

The Voice of Sustainment in the West

CENTCOM AOR

PROVIDER BASE

**13th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)**

Deployment 2014-15 Edition





Provider Soldiers, Civilians, Families and Supporters:

For almost nine months, the headquarters of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) – over 200 strong – has served professionally and honorably as the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) – Operational Command Post in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. As our deployment comes to a close and we prepare to rejoin our Families and friends at the “Great Place,” I’d like each member of our team to look back and reflect upon all we have accomplished. That is what this issue of the “Provider Base” is dedicated to.

Arriving at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in December 2014, our Nation’s mission in theater was at a crossroads and on the verge of major transformation. For the previous 12 months, the primary focus of the 1st TSC-OCF was Operation DRUMBEAT – the drawdown of forces and equipment from Afghanistan after 13 grueling years of combat. What we knew as Operation Enduring Freedom became Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, as the NATO-led coalition transitioned from sustained combat operations to an advisory role.

As we were literally arriving in theater, however, a new, unique and challenging mission was taking shape: Operation Inherent Resolve.

The rise of ISIS – or “Daesh” in the regional vernacular – in Iraq and Syria led to the establishment of Coalition Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve a little over a

month prior to our arrival, and we were called upon to assist in re-establishing a theater we closed just three years prior.

From establishing Build Partner Capacity sites at strategic locations in Iraq and a Logistics Advise and Assist team in support of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, our organization was at the forefront of sustainment operations and performed exceptionally.

Additionally, support to the entire U.S. Central Command area of responsibility remained an enduring priority. Support to Task Force Sinai; Operation Spartan Shield; continued support to Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan; and enduring operations in Jordan, Qatar, and in our Host Nation of Kuwait continued as the Operational Command Post focused on multiple joint operations areas (CJOAs) simultaneously.

With multiple, distinctly unique operations going on simultaneously across the theater, our organization exceeded the standard daily. This was 100% due to the tremendous work of our Soldiers performing the mission each and every day.

Throughout the past eight-plus months, our Soldiers and Families have sacrificed a great deal. You’ve missed holidays, birthdays, school events, ballgames, vacations – quality time together. You have remained in touch over Skype or FaceTime, but nothing can replace being together in person. Our deployed personnel have weathered the intense desert heat and brutal wind and dust storms.

In the end, however, we have accomplished the mission together, and I could not be prouder to be a part of such a tremendous organization. We are a proud member of the Army team. For over 240 years, the American people have placed their trust and confidence in us and continue to do so.

As we transition back home after writing another chapter in our organization’s storied history, remember that we still have over 170 thousand Soldiers deployed to more than 150 countries throughout the world. We are privileged to be a part of such an historic time for our Nation and Army.

Command Sgt. Maj. Burton and I are proud of each and every member of the team. Thank you for your service, your continued support, and for protecting the values we – and all Americans – hold so dear.

Phantom Support! First Team!

RODNEY D. FOGG
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



Provider Soldiers, Civilians, Families, Family Readiness Group and Good Neighbors:

First, above all else, I want to thank the entire Phantom Support Team of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) – Blue Team, the 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and all our supporting units over these past nine months. It was an absolute honor serving alongside each of you during the course of this deployment.

The Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, commissioned officers, and civilians that I have had the privilege of serving beside were First Class. Your professionalism and dedication to the mission is second to none and it is because of all your individual efforts that we were able to accomplish all the many great things together as a Team.

We faced a challenging mission requirement with sustainment operations throughout the entire 20-country region of the Central Command area of responsibility, a mission that was executed excellently. Our own staff was disbursed to Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, and Qatar. Though, at times, it may have felt that we did not have enough personnel to spread that thin, you were successful and did not allow that challenge to be an excuse.

I am proud of all that you have accomplished, but mostly that throughout the accomplishment of the mission, most everyone was able to take time to improve on themselves personally and professionally. More than 150 Soldiers completed the Phantom Duathlon Fitness Challenge where Brig. Gen. Fogg and I encouraged our Soldiers to complete 126 miles of cardio and 126 hours inside a gym.

More than 75% of the Soldiers here were enrolled in higher education classes working towards their college degree. We had several Soldiers graduate from Warrior Leaders Course preparing those individuals for future leadership roles. Between promotion boards, Soldier/NCO of the month and quarter boards, single Soldier and Marriage seminar, and the 1st TSC Best Warrior Competition in May, our Soldiers competed above and beyond the standards to prove their Soldiering competence.

Everyone should be extremely proud of all that you have accomplished during this time.

Throughout the deployment, our Premier Staff would not have been successful without all of the Premier supporting units that were there to execute, advice and assist, on a daily basis. Though there are too many to name, know that we appreciate everything that you have contributed to the mission.

Lastly, but certainly not least, to our Families, FRGs and friends, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to your Soldiers.

We know it wasn't easy not having your husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters, home for those special occasions, holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. We thank you all for allowing us to borrow your Soldier for a few months, now we're bringing them home so they may have some good quality time to make up for all the missed moments.

Thank you all, again, for your enormous support through this deployment. I cannot highlight enough how proud I am of this team and how humbled I am to serve side-by-side with you.

Phantom Support! First Team!



TERRY D. BURTON
Command Sergeant Major, USA

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13th SC(E) Commanding General

Brig. Gen. Rodney D. Fogg

13th SC(E) CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Burton

13th SC(E) Chief of Public Affairs

Maj. Joseph Odorizzi

13th SC(E) Public Affairs NCOIC

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kucera

Editor/Designer

Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson

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The Public Affairs Office is on Fort Hood's Support Ave. in building 39009, DSN telephone: 288-6410. Website at www.hood.army.mil/13sce.

Contact Maj. Joseph Odorizzi at Joseph.m.odorizzi.mil@mail.mil.

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13th SC(E) concludes Unified Endeavor '15 with 1st TSC

Exercise marks final training test for unit's deployment

By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s command staff completed their final training exercise, Unified Endeavor '15, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Kuwait in December.

The 10-day exercise, which concluded Oct. 24, consisted of several simulated scenarios that challenged the staff's ability to work through different situations that they may encounter during their upcoming deployment.

The 13th SC(E) will assume the mission augmenting the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater)-Operational Command Post, the forward command headquarters of the senior logistics command for the Central Command's area of responsibility.

The 1st TSC-OCP executes operational sustainment support, conducts Coalition/Joint Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement, redeployment, retrograde, and re-posture of forces, materiel, and sustainment infrastructure in order to support ongoing operations throughout the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

During the deployment, the 13th SC(E) will be augmented by a group of organic 1st TSC Soldiers, making up an estimated 25 percent of the man-power for the forward deployed command.

During the exercise, several Soldiers from 1st TSC traveled to Fort Hood from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to participate in the training event alongside their future counterparts.

"This exercise proved a valuable opportunity for our Soldiers from both 1st TSC and 13th SC(E) to work together and generate a bond that will benefit us once we arrive in Kuwait," said Col. James Hooper, the distribution manage-



From left) Sgt. Isaac Acevedo, movements noncommissioned officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Support Operations section, Capt. Kimberly Koenig, operations control support officer with the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, and 1st Lt. Daniel Edomwandagbon, integrations officer with 13th SC(E) SPO, work together Oct. 23 during the 13th SC(E)'s final training exercise, Unified Endeavour '15, prior to the unit's deployment to Kuwait.

ment chief for 1st TSC who will serve as the 1st TSC-OCP chief of staff in Kuwait. "It will benefit the whole staff to integrate together in a garrison environment prior to our Soldiers arriving in theater."


Lt. Col. James Morgan, the officer in charge of the 13th SC(E)'s personnel management section, said that it has been a great experience with integrating the 1st TSC personnel into his section.

"This is our future team," said Morgan. "We were able to blend together flawlessly and learn each other's traits and personalities, which will enable us to hit the ground running in Kuwait, avoiding much of the initial team building process while we're learning our new roles in the 1st TSC."

Hooper said he looks forward to the deployment and working together with the combined team.

"I think we all gelled together well," said Hooper. "It will be an exciting mission integrating all the pieces together and creating one cohesive team between the 13th SC(E) and the 1st TSC, both in Kuwait and back in Fort Bragg."





Brig. Gen. Rodney D. Fogg and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Burton, the command team for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), uncased the unit's colors during a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17.

Providers uncased colors, assume logistics mission in Kuwait

*By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unfurled its colors during an uncasing ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Dec. 17, marking the assumption of the mission supporting 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) in the U.S. Central Command area.

The 13th SC(E) from Fort Hood, Texas, led by Brig. Gen. Rodney D. Fogg and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Burton, is providing operational support for the 1st TSC-Operational Command Post, the forward command headquarters of the senior logistics command for the Central Command's area of responsibility.

"This team, along with our strategic partners in the region, is very critical to the mission at hand with providing logistical and sustainment support to the entire CENTCOM Theater," said Fogg. "We have been training and working together with our 1st TSC counterparts for months, and I am excited for the mission at hand. It is an honor to serve here in Kuwait, the center of gravity for logistics in the region. I'm proud to say that our team is trained and ready to execute this mission."

Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, the commanding general of the 1st TSC out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, spoke at the ceremony and applauded the outgoing 1st TSC team, commanded by Brig. Gen. Dan Mitchell, 1st TSC deputy commanding general, and augmented by the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from Fort Knox, Kentucky, for their accomplishments during the deployment.

Williams said that under Mitchell's leadership, "The 1st TSC Operational Command Post provided single sustainment mission command for over 11,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Contractors and DoD Civilians, integrating and synchronizing strategic transportation and distribution, supply, maintenance, finance, human resources, material retrograde, disposal, contracting and customs functions, always delivering before the 11th hour."

When the White Team arrived, the mission was fairly stable, Williams continued. The OCP, a team comprised of 1st TSC and 3rd ESC Soldiers, was busy resetting the theater and preparing for the hand off of Operation Resolute Support from Afghanistan.

"Then things became a bit more exciting," said Williams. Iraq became a major focus and the team reacted by assisting with building the initial logistics footprint on the ground in Iraq, assisting with building a coalition, and assisting with the delivery of multiple humanitarian assistance air-drop missions, feeding tens of thousands of displaced citizens, he said.

During their time, Williams said the White team oversaw the movement of more than 10,000 service members and more than 73,000 short tons of cargo throughout the U.S. CENTCOM area of responsibility.

"Be proud of what you have accomplished," he continued. "Share your stories. Tell your families what you helped do here in this historic time. Incorporate them into the fabric of what happened, so they understand their sacrifices were worthwhile."

After sharing his gratitude for the outgoing team, Williams welcomed the 13th SC(E) staff and the new team.

"Speaking of great teams, Brig. Gen. (Rodney) Fogg and Command Sgt. Maj. (Terry) Burton, and the great 13th ESC team from Fort Hood assumes an extremely important mission," he said. "They will serve as the forward deployed headquarters for the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), which is responsible for logistical support in the Central Command area of operations, an area that covers 20 countries in the Middle East."

"This is not a rookie squad," he continued. This great team comes with a proven track record of success. The Army clearly got it right, and we have the right unit, with the right leadership, at the right time, leading the charge. We are indeed very fortunate to have a unit such as the 13th ESC spearheading this next critical phase of operations.



Wranglers host logistics conference on BAF



(Above) Key leaders from the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade discuss logistic and sustainment operations at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Jan. 10.

(Below) Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Letcher, a native of Albany, Ga., and the commander of the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th RSSB, held a conference with the officers and noncommissioned officers in charge from the outlying bases about logistic and sustainment operations to share successes and difficulties they encountered.

*By Sgt. Adam Erlewein
4th RSSB Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Gunslingers from the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade hosted a Forward Logistics Base Conference at the Jirga Center on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan Jan. 10.

The conference was intended for officers and noncommissioned officers-in-charge stationed at outlying Forward Operating Bases in Afghanistan to discuss logistical and sustainment operations and capabilities.

The OICs and NCOICs were able to discuss problems, solutions and successes that they have had during their mission operations and share their experience with the incoming officers and sergeants. The meeting was also

beneficial for all units to understand how their missions impacted other FOBs as well as the overall retrograde mission of the 4RSSB.

Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Letcher an Albany, Georgia native and commander of the 553rd CSSB, 4RSSB hosted this briefing so all OICs and NCOICs could meet with one another to share their ideas and additional resources that could potentially assist other retrograde missions.

“Our battalion FLB officers-in-charge are the face for the sustainment brigade on any given base. It’s good for all of the elements of the sustainment brigade to know who they are working with when they get out to another Forward Operating Base,” said Letcher.

This conference enabled Soldiers to gain a better understanding of the logistical and retrograde capabilities that are available on outlying FOBs. Knowing what capabilities other commanders have allows all FLBs to assist one another giving commanders a better overview of the assets available which will save unit funds and tax payer dollars.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Smith, a native of Zanesville, Ohio and the NCOIC for Tactical Base Gamberi, explained that it is important for OICs and NCOICs to come together and see how they can assist other units.

“I think being on a smaller installation we have the ability to gain a better insight of what the overall mission is. Being so small we (TB Gamberi) have to reach out to other FLBs, battalions, and brigades more often for assistance,” said Scott. “As we shrink down we have to have that over-all perspective.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Jill Crosby, the 553rd CSSB command sergeant major, said that this meeting was extremely beneficial for all service members and contractors who attended.

“This meeting gives situational awareness with what is going on in the area of operations now. They (FLB Commanders) know what their counterparts are doing so everyone gets a better idea for what the 4th RSSB is doing,” said Crosby.

Wranglers support DEMIL operations

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson
4th RSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – For the past 13 years, U.S. and coalition forces have been moving military equipment and supplies in and out of Afghanistan to sustain combat operations across the country.

As the drawdown continues in Afghanistan, the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade finds itself as the only sustainment brigade left in country and have been tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that all equipment, ranging from vehicles to food and water to ammunition finds its way safely out of Afghanistan.

Recently at Bagram Air Field, Soldiers from the 4RSSB joined forces with a convoy escort team from the 950th Engineer Clearance Company, Wisconsin National Guard and civilian explosive ordnance disposal and ammunition technicians from the Joint Munitions Destruct-Afghanistan Team to safely disburse of approximately 6,000 pounds of out of date explosives.

“We are here to demilitarize approximately 6,000 pounds of code H [out of date or unserviceable] ammunition,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Perec, from the New York National Guard.

“It’s safer to blow the ammunition up, than to let it fall into the hands of the enemy or try to ship it home and risk it detonating in transit,” he added.

In order to carry out the DEMIL mission, Perec who is attached to the 4RSSB had to train Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion on how to drive and operate the various military vehicles in order to safely transport explosive ordnance from the ammunition supply point on BAF to the detonation site located outside of the bases perimeter.

“They have me training the guys on the various vehicles because I’m an 88M [motor transport operator] and I’m probably the most qualified person for the job,” said Perec.

“I’ve trained 10-12 Soldiers on the M1088 w/M871 trailer and the M1075 Palletized Load System, in order to safely transport all munitions,” he said.

The Wrangler Soldiers picked up their preloaded vehicles from the ASP in the early hours and drove to the entry control point where they waited for the 950th ECC and the EOD techs before heading out to the detonation site.

Once at the site, a perimeter security was quickly set up and the Wrangler Soldiers assisted the JMD-A techs unload the munitions ready for demolition.

Ken Barnett, a disposal safety specialist with JMD-A, was responsible for overseeing the demolishing operations to ensure that everything went smoothly, all safety guidelines were followed, and that nobody U.S. military, civilian contractor, or local national were injured in the process.

“In order to destroy these excess or unsafe munitions,



Explosive ordnance and ammunition technicians from the Joint Munitions Destruct-Afghanistan Team prepare the nearly 6,000 pounds of small arms, artillery rounds, mortars and 2.75 inch rockets for demolition at an undisclosed location near Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Jan. 10. The Class H, or out dated munitions, were being blown up as part of the U.S. DEMIL mission in support of Operation Resolute Support.

our guys spend about eight to 10 days to build these boxes and then schedule with the security teams to come out here and safely destruct them,” said Barnett. “We have everything here from .50-cal small arms that can’t be burned in an incinerator, artillery rounds, mortars, and even rockets,” he added.

Barnett said that one of the main reason his team conduct DEMIL operations is to ensure that munitions like these don’t fall into enemy hands, which stops them from potentially being used against coalition forces in the future.

“We usually come out about every two weeks to blow munitions like these,” said Barnett. “That gives us enough time to build these boxes and then arrange for the security teams and transportation.”

As the ordnance was set in place and prepared for demolition, the 950th ECC continued to provide perimeter security to not only keep the Soldiers and EOD techs safe, but to also ensure the safety of the ever growing group of spectators that had gathered from the local village, ready to come in and police up all the scrap metal.

“The villagers here come out and collect the scrap metal of the shots which in turn is their income,” said Barnett. “They collect the scrap and use it for things like engine parts because it is still good quality metal and can be melted down.”



Operation Knights Sentinel

KNG and Providers share success

*By Spc. Rochelle Prince-Krueger
3rd Sust. Bde. Public Affairs*

UDAIRI RANGE, Kuwait - The Transportation Battalion of the Kuwait National Guard, commanded by Lt. Col. Talal Essa Al Nofal, participated with Soldiers assigned to 32nd Composite Truck Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade and 101st Brigade Support Battalion, in a bilateral information exchange and demonstration at Udairi Range Training site in Kuwait, called Operation Knights Sentinel, Jan. 18-21.

Both U.S. and KNG Soldiers stayed in the desert for four days to build camaraderie and proficiencies within their job fields of transportation and maintenance. On the last day of the exchange, the Soldiers collaborated to put on a cumulative demonstration for senior ranking KNG and 3rd Sustainment Brigade personnel.

"This is the first-ever exchange between the KNG support command and U.S. forces of this capacity," said 1st Lt. Patrick Clark, Kuwait Military Forces liaison officer for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater). "Typically this KNG command supports their own combat units in these type of exercises, this is a stand-alone exercise ran completely by them, involving only their own soldiers, with no assistance from other commands other than U.S. forces."

Three scenarios were performed during the demonstration. The first one concentrated on recovery and field maintenance for a broken down vehicle. The second scenario showed

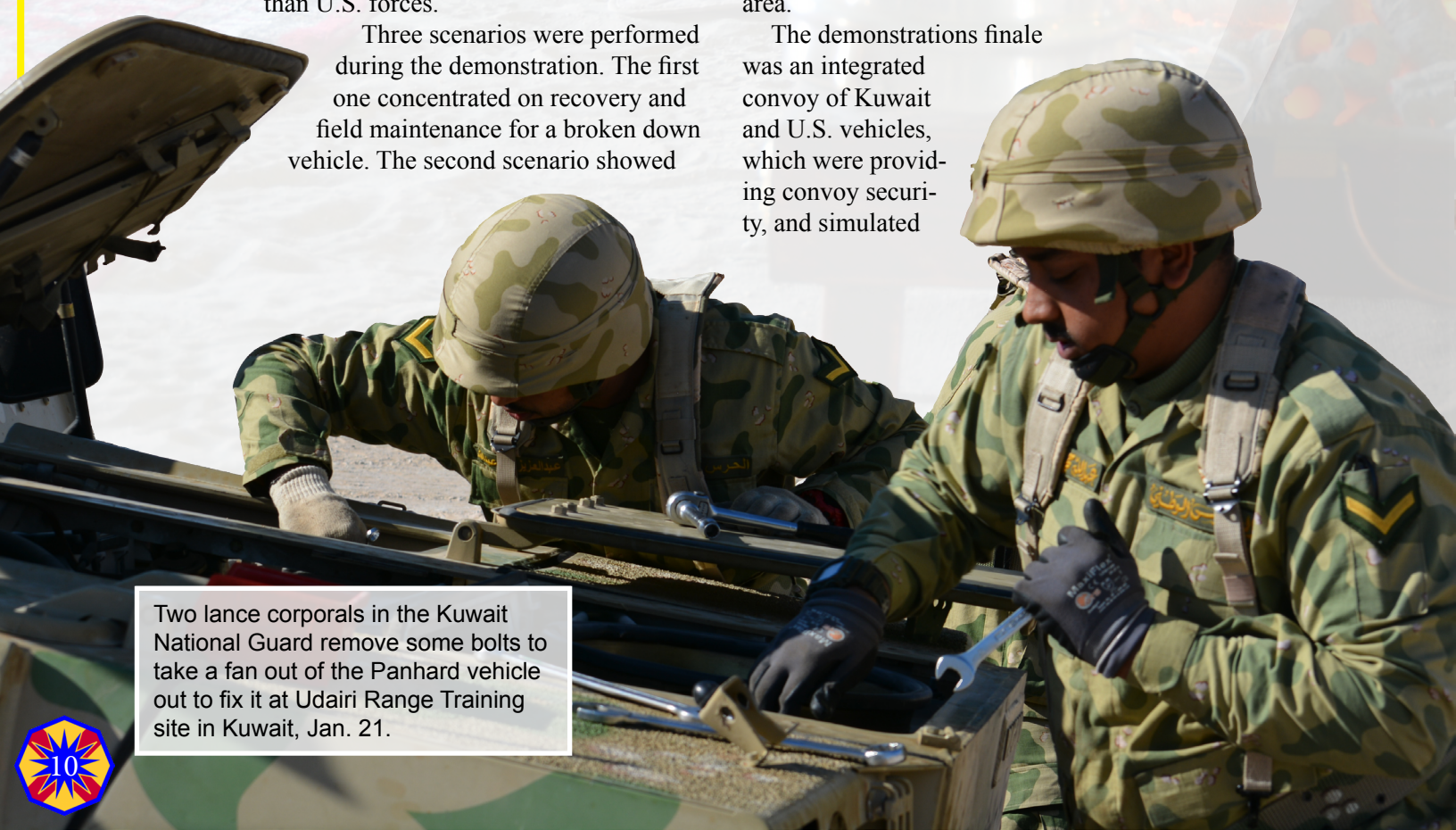
on-the-spot maintenance. The third scenario involved recovery and convoy operations in a tactical environment.

With personnel watching from an observation deck above the exercise area, both Kuwait and U.S. vehicles drove around and demonstrated three major tasks. The first task was a Pandur (Kuwait vehicle similar to the U.S. Stryker vehicle) breaks down, emitting smoke and is towed back to safety, while the U.S. Soldiers provide security. Simulating as if they were on a mission and a vehicle breaks down.

As that Pandur was towed away it, the second scenario began with a KNG Panhard halting during a recon mission due to a faulty fan. The KNG Soldiers provided their own security while a KNG maintenance contact truck arrived and those Soldiers changed out the fan. The Panhard, now fully operational, continued its mission.

Attention was then brought back to the first scenario where the broken down Pandur was towed to a secured maintenance area ran by the 101st BSB Soldiers. The KNG utilized the U.S. Soldiers crane to remove the engine of the faulty vehicle. Within ten minutes the engine block was raised out of the vehicle, simulating an engine swap, then it was put it back into the vehicle and like the Panhard before it, continued mission, driving away from the maintenance area.

The demonstrations finale was an integrated convoy of Kuwait and U.S. vehicles, which were providing convoy security, and simulated



Two lance corporals in the Kuwait National Guard remove some bolts to take a fan out of the Panhard vehicle out to fix it at Udairi Range Training site in Kuwait, Jan. 21.





Spc. Tanner Shields and Sgt. Steve Palacio, assigned to 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division assist two Kuwait National Guard Soldiers with raising the engine block of a Pandur vehicle at Udairi Range Training site, Kuwait, Jan. 21.

a complex attack and how the convoy would react.

“Our Soldiers did an outstanding job with the demonstration,” said Col. Anthony Coston, commander of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade. “This type of training gets you out of the motor-pool and you get to work with the sophisticated and educated force of Kuwait, which allows us to continue building the partnership with the Kuwait National Guard.”

The “Trey Duce” Soldiers, also known as 32nd CTC, provided assets for convoy security in the transportation demonstration portion of the exchange. The 101st BSB provided the tactical ambulance and mechanics to assist the KNG Soldiers with the maintenance portion of the demonstration.

“All of the tasks ran smoothly and we executed them flawlessly,” said 1st Lt. Grant Hardy, a platoon leader for 32nd CTC. “We spent a lot of time training and it was a great experience for all of us to work together.”

“All the senior leaders observing the demonstration responded well to the success and timing of the scenarios; it made everyone proud,” said Capt. Rachel Adair, commander of 32nd CTC. “Two events in particular were when the integrated convoy rolled through the desert, with all working to move through the kill zone following a simulated IED attack; and when a disabled Kuwaiti Pandur, fixed by a fast moving team of U.S. and KNG, drove away after having the engine removed just ten minutes prior.”

Adair said that caused a round of applause from both the KNG and U.S. leaders present when it was completed.

Hardy, a Frederick, Maryland, native, said the only difficulty was the language barrier. To assist with the Arabic to English languages there were a couple interpreters that stayed with the groups and from using old-fashioned communication techniques.

“When we were doing the run-through, I used hand signals and drew in the sand to communicate a little better,”

said Hardy, who acted as the convoy commander in the last simulation. “All of it helped so we understood one another.”

After the completion of Operation Knights Support, the observers and participating Soldiers were treated to an elaborate meal featuring many traditional Kuwaiti foods back at the campsite.

“They wanted to make sure we were comfortable, so they ensured we had the best food and training sites,” said Hardy. “You couldn’t tell this was their first time alone, they are very tactically and technically proficient. I look forward to working with them again.”



Spc. Tyler Wilson and Sgt. Jackie Jordan, assigned to 32nd Composite Truck Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, provide security while Kuwait National Guard Soldiers load a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle on a Palletized Load System to get the vehicle out of harm’s way and continue the simulated mission at the first ever Transportation and Maintenance Information Exchange and Demonstration at Udairi Range Training site in Kuwait, Jan. 21.



Task Force Sinai's 1st Best Warriors

By Sgt. Jeremy Odom

Task Force Sinai Public Affairs

SINAI, Egypt - "No one is more professional than I!" These powerful words echoed through the U.S. Army's 1st Support Battalion headquarters building during the inaugural Task Force Sinai Best Warrior Competition, held in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt Monday.

"The intention of this event was to foster esprit de corp, offer training and development to our future leaders and to recognize our Soldiers for their hard work," Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Rogers, senior enlisted adviser for the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, said.

Out of the more than 700 U.S. Soldiers deployed in support of the Multinational Force and Observers, each unit selected the competitor which would best represent their organization.

While the search for the most talented noncommissioned officer's within each formation was difficult for some, selecting Sgt. Fernando Lopez to represent the 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment deployed out of Fort Hood, TX was a "no brainer" for his supervisors.

"It was an easy choice for me," Staff Sgt. Joshua Thompson, North Camp Response Team Platoon Sergeant, said. "Sgt. Lopez is by far one of the best NCOs I have had the pleasure to work with, because he is an example of what every NCO in the Army should be."

Although the selection may have come easy for Lopez's leadership, the train up and preparation for the competition was not.

With a typical work day spanning more than 12 hours long, each participant selflessly sacrificed personal time, effort and even sleep to prepare for the unknown.

Altogether, the peacekeepers were responsible for memorizing and reciting in front of a board of senior noncommissioned officers the regulations, guidelines and procedures from more than 30 different topics ranging from weapons to survival techniques. To make the day more stressful, each Soldier and noncommissioned officer was tested on five separate situational training lanes which included tactical field care for a wounded Soldier, reporting a 9-line medevac and issuing a warning order. Each competitor received points for their performance which was later added to their scores from the Army physical fitness test and weapons range.

"It was truly a test of each competitor's physical and mental toughness," said Sgt. Thomas Duval, Task Force Sinai Public Affairs noncommissioned officer. "If you want to compete with the best you have to eat, train and study like the best and that means physically and mentally pushing yourself to the edge and then some. Normally I'm behind the scenes capturing the competition in photos and video.

This time I was able to step out from behind the lens and



**Sgt. Fernando Lopez,
TF Sinai Best Warrior - NCO**



**Spc. Daniel Mwangi,
TF Sinai Best Warrior - Soldier**

show other competitors that at the end of the day we are all Soldiers regardless of whether our primary weapon is an M4s or a camera."

Like Lopez and Duval, all the competitors pushed themselves to the limits and their efforts did not go unnoticed.

"The Soldiers and NCOs all put forth maximum effort and did an excellent job representing their Battalions and TF Sinai," Rogers said. "I am very proud of them for setting high standards and I hope more personnel will lean forward to accept the challenge in the future."

Despite each competitor giving their all, in the end there could only be one "Best Warrior."

Lopez, a military policeman, took home top honors in the noncommissioned officer group and Spc. Daniel Mwangi, an airframe repairer, with the Aviation Company, 1st Support Battalion, stayed strong and came out on top in the Soldier group.



Wheels of Steel vie for best squad in truck rodeo

By Spc. Rochelle Prince-Krueger
3rd Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - Approximately 130 Soldiers assigned to 396th Transportation Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, participated in a two-day, truck rodeo comprised of six events to test and hone their skills to see which team is the best motor transport operator at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Jan. 22-23.

"We know that we would have some extra down time with missions changing" said Sgt. Roylee Cook, who brought the idea up to do it. "I've done them before in other units I've been in so I thought why not? I got the command approval and started to plan it."

The Wheels of Steel, also known as 396th TC, kept squad integrity and split into seven teams. Each team had seasoned veterans of both deployments and truck rodeos along with new Soldiers that got to Fort Stewart, Georgia, weeks before the unit deployed last August.

"We did our best to keep the Soldiers in their same squads that they work with day to day," said Cook. "That way you know how each other works and can use their strengths on certain events."

Day one of the truck rodeo consisted of an Army physical fitness test, a written exam and a Humvee tie down.

"Everything on the exam pertained to the vehicles that we work with day to day, so it was job orientated," said Sgt. Quinton

Stith, assigned to 396th TC. "If you know your systems, the field manuals and regulations pertaining to our equipment then the test was simple."

The longest event of day one was the Humvee tie down. Five Soldiers from each team competed against the clock to safely load and tie down a Humvee on a Heavy Equipment Transporter Trailer, also known as a HETT. There were seconds added for any safety violation.

"It was a lot tougher than we thought it would be before we started because we were first and in the spotlight," said Stith, a native of South Bend, Indiana. "Everyone was watching us and making note of what they would do differently to be faster and more efficient. But the important thing is that we completed it to the best of our abilities."

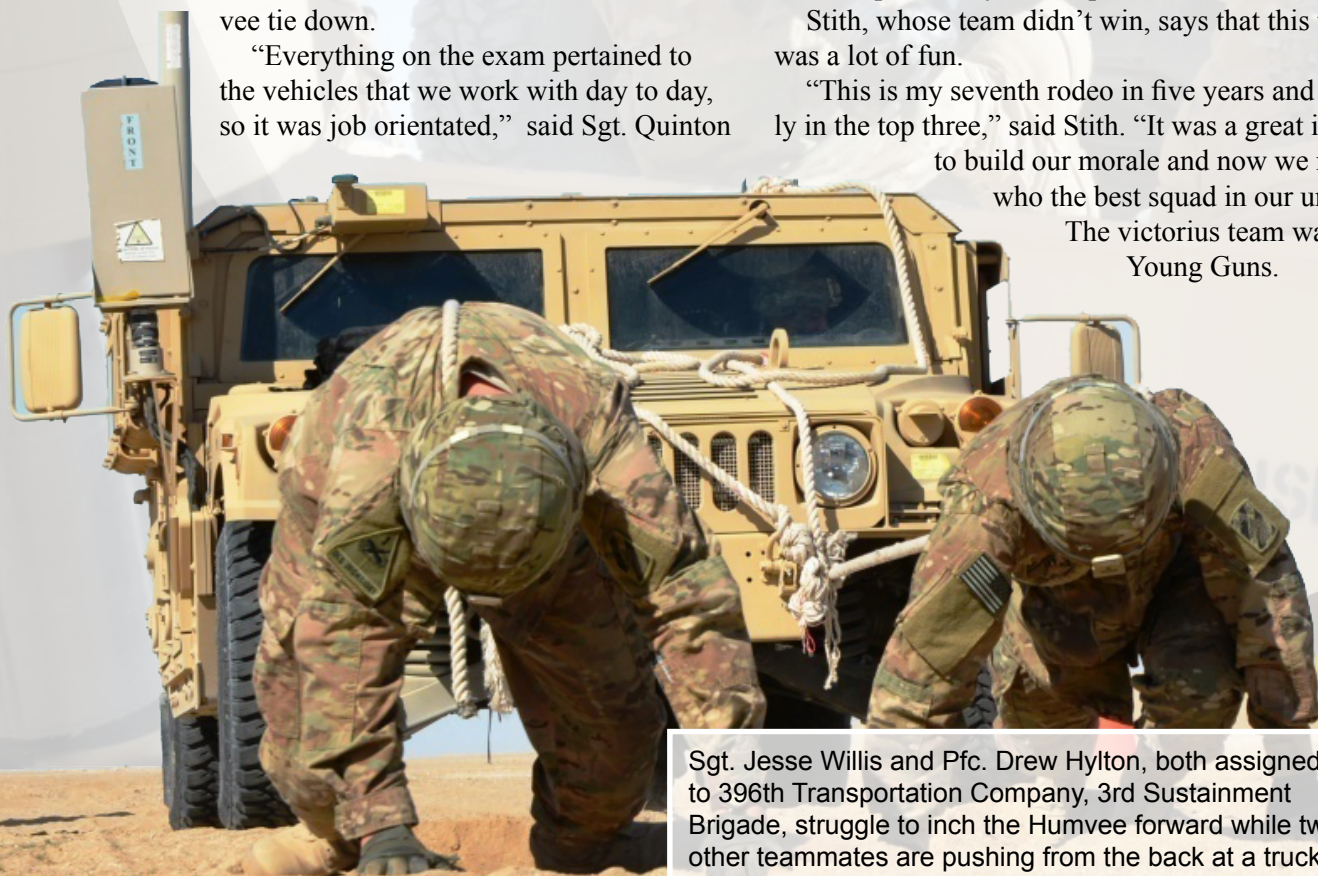
On day two the Soldiers went to a training site in the desert, where they simultaneously competed in the last three events. The events were a four person Humvee pull, a serpentine trail driving a M1088 with a trailer and utilizing a palletized loading systems.

"It was pretty complex because most of the driving you did going forward you had to do backing up as well," said Stith. "The final and hardest part with the 1088 was ally-docking, where your truck is at an angle and you have to back it up in a very small space."

Stith, whose team didn't win, says that this truck rodeo was a lot of fun.


"This is my seventh rodeo in five years and it is definitely in the top three," said Stith. "It was a great idea to do this to build our morale and now we really know who the best squad in our unit is."

The victorious team was squad Young Guns.



Sgt. Jesse Willis and Pfc. Drew Hylton, both assigned to 396th Transportation Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, struggle to inch the Humvee forward while two other teammates are pushing from the back at a truck rodeo at Camp Buehring, Kuwait Jan. 22.





Sgt. Douglas Henry, a watercraft operator aboard the U.S. Army Vessel Corinth, holds the M240B machine gun steady as rounds are loaded in preparation to fire as a part of wet range for weapons familiarization for vessel defense in training area "Hotbox Charlie" in Kuwait Bay Feb. 9.

Not your average battleship

**LCU Corinth crew qualifies
weapon systems on the high seas**





*By Staff Sgt. Gene Arnold
1st TSC Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Early morning haze covers the aqua colored waters of Kuwait Bay like a soft fluffy comforter, as the Landing Craft Utility 2016 “Corinth” prepared to go underway in order to conduct a waterborne weapons familiarization range 15 miles off the coast in “Hotbox Charlie,” Feb. 9.

“Today’s focus and overall purpose is for weapons familiarization, as we get underway on various missions we need to be on top of our game and be on point,” said Spc. Corey Ford, a watercraft operator and firer during the range.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re [quick reaction force] downrange, the same goes for us. We need to make sure that our response time and familiarization of our weapons systems are on point for vessel defense,” he added.

A small crew of 17, assigned to the 97th Transportation Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, containing watercraft engineers and operators, received the opportunity to fire various weapons systems from its onboard armory. This would allow them to gain an understanding of how important it is to time, aim and fire while the vessel is in motion in order to protect the vessel and its cargo against potential threats at sea.

“The wet range allows us to employ our weapons systems in the area in which we operate,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy Underwood, watercraft operator second mate. “We’ll sail to a safe location, deploy some targets that will float on the surface of the water, where we will fire from our defensive positions on the boat and engage them with our shoulder fired weapons; M16A2, 9 millimeter, shotguns; all the weapons we will use on the boat to defend ourselves.”

On the main deck, protected in bright orange floatation vests, Soldiers inflate amber colored nine foot self-sealing cube targets called “Killer Tomatoes,” which will be released at sea. Some have funny faces; others are painted with make-shift mortar teams or signed with love from the LCU-2016.

“Let the range NCO know that we are ten miles inside the box,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason Milligan, the vessel master.

Rising and falling to the motion in the sea, the “Killer Tomatoes” are released and provide a bright hue against the greenish blue water and the dusty white horizon. The engines were stalled,

and everyone is required to wear their eye protection, Kevlar body armor and gloves, because the range was designated as hot. Safety is paramount on the vessel; all teams must enter and exit through the bridge for accountability purposes.

Once the training area has been reached security sweeps were conducted visually, radial and radio securte [nautical term for secure] calls were made every 30 minutes. Due to the fact that it’s a waterborne range, safety precautions must be put in place to make sure other vessels in the area do not enter the firing areas.

“It’s a maritime requirement that we broadcast, our position, what our intent is, where the mission will be happening and for any vessels that have questions to contact us and all other vessels to stay clear of the area,” said Underwood. “We will broadcast those security calls religiously until out of the area.”

“Securte, securte, securte, this is the U.S. Army vessel Corinth and will be conducting a live fire exercise,” said Underwood as he conducted a security transmission. “All vessels are instructed to remain clear of the exercise area.”

Out on the second deck port, starboard and aft, weapons stations were prepared for engagement and Soldiers awaited the approval of the vessel master. The Soldier behind the weapon was told to move the selector switch from safe and fire. Thuds and white timed splashes were seen and heard in the distance as the 240B machine gun engaged the “Killer Tomatoes.”

“The dynamics of firing a weapon onboard a vessel are completely different than firing them at a regular range,” Ford said.

“When we’re in garrison, we will conduct the standard M16A2 ranges like every other unit and a crew served weapons range,” said Ford. “This range was special due to the fact we were able to employ all weapons systems we would underway.”

For more than four hours, multiple weapons systems were used as the instability of the ocean caused the vessel to rock and roll. The waterborne range is described as firing your qualified weapon at a stationary target while inside of an Abrams tank going 30 miles per hour. It proved to be difficult at first, but the firers were able to adjust and place rounds on target in a timely manner from multiple stations onboard the watercraft.

The Corinth is a prepositioned vessel that provides maritime support for combatant commanders to move supplies from sea to shore.



Army Marathon sh

*By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - In commemoration of the Army Marathon held at Fort Hood, more than 200 Soldiers from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, including several from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of the vast Army post in Texas, raced in a shadow run March 1, the same day as the marathon in Central Texas.

This was the first time for a shadow of the Army Marathon, which began at Fort Hood in 2013 to honor and raise money to support the men and women of the Armed Services.

Attracting more than 200 runners, participants were able to race in either the full marathon of 26.2 miles, or the half marathon of 13.1 miles.

Col. Marty Harnisch of the 21st Combat Support Hospital, 1st Medical Brigade, and based out of Fort Hood, raced through the half marathon with a blistering fast time of 1 hour, 31 minutes, and 6 seconds, earning himself the first place honors overall in the half race.

"I'm feeling a lot better now than I'm going to feel tomorrow," Harnisch joked after crossing the finish line. "It was a great race, and congratulations to all the Soldiers who came out and helped put this on. Also, congratulations to all the Soldiers who ran the race, it was great to see a large turnout."

Cpl. Brian Zamora and Sgt. Erik Demare, both with the 1313th Engineer Company, out of Edinburg, Indiana, finished the half-race second and third place overall, posting times of 1:42:14 and 1:42:20, respectively.

Maj. Erin Poe, with Third Army/US Army Central, out of Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, was the top finishing female in the half marathon, completing the course in 1:46:10. Sgt. Sara Holloway of the 1313th Eng. Company finished second with a time of 1:56:21. Capt. Laurika Penn, from the 1st Space Brigade of Fort Carson, Colorado, was third in the half marathon at 1:59:14.

Pacing the marathon race course at a time of 2:41:33 was



Maj. Knud Hermansen, Army Reservist from Boulder, Colo., crosses the finish line at the Army Marathon Shadow Run March 1 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Hermansen placed first overall in the full marathon category with a time of 2:41:33.

Maj. Knud Hermansen, with the 802nd Engineer Battalion out of Denver, Colorado. Having previously run 15 marathons, he said this was a personal best race time by about four minutes.

Lt. Col. Mike Waterman, battalion commander of the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Virginia Beach, Virginia, finished the race in second with a time of 3:09:21. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Woodburn, with the 528th Engineer Battalion in Monroe, Louisiana, crossed the finish line third at a pace of 3:34:44.

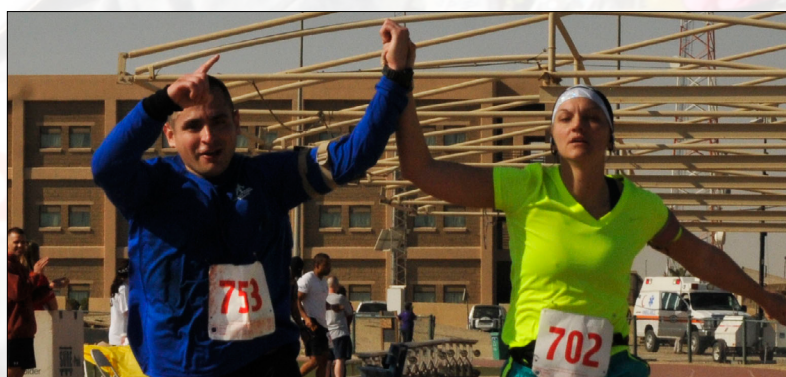
For the women, Chief Warrant Officer-3 Jamie Alonso, with the 14th Human Resources Sustainment Command out

Shadowed in Kuwait



(Left) Sgt. Christopher Hughes, with the 43rd Sust. Bde., carries the American flag across the finish line at the Army Marathon Shadow Run March 1 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Hughes conducted a ruck march for the half marathon course, carrying the flag the entire 13.1 mile distance, finishing with a time of 2:33:35.

(Below) Chief Warrant Officer-3 Jamie Alonso (right), with the 14th HRSC, crosses the finish line in first place with a time of 4:02:01 for the women's division at the Army Marathon Shadow Run March 1 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, led the charge with a time of 4:02:01.

Sgt. 1st Class Delaney Reimann, with Third Army/USARCENT, finished the race shortly behind, coming in at 4:07:51. Sgt. Cindy Gonzalez, with the 297th Military Intelligence Battalion of Fort Gordon, Georgia, completed the daunting distance at 4:16:02.

The race was coordinated in partnership between the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), which is based at Fort Hood, the Kuwait Running Mafia running group in Camp Arifjan, and Ed Bandas, the coordinator for the Army Marathon in Central Texas.

The planning began in August prior to 13th SC(E)'s deployment to Kuwait, and expedited in January when Maj. Joseph Odorizzi with the 13th SC(E), along with the Kuwait Running Mafia began mapping out the logistics and support to make the race a success.

"It was a great opportunity to enhance the relationship between the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Central Texas community; particularly the cities of Belton and Temple," said Odorizzi. "I am extremely grateful to Bandas and his team for their support. Also, the volunteer support we received from the Kuwait Running Mafia at Camp Arifjan was world class."

He said he was proud of everyone's effort, and hoped the Army Marathon Shadow Run will become an enduring

event in Kuwait, even after the 13th SC(E) returns to Texas later this year.

Hermansen, the club president with the Kuwait Running Mafia, said the process of organizing such a large race was a new experience for him, although he had participated in many races previously.

"There is certainly a lot that goes into an event like this," he said, "we could not have done it without the immense amount of support and volunteers we had sign up to help. It's thanks to all those people that we were able to make this happen."

The entire club was thrilled to compete in this race, and push for their fastest time possible, but was also excited about helping motivate all the Soldiers who were running their first races. Every member of the club stuck around erupting in boisterous cheers until the last Soldier crossed the finish line.

Sgt. Gabriel Gastelo, with the 43rd Medical Detachment out of Fort Hood, running his first marathon finished with a respectable time of 6:05:50, but he said it wasn't his time that he was proud of; it was his perseverance and drive pushing him to finish the race that he'll remember.

"At first, I wanted to run the marathon as part of my 'bucket list,'" he said. "Now that I'm done, it's such a good feeling. I think I may want to run another marathon in the future."



Kuwait, US maritime forces build partner relationships through exercise

*By Staff Sgt. Tanjie Patterson
3rd Sust. Bde. Public Affairs*

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait - During a multilateral exercise, the 393rd Transportation Harbormaster Operations Detachment, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, teamed up with Kuwait Naval Forces in support of Operation Eagle Resolve at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, March 8.

"Eagle Resolve is a multilateral exercise that focuses on Naval, land and air," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ian Stewart, 393rd THOD Harbormaster. "It's designed to enhance regional cooperative defense efforts of the Gulf Cooperation Council and U.S. Central Command."

During the multilateral exercise the 393rd THOD and 32nd Composite Truck Company assisted in transferring a number of KNF military vehicles from Kuwait Naval Base to Failaka Island.

The vehicles were loaded onto the Landing Craft Utility-2013 vessel by Kuwaiti sailors with the assistance and guidance of U.S. Army Soldiers.

"During the loading and unloading phases, crew members of the LCU and KNF personnel worked as a team with one common goal," said Stewart. "The relationship has been mutually beneficial, as the KNF was able to get their equipment to its destination on time and the Soldier-Mariners on board the LCU-2013 got a chance to sharpen their skills in operations at unimproved ports and bare beach landings."

Operations such as Eagle Resolve serve as an excellent opportunity to build upon the partner nations' interoperability and working relationships.

"This exercise was a wonderful opportunity for our maritime forces to operate alongside our counterparts in Kuwait," said Brig. Gen. Rodney Fogg, commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and deputy commander of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command. "It was a tremendous honor to support and facilitate training with our strategic partners, as we work towards our mutual goal of regional security, strengthening our friendship along the way."

Even though the operation seemed simple enough, there was a lot of planning that went into it. The planning started when Cmdr. Greg Francioch, Naval Forces adviser for



Soldiers with the 393rd Transportation Harbormaster Operation Detachment, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, along with Kuwaiti Naval personnel attach tow cables to a Kuwaiti military vehicle on the Landing Craft Utility-2013 vessel, in support of Operation Eagle Resolve, March 8, at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. Eagle Resolve was a combined training exercise creating an excellent opportunity for U.S. and Kuwait military to work together and build upon the partner nations' interoperability.

the Office of Military Cooperation-Kuwait, sent an email on behalf of the KNF to Stewart asking if the army watercraft could support the movement of Kuwait Naval and Land Forces equipment.

"They wanted the move to happen in five days, which didn't leave a lot of room for planning," said Stewart.

The Watercraft Operations Team immediately began the research and planning process. The team had to research Failaka Island, which is a Kuwaiti Island in the Persian Gulf that's surrounded by shallow water and reefs. The island is 20 km from Kuwait City.

After the planning process was over, the unit had to develop a timeline based upon tide tables, depth of water, necessary loading ramp modifications, Kuwaiti equipment unit density lists, and processing of an agreement between Kuwait and the United States for transportation.

"This operation has been a tremendous help in increasing KNF-U.S. Army relations at KNB," said Stewart. "Working together on this mission has developed a stronger rapport within the leadership between the two militaries and created friendships among the vessel crew and KNF personnel."

"Maritime security in the region is as important to us [U.S. forces] as it is to our allies in Kuwait," said Fogg. "We look forward to continued partnership and furthering maritime operations in our host nation."

Coalition partners train to save lives

By Sgt. Adam Erlewein
4th RSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Wrangler medics from the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade conducted a Combat Life Saver refresher course for troops from the Czech military which focused on important life-saving techniques at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan April 17.

The CLS course is mandatory for all U.S. Army Soldiers to take prior to deploying to theaters of operations and has proven extremely affective towards treating injured Soldiers on the battlefield.

The Wrangler medics having already provided several CLS courses to many of the Department of Defense Civilians on BAF, were contacted by the 21st Brigade Engineer Battalion, Task Force Solid to assist with training their Czech partners.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Lopez-Bonaglia a native of Brookline, New Hampshire and the Medical Operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4RSSB communicated with the newly arrived Czech leadership to organize pertinent training that was structured to their needs.

“After talking with them we were able to figure out what they wanted from our medics, and the things they wanted to go over that had to do with tactical casualty combat care,” said Lopez. “We also went over how to apply a Junction tourniquet (a specialized tourniquet that applies pressure to the pelvis area), how to properly call in a MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) and a MIST report (Mechanism of injury, type of Injury, Sign, and Treatment given).”

Wrangler medics also taught the Czech Soldiers how to apply tourniquets to limbs, apply pressure bandages, and how to correctly treat other types of battlefield wounds. The Czech Soldiers were then given the opportunity to practice what they had learned with the Wrangler medics providing assistance and corrections to ensure the Czechs fully under-



Sgt. Joshua Garcia, a health care specialist with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, provides a block of instructions during a recent Combat Life Savers course on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, April 17. Garcia was teaching Czech Soldiers from Task Force Solid, on how to properly check a casualty by ensuring to check the front and back of the casualty in case they are injured.

stood these lifesaving skills.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Milon Neumayer, a native of Plzen, Czech Republic with the 4th Brigade Quick Reaction Airborne unit, was one of the Czech Soldiers who received the valuable training from the Wrangler medics, and performed many of the training exercises flawlessly.

“This is a very good experience and will help us save our guys in case they get hurt, and help keep my guys alive,” said Neumayer.

Normally U.S. Soldiers don’t get the opportunity to assist with the training of other nation’s militaries. However, by giving these important lifesaving classes, the Wranglers were able to see why it’s important to work together as a coalition force while deployed.

“I think we have very good cooperation together and are very glad to be able to share with your (Soldiers) experiences,” said Neumayer. “A lot of our guys really do enjoy working with our coalition forces.”

Inaugural Kazma II sustainment exercise brings together US, Kuwait logisticians



Kuwait and U.S. Army officers work together to overcome a logistics training objective during the Kazma II logistics tabletop training exercise at the Kuwait Ministry of Defense Logistic Operations Command Center April 15. The training exercise was not only an opportunity to learn each other's standard operating procedures, but also an excellent chance to work together and build relationships and interoperability between the two partner militaries.



*By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) Public Affairs*

KUWAIT - Soldiers with the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) – Operational Command Post partnered with their Kuwait army counterparts during a sustainment and logistics focused tabletop training exercise known as Kazma II at the Kuwait Ministry of Defense Logistic Operations Command, April 12-16.

During the exercise, the two partner nations were able to collaborate, using their knowledge and experiences to solve different challenging scenarios and generate a common solution.

“It was a great opportunity to learn one another’s capabilities and procedures for working different logistics operations,” said Lt. Col. Dean Huard, deputy support operations officer of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and 1st TSC-OC.

Huard also served as the lead American director for the exercise. Huard continued to say that learning each other’s standard operating procedures was a teaching point that greatly benefited the understanding of both sides.

“We are two different countries, two separate methods of coming to a conclusive decision,” said Huard. “Neither method was incorrect, and I think we both learned some different ways that we can improve our own procedures.”

Lt. Col. Hamoud Alazmi, the exercise director with the Kuwait army, agreed that the exercise was beneficial for all the logistics professionals who participated, stating that, “Anytime you can come together with another military and learn from each other, it strengthens a unit as a whole.”

Additionally, the exercise was an excellent opportunity to forge strong working relationships between the partner nations.

“The tactics of the exercise were fantastic, we understand some of [the Kuwaiti military] capabilities, and they understand some of our capabilities,” said Maj. Gen. Darrell Williams, commander of the 1st TSC. “But the real purpose of the exercise was to begin to build interoperability and relationships. With good relationships, we can do anything.”

Although many training exercises have taken place over the years between the U.S. and Kuwait militaries, this was the first joint training opportunity focusing on logistics and sustainment.

Williams stated that this training

exercise had been in planning for more than a year, and although it was the first exercise of many to come, he said that he was happy with the outcome.

“With every new exercise, there are some challenges, everything will not be perfect, but then again, war is not perfect. But, what determines success from failure is the ability to adapt. That is exactly what I have seen over the course of the exercise,” said Williams. “I’ve seen an initial concept that we’ve spent the last year trying to develop, I’ve seen some of it work, and some of it not work so good, but then throughout the course of the exercise, we have adapted, and because of that we have been successful. I am very happy with the relationships that have been developed.”

Williams said that he looks forward to growing this from a tabletop planning exercise, into a full-fledged field training exercise in the future. Additionally, he said that he looks forward to working in partnership with the Kuwait military going forward.

“Based on this exercise, and the ones we will have in the future, I personally feel very, very comfortable now, after having met with the professional officers and noncommissioned officers on both sides, as happened in peace, if we have to work together in war, we will be successful,” said Williams.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adrian Haley, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Support Operations, discusses a training objective with an officer of the Kuwait army during the Kazma II logistics tabletop training exercise at the Kuwait Ministry of Defense Logistic Operations Command Center April 12. The Training exercise was the first logistics and sustainment exercise between the two partner militaries.

Transportation Soldiers earn distinction as 1st TSC's

Best Warriors

*By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Two transportation Soldiers have earned the distinction of “Best Warriors” for the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) following a grueling competition in Kuwait, May 4-8.

Sgt. Markevous Humphrey and Pfc. Ashley Meadows, both motor transport operators with the 32nd Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 1st TSC, were honored along with all other participants at an awards ceremony May 11.

The competition was designed to test the strength, knowledge and fortitude of all the competitors through several events, including an Army physical fitness test, marksmanship, Army warrior task drills, land navigation, 12-mile road march, written exam and formal board.

“Though there is only one Soldier and one NCO to claim the title of 1st TSC Best Warrior, each of you have demonstrated your own commitment to living the Army values and warrior ethos throughout this competition,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Bartee, the command sergeant major of the 1st TSC.

The best warrior competition was a culmination of months of planning and preparation by the 1st TSC staff and subordinate units.

“This competition would not have happened without the tireless work that happened behind the scenes,” said Bartee. “This was a great event. It challenged these Soldiers and



Sgt. Markevous Humphrey (left) and Pfc. Ashley Meadows, both motor transport operators with the 32nd Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), push forward in a 12-mile road march during the early morning hours of the 1st TSC's Best Warrior Competition May 7. Humphrey, a Harborton, Virginia, native, and Meadows, a Clifton Forge, Virginia, native, would go on to earn recognition as 1st TSC's Best Warrior NCO and Soldier.



Sgt. Markevous Humphrey
1st TSC Best Warrior - NCO



Sgt. Shavelle Owens-Watkins



Pfc. Ashley Meadows
1st TSC Best Warrior - Soldier



Spc. Briseis

NCOs, and set the conditions for the Soldiers to compete against one another, but most importantly, they competed to the Army standard.”

The competitors have also been preparing for months in anticipation of this event, both physically and mentally.

Humphrey and Meadows said they continued to train and prepare together since they were selected as the NCO and Soldier of the year for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and represent their brigade at the best warrior competition.

“We used high-intensity interval training, muscular endurance and strength training, and cardio respiratory endurance training in order to prepare for the physical challenges,” said Humphrey, a Harborton, Virginia, native. “Additionally, we studied and conducted different battle drills every day to get proficient.”

Though the training and preparation was vital to preparing for the competition, Meadows, a Clifton Forge, Virginia, native, credited her mental fortitude and encouragement from her sponsor for helping the most with each event.

“I knew that I could push through and make it all the way,” she said. “My sponsor was by my side the entire competition, constantly pushing me to do my best and reminding me that I could do this and that I had trained and was ready to compete.”

Both Humphrey and Meadows will move on to represent the 1st TSC and compete in the U.S. Army Central Best Warrior Competition at the end of the month.



(Above) Competitors of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater)'s Best Warrior Competition react to a simulated attack during a teamwork exercise at the competition in Kuwait May 5, 2015.

(Below) Spc. Navar Bryant, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), fires his assigned weapon at the marksmanship range during the 1st TSC Best Warrior Competition May 6, 2015, in Kuwait.



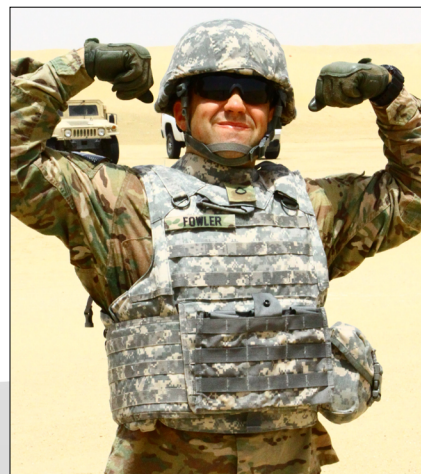
Spc. Navar Bryant



Pfc. William Epting



Pfc. Jacob Fowler



Spc. Navar Bryant

Mobilized to Texas

serving in Iraq

By Capt. A. Sean Taylor
310th ESC Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – At the beginning of December, Soldiers from the 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were just settling in to their yearlong mobilization to Fort Hood, Texas, replacing the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) that deployed to Kuwait. They were just getting used to their battle rhythm and planning personal leave to see their families for the holidays when they were “thrown a curveball.”

The 310th ESC was given the directive to deploy a small, multi-component logistic team to advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve.

Lt. Col. Erik Benda, executive officer 310th Forward Advise and Assist Team, was attending a conference at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, when he was notified that he needed to attend a planning session at the United States Army Reserve Command to plan the upcoming deployment to Iraq that would occur in less than five weeks.

“It speaks well of our Soldiers that they were able to switch missions, notify their families and be ready to deploy within a month,” Benda said. “It also speaks well for their families who make the bigger sacrifice. The hardest thing to do is call your family and tell them you have to go again.”

Approximately 25 Soldiers from the original Fort Hood mobilization were augmented with personnel from other Army Reserve units and around 12 Soldiers from the active component of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Bragg to make up the 310th A&A team. By the end of January, the team had completed pre-deployment training at Fort Hood and was training in Kuwait. By the middle of February, they were in Iraq advising and assisting ISF logistic leadership.

Almost every meeting between the 310th A&A team and Iraqi military officials begins with coffee and tea (chai) as an icebreaker to build trust and friendship. The team has learned that discussing business takes time in Iraq. Once the trust is established, work can be accomplished.

“We are here first to build trust between our team and ISF leaders,” said Capt. Chris Crook, A&A ordnance chief and team leader. “If they gain trust with our team, then that trust can lead to them trusting our military and government.”

“Our main job is ensuring the equipment and parts are



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christina Winfield, a supply support activity technician, and Sgt. 1st Class Juliet Brooks, a supply support activity trainer, assist Iraqi Security Forces warehouse supervisors inventory the arrival of tank parts. The tank parts are needed to support the Iraqi forces fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

acquired by the right people and (advising) them to get the equipment out to the battle,” Crook explained.

Soldiers from the U.S. and Iraqi forces can be found during leader engagements taking photos together, swapping patches and sharing family pictures.

“I have met some interesting, really friendly people. A lot of Iraqi soldiers want to take photos with us,” Staff Sgt. David Revels-Velez, the personnel noncommissioned officer in charge, shared. “One Soldier took a military pin from his hat and gave it to me, so I gave him my sunglasses.”

The team has worked hard to establish relationships with their logistical counterparts. So far, they have completed more than 100 key leader engagements and have co-taught a class on generator repair and maintenance with their Iraqi counterparts.

They are also in charge of tracking donations of military supplies and determining what supplies the ISF already have and what they need to continue their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

“We did not fall into an established system,” explained Col. Michael Midkiff, commander of 310th A&A. “We fell into an immature system that we had to build and establish for the unit that will take our place.”

“We are extremely lucky to have the individuals we have,” Midkiff continued, adding, “they are a very diverse and able to plan, move, shoot and communicate. They have received nothing but praise from our higher commands in Baghdad and Kuwait.”

Muleskinners assume reigns from Wranglers

By Sgt. Adam Hinman

1st AD RSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The 1st Armored Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, Muleskinners, uncased its colors and received authority from the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, Wranglers, during a ceremony at the RC-East Joint Operations Center Flag Poles on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, May 30.

This will be the brigade's first deployment since assuming the mantle of Muleskinners on May 7, 2014, shortly before they left Fort Bliss, Texas.

"To the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade 'Muleskinners,' and our new teammates, I am confident we will continue to build upon the great work of the 4th (RSSB) and contribute to the proud legacy of all sustainers who have served before us," said Col. James Jennings, commander of the 1st AD RSSB.

The Wranglers missions included the creation of forward logistical bases across Afghanistan, the continued retrograde and closing or preparation for closure of forward operating bases, the de-scoping of enduring bases throughout the country and redeployment and sustainment operations.

"Although the only base we officially closed here was Forward Operating Base Clark, I can say without hesitation that the work of our Retrograde, Reset, Redistribution, Redeployment and Disposal section and the Base Closure Assistance Teams here and at Kandahar have continued to set conditions for future base closures later this year and next year," said Col. Timothy D. Luedeking, the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade commander.

After applauding the Wrangler Brigade for their help and professionalism in the transfer of authority process, Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) welcomed the Muleskinners to Afghanistan.

As the Wranglers transferred authority over to the Muleskinners, it signified an end to their deployment to Bagram Air Field, where they supported Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel and supported sustainment operations throughout Afghanistan.

"Nine short months ago we started this journey under Operations Drum Beat and Enduring Freedom at the height

of retrograde and base closures," said Luedeking.

This marks the end of the fourth deployment to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan for the Wrangler Brigade. Shortly after their return, the unit will change its designation to the Wagon Masters. This is how the Muleskinners were known until they changed to their current moniker.

"As we prepare to redeploy to Fort Hood, Texas, the great place, this is the last ride the Wrangler Brigade as we know it today," said Luedeking. "This is our last chance to honor our patch, its history and the Soldiers who have come before us."

As the final speaker of the ceremony, Jennings was able to close with comments directed to the incoming unit and their families.

"I would like to publicly thank you and your families for your service and many sacrifices to our nation," said Jennings. "It is with deep gratitude and great humility that I accept the responsibilities of the Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, and I pledge to do my best in accomplishing the mission and caring for each of you."



Col. James Jennings, commander of the 1st Armored Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Williams, the unit's command sergeant major, uncased their unit's colors symbolizing the assumption of responsibility in Afghanistan, May 30, 2015. This occurred during a Transfer of Authority ceremony where the unit took over from the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas.





US supplies critical weapons to ISF

*By Capt. A. Sean Taylor
310th ESC Public Affairs*

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Soldiers from the 76th Iraqi Infantry Brigade received M16A2 rifles and infantry equipment sets on May 24-26, 2015, as part of the fielding of combat brigade equipment sets supplied to Iraqi Security Forces from the United States to support the fight against Daesh.

Under the direction of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade Forward Support Element, Fort Stewart, Georgia, and the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Iraqi soldiers received equipment needed in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The 76th IA Bde. fielded more than 1,000 M16A2 rifles that were distributed to individual soldiers, along with assault packs, ammunition magazines, protective masks and load-carrying cargo pouches. In addition, each company was issued 60 mm-120 mm mortar sets, MK19 automatic grenade launchers, M240B machine guns, M2 .50-caliber machine guns, M249 light machine guns, M14 sniper rifles and M500 12-gauge shotguns.

The British government also donated approximately 60 VALLON hand-held mine detectors to assist in the campaign.

The distribution of these weapons was supervised by Capt. Jason Akers, officer-in-charge of the 3rd Sust. Bde. Forward Support Element.

"It took three days to hand over the equipment to the brigade," Akers said. "They were very excited to have the issue go directly to the brigade and happy to get new equipment."

Brig. Gen. Ali Khalid Abdullah, 76th IA Bde. commander, said these new weapons are important to build his soldiers' morale.

"The Jundis (soldiers) have more confidence in these weapons," Abdullah said. "The Australian and United States forces are happy to train us on the new weapons and prepare my soldiers for the fight."

Maj. Amare Alazzawi, a battalion commander with the 76th IA Bde., shared the view that new weapons will help build confidence within his ranks.

"I think this is a good weapon (M16A2) for my soldiers. They will be confident to fight," Alazzawi said. "Training will help them be comfortable with their weapon and once you are comfortable, your weapon becomes your friend."

Assisting with the distribution of the infantry combat sets were members of the Task Group Taji training team made up of Australian forces who will train the 76th IA Bde. on the new systems.

Lt. Col. Ash Collingburn, task group commander, is aware that these weapons are vital for the next phases of training.

"The 76th IA Brigade will go through a complete training package on all the new weapons including the M16A2 rifle," Collingburn said. "We are developing their ability to use 'combined arms' and instilling in them the confidence to defeat Daesh."

The excitement for the new weapons was not only shared by the 76th IA Bde. commanders, but could be seen and heard from the individual soldiers as they waited in line to receive their new issue.

Picking up a small broom and sweeping the dirt around him, one Iraqi soldier said, "We will sweep Daesh out of Iraq like trash with the weapons we get today."

"With teamwork we will punish Daesh," another soldier interrupted. "We will go and fight Daesh and drive them from Fallujah, Ramadi and Mosul."

The overall mission to supply the 76th IA Bde. with combat sets went well, according to Col. Michael Midkiff, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and officer-in-charge of the 1st TSC Logistics Advise and Assist Team.

"The mission was well planned and everything went smooth," Midkiff said.

"Adjustments to the distribution process were made as needed to expedite the process of getting the equipment successfully into soldier's hands."

The 76th IA Bde. was the first ISF brigade to be fielded equipment straight to the company level from coalition partners and plans are in process to supply other brigades with similar combat sets to support them in their fight against ISIL.

Renegades retrograde efforts include ammunition disposal

By 1st Lt. Ryan Stallings

389th CSSB, 1st AD RSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers from the 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command, (Expeditionary), cover many facets of the current sustainment and retrograde mission in Afghanistan. Supporting Operation Freedom’s Sentinel allows the battalion to perfect its operations, hone its logistical skills and garner the valuable experience that only a deployed Soldier receives.

One of the most important missions the 389th supports is the ongoing retrograde operations to bring the levels of personnel, equipment and property to the right levels in order to meet the intent of U.S. Forces – Afghanistan. An often overlooked part of the retrograde mission involves properly disposing of out of date ammunition.

The 389th recently teamed up with a convoy escort team from the 950th Engineer Clearance Company, Wisconsin National Guard and civilian explosive ordnance disposal and ammunition technicians from the Joint Munitions Destroy-Afghanistan Team to safely dispose of approximately 1,600 lbs. of ammunition and explosives at an undisclosed location outside of Bagram Air Field.

Master Sgt. Meliza Diaz Zayas, the 389th Operations noncommissioned officer in charge, went on the mission and enjoyed working with the other Soldiers and civilians,

“It was a great experience conducting the mission and working with the 950th Combat Engineers and the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Team. It was good to be there with our Soldiers to better understand the mission and to truly appreciate what they do in every mission.”

The ammunition that eventually finds its way into the demilitarization (DEMIL) process is classified as out of date or unserviceable. Instead of risking detonation during transit back to the United States or the possibility of ammunition falling into enemy hands in the future the out-of-service explosives are destroyed in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Jamal Roberts, 389th computer automations helpdesk noncommissioned officer in charge, also went on the mission. As a former infantryman, Sgt. Roberts gets excited at the thought of pre-convoy maintenance, communications checks and standard operating procedures checks with the 389th Soldiers. “It (the DEMIL mission) is the complete opposite from my role day-to-day as the computer automations helpdesk NCOIC. While our number one priority is safety, the mission also allows noncommissioned officers with experience the opportunity to mentor younger Soldiers and that’s what it’s all about.”

Safely downsizing the stocks of out-of-date ammunition will continue to be a key component of the retrograde operations for the 389th CSSB and the 1st Armored Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade as the U.S. Forces draw closer to transitioning out of Afghanistan.



(Left) The 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), placed unused rounds at a secondary site outside of Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, June 6, 2015.

(Above) The explosion from the destruction of munitions by the 389th CSSB is visible outside of Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, June 6, 2015.



Iraqi Security Forces receive



(From top) Capt. Patrick O'Connell, 310th Advise and Assist Supply and Services Branch Chief signs over 30 MaxxPro mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles with mine-roller attachments to Iraqi army Col. Khadin Juma'ah at Camp Taji, Iraq, July 13, 2015. The MRAPs are part of the Iraq Train and Equip Fund meant to assist in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The 310th Advise and Assist Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command supervised the delivery of the vehicles in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve.



Iraqi security forces receive a shipment of 30 MaxxPro mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles with mine-roller attachments at Camp Taji, Iraq, July 13, 2015. The MRAPs are part of the Iraq Train and Equip Fund used to assist in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The 310th Advise and Assist Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command supervised the delivery of the vehicles in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve.



e shipments of new vehicles



(From Top left) Iraqi security forces receive a shipment of more than 70 up-armored Humvees at Camp Taji, Iraq, June 28, 2015 as part of 150 Humvees acquired through foreign military sales to assist in their fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

The receipt of the vehicles was supervised under the direction of the 310th Advise and Assist Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Iraqi security forces receive a shipment of 30 MaxxPro mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles with mine-roller attachments at Camp Taji, Iraq, July 13, 2015. The MRAPs are part of the Iraq Train and Equip Fund meant to assist in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

'Durable' brigade ensures safe shipment of supplies to Iraq

*Story by Staff Sgt. Aaron Duncan
1st ID Sust. Bde. Public Affairs*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - As the sun began to rise above the dusty horizon, the Soldiers were already on the way to their destination on the Iraq and Kuwait border to meet Soldiers assigned to 21st Inland Cargo Transfer Company (ICTC), 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade. Each would play a part to ensure supplies were moving into Iraq to support the Soldiers assigned there July 8.

The movement of supplies is an essential function that every army has had to accomplish throughout recorded history. Modern day armies are no different. Each one of the units plays a role in accomplishing this task.

"It gives me a lot of pride to know that I am doing something important for the mission," said Spc. Christian DeLeon, a Glenn Dale, Maryland native assigned to 140th MCT as a cargo specialist. "No Army can function without supplies."

The 21st ICTC provides the muscle to move the supplies between Kuwaiti trucks and Iraqi trucks. With the massive Rough Terrain Container Handler looming over the heavy 20-foot containers, precision is not just necessary but critical. A misstep can result in massive damage to the supplies or even death.

"Moving the containers is dangerous work, but our Soldiers are well trained and we make sure that safety comes first," said Capt. Ashley



Staff Sgt. Rickey Posey III [right], a Honolulu native assigned to 140th MCT as a motor transport operator, briefs his Soldiers, Spc. Christian DeLeon, a Glenn Dale, Md., native and cargo specialist, and Pfc. Daniel Watson, a St. Peters, Mo., native and cargo specialist, on the route they are taking July 8 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Jackson, the commander of 21st ICTC.

The 140th MCT ensures the Kuwaiti trucks reach their destination and that the corresponding documentation is correct. With as many as 25 18-wheelers behind them, the Soldiers escort them through the sometimes challenging Kuwaiti traffic. Along the way they stop to conduct safety inspections on the trucks to ensure they reach their destination.

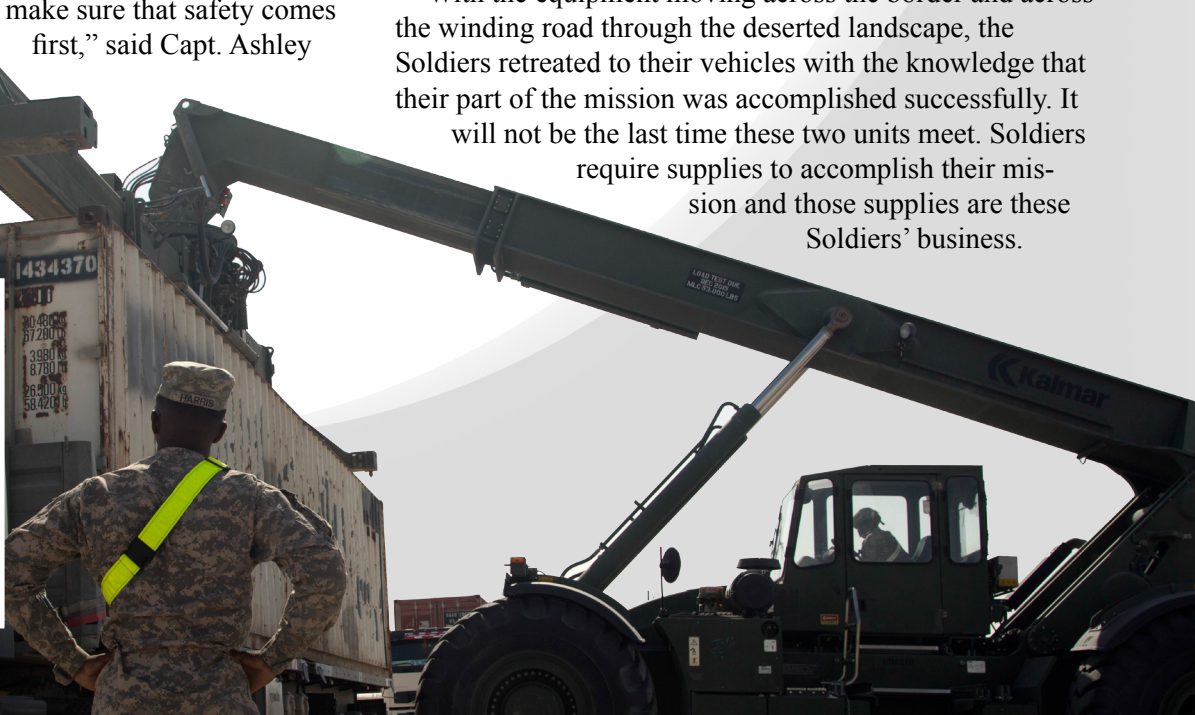
With the modular nature of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, engaged leadership and thorough coordination is required.

"One of the things we focus on in 541st is expanding partner capacity, and the Kuwait border crossing missions are an excellent example of this," said Jackson. "It takes no less than three units, and sometimes as many as five or six, for a successful mission to happen."

With the equipment moving across the border and across the winding road through the deserted landscape, the Soldiers retreated to their vehicles with the knowledge that their part of the mission was accomplished successfully. It

will not be the last time these two units meet. Soldiers require supplies to accomplish their mission and those supplies are these Soldiers' business.

Pfc. Korvaris Harris, assigned to 21st ICTC as a cargo specialist, guides the Rough Terrain Container Handler driver to ensure the safe pick-up of the 20-foot cargo container from the Kuwaiti 18-wheeler July 8 at the Iraq/Kuwait border.



By Sgt. Adam Erlewein
4th RSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Engineers normally work in platoon or company size elements but for the hard working Wranglers from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, they have assisted in de-scoping Bagram Air Field and parts of Afghanistan as a two-man shop.

Capt. Rachel M. Hardesty a Neoga, Illinois native and Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Hodson a Flint, Michigan native are in charge of de-scoping operations for the Wrangler brigade here on BAF.

The Wranglers are in charge of maintaining multiple land parcels on BAF ranging in various sizes from one acre to 150 acres.

They are responsible for ensuring these parcels are properly maintained which includes the cleanliness, sanitation of unwanted structures, and ensuring proper security for equipment stored on certain parcels or the tenants that live there.

“They (BAF) have given us 110 parcels, and our job is to manage those whether it is our tenants or other units on that land and ensure that they keep the area clean, free of debris, and remove any unused or unwanted equipment, buildings, or containers. Any assistance they need we will provide that for them,” said Hodson. “We manage about 60 percent of BAF with just two people.”

Hardesty and Hodson have to inspect all the parcels routinely to prepare for de-scope missions, maintenance or inventory of barriers, housing units and other structures to be utilized in other areas around BAF. This ensures that all of the assets are being properly utilized or removed inadvertently saving the tax payer’s dollars and preventing waste.

“Managing the parcels is a giant part of our mission here in Afghanistan,” said Hardesty.

Hardesty and Hodson have completed more than 170 projects on BAF de-scoping many of those projects by coordinating with contractors to execute the mission or they take it upon themselves to de-scope smaller structures. By de-scoping certain projects themselves they speed up the downsizing of BAF and also save man hours and resources that can be utilized for larger projects.

The wooden structures on BAF are being de-scoped to make way for more efficient structures or they sanitize the grounds the structures were on to reduce the footprint left by them.

Hardesty said that the wooden structures on BAF require a large amount of cost to maintain due to the time it takes to heat and cool those buildings, and the buildings longevity is also shorter. By replacing those buildings with more permanent structures they reduce the cost of maintenance and also provide better protection against indirect fire.

“One of the projects we completed ourselves took a full day to tear down and then we had to get a dumpster to dump the wood in,” said Hardesty. “The second part of the project only took half a day and that was tearing down a stairwell, a shed, and a big water blivet.”

The Wrangler engineer team said that their mission is very challenging but they feel like they have accomplished a lot of work since they have been here and it helps that they can see a finished product.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Hodson, a combat engineer assigned to the 4th RSSB uses a crow bar to tear down a shed as part of a de-scoping mission at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

DE-SCOPING BAGRAM AIR FIELD

Southern Spotlights



Maintenance keeps Trey Duce rolling

By Spc. Rochelle Prince-Krueger
3rd Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The “Trey Duce” Soldiers of 32nd Composite Truck Company drive their trucks almost every day in order to complete their mission at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The unit, which is assigned to 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, is a line-haul truck unit that drives heavy equipment transport systems, or HET, and the 915 tractor trailer, commonly called a 915.

What happens when one of the trucks breaks down or it’s time for their service? The maintenance crew of approximately 25 Soldiers answers the call.

“When we arrived to Kuwait in November, from Fort Carson, Colorado, the equipment that we fell in on was at only about 70 percent operational readiness, which means that only 70 percent of our equipment was mission ready,” said Warrant Officer Justin Bramlett, the leading maintenance officer for 32nd CTC. “Within 60 days our maintenance Soldiers quickly and proficiently increased the readiness rate to above 95 percent and has maintained that level since.”

There are two main sections within maintenance: scheduled, which does services for all the equipment at a set time, and unscheduled, which troubleshoots when issues unexpectedly occur with the equipment.

“Our days vary being on the unscheduled team. It’s like if the check engine light on your vehicle comes on you take it to a shop to see what is wrong and get it fixed,” said Spc. Jessica Raack, an all-wheel vehicle mechanic assigned to 32nd CTC. “It’s our job to troubleshoot and find out what is wrong with the vehicles. I’ve worked on everything from transfer cases and electrical issues to having to replace anything from headlights to engines.”

“Scheduled is like when you take your vehicle in for an oil change at a set number of months or miles,” said Spc. Jared Bailey, an all-wheel vehicle mechanic assigned to 32nd CTC. “It is our responsibility to ensure the equipment gets serviced at the proper intervals and it is done correctly the first time to prevent issues from arising.”

Bramlett said that both teams are vital to the mission.

There are also a few stand-alone Soldiers who ensure the



Spc. Daniel Driscoll, assigned to 32nd Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, disconnects a battery cable on a heavy equipment transporter system, also known as a HET, to put a new starter on the vehicle at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

parts are ordered and all environmental requirements are met.

“Our two petroleum specialists have done a great job of getting 100 percent on the environmental inspections each time, which is stand-out for them,” said Bramlett. “We also would not be able to do our jobs if it weren’t for the automated logistical specialist ensuring the correct parts are ordered and picked up.”

The scheduled crew is also getting the rare opportunity to complete five-year services on the M1000 trailers, instead of contracting the services to higher agencies.

The M1000 trailers are the trailers that have the ability to pull almost anything the Army owns: from the M1A1 Abrams tank to a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle. The trailers are serviced quarterly, semi-annually and annually by the service team, but the five-year service is on another level.

“When you contract out a job, you are taking the service and piece of equipment out of your hands,” said Bramlett. “You lose valuable job experience and proficiency training.”

Staff Sgt. Jason Ruehl has been in the maintenance field for 18 years and the motor sergeant for Trey Duce said he has never seen this type of work completed by Soldiers before.

“It’s a great opportunity for our Soldiers,” said Ruehl. “It



Sgt. Malik Matthews, assigned to 32nd Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, drains antifreeze from a radiator during a vehicle service at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

is hard labor with heavy lifting but our Soldiers are making it happen.”

“We have to isolate each individual bogie, which is where the wheels are attached to the trailer,” said Bailey. “We then take the bogie apart to replace the bearings and seals inside, which helps maintain the life of the trailers.”

Bramlett said it is a lot of labor intensive work because each bogie has a nut on it that is torqued to 850 foot-pounds, which calls for special tools to remove it.

“The process takes one to two days per bogie, and there are 10 bogies on each trailer,” said Bramlett. “But sometimes the bearings or nuts are seized so we have to cut it off or super heat it to remove it, which takes a longer amount of time.

“As Soldiers are executing this service, they could almost build a resume off of this deployment,” said Bramlett. “It is not every day that you get to remove bearings and do major maintenance to build your (job) proficiency.”

As of May 1, every maintenance Soldier with Trey Duce had received his mechanic’s badge.

“It’s an observational award that proves the effectiveness and efficiency of doing your job,” said Ruehl. “Many of these younger Soldiers came to us straight from school and are tackling tasks that veteran mechanics are still learning.”

“I’m proud of what our mechanics have done,” said Bramlett. “Awarding them their mechanics badges is a testament of their work ethics to improve their technical skills and show their proficiency on all of the equipment we have.”

The mechanics have been behind the scenes ensuring every vehicle is equipped to roll out in a moment’s notice.

“Being a mechanic is awesome; these vehicles go out and drive hundreds and hundreds of miles,” said Bailey. “To see them go out, perform their missions and come back in one piece gives us a lot of gratification and makes us proud to be a mechanic.”



Spc. Jared Bailey, assigned to 32nd Composite Truck Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, puts a socket wrench on one of the bogies on an M1000 trailer to remove it during a five-year service maintenance at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Fixing K-9's canine:

Medevac delivers military working dog to helping hands

*By Capt. Jennifer Dyrz
Task Force Sinai*

EL GORAH, Egypt—Peacekeepers from the Multinational Force and Observers, to include a flight surgeon, veterinarian and dog handler, practiced real world medical evacuation (medevac) procedures Sunday when they airlifted a U.S. military working dog from the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt to Tel Aviv, Israel.

Dano was suffering from an exposed nerve resulting from a prior root canal and needed immediate attention. The closest location for Dano and his handler was an hour flight to Israel.

"This is the first time Dano has been medevac'd," said Staff Sgt. John Breyer, military working dog handler who has been paired with Dano for four years. "The standard for these dogs is to have a high level of care."

Unfortunately for Dano the camp in Egypt where he calls home does not have the capabilities to provide this high level of care.

"The military working dogs program is new to the MFO and while we are working on getting the supplies needed to do a canine dental procedure on North Camp, currently

our medical infrastructure is not as robust as we would like," said Capt. Miranda Andress, force veterinarian for the MFO.

Luckily for Andress, Dano and Breyer Dr. Yoav Bar-Am and the Hebrew University Veterinary Teaching Hospital just outside of Tel Aviv was fully equipped to put the bite back in this K-9.

Bar-Am, who assessed the damage to the tooth, was able to repair it by confirming the previous root canal work was still intact and capping off the tooth further concealing the root.

"For a working dog we attempt to do heroic things to save the tooth so they can continue to go about their jobs," said Bar-Am, who has operated on U.S. and Israeli working dogs in both the United States and Israel.

U.S. military working dogs are considered as Soldiers and afforded full health care and medevac as required.

"We needed to set up a medevac system uniquely for them as we cannot send them to a human hospital," said Col. Keith Hiatt, MFO Force Surgeon. "To ensure the system we designed is operational we had to test it and since Dano needed dental care beyond our current capability, he was chosen as our test subject."

Thanks to the treatment he received Dano and his Peacekeeping team, were able to fly home the same day with a tested medevac plan and a healthy dog returning to full duty.

"We accomplished our goals, the plan was tested and Dano got the care he needed," said Andress.



Staff Sgt. John Breyer (left), a military working dog handler, holds the muzzle of his dog, Dano, while veterinary student Tomer Ben Ari starts pre-surgery checks at the Hebrew University Veterinary Teaching Hospital just outside of Tel Aviv, Israel April 26.



Carder caters to the mission

*By Staff Sgt. Gene Arnold
1st TSC Public Affairs*

KUWAIT— Sgt. Breanna Carder, a reservist from Wood River Ill., currently serving on active duty with the 458th Movement Control Team, wears many hats. She is a shift noncommissioned officer in charge, a squad leader; a hazardous material certifier and mission stand out.

“She’s a great asset to our unit,” said Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Anderson, second shift noncommissioned officer in charge and platoon sergeant.

Carder, with several other Soldiers, works as a Cargo Specialist in the Arrival/Departure Air Cargo Group, a liaison for logistical movement through Air Force channels to and from anywhere in Southwest Asia or from Southwest Asia to anywhere in the United States.

“What we do is prepare Army cargo to go on Air Force flights,” Carder said. “Some of the cargo we receive comes to us as retrograde ... other cargo is deployment or redeployment cargo.”

“We prepare the cargo so that the Air Force’s job is minimal and easy as possible,” she added.

Her unit has been an integral part of retrograde operations that have been a priority since combat operations have ceased and the advise and assist roll began. Taking it upon herself, with guidance from her leadership, Carder has developed a tracking system and checklist that have helped streamline the process. This, in turn, has helped save time and money that can be redistributed to the war fighter.

Since December 2014, they have received 250 pieces of cargo for shipment. They have connected more than 150 flights. The type of aircraft used equals the price of fuel, which can be more than \$600,000 just for one flight. So, if cargo misses its flight, the Army has to pay for the flight regardless. All that money adds up, and since her system has been in place, no cargo has missed a flight within their realm of control.

“On a spreadsheet, we input the pertinent information:



Sgt. Breanna Carder, a cargo specialist serving as part of the Arrival/Departure Air Cargo Group in Kuwait, places tape on a generator at its axles as part of gathering the center weight and axle balance for documentation purposes prior to Air Force movement.

the transportation control number, unit line number, point of contact, the type of cargo; indicate whether it is hazardous material and the documentation,” she said. “So every day we check this information against what the Air Mobility Division publishes to see what’s moving.”

Since arriving in August, one of the biggest challenges her unit has had to face is establishing the mission and streamlining operations.

“This mission had just been set up by people where this wasn’t their realm or job. One of them was a Civil Affairs NCO, so to give you an idea this is a career field for us and for them they just kind of threw three people into this like ‘here make this work,’” Carder said.

“They had the baseline of the mission, but there has been a lot of refining the process,” she added. “We’ve gotten forklift training, so we can upload and download cargo on and off of trucks, learning about the vehicles; how to start them and move them because a lot of vehicles come through this yard.”

When asked how she felt participating in this capacity, Carder said, “I enjoy coming to work every day. I enjoy moving people’s cargo from place to place. I really enjoy helping people get whatever needs to go on a plane, whether it be vehicles, baggage or bottles of water and MREs to Soldiers up north or moving Christmas dinner. I just really enjoy helping the whole process run.”

To the
Soldiers, Families,
Friends, Civilians
Strategic & Community
Partners of the
13th SC(E) and 1st TSC



Thank You