

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 22

Still going strong

Enginer captain, gravely injured by IED, goes back to Iraq.

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Desk Drop

Fort Eustis-based brigade delivers newly refurbished desks to Iraqi school.

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Water Works

16th Sust. Bde. installs new pumps to help drought-prone Ninawa Province

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Sustaining the Line



Special Section:
Pages 12-15

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Soldiers render honors while the Joint Base Balad Quartet plays "The Star Spangled Banner" during Operation Sustainer Strong at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Nov. 11. Nearly 300 service members from the Army, Air Force, and Marines re-enlisted during the largest mass re-enlistment in the history of Joint Base Balad.

Convoy security unit to end tour

BY SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Indiana Guardsmen from Team Echo, 1-293rd Infantry Battalion, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are set to complete their tour of duty here Nov. 21, ending a nine-month mission guarding supply convoys throughout Iraq.

Capt. Bruce Baltis, the company commander, from Bloom-

ington, Ind., said the overall experience for the "Stormbringers" deployment was "kind of bittersweet."

According to Baltis, the little company of "leftovers" and "nobodies" earned a host of accolades, with all but a few Soldiers awarded a Combat Action Badge or a Combat Infantry Badge.

A provisional unit made up of cooks, drivers, medics, mechanics, clerks, mortar crews, as well as infantrymen, the Soldiers of Team Echo will be the first and last Stormbringers. The 1-293rd created the unit specifically for Iraq and it will

cease to exist upon their return home.

"I don't think too much was expected of us, but I think we surprised a lot of people," said Cpl. Matthew Henderson, teamleader from Fort Wayne, Ind. "The rest of the battalion was set; Echo was kind of the leftovers, thrown together."

"Our unit was pretty much slapped together from a bunch of nobodies," said Spc. Jeremy Hansel, a gunner from Martinsville, Ind. "We all started this (deployment) not trusting anybody. I was wondering how we were going to pull it off."

Over the course of its deploy-

ment, Team Echo encountered rocket-propelled grenades, improvised rocket launchers, pipe bombs, small arms fire, and improvised explosive devices — all while escorting supply convoys around the country.

Even inside the wire, the Stormbringers had a few close calls with rockets; one landed inside their motor pool and another outside their housing units.

"I woke up to a rocket blowing up right behind my CHU," Hansel said, admitting it was perhaps the scariest moment of the tour.

Baltis said his best memory

was taking this disparate group of Soldiers and seeing them develop into a very cohesive team — a team that completed more than 200 missions together, travelled a combined total of almost 600,000 miles, and overcame every challenge to accomplish their mission. He plans to take his experiences here and apply them to his job back home as an instructor at Indiana State University's ROTC program.

A former Marine, Henderson said he initially joined the

See **Stormbringers**,
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332 ESFS Blotter: 6 Nov. – 12 Nov.

UXO Discovery:
Security Forces were contacted because of the discovery of a UXO behind Bldg. 2320. SF Patrols arrived on-scene and established a 300-foot cordon. Fire arrived on-scene and requested the cordon be extended to 500 feet. EOD arrived on-scene and determined the UXO to be an unknown munitions round. The round was secured by EOD and transported for later disposal.

Vehicle Mishap:
A civilian contractor entered Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest to report a vehicle mishap. SF Patrolmen responded and assisted the individual with a statement. The contractor stated that he parked his vehicle at DFAC #3 and upon exiting the facility noticed damage that had not been there before. The patrolman recorded the damage with digital photography which consisted of paint transfer, dents and a damaged wheel well molding. The contractor was briefed to inform his chain of command concerning the mishap.


Patrol Response/Loud Noise Complaint:
Security Forces were contacted concerning a loud noise complaint in H-7 housing. SF Patrolmen responded to the CHU in question and attempted to make contact with the occupants. Negative contact was received. The patrolman requested a key from the housing office, entered the CHU and shut off the TV that was on at an undesirable volume. Response terminated.

Verbal Altercation/Possible Assault:
A Soldier entered Bldg. 7168/Eagles Nest to register a complaint of a possible assault involving two Soldiers from his unit. SF Patrols were dispatched to the Convoy Transient Tents and made contact with the subjects. SF Patrols transported the subjects to the Eagles Nest. Both subjects were read their rights in accordance with Article 31 UCMJ. Both declined legal counsel and completed written statements concerning the event. The occurrence began with a verbal altercation between the two Soldiers and escalated to the turret gunner kicking the driver in the torso numerous times. The Soldiers were released to their convoy commander for leadership action at their home station.

Medical Response:
An anonymous caller contacted Security Forces concerning a medical emergency. SF Patrolmen arrived on-scene to find the Soldier being treated by medical and fire personnel. The victim was transported to the AFTH for further treatment. SF response was terminated.

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:
NIPR- 443-8602
SIPR- 241-1171
Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

15 Nov 2008

3^d ESC FLIPL Report

Item	Description	Action	Cost
NVG	Soldier was directed to pull his vehicle around to provide security. This was when the soldier was using his NVG. When Soldier dismounted it is believed that the NVG were lost. Soldier did not tie off his NVG per company SOP.	Soldier Charged	\$2,344.55
Dell D820	Soldier signed for 68 Dell D820 laptop computers. No inventory before signing. 63 laptops found but poor procedures in tracking laptops were evident	No one charged	\$13,422.50
Receiver-Transmitter	MRAP vehicle and gun truck were on mission, when they were forced to stop. All Soldiers evacuated the vehicles as soon as they could. Receiver-Trans (RT1928/VLQ-2(v)1 was left in vehicle due to safety of the Soldiers.	No one charged	\$43,500.00
PLGR	PLGR was issued to a soldier without a hand-receipt. Soldier lost PLGR and was held liable	Soldier Charged	\$2,148.22
NVGs	The MRAP vehicle and gun truck were on mission and forced to stop. All Soldiers evacuated the vehicles as soon as they could. NVG were left in vehicle due to safety of the Soldiers	No one charged	\$3,607.00

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

President Bush's Veterans Day proclamation

WASHINGTON - President Bush issued a proclamation to honor all who are serving or have served in the U.S. armed forces. Bush issued his Veterans Day proclamation, Oct. 31, 2008.

The proclamation reads:

“On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who in defense of our freedom have bravely worn the uniform of the United States.

“From the fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation’s ideals, rescued millions from tyranny and helped spread freedom around the globe. America’s veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal and ruthless tyrants, terrorists and militaries the world has ever known. They stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our nation to become the greatest force for freedom in human history. Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard have answered a high calling to serve and have helped secure America at every turn.

“Our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their quiet courage and exemplary service. We also remember and honor those who laid down their lives in freedom’s defense. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit. On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty and their dedication. Their selfless sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom around the world.

“With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service members have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America’s veterans.

“Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2008, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 9 through November 15, 2008, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon federal, state, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.”

‘HOOAH’ SOLDIER OF THE WEEK



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Master Sgt. Shannon Inselkammer, from Auburn, Wash., with 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Headquarters and Headquarters Company is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week’s “Hooah Soldier of the Week”.

WORSHIP SERVICES

<u>PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL</u>			
SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL	11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
9:30 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL	11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
10:30 A.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)	MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)	THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
5:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)	MON, WED, FRI 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL PROVIDER CHAPEL
8 P.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL	FRIDAY-HOLY HOUR 7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
<u>PROTESTANT – GOSPEL</u>		<u>LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)</u>	
SUNDAY 11 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING	SUNDAY 1 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
12 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)	3:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
12:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)	7 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL (H-6)
7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL	<u>JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES</u>	
<u>PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</u>		FRIDAY 6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
SUNDAY 9 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING	SATURDAY 8 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
10:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)	6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
2 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)	<u>ISLAMIC PRAYER</u>	
7 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)	FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)	<u>PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP</u>	
<u>PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL</u>		THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
SUNDAY 3 P.M.	EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN GILBERT CHAPEL (H-6)	<u>HISPANIC PRODISTANT</u>	
<u>PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</u>		SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL	<u>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</u>	
<u>PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST</u>		CALL PROVIDER CHAPEL	
SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)		
<u>ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS</u>			
(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION SAT. 4 P.M. OR BY APPOINTMENT)			
SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL (H-6)		
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)		
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL (H-6)		

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:
GILBERT CHAPEL: 443-7703 PROVIDER CHAPEL: 433-2430 FREEDOM CHAPEL: 443-6303

**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*



I.A.M. STRONGSM

INTERVENE ★ ACT ★ MOTIVATE

Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention

INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right.

I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault.

I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior.

I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all

MOTIVATED to take action.

We are strongest...together.



www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

Convoy support center now open

BY SPC KELLY BECK
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — After months of work and planning by the 330th Transportation Battalion, a new convoy support center opened here Nov. 7.

The new CSC consolidates tasks that were previously done at three separate locations around base.

"We're creating a one-stop shop," said 2nd Lt. Grady Hutchins, movement control officer for the 330th Trans. Co., from Ft. Bragg, N.C. "It will make it so much easier on everyone. Whether convoys are coming from the north, south, east or west, they'll come to the CSC."

Hutchins said that typically convoys have to make several stops all over the base to start and finish their missions. It can take three different stops to check in, drop off and pick up loads, he said.

Capt. Luke Wheeler, the headquarters and headquarters detachment commander of the 330th Trans. Battalion said that all convoys' vehicles, weapons and communication equipment will be thoroughly checked in the CSC. He also said that the CSC will check repaired or replaced equipment to ensure the convoy is mission-ready.

The CSC at Balad will also be using an advanced tracking system called the

Tactical Ground Reporting System, or TIGR. The TIGR is a map-based program that allows convoy commanders to track the latest intelligence, retrieve information on past attacks, view selected routes of travel and see key buildings along the way.

tral to just about everything and provides convoy commanders with more support assets.

"We'll have food and water for Soldiers, there will be tools for the commanders to brief their troops and areas for them to do battle drills," Wheeler

that convoy commanders may need time to adjust to doing things differently. He said that once they have gone through the CSC to prepare for a convoy, they'll realize how much easier it is on them and their Soldiers.

Wheeler said he hopes to make adjustments as issues arise in the first few weeks of operation.

"JBB is a huge base and we will have a lot of traffic coming through so as convoys come through, if there's something we need to fix, we will do it," Wheeler said.

Planning for the CSC was done by the 606th Movement Control Team from Manheim, Germany, and the 719th Movement Control Battalion from Boston, Mass. Fiber-optic cables for the building were provided by the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

CSC operations have now been transferred to the 679th Movement Control Team.

"It's been an interesting project because it hasn't been one unit overseeing the whole thing," Wheeler said.

Hutchins said it is exciting to finish something his unit put a lot of work into. He said he feels the 330th did a great job on their task and feels comfortable handing it over to the 679th.

Wheeler said that although planning, building and opening the CSC is an accomplishment, it's keeping the Soldiers safe that makes the project a success.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeff Sheads

The new convoy support center at Joint Base Balad shortly before the official ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 7. The CSC will consolidate tasks previously done at three separate locations around base.

"It's very similar to the Blue Force Tracker, but is much more detailed," Hutchins said.

Wheeler said that another advantage to the CSC is its location; it's cen-

said.

Wheeler said one of the main goals was consolidation and convenience for troops.

Hutchins said his only concern is

Colorado students speak with Soldiers serving in Iraq for Veterans Day

STORY BY
2ND LT. ZACHARY L. PFANNENSTIEL
391st Combat Sustainment Support
Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — The 7th graders in Ms. Martina Garcia-Maldonado's class at Longs Peak middle school, Longmont, Colo., had a lot of questions for the Soldiers in Iraq that were on their television screen this Veterans Day.

"What kind of food do they [Iraqis] eat there?" asked one student.

Lt. Col. Ronald Pacheco Jr, commander, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, fielded the question himself, and described the chicken and rice that he ate with local Iraqis, and added, "It is very good."

Children followed with a variety of

"It made me feel great because it let me know that someone does appreciate the fact that we're out here."

SpC. Jeremy Ulhorn
16th Sustainment Brigade

questions ranging from how Soldiers take showers to what they do in their free time.

The students, who are studying the "cradle of civilization," were able to speak with Soldiers at COB Speicher, a base near Tikrit, Iraq, over a video

tele-conference Nov. 11.

The Soldiers were able to give real-time answers to the questions they had about the region, people, climate and wildlife.

"Students wish to honor our servicemen and women on Veterans Day, and are learning about the cost of war on human emotions and global resources," Garcia-Maldonado said.

For two Soldiers in the 233rd Transportation Co., both from Colorado, the video tele-conference had special significance.

"It was nice to talk to somebody from our state on Veterans Day instead of someone we can't identify with — overall I think it was great," said SpC. Jeremy Ulhorn, a 24-year-old wheeled vehicle mechanic from Colorado Springs, Colo.. "It made me feel great because it let me know that someone does appreciate the fact that we're out here."

The Longs Peak classroom wasn't far from home for the other Soldier.

"It was a great thing to do, due to the fact that they are so close to my home town," said SpC. Jarrod Feldman, a 25-year-old wheeled vehicle mechanic from Broomfield, Colo.. "It's kind of breathtaking, a really good feeling."

Longs Peak Middle School also hosted a panel of guest speakers from other major wars.

"We will raise a flag that has flown over Iraq, a gift from a former student who has since returned from his tour there," said Garcia-Maldonado.

As the school bell rang and the students headed to their next class, the sustainment Soldiers felt a little more pride in their own service.

"It was a unique and encouraging experience," said 1st Lt. Hallie Becker, operations officer, 391st CSSB. "To have been given the opportunity to talk to some of the nation's youth and see them interacting with the Soldiers — it was a decidedly memorable Veterans Day."

Still going Strong

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. CODY WEST
5th Engineer Brigade

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — “Bittersweet” is often used to describe a platoon’s last mission on the battlefield. On the sweet side of this last mission comes a sense of accomplishment and pride accompanied

by the anticipation of making it home safely to loved ones.

On the bitter side there is apprehension and a foreboding of loss for the strong bonds that form between Soldiers who have worked so closely together in a dangerous and stressful environment. As the mission finishes, a brotherhood comes to an end.

In October of 2006, the Soldiers of Bravo Company, 5th Engineer Battalion were at that point, they were changing out with the unit sent to replace them and completing their last combat missions. Capt. Joe Bogart



Capt. Joe Bogart
5th Engineer Brigade

“We all sacrifice for the good of our nation. Just some of us have the scars on the outside.”

— then 2nd Lt. Joe Bogart — was the platoon leader of 2nd Platoon.

Bogart started out his Army service as an enlisted Soldier. After several years and earning the rank of Staff Sergeant, he made a decision to attend Officer Candidate School and become an officer. His first assignment as an officer was with the 5th Engineer Battalion. The platoon had been performing route-clearance missions in Baghdad since November of 2005.

On the morning of Oct. 6, 2nd Plt. was completing its last mission,

when at approximately 11 a.m., an improvised explosive device consisting of four 155mm artillery rounds detonated, exploding four feet away from where Bogart sat in his command vehicle.

As Bogart says: “Sometime you find the IEDs, and sometimes they find you.”

Bogart was hit with shrapnel that he says was approximately 1 and 1/2 inches long, with a jagged edge. His driver, gunner, and interpreter sustained shock and blast concussions.

Bogart describes his injuries and some of the medical treatment: “My forehead was fractured in several places above the left and right eye. The upper orbital bone on the right eye was destroyed; my nose was flattened against the Blue Force Tracker screen which was located in front of me inside the vehicle; my cheek bones were both fractured and my upper palate under my nose and above the roof of the mouth was fractured. I have titanium mesh in my right orbit above the right eye socket as well as in my forehead and in my nose.”

Bogart was evacuated by air and eventually awoke at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, currently known as Joint Base Balad.

It has been two years, five surgeries and one prosthetic eye since he was wounded in action that October morning in 2006.

Today, Bogart is legally blind with a prosthetic right eye and an amazing, inspirational story; he is now back

in the fight, and selflessly serving his nation proudly in Iraq. He remains a member of the Fightin’ Fifth Engineer Battalion and is currently serving as the executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

The process to keep Bogart in the Army, and allow him to deploy to Iraq, may have seemed insurmountable. However, Bogart’s warrior ethos, combined with the support of family, friends and numerous senior leaders made it possible.

Bogart credits the doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for saving his eyesight. While legally blind, his “good” eye still sees 20/40 with glasses. When it came down to the final decision, it was Bogart who would not accept defeat and fought to continue his service in the Army and be allowed to deploy with his battalion once again. He was offered military retirement, along with opportunities to stay engaged with Soldiers and pursue a civilian career.

For Bogart, the decision to fight to continue his military service was an easy one; he says he simply saw it as his duty, it was what he felt he had to do.

“I have something to prove to myself,” Bogart says, “I have to prove that I am not a coward, that I am not scared of getting hurt, and that the guy on the other end of that IED didn’t get me, and that Bogart is still here. Addition-

See Bogart, Page 18

Sustainment brigade tackles Ninawa water issue

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
3rd Sustainment Command

AL-QAYARRAH, Iraq — The 16th Sustainment Brigade took a major step in its effort to get water to the drought-prone Ninawa province in northern Iraq on Nov. 5.

Soldiers and contractors from contingency operating base Q-West began installation of a second high-capacity, multi-stage centrifugal water-pump at the Al-Qayyarah pump house on the Tigris River. The pump house, which provides water to many communities in the province as well as Q-West, has been shut down since September.

The ongoing effort, spearheaded by the 16th Sust. Bde. will replace failing water pumps and lines, repair a concrete, raw-water storage area, build additional water reservoirs and coordinate Iraqi and U.S. involvement in day-to-day operations and security to provide water to regional Iraqi communities and to Q-West, said Lt. Col. Eric Fleming, deputy commander, 16th Sust. Bde.

“It’s not only important for the brigade, but also for the base, for its life support and mission support in north-

ern Iraq. It also has the added benefit of supporting the local community with water, so it’s a good outreach and relationship-building project,” said Fleming.

The infrastructure projects to get water to the region are expected to cost close to one million dollars when complete, said Lt. Col. Eric Fleming, deputy commander, 16th Sust. Bde.

Q-West, formerly an Iraqi Air Force base under Saddam Hussein, shares water from the pump house with the town of Al-Qayyarah and smaller villages and hasn’t been immune to the region’s water woes.

“Water has been an ongoing issue for us here at Q-West for many years,” said Lt. Col. Keith Dinn, commander, 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and outgoing COB mayor. “We are aggressively pursuing every viable option available, with varying degrees of success.”

The Bamberg, Germany-based sustainment brigade is coordinating projects with an Air Force facilities engineering team, the Army Corps of Engineers, Iraqi Army, police and provincial leadership, U.S. contractors, Defense Contract Management Agency, and others through a “water working group.”

The pump house needed major repairs.

Soldiers and contractors have re-



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Roach (center), a water operations non-commissioned officer in charge, 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and contractors winch a new, high-capacity, multi-stage centrifugal water pump into place at the Al Qayyarah pump house at the Tigris River Nov. 5, as part of a massive, joint project overseen by the 16th Sustainment Brigade to build water infrastructure in the drought-prone Ninawa region in northern Iraq.

paired and reinstalled the four lift pumps that pump water from the river into a cistern, though they plan to replace them soon. They have had to make “from scratch” specialized equipment to remove silt and other materials from the 70-foot-deep cistern.

They had to remove water from the flooded pump house, patch the leaks, and winch out the heavy, defective pumps and motors. Inside the pump house there were eight pumps that fed two separate water lines, most worn-out and un-repairable.

Four of the pumps, pumps that feed a 12-inch water line that provides water primarily to the nearby city of Al-Qayyarah through a water treatment plant, were replaced by an Air Force facilities engineering team. Another four pumps at the treatment plant will be replaced to ensure Al-Qayyarah receives treated water.

The remaining four pumps at the pump house fed a 16-inch line that runs 25 kilometers to COB Q-West, though several villages and communities have tapped into the untreated-water line.

Base water planners have had water shipped in from nearby Army installations and local national businesses to fill the gap since the pump house was

See Water, Page 18

WARRIOR CARE

SETTING THE EXAMPLE IN MILITARY WELL-BEING



OUR GREATEST ASSET: YOU

IF YOU ARE WOUNDED, ILL, OR INJURED,
WE WILL GET THROUGH IT TOGETHER.

"THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
AFTER THE WAR ITSELF, THAN CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS."

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES



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Task Force SAFE gears up to protect base

BY SPC. KIYOSHI FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A team from Task Force SAFE continues to inspect approximately 9,000 buildings here for safety violations.

The ongoing process is set to continue through this next year.

According to Task Force SAFE, over half of all electrical fires on bases in Iraq occur in Containerized Housing Units (CHUs).

One of the goals of TFS is to reverse this trend and provide a safer environment for servicemembers and civilian contractors.

Teams of master electricians and fire inspectors check the approximately 90,000 buildings in use by Coalition Forces throughout Iraq. They make recommendations for corrections to contractors and officials. Later, and more importantly, another inspection is conducted to make sure those corrections are carried out, says Staff Sgt. Michael Bradley, an electrical inspector from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 249th Engineer Battalion.

“Our major emphasis over here is grounding and bonding,” says Bradley, who explained that his team’s immediate goal was to insure the proper wiring and grounding of the 8,000-10,000 buildings on Joint Base Balad.

The construction of most of the buildings occurred after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Even something as small as a CHU can be labor intensive. According to information provided by Task Force SAFE, it takes between 30 minutes to an hour to inspect a CHU. It can then take up to four days and \$2,000 to bring it up to code.

“A lot of times they try to do it to the British standard,” says Bradley, refer-

ring to the use of 220-voltage and steel conductors as opposed to the 110-voltage and copper conductors standardized in America. “But a lot of times they do it incorrectly, so it’s not safe.”

Part of this situation was born out of necessity.

Coalition Forces fell in on Iraqi infrastructure already set to a British standard and constructed buildings rapidly to meet mission requirements, says Lt. Col. John Hornick, the safety officer for 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Now that security has improved in Iraq, however, there is the opportunity to bring in experts to go back over that work and make it even safer for civilians and service members, he says.

Inspections aside, TFS is also leading an initiative to increase safety awareness by teaching classes and advising service members to inspect their own areas for any safety violations.

Bradley says it is important for Soldiers not to overload circuits, daisy-chain power strips, or use anything but a UL or CE-approved adapters. If anyone ever receives a shock when plugging something in, it should be reported immediately. TFS already purchased 500,000 new adapters, which

servicemembers will soon be able to do one-for-one exchanges for, he says.

Although TFS is doing everything in its power, Soldiers are ultimately responsible for their own safety, says Hornick.

“Soldiers are the first defense and the first safety officer,” he says. “Common sense is the rule. If it doesn’t look right, it isn’t. If it doesn’t look safe, it probably isn’t.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi Freeman

Task Force SAFE members point out this room as an example of an unsafe work environment here Nov. 4. In an effort to increase workspace, previous servicemembers built an awning over this walkway and wired the area with electricity. Exposed wiring, top inset, and a leaking pipe, bottom inset, prompted them to shut off power to the building, which is currently undergoing renovations.

10 Electrical Safety Tips

1. Unplug all non-essential appliances when not in use. If it's plugged in, it's still drawing power and is a potential hazard.
2. Never overload the circuit. Just because there are five or six spots on the power strip doesn't mean it's okay to use every one.
3. Plug refrigerators and microwaves directly into wall outlets, not power strips.
4. Report any mild shocks, exposed wiring, loose connections and evidence of electrical fires, like blackened wood around an outlet.
5. Make sure all power strips and adapters have an embedded European CE or United States UL logo. Anything else may be a potential fire hazard.
6. Don't daisy chain power strips to each other.
7. Clean dust and dirt out of fire alarms, otherwise they may not function correctly.
8. Try to keep 6" of clearance around wall outlets.
9. Maintain a clean and dirt-free work and living space (as much as possible).
10. Don't cook, use hot plates or anything that produces an open flame.

3^d ESC holds support operations conference

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a support operations conference between key support operations leaders and 3^d ESC subordinate brigades here Nov. 7-8 at the Oasis Dining Facility's Audie Murphy Room.

The conference gave 3^d ESC SPO leaders a chance to interact with their subordinate brigade SPO leaders who are located throughout the Iraqi theater. Throughout the conference, leaders were able to discuss different aspects of their SPO operations ranging from fuel operations to supply movement.

Attending the conference were key SPO leaders from the 330th Transportation Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 55th Sustainment Brigade, 7th Sustainment Brigade, 16th Sustainment Brigade and 371st Sustainment Brigade.

Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3^d ESC commanding general, sat in on the conference's second session and spoke on topics pertaining to the 3^d ESC and its subordinates, as well as units throughout Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We support Coalition Forces. That's our number one job over here,” Lally said. “Whatever they want to go out and do, we're going to make sure from a sustainment and distribution point of view that they're prepared to handle that mission. So far we have done a great job of that.”

A topic that came up throughout the conference, no matter which sustainment brigade briefed, was the Iraq

Transportation Network, which are private trucking companies organized by Iraqi tribes and shaykhs.

The ITN is important to the overall



Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, spoke at the 3^d ESC support operation conference Nov. 8, which was held by key leadership and 3^d ESC subordinate brigades.

mission of the 3^d ESC and the sustainment brigades because it promises Soldiers of these units less exposure time on the road while simultaneously providing employment opportunities for Iraqi citizens. So far, the ITN has successfully moved supplies such as food, water, construction materials and containers without any military escorts.

Overall, Col. Cheri Provancha, support operations officer for 3^d ESC, felt the conference was successful because it provided the 3^d ESC and its subordinates the opportunity to interact with one another and discuss SPO issues face to face.

Plans for future meeting are already in the works.

“I was very pleased with the open dialogue and open exchange of information,” Provancha said. “There was a lot of expertise, lots of patriotism, and lots of dedication here.”

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

AETV-CG-EO

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: National American Indian Heritage Month Observance 2008

1. Since it was signed into public law on March 2, 1992, National American Indian Heritage Month is celebrated annually during the month of November to honor Native Americans' contributions to the history and culture of the United States. The 2008 National Theme is: "Living in Many Worlds."

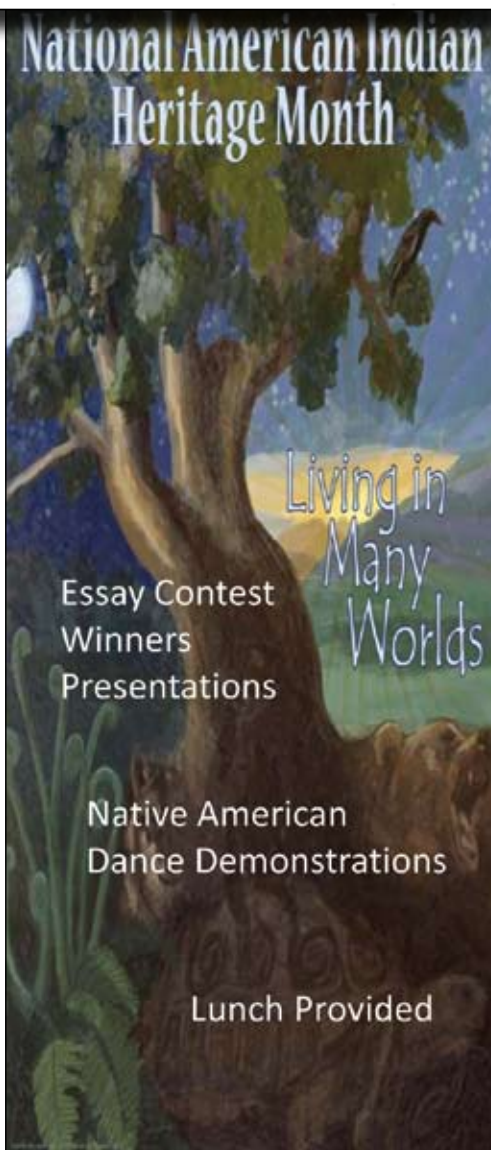
2. Native Americans are significant contributors to our nation's military. Navajo troops from signal units developed and implemented the only code the enemy was unable to decipher during World War II. Ira Hamilton Hayes, a Pima Native American, was one of five Marines who raised the American Flag on Iwo Jima. To date, 24 Native American Soldiers have been recipients of the Medal of Honor. We are grateful for all Soldiers who have served and continue to serve in our Armed Services; however, during the month of November, I ask Soldiers of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to reflect on the significant contributions made by Native Americans to our national and military history.

3. I commend Native Americans who have made, and continue to make, landmark contributions to the legacy of their heritage and our country. All subordinate units of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are encouraged to support appropriate programs and activities to observe "National American Indian Heritage Month."

4. "Sustaining the Line."

MICHAEL J. LALLY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A



JOINT BASE BALAD

Presents

**National Native American Indian Heritage Month
Observance**

MWR East Facility

25 November 2008 1130 to 1300 hours

Guest Speaker: LTC Tracey Clyde
G-1, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

DOD National Theme: "Living in Many Worlds."

Contact: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3^d ESC HR/EO Advisor @ 433-2527,
MSgt Joseph Newton 332nd AEW EO Directory @ 443-8459,
SFC Everett Worman 555th EN BDE EO Advisor @ 483-4645,
SSG Marquerite Smith-McBride 259th BN EOL @ 483-2021 or
SSG Damon Walker 51st ESB BN EOL @ 483-2217

Editor's Note: In honor of National Native American Indian Heritage Month, the Expeditionary Times recognizes the significant contribution of Native Americans to our nation's military. In the last two centuries, 25 Native Americans have been awarded the medal; of those, 16 were awarded the medal during the Indian War Campaigns.

The Korean War

Woodrow W. Keeble

Tribal Heritage: Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of Lake Traverse Reservation, a Sioux Native American Tribe.

Rank and Organization: Master Sergeant, U.S. Army.

Place and date: Korea, 20 October 1951.

Citation: Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy near Sangsan-ni, Korea, on October 20, 1951. On that day, Master Sergeant Keeble was an acting platoon leader for the support platoon in Company G, 19th Infantry, in the attack on Hill 765, a steep and rugged position that was well defended by the enemy. Leading the support platoon, Master Sergeant Keeble saw that the attacking elements had become pinned down on the slope by heavy enemy fire from three well-fortified and strategically placed enemy positions. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Master Sergeant Keeble dashed forward and joined the pinned-down platoon. Then, hugging the ground, Master Sergeant Keeble crawled forward alone until he

was in close proximity to one of the hostile machine-gun emplacements. Ignoring the heavy fire that the crew trained on him, Master Sergeant Keeble armed a grenade and threw it with great accuracy, successfully destroying the position. Continuing his one-man assault, he moved to the second enemy position and destroyed it with another grenade. Despite the fact that the enemy troops were now directing their firepower against him and unleashing a shower of grenades in a frantic attempt to stop his advance, he moved forward against the third hostile emplacement, and skillfully neutralized the remaining enemy position. As his comrades moved forward to join him, Master Sergeant Keeble continued to direct accurate fire against nearby trenches, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Inspired by his courage, Company G successfully moved forward and seized its important objective. The extraordinary courage, selfless service, and devotion to duty displayed that day by Master Sergeant Keeble was an inspiration to all around him and reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Master Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble.

Photo from public domain

Charles George

Tribal Heritage: Cherokee

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Songnae-dong, Korea, 30 November 1952.

Citation: Pfc. George, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and

closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. Pfc. George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The 2 soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. Pfc. George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold



Mitchell Red Cloud Jr.

Tribal Heritage: Ho Chunk Nation.

Rank and organization: Corporal, U S. Army, Company E, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Chonghyon, Korea, 5 November 1950.

Citation: Cpl. Red Cloud, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. From his position on the point of a ridge immediately in front of the company command post he was the first to detect the approach of the Chinese Communist forces and give the alarm as the enemy charged from a brush-covered area less than 100 feet from him. Springing up he delivered devastating

pointblank automatic rifle fire into the advancing enemy. His accurate and intense fire checked this assault and gained time for the company to consolidate its defense. With utter fearlessness he maintained his firing position until severely wounded by enemy fire. Refusing assistance he pulled himself to his feet and wrapping his arm around a tree continued his deadly fire again, until he was fatally wounded. This heroic act stopped the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for reorganization and evacuation of the wounded. Cpl. Red Cloud's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflects the highest credit upon himself and upholds the esteemed traditions of the US Army.

World War II

Ernest Childers

Tribal Heritage: Creek Indian (the *Muskogee*).

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, US Army, 45th Infantry Division.

Place and date: At Oliveto, Italy, 22 September 1943.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy. Although 2d Lt. Childers previously had just suffered a fractured instep he, with 8 enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall overlooking a cornfield and 2d Lt. Childers ordered a base of fire laid across the field so

that he could advance. When he was fired upon by 2 enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machinegun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the 2 occupants of the nest raised up, he shot 1. The other was killed by 1 of the 8 enlisted men. 2d Lt. Childers continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single-handed, captured an enemy mortar observer. The exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed by 2d Lt. Childers were an inspiration to his men.



Photo courtesy the National Archives

2nd Lt. Ernest Childers is congratulated by Gen. Jacob L. Devers after receiving the Medal of Honor in Italy for wiping out two machinegun nests on July 13, 1944.

Jack C. Montgomery

Tribal Heritage: Cherokee.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, US Army, 45th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near, Padiglione, Italy, 22 February 1944.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 22 February 1944, near Padiglione, Italy. Two hours before daybreak a strong force of enemy infantry established themselves in 3 echelons at 50 yards, 100 yards, and 300 yards, respectively, in front of the rifle platoons commanded by 1st Lt. Montgomery. The closest position, consisting of 4 machineguns and 1 mortar, threatened the immediate security of the platoon position. Seizing an M1 rifle and several hand grenades, 1st Lt. Montgomery crawled up a ditch to within hand grenade range of the enemy. Then climbing boldly onto a little mound, he fired his rifle and threw his grenades so accurately that he killed 8 of the enemy and captured the remaining 4. Returning to his platoon, he called for artillery fire on a house, in and around which he suspected that the majority of the enemy had entrenched themselves. Arming himself with a carbine, he proceeded along the shallow ditch, as wither-

ing fire from the riflemen and machinegunners in the second position was concentrated on him. He attacked this position with such fury that 7 of the enemy surrendered to him, and both machineguns were silenced. Three German dead were found in the vicinity later that morning. 1st Lt. Montgomery continued boldly toward the house, 300 yards from his platoon position. It was now daylight, and the enemy observation was excellent across the flat open terrain which led to 1st Lt. Montgomery's objective. When the artillery barrage had lifted, 1st Lt. Montgomery ran fearlessly toward the strongly defended position. As the enemy started streaming out of the house, 1st Lt. Montgomery, unafraid of treacherous snipers, exposed himself daringly to assemble the surrendering enemy and send them to the rear. His fearless, aggressive, and intrepid actions that morning, accounted for a total of 11 enemy dead, 32 prisoners, and an unknown number of wounded. That night, while aiding an adjacent unit to repulse a counterattack, he was struck by mortar fragments and seriously wounded. The selflessness and courage exhibited by 1st Lt. Montgomery in alone attacking 3 strong enemy positions inspired his men to a degree beyond estimation.

Ernest Edwin Evans

Tribal Heritage: Cherokee.

Rank and organization: Commander, US Navy.

Other Navy awards: Navy Cross, Bronze Star Medal.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Johnston in action against major units of the enemy Japanese fleet during the battle off Samar on 25 October 1944. The first to lay a smokescreen and to open fire as an enemy task force, vastly superior in number, firepower and armor,

rapidly approached. Comdr. Evans gallantly diverted the powerful blasts of hostile guns from the lightly armed and armored carriers under his protection, launching the first torpedo attack when the Johnston came under straddling Japanese shellfire. Undaunted by damage sustained under the terrific volume of fire, he unhesitatingly joined others of his group to provide fire support during subsequent torpedo attacks against the Japanese and, outshooting and outmaneuvering the enemy as he consistently interposed his vessel between the hostile fleet units and our carriers despite the crippling loss of engine power and com-

munications with steering aft, shifted command to the fantail, shouted steering orders through an open hatch to men turning the rudder by hand and battled furiously until the Johnston, burning and shuddering from a mortal blow, lay dead in the water after 3 hours of fierce combat. Seriously wounded early in the engagement, Comdr. Evans, by his indomitable courage and brilliant professional skill, aided materially in turning back the enemy during a critical phase of the action. His valiant fighting spirit throughout this historic battle will venture as an inspiration to all who served with him.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Soldiers render honors while the Joint Base Balad Quartet sings "The Star Spangled Banner" during Operation Sustainer Strong at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Nov. 11. Nearly 300 service members from the Army, Air Force, and Marines re-enlisted during the largest mass re-enlistment in the history of Joint Base Balad.

Sustainers conduct mass re-enlistment in honor of Veterans Day

BY SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – On Nov. 11 – Veterans Day – nearly 300 service members across Iraq gathered to re-enlist here at Holt Stadium, in the largest mass re-enlistment in the base's history.

After helicopter and convoy movements, and rehearsals, all 274 service members raised their right hand and swore oaths to defend their country – again.

"We gather today to remind ourselves that our mission as fighting men and women must continue," Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, commander of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the host for the event, said. "To continue we must have those that are willing, able and are inspired to raise their hands again and again to be counted with those that came before them."

To the re-enlisting service members, all of whom volunteered for the occasion, the significance of holding the ceremony on Veteran's Day was important.

"Every Veteran's Day has been big for us in uniform," said Sgt. Juan Rojas, cook with the 297th Carog Transer Company and a Miami na-

tive. "It gives me great pleasure to be here and be part of history."

Since switching over to an all-volunteer force in 1973, the armed forces have depended on re-enlistments to retain qualified personnel. This has become more critical in the face of the ongoing operations around the world.

Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of 1st Sustainment Brigade, said Soldiers stay in the Army for the same reasons they join: training, education, adventure, money – and the most important reason they stay in the military, however, is service to their nation.

"They're patriotic," O'Connell said. "They want to serve in an all-volunteer Army . . . to give back to a great nation what it's given to them."

While she was not planning to make the Army her career, Sgt. Latasha Myers, mechanic with the 503rd Maintenance Company, said her experiences and the people she works with inspired her to re-enlist.

"I love what I do," she said. "I love fighting for my country."

O'Connell said friends and families should be proud of what their sons and daughters did this day.

"They re-enlisted on a big day, while they're



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) coins are ready for presentation to Soldiers re-enlisting during Operation Sustainer Strong at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

in combat. They continue to serve when their nation needs them, when we're in conflict," he said. "They're our future."

"These common men and women have always done, and will continue to do, uncommon things," Lally said. "The stories of those in front of you are still being written," he said. "Today another chapter has begun. Wherever they go, whatever they do – each story will be different. Each will contain trials and deployments, and tales from lands yet to be seen. However, the common theme in each will be their selfless service and their universal commitment."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Stefanie Kuntz



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour



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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw



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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Sustainers deliver new desks to school in Muthanna

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
KELLY JO BRIDGWATER
3rd Sustainment Command

MUTHANNA, Iraq – Sustainers from the 7th Sustainment Brigade delivered over one hundred refurbished school desks to the newly built Al-Fadhliya secondary school Nov. 4, as hundreds of Iraqi junior-high aged girls waited patiently outside.

The Ft. Eustis-based brigade delivered 120 newly refurbished desks, school supplies packed inside 533 colorful book-bags and 30 education kits for school instructors.

"The Muthanna PRT (Pro-

vincial Reconstruction Team) had met with Hamadi Mousa Abid Al Obaidy, Muthanna director of education, and found out that there was a warehouse full of metal desk frames in poor condition," said Maj. Robert Hudson, Civil Military Operations, 7th Sust. Bde. "We got a sample desk kit, and Chaplain Damon Saxton, 7th Sustainment Brigade and a group of volunteer Soldiers with a background in carpentry figured out how best to utilize the wood needed to fix the desks and made a plan for their rebuilding. From there it all fell into

place."

"We are very pleased to be here today," said Adel Fadela, a deputy team leader of Muth-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Jo Bridgewater

A group of students from the Al-Fadhliya Secondary School, smile as they sit at their new desks with their book-bags chock full of school supplies, 533 school bags with essential supplies were donated to the students as part of an Engineer Civic Action Program that took place Nov. 4th, in Muthanna.

anna PRT, as he addressed the crowd of students, teachers and guests. "Today's PRT project symbolizes the commitment to the development of education. Cooperation with the U.S. military and the U.S. State Department is what made this possible."

Hudson said he couldn't agree more. "The mission was a tremendous success," he said. "We brought together Soldiers and Airmen from around the COB (contingency operating base) and

worked on these desks and delivered them along with the book-bags and teaching kits, a gift from the heart of America.

The country of Iraq is providing a better educational environment for these children with the government of Iraq funding and building this new school and Americans donating the supplies."

Hudson said the Engineer Civic Action Program, or EN-CAP, was the idea of a former PRT leader, Paul O'Friel.

"One night over dinner a group of us were discussing ways on how the brigade chaplains could help out in CMO projects as well as get the brigade's Soldiers involved to help the people of Iraq and show them good will," Hudson said.

"Muthanna is a shining example of stability in Iraq," Fadela said. "Today we are celebrating the promotion of education."

"Triple Nickel" Soldiers Become American Citizens

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT
KELLY HANF
555th Engineer Brigade



AL FAW PALACE, VICTORY BASE, Iraq – 21 Soldiers from the 555th Engineer Brigade took part in a naturalization ceremony at the Al Faw Palace on Victory Base Camp, Iraq on November 4th. A ceremony for which 186 American Soldiers from 60 different countries who have all made great contributions and

sacrifices for the United States of America where honored by officially becoming American Citizens. Fort Lewis had four Soldiers participate in the ceremony on this historic US election day. Staff Sgt. Edgar Ortiz, Spc. Reysol Esteban, Spc. Jose Apoloya, and Pfc. Yarovis Pina of the 555th Engineer Brigade's 14th Engineer Battalion gained their citizenship during this special ceremony.

Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding Gen., Multi-National Force – Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, both gave speeches during the ceremony to express

their gratitude and appreciation to the new American citizens. Ambassador Crocker expressed not only his gratitude but also pointed out that over 40,000 Soldiers have naturalized since President Bush signed the bill to speed up the process for service members and their immediate family members to become citizens of the United States.

The 555th Engineer Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Thomas, who attended the ceremony to support the Soldiers on this proud day said it was a proud day for the Soldiers gaining U.S. citizenship.

"I am happy as a leader that

the sacrifices of these Soldiers are being recognized by granting them speedy citizenship," Thomas said. "As for the Triple Nickel and Fort Lewis Soldiers I am especially proud and appreciate all of their efforts, and I am proud to have them as fellow citizens of our great country."



186 Soldiers participate in a naturalization ceremony on Victory Base Camp, Iraq, Nov. 4. at Al Faw Palace on Victory Base Camp, Iraq, on Nov. 4.

STORMBRINGERS, from Page 1

unit to watch over two of his childhood friends, both of whom were in his platoon. His time with Team Echo was so memorable, though, the camaraderie that developed so strong, he reenlisted with the Indiana National Guard for another six years.

"This company was amazing," Hansel said. "Team Echo was born here. We're the first, and we're going to be the last. And to accomplish what we've did is something I've never seen in my 12 years in the Army."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi Freeman

ABOVE: Spc. Jeremy Hansel, a gunner from Martinsville, Ind., poses in front of a Team Echo's mural, which took him 82 hours to paint, here Nov. 6. "This company was amazing," Hansel said. "And to accomplish what we've did is something I've never seen in my 12 years in the Army."



U.S. Army photo courtesy of Team Echo

RIGHT: Team Echo Soldiers pose with Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, center, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in May.

LOYALTY

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your unit and other Soldiers.*

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance"
— Thomas Jefferson

U.S. ARMY
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Airmen, Soldiers work together to save lives at Joint Base Balad hospital

BY AIR FORCE
STAFF SGT. DON BRANUM
332nd Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Air Force and Army medics here work as an integrated team to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, two of the most common injuries to affect wounded warriors.

The cooperation between services does more than contribute to the Air Force Theater Hospital's 98-percent survival rate -- it reduces the number of servicemembers who must be aeromedically evacuated from the theater, said Col. (Dr.) Mark Mavity, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander.

The Army provides neurosurgical capability through the 207th Medical Detachment head and neck team and acute stress care through the 56th Multifunctional Medical Brigade.

"We have the only neurosurgical capability in Iraq," said Mavity, who has previously served as chief of operational medicine for the Office of the Surgeon General at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

Time is precious when someone suffers a head injury, said Army Maj. (Dr.) Shaden Marzouk, a neurosurgeon with the 207th MD. Injuries to the brain or skull can cause fluid to build up inside a patient's skull, creating pressure on the brain. If the

pressure becomes too great, the top part of the brain, or cerebrum, pushes into the medulla -- the portion of the brain that controls the heart, lungs and other involuntary organ systems.

"Patients with traumatic brain injuries need immediate care to preclude that injury from becoming fatal," Mavity said.

Neurosurgeons can treat the pressure buildup through a surgical procedure called decompressive craniectomy, which involves removing a small part of the skull. Until recently, however, patients had to be flown to Joint Base Balad in order to receive the treatment.

"There's not always enough time to get the patient here in time to do that, so we've had the neurosurgeons fly out and teach some basic life-saving procedures to medics at other combat area support hospitals throughout Iraq," Mavity said. "That way, patients will survive long enough to get to Balad."

The Air Force Clinic here provides non-emergency medical services to Airmen and Soldiers. Here, the Army works with the Air Force to provide for patients' mental health needs, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jim Whitworth, officer in charge of the mental health clinic.

The mental health clinic helps patients deal with traumatic brain injury cases, most of which are mild concussions, said Maj. (Dr.) Rich Barker, a psychologist with the Air Force Mental Health Clinic here. The clinic focuses on detecting and treating acute stress, which can be attributed to either post-

traumatic stress disorder or mild traumatic brain injury.

"Two years ago, when people got involved with falls or (improvised explosive device) blasts, they'd either press on without seeing a doctor, or they'd see a doctor and get sent back to a military treatment facility in Germany or the United States," said Barker, a Phoenix native who is deployed from Elmen-

typically suffer symptoms such as headaches, insomnia, irritability and anxiety. The mental health clinic relies in part upon psychiatrists with the 1835th Medical Detachment Combat Stress Control Team, an Army Reserve unit based in Denver, to treat patients who have either traumatic brain injury or PTSD.

"Traumatic brain injuries and PTSD have many of the same

tients' primary care managers.

"There are a couple of symptoms we really try to tackle -- headaches and insomnia," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jim Whitworth, a social worker with the mental health clinic who's deployed from Eglin AFB, Fla. "Insomnia fights the healing process, because resting is the number-one way of healing."

The most important step in healing is seeking continuity of care, Gomez said. Servicemembers shouldn't assume their PTSD has gone away simply because the symptoms have disappeared.

"PTSD is a chronic illness, and they may have a relapse," he said.

Both the Air Force and Army medical teams complimented their counterparts for the successful integration of medical services.

"Post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury often go hand in hand -- the same patients can suffer from both following a single event. The 56th MMB focuses on post-traumatic stress, and the Air Force mental health professionals work with mild traumatic brain injuries," Mavity said. "They're working in great partnership to take care of all of these patients' needs on both ends of that spectrum."

"We're very seamlessly integrated," Marzouk said. "We don't think of ourselves as Army or Air Force; we're just another part of a great team."

"We see about 50 patients per month, and we've only had two in two months that we had to send back to Germany because their symptoms didn't improve."

Capt. Luke Wheeler
HQ Det. Commander of the 330th Trans. Battalion

dorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Thanks to education efforts, however, the number of people seeking treatment for PTSD or acute stress is greater -- and the number of people sent out of theater for treatment is lower, Barker said.

"We see about 50 patients per month, and we've only had two in two months that we had to send back to Germany because their symptoms didn't improve," Barker said. "The others go back to work with fewer or no symptoms."

Five of six patients at the Air Force Mental Health clinic are Soldiers, Barker said. They

symptoms," said Army Col. (Dr.) Augustin Gomez, a psychiatrist with the 1835th CSCT who specializes in treating PTSD. "If we suspect an individual has a traumatic brain injury, we screen them and send them to the Air Force clinic. They do a good job with screening, because very few people come over here with traumatic brain injuries."

Common symptoms of PTSD and traumatic brain injury include insomnia and anxiety. Gomez uses therapy, medication and acupuncture to treat his patients, while the Air Force clinic offers relaxation therapy and prescriptions through pa-

Bogart, from Page 6

ally, the influence and support I received from my wife, fellow Soldiers, and leaders was absolutely critical and enabled me to do what I felt I needed to do."

As the HHC executive officer, it is business as usual for Bogart. He manages the administrative and logistics support for the company and oversees the operational employment of the battalion's medical support, religious support and battalion leadership's personal security detachment. He ensures physical training is a part of the daily schedule and recently competed in and finished the Army Ten-Miler road race on JBB, Iraq, on Oct. 5.

Bogart says he plans to stay in the Army with the intent of

attending the Captain's Career Course and commanding an engineer company.

When Bogart is asked to give advice he has a message: "Don't forget what you learned, wear the protective gear you are issued. Getting blown up and walking away isn't fun; it means you were lucky. Getting wounded isn't glorious or cool, it ... hurts, and continues to hurt for the rest of your life, but you deal with the pain both physically and emotionally. A Purple Heart isn't an award to strive for, it is something the military gives you when you get wounded and pay a price that you didn't plan on paying or ever hope to pay -- A price that you don't even know what it costs. We all sacrifice for the good of our nation. Just some of us have the scars on the outside."

Water, from Page 6

shut down. After the two new pumps have been installed, taps will be turned on at the pump house again.

"With these two pumps, and two more that are on order, we can start providing enough water to meet the needs of the citizens of Al-Qayyarah and other villages that use water from the line, as well as Q-West," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Roach, water operations non-commissioned officer in charge, 76th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Q-West Mayor's Cell.

One contractor was grateful for the new pumps and parts.

"They'll make a difference," said David Baker, a 46-year-old master plumber "We have all-new stuff to work with. I was making bearing shims out of aluminum cans and

hacksaw-blade pieces just to keep the bearings from flying off the motor shaft."

The improvements to the pump house are only part of the solution, said Maj. Roger Jackson, engineering projects officer, 16th Sust. Bde.

Besides the 16 pumps being replaced, at a cost of more than \$600,000, the brigade plans to line "Lake Wisconsin," a 30-million-gallon water reservoir at Q-West, to prevent seepage-loss, and to deepen existing reservoirs and dig an additional one to store more water.

"By the time all these lakes are finished we'll have five lakes with a capability of 100 million gallons of water storage," Jackson said.

Jackson was optimistic about the progress the brigade is making since it started the water working group in

August 2008.

"I don't have a crystal ball, but if everything is working properly, by the end of December we should see a major increase in the amount of water we're receiving," he said.

Jackson said he couldn't understate the importance of getting water to the base and region.

"For a base to remain open there has to be a consistent water source," he said. "If Q-West is going to increase its water supply, it has to be solved. Water is important for the morale, health and well-being of Soldiers. Water and electricity infrastructure projects improve the overall well-being of people in Iraq, and contribute to a more stable country."

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. We at the Expeditionary Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

Georgia

- The term “somasochistic abuse” is defined so broadly, that it could possibly be applied to a person handcuffing another in a clown suit.
- It is illegal to use profanity in front of a dead body which lies in a funeral home or in a coroners office.

Florida

- You are not allowed to break more than three dishes per day, or chip the edges of more than four cups and/or saucers.
- You may not fart in a public place after 6 p.m.

Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Level: Very Hard

	3			8			1	
2								
5			3			7		
	1			5				
	9			2			3	
				4			6	
		8			7			9
								2
6			9				4	

Last weeks answers

9	8	2	7	5	1	6	4	3
4	3	7	8	6	2	9	1	5
6	5	1	3	9	4	8	7	2
5	2	6	1	8	7	3	9	4
3	1	8	9	4	5	2	6	7
7	4	9	2	3	6	5	8	1
8	7	4	5	2	9	1	3	6
1	9	5	6	7	3	4	2	8
2	6	3	4	1	8	7	5	9

PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



THEN & NOW

DFAC 2



"Back in 2003 this is the first DFAC that was built in LSA Anaconda ... The lines were extremely long, I didn't eat here much because of how long those lines were. The meals today are much better than the meals back in 2003."

-- 1st Sgt. Reginald Smith



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U.S. ARMY



U.S. ARMY COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT CENTER

<https://crc.army.mil>



OWN the EDGE
Composite Risk Management

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<p>INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. AquaTraining: Tue.,Thu.,- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>EAST FITNESS CENTER Open Court Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Fri.- 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri.- 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:</p>	<p>Mon., Wed., Fri.- 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.</p> <p>EAST RECREATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons:</p>	<p>Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday-8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Tue., Thu.,- 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue.,Thu.,- 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Monday-Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu.,- 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu.,- 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MCAP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball:</p>	<p>Saturday- 8 p.m.</p> <p>H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas Hold'em: Mon., Fri.,- 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>WEST RECREATION</p>	<p>CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m.</p> <p>WEST FITNESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun.,- 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu.,- 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 8-10 p.m</p>
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SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

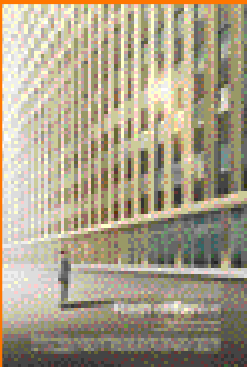
Movie Times

Wednesday, November 19
5 p.m. Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa
8 p.m. Ghost Town
Thursday, November 20
5 p.m. Ghost Town
8 p.m. Nights In Rodanthe
Friday, November 21
2 p.m. Flash of Genius
5 p.m. Eagle Eye
8:30 p.m. Quantum of Solace
Saturday, November 22
2 p.m. Eagle Eye
5 p.m. Quantum of Solace
8 p.m. Flash of Genius
Sunday, November 23
2 p.m. Quantum of Solace
5 p.m. Flash of Genius
8 p.m. Eagle Eye
Monday, November 24
5 p.m. Eagle Eye
8 p.m. Flash of Genius
Tuesday, Noveber 25
5 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua
8 p.m. Quantum of Solace

(Schedule is subject to change)

Flash of Genius

The Kearns were a typical 1960s Detroit family, trying to live their version of the American Dream. Local university professor Bob (Greg Kinnear) married teacher Phyllis (Lauren Graham) and, by their mid-thirties, had six kids who brought them a hectic but satisfying Midwestern existence. When Bob invents a device that would eventually be used by every car in the world, the Kearns think they have struck gold. But their aspirations are dashed after the auto giants who embraced Bob's creation unceremoniously shunned the man who invented it. Ignored, threatened and then buried in years of litigation, Bob is haunted by what was done to his family and their future.



Beverly Hills Chihuahua

A pampered Chihuahua accustomed to the living the good life in glamorous Beverly Hills must rein in her heiress instincts and rely on the kindness of strangers in order to find her way back home after becoming hopelessly lost in Mexico. Chloe (voice of Drew Barrymore) is a diamond-clad toy dog who favors traveling in her wealthy owner's purse over frolicking in an open park, and Papi (voice of George Lopez) is the kind of independent pup that she doesn't afford a second glance. When a vacation mishap leaves Chloe stranded in Mexico, the Chihuahua who doesn't speak a lick of Spanish must rely on street-smart German shepherd Delgado (voice of Andy Garcia) to guide her back home before she wanders any further south. Meanwhile, brave Papi races to the border intent on proving his love for Chloe by tracking her down and escorting her home in style.

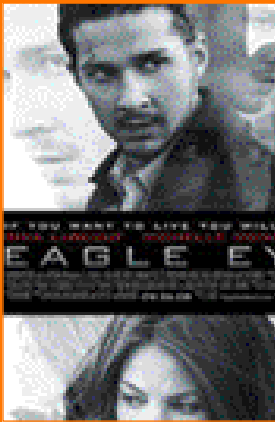


Quantum of Solace

Following the betrayal and death of Vesper Lynd, James Bond (Daniel Craig) makes his next mission personal. The hunt for those who blackmailed his lover leads Bond to ruthless businessman Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric), a key player in the organization which coerced Vesper. Bond learns that Greene is plotting to gain total control of a vital natural resource, and must navigate a minefield of danger and treachery to foil Greene's plan



Eagle Eye



Jacob Shaw (Shia LaBeouf) and Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan) are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations - using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening - and more importantly, why.

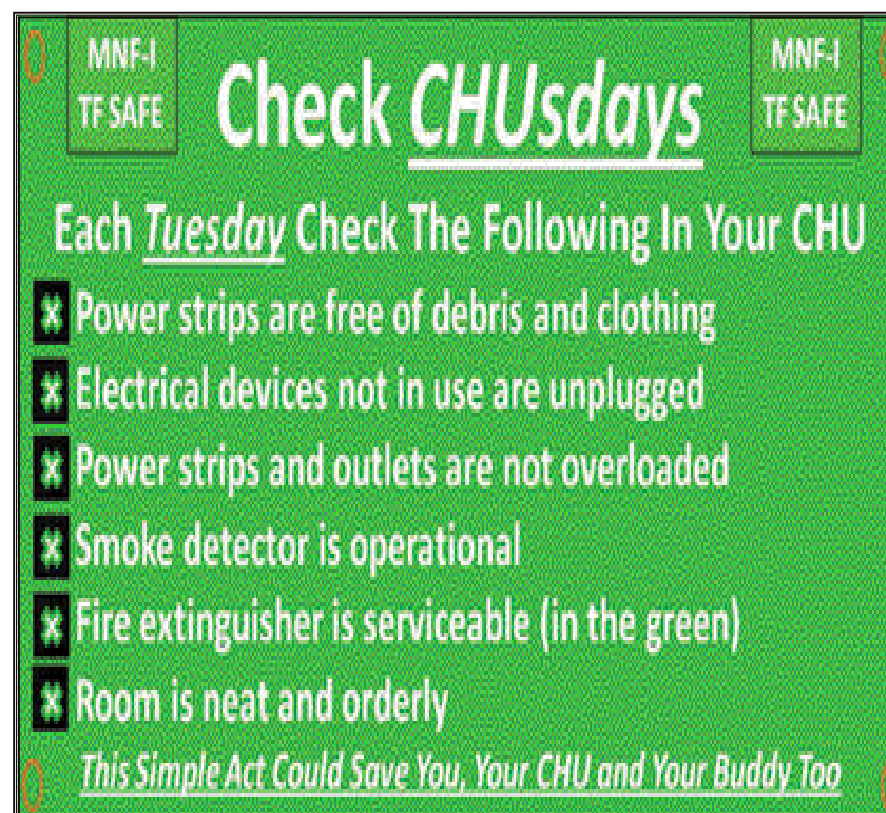
Letters to the editor | Safety reminder

I recently discovered your paper while googling and surfing to learn more about Balad, because my son Marcus Adams was recently stationed there. I was looking for info about where he is and found you. I really enjoy reading this paper and look forward to future editions, I've even bookmarked it to my favorites list. It really makes me feel good to see what youall are doing there, and I don't worry so much about my son, seeing how squared away you seem to be. Keep up the good work and God bless and take care of all of you.

Lou
Salyersville, Ky.

I enjoy reading Expeditionary Times and wanted to throw out there the idea that I used to see in the past. First of all I have been here in my sixth year and in the past the Commander would also recognize one civilian contractor that is here supporting the war fighters. As a former soldier I think it would be a great idea to recognize a civilian along with the soldier of the week as we have civilians from so many different countries here supporting JBB. Since I have been here I have made sure that JBB has the best quality water for all occupants here not to mention I even took a hit when I was injured with a mortar attack and continued to do my job providing water to all soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines. This is just my thought as like I said it was done in the past. Thanks.

Eloy
Joint Base Balad, Iraq



SHOUT outs



SSG Boyd Brinker
Happy Birthday Dad! We miss you and
love you so much!

Hugs & Kisses from Home! Love, Dawn, Brooke,
Brody, & Braydon

MSG Mike Seitz:

I love and
miss you
honey!

XOXOXOXO

-Your Wifey

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Iraqi police after transfer of control: not much has changed

★ FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – For Iraqi Police in Wasit Province, the transition to full Provincial Iraqi Control Oct. 29 was not a dramatic change, as they had taken the lead in security operations several months prior to the event.

“After the problems in March, Iraqi Security Forces stepped up to take control of their destiny in [Wasit] province,” said Maj. Gen. Abd al-Hanen Hammood Faisal, A provincial director of police. “Since then, the primary role of Coalition Forces has been advising, training and providing information to the ISF.”

“I knew PIC was inevitable while I was here, so we wanted to put more and more responsibility on the ISF and less on CF,” said Col. Richard Francey, 41st Fires Bde. commander and commander of CF in Wasit. “Day by day, we transferred security from CF to ISF, so when we got to PIC, day to day actions didn’t change much. From Oct. 28 to Oct. 30, there should be very little apparent change.”

CF are still providing advice, training and support to Wasit’s ISF, said Capt. Hayder Adnan Ali Al-Saedy, of the Iraqi Police. “They provide the training and advice we still need. We need to continue to build our skills.”

“The Americans and the Iraqis are a team,” he added. “As the Iraqi forces gain experience, the Coalition Forces will have less of a presence.”

One significant achievement for the Iraqi Police with the increased security, has been the community’s increased confidence in the police’s ability to do their job, said Haneen. “They are happy to see their sons in the ISF doing joint missions, providing security to Wasit province.”

“We have a good relationship with the people of our district,” said Capt. Al Fukar, commander of al Kut’s Falahea IP station. “That didn’t change with PIC. They want to help us. The people don’t want to go back to the militias. They want peace.”

That relationship, and the assistance of the populace, is critical for continued stability in Wasit province, said Francey.

“We are in a fragile time in the future of Iraq,” he said. “Day-to-day operations rely more and more on the Iraqi on the street to testify against bad people so those bad people may be put in jail and kept in jail.”

“The days of an oppressive society are behind us, and we must protect against a return to those days while maintaining a secure and stable environment,” Francey added. “To do this, we need a strong security force and an honest and just judiciary, and the bridge between the two is an honest and brave populace who will step forward and speak against those who do wrong.”

Barley feed delivery assists livestock owners

★ KIRKUK CITY, Iraq – More than 4,000 metric tons of feed barley was purchased from Romania and delivered to Kirkuk Province within the first two weeks of November. The emergency feed grain program was a joint effort between the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team, Coalition forces and local agricultural leaders.

Due to a summer drought, which severely cut wheat and barley production, more than one-million sheep in Kirkuk are without feed. The barley, which cost 1.3 million dollars, will give livestock owners a better opportunity to maintain their herds.

This economic loss for livestock owners, due to the drought, is being reported at approximately 250 million dollars, said John M. Schnittker, a PRT agricultural advisor. Because of the financial concerns, local Kirkuk sheep herders are forced to sell their sheep at extremely low prices, because they simply can’t feed them.

The purpose to obtain the feed from Romania is to mitigate economic impact, maintain herd viability, improve the health of the herds and provide an alternative until pastures develop later this year.

The barley purchase is a U.S. effort to help, not to solve, the problem, Schnittker said.

“This barley is a short-term effort to feed livestock in anticipation that conditions will get better and they will have pastures to feed on this winter,” he added.

The grain will help the livestock owners get through this hard time, breed their sheep and keep their herds intact, said Schnittker.

“If this feed didn’t come in time it would be a very difficult time,” said Mr. Akram Dewana, the Kirkuk silo manager where the feed is being stored prior to distribution.

The Romanian Barley will feed 200 thousand animals for 45 days, less than a third of the sheep in Kirkuk province.

Sons of Iraq now paid by government

★ CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – The Sons of Iraq in Mahmudiyah Qada received their first paycheck from the Government of Iraq Nov. 11.

The 17th Iraqi Army facilitated the payments at Patrol Base Lion’s Den and several other locations south of Baghdad.

The GoI assumed responsibility for the SoI program Oct. 1. The program began in fall of 2007; where SoI members were previously paid by Coalition Forces.

Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Platoon Task Force 1-63 Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored

Division, monitored the activities as the IA paid nearly 2,000 SoI.

“This is just another great example of the Government of Iraq coming together to give the people what they need,” said 2nd Lt. George Schwartz, a platoon leader for B Co., TF 1-63 Armor. “The fact that they were able to facilitate this event without incident is extraordinary.”

Many Coalition leaders attribute the decrease in violence in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq to the SoI program. Coalition forces continue to work closely with the SoI and facilitate their transition to the security forces or other non-security sector jobs.

The SoI payday activities are planned to continue for another week to ensure all SoI personnel are paid for their valuable service and contributions to the security of Iraq.

Sons of Iraq members are finger printed before receiving their first payment from the Government of Iraq at Patrol Base Lion’s Den Nov. 11.

Local, ISF, MND-B leaders attend bridge reopening in northwest Baghdad

★ BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers of the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, attended a bridge reopening ceremony in the Kadhamiyah district of northwest Baghdad Nov. 11.

The Al Aima Bridge has been closed since 2005 when a stampede caused the deaths of nearly 1,000 Shiite pilgrims.

The reopening was more than just a ribbon-cutting event, said Lt. Col. John Vermeesch, commander of 1st CAB, 18th Inf. Regt., who oversaw the ceremony.

“The opening of this bridge is symbolic of the unity in Baghdad,” Vermeesch said. “Opening this bridge also indicates sectarian relations and security have improved due to the hard work of local leaders and Coalition forces.”

The ceremony marking the reopening of the bridge was a festive event and included an Iraqi Army band and ceremonial sheep sacrifice. The Mayor of Baghdad, along with the major IA and Iraqi Police commanders of the Karkh District, was in attendance for the ceremony. Before the ceremony, National Policemen from the 2nd NP Division and IA soldiers from the 3rd, Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th IA Division, cleared and secured the bridge.

“Iraqi Security Forces have played an instrumental role in not only making an event like this possible but also in helping the bridge reconstruction project run smoothly,” said Maj. Koné Faulkner, spokesman, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

The event went off without incident and traffic began flowing across the bridge.

“The people were in a celebratory mood, waving Iraqi flags as they drove across the bridge,” said Vermeesch. “This event, along with others scheduled for the future in the Kadhamiyah district of Northwest Baghdad, will continue to promote security and good sectarian relations in the area.”



Around Balad



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Crystal Reidy
Sgt. Mark R. Kalland, head mechanic from Princeton, Minn., works on a vehicle on Joint Base Balad Nov. 5. Kalland is with Headquarters Supporting Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion. “The best part of the mission is the Soldiers I work with,” Kalland said. “They’re hardworking and have a positive attitude.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brian Barbour
Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Colon paints a mural on a concrete barrier in honor of Veterans Day at Joint Base Balad, Iraq Nov.10. Colon, an Army Reservist deployed with the 840th Deployment and Distribution Support Battalion, is an art teacher at Middle School 35 in Brooklyn NY.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alex Snyder
Servicemembers cross the finish line during the Veterans Day 5k run here Nov. 11. The first 1,500 runners were awarded with an event t-shirt. The event was organized by the 840th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mario A. Aguirre
Staff Sgt. Scott Polzin, with the 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion from Menominee, Mich., defends against a choke hold from Spc. Aldo Montiel, with the 557th Maintenance Company from Riverside, Calif., during level two combatives course on Joint Base Balad on Nov. 11. Level two qualification will allow the Soldiers to train at company level.