

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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2009 Financial Highlights

- Annual pay raise for military members: Members can expect to see a 3.9 percent increase in their basic pay effective Jan. 1. See the DFAS website for the updated pay tables. <http://www.dfas.mil>

- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): For new housing allowance rates, <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>

- Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS): New rates for subsistence, officers will be \$223.04 and enlisted will be \$323.87 per month.

- Thrift Savings Plan: The new 2009 contribution limit for the TSP will be \$16,500.

For frequently asked questions on the TSP program, <http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/qsas-limits.html>

- 2008 W-2s are available on myPay website. However, for those that arrived in December will need a corrected W-2 that reflects the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion entitlements. The corrected W-2's will be available mid-February.

Al Amal School for Deaf, page 5



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Emerson

Lt. Col. Richard A. White, 287th Sustainment Brigade medical operations officer and audiologist greets students at the Al Amal School for the Deaf in Rumaytah, Iraq, Jan. 14.

Iraqis learn about business development, opportunities at Dhi Qar conference

BY SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Amidst cell phone rings and conversations, 17 eager Iraqis from Dhi Qar province, Iraq received micro-grant instruction from Coalition forces at a small-business conference at

Mittica, Iraq, Jan. 17.

Ten Iraqi women and seven men attended a joint seminar hosted by the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, finance personnel from the 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and the members of the 287th Sustainment Brigade Civil Military Operations cell. The purpose of the event was to help stimulate economic growth in southern Iraq by educating potential business owners on ways to both start and expand small businesses using micro-

grants.

The conference was a streamlined version of a similar micro-grant seminar held by the 7th Sustainment Brigade and the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team on Dec. 6. Eager to offer a similar opportunity to residents of Dhi Qar province, Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, 287th Sust. Bde. CMO chief, contacted Dhi Qar PRT business leader Rick Schroeder who coordinated with nearby Nasiriya's Small Business Development Center to locate po-

tential applicants and make the conference a reality.

Wijdan Majid Hasan, a 40-year-old Iraqi woman from Nasiriya, attended the course hoping to develop her women's clothing store. She wants to buy some land to build a house with the profit. "We'll need to save 20- to 30-thousand for the land," said Hasan.

Capt. Margo Flores, 287th CMO finance officer, spent a

See DHI QAR CONFERENCE, Page 6

332 ESFS Blotter 15 Jan. – 22 Jan.

PATROL RESPONSE/MEDICAL EMERGENCY

During baton training at the security force headquarters building, one participant collapsed. Base patrols and medical personnel were dispatched to the scene when the subject complained of a migraine headache and was transported to the base hospital.

SEXUAL ASSAULT:

The victim reported to the law enforcement desk that a sexual assault had occurred at HAS 9. A suspect was brought to the scene by his platoon sergeant. Air Force investigation was on scene and made contact with the victim; Army CID arrived and assumed responsibility for the case.

MINOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT HIT AND RUN:

The victim reported to the law enforcement desk that between 0230 and 0300 while parked at the PAX terminal an unknown vehicle had struck his parked van. He stated there were no suspicious vehicles or personnel in the parking lot. Damage consisted of a broken mirror on the driver's side of the vehicle.

CONFISCATED CONTRABAND:

While conducting a force protection inspection on Victory Loop adjacent to Tower #46, a cellular phone was located in the back seat of the vehicle being checked. All individuals were questioned and the owner was identified. The cell phone was seized and documented on a DA Form 4137.

UNAUTHORIZED PHOTOGRAPHY:

An unknown person contacted the law enforcement desk and reported an unknown person taking photographs of a C-130 aircraft on the flight line. A patrol was dispatched and made contact with the subject, who had taken five digital photographs of the aircraft. He deleted the images from his camera and continued on with his mission.

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3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY) EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

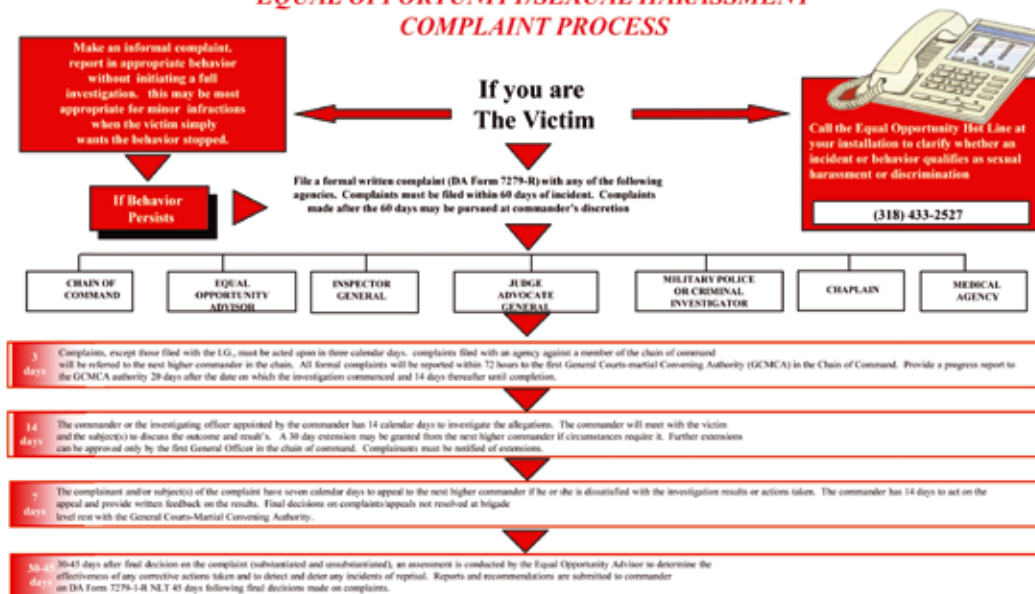


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EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally

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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.

Hooah of the Week



US Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Spc. William D. Vargas is congratulated by Col. Jarrold M. Reeves, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) deputy commander for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week." Vargas is a Lawton, Okla., native and tech support specialist for the 3d ESC.

Sustainer Challenge

Got Photos?

Are you participating in the 2009 Sustainer Challenge competition?

E-mail us two high resolution team photos with team information, to be published in the Expeditionary Times.



expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Indiana NG Transporters thank Hoosier Children for their Kindness

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. G. ELIZABETH BROWN
UPAR, 419th CSSB,
10th Sust. Bde

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Taking time out for Soldiers is just what Mrs. Henninger's first grade class did. The 1538th Transportation Company, an Indiana National Guard unit from Elkhart, Ind. received letters of kindness from Henninger's class sent to deployed transporters.

Hoosier children from West Grove Elementary, Greenwood, Ind. took time from their busy days of learning the ABC's and applying that knowledge to paper for Soldiers here.

The patriotic children sent three large boxes of goodies and wrote pages of thank you letters and pictures colored by their little hands. The Soldiers in the 1538th Trans. Co. could not help but smile when they looked at the displayed array of greetings that covered the walls of the MWR building.

The letters contained common messages of thanks for protecting the U.S., the hard work of the Soldiers, or for simply being a Soldier.

Throughout November and December, the deployed company received packages, cards, letters from all over, and some from the Soldiers' hometowns. While 1538's Soldiers were hanging dozens of letters made from the elementary school, one of the messages stood out from the rest – a small flag, colored very carefully on a single piece of paper with one of the children's skillfully crafted letters. It simply said, "Thank you for serving."

1st Sgt. Jeffrey Spencer, a Westport, Ind. native said, "That's what it is about, right there."

1st Lt. Brett Monroe of Sullivan, Ind. said, "When I saw all the letters sent to the Soldiers, my heart swelled with pride. That little note meant more to me than anything. To know that these children had taken the time to make



Spc. Jason Richmond holds a few of the letters sent to the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade to tell them "thank you". Richmond, a native of Indianapolis said, "It is really cool to get the letters from the kids back home." The 1538th Trans. Co. is currently deployed in support Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

sure we knew that they cared enough to say thank you."

Henninger, the teacher who put this project together, can relate to military life all too well. Her father is currently a chief warrant officer in the Indiana Army National Guard.

Henninger sent a letter with the boxes and letters, containing a message: "You are strong and brave for fighting for our country."

It is common to write articles to tell the public and family at home about mission accomplishments upon a unit's deployment. But rarely told, with not enough thanks the efforts of Families and supporters back in the states. They tirelessly send care packages, letters and warm wishes for all to know that someone cares.

"It would be impossible to thank everyone individually, so we proudly display all of the letters of thanks from the children and various organizations as a way of showing our thanks," said 1st Lt. G. Elizabeth Brown, executive

officer and Indianapolis native. "Their efforts are humbling and full of caring. It demonstrates compassion to a person that they probably will never meet. The most compelling part of this all is that they expect nothing in return. This simple act demonstrates exactly what America is, what Americans are and why we are here in this country right now."

Spc. Jason Richmond, a native of Indianapolis said, "It is really cool to get the letters from the kids back home."

"The 1538th Trans. Co., 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade wishes to thank the West Grove Elementary, the students of Mrs. Henniger's class and everyone who have supported this company," said Spencer.

The Citizen-Soldiers of the 1538th deployed in July 2008 and are scheduled to return from Iraq in the summer of 2009.

Equipping Iraqi Security Forces

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. AARON LEBLANC
UPAR, 165th CSSB,
10th SBDE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The U.S. military transferred thousands of armored humvees to the Iraqi Army as part of an ongoing

effort to improve their combat effectiveness. Administered by Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, the program is a joint-effort between the Army and the Air Force with the intent to turn over 8,500 of the vehicles to the Iraqis by July 2009.

Col. Michael Sage, MN-STC-I supply division, manages an approximate \$200 million contract to refurbish the vehicles before they are sold to the Iraqis.

"Our aim is to provide the Iraqi Security Forces, mili-

tary and police, with a proven, reliable, and capable vehicle that will build their forces' capability and enable the ISF to engage in the counter-insurgency fight," said Sage. "MN-STC-I is tasked to generate, train, and help sustain Iraqi Security Forces so that they become a capable and self-reliant force," he said.

Humvees destined for ser-

vice in the Iraqi Army or the Iraqi Police Force start their transition process by making their way to the Camp Taji Redistribution Property Assistance Team Yard, located on the joint Iraqi-American base a few miles north of Baghdad.

Once at Camp Taji, the humvees face a rigorous validation process. "The vehicles are cleaned, inspected, and

processed through a maintenance program that refurbishes the vehicles from the ground up," said Sage.

Sage went on to explain that after the process, every humvee receives a follow up inspection, is repainted for the Iraqi Army or National Police forces and finally inspected jointly by the Iraqis and U.S. government before they are accepted.

Mechanics of the 1538th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade conduct the initial inspection, and Sgt. 1st Class Russell Hullaby heads up this process.

"It's a huge mission that involves players all over the country, and the whole thing is focused right here at Camp Taji. Every humvee transferred to the Iraqis comes through us. It's really something that my guys can be proud of," said Hullaby.

The 536th Maintenance

Company, 419th CSSB, 10th Sust. Bde. is a direct support unit, assigned to the 165th CSSB, in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad assists in major repair work. "We're equipped to fix minor problems on site," explains Hullaby, "but major jobs like engine or transmission replacement have to be handed over to the 536th."

The Air Force-controlled RPAT main office validates cleared humvees at a rate of 50 per week, and assigns a batch number for transfer to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense.

"Our program turns over armored humvees only," said Maj. Sharon Ramp, on-site director of the Iraqi humvee turnover program at Camp Taji. Ramp further explained that since the program's inception, it has transferred more than 3,000 humvees to the Iraqis at an average rate of 400 vehicles per month.



Spc. John Bilka, mechanic with the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Brigade, 10th Sustainment Brigade, inspects a humvee destined for service in the Iraqi Army.

Sustainers continue partnership with Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute

BY SGT. HEATHER WRIGHT
287TH Sustainment Bri-
gade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE ADDER, Iraq – Sol-

diers from the
287th Sustain-
ment Brigade
and the 3rd
Battalion,
133rd Field
Artillery
Regiment

brought smiles and hope to
the Al Amal School for the
Deaf and Mute in the city of
Rumaythah, Jan. 14.

Lt. Col. Clint Moyer, chief
of the 287th Sust. Bde. Civil-
ian Military Operations, and
Lt. Col. Richard White, audi-
ologist and 287th medical op-
erations director, spearhead-
ed the visit. The trip followed
up on the "Operation Voice
of Hope" audiology exams
the Kansas-based Sustainers
provided for 17 deaf female Al
Amal students recently. "We
wanted to touch base with the
students and parents that we
conducted exams on, see what
the conditions were in the
school and see what else we
could do to help," Moyer said.

Parents and children excit-
edly surrounded White as he
walked through a gate into the
school courtyard. They were
eager to learn if they would
receive hearing aids after their
recent exams. "We're looking
at various funding sources for
hearing aids and hope to have
them within the next three
months or so," said White.

One of the unique challeng-
es White faces is finding hear-
ing aids that will not interfere
with the girl's head coverings.
"Most of these girls' hear-
ing loss is significant enough

to rate behind the ear hear-
ing aids. Unfortunately, the
scarves they wear would cre-
ate interference and feedback.
We're looking at hearing aids
they can wear at their waists
with wires that attach to ear

**"Most of these
girls' hearing
loss is signifi-
cant enough
to rate behind
the ear hear-
ing aids."**

-- Lt. Col. Richard White
287th Medical Operations
Director

molds they can wear under
their headscarves."

In addition to the 17 girls,
there are also 22 hearing-im-
paired boys who need hearing
exams. White intends to con-
duct exams on the boys when
a colleague from another base
visits with more sophisticated
audiology equipment. "The
equipment we have at Ad-
der is very basic. I would like
to test the boys with the new
equipment for more accurate
results."

After initial greetings, Al
Amal teachers gave the group
a tour of the facility. The
classrooms were full of smil-
ing students happy to see the
visiting Americans.

"Our generator has been
broken for a while now," said

Heyem Shakir Saleh, director
of the deaf and mute program.
"We've had other visitors that
said they would fix it, but they
never did. God willing, it will
happen soon."

The teachers face many
limitations. "We need to pro-
vide the children with a rea-
son to stay in school. School
supplies, coats, clothing
-- anything you can provide
would help us do that." The
school is in need of basic sup-
plies, in addition to visual aid
equipment in the classrooms,
a needed asset for the special
needs students.

In addition to provid-
ing supplies and equipment,
Moyer intends to partner with
the Iraqi teaching staff to up-
date their teaching skills with
a week-long conference. "We
haven't had any training or
teaching updates for several
years," Saleh said. Moyer, a
special education teacher for
the Sedgwick County Special
Education Cooperative in
Kansas, has a colleague and is
working to create training and
visual aids for the Al Amal
staff.

Al Amal also has a program
for the physically and men-
tally impaired which includes
15 girls and 20 boys. Dur-
ing the visit, desperate par-
ents sought the attention of
the Soldiers present, begging
them to help their children.
They showed the visiting
group their children's twisted
limbs and anxiously relayed
stories of seizures and other
various physical and mental
issues. They are desperate for
assistance.

Moyer explained to Mo-
hamad Muhsen, Director of
Al Amal's Physically and Men-
tally Disabled Program, that



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Emerson

Students at the Al Amal School for the Deaf and Mute stand in the doorway of their classroom after taking an exam Jan. 14.

White specialized in audiol-
ogy and was unable to make
any diagnosis outside his spe-
cialty. Muhsen appeared dis-
appointed, but understood.
Moyer assured Muhsen he
would bring the children's
needs to the attention of the
Muthanna Provincial Recon-
struction Team and COB Ad-
der's medical team. He also
intends to include their five
teachers with those from the

deaf and mute program in
February's teachers' confer-
ence.

At the end of the classroom
tour, soldiers passed out toys
to the children and school
supplies provided by the 3rd
Bn., 133rd FA Regt. to the
teachers, all of which were
gratefully accepted.

MNFI
TF SAFE

Check CHUsdays

MNFI
TF SAFE

Each Tuesday Check The Following In Your CHU

- ✖ Power strips are free of debris and clothing
- ✖ Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
- ✖ Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
- ✖ Smoke detector is operational
- ✖ Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
- ✖ Room is neat and orderly

This Simple Act Could Save You, Your CHU and Your Buddy Too

Stressed?

Relax and go see a movie

Dhi Qar Conference *Continued from Page 1*

portion of the conference explaining the procedures for completing micro-grants. The 5,000-dollar grants are primarily awarded for starting a new business or expand existing ones.

Tatheer Farsal, a 25-year-old soccer player and grocery store owner in Nasiriya hoped he would be one of the grant recipients. "I would like to expand the building, offer more variety for my customers and hire more employees," Farsal said. "This program will help

me grow my business."

Processing the grants is a relatively simple process. After applications are completed, they are translated to English. A pay and procurement officer uses the information to fill out a memorandum of agreement that details the applicant's request -- either a micro-grant or capital material such as a sewing machine, oven or computer. The original application, translation, MOA and a letter of recommendation from the Dhi Qar

PRT completes a micro-grant. Multi-National Division-Central then reviews the application. Once the application is certified, applicants receive the approved amount in Iraqi dinars or the requested capital material approximately one month after applying.

Seated from left to right, Wijdan Hasan, Hana Vadeh and Vajaabd Al Jabar fill out the micro-grant application at Mittica, Iraq on Jan. 17.



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Carl Mar

Who cares for our caregivers?

BY SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – In an article from the Professional Journal of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy, Dr. John W. Brinsfield wrote,

"Since 1775, commanders have looked to their chaplains as ethical leaders to reinforce Soldiers' spiritual strength, commitment, cohesion, morale, and moral discipline. The roles chaplains assumed were legion [numerous]: as pastors, preachers, professors, advisors to the commander, participants with their Soldiers in combat, defense counsels, senior leaders, administrators and stewards of resources, clinical team ethicists in hospitals, and since 1973, as ethics instructors in Army service schools."

The roles of the U.S. Army chaplains listed above could be all true and often portrayed as caregivers and providers of Soldiers' spiritual needs. Though it is normal for chaplains to be a caregiver of others, the thought of who cares for their needs when they have problems is often neglected or unseen.

"As a chaplain, we sometimes wonder who cares about the chaplain," said Lt. Col. Wilbert Harrison, a Belle Glade, Fla., native and 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) chaplain. "Sometimes there's an issue to where we need to be cared for and we're not always good at receiving that care because we're so used to giving. We are often the healer but there are times when we need to be healed."

Harrison expressed that chaplains can sometimes be an unappreciated commodity within a unit and must deal

with their own problems. He decided to do something about it during his recent battlefield rotation to Al Asad Air Base, while visiting other sustainment brigade chaplains.

Harrison implemented a course, themed "Caring for the Caregiver", which provided chaplains different ways to care for themselves and to accept help from others.

The course, which consisted of 25 Army and Air Force chaplains and chaplain assistants, required those who often take on the roles of a caregiver to discuss different methods of dealing with their own problems, as well as ways to care for themselves.

"Caregivers across the board to include ministers, social workers or anyone dealing with the population often have problems caring for themselves," said Harrison. "Because of this, these jobs or positions have a high level of

burnout because too often they have given a lot and not taken much in."

During the discussion, a topic centered on caregivers taking time away from their specific responsibilities or duties and to take some "me" time. With the "Caring for the Caregiver" class, the chaplains identified things that peak their interests and were fun to them. According to Harrison, caregivers are not always accustomed to having fun, as their job often requires them to take a serious approach to helping others.

Each member spoke of methods that worked for them as far as relaxation and recreation. Some admitted to taking a whole or half-days off, while others noted that taking just a few hours off throughout the workday was also good.

Other recommendations included reading, exercising, watching movies, or even going to another forward operat-

ing base to get away from one's familiar surroundings.

The latter recommendation brought on a discussion for a "Jacob Wells" retreat which will take place at Joint Base Balad in the near future. The three-day retreat for chaplains will be for the purpose of relaxation. The retreat would also have an option for group discussion/sessions to help deal with any problems they might have.

Overall, Harrison considered the course to be a success. He hopes the course helped the others chaplains and taught them other ways to dealing with their problems or issues.

"There's no better opportunity to serve our country than being a chaplain," said Harrison. "It's a great opportunity to serve the young men and women and encourage them in their faith. I'm just thankful for this opportunity."

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

3^d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

SUSTAINING THE LINE!



1 January 2009



CONVOY OPERATIONS

1. Due to the 1 January 2009 Security Agreement between Iraq and the United States and the changing operational environment, it is time to change our terminology. Effective immediately all 3^d ESC subordinate units will start using the doctrinal term "Convoy" vice "Combat Logistics Patrols" or "CLPs".

2. As leaders we must be clear to our Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers that while the environment has changed...our mission remains the same...and our procedures will remain the same. We must continue our focused efforts on PCC/PCI, safety, convoy briefings, rehearsals, TTPs, and after action reviews. These are crucial to the success and safety of our Soldiers. Additionally, we will ensure all procedures are in coordination with directed Rules of Engagement and Escalation of Force measures.

3. The many transitions of 2009 will be challenging. I know that it is often difficult, but your actions to share the roads of Iraq visibly demonstrate our true spirit of partnership and help maintain the positive momentum achieved during the past year.

4. For additional information concerning this memorandum, contact LTC Martin Morford, 3^d ESC G3 Plans at DSN: 433-2410, SVOIP: 242-9727, or martin.morford@s-iraq.centcom.smil.mil

Sustaining the Line!

Michael J. Lally
MICHAEL J. LALLY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

**"WHATEVER THE TASK, HOWEVER COMPLEX
THE CHALLENGE, WE ALWAYS SUSTAIN THE LINE!"**

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

Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Aghab, owner of Balad Canning Factory, gives a tour of his business in Balad, Iraq, to Dr. Frank R. Gunter, chief of economics, Multi-National Corps-Iraq; Lt. Col. David M. Hodne, commander of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment; members of 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the Balad Satellite Provincial Reconstruction Team on Jan. 17.

Iraqis, Sustainers, PRT, Cavalry Troopers join forces to build economic momentum near Balad

3^d ESC Public Affairs

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi business owners hosted Coalition forces and members of the Balad Provincial Reconstruction Team Saturday to discuss expansion of local businesses using Iraqi trucking initiatives in a combined effort to boost the local economy here.

The owner of the Balad Canning Factory provided leaders from 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment; Multi-National Corps-Iraq; Multi-National Forces-Iraq and the Salah ad Din PRT a tour of his business and a local market to better understand the potential for growth in the Balad area. The ultimate objective was to forge a partnership that harnesses the 3^d ESC's logistics expertise of national and regional Iraqi trucking initiatives to rapidly expand existing local businesses by allowing them to market and distribute their products across Iraq.

"As you increase your ability to distribute your products, your customers will be able to come to you to purchase goods— and you can increase your production by shipping throughout Iraq. I think your products can go a lot further, by increasing the trucking capability," said Col. Curt Higdon, 3^d ESC assistant

chief of staff G3, during an exchange with Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Aghab - owner of Balad Canning Factory.

According to Higdon, the Balad Canning Factory is a prime example of an existing Iraqi business that could rapidly expand if partnered with national distribution efforts such as the Iraqi Trucking Network or regional ones like Iraqi Trucking Companies. Higdon hopes to couple the ESC's logistics and distribution expertise, the local PRT's economic knowledge, and 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav's community engagement skills to help determined Iraqi business owners continue their economic momentum.

Currently, the factory is operating only 4 of 12 production lines due to a lack of trucking assets and ongoing renovation. The factory has new boilers and is capable of producing bagged snacks, bottled water, and milk in addition to canned goods. Adding a reliable trucking partnership will allow the factory to reach its potential; bringing jobs and a reliable buyer of fresh local produce to the community.

"Some of these folks don't have the means to move their goods," said Lt. Col. David M. Hodne, commander of 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav. Later this spring Hodne and his cavalry troopers plan to work with farmers in rural areas around Balad and the canning factory to expand markets for local agricultural products to multiple regions across Iraq.

Balad Satellite Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader Joe Pinon added that

investments such as those made at the canning factory are critical for building economic momentum. Iraqis need to be educated on the importance of investing in their own economy to sustain future growth, said Pinon.

The opportunity to partner with the canning factory surfaced during an Iraqi Business Industrial Zone (IBIZ) meeting where members of the 3^d ESC in discussion with the local PRT realized too few jobs were being created that would provide for long term economic gain of the local populace.

The independently owned and operated canning factory employs approximately 150 -200 people but the potential exist to expand production and provide another 1,000 jobs with the right partnerships.

Troopers of the 3rd Sqdn, 4th Cav.



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

Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Aghab, owner of the Balad Canning Factory discusses with Dr. Frank R. Gunter, chief of economics for Multi-National Corps-Iraq the new boiler recently installed at the factory. The BCF currently has four of 12 production lines in renovation with the aid of grant funds through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Inma Agribusiness Program.

have already assisted the community and facilitated development of the factory. When introduced to the idea of a trucking partnership, unit leadership quickly incorporated the concept into their existing economic plan.

All partners hope that future planning efforts between eager Iraqis, battle space owners, logistics experts - coupled with the PRT's ability to organize businessmen and local political leaders will provide the opportunity for increased agriculture and economic development throughout the region.

Transportation Soldiers help Iraqi Police

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1LT PAUL SCHMIDT, UPAR
70th TC 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

SPEICHER, Iraq — Germany based Soldiers from Contingency Operating Base Speicher are taking a giant leap in giving the Iraqi Police upgraded equipment while receiving upgrades of their own here, Jan. 6.

Soldiers of the 70th Transportation Company, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are in the process of exchanging their humvees for new Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles. The exchange serves two purposes. First, it allows the Soldiers of the 70th Trans. Co. to upgrade to a safer and more versatile vehicle. Second, the Iraqi Forces will inherit the humvees and enhance

their mission execution.

Capt. Patrick Henrichs, a Seattle, Wash., native and company commander of the 70th Trans. Co., 391st CSSB said that he was excited about the switch because of the dual benefit from the exchange.

"This transfer will make the Iraqi Security Forces better equipped to conduct operations on their own, speeding up the transition and making the Iraqis more able to take control of their country without our help," said Henrichs.

The vehicles will also give the Soldiers of the 70th Trans. Co., an advantage when conducting their missions.

"The new vehicles are a great opportunity for us. It allows us to gain an experience with a new system and become more effective," said 2nd Lt. Vernal Rixner, platoon leader, 70th Trans. Co., 391st CSSB and an Atlanta, Ga. native.

In order to operate the new MRAP vehicle, the 70th Trans. Co., Soldiers will conduct a rigorous drivers training

program, scheduled to take four days and learn the MRAPs capabilities and specifications.

"It's great to learn about new vehicles," said Spc. Christopher Peakes, team leader, 70th Trans. Co., 391st CSSB. "I haven't really used MRAPs, but I am sure they are going to have a big impact on our mission and make us safer on the road."

Peakes, a Frisco, Texas, native, said helping the Iraqi Forces is a top priority. "The Iraqi Army needs vehicles to take charge and I understand this is our way of helping them out."



Spc. Christopher Peakes, team leader, 70th Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, checks out one of his company's new vehicles during driver's training at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Jan. 6. Soldiers from the 70th Transportation Company, 391st CSSB train on new vehicles to replace their current equipment which is being transferred to Iraqi Forces.

Sustainer Maintenance and Supply team train Iraqi Army Generator System and SATS

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
JOHNELL PASLEY
UPAR, 419th CSSB, 10th SBDE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq

The Iraqi Army's General Transport Regiment under the guidance of the 68th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, conducted training for the Standard Army Tool Sets with a mobile container and power generation system. The 68th Trans. Co., from Mannheim, Germany, trained and advised the regiment on how to conduct convoys and transportation operations. They recently provided the IA's maintenance section hands on training for their newly fielded SATS.

The mission provided a program of

instruction to familiarize the GTR support company the use and care of the SATS, with a mobile container by providing tool identification, location, usage and sign-out procedures. The three-day course took place in four phases:

- Phase one: required classroom training
- Phase two: hands-on training
- Phase three: sustainment training
- Phase four: additional training

The 68th Trans. Co.'s partnership with the IA GTR has made significant progress within six months and are well on their way to establishing a motor pool environment that will sustain GTR logistical self-reliance after the unit redeploy. The two have partnered and worked together since September 2008.



Sgt. Daniel Pinney, a Greenwood, Ark. native, and a Soldier of the 68th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, uses an interpreter to conduct the training for Soldiers from the GTR.

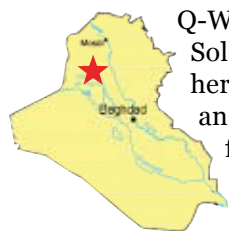
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Washington Guardsman brings 'peace' to Iraq

By MAJ. SCOTT COOLEY
UPAR, 181ST BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



Q-WEST, Iraq – One Soldier took it upon herself to bring peace and tranquility to the fast-paced life of service members here.

Sgt. Tessa Klein, a radiant health-trained instructor, started teaching a one-hour yoga class, three days a week at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation complex.

"People love yoga," said Klein, a Mayor Cell help desk representative, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade. "It's meditative, people come to relieve stress. It's a strange phenomenon to have peace and yoga class here in theater."

The Seattle, Wash., native has taught youth classes; this is the first time teaching adults.

"I saw this as an opportunity to develop my skills as a teacher," said Klein, who has practiced yoga for 20 years. "Also, it's a chance for Soldiers to benefit from the class."

Several things were apparent when she conducted the class. First, the

classroom was very quiet and peaceful. Second, the bodies movements were smooth and focused as each posture were practiced with emphasis on awareness of the whole body and proper breathing.

"The class is therapeutic," Staff Sgt. Natasha Dumig, property book non-commissioned officer, 16th Sustainment Brigade. "It helps you identify your mental and physical boundaries, and your muscles feel rejuvenated."

Dumig, a Fox Lake, Ill., native, has been practicing the Indian discipline for nearly 15 years, and has done yoga on each of her four deployments.

"It helps keep you flexible in your

day to day activities," said Dumig. "We have a lot of stress in our life, so you have to remain flexible."

Other Soldiers had less experience, but felt the benefit.

"This is the first time I have ever taken a yoga class and I have to admit that I do enjoy it," said 2nd Lt. Micah Underwood, platoon leader, Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment. "We do a lot of stretching and concentrating on what the muscles are doing. The instructor, Sergeant Klein, talked us into some pretty challenging poses that really makes us work our muscles to maintain control."

JBB provides free services during tax season

By SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –



With tax season fast approaching, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are working together to provide free tax filing and

assistance at the Joint Base Balad Tax Center.

However, the Soldiers and Airmen in these units are not the only ones who can offer their assistance to the base. The tax center welcomes volunteers to become trained and certified with the Internal Revenue Service link-n-learn web based, self-paced tax program.

The volunteer income tax assistants will provide free tax assistance to service members, Department of Defense civilians and retired service members. Service members can contact the JBB tax center for their unit VITA representative. A list with the types of tax return forms are as follows:

- 1040 EZ

- 1040 A with schedule 1,2,3, & EIC
- 1040 with schedule A, B, EIC & R
- Form 1040-V
- Form 1040-ES
- Form 2441 (Child and Dependent Care Credit)
- Form 8863 (Education Credits)
- Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit)

Computer terminals will be available for self-service tax filing at the JBB tax center. The Military One Source website, www.militaryonesource.com, also provides a free do-it-yourself program for those not wishing to go to the JBB tax center.

Anyone who has questions about their taxes can contact the JBB tax center for assistance.

A signed IRS form 2848 is one of the most essential forms a service member needs for filling out a joint return, said Tech Sgt. Jerol D. Boyce, the paralegal noncommissioned officer in charge for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing legal office. This form gives the service member rights to file taxes with their spous information without a power of attorney. A

more detailed list of required documents for filling out taxes are as follows:

- Completed Form 13614-C, Intake/Interview and Quality Review Sheet (pages 1-2 only; available on the internet or at the legal office).
- A copy of last year's tax return, if available.
- A copy of Social Security cards for taxpayer, spouse, and all dependents, if available.
- A voided check or documentation of bank account and routing numbers if you desire direct deposit of your return. (Direct deposit info from My-Pay will work.)
- Form W-2 from each employer. Active duty members may obtain this from www.mypay.dfas.mil.
- Childcare/Daycare expense information. You will also need the name, SSN and address of the Childcare provider.
- If you have any additional sources of income, interest/dividends, sales of stock, or any other income source, supporting documentation must be provided to

prepare an accurate return.

Even though JBB has this service, all deployed service members are entitled to a tax extension. Those service members redeploying from combat zone, have 180 days to file their taxes. However, this extension does not exempt anyone from accruing interest, which starts after April 15.

"If you owe, do everything in your power to file your taxes while you are deployed," advised Maj. Deon M. Green, the 3^d ESC command judge advocate, and Milwaukee, Wisc., native. "You want to avoid the interest payments. Tax interest is some of the highest interest you can have."

The JBB tax center is slated to be open, Feb. 2 through Apr. 30; and the scheduled operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday; Tuesday; Thursday and Friday. Saturdays, the center will be open, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., for service members working night shifts.

Points of contacts are Pfc. Jaclyn Mims at 433-2836 or jaclyn.mims@iraq.centcom.mil or Tech. Sgt. Jerol Boyce at 443-6004 or jerol.boyce@blab.afcent.af.mil.

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"One suicide is one too many."

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

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Alpha Warriors Excel in the Army's General Technical Improvement Course

By SGT. CAMILLE PADONU
UPAR, 24th FMCO, 10th SBDE

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - General Technical scores in the Army are imperative for Soldiers and qualify them to attend various military education programs to enhance their job performance, skill qualifications or career opportunities.

Four Warriors from the Alpha Detachment, 24th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade attended a GT improvement course held at Camp Victory, Iraq and made significant improvements to their scores.

Sgt. Christopher Legler from San Antonio, Texas; Sgt. Michael Shadel from Harrisburg, Pa.; Sgt. Lanuola Pyles from Vinifou, Samoa; and Spc. Hollie Bailey from Poca, W.V. attended a three-week GT improvement course here, to obtain a score of 110.

Scores above 110 are a traditional qualification standard to attend the Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and other military programs or schools.

Legler said he invested many hours of his personal time studying for the GT test. On average, he said he spent 16-hours a day studying mathematical equations and committing numerous vocabulary words to memory. He said he improved his GT score by a commendable 20 points. This accomplishment puts Legler one step closer to his goal of becoming a member of the

Special Operations.

"The class was a great experience," said Legler. "People should take the class to improve their score because this would open up more career opportunities."

Shadel felt that the class was rewarding and hoped that more Soldiers would take it upon themselves to request attending this course. Shadel spent many sleepless nights studying the course material. This is evident in his increased score by 20 points. Shadel remarked, "Practice makes perfect!"

Pyles said she attended the course in case she ever chose to become a member of the officer corps or change her military occupational specialty. The Samoa native increased her score by 10 points.

"I encourage every soldier who has

a score of 109 or lower to take this course," she said.

Bailey attended the course due to her desire to be selected for the Army's Officer Candidate School. The W.V. native studied hard for the test and obtained a score of 127, she said. When asked why she decided to go to the course, she explained, "There is always room for self-improvement."

The Alpha Warriors who completed the course felt it was very challenging and believe it provided them with the tools necessary to excel on the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery test. These warriors all agreed the GT improvement course is an excellent program and hope that more Soldiers are afforded the opportunity to attend.

Guardsmen form lasting friendship in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. SAMUEL CURAMENG
UPAR, 185th Armor Regiment

CONTINGENCY OPERATION BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Two Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment, California Army National Guard, have come to be called "the twins" by others in their platoon.

"Shakespeare also wrote about the bond between Soldiers," said Chaplain (Capt.) Jesse Vega, chaplain, 1st Bn., 185th AR. "In the Saint Crispin's Day speech from Henry V, the king says 'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother.' So relying on our 'brothers' and 'sisters' to get through deployment is an age-old tradition and I would encourage it as a healthy part of our warrior culture," he said.

Pfc. Christopher Rivera-Flores, from Torrance, Calif., and Pfc. Omar Vega-Flores, native of San Diego, Calif., are not



Pfc. Christopher Rivera-Flores, from Torrance, Calif., and Pfc. Omar Vega-Flores, from San Diego, Calif., are not related, but they have become brothers. The two Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, California Army National Guard, COB Speicher, Iraq, have come to be called "the twins" by others in their platoon.

related, but they became brothers while deployed here.

Both tall and slim, with black hair, sport a constant smile with a positive attitude.

It is often said that you cannot ask one to throw a rock without the other being too far from where it lands. The twins are always together whether it's to do some repairs on vehicles, play a basketball game at the gym, or play video games. They have grown to share the same music collection.

When asked if they considered themselves brothers, they both immediately reply, "Yeah, of course!"

My perspective is that warriors have always relied on each other and this reliance comes with a deep personal commitment, said Vega.

"Having a 'brother' like him helps a lot," said Rivera. "During difficult times, I can go to him and he'll make me laugh." Vega expressed the same sentiment.

Friendships like this will last a lifetime. Both Soldiers are planning to join the same unit when they return to California, so they can drill together.

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Re-Enlistment: 10th Sustainme

The Right Reasons

By 1st Lt. Christopher Etheridge
UPAR, 553rd CSSB, 10th SBDE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq - American Soldiers—volunteers—make decisions to continue their service based on reason, retrospect, and an understanding of what is to come.



Many considering leaving the military have since jumped at the opportunity for re-enlistment, fearing not being prepared to enter an unstable economy. Others continue to serve their country without worry of whether the grass is greener on the other side.

Staff Sgt. Donna Roemer, a noncommissioned officer from Port Henry, N.Y., currently serves as an operations manager in the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's tactical operations center. She re-enlisted this month for an indefinite term and had a more traditional outlook.

"We all have our reasons for serving the military. Some serve because they feel it's their patriotic duty and others may serve due to family tradition," she said. "I enlisted in the Army in 1996 and from that point on I knew that I wanted this to be a permanent part of my life. I have always enjoyed this way of life to include the discipline, responsibility, and most of all the camaraderie."

Like her, many others have grown accustomed to the military way of life. It becomes a part of who they are. Bonus money and other incentives have been a great aid in the retention of today's Soldiers, but for some, serving in America's great Army is an honor they would not consider giving up.

Family support is imperative in today's fast paced deployment cycle. Sgt. Jonathan Cook, a noncommissioned officer from Benson, Minn., is a human resources sergeant serving in the 553rd CSSB. While reflecting on his recent re-enlistment he stated, "My re-enlistment had a great deal to do with my father. Every time I go home to see my family, the pride that he shows for me being in the military is what pushes me to do the best that I can for my country." He went on to say, "My father has been the most important person in my life and knowing that he is happy with what I am doing gives me the drive to accomplish the mission in a more professional manner. My dad has always been supportive of my decisions and his support has pushed me to do more than I thought possible."

Both Cook and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Baldwin, a noncommissioned officer from Gulfport, Miss., who is assigned to the 57th Transportation Company, 553rd CSSB, recently took part in the 4th Infantry Division's re-enlistment ceremony. It included a live performance on Victory Base Camp in Baghdad from the wres-

ter's of World Wrestling Entertainment. Baldwin spoke of his re-enlistment on the premise of challenges: "My family is the most important thing in my life and that plays a major role in the decisions I make concerning my career. I don't think I'm ready to throw in the towel, as there are greater challenges out there [in the military] that I would like to explore."

A re-enlistment contract is very rewarding for the Soldier and many hours of preparation are spent coordinating the details of these contracts. Sgt. Heather St. John, a noncommissioned officer from Lake Orion, Mich., serves as the 553rd CSSB's retention manager. She works to meet the needs of each individual Soldier. Some options for Soldiers who re-enlist include their duty station of choice, cash bonuses, duty position of choice, or time to pursue college courses, she said. The high level of Soldier satisfaction in the battalion is due largely to St. John's efforts to coordinate these options for the re-enlisting Soldier. During this fiscal year alone, she has coordinated a total of 38 contracts valued in excess of \$315,000.

Whether the decision for re-enlistment is based in family values, optimism looking toward future challenges, or the continuation of a lifestyle that provides a higher level of discipline, there is no wrong reason to stay Army. The American Soldier is unique, and their retention is invaluable to the success of the Army.



Sgt. 1st Class with Lt. Col. K. Combat Support is deployed 10th SBDE.



Col. Mark Drake, a native of St. Paul, Minn., and the commander for the 10th Sustainment Brigade, Oath of Reenlistment to 11 Soldiers from the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, an Indiana National Guard Unit from Elkhart, Indiana.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Calvin Callender

Spc. Shamita Smith, a native of Richmond, Va., reenlisted at the company headquarters conference room. Smith is currently deployed with 24th Financial Management Company Headquarters, Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade.

Finance Esprit de Corps

By Sgt. Shaun Oberlin
UPAR, 24th FM Co Headquarters, 10th SBTB

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - The 24th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, deployed to Iraq in late November 2007, replacing the 15th Finance Battalion.



Due to the constraints of a company taking the place of a battalion, this caused changes on the operation and business of the 24th FM Co. While working hard and long hours, many Soldiers continue to serve their country and the finance mission by reenlisting.

In one year, 10 finance Soldiers reenlisted and has exceeded its retention mission overall for fiscal year 2008 and 2009 by 25 percent.

This is due to the efforts of Sgt. Christopher Walker, a native of Livingston,

Ala., and the retention noncommissioned officer for 24th FM Co. Being in constant communication with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade in Fort Stewart, Ga., and the 10th Sustainment Brigade and 4th Infantry Division here, he said, "I am very proud of everyone that has reenlisted even though some of them have been deployed multiple times in a short time periods, including myself. Their reenlistment shows their chain of command, Family and the rest of the military their commitment to serve our great country."

Seven of the Soldiers reenlisted at the company headquarters at Camp Liberty versus the Al Faw palace, International Zone, or Balad. Three Soldiers reenlisted at Operation Sustainer Strong mass reenlistment ceremony at Balad, hosted by the 3^d ESC. The two other Soldiers' reenlistment took place at Al Faw palace on Camp Victory.

A Richmond, Va. native, Spc. Shamita Smith said why she reenlisted at company, "I didn't really want to reenlist somewhere different because most of my 24th Finance Family would not be able to attend and it just would not feel right."

nt Brigade is Good for Business



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jason Richmond

Brian Harvey, a native of Logansport, Ind. shakes hands with Kristan Hericks, of Irvine, Calif., the commander of the 419th Combat Sustainment Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade. Harvey is here with 1538th Transportation Company, 419th CSSB,

Germany: Assignment of Choice

By SGT. 1ST CLASS ANTHONY SHERROD
UPAR, 10th SBDE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Four Soldiers from Delta Detachment, 24th Financial Management Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade reenlisted their service obligation while providing finance service support to service members and civilians at Camp Taji.

Four of the 11 Delta Det. Soldiers chose for an assignment to Germany. Spc. Travares Glasper, a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., initially considered reclassification to another military occupational specialty, but preferred the overseas assignment option.

Spc. Phyllis Wyatt, a commercial vendor service clerk and a native of Macomb, Miss., will also do a permanent change of station to Germany.

“They [career counselor] offered me Japan or Germany.

It was a tough choice, but I had to go with Germany,” she said.

“I’ve always wanted to see Germany and other parts of Europe,” stated Sgt. Roy Acosta, a finance certifying officer and a native of San Antonio, Texas. “This has been a dream of mine for a long time,” he said.

Spc. Damian Francis, a finance cashiers clerk and native of Boston, Mass., said, “I joined the Army to travel overseas, but I never thought I would end up in Iraq. I wanted to expose my family to other countries.”

While the unit’s reenlistment rate is high, these Soldiers’ commitment reflects positive remarks by leadership.

“We have reenlisted 11 members throughout our tour in Iraq” said Capt. Jayson Sanchez, Delta Detachment commander and a Livermore, Calif., native.

These Soldiers’ contribution to the detachment helps in the success and accomplishment of the unit’s war-time mission and providing support to other service members and subordinate units.

Swearing to Stay Army Strong

By 1ST LT. GRACE BROWN
UPAR, 419th CSSB 10th SBDE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq- Twelve Soldiers from the 1538th Transportation Company, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, an Indiana National Guard unit from Elkhart, Ind., gathered for a ceremony to swear their oath of reenlistment, Dec. 31.

These Soldiers are all combat veterans involved in the 1538th Trans. Co.’s convoys and missions.

“They are the drivers, fuelers, trainers and mechanics who help accomplish our mission,” said Sgt. 1st Class James VanHuffel, a native of Saint Joseph, Mich.

Retention has always been an important mission for every branch of military service.

“It keeps well-trained Soldiers in the Army, which is useful to

the new and yet-to-be deployed Soldiers. This puts out a message that they love what they do,” said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Spencer, a native of Westport, Ind.

Those who reenlisted all from Indiana were: Sgt. 1st Class Brian Harvey, of Logansport; Staff Sgt. Kyle Mundy, of Indianapolis; Staff Sgt. Bryan Fisher, of South Bend; Staff Sgt. David Bernard, of Osceola; Sgt. Clarence Pedigo, of Edinburgh; Sgt. Michael Babin, of New Paris; Sgt. Jessica Patton, of Elkhart; Sgt. Kai Buwalda, of Fort Wayne; Sgt. Nathaniel Shannon, of Greenfield; Cpl. William Calhoun, of Columbia City; Spc. Joseph Earp, of Elkhart; and Spc. Christopher Vosmeier, of Indianapolis.

“These 12 people represent a force that will impact the mission readiness of the Indiana National Guard and the U.S. Army for the next three to six years,” said VanHuffel. “These Soldiers are the patriots of the state of Indiana and by renewing their commitment to the Indiana National Guard they are also sending a message to the people of the state of Indiana that they are willing to go into harm’s way to protect all Hoosiers and Americans.”



my photo by Spc. Jason Richmond

gade, administers the Sustainment Support

Important Decisions

By 1ST LT. STEVE WHITE
UPAR, 419th CSSB, 10th SBDE

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – “I, [state your name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same...” Most service members recognize this from their enlistment.

This oath is repeated each time a Soldier reenlists for the military.

There were 32 Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery, 419th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade who were eligible for re-enlistment while deployed here. Interestingly, 27 of the 32 Soldiers reenlisted to stay in the military and continue to serve their country.

What did these Soldiers receive besides a few more years in the military? One thing is bonuses. Some will receive \$15,000 for a six-year reenlistment, while others will receive \$7,500 for three

years.

In a deployed setting, these bonuses will be tax free, which means more money to the Soldier and their Families. Other items the Soldiers received were, coins of excellence, flash drives, coffee mugs, pictures with VIP’s, iPods, or other gift items.

While a Soldiers’ decision to reenlist is not for bonuses or iPods, they may have their own reasons for reenlisting. Some will make a career out of the military, whereas some will take it one contract at a time.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pierpaoli, of Fayetteville, Ark., re-enlisted for six more years even after 20 years of service. When asked for his reasons, he replied, “I am a hardcore military man through and through.”

Spc. Kael Blanchard of Fort Smith, Ark., said, “I have been in for six years; I love the Army and am proud to serve my country.”

There are many different reasons why a Soldier may reenlist. They, however, will continue to serve as an inspiration for others. Soldiers like these keep units operational, accomplishing missions and continuing to defeat the enemy.

Sustainers supervise construction of \$16 million Fuel Farm

BY 1ST LT. MARSHAL R. PEARSON
UPAR, 391st CSSB, 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Sustainer Soldiers here supervised the completion of the \$16 million fuel farm construction project. The second “steel-bolted-tank” to be operational in theater, replaced the current conventional berm fuel farm.

The project will provide COB Speicher with an improved facility to issue and receive bulk fuel. The facility will also fuel units located in northern Iraq.

The 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, from Jacksonville, Fla., initiated the project in late 2007, with construction beginning in March 2008, when the 391st CSSB assumed responsibility.

The project consists of nine steel-bolted-tanks: six tanks for JP8, a military grade diesel; two tanks for DF2, a diesel fuel; and one tank for Mogas, a military form of regular gasoline.

Master Sgt. Travell Brown, the supply and services non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 391st CSSB, 16th

Sustainment Brigade, supervised the construction and said this project will help the fuel managers maintain and be

The tank construction began with small metal slabs being bolted together. Eight of the nine tanks required 40,000

ited the construction site on a daily to check the construction progress.

Miller said she can’t wait to get started.

“Because of the difficulty with the various tests and retests that are required to obtain an accurate reading on fuel in fuel bags, at the current farm, I anxiously await the new farm,” she said.

After completion of the tanks, Soldiers of the 20th Quartermaster Co., COB Q-West, performed leakage tests using about 100,000 gallons of water. Water was used to test the tanks and detect any leaks without contaminating the area.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Harrell, the fuel responsible officer of the 574th QM Co., from Germany, closely monitored the test.

The nine tanks passed without any major leaks, although a few minor leaks were found. They were fixed with some tightening of bolts, he said.

The completed fuel farm is slated to open for business in March 2009.

“This is just one of many ways that the Soldiers and leaders of the 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion look to the future and logistically plan for the handover to the Iraqi forces,” said Maj. Eduardo Santiago, executive officer, 391st CSSB.



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Contractors work on one of the diesel tanks at Contingency Operating Base Speicher Sept. 28, 2008. Sustainers monitored the completion of the \$16 million fuel farm construction project, the second “steel-bolted-tank” fuel farm to be operational in theater, replacing the current conventional berm fuel farm. The project will provide COB Speicher an improved facility to issue and receive bulk fuel, to units throughout northern Iraq.

accountable of the 3.5-million-gallon-capacity farm.

The physical construction began with the prepping of an area for building the huge tanks, and a concrete foundation, which required five months to complete.

bolts to hold them together. The ninth tank was welded instead of being bolted. Brown monitored and captured the progress while ensuring the construction met the standards.

Staff Sgt. Paula Miller, a petroleum supply specialist, HHC, 391st CSSB, vis-

Washington Guardsmen conduct live fire exercise

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. JACQUELINE BAIRD
UPAR, 81st BSTB, 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Washington Guardsmen trained on dismounted patrols with a live fire exercise at the explosive ordnance disposal range here on Dec. 30.

“One of the biggest dangers Soldiers face during a mobilization to Iraq is complacency,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Garrison, commander, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion. “After months of patrolling the same roads and villages, it is difficult to maintain the focus that is required of combat.”

The Everett, Wash. - based soldiers assumed base defense responsibilities from the Indiana Army National Guard Task Force 113 on November 2008. The battalion’s force protection company, the “Crushers,” regularly conduct base defense operations, patrols, fire patrols, engagement, and quick response operations at Contingency Operating Base Q-West.

“The Soldiers conduct regular training in order to sharpen their skills and keep their fighting edge,” said Garrison.



A Washington Guardsmen prepares to fire during the unit’s dismounted patrol training followed by a live fire exercise at the explosive ordnance disposal range here, Dec. 30.

Guardsmen rehearsed several combat tasks during the exercise.

The squads’ training consisted of reacting to a detonated IED, employing a smoke screen for dismounted move-

ment, and utilizing grenades to capture fighting positions. Other training included reacting to a mobile, vehicle-borne IED utilizing escalation of force guidelines and familiarization with the AT-4,

said Capt. Forrest Horan, commander, force protection.

The Dirty Dozen

- ✱ Lack of Crew Coordination
- ✱ Complacency
- ✱ Distraction
- ✱ Exceeding Your Limitations/Abilities
- ✱ Indiscipline
- ✱ Fatigue
- ✱ Stress
- ✱ Peer Pressure
- ✱ Lack of Knowledge
- ✱ Lack of Training
- ✱ Lack of Leader Involvement
- ✱ Lack of Pre-mission Planning

-- Message from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Lonestar visits Joint Base Balad

Staff Sgt. Chris Wittig, a Great Bend, Kan., native and liaison officer for 287th Sustainment Brigade gets a photo taken with comedian Greg Vaccariello (left), and country band Lonestar, during the January 2009 Inaugural Tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 21. Wittig was able get his guitar signed by band members after the show when the performers met with service members for photos and autographs.



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

Airmen, volunteers foster community relations in IZ

BY TECH. SGT. CRAIG LIFTON
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY
WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL ZONE, IRAQ -- Large



walls encircle blocks of buildings and barriers control the flow of traffic. Armored military vehicles roll along the sides of cars and trucks as they move through the ancient city. Colorful signs and green trees brighten the bleak apartment complex. A small store selling fresh fruits and vegetables is the only sign of life with only a few customers shopping. Everyone stops in their tracks to focus on the Americans. Soon local children will be overjoyed.

Baghdad, the largest city in Iraq and the third largest in the Middle East, is considered to be one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Set inside the city along the

Tigris River is an area known as the International Zone. The IZ is occupied by U.S. and international military, foreign diplomats, Iraqi government officials and more than 5,000 Iraqi residents.

With the help of a group of military volunteers, Joint Expeditionary Tasking Airmen with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Detachment 4, and the 732nd Expeditionary Air Group Religious Support Team, foster community interaction to help the new Iraqi Police win the trust of the people within the IZ.

Until the beginning of this month, the IZ was patrolled by 732nd ESFS Det. 4 Airmen. Now, they mentor and assist the IP to police their own.

Following the concept of community policing, which is a strategy used by many police departments in the United States to help build trust with the citizens they protect, the Airmen and Iraqis interact with residents of the IZ. The goal is to help fight crime with the help of the community by

identifying crimes and criminals.

"It's good stuff anytime we get a chance to make this kind of contact with the Iraqis," said Capt. Ben Washburn, 732nd ESFS Det. 4 operations officer, currently deployed from Vogelweh, Germany. "When we show up, no one comes out at first, but then the word spreads fast and they start to come out and greet us."

Recently, the 732nd ESFS Det. 4, RST, and a volunteer group of servicemembers called

"Kids of Iraq" went on foot-patrol into an apartment complex inside the IZ. The Kids of Iraq receives donations from toys and clothes, to school supplies sent from people throughout the United States.

Led by Washburn, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., the group exited their armored vehicles and approached an area of apartments. Small children began to watch as they approached with large boxes and toys. An interpreter talked to them to let them know it's safe.

As the children approach with caution, parents and other adults observe the activity from windows and doorways.

"The best part of this deployment is the interaction with the Iraqis," said Senior Airman Jesse Armstrong, a security forces journeyman deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and native of Battle Creek, Iowa. "I like to watch how even the littlest things make the children's faces light up."

Toys and school supplies were passed out to a growing number of children who seemed to appear from nowhere. They smiled and laughed and, just like that, bonds were formed.

"To give to the children who have seen the war was a wonderful thing," said Ali, a member of the IP stationed in the IZ. "Most of these children today have lost at least one parent."

Chaplain (Capt.) Kelvin Francis, 732nd AEG RST, currently deployed from Shaw AFB, S.C., entertained some of the children by juggling balls.

They ran to watch as he threw the balls into the air with his contagious smile and laugh.

"We are happy to help the 732nd ESFS Det. 4 police in their mission to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqis," said Francis, a native of Jacksonville, Fla.

Even as the toys ran out, more of the neighborhood came over to the U.S. servicemembers; all had happy faces and many of the adults wanted to shake their hands.

"We want to say thank you for your efforts for the children," said Mohamed Mahder of the Baghdad neighborhood. "I have noticed a lot of change since the United States came and brought democracy to the dark ages of Saddam."


"It's great to give toys and clothes to the Iraqi children," said Maj. John Northon, 732nd ESFS Det. 4 commander, a native of Plympton, Mass., currently deployed from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. "Our efforts are making a difference in the lives of these children."

—INTEGRITY

Do what's right, legally and morally.

*"The truth of the matter is
that you always know the
right thing to do. The hard
part is doing it."*

— General Norman Schwarzkopf


U.S. ARMY
CALL TO DUTY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.™

ARMY VALUES

Editor's Note—Johnson currently serves as a cultural awareness specialist for the TRADOC Culture Center, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The TRADOC Culture Center contributes culture awareness articles for the Expeditionary Times and the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker and his staff are shown Iraqi hospitality in a traditional reed meeting house called a mudhif. The Ambassador is on a tour of Muthanna province, Iraq. Jan. 10.

U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens

Impact of language in order to know a culture

BY FEVZIYE B. JOHNSON
TRADOC CULTURE CENTER

Learning a new language is often the first step towards earning a new culture. Through language, we express and communicate our values, beliefs, and behaviors. The meaning of words can imply a wide range of meanings from agreement to disagreement or anger to happiness. Accompanying the spoken word is body language, non verbal gestures or facial expressions, used to assist in conveying the intended meaning of words. Experience in a new culture, with an unfamiliar language, often leads to comical errors in miscommunications. I learned this truth firsthand, and the hard way.

I was a teenage girl when I left Afghanistan and moved to Istanbul, Turkey. The first weeks after my arrival in Istanbul were a real nightmare. Even though Afghans and Turks have many cultural things in common, there were so many aspects of culture that I had no idea how to handle. Right away, I enrolled at Istanbul University and started learning the Turkish language but at first I had a hard time taking care of my daily needs.

One of the first incidents happened in a bakery. In Turkey, each street or corner has a baker who bakes fresh bread three times a day to satisfy the Turks' love of freshly baked bread for each meal. It was noon, so I bravely entered the bakery on my street and asked in Turkish for what I thought meant a half loaf of bread (ekmek), which was enough for a big sandwich. What I asked for in fact was half a man (erkek). The elderly baker smiled kindly and asked, with typical Turkish good humor, "What are you going to do with half a man, my daughter?" Not realizing my mistake, I replied, "I am going to eat

it." He laughed hard and came out from behind the counter, pointing to himself and saying, "This is erkek," and then he pointed to the huge basket of fresh bread and said, "That is ekmek."

You can imagine the embarrassment of a young girl in this situation, but the man was kind and I always went back to get my bread and a daily Turkish-language lesson from that bakery. The years passed and I managed to graduate from the university having learned Turkish on a native level and become thoroughly familiar with every aspect of culture in the society not only through formal study, but also from TV, radio, and movies.

Several years later I got a job offer from an American Company located in Munich, Germany, and left Istanbul. There I was in beautiful Munich, not knowing one word of German. I admit that my culture shock in Germany was much bigger than the one I had experienced in Turkey. In contrast to my helpful neighbors, friends and even bakers in Istanbul who had been so eager to help me learn the Turkish language and culture, it seemed that nobody was talking to anybody in Munich. Thus I had a hard time to learn the language and this caused a big problem for me almost immediately.

Germany had a rule that any foreigner who had a valid driver license of his /her country, could get a temporary German driver license for six months. If, during that period, no traffic violation occurred, then the person could get a permanent German license. I purchased a beautiful German car, and as I was driving through a tunnel on my way home from the dealership, I saw the lights of a police car behind me. I stopped, having no idea what I had done and a handsome young policeman approached and said something in German. I had no clue what was he saying, catching only the word "Licht", which

sounds very much like a particularly obscene expression in Persian slang. I was shocked and stunned, not having any idea what to do or say. He repeated this seemingly very bad word "licht," then asked for my driver license. Seeing that it was a temporary license for foreigners, he finally realized that I did not know his language. Impatiently, he leaned into the driver side window and turned my lights on. He then waved me on my way (as a journalist, I had a press sticker on my car, which was probably the only reason I didn't get a ticket).

All the way home, I kept asking myself what this strange word "licht" could mean in German, having concluded that the young officer could not have been trying to tell me something naughty in Farsi; it wasn't until I got home, and opened my German dictionary, that I finally realized that he was telling me to turn my lights on! Even though I knew English fairly well at that point, I could not catch the similarity between the English word "light" and the German "Licht". Since that day, whenever I was approached tunnels and saw the huge, bold, bright signs with the word "Licht?" on each side, I remembered my drive home from the car dealership that day, when a complete failure of language made it impossible for me to grasp an important element of German culture, that of traffic etiquette!

After many such embarrassing episodes during the years that I lived in different countries, I have come to two conclusions: man is not bread, and light is not obscene!

Training in cultural awareness and competency is an essential part of a Soldiers' education, but the importance of language training to accompany and augment cultural training should not be overlooked.

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.

Last weeks answers

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

Level: Very Hard

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

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.

Pennsylvania

- It is illegal to sleep on top of a refrigerator outdoors.
- A special cleaning ordinance bans housewives from hiding dirt and dust under a rug in a dwelling.
- A person is not eligible to become Governor if he/she has participated in a duel.

New Mexico

- State officials ordered 400 words of “sexually explicit material” to be cut from Romeo and Juliet.
- **Deming:** Hunting is prohibited in Mountain View Cemetery.
- **Las Cruces:** You may not carry a lunchbox down Main Street.



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 1/28/09

Kentucky @ Mississippi, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Washington Capitals @ Boston Bruins, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Purdue @ Wisconsin, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
Charlotte Bobcats @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
AMA Supercross Lites: Anaheim, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas @ Baylor, Tape Delayed 10 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 1/29/09

Duke @ Wake Forest, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Pittsburgh @ Villanova, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Golden State Warriors @ Dallas Mavericks, Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Australian Open Tennis Championships 2009 - Men's Semifinal #1: Players TBD, Live 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Denver Nuggets @ New Orleans Hornets, Tape Delayed 5:30 p.m. AFN/sports
North Carolina @ Florida State, Tape Delayed 10 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 1/30/09

Cleveland Cavaliers @ Orlando Magic, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
San Antonio Spurs @ Phoenix Suns, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Super Bowl XLIII on AFN/sports: NFL Total Access at the Super Bowl - Press Conferences: Head Coaches, Payton Man of the Year, Commissioner, etc., Live 4 p.m. AFN/sports
California @ UCLA, Tape Delayed 10 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 1/31/09

Boston Celtics @ Detroit Pistons, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Pittsburgh Penguins @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Minnesota Wild @ Edmonton Oilers, Live 5 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
Golden State Warriors @ New Orleans Hornets, Live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Chicago Bulls @ Sacramento Kings, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Detroit Pistons, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports
Notre Dame @ Pittsburgh, Live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
Wake Forest @ Georgia Tech, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Michigan @ Purdue, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra
Oklahoma State @ Texas A&M, Live 10 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Georgetown @ Marquette, Live 10 p.m. AFN/sports
Stanford @ UCLA, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 2/01/09

Providence @ Connecticut, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
Washington @ Arizona State, Live 1:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Baylor @ Missouri, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
Miami (FL) @ Maryland, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
UFC Primetime: St-Pierre vs Penn, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Florida @ Tennessee, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
UFC 94: St-Pierre vs Penn 2 (MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
St. Mary's @ Portland, Live 6 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
West Virginia @ Louisville, Tape Delayed 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
Kansas State @ Texas, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/xtra
North Carolina @ North Carolina State, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Mavericks @ Miami Heat, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/xtra
New York Rangers @ Boston Bruins, Tape Delayed 5:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
Penn State @ Michigan State, Live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Minnesota Timberwolves @ Boston Celtics, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Detroit Pistons, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 2/02/09

Super Bowl XLIII: Teams TBD (Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, FL), Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
Cincinnati @ Villanova, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Virginia @ Duke, Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
UFC 94: St-Pierre vs Penn 2 (MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, NV, Tape Delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
Super Bowl XLIII on AFN/sports - VH1 Pepsi Smash
Super Bowl Bash * Featuring Rihanna and Fall Out Boy, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/sports
Super Bowl XLIII on AFN/sports - Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials, Tape Delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports
Super Bowl XLIII: Teams TBD (Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, FL, Tape Delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 2/03/09

Connecticut @ Louisville, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
St. Louis Blues @ Detroit Red Wings, Live 3 AFN/xtra
Kansas @ Baylor, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
Buffalo Sabres @ Anaheim Ducks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Connecticut @ Louisville, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Dallas Mavericks @ Orlando Magic, Tape Delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports
Portland Trail Blazers @ New Orleans Hornets, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

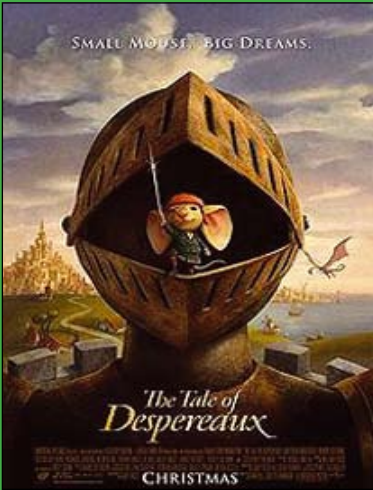
Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Ceja,
We Love and miss you more than ever. Be safe and know we are
waiting for you back home. We Love you!!
Your family,
Miranda, Daniel, Thomas Jr. and Meghan

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

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

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

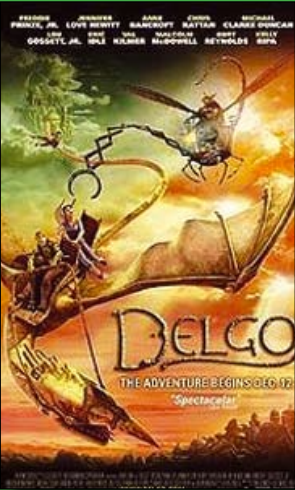
The Tale of Despereaux



The Tale of Despereaux is a 2008 computer-animated film directed by Sam Fell and Rob Stevenhagen. Based on the 2003 fantasy book of the same name by Kate DiCamillo, the movie is narrated by Sigourney Weaver and stars Matthew Broderick and Emma Watson. Released on December 19, 2008 by Universal Studios, the film was rated G by the MPAA and was sent by Universal Pictures as a contender for the possibility of being nominated for the Oscar for Best Animated Feature.

Delgo

A teenaged boy, Delgo (voice of Freddie Prinze Jr.), of the terrestrial Lokni people on the alien planet Jhamora, and Princess Kyla (voice of Jennifer Love Hewitt), of the winged Nohrin occupiers, fall in love and save both societies from would-be conqueror Sedessa (voice of Anne Bancroft), exiled sister of the Nohrin King Zahn (voice of Louis Gossett, Jr.).



Movie Times

- Wednesday, January 28
5 p.m. Four Christmases
8 p.m. Nothing Like the Holidays
- Thursday, January 29
5 p.m. The Day The Earth Stood Still
8 p.m. The Boy In The Striped Pajamas
- Friday, January 30
2 p.m. The Tale of Despereaux
5 p.m. Cadillac Records
8:30 p.m. Paul Blart: Mall Cop
- Saturday, January 31
2 p.m. Delgo
5 p.m. Paul Blart: Mall Cop
8 p.m. Cadillac Records
- Sunday, February 1
2 p.m. Bride Wars
5 p.m. Nothing Like The Holidays
8 p.m. The Day The Earth Stood Still
- Monday, February 2
5 p.m. The Day The Earth Stood Still
8 p.m. Bride Wars
- Tuesday, February 3
5 p.m. Bride Wars
8 p.m. Four Christmases

(Schedule is subject to change)

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

The Day the Earth Stood Still is a 2008 American science fiction film, a remake of the 1951 film of the same name. Directed by Scott Derrickson and starring Keanu Reeves as Klaatu, the film updates the Cold War theme of nuclear warfare to the contemporary issue of humankind's environmental damage to the planet.



Paul Blart: Mall Cop



An overweight and sad individual (Kevin James), tries to make ends meet as a security officer at a mall in New Jersey. It's a job he takes very seriously, though no one else does. Santa's helpers at the mall stage a coup, led by a man named Veck (Keir O'Donnell), who is posing as a mall cop trainee. When they shut down the megaplex and take hostages (Paul's daughter and sweetheart among them), Blart has to save the day.

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army, 1st Lt. David Clayton with the 4th Battalion, 42nd Infantry along with Lt. Colonel Saad with the Iraqi police, review the location of a future voting site in Karkh, Iraq, Jan. 16.

U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Robert J. Whelan



Iraqi scouts graduate from a two-week course on infantry tactics in Karmashiyah, Iraq, on Jan. 13. Soldiers from the 2nd Platoon, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, hosts the training for the Iraqi scouts from the Department of Border Enforcement.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rasheen A. Douglas



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Edwin Bridges

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Slysz and Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Albrecht sit with an Iraqi man at his home outside Contingency Operating Base Adder near the city of Nasiriyah, Iraq, Dec. 16. Slysz, the NCO in charge of criminal intelligence for the 732nd Provost Marshal Office Detachment 5, is deployed from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Albrecht is assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.



U.S. Army Sgt. Joshua Vicenzi stops to give an Iraqi child a hug while he and fellow Soldiers from the 1st Combat Arms Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conduct a patrol in Baghdad, on Jan. 8.

U.S. Army photo/Spc. Rebekah Lampman

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Abu Ghraib market in process of facelift

★ ABU GHRAIB, Iraq – As the sun crests the horizon and local merchants open their doors for another business day, a line of dump trucks forms in the Abu Ghraib city market.

This caravan sits waiting to receive their cargo of mangled steel, rubble and concrete lying nearby. The foreman issues sharp, quick commands to the drivers. As quickly as they come, they go. Each time, one truckload less of rubble and debris clears the area.

In an area synonymous with scandal, now there is renewed hope for continued progress and lasting security.

The truckloads of rubble come from a building destroyed during the height of fighting in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad. A car bomb targeting innocent civilians and Iraqi Security Forces destroyed the building in 2007. Since then, the heap of rubble remained a reminder of the violent past.

The owner, Muhammad, has not been able to afford the removal of the debris and reconstruction of his building until now. As part of the Abu Ghraib market revitalization effort, a combined endeavor by the local government and Coalition forces, Muhammad applied and was approved for a small business micro-grant.

Work began the day he received his micro-grant payment and the change to the face of the north market is already significant.

The area had been restricted for safety reasons due to the instability of the remaining structure. It now thrives as other market vendors take advantage of micro-grants to renovate and enhance their businesses.

“I am losing money every month, because my building was destroyed,” said Muhammad. “But now, I have the chance for a new start, a new beginning.”

He said he will rebuild and then lease the units in the structure to new business owners.

The revitalization of the Abu Ghraib market is one of many essential service and public progress efforts underway throughout the Abu Ghraib Qada. It is one of the top efforts of Iraq government officials and Coalition forces in the area.

The market campaign targets an area of Baghdad previously known for stalled progress and poor security using an infusion of micro-grants, new projects and additional security. Cooperation between the local government and tribal and security leaders has paved the way for success in the area.

Solar lights are being installed to allow shopping past dark and for increased security. Roads and sidewalks have been paved, awnings installed over storefronts, sewage and trash cleaned up. Two large market annexes are near completion south of the main road through the market.

These will house the several hundred vendors currently occupying ramshackle booths along the busy road. Once complete, the vendors will be able to move away from the highly travelled avenue to a climate-controlled structure where they can better serve their patrons in a safer, more efficient and secure area.

In addition to the numerous structures and im-



provements underway, the ISF have developed a plan for combined security of the area and have emplaced several security barriers and checkpoints to ensure the area remains safe for local residents and market goers.

“Abu Ghraib has turned the corner,” said Khameel Abas, qada council chairman. “We have always been a resilient city. Better security has paved the way for progress and happiness.”

Fort Hood units transfer authority at FOB Marez

★ MOSUL, Iraq – The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment cased its colors and handed over the reins of Ninawa province to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Marez Jan. 19.

The 3rd ACR completed its 15-month deployment and will return to Fort Hood, Texas, while the 3rd HBCT, 1st Cav. Div., also from Fort Hood, uncased its colors for their 12-month deployment.

“Today marks the formal passing of responsibility of Ninawa province from the Brave Rifles to the Greywolves,” said Col. Michael Bills, 3rd ACR commander. “More importantly, it represents the continued commitment and partnership the Coalition forces have with the Provincial Government, the Iraq Security Forces, and the Iraqi People.”

During the deployment, the 3rd ACR drastically improved the security, Bills said. They conducted more than 930 company-level operations and more than 27,600 combat patrols. They cleared more than 64,800 miles of roads and found and reduced more than 1,000 improvised explosive devices and 35 vehicle-borne IEDs.

The Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces also recruited more than 35,000 Iraqis to join their military and police forces.

While the progress has been substantial, Bills said the work is not done.

“There is still much more work to be done and with the great team from the Tropic Lightning Divi-

sion and the Greywolf Brigade, your future is very bright with the continued partnership and commitment to the citizens of Ninawa province,” he said.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., commander of Multi-National Division North and the 25th Infantry Division, also praised the 3rd ACR Troopers for their work and said that Bills and the 3rd ACR Troopers, “have performed heroically over the past 15 months.”

Caslen told the 3rd HBCT Soldiers he could not think of a unit better-prepared to assume control of the province and that he is confident they will add another chapter to its storied history during this deployment.

As the 3rd HBCT assumes control of the area of operations, Col. Gary Volesky, 3rd HBCT commander, said he is aware of the challenges they face and the standard for success the Brave Rifles have set.

“The Greywolf Brigade is proud to replace our teammates from the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment in Ninawa province,” he said. “The significant decrease in violence seen during the conduct of their operation is a testament to the outstanding performance of Colonel Mike Bills’ Troopers.”

This was the 3d ACR’s third deployment to Iraq. The 3d ACR deployed during OIF I in 2003, and OIF III in 2005.

The Greywolves begin their third deployment in Iraq, having served in OIF II in 2004 and OIF 06-07 in 2006.

Adhamiyah’s al Talaba Sports Complex opens

★ CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The 41st Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division celebrated the completion of their Unit Set Fielding program and month-long training during a graduation ceremony at the Besmaya Range Complex Jan. 14.

U.S. Soldiers, assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Div., have partnered with the 41st IA Brigade since early October 2008. They trained the Iraqi Soldiers on the new tactical equipment and combat gear prior to the fielding process.

“They are the best Iraqi Army unit to have come through USF,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Renshaw, the senior advisor of the Besmaya Range Complex.

During the course, the Iraqi Soldiers received everything from medical combat lifesaver kits and sleeping bags to vehicles and weapons. The brigade was also able to rotate its Soldiers through various marksmanship qualification ranges and training opportunities.

“Together, we will make Iraq a safer place,” said Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, commander of the 5th Bn., 82nd Field Artillery Regt. Daugherty believes the new Iraqi unit, with assistance from his battalion has made a positive impact on the people living in the Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq.

At the month’s end, the troopers completed AK-47 qualification exercises, military operations in urban terrain courses, improvised explosive device identification and awareness training and combat lifesaver training among other classes.

Sustaining the Line



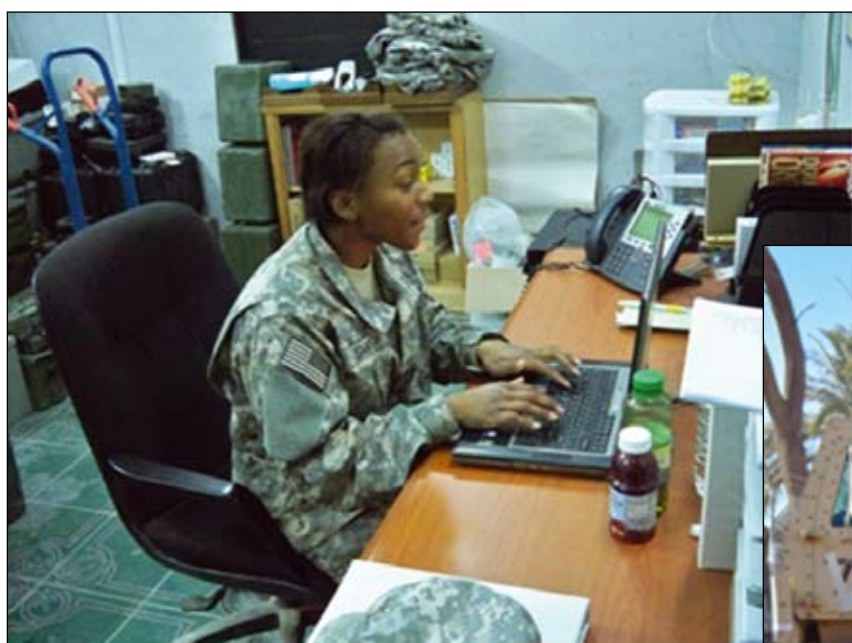
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Iraqi mechanics work on a humvee at the Al Asad Third Line Maintenance Workshop, Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 19. A group of American Soldiers attached to the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 371st Sustainment Brigade, are partnered with the Al Asad Location Command to train the Iraqi mechanics.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael R. Goebelbecker

Spc. Christopher J. Rasmussen, a native of Milton, Ky. and command driver for the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade replaces the old sniper cage on his vehicle at Taji, Iraq, Jan. 8. Rasmussen is deployed with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and currently serving a 15-month Iraq tour in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joe Caldera

Spc. Sabrina Smith, of the 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade and a Fort Worth, Texas native, keeps her company well-supplied with all that it needs to continue the mission in comfort. Smith ensures the troops get supplies delivered on time. Smith, an automated logistical specialist, is responsible for supervising and performing management of warehouse functions in order to maintain equipment records and parts for the unit.

Pfc. Patrick Bentley, a native of Fort Worth, Texas and an infantryman from Bravo Company, 949th Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, begins his day by re-emphasizing safety to his Soldiers.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joe Caldera