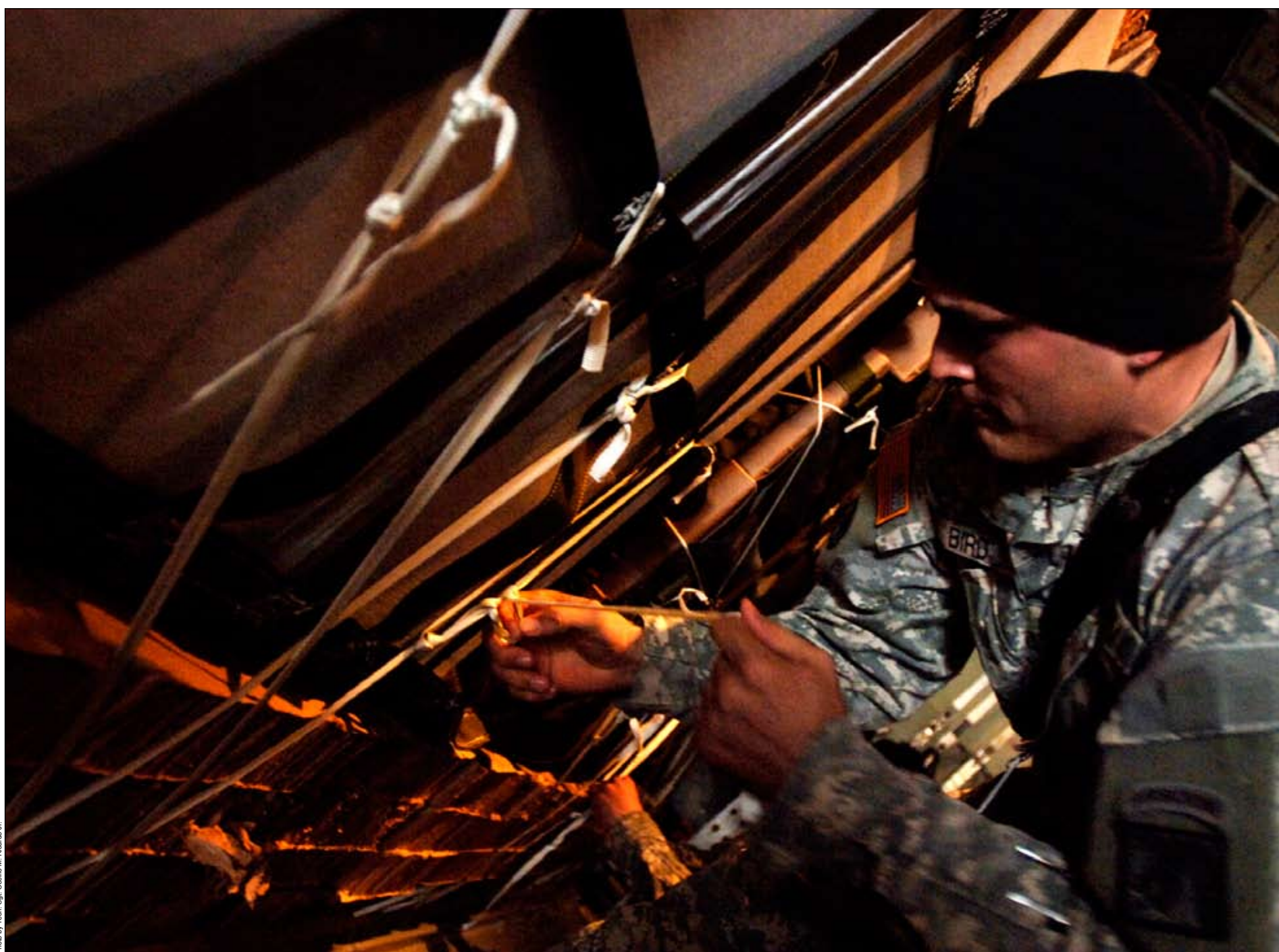
Staff Sgt. Dan Maslowski prepares to release a wind sonde sensor which provides weather analysis of the drop zone winds while performing an air drop mission in support of OIF.



Spc. James Robertson, assigned to the 600th Quartermaster Detachment, attaches the suspension risers to a parachute. This link that holds the load to the parachute.



An airman holds a wind sonde device that is dropped at high altitudes over a drop zone to measure the winds prior to an actual cargo drop. This allows C-130 crews to drop cargo at safe distances from enemy fire. This one was used during an OIF drop somewhere in the skies of Iraq.



Warrant Officer David Bird retightens skid boards of six 1,200 pound bundles of water and MREs onto a C-130 Hercules in preparation air drop mission Feb. 16. Bird is assigned to the 368th Cargo Transportation Company.

AIRBORNE! 13TH SC(E) STYLE

13th SC(E) leads airborne operation to deliver supplies from LSAA to ground troops in Eastern Iraq

by Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner
82nd Sustainment Brigade

BADRAH, IRAQ – The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s 82nd Sustainment Brigade coordinated and oversaw an airdrop of critical supplies to the 3rd Border Transition Team "Ghostriders" at this isolated outpost near the Iranian border Feb. 16.

The airdrop, consisting of water and food, is intended to sustain Iraqi Security Forces and allow them to continue patrolling the border without breaking station.

"The intent of this airdrop was two-fold," said Maj. Jared Helwig, SPO Plans and Effects officer with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade. "It was to ensure that we still had the capability to conduct a drop to a small unit, and this was the perfect opportunity to do it."

Helwig also stressed the

importance of keeping these small but vital units supplied. The area is one of various points of entry along the border being used by illegal armed groups to smuggle weapons and other contraband. To preventing this trafficking, maintaining a security presence is an essential task.

"As you move away from the forward operating bases and into the more remote locations, you have small units out there that are vital to the stability of the country," Helwig said.

Having the ability to supply these border security units from the sky, considering their remoteness and the potential dangers inherent in the overland routes, is critical to the overall mission, he said.

"To a smaller degree, it was an information operation," Helwig continued. The 82nd Sustainment Brigade has to show everybody in the region that it has the capability



Aerial porters load six 1,200 pound bundles of water and MREs onto a C-130 Hercules in preparation of an air drop mission on Feb. 16.



A C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing drops six supply pallets during an air drop in western Iraq.



Photos by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Staff Sgt. William E. Lundergan of Louisville, Ky., the assistant convoy commander for his platoon in the 1687th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company, directs one of the large vehicles as they stage for a convoy Feb. 15.

mission essential:

Pre-convoy checks keeps heavy movers on the roads, completing mission

Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Anaconda Times Staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq- Combat Logistic Patrols run throughout the Iraqi theater daily, and without the cargo they carry, servicemembers would be hard pressed to perform everyday functions.

The 1687th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company is like many transportation units in Iraq; their mission is to keep supplies moving to where they are needed.

Preparing for the road is an important task, and the Soldiers are serious about being ready.

"It takes as long to prepare for a mission as the mission it's self," said Staff Sgt. William E. Lundergan of Louisville, Ky., the assistant convoy commander of his platoon.

An average day when the 1687th Soldiers are going out on the road starts with an early morning brief. During the briefing, they learn where they will be going, the load they will carry, as well as road and security conditions.

Afterwards, they 'stage' their vehicles. Usually hauling large equipment, such as tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, the HET drivers line their trucks up into rows according to the order they will be in during the night's convoy.

After communications checks within the vehicles are completed, the drivers head back to their living quarters for some much-needed rest in preparation for a night on the road.

The number of times per week 1687th Soldiers go out, and the length of their missions can vary greatly, Lundergan said. A mission can last anywhere from one to 30 days, and while any of the 45 Soldiers in Lundergan's platoon can go out on any mission, the exact number of Soldiers needed depends on the mission requirements.

Lundergan said the most important part of going out on missions are the pre-convoy checks they conduct, and maintenance.

"We stress hard on maintenance because we'd rather do it on base than out on the road," he said. "At all costs we try not to stop a convoy unless it is an emergency."

Flat tires are a common problem with the HETs, not only because of the vehicles' large size, but because of the weight they haul. Lundergan and the other drivers check their vehicles several times per day to see if any mechanical problems have arisen.

"The job is challenging," said Spc. Kelly N. Martin of Terre Haute, Ind., a truck driver with the 1687th. "You never know what can happen."

Martin agreed that flat tires were the most common maintenance problem, as she inspected the tires of her own truck.

"PMCS is the most important part," she said.

Spc. Trisha A. McCammon of Sullivan, Ind., also a truck driver in the unit and Martin's truck partner, said sometimes

their job can be a dangerous one.

McCammon was driving a truck that sustained small arms fire one night, while the truck behind her hit an improvised explosive device. Two of her tires were shot, and her window was severely damaged, but she kept driving. No one in the convoy suffered injuries.

It is under those circumstances that it is especially dangerous to stop, McCammon said, stressing the importance of pre-convoy checks. If something had been mechanically wrong with any of the HETs, it could have been a disaster, she said.

Lundergan as an experienced driver tries to mentor the younger Soldiers. He said if a certain stretch of road looks uncertain, and he drives through it, the other Soldiers will follow.

The biggest challenges for Lundergan are learning new routes and training inexperienced drivers.

"Every day is a challenge working with the HETs," he said.

All Soldiers in the platoon agree that they enjoy driving because it gets them off the base, and they are able to see much of the country by road- an opportunity not all

Soldiers get.

With the current surge of Soldiers into the Baghdad area, Lundergan noted that his platoon's mission isn't going to

change. They aren't going to slow down or speed up operations, he said, but will continue their mission of getting heavy cargo to where it is needed.



(Above) Staff Sgt. William E. Lundergan of Louisville, Ky., the assistant convoy commander for his platoon in the 1687th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company, hands Staff Sgt. Jason T. Routt of Louisville, Ky., a funnel as they get their vehicles ready for the road Feb. 15. (Left) Staff Sgt. Jason T. Routt of Louisville, Ky., a truck driver with the 1687th Combat Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company, checks his truck's oil before deeming it ready for the road.



Pfc. Tirado, the winner of the Soldier of the culinary arts board is instructed by Sgt. 1st Class George J. Deloatch on the do's and don'ts when entering a board. Both Soldiers are with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Ft. Bragg, N.C.



Master Sgt. Howard, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) sergeant major for food services briefs Soldiers and sponsors on the rules of the 2nd Quarter Culinary Arts Board Competition, held Feb. 15 in Dining Facility 1, Balad, Iraq.

LTC Russell D. Rogers
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SSG Brandon D. Fambro
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SSG Annette Tyler
annette.tyler1@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

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Building 4135
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Please be sure to bring any related documents (W2s, interest statements, spouse and/or childrens' SSNs, etc.) We will assist with preparation of Forms 1040a or 1040EZ. The Form 1040 and any kind of business ownership are outside the scope of our program and we will not be able to assist customers with these issues.

If you have any questions, contact Sgt. Bethany Becker at 829-1838 or email her at bethany.becker@balad.iraq.centcom.mil.

Competition brings out best 13th SC(E) food service specialist

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Food service specialists across the theater proved their best during the second quarter culinary arts NCO and Soldier board, held at Dining Facility 1 on Feb. 15.

The board consisted of a five-member committee, which quizzed Soldiers on questions of basic skills and topics dealing with food services.

Twenty-one Soldiers were lined up according to rank and were briefed prior to the beginning of the board.

During the briefing, Master Sgt. Christopher A. Howard, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) logistical food service sergeant major, said he expected the Soldiers to come in with a professional attitude, make the proper salutes upon entering and exiting the room, know basic Soldiers' knowledge and food service knowledge and have the ability to be professional.

The Soldiers were being judged from the first moment they appeared before the judges until they left the room.

With the muzzle pointing upward, Soldiers entered the room and handed over their weapon to their NCOIC, he said. Then the questions from the board followed.

The winners of the board received an engraved plaque and an Army Achievement Medal, Howard said.

"I felt confident that I was the winner coming out of the board because I answered all of the questions right," said Sgt. Tammy A. Morgan, the NCO winner with the Joint Visitors Bureau of the 13th SC (E), from the hometown of Mobile, Ala.

Sgt. 1st Class George J. Deloatch, the DFAC manager of Forward Operating Base Brassfield Mora, formerly with the 82nd Airborne Division out of

Ft. Bragg, N.C., was the sponsor of the Soldier winner, Pfc. Timothy Tirado.

"We have held mock boards at our FOB, and I told my Soldiers to ask him a couple questions while he is preparing meals for the troops."

Pfc. Terrance D. Benson, a food service specialist with the 4th Corps Material Management Center said he felt he was the ice breaker, since he was the first Soldier to go before the board.

"I felt like I was on stage in front of 10,000 people, a little nervous at first, but I had to overcome it before going there," Benson said.

He found that listening to music and distancing himself from others while studying helped him to prepare for the board.

"I also played various games like Jeopardy with the study questions to

help myself study," Benson said.

Overall, he said his reaction after the boards is to never second guess an answer. There were easy questions that he said he missed because he thought too hard on the questions and was not relaxed at first.

Morgan advises all Soldiers not to wait to the last minute to prepare for the board.

"When you study, don't play around ... study," Morgan said. "Attend mock boards that your supervisors set up for you. Nervousness is to be expected."

Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. King, the brigade food service supervisor from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, overseas the dining facilities in Iraq.

He said FOB Brassfield Mora is the only DFAC in the theater that allows military to actually prepare the meals. Other bases have cooks that are contracted.

"Soldiers there have an advantage that helps them to prepare for the board, as well as helps them to keep their culinary arts skills sharp," Deloatch said.



Pfc. Tirado, the winner of the Soldier of the culinary arts board studies various questions before appearing before the board on Feb. 15 in Dining Facility 1 at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.

February 28**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

March 1**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

March 2**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

March 3**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

March 4**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

March 5**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

March 6**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

March 7**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

THE 22ND PERSONNEL SERVICES BATTALION

p r e s e n t s

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"Women in the Military"

March 21 from 11 a.m. to noon at the East MWR

for more information, contact Katelyn Ventura at: 829-1438 or at katelyn.ventura@balad.iraq.centcom.mil



(Above) Staff Sgt. Katie Moeller, the 1034th CSSB coach and player, connects and brings in one run during the championship conference game. (Right) Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Robinson (yellow shirt) holds onto the ball to tag his opponent during a forced out. (Top) A Vigilance player concentrates before his pitch.

LSAA's Hawks, Wildcats take softball conference games

by Spc. Amanda Solitario
Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq-- After more than 15 weeks of non-stop batting action, Logistical Support Area Anaconda's winter softball league is coming to a close.

The championship, hosted by the 657th Area Support group, was to be a best-out-of-three series between the American and National League champions at Provider Softball Field Feb 24.

The American League winners, C Co.

2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor Regiment, "Wildcats," defeated the 32nd Multi-Functional Medical Battalion, "Cobras," with a 9-8 win, securing their spot in the league championship Feb. 17.

On the following day, the National League teams held their playoffs, which resulted in a 10-9 win for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, "Hawks," over the 224th Military Intelligence Battalion, "Vigilance."

Both games went the full seven innings with no time limit.



SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Feb. 28

5 p.m. Bridge to Terabitha (PG)

8 p.m. The Good Shephard (R)

Thursday, March 1

5 p.m. Blood Diamon (R)

8 p.m. Rocky Balboa (PG)

Friday, March 2

2 p.m. Apocalypto (R)

5 p.m. The Number 23 (R)

8:30 p.m. Wild Hogs (PG-13)

Saturday, March 3

2 p.m. The Good Shepherd (R)

5 p.m. Wild Hogs (PG-13)

8 p.m. The Number 23 (R)

Sunday, March 4

2 p.m. The Number 23 (R)

5 p.m. We are Marshal (PG)

8 p.m. Wild Hogs (PG-13)

Monday, March 5

5 p.m. Wild Hogs (PG-13)

8 p.m. Children of Men (R)

Tuesday, March 6

5 p.m. The Pursuit of Happyness

8 p.m. The Number 23 (R)

the "Land of Base Housing" Board Game©

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RULES

1. ALL PLAYERS START WITH ZERO POINTS AND IMMEDIATELY FORFEIT 75 POINTS PRIVACY, 25 POINTS SELF-RESPECT, AND 100 POINTS BAH. TOTAL POINTS TO START: - 200.

2. A PRE-SELECTED "MOVING COMPANY" WILL DISTRIBUTE THE FURNITURE CUT-OUTS AS GAME PIECES.

3. IF A GAME PIECE DOES NOT FIT ITS CORRECT SPACE ON THE PLAYING BOARD, IT MUST BE ELIMINATED.

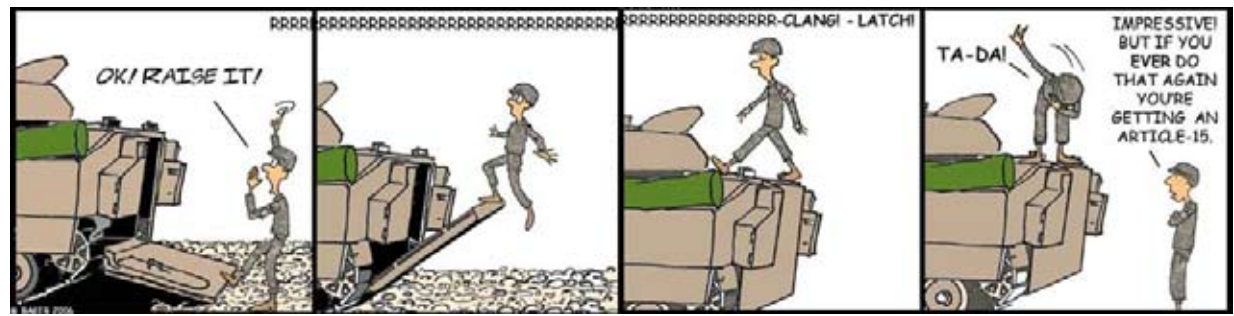
4. GAIN 25 POINTS FOR EACH GAME PIECE THAT IS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE MOVING COMPANY AND CAN NOW FIT ONTO THE PLAYING BOARD.

Note: Players are not allowed to store game pieces in neighbor's game space or on the sidewalk. You can, however, store them in your car if they fit.

FURNITURE CUT-OUTS

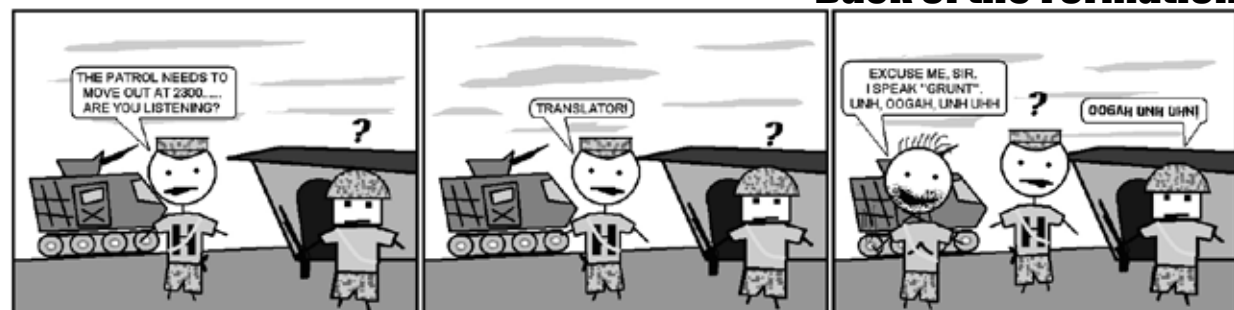
<http://jennyspouse.com>

Pvt. Murphy's Law



<http://www.pvtmurphy.com>

Back of the Formation



then and now...

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming
photos by Spc. Walton McJordan

Opportunities for African-Americans in the Army permits blacks to excel

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . .”

This simple, but powerful, phrase possibly defines our national character more than any other.

Since those words were put on paper in 1776, in the midst of our first war, the United States has struggled to define and uphold that self-evident principal. For African-Americans, it has been a long and often bitter struggle.

In the midst of America's struggle to uphold this simple concept, the United States Army has become a champion of opportunity for African-Americans.

Blacks have made numerous military contributions to the defense of America—so much that today their service is crucial and their race almost transparent.

In modern times, hard work, proper preparation and a commitment to excellence are the keys most often cited by senior African-American officers and noncommissioned officers to a successful military career.

Thanks to the contributions of earlier generations, a number of African-Americans are serving in key leadership positions within the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“The key to success is learning your job, knowing your job, and doing your job to the best of your ability,” Lt. Col. Ivery J. Taylor, the personnel officer for the 13th SC (E) said. “If Soldiers do these three things they stand a very good chance of seeing the next promotion.”

“There was a time in our military when black and white Soldiers had separate eating and living accommodations, and certain military occupation skills were not open for African American Soldiers,”

Taylor said. “I am proud the military was among the first, if not the first, institution to put an end to segregation.”

Today, Taylor feels that performing at your best is always the key to moving up in rank. “When the Army took away time in service as a qualification for promotion, it woke up a lot of Soldiers,” Taylor said. “The current system, based on a soldiers' performance, is fair.”

Taylor dismisses rumors that the military had or has a quota system. “I am a lieutenant colonel. I don't think affirmative action had anything to do with Pvt. Taylor becoming Lt. Col. Taylor,” he said. “I base my little success on God, a strong work ethic and the fact my senior leaders past and present felt my job performance was good enough for me to move to the next level.”

Maj. Edgar A. Terry, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program's base life support officer with the 657th Area Support Group entered the military in 1975.

Referring to his early days in the Army, Terry reflected the doors of opportunity would often open and quickly close. “Today, opportunities are only limited by what one makes of them,” Terry said. “Opportunity is the real change. Today, the doors are open, we need merely advance through.”

“Today's statistics show that African-American opportunities in the U.S. Army have increased,” Terry said. “The ratio for African-Americans in the Army is higher in comparison to that of the U.S. population.”

Terry said the percentage of officers has increased from nine percent to more than 12 percent from 1983 to 2003. The percentage of warrant officers nearly tripled during the same time period,



Maj. Edgar A. Terry, (at head of table) is the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program's Base Life Support Officer with the 657th Area Support Group meets with Team LOGCAP members and Kellogg, Brown, and Root employees on a weekly basis.

increasing from six percent to more than 16 percent.

“The military places a stronger emphasis on leadership and advancement more than the civilian culture at large, so upward progression should be an expected norm,” Terry said.

Reflecting on history, Terry acknowledges that few people know of James Webster Smith and others who attended West Point in the early days. “Their courage and sacrifice tend to be counted as

failure in that they did not graduate and win their way completely through West Point,” Terry said. But people like Henry O. Flipper made it possible for the next generation to go a little further, like a relay race.

Terry shared that the West Point Register notes, “each sought to prove himself and his race. Flipper established the initial pattern for success among blacks at the Academy. The Black graduates succeeded by adhering to

advice contained in Flipper's book that dedication, hard work and humility were the keys to success.

“I would advise today's Soldier to continue pursuing opportunities,” Terry said. “Be persistent, be patient, but be... knowledgeable.”

“I intend to take full advantage of the opportunities available to me while I'm in the military,”
- Pfc. Eramis L. Smith

Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin R. Smith, the 4th Corps Material Management Center command sergeant major, continually encourages his Soldiers to work hard, take full advantage of all educational benefits, and increase their options by raising their general technical scores by attending GT improvement classes and retaking the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test.

“You have to be team oriented,” Smith said. “Leaders should be willing to help Soldiers achieve their goals such as becoming distinguished, honor graduates and making the commandants list, or scoring 300 points on the Army Physical Fitness Test and qualifying as an expert on

their assigned weapon.”

“Mentorship is the key to success,” Smith said. “Leaders must mentor at all levels.”

Effective counseling is also important to Smith. “Counseling is simply providing directions,” Smith said. “In order to maintain the professional Army we have today, leaders must conduct effective performance counseling, career counseling and integration reception counseling.”

“My success hinges on my faith in God,” Smith said. “I achieved my success through hard work, assertiveness and being zealous about my profession.”

“I never felt being black was a factor that could hold me back,” he said. “I always believed a person could rise above racism through education, hard work, commitment and always striving for perfection.”

Today, there is a new generation of young Soldiers who want to excel in the military by improving it each day.

“I intend to take full advantage of the opportunities available to me while I'm in the military,” said Pfc. Eramis L. Smith, driver for Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky E. Knox, Sr., the 411th Engineer Brigade command sergeant major.



Lt. Col. Ivery J. Taylor, personnel officer for the 13th SC (E), reviews paperwork and highlights the important information.



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin R. Smith, 4th Corps Material Management Center command sergeant major, talks with Spc. Ismail M. Scott, who was selected as the 4th CMMCs Soldier of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal 2007.



(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Renee Ringo, a Soldier with 3rd Medical Command, Staff Sgt. Taneisha Jones, a Soldier with the 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, and Staff Sgt. Tasha Nix, a postal clerk with the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group sing the Supremes' hit, "Stop in the Name of Love," during an African-American Heritage celebration Feb. 16.



The Radical Praise Dance Ministry team opened the "Once Upon a Time" production with a dramatic dance honoring African-American history at the East Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center Feb. 16.

LSAA's Black History Month celebrations ends with a bang

story and photos by Spc. Amanda Solitario

LSAANACONDA, Iraq-- Anaconda residents packed the East Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center to watch powerful performances delivered by servicemembers during an African-American Heritage celebration Feb.16.

The show, titled "Once Upon a Time", took the audience on a journey through time, stopping at different points in history to highlight a few of the instrumental African Americans during that period.

The production focused on influential African Americans in the area of performing arts such as Diana Ross, Ray Charles, Cicely Tyson, and Sidney Poitier. For more than two hours, servicemembers wowed the crowd with song, dance, poetry, and theatrical renditions.

"I wanted to be a part of the show because I thought the idea of putting together a production that focused on some of the outstanding talents of black people who have shaped American history was phenomenal," said Staff Sgt. Ranada Brown, who portrayed Debbie Allen and her role in "Fame."

The East Saint Louis, Ill., resident said she hoped the production gave the audience a little insight into African-American history while taking their minds off of the deployment.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to give (Logistical Support Area) Anaconda some entertainment that was educational to everyone regardless of age or race," said Brown, a Soldier with the 657th Movement Control Team.



Spc. Jamaal Wesley and Staff Sgt. Taneisha Jones perform before a packed building at East MWR.



The cast and crew of the "Once Upon a Time" production take a bow at the end of the two-hour performance. The show highlighted African-Americans, who were especially influential in the area of performing arts.



Spc. John P. Duran of Gregory, Texas, a cargo yard representative for the 169th Cargo Transfer Company assists as a pallet of supplies is lowered by a forklift on Camp Taji, Feb. 9.



Photo by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Spc. John P. Duran of Gregory, Texas, a cargo yard representative for the 169th Cargo Transfer Company, checks serial numbers on the side of a cargo pallet.

15th SB unit keeps supplies on the road

by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Anaconda Times Staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- For the 169th Cargo Transfer Company headquartered on Camp Taji, supporting Soldiers comes with a customer service attitude.

"We provide support to other units on the forward operating base," said Sgt. Teelia L. Gooden of Paterson, N.J., the training non-commissioned officer in charge of the company.

The unit performs a wide range of duties including container management, moving guard towers and cement barriers, operating the Central Receiving and Shipping Point here, and participating in the Fallen Angel program.

The company is scattered throughout Iraq, with platoons in Al Asad, Anaconda, and Baghdad as well as Taji. The Soldiers on other FOBs are doing basically the same work as here, said 1st Sgt. Reginald Reed of Houston Texas, first sergeant of the 169th CTC.

On any given day, depending on their job, Soldiers of the 169th CTC could find themselves taking inventory of a shipping container, helping assemble a guard tower, loading or unloading cargo from a convoy, or keeping track of the abundance of paperwork required to keep an operation like this going.

"The CRSP yard is the most important job we have," Reed said.

A CRSP yard can be found on most bases in Iraq; it is the hub that tracks all cargo coming on and going off of the base.

"Our job is to separate equipment, and push it out to different 'customers' on and off the base," said Sgt. Willie C. Hillman Jr., of Jacksonville, Fla., the assistant NCOIC of the CRSP yard.

Hillman said all forms of cargo pass through the CRSP yard, from food and uniforms, to vehicles and ammunition. Without a CRSP yard or some way to



Spc. Juan D. Perez (foreground) of Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, a helicopter pad coordinator, and Spc. John P. Duran of Gregory, Texas, a cargo yard representative, both of the 169th Cargo Transfer Company load some pallet mounts onto a trailer bed.

track and distribute the cargo, there would be chaos, Hillman said.

With several convoys coming through Taji each week, it is the 169th's job to make sure supplies get to their final destination.

"The hardest part is when customers don't clearly mark items to where they want them to go," Hillman said. "We sometimes have to do some research to find where to send them."

He said running the CRSP yard has a lot to do with meeting the needs of other units.

"To have a customer-service attitude and still be military-minded can be

challenging," Hillman said.

Among their numerous duties, the 169th participates in the Fallen Angel aircraft-recovery program for Camp Taji.

The idea behind the program is to retrieve the parts from a helicopter crash as fast as possible, as to not allow the enemy access to any equipment, especially sensitive items, said Staff Sgt. Jerrold Brittain of Trenton, N.J., the operations NCOIC.

"It is a very important, high-visibility mission," Brittain said.

If needed, the unit will deploy a small team to go out to a crash site and

gather as much of the felled aircraft as they can, and they need to be ready to go within an hour of notification.

"Our guys go out there, load up as fast as possible, and get out of there," Brittain said.

The unit uses a group of different vehicles, but namely a 40-ton crane that can lift a helicopter onto a trailer. Although the 169th has not yet performed one of these dangerous missions, they have been on standby several times, and are ready should the need arise.

From moving T-wall barriers to retrieving fallen aircraft, the 169th has

a wide-spread mission. The Soldiers within the unit have varied opinions on what the best part of their job here is.

"Knowing that I am taking care of my unit is the best part," Gooden said.

"Being able to work alongside fellow Soldiers from different areas in the United States has been good for me," said Reed.

Whatever the reason, the 169th is taking care of their fellow Soldiers, and doing it well.

"Very rarely do you get to see that your job is part of the overall picture," Hillman said. "We get to see that on a daily basis."