

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 5

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## Got Photo?

"Of Soldiers, By Soldiers" Photo Competition

Send your best photo and it could be on the cover of Soldiers Magazine.

### Guidelines:

- Photo must be taken by a Soldier and of a Soldier
- Only one submission per Soldier
- Photo must be high resolution (three megapixels or greater in size)
- Images should be composed vertically with action leading to the right
- Caption must include: full name, rank and unit of Soldier in photo (if children are depicted, no names required); nomenclature of all equipment / vehicles in photo.
- Photographer's full contact information, unit address, supervisor's telephone number and personal telephone

Submission Deadline:  
April 21, 2009

Email your photos (and any questions) to: [carrie.mcleroy@us.army.mil](mailto:carrie.mcleroy@us.army.mil)

## Iraqi Ammunition Operations, page 5



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Amanda Tucker

Iraqi Army Soldiers work to bind together ammunition pallets for storage at the Bayji National Ammunition Depot, Iraq, Jan. 26.

## Iraqi Transportation Network welcomes new partnership

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1st Lt. Stacey Frey  
UPAR, 100th BSB

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 699th Maintenance Company, 100th Brigade Support Battalion, assumed responsibility to provide command

and control and escort element of the Iraqi Transportation Network on Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Jan. 6.

The ITN is an all-Iraqi consortium of tribally owned trucking companies that move cargo

across Iraq. ITN completed more than 3,700 missions since May 2, 2008 without incident or loss of cargo. The ITN routinely moves mission critical sustainment cargo across Iraq in support of Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces.

The 699th Maint. Co. provides internal convoy escort, security and direct management of ITN convoy movement within JBB. The 699th Maint. Co. recently rotated into Iraq and has already assumed the important duty of escorting the ITN convoys on



See ITN PARTNERSHIP,  
Page 8

An Iraqi Transportation Network driver moves cargo through Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 10.



## 332 ESFS Blotter

### 23 Jan. – 29 Jan.

#### **DAMAGE TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:**

A reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk to report a broken window at Bldg #7502. The RP stated he was cleaning out his desk when he found a flashlight with a spring in it. The item was later identified as a pen flare. He (RP) tried to remove the spring and accidentally shot the pen flare. After hearing a loud bang and feeling a heat wave, he noticed he fired the pen flare and broken a glass window. Seven pictures were taken of the damage.

#### **PATROL RESPONSE/MEDICAL EMERGENCY:**

A reporting party notified the Joint Defense Operations Center via 911 and reported a medical emergency at Bldg #4305. The RP stated the victim was experiencing abdominal pain. Base patrols were dispatched with the fire department and medical team. They arrived on scene and made contact with KBR Medical, who advised them the victim would be transported to the base hospital for further evaluation.

#### **PATROL RESPONSE/WRONGFUL APPROPRIATION:**

The reporting party approached an entry control point and reported a theft at HAS 11. The RP stated that four Soldiers had walked in and taken four aircraft mechanic tool kits. A patrol was dispatched and contact was made with the four suspects. After statements were obtained from the suspects, they were taken into custody and transported to the law enforcement desk for processing. The suspects were released after processing back to their unit first sergeant.

#### **FOUND GOVERNMENT PROPERTY:**

The reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported he found some government property at the IBIZ Recycling yard. The RP stated during an inspection at the IBIZ Recycling yard he came across a Black Tuff box containing five laptop computers. He took the property back to his office and reported his findings to his chain of command and security forces. Security forces took the property into safekeeping pending location of the owner.

**NIPR- 443-8602**

**SIPR- 241-1171**

**Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil**

# You can save a life by stopping!

## Prevent accidents before they happen.



US Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

A 5-ton truck passes a bus stopped at bus stop #10 on Pennsylvania Avenue near Hawk Boulevard on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 28. Although many motorists pass a stopped bus, JBB policy # 08-043 base policy states that, "There will be no passing of motorized vehicles on JBB. This includes, but is not limited to, buses stopped at bus stops, street sweepers, and watering trucks (that water plants and trees)."

# EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>d</sup> ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally

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287th Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
555th Engineer Brigade  
304th Sustainment Brigade  
34th Combat Aviation Brigade

**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<sup>d</sup> 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. Kiyoshi C. Freeman

Spc. Michael T. Behlin is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week." Behlin is an Estill, S.C., native and an Expeditionary Times journalist for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC Public Affairs Office.

## Sustainer Challenge

### Got Photos?

Are you participating in the 2009 Sustainer Challenge and competition?

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

[expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil)





# Tribal Leaders host Sustainment Commanders

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE ADDER, Iraq – Shaykh

Tayseer Mohammed Marshad of the Ghizi tribe invited Col. Robert Schmitt, 287th Sustainment Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. David Whaling, 157th Combat Services Support Battalion, to a formal luncheon at his Nasiriyah compound on Jan. 21.

It was the first formal meeting between the two parties and Marshad used the opportunity to ask for Coalition forces partnership on civil affairs projects in his area of Dhi Qar province.

Other attendees were the head of Ur city council, Fahad Raysan, Al Batha District Councilman Mohammed Tayieh, 287th Sust. Bde. Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Newton, 157th CSSB Command Sgt. Maj. Orlando Santiago and Lt. Col. Clint

Moyer, chief of 287th Sust. Bde. Civilian Military Operations.

One of the top priorities was a new pump station house. "The present structure is old and beyond repair. The pump and generator are exposed to the weather, and they stop working often. We would like your help in building a new house which would cover the equipment," Marshad said.

According to Schmitt the pump system "is very important to the 287th Sust. Bde., as it currently provides water to the Coalition forces located on Camp Adder."

Councilmen Raysan and Tayieh thanked the Sustainers for their continued CMO support of several schools in their district, but identified several more which have not been helped before. "These schools need supplies for the students, computers for the classrooms and repairs to the buildings. Perhaps you can help them too," asked Raysan.

"There is an orphanage located in my district, not far from my town. It has 40 to 45

children who need help with everything -- school supplies, clothes, pay for teachers," Tayieh said, even as everyone was already nodding in agreement.

Al-Marshad showed his appreciation to the Sustainers by presenting each one with a "kaffiyeh" (scarf) and "agal" (plaited cord) -- the traditional male Iraqi head-dress -- and asked that they might favor him to wear it at their next meeting.

"It was a great dinner, a great meeting," said Schmitt. "We came away with a lot of positive opportunities to assist the Iraqis in the future."

The Kansas based 287th Sust. Bde., an Army National Guard unit with its headquarters in Wichita, recently arrived to take over sustainment operations in southern Iraq.



Guests of Shaykh Tayseer Mohammed Al-Marshad enjoy the main course of lamb and rice at a dinner honoring the 287th Sustainment Brigade leaders at Nasiriyah, Iraq, Jan 21.

# Puerto Rican Guardsmen earn their first safety streamer

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON  
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING  
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – The

Puerto Rican Guardsmen of the 266th Ordnance Company wrapped up their year-long deployment cycle here with a green safety streamer ceremony, for going 90 days without an accident, on Jan. 16.

"With the work load we're doing over here, that's hard to get," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Roy Waincott, safety officer, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade. "No one else in the battalion has gotten close yet."

Soldiers from the 266th Ord. Co., an Aguadillo, Puerto Rico based-unit, ran the ammunition supply point here

from April 2008 to January 2009, and supported not only the base and units throughout Multi-National Division - North, but also military units in Afghanistan.

"They have a lot of heavy items and explosives," Waincott said. "That's one place you don't want a fire."

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sust. Bde. attached the green safety streamer to the ordnance company's guidon during the ceremony. The streamer, the first to be awarded in the brigade, recognized the ordnance company for their commitment to safety.

"To be successful we must concentrate our efforts on accomplishing the mission and do it without injuring Soldiers or destroying equipment," said Pitts. "To do so will require the teamwork of everyone in the unit incorporating all of the following four areas: leadership, individual responsibility, discipline, and com-



Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, adds a green safety streamer to the 266th Ordnance Company guidon during a ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Jan. 16. The streamer is the first to be awarded in the 16th Sust. Bde. to recognize a company for going 90 days without any accidents. Soldiers from the 266th Ord. Co., from Aguadillo, Puerto Rico, ran the ammunition supply point here from April 2008 to January 2009, and supported not only the base and units throughout Multi-National Division - North but also military units in Afghanistan.

posite risk management."

All units that fall under the 16th Sustainment Brigade are

eligible for the streamer. To be considered for the award, leaders must go through their

safety officers, who will notify the brigade safety manager of a unit's eligibility.



# Iraqi Army partners with Sustainers for ammunition operations

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. AMANDA TUCKER  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

BAYJI NATIONAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, Iraq – Iraqi Army leaders met with Sustainers from the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command

(Expeditionary) at the Bayji National Ammunition Depot, Iraq on Jan. 26.

The leaders met to discuss the Iraqi Army capacity to issue, store, receive, secure and account for munitions. Discus-

sions centered on processes and procedures to conduct munitions support, as well as developing planning processes for replenishment of stocks through the foreign military sales process and forecasting future requirements and how the IA and 3<sup>d</sup> ESC may partner together in the future.

One of the IA leaders in attendance, Mohammed, director of ammunition for the IA, said, “the visit was very successful and beneficial for me,” citing the productive meeting between IA and 3<sup>d</sup> ESC leaders.

The depot has a history of partnered success, since working with the logistics military advisor team from Multi-Na-

tional Security Transition Corps-Iraq, the depot, has had no security issues.

“We still think they need to do some work to define what their policies and their procedures are. To get those [policies and procedures] published so that there is clear understanding and communication across all levels of how logistics will work,” said Lt. Col. Billy Hall, the chief of Iraqi security forces transition team for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC.

Brig. Gen. Suhail Ibrahim, BNAD installation commander



More than 110 yards at the Bayji National Ammunition Depot were full of scattered ammunition in October. Now, the Iraqi Army is moving the contents of the last yard to be condensed into warehouses and earth covered igloos.

and Mohammed led a tour of the depot including facilities where serviceable ammunition is stored and unserviceable ammunition is destroyed. During the time spent together, the leaders from both the IA and the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC discussed transpor-

tation, disposal, accountability, security and safety in dealing with the ammunition.

“I want to thank all the Coalition forces for their support ... and for any support they plan to provide in the future,” said Mohammed.

## Monster Garage

BY 1ST LT. PAUL LAYMON  
UPAR, 398<sup>TH</sup> CSSB, 10<sup>TH</sup>  
SBDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq –The 503rd Maintenance Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, is sta-

tioned at the Victory Base Compound in Baghdad, Iraq.

The company performs a multitude of missions, and many of its members held a myriad of duty positions and accomplished many things in their careers.

One is Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Morin, native of Middleboro, Mass., and an automotive platoon sergeant. During his first three-months in theater, he established a process to install



U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Howard Pepper

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Morin, a native of Middleboro, Mass., inspects final installation of Objective-Gunners Protection Kit (O-GPK). Morin is deployed with the 503rd Maintenance Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad



U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Howard Pepper

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Morin, a native of Middleboro, Mass., extracts a bolt broken during the installation of the Objective-Gunners Protection Kit (O-GPK). Morin is currently deployed with the 503rd Maintenance Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad

the Gunners Protection Kits on the M1151 humvee series. Under his direction, his platoon installed enough O-GPKs to become the second largest GPK installation site in theater.

Prior to Morin's deployment, he was stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C. with the Headquarters Company, 187th Ordnance Battalion. While he served as a drill sergeant for Charlie Co., he was also a wheel vehicle recovery school instructor and non-commissioned officer in charge. His efforts led him to earn the U.S. Army special additional skill

identifier, H8, vehicle recovery operations.

Morin skills led him to compete on national television, as a member of the All-Army “Mechanic” Team on the Discovery Channel show, Monster Garage, with famed motorcycle builder, Jesse James. The premise of the show (was in seven days) to transform an ordinary one into an extraordinary with a budget of \$5,000. The team consisted of six Soldiers from different technical fields: a warrant officer, a lieutenant, two NCOs and two enlisted Soldiers, and were given

a World War II Jeep which they transformed into a twin-engine tractor puller. They completed the project before the deadline and were awarded Mac Tools.

Another show that featured Morin's skills was ‘Dirty Jobs’, also a Discovery Channel show hosted by Mike Rowe. The show televised various jobs that are “dirty” by normal society. Morin was tasked to recover a vehicle that was mired in three feet of water while applying all aspects of safety, rigging techniques, mechanical advantage and recovery methods.



# Good NCOs: you know them when you see them

*Editor's Note: This commentary is in recognition of the 2009 year of the Noncommissioned Officer and is a reprint from [www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php](http://www4.army.mil/yearofthenco/home.php)*

BY DAVID W. KUHN SR.

Jan. 23, 2009 -- It's harder to list the qualities of a good noncommissioned officer than you might think. But everyone who has been in the Army can name NCOs they think are great.

NCOs are the leaders who most directly affect our lives in uniform. Whether you are a commissioned officer looking back on a platoon sergeant, first sergeant or command sergeant major who served as a guide, right hand or confessor; or you are an NCO yourself, looking back at the sergeants who kicked you when you needed it, steered you when they could, taught you the right way to do it, and finally turned you loose to do it all yourself, Army careers are often shaped by the NCOs met along the way.

I spent 24 years in uniform. But two NCOs stand out for the influence they had on my own development. They were as different as night and day in many ways, but shared the values of true professionals.

Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Hughes was my first section chief. My initial assignment in the Army was at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in the fire direction and control section of the only artillery battery on the post. Hughes taught me to be a Soldier. He was a quiet, soft-spoken guy - about as far as you could get from the yelling, swearing, tobacco-chewing NCO the movies had taught me to expect.

But, without all the bluster and noise, Sgt. 1st Class Hughes demanded and got the best out of every Soldier in the section. He knew everything we did - right and wrong

- and praised or corrected, on the spot. And he could do anything. Whether it was showing us how to set a rabbit snare in the snowy woods with strands of commo' wire, or a shortcut to computing meteorological corrections for the guns, Hughes did everything better, faster, smarter, easier than any of us thought was possible.

If there was one lesson I took from him, it was that good NCOs have to be the absolute masters of everything their troops are asked to do.

After I left the Artillery as a young sergeant, I was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters. There I met Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas B. Hayes, the division's top NCO. His face will always come to mind when I think of great NCOs. Hayes was not a young man. But, on

the wrong side of 50, he was still one of the toughest Soldiers in the division - 'hard as woodpecker lips,' as one of my friends would say.

Command Sgt. Maj. Hayes ran with a different line unit every morning. He then spent the day visiting training, wandering through motor pools, stopping by mess halls ... He was everywhere. The general commanded the division, but there was no doubt who the face of the command team was. Hayes might not have met every Soldier in the 1st Cav., but I bet he came pretty close. Everyone knew who he was.

There was nothing mild-mannered about Command Sgt. Maj. Hayes. I overheard him provide some pretty colorful "guidance" to individuals who failed to perform to the standards the commanding

general set. But I also saw him spend hours of his own time fixing problems for individual Soldiers when he learned their battalion command sergeants major had run into obstacles they couldn't surmount.

For all his gruff exterior and intimidating aura, Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Hayes taught me that the needs of every single Soldier are important to the performance of even the largest units.

There are lots of other Johnny Hughes and Doug Hayes NCOs in uniform today. They are the ones who set the pace, enforce the standards, get the mission done and do everything to ensure no Soldier is left behind. It may be hard to list what makes them great - but we know them when we see them.

## Convoys: Helping to transition to the new Iraq

BY 1ST LT. DAVID A. BIRD  
UPAR, 949TH BSB, 553RD  
CSSB, 10TH SBDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - "We own the road," was a motto once used by convoy commanders who navigate the broken

streets of Iraq.

Convoys and American military vehicles are big, tough, and if anyone so much as looked at them in the wrong way, are dealt with because friendly forces could not risk anyone getting too close.

This may sound extreme, but during the early to mid-years of the war in Iraq, such measures were necessary to try and tame the lawless roads where Soldiers

died at the hands of the enemy on a regular basis. It was in a way, "The Wild West."

But in 2009, it is a new Iraq. "We share the road," is the new theme. Under the Security Agreement that became effective on Jan. 1, 2009, distribution missions are no longer called Deliberate Combat Logistics Patrols. The missions are now called convoys, as we share the road as neutral travelers

amongst many other vehicles on the road.

Changes in convoy policy can be attributed to the progress that Coalition forces have made in Iraq. These changes could not have happened if the threat level in Iraq had not drastically reduced, and is an optimistic sign that the country is moving forward into a new era.

Therefore, this is the new Iraq and it continues to grow into a

stronger and safer country. Convoys still play an instrumental part in the Coalition's mission, delivering classes of supply to forward operating bases, combat outposts, and joint security stations across the battlefield.

The focus has shifted for CF and allowing the Iraqis take more control to rebuilding their country, CF presents in Iraq is still needed and to help with the transition process.

### READ THIS!

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"LETTER TO THE EDITOR"

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- Changes
- Story ideas
- Base policies
- Soldier-related events
- Tell the CG your thoughts
- Serious inquires only

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# KNOWLEDGE

OFFICIAL SAFETY MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY

## Safety Sense: Where Can I Get Some?

A total safety culture within an organization can be defined as a culture in which individuals: hold safety as a value; feel a sense of responsibility for the safety of their fellow Soldiers, civilians and Family members, as well as themselves; and are willing and able to act on the sense of responsibility they feel toward those around them. That is, individuals must have the skills and tools necessary and be supported by their Leaders to go "beyond the call of duty" on behalf of the safety of themselves and others in their formations.

If Leaders are committed to safety, they must have a highly visible presence to express that support. How do you, as a Leader, demonstrate care and concern for the Soldiers, civilians and Family members in your charge in order to influence their behavior in a positive way? What kind of approach will have the highest level of success? In his recent Safety Update, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (CSA), Gen. Casey asked every Leader to take a holistic look at their command environment and find ways to influence our Soldiers, Family members and civilians to use composite risk management.

Recently, our Army has experienced a slight rise in the off-duty accidental losses while also seeing a downward trend of on-duty accidental loss. Why is that? Direct Leader involvement and engagement has proven time and again to make the difference and, for our on-duty challenges, it has clearly been proven again. Leaders must take this engagement one step further, though, by taking an active interest in what their Soldiers are doing with their time off and by helping their Soldiers identify potential high-risk activities or behaviors that could cause serious injury or loss of life.

Peers play a large role in how Soldiers develop their sense of what's right or wrong. Peers are just one of the three groups that influence our Soldiers on a daily basis; they can keep a situation from getting worse or leading to disaster. Soldiers are influenced by their friends, their "battle buddies," and need to be brought into the fold of the "Band of Brothers and Sisters." A source of many great safety messages can be found in our BOSS Safety Factor program (available online <https://crc.army.mil>). Soldiers must know what right looks like and develop their own "safety sense" by learning how to think. Leaders can help, along with the tools found on our site. The end state of this line of thinking will produce a desired – and needed – cultural shift in the way safety is viewed.

When Soldiers, civilians and Family members are habitually involved in a unit's safety effort, there is a greater sense of ownership and pride. Leaders, in close cooperation with Families and communities and peers taking care of their own (the Band of Brothers and Sisters), build safer environments for our Army, both on and off duty. Leader's Corner is a great place to find the tools to build a successful environment for our Soldiers to operate and can be found at <https://crc.army.mil/leaderscorner/>.

Leaders, peers and Families are charged with the protection of Soldiers both on and off duty. This responsibility can seem daunting for some by taking them well out of their comfort zone. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center hosts a myriad of tools available online at <https://crc.army.mil> that will assist Leaders to successfully and safely complete their mission both on and off duty, while mitigating the harmful effects of risk. The CSA encourages leaders to "get creative" and solicit the support of Families and the community to help the Army save lives. Peers, Families and community members can find information on protecting their loved ones while they are off duty in the Family Engagement Kit and the BOSS Safety Factor program found on the USACRC Web site. With these tools, and the support of Leaders, Family members and the local community, our Army will maintain the strides made on duty, drive down the off-duty accident occurrences and continue to keep us Army Strong.

## Army Safe is Army Strong!



**William T. Wolf**  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding





# ITN Partnership *Continued from Page 1*

Joint Base Balad.

Spc. Matthew Fellows, 699th Maint. Co. is a member of the escort element. "My job here is to escort the ITN to the central receiving and shipping point yard and escort back to the entry control point. The ITN is a good thing to transfer over authority back to the Iraqi government," said Fellows.

Spc. Jason Tabor, 699th Maint. Co. escort element, states: "We are making great progress to help turn over authority to the Iraqi government."

Pvt. James Philmon, 699th Maint. Co. escort element, said "our mission is a good thing to the Iraqi's. This helps them take back Iraq."

Maj. Paul Taylor, a British Army officer on exchange and the support operations officer for the 100th BSB, provides operational oversight and command and control of the ITN mission on Joint Base Balad. The SPO is the principle logistics planner within the BSB. The support operations section in conjunction with

various organizations on JBB, plans, coordinates, and monitors the movements of all ITN trucks from cargo entry, delivery, and exit from JBB.

"The ITN initiative is a great step forward towards ISF logistical sustainment. With local tribe's people proving that they can provide a reliable, effective and timely transportation network, we are a step closer to ISF sustainment without Coalition forces. It is a great mission," said Taylor.

Capt. Josh Panek, the 100th BSB SPO plans officer explains, "The Iraqi Transportation Network provides an invaluable service to Iraqis as well as Coalition forces. Although ITN is one of many transitional initiatives throughout Iraq, it is critical for establishing a durable Iraqi logistical framework."



Spc. Tyler Stakelum, 699th Maintenance Company, 100th Brigade Support Battalion, hands out water to an Iraqi Transportation Network driver on Jan. 10.

## Advisory teams meet at JBB for conference

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
*Expeditionary Times Staff*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Logistics Training and Advisory Teams from across Iraq met here for a conference Jan. 13.

Hosted by the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the goal of the conference was to bring all of the LTATs together to discuss their mission, which is mentoring their Iraqi Army counterparts, said Lt. Col. Billy V. Hall, the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC chief of Iraqi Security Forces transition teams, and a native of Killeen, Texas.

"We got three brand new brigade teams in," he said, referring to the sustainment brigades which recently arrived in theater. "So what we want to do is bring those new teams in, let them see our campaign plan from the (3<sup>d</sup> ESC) level," Hall said, with a special emphasis on how those partnerships work with the IA.

That partnership entails training and advising Iraqi logisticians at nine – soon to be 13 – maintenance workshops, in addition to the General Transport Regiment based out of Taji, Iraq.

The overarching goal for this mission, Hall said, is "to help (the IA) develop a self-reliant, self-sustaining capability for their forces."

It is a mission which presents many unique challenges, such as establishing trust, recognizing cultural differences and financing.

"With a Western system, we have a good idea what the resources are [and] that are required to support our systems, and we have the funding to keep the flow of parts going," said Lt. Col. Lance R. Koenig, the Coalition advisor for Taji National Supply Depot at Taji, Iraq.

"However," he went on to say, "for the Iraqis, they don't know if they're going to get another shipment or when it's going to come in, so they're more reluctant to release parts."

This is a problem made even more acute by limited finances and a fleet of over 160 makes and models of vehicles. Everything from T-72 tanks to British armored personnel carriers to Ford F-350 pickup trucks – all of which requires different parts and different maintenance procedures.

Most of these vehicles will become "legacy vehicles," and will be cannibalized for parts over time. The longer-term solution is the thousands of humvees now in service with the IA, principally because there is already an industrial base in place to support them, Hall said.

"When we started our training, we decided to focus on what we know first – which is the humvees," said 1st Lt. Isaura I. Ramirez, LTAT officer in charge for the Al Asad 3rd Line Maintenance Workshop, 69th Transportation Support Brigade, 371st Sustainment Brigade, and native of Guaynabo, Puerto

Rico.

The LTAT mission, though, is not just about translating manuals and training Iraqis to American standards, which is inherently impossible due to cultural differences, Hall said. It requires people who are adaptable, flexible and culturally sensitive.

No more hard chargers, my way or the highway-type, he said. When the new brigades arrived, Hall told them they needed "to assign somebody who has a very good attitude (that) understands the importance of what that mission is, and how well they do, really has an impact on

how quickly we can help the Iraqi Army move forward."

The conference allowed the LTATs to get together and share their experiences, to identify common obstacles and to troubleshoot possible solutions.

Koenig said he thought the conference was worthwhile.

"We have to be synchronized in our efforts with the 14 different Iraqi divisions out there as we try to increase their logistical capabilities," he said. "This all ties into a secure Iraq and our exit strategy; being able to draw down to a minimum force and having the Iraqis take over."



Staff Sgt. Gualberto M. Ramos, (kneeling), observes an Iraqi mechanics as they work on an Iraqi Army vehicle at the Al Asad 3rd Line Maintenance Workshop, Camp Mejid, Iraq, Jan. 19. A group of American Soldiers attached to the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 371st Sustainment Brigade, are partnered with the Al Asad Location Command to train the Iraqi mechanics.

Essay Contest

"THE QUEST FOR BLACK CITIZENSHIP"



Black History Month

"IN THE AMERICAS"

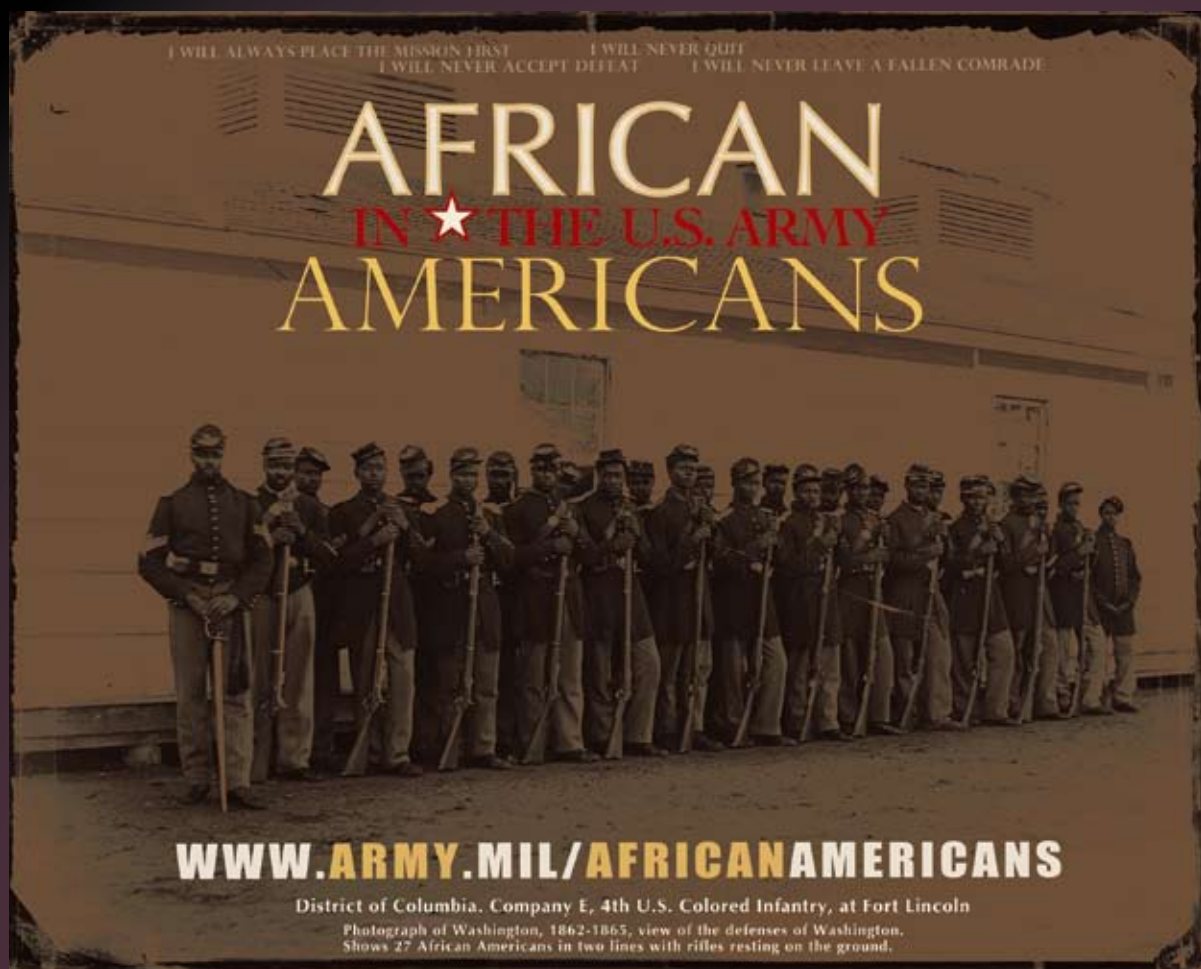
African-American / Black History Month Essay Contest

is open to all service members and civilians. The DOD National Theme is: *"The quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."* Deadline for entry will be 12 FEB 09. Entries can be turned in at the 371st SB EO Office, Bldg 10030, 440-7053 or send to: [OMB\\_371SB\\_EO@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:OMB_371SB_EO@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil)

Also looking for individuals interested in Choir, Step, Dance & Poetry/Spoken Word performances. Contact 440-7053 or [OMB\\_371SB\\_EO@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:OMB_371SB_EO@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil)





## William H. Carney

### Entered Service: Early 1863

In 1863, Sergeant William Carney entered the military and became a member of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry. In July of that same year, Carney found himself in the fierce Battle of Fort Wagner. After being wounded, Sergeant Carney saw that the color bearer had been shot down a few feet away. Carney summoned all his strength to retrieve the fallen colors and continued the charge. During the charge Carney was shot several more times, yet he kept the colors flying high. Once delivering the flag back to his regiment, he shouted "The Old Flag never touched the ground!" For this act Sergeant Carney became the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor.



*March On*

*Many struggles came our way*

*The time to stop is not today*

*Not now, tomorrow, not ever*

*March on my people march on*

*MLK paved the way*

*So we can enjoy the freedom of today*

*We carry the torch that lights the way*

*March on my people march on*

*Rosa did not give up her seat*

*She worked all day and ached her feet*

*Another step forward in history*

*March on my people march on*

*Now Obama the first in history*

*Takes his seat in presidency*

*Many fought but didn't get to see*

*The great change in our economy*

*Continue the fight for progress we see*

*March on my people march on*

*Written By Kandalisa Lang*

*January 19, 2009*

February is African American

History Month

*"Quest for Black  
Citizenship in  
the Americas."*

## Cathay Williams

### Entered Service: November 15, 1866

On November 15, 1866, Cathay Williams enlisted in the Army using the name William Cathay. She informed her recruiting officer that she was a 22-year-old cook. He described her as 5' 9", with black eyes, black hair and black complexion. An Army surgeon examined Cathay and determined the recruit was fit for duty, thus sealing her fate in history as the first documented African-American woman to enlist in the Army even though U.S. Army regulations forbade the enlistment of women. She was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry and traveled throughout the west with her unit. During her service, she was hospitalized at least five times, but no one discovered she was a female. After less than two years of service, Cathay was given a disability discharge but little is known of the exact medical reasons.





# Medals should be an Awarding experience

BY SGT. CRYSTAL G. REIDY  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The United States Army has issued awards and decorations to Soldiers as a recognition for their accomplishments since the American Civil War. Awards are one of many highlights in a Soldier's career.

Unfortunately, if not processed properly, these awards can become a source of frustration.

Lt. Col. Dennis O. Bostow, inspector general for 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and native of Omaha, Neb., said to eliminate a lot of the confusion regarding the awards process, commanders need to talk to their non-commissioned officers and officers about the expectations regarding the awards. Currently, five percent of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC IG complaints are related to awards.

"When you educate the people first, you will get a better product in the end," Bostow said.

He indicates the source of most Soldiers' grievances is not knowing all the regulations surrounding the award process. He suggest Soldiers know the basics regarding the processing of awards: it

can be approved, downgraded, or disapproved.

"For example, a lot of Soldiers think the downgrade for a Bronze Star Medal is to a Meritorious Service Medal; it's actually downgraded to an Army Commendation Medal," Bostow said. "Soldiers are surprised to learn that the MSM is the peace time equivalent to the Bronze Star and it can't reference combat service."

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron T. Loos, IG non-commissioned officer in charge for 3<sup>d</sup> ESC from Brandenburg, Ky., said Soldiers should understand that being flagged can keep them from receiving the awards they deserve.

"A weight control flag is non-waivable, but an Army Physical Fitness Test flag doesn't need to be waived by the commander and the Soldier can receive their medals," Loos said.

The IG's office doesn't argue content of awards because that is a command issue and gets involved only when there is a violation of due process.

Any Soldier can nominate another Soldier for an award. A violation occurs when someone tries to interfere with that process.

"A commander who directs an award to be re-written for a different award before it goes to the approving authority is violating due process," said Bostow.

He said commanders can be part of the award process by making sure they

put comments specific to the individual instead of making the same comment on every nomination.

"Commanders can suggest, not direct, the recommender to improve the write up that's poorly written," Bostow said. "The commander may suggest adding more specific facts regarding the Soldier's achievements."

The Department of the Army form 638, recommendation for award is used for the approving authority to decide and take action on the award, Bostow said. As the award goes up to a higher level of command, they may not know the Soldier personally, but comes down to what's annotated on the 638 form and the intermediate commander's comments.

"Some units are nominating everyone in the unit for the same award," Bostow said. "That makes it hard for the approving authority to know who the best Soldiers really are."

He recommends for commanders to submit their recommendations by making specific comments on the awards.

"If the commander recommends five Soldiers and comments 'good Soldier' on all of the awards they are not showing the approving authority who they think deserves the award most," Bostow said. "Now, if he recommends five Soldiers but one he says is the best platoon sergeant in the unit, then that says something."

The write-up does have an impact

because Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commanding general 3d ESC, reads every award that comes across his desk, Bostow said. Lally has read more than 3,000 award nominations since they arrived in theater June 2008.

There still is an opportunity to reverse the downgrade, if an award was downgraded or denied due to insufficient achievement comments. For instance, an award is written requesting a Bronze Star Medal but the award write-up supports an Army Commendation Medal, said Loos.

Loos said Army Regulation 600-8-22, which covers the policies, criteria and administration of military awards and decorations, does not address reconsideration issues but the Department of Defense Awards 1348.33 manual does.

"Soldiers try to convince us why they should have received an award and we advise them they are trying to convince the wrong person," Bostow said. "They need to take the documentation and convince their chain of command to reconsider."

Bostow advises writing a recommendation for awards with lots of hard facts and is the best way to get a Soldier the award they deserve.

"In the end, the Soldier suffers if the award is not written well," he said.

## 'Kids of Iraq' give to the children of Baghdad

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

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL ZONE, Iraq -- Thanks to an early morning trip on a pair of Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, a team of service members transported more than 500 pounds of supplies to a group of young Iraqis in Baghdad, Jan. 28.

Supported by the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group religious support team, volunteers with a group called "Kids of Iraq" recently brought toys, clothes and school supplies to a Baghdad orphanage.

Formed in 2008, Kids of Iraq is the first organization of its kind. The intent of the group is gathering and distributing much needed items to underprivileged and orphaned children in Iraq.

"Kids of Iraq was started by an Airman who had seen an area we could improve," said 1st Lt. Lawrence Hufford, a civil engineer with the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. "We are improving the relationships between the American military and the Iraqis."

Hufford, who is deployed from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., explained there are several Kids of Iraq organizations throughout Iraq, including one at Joint Base Balad. The groups are made up of deployed servicemembers and civilians

volunteering their free time to help with the growing inventory, and are facilitated by military chaplains.

"The donations come from the American Red Cross, different units, and from the people of the United States," said Hufford, a native of Hamilton, Ohio.

"We have received donations from any kind of organization you can think of; we even had a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project send over donations he had collected."

On a recent trip, service members with both the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and the Army's 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), ventured out early, leaving JBB en route to Washington Landing Zone in the IZ. With bags full of things like dolls, pens and backpacks, they crammed into the passenger compartment of a Blackhawk for the flight.

Once in Baghdad the service members waited in a parking lot as a truck filled with children arrived. The girls and boys watched the men and women in uniform with careful reserve. No ex-

pressions showed on their little faces as they approached. But as the first toy, a small doll was presented, a girl's smile appeared. The children's defenses dropped and their faces changed to picture-perfect happy.

The 3<sup>d</sup> ESC was represented by Army

"I was able to see the whole process from the beginning all the way to the finish," said Correa from New York City. "We got to see and come into contact with the kids, and see their reactions."

The children were escorted by Noha Al-Agha, a cultural advisor to the U.S.

Embassy in Baghdad. Her work with the orphans of Iraq is currently helping more than 150 boys and girls, all without homes. Al-Agha is also a staff member of a non-profit organization called "Generation Iraq" which is responsible for orphanages.

"This is a wonderful thing, and we really appreciate this," said Al-Agha "It is very important that the Iraqi orphans are taken care of."

Al-Agha explained how all of the children found their way to Generation Iraq. Some were found by police living on the streets while some had been found in the garbage. The children can stay in the orphanage until they reach the age of 18.

The Soldiers and Airmen spent some time with the children. Giving them candy and taking pictures.

As the children were getting back into the truck, one little girl stopped, waved showed her new backpack to everyone around and said "thank you."

That's what it's all about.



**Army Sgt. Maj. Chris Mackey and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Correa with the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), take a break with a group of Iraqi children from a Baghdad orphanage. Mackey and Correa were in the Baghdad International Zone with a group of volunteer of service members organized and called Kids of Iraq, who were delivering toys, clothes and school supplies. The supplies weigh more than 500 pounds, were donated by people from the United States.**

Sgt. Maj. Chris Mackey, support operations Sergeant Major who is deployed from Fort Knox, Ky., and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Correa, petroleum operations sergeant from Tucson, Ariz.



# 330th Transportation Battalion provides aerial support with Sherpa

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER  
*Expeditionary Times Staff*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Sherpas help provide logistical support to 20 units scattered across 15 locations in Iraq.

The 330th Transportation Battalion, from Fort Bragg, N.C., is tasked with providing aerial support to facilitate the distribution sustainment operations for the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and

Multi-National Corps-Iraq, on all rotary and fixed wing aircrafts, said Col. Ronald J. Ross, the 330th Trans. Bn. commander and Somerville, Mass., native.

“The Sherpas have an operational support mission,” said Maj. Chris W. Abbott, the operations officer for the 330th Trans. Bn. and Gardnerville, Nev., native. “They are specifically for Army requirements,” he said.

According to the Military Analysis Network, the C-23 Sherpa is, “the Army National Guard’s answer to missions requiring an aircraft that is capable of faster, higher-altitude and

longer distance coverage than helicopters.”

Sgt. Paul S. Acosta, the Sherpa non-commissioned officer in charge for the 590th Movement Control Team, under the 330th Trans. Bn., and Charleston, S.C., native, said medical equipment goes out almost every night by Sherpa.

“It’s a good feeling of accomplishment when you get Soldiers the equipment they need, especially medical supplies because you know it’s going to a worthy cause,” said Acosta.

The Sherpa can carry approximately 3,000 pounds for each flight, which

is broken down various ways and dependant on personnel and equipment. Some loads can either be three pallets or 12 passengers, eight passengers and one pallet, or four passengers and two pallets.

“Air assets are always very sought after,” said Abbot. “Whenever we have them, it keeps Soldiers off the road.”

A unit can drop off cargo for the Sherpas and get it out the same night. The 590th MCT has control of the flight manifest and can prioritize what needs to be delivered first, making sure mission essential equipment gets to where it needs to be quickly.

## Mary makes a difference to Soldiers, Families

BY SPC. AMANDA TUCKER  
*Expeditionary Times Staff*

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Families and Soldiers of Fort Knox’s 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) will lose one of their most important assets this month as their Family Readiness Support Assistant departs for another assignment.

Mary K. Siegel, the family readiness support assistant for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, and a Erie, Penn. native, is leaving her current position because her spouse, a noncommissioned officer assigned to the Headquarters, United States Army Recruiting Command out of Ft. Knox, has permanent change of station orders to Hawaii.

“(Mary) is an integral part of maintaining the morale, health and welfare of the Famil(ies) and Soldiers back at Fort Knox,” said Capt. Brian D. Costa,

the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, from Ft. Knox, Ky., and native of Norwell, Mass.

Mary’s position provides a link between Families and Soldiers; being the primary sources of information to resolve their issues, questions and needs. She has been doing this job for the past 15 years, back to when the FRG was called Family support groups.

“We still did a lot of the same things,” said Mary. “Then one day our Soldiers were activated to go to Iraq. This is when I realized how important FRGs were for keeping the Soldier mission focused and the Families in control of their own destiny.”

Mary helped to organize the family readiness group in April 2008, shortly before the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of Mary’s many tasks is to update the virtual FRG web site where Family members from across the world can access

unit information; photos of deployed Soldiers; commander’s updates; educational information; child care information; morale, welfare, and recreation events; FRG meeting dates and more. Some of her projects is to help boost the morale of Family members at home by participating in Operation Military Kids and Operation Give a Hug; both are programs that support the children(s) of deployed Soldiers.

She also started the first fitness program for Spouses who have a deployed Family member. In addition to the program, the Fort Knox MWR waived the fee for those Family members taking her class. She also made a deployment library in her office for children and adults on deployment and redeployment.

Costa compared her to a library of military intellect.

“Mary was brought onto the team to assist the FRG and has done an outstanding job, planning and coordinating activities and support with our

FRG, our Families, Fort Knox and the local community,” said Col. Jarrold M. Reeves, the deputy commander of the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC and an Atlanta, Ga., native.

Mary works with other organizations to assist Army Families. She is working on a project with the Army War College on ways to improve the quality of life for Families who do not reside on Army installations while their loved ones are deployed. Her involvement with the Individual Augmentee Spouse Project is to develop a handbook addressing issues specific to an IAS.

“She is ... one of the most positive, friendly, outgoing persons I’ve ever met and she is willing to bend over backwards to help somebody in any situation,” said Costa. “It is going to be hard to find a replacement that has her energy and her support. She’s done an amazing job.”

“It is my great pleasure to help my fellow Army Family members and Soldiers,” said Mary.

MNFI  
TF SAFE

Check CHUsdays


MNFI  
TF SAFE

Each Tuesday Check The Following In Your CHU

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

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

### Where do you read your Expeditionary Times?



For distribution, contact the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC PAO located throughout Iraq

Joint Base Balad	318-483-4603
COB Adder	318-833-1002
Camp Taji	318-834-1281
COB Q-West	318-827-6101
Al Asad Air Base	318-440-4103
COB Speicher	318-849-2501

e-mail: [expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil)



# Iraqi Transportation Network

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SPC. KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN  
*Expeditionary Times Staff*

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Since August, the 371st Sustainment Brigade, 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has partnered with the Iraqi Transportation Network to move cargo throughout Anbar province and to other select destinations in Iraq.

“It’s been a very successful program,” said Maj. Edward Cornish, support operations officer in charge, 371st Sust. Bde., who is a native of Englewood, Ohio. “It actually allows us to get cargo faster from one point to another, and also with a smaller amount of trucks.”

An association of tribally-owned trucking companies, the ITN began as a partnership between Iraqis in Anbar province and the Marines back in March. Since then, according to a press release from Multi-National Corps-Iraq, the ITN has performed over 3,700 missions moving cargo throughout Iraq.

More importantly for Coalition forces, the ITN reduces the number of military convoys on the road.

“There’s no military escort required [for ITN]

when they’re outside the wire,” Cornish said. The ITN moves cargo unescorted, guaranteeing the safe delivery of its contents. Cornish cited an example of five truck loads of bottled water which were recently moved by the ITN from Al Asad to Victory Base Complex in Baghdad. A similar Coalition convoy would have required up to six escort vehicles, he said.

“It wouldn’t be as efficient to move it using the military system versus using a host nation company (the ITN),” he said.

In addition to help limiting the number of Coalition Soldiers and vehicles out on Iraq’s roads, the ITN trucks are not required to use the same routes or travel at the same speeds as Coalition convoys.

Capt. Latasha Thomas, 548th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, said it takes ITN trucks only about three hours to cover the distance between Al Asad and Baghdad. A Coalition convoy performing a similar mission would take almost twice as long, she said.

However, there are limitations on what the ITN is permitted to move.

“We’ll identify the cargo and then we’ll identify where it’s going,” Cornish said, “and if it meets the criteria of (what’s allowed) to be moved via ITN, then we try to use that as our main source of moving that cargo.”

ITN moves a variety of cargo, like construction materials, water tanks, shower trailers, and water bottles.

In the meantime, Cornish said the 371st Sust. Bde. would continue to rely on the ITN to move cargo from Al Asad, where over 700 truckloads of cargo has already been transported.

“Programs like (the) ITN allow these trucking companies to have a start, to haul cargo in Iraq and actually grow that transportation network,” which increases Iraq’s civil capacity, Cornish said. In the future, he said, the ITN would work not only for Coalition forces or the Iraqi army, but also for the private sector as well.

A driver since 1994, Rakan Khalifa said he likes the freedom that comes with his job. An additional, if unintended, consequence of the ITN’s partnership is the improved relations between Iraqis and Coalition forces.

“I find the U.S. military is very, very good—more good than (what we had thought) before,” Khalifa said, explaining how first he was afraid of being arrested by Coalition forces. “Now we love them a lot,” he said.

When asked what she thought of the ITN, Thomas said, “We’re definitely satisfied by their performance. They’re safer [and] this is their country.”



An Iraqi driver prepares chai, or tea, while waiting in a queue of trucks at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 23. The driver works for an Iraqi company that is part of the Iraqi Transportation Network, a consortium of trucking companies owned and operated by Iraqi tribes.



Iraqi drivers wait in a queue to load their trucks with cargo destined for Coalition forces at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 23. The Iraqi Transportation Network, with its fleet of trucks owned and operated by Iraqi tribes, is taking over more of Coalition forces throughout Anbar province.



# etwork sustains Anbar



Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 23. The Iraqi Transport-



Iraqi drivers, who are part of the Iraqi Transportation Network, pose for a photograph at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 23. "Programs like (the) ITN allow these trucking companies to have a start, to haul cargo in Iraq and actually grow that transportation network," said Maj. Edward Cornish, support operations officer in charge, 371st Sustainment Brigade.

Maj. Edward Cornish, support operations officer in charge, 371st Sustainment Brigade, Ohio National Guard, confers with Iraqi drivers at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 23. The drivers work for a company that is affiliated with the Iraqi Transportation Network, a consortium of tribally-owned trucking companies.



# Tribal leaders hosted by Sustainers at the Ziggurat of Ur

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
287TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE  
ADDER, Iraq – Dhi Qar provincial



leaders came to the Ziggurat of Ur to meet with 287th Sustainment Brigade, Commander Col. Robert Schmitt and his staff where they hosted a cultural study on Jan. 24.

The opportunity allowed both Iraqi and U.S. Army leaders to extend their relationship with each other, as well as learn about the historical site. The ziggurat provided a fitting backdrop for people of different backgrounds to find common ground, as the Ziggurat of Ur is located within Contingency Operating Base Adder, where the 287th Sust. Bde. is based.

Before the cultural briefings, Al Batha City Councilman, Mohammed Al Tayieh addressed Schmitt, and his deputy commander, Col. Barry Taylor and the brigade surgeon Col. Muhammad Khan. He recounted the ancient history of Ur. He described how the

ziggurat played an important role in Sumerian civilization and the significance of Abraham's house in religious history. He closed with comments about cultural advances in Iraq over the last several years.

Al Tayieh explained the need for a continued partnership as, "there are two hands, one is the hand that helps and the other is the hand of the enemy. I want to thank you for our friendship with U.S. and Coalition forces. It is evidenced by all of our cooperative projects and the establishing of a new Iraq."

Schmitt responded in agreement to the words of Al Tayieh. "We need to continue to build and refine the relationship that has been established. It is our desire to see Iraq as a totally free and independent democratic state."

The Ur curator led the Al Teyieh, Shaykh Saleh Fahad Shershab of the Al Badur Tribe and Shaykh Mahmoud Abdullah Hachem of the Al Ghizi Tribe and Schmitt and his staff through the ziggurat, a monumental foundation for the "Temple of the Moon God."

He showed the group another temple's foundation upon which still stood the world's oldest existing archway and the palace of King Shulgi during



Al Batha City Councilman Mohammed Al Tayieh (far right) discusses the history of Ziggurat of Ur with Col. Robert Schmitt and his command staff on Jan. 24 at a recent cultural study at the Ziggurat of Ur, Iraq.

whose reign the ziggurat was built. The group also viewed burial grounds of the ancient Sumerian kings and common people. Abraham's house, the first known museum, and an immense drainage pit with ancient drainage pipes and evidence of two major

floods.

For Al Tayieh, the visit to the House of Abraham had significance to the leaders' meeting that day. "We are assembled on what is considered hallowed common ground by at least three major religions," he said.

## See The Rainbow

Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow & Tomorrow



Moderate alkali burn to the cornea resulting in corneal haziness and a marked amount of inflammation of the surrounding tissues.



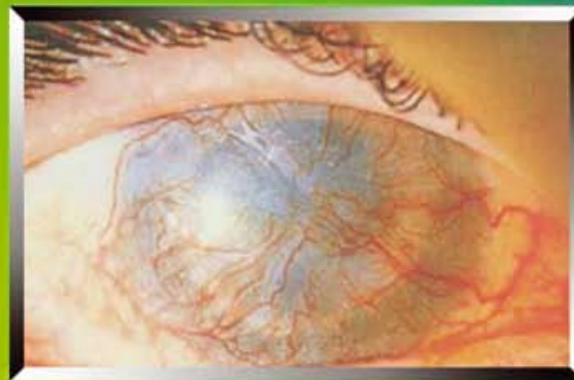
Severe corneal alkali burn which has also caused damage to the surrounding tissues.

### PROTECT YOUR EYES

Use Personal  
Protective Equipment  
(AR 385-10)



Very severe alkali burn resulting in total clouding of the cornea. This type of burn will result in corneal ulceration and perforation.



Very severe alkali burn late in the course of the disease. The cornea has healed with resultant ingrowth of new vessels into the cornea. Although this person is most likely blind, a corneal transplant may be used to restore vision.



Multi Media  
Branch



# Ashworth & Ashworth

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. ALEXANDER SNYDER  
*Expeditionary Times Staff*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Some Soldiers like to have a bit of home when they deploy. Two Soldiers here, brought more than you might expect; they brought each other.

Sgt. 1st Class Allen A. Ashworth and his son, Spc. Ben Z. Ashworth, are both deployed with the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, from Spokane, Wash. By deploying together, the two are continuing a tradition of military service together.

Allen, a historical officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, joined the military in 1986 at the age of 35 as a combat engineer. During the Vietnam War he was a conscientious objector, however, years down the road, smitten by the slogan "If not you, then who?" He realized an obligation to do his part.

"I realized that I still had an obligation to serve my country, and I stayed in ever since," Allen said. Although Allen deployed to Kuwait between 2004 and 2005, this is his first deployment with his son.

Ben, who is a driver and runs convoy security missions with Delta Company, 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. joined the military about four years ago after watching the invasion of Iraq unfold. After being turned away a few years prior for medical reasons, he joined the Washington National Guard in 2004.

Ben said it was the stories of young men like him – fighting and dying for

their country – that motivated him to join the military.

"I believe in pulling your weight and doing your part," Ben said.

Ben said he was also motivated to enlist by the fact that his father was a military man. "That's always been a presence in my life," he said.

Both father and son said it was only by chance, however, that they both came to serve at the same base in Iraq.

"It was up in the air whether we were going to Balad or another (forward operating base)," Ben said. Allen said he transferred to the 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. from the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment a few months before the 1st Bn, 161st Inf. Regt. received its orders to deploy.

But serving so closely together is nothing new to the Ashworths. After returning from advanced individual training in 2005, Ben joined his father in the Washington Army National Guard Honor Guard, where both served until their unit mobilized in August 2008.

Allen said that working with his son allowed them both to enjoy a unique camaraderie that will last forever. "Deploying together simply adds to that pool of shared experiences," he said.

Allen said Family at home miss them both. "We have a very closely knit Family."

Still, Ben said he thinks his mom is glad they are deployed together. "We can keep an eye on each other," he said, adding quickly: "Or I can keep an eye on him."

When asked whether the pair were comforted by the idea of deploying with each other, Allen chuckled and described the experience as being "a mixed bag."

"You've got the camaraderie, but I'm still his Dad, and that's always going to intrude a little bit," Allen said. "He's 24, independent and naturally prefers his peers."

Ben said his father ribs him all the time. "He loves giving me a hard time,"

both to keep in touch through e-mail.

But Allen said an uneventful deployment with his son is not all bad.

"(Ben) laughingly complains that his missions are very uneventful, and I always remind him to be careful what he prays for," Allen said. "I'm hoping to



Spc. Ben Z. Ashworth and his father, Sgt. 1st Class Allen A. Ashworth, both with the 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment from Spokane, Wash., stand in front of the Delta Company 1st Bn., 161st Inf. Regt. mural at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, on Jan 10. The Ashworth's have been deployed to Balad since September 2008.

he said, noting that during pre-mobilization training other Soldiers in his platoon (put up to the task by his father) would come up to him on a daily basis and ask him if he'd called his mother – an ordeal which went on for about a month straight, he said.

Despite living on the same base, the two don't see each other often. Although they live only about a mile apart, Allen said duty schedules have forced them

actually experience a rather, uneventful deployment with him."

Still, he said the interactions between them have remained positive and humorous. "One of the reasons I like Ben ... is because he has a wonderful sense of humor," he said with smile. "He makes me laugh. That's why I keep him around."

"It's definitely nice to have a familiar face, especially your Dad," Ben said.

## Knights battle for 'Warrior' title

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON  
*16TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Two transportation

Soldiers from the 233rd Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Contingency Operating Site Diamondback, Iraq, took home the titles

of the 16th Sustainment Brigade Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter board, here, Jan. 20.

Pfc. Christina Disano, motor transportation operator and Staff Sgt. Fritz Sanchez, heavy wheeled vehicle operator, both from the 233rd Trans. Co., won the Warrior and Warrior Leader titles respectively.

Sanchez said the company allowed him and Disano plenty of time to prepare for the board.

"We were pulled to the side and our

duties were to study for the board, that's why we were victorious," said Sanchez.

Sanchez, a 31-year-old native of Bronx, N.Y., said the win didn't seem real yet.

"It hasn't quite set in, with all the studying and stress, and all the build up and anticipation," Sanchez said.

Six Soldiers, six non-commissioned officers from four battalions in the 16th Sust. Bde., competed at the board. These Soldiers and NCOs had to win a company-level and battalion-level board to advance to the brigade board. During the board, Soldiers were tested on their assigned weapons and give a presentation on advanced weaponry, recited the Soldier's Creed and NCO Creed, and answer questions on Warrior skills from a panel of command sergeants major.

"I was nervous; I thought I was making a lot of mistakes," said Disano, a native of Brattleboro, Vt. "It was very motivating to win. I feel like I can win the next board."

Disano, who competed in equestrian events at the College of Saint Joseph

in Vermont before joining the Army, said her favorite part about competing at the board, was a bet she and Sanchez made with Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wolfe, truck master, 233rd Trans. Co.

"He said if both of us won he'd shave his head and mustache," Disano said.

Disano and Sanchez will now advance to the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) board at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, where they will compete with Soldiers from at least three other sustainment brigades.

All of the Soldiers at the board did very well, and now had a responsibility to other Soldiers in their units, said Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde.

"For the NCOs, it came down to a few points, and the Soldiers weren't much



Pfc. Christina Disano, motor transportation operator, 233rd Transportation Co., 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Contingency Operating Site Diamondback, Mosul, Iraq; and Staff Sgt. Fritz Sanchez, heavy wheeled vehicle operator, 233rd Trans. Co., won the Warrior and Warrior Leader titles respectively at the 16th Sustainment Brigade Warrior and Warrior Leader of the Quarter board at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Jan. 20.

farther apart." Spencer advises the roomful of Soldiers and their sponsors after the board, "All of you represent the best in your units, now you have to go back to your units and mentor the other Soldiers and leaders."



# Terrain team puts Sustainers on the map

BY SPC. MICHAEL BEHLIN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) mission is to provide logistics and distribution anytime, anywhere, and in any environment.

Key factors in the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC's sustainment operation are knowing where and how they can conduct its mission and what equipment would be needed.

The ability to have a graphic representation of a particular area allows sustainers to have the information needed to be successful.

Aiding the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, as well as other units throughout Iraq are

members of the 70th Engineer Company, based out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Working within the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC Headquarters, these Soldiers form the terrain team, which is responsible for making maps, therefore supplying much needed information to areas where it's needed.

"Our mission here is to provide intel, and to be able to place that intel onto a map," said Cpl. Ulisses Bautista, a Chicago, Ill., native and terrain team noncommissioned officer in charge. "While our main priority is to provide for the 3<sup>d</sup> ESC, we also help other units in different areas of Iraq as well."

What the terrain team creates as a result of their intel analysis are various maps to include basic outlines of areas to those requiring details. They analyze roads, land and identify areas which could pos-

sibly cause problems. Also with their expertise and intelligence, the terrain team determines what areas or situations are likely to pose a threat to battlefield operations.

It was explained that the geospatial technology used to help create maps is so advanced that it could help determine the depths of specific bodies of water, road width, and the amount of weight a particular bridge could support. And with a 10-digit coordinate on a military map, the terrain team could get an exact intelligence analysis for a particular area.

This information is all important to sustainment operations as units can determine the types of equipment needed and routes or areas are safe for convoys.

"Our maps give our customers better familiarization of what the area is like to include what roads are usable

and what can be expected," said Spc. Alexis Cole, a native of Spanish Town, Jamaica and terrain team leader. "We've had sheriffs (battle space owners) come in and request maps with all of the routes in the area, and those that include all of the checkpoints along those routes."

Map creation for the terrain team is done in-house with current geospatial digital software. The software allows the map-makers to use powerful satellites to gather intel for customers and maps alike. In the case that the terrain team is not able to provide a specific product for a customer, they send units to work with other terrain teams on post, or off post.

At times, the terrain team works side by side with 3<sup>d</sup> ESC intelligence analysts to create specific requests.

"They (intelligence analyst)

come to us at times for aerial maps and route maps, but with them we have to ensure that our product is extremely accurate as their jobs are more complex," Bautista said. "We don't want to give them information that is wrong, which could have a negative impact on operations."

While the terrain team admittedly has an important job that requires a large amount of detail, it also requires a lot of time. Map creation can range anywhere from 24 – 72 hours, with the latter being of extreme detail. In fact, the terrain team's map detail has often led to comparisons with a certain internet geospatial imagery provider.

"When our customers come in we often get the response that we're like Google Earth," said Bautista. "But we're not because we provide a better product."

## African-American Black History Month 5K Run



Date: 16 February 2009

Time: 0700

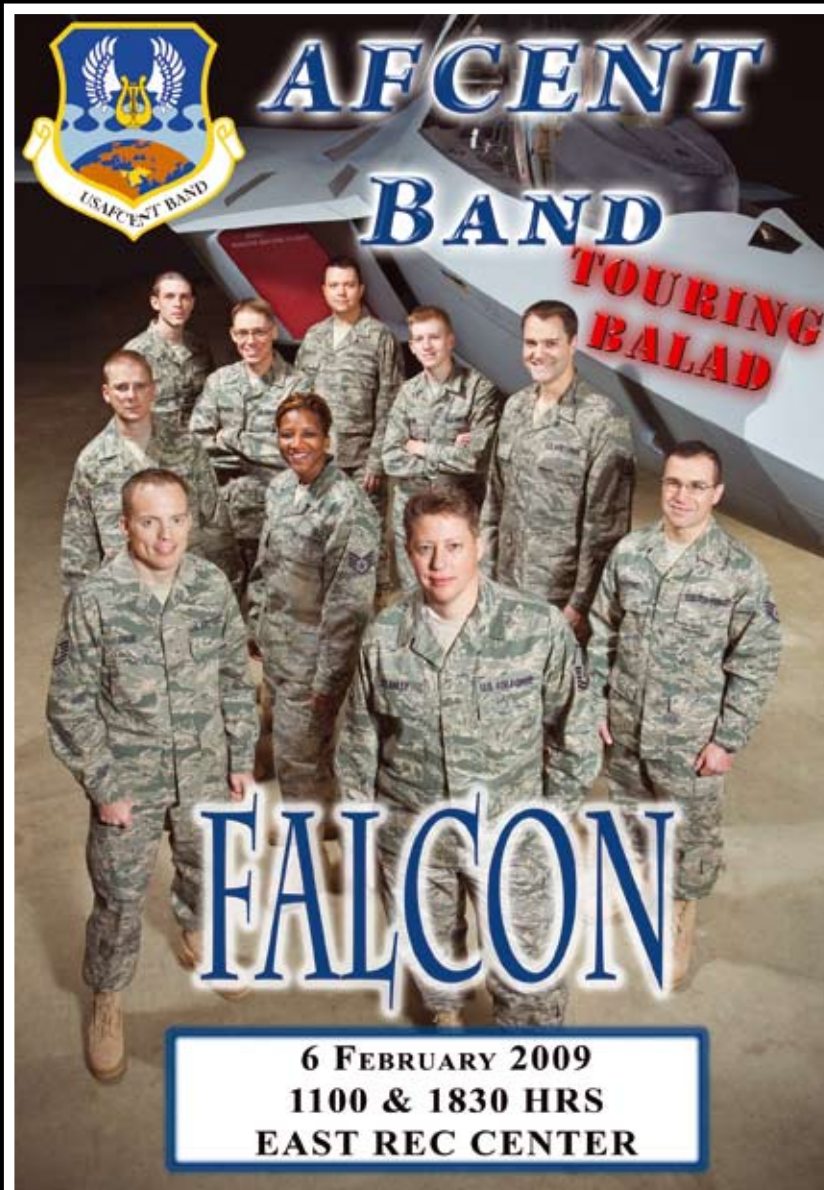
Location: Hero's Hall (Main Gym)

Al Asad Air Base, Iraq

Over 400 T-Shirts for the first registered participants. Must register the day of race 0515-645. Categories for individual runners and teams.



CONTACT: 440-7053 or  
OMB\_371SB\_EO@aa.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil







Minnesota National Guardsmen compete in the Jan. 17 Minnesota Hockey Day in Iraq game between the Soldiers of the 834 Aviation Support Battalion "Skaters" and the Airmen of the 148 Fighter Wing "Bulldogs." Gameplay was punctuated by coalition aircraft who shared the flight line with the hockey rink. The game was held in conjunction with Fox Sports Net North's Minnesota Hockey Day coverage. The 834 ASB and the 148 FW are Minnesota National Guard units currently deployed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. April Huseby

# Minnesota Guardsmen Historical Hockey Happenings

BY SGT. LYNETTE HOKE  
34TH COMBAT AVIATION  
BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --

You can take the guardsman out of the State of Hockey, but you can't take the hockey out of the guardsman.

That claim was put to the ultimate test recently by hundreds of Minnesota National Guardsmen deployed to the deserts of Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Unwilling to forget their state's pastime sport, the men and women of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard came up with a plan, to join the 'State of Hockey' in the official 'Minnesota Hockey Day' on Jan. 17.

Along with the Minnesota Wild and Fox Sports Net, dozens of Minnesota Airmen and Soldiers worked tirelessly to create a unique environment for the players and fans. Innovation and motivation were set in motion to create a hometown hockey rink.

"It was nice to see both components come together for Hockey Day in Minnesota; we work for separate branches of the service but we all are from

Minnesota, and hockey brings people together -- especially Minnesotans," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeffery Pratt, standardization officer, 34th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Early morning, Jan. 17, as the desert sun rose above the horizon, the scene was set. A make-shift rink, side boards painted and mounted on each end of a concrete aircraft parking pad. Center 'ice' had its own custom made Minnesota Hockey Day - Iraq logo and the goalie nets were in place.

Finally, the commanding officer of Task Force 34, Col. Clay Brock, drops the puck to signal the official start of the game between the Minnesota Army National Guard's 834th Aviation Support Battalion "Skaters" and the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing "Bulldogs."

"I could not have dreamed up such a great day!" said Senior Master Sgt. Steve Samuelson, quality assurance inspector, 148th FW. "The weather was perfect, with a chill in the air; the competition was great and the sportsmanship was outstanding."

Nine hours before Minnesota would start broadcasting its hockey games, the Soldiers and Airmen of the state's National Guard would start their game in the Iraqi desert.

"It was a wonderful oppor-

tunity to be part of something historic," said Capt. Bruce Kelii, medical operations, 834th ASB. "It will be a moment in time that will not be forgotten for any participant or spectator. Both squads played fabulous and the crowd turnout was awesome."

In an ironic twist, the flight-line hockey rink attracted spectators from the air. The usual subject of everyone's attention, Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters, paused in their usual routes to check out the game. Hockey fans and air crews waved to each other between pictures.

"I thought about home a lot during the game. Goalies find a place called 'the zone', it is a tunnel vision/hearing thing. We don't hear anything other than the ball/puck being struck and whizzing through the air," said Capt. Kelii, a native of Bloomington, Minn. "As the game began and I started to slip in and out of the zone, all I could think about was that ... It's my wife Barbara's birthday today and was hoping her birthday gift will arrive back home today."

The screams of the fans and the click of the sticks really set the stage for a great day of hockey.

"You could really feel how much people miss the sport of hockey by the way everyone



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. April Huseby

Minnesota National Guardsmen from the 148th Fighter Wing and the 834th Aviation Support Battalion come together to play a game of floor hockey here on Jan. 17.

put everything they had out on the rink," said Senior Master Sgt. Samuelson. "The fans really made the day special too, their cheers and chants made me feel that I was at an actual hockey game."

"Their sportsmanship was great," said Spc. James Riley, Chinook mechanic, 834th ASB. "I think that being able to take time away from a busy day to play the great game of hockey brought lots of joy to many people. Everyone played well together."

As the scoreboard made its final read, the Minnesota Air Guard beat Minnesota Army Guard 4 to 2. Being beaten on the rink didn't faze some

Soldiers soaring spirits after playing an old school game of street hockey.

"So many people from Minnesota and Soldiers in Iraq had to coordinate so many pieces to the puzzle and make this a successful event," said Capt. Kelii. "We were part of a very special day here in Iraq and our state recognized hockey day. It is the most unique hockey event I have ever been part of."

The Airmen of the 148th FW of Duluth, Minn., are expected to be back in the state later this month. The Soldiers of the 834th ASB are expected to return to Minnesota early this summer.



# JBB Religious Service Schedule

<b><u>PROTESTANT</u></b>			Wednesday	2000	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)	1100	Provider Chapel	
<i>TRADITIONAL</i>			<i>LITURGICAL</i>			1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel	
Sunday	0730	Air Force Hospital Chapel	Sunday	1500	Gilbert Chapel (H-6)	Thursdays	1100	Air Force Hospital Chapel
	0930	Provider Chapel				Mon, Wed, Fri	1700	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
	1030	Freedom Chapel (West side)	<i>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</i>			<b><u>JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES</u></b>		
	1100	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)	Saturday	0900	Provider Chapel	Friday	1700	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
	1730	Gilbert Memorial Chapel				Saturday	0800	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
(H-6)			<i>CHURCH OF CHRIST</i>				1700	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
	2000	Air Force Hospital Chapel	Sunday	1530	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)	<b><u>ISLAMIC PRAYER</u></b>		
<i>HISPANIC SERVICE</i>			<i>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</i>			Friday	1230	Provider Chapel
Saturday	1930	Provider Chapel	Call the Provider Chapel			<b><u>PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP</u></b>		
<i>GOSPEL</i>			<i>LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)</i>			Thursdays	1900	Eden Chapel
Sunday	1100	MWR East building	Sunday	1300	Provider Chapel	Saturday	1900	Eden Chapel
	1200	Freedom Chapel (West side)		1530	Freedom Chapel (West side)	<b><u>GREEK ORTHODOX</u></b>		
	1230	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)		1900	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)	Sunday	0900	Provider Annex
	1900	Provider Chapel	<b><u>ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS</u></b>			<i>For more information, call</i>		
<i>CONTEMPORARY</i>			Saturday	1700	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)	Gilbert Chapel:	433-7703	
Sunday	0900	MWR East building	<i>(Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)</i>			Provider Chapel:	433-2430	
	1030	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)		2000	Freedom Chapel (West side)	Freedom Chapel:	443-6303	
	1400	Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)	Sunday	0830	Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)			
	1900	Freedom Chapel (West side)						

## President's Day 5K Run/Walk Feb. 16, 2009



Joint Base Balad  
Holt Stadium

TIME: 6:30 a.m.

First 500  
participants  
will receive  
a T-Shirt



HONOR THE  
PAST ,PRESENT AND FUTURE PRESIDENTS OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



# Sudoku

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

Level: Very Hard

Last weeks answers								
3	9	1	6	4	7	2	8	5
6	8	5	2	3	9	4	7	1
2	7	4	8	5	1	3	9	6
8	5	7	3	1	2	9	6	4
4	3	6	5	9	8	1	2	7
9	1	2	4	7	6	5	3	8
1	2	3	7	8	5	6	4	9
7	4	9	1	6	3	8	5	2
5	6	8	9	2	4	7	1	3

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

# 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.

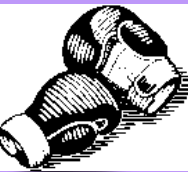
Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not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

### Montana

- One may not pretend to abuse an animal in the presence of a minor.
- It is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck without a chaperone.

### New Mexico

- “Fake” wrestling matches are prohibited.
- Spectators at a boxing match may not mock one of the contestants.
- It is a \$500 fine to instruct a pizza delivery man to deliver a pizza to your friend without them knowing.



# UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

### Wednesday 2/04/08

Purdue @ Ohio State, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
Washington Capitals @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
South Carolina @ Florida, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
Carolina Hurricanes @ Vancouver Canucks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Rutgers @ Georgetown, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
Maryland @ North Carolina, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
San Antonio Spurs @ Denver Nuggets, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

### Thursday 2/05/09

West Virginia @ Syracuse, Live 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
Boston Bruins @ Philadelphia Flyers, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Duke @ Clemson, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
Phoenix Suns @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Wake Forest @ Miami (FL), Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
Missouri @ Texas, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
Minnesota @ Michigan State, Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/sports  
USC @ UCLA, Tape Delayed 10 p.m. AFN/sports

### Friday 2/06/09

Los Angeles Lakers @ Boston Celtics, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
Dallas Mavericks @ Utah Jazz, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
Gonzaga @ Portland, Live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Arizona State @ Oregon, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports  
Los Angeles Lakers @ Boston Celtics, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Saturday 2/07/09

New Jersey Devils @ Atlanta Thrasher, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Denver Nuggets @ Washington Wizards, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
Nashville Predators @ Minnesota Wild, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime pacific  
Utah Jazz @ Sacramento Kings, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Golden State Warriors @ Phoenix Suns, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
Marquette @ South Florida, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
Atlanta Hawks @ Charlotte Bobcats, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports

Cincinnati @ Georgetown, Live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Notre Dame @ UCLA, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
Pittsburgh @ DePaul, Live 10 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Texas @ Nebraska, Live 10 p.m. AFN/sports  
Oklahoma State @ Kansas, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

### Sunday 2/08/09

Indiana @ Michigan State, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Virginia @ North Carolina, Live 1:30 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Charleston @ Davidson, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
Missouri @ Iowa State, Live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Michigan @ Connecticut, Live 2 a.m. AFN/sports  
Minnesota @ Ohio State, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic  
Memphis @ Gonzaga, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
Saint Mary's @ Santa Clara, Live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Miami (FL) @ Duke, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/xtra  
UFC Fight Night: Lauzon vs Franca, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Denver Nuggets @ New Jersey Nets, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Dallas Mavericks @ Miami Heat, Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Carolina Hurricanes @ Phoenix Coyotes, Tape Delayed 5:30 p.m. AFN/xtra  
Purdue @ Illinois, Live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

### Monday 2/09/09

2009 Fed Cup: USA vs Argentina - Day 2: Rubber 3 (Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex, Surprise), Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
2009 Fed Cup: USA vs Argentina - Day 2: Rubber 4 (Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex, Surprise), Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
2009 Fed Cup: USA vs Argentina - Day 2: Rubber 5 (Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex, Surprise), Tape Delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports  
AFC - NFC Pro Bowl (Honolulu, Hawaii), Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/xtra

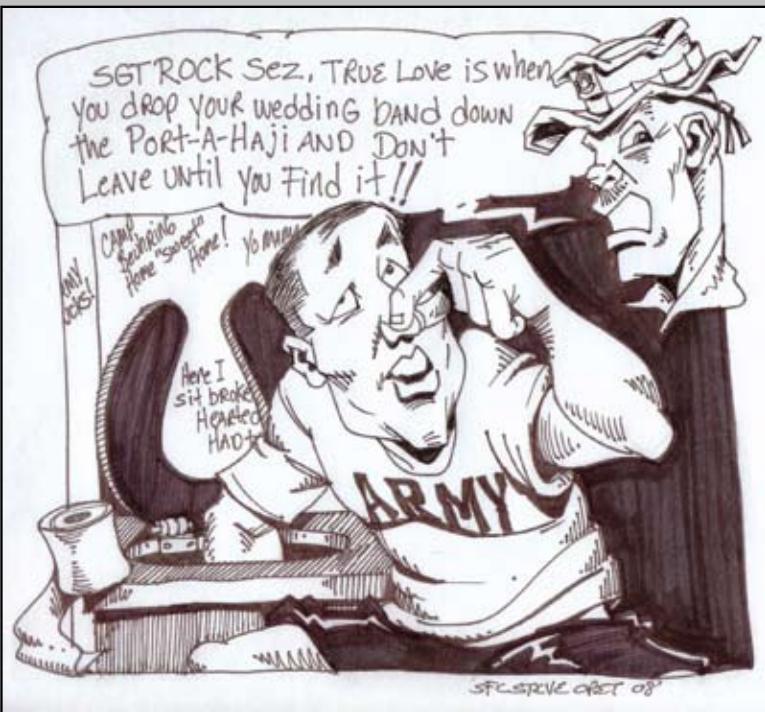
### Tuesday 2/10/09

West Virginia @ Pittsburgh, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
New York Rangers @ New Jersey Devils, Live 3 AFN/xtra  
Kansas @ Missouri, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
West Virginia @ Pittsburgh, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports  
Kansas @ Missouri, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports  
Phoenix Suns @ Philadelphia 76ers, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports

# PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



# Iraq according to Opet





# Shout Outs!



PV2 Robert Holcombe,  
We love you so very much and miss you more than  
ever. We can hardly wait till you come. Stay safe. We  
all love you!!!  
Love always your family,  
Amy, Harley, and Faron

To my Stepson, Pfc. MILO  
ERENBERGER, 2/7 CAV,  
4BDE, 1ST CAV, D Company

Just wanted to tell you great  
job and keep up the great work.  
See you when I get back.

SFC Joe Ping  
Joint Base Balad

*Husbands, Wives, Boyfriends, Girlfriends, send us your cutest  
couples pictures to be displayed in the Expeditionary Times for  
Valentine's Day.*

*Submit by Feb. 9 for the Feb. 17 publication, contact us at  
expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil*



# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

## INDOOR POOL

Swim Lessons:  
Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m.  
Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m.  
AquaTraining:  
Tue.,Thu.,- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

## EAST FITNESS

### CENTER

Open Court Volleyball:  
Sunday- 6 p.m.  
Aerobics:  
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30-6:30 a.m.  
Yoga Class:  
Mon., Fri.- 6-7 a.m.  
Step Aerobics:  
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30 p.m.  
Conditioning Training Class:  
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 7:15-8 p.m.  
Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:

Mon., Wed., Fri.- 8-9 p.m.  
Abs-Aerobics:  
Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m.  
Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training:  
Tue., Thur., Sat.,- 8-10 p.m.

## EAST RECREATION

### CENTER

4-ball tourney:  
Sunday- 8 p.m  
8-ball tourney:  
Monday- 8 p.m  
Karaoke:  
Monday- 8 p.m.  
Swing Class:  
Tuesday- 8 p.m.  
Table Tennis:  
Tuesday- 8 p.m.  
9-ball tourney:  
Wednesday- 8 p.m.  
Dungeons & Dragons:

Thursday- 7:30 p.m.  
Poetry Night:  
Thursday-8 p.m.  
6-ball tourney:  
Thursday- 8 p.m.  
Caribbean Night:  
Friday- 8 p.m.  
Chess & Dominoes Tourney:  
Friday- 8 p.m.  
Salsa Class:  
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.  
Poker:  
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

## H6 FITNESS CENTER

Spin:  
Sunday- 9 a.m.  
Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.  
Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.  
Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Boxing:  
Sunday- 4 p.m.

Tue., Thu.,- 2 p.m.  
Boot Camp:  
Sunday- 8:45 a.m  
Tue.,Thu.,- 7 p.m.  
Power Abs:  
Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.  
Friday- 9 p.m.  
CC Cross Fit:  
Monday-Saturday- 10:30 p.m  
Cross Fit:  
Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.  
Tue., Thu.,- 7 a.m., 3 p.m.  
Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.  
P90x:  
Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.  
12 a.m.  
Soccer:  
Tue., Thu.,- 8 p.m.  
Yoga:  
Wednesday- 8 p.m.  
MACP Level 1:  
Friday- 8 p.m.  
5 on 5 Basketball:

Saturday- 8 p.m.

## H6 RECREATION

### CENTER

Bingo:  
Sunday- 8 p.m.  
Texas Hold'em:  
Mon., Fri.,- 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m.  
8-ball tourney:  
Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.  
Ping-pong tourney:  
Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.  
Spades:  
Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.  
Salsa:  
Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.  
9-ball:  
Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.  
Karaoke:  
Thursday- 8:30 p.m.  
Dominos:  
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.  
Darts:  
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

## WEST RECREATION

## CENTER

Green Bean Karaoke:  
Sun., Wed., 7:30pm  
9-ball tourney:  
Monday- 8 p.m.  
Ping-pong tourney:  
Tuesday- 8 p.m.  
Foosball tourney:  
Tuesday- 8 p.m.  
Jam Session:  
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m  
8-ball tourney:  
Wednesday- 8 p.m  
Guitar Lessons:  
Thursday- 7:30 p.m  
Game tourney:  
Thursday- 1 p.m, 8 p.m.  
Enlisted Poker:  
Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.  
Officer Poker:  
Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.  
Squat Competition:  
Saturday- 8 p.m.

## WEST FITNESS

### CENTER

3 on 3 basketball tourney:  
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6 on 6 volleyball tourney:  
Friday- 7 p.m.  
Aerobics:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.  
Body by Midgett Toning Class:  
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.  
Dodge ball Game:  
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.  
Furman's Martial Arts:  
Mon., Wed., Sun.,- 1 p.m.  
Gaston's Self-Defense Class:  
Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m.  
Open court basketball:  
Thursday- 7 p.m.  
Open court soccer:  
Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m.  
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu:  
Tue., Thu.,- 8:30 p.m.

# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Taken



Former government operative Bryan Mills begins the longest 96-hours of his life--and the hunt for the fearsome organization that has taken his daughter Kim. Mills had only recently given up his government career as what he calls a "preventer" to be near Kim, who lives with Bryan's ex-wife Lenore and her new husband. To make ends meet, Bryan joins some former colleagues for special security details.

## Seven Pounds



Once, Tim Thomas (Will Smith) was a gifted aerospace engineer with a beautiful wife and a lovely beach house. Then, while using his cell phone while driving, his car wandered across lanes and he became responsible for the deaths of 7 others, including his beloved wife. Unable to forgive himself or raise the dead, Tim sets out to give "pounds of flesh" that will give new life to seven deserving individuals to make up for the seven lives he destroyed. Just as Antonio would have to die to pay Shylock the "pound of flesh" he demands, Tim intends to kill himself to atone for his sins.

## Movie Times

**Wednesday, February 04**  
5 p.m. The Day The Earth Stood Still (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Cadillac Records (R)  
**Thursday, February 05**  
5 p.m. Cadillac Records (R)  
8 p.m. Paul Blart:Mall Cop (NR)  
**Friday, February 06**  
2 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)  
5 p.m.Seven Pounds (PG-13)  
8:30 p.m. Taken (PG-13)  
**Saturday, February 07**  
2 p.m. Seven Pounds (PG-13)  
5 p.m.Taken (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Yes Man (PG-13)  
**Sunday, February 08**  
2 p.m. Taken (PG-13)  
5 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)  
8 p.m. Seven Pounds (PG-13)  
**Monday, February 09**  
5 p.m. Yes Man (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Taken (PG-13)  
**Tuesday,February 10**  
5 p.m. Taken (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Bedtime Stories (PG)

(Schedule is subject to change)

## BEDTIME STORIES



Hotel handyman Skeeter Bronson's life is changed forever when the bedtime stories he tells his niece and nephew start to mysteriously come true. He attempts to take advantage of the phenomenon, incorporating his own aspirations into one outlandish tale after another, but it's the kids' unexpected contributions that turn Skeeter's life upside down.

## Yes Man



A man signs up for a self-help program based on one simple principle: say yes to everything... and anything. At first, unleashing the power of "yes" transforms his life in amazing and unexpected ways, but he soon discovers that opening up his life to endless possibilities can have its drawbacks.



# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



Iraqi Policemen practice arrest techniques during a defensive tactics class at the Mosul Public Service Academy in Mosul, Iraq, Jan. 19.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano

Lt. Col. Matthew Anderson, Commander of 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division and an Iraqi officer build a geographical model of Diyala provincial voting centers at the David J. Salie Fitness Center on Forward Operating Base War Horse, Baquobah, Iraq, Jan. 22.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bobby L. Allen Jr.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Walter J. Pels

Iraqi Army soldiers measure a piece of wood to be used for ceiling molding. U.S. Airmen attached to the 555th Engineer Brigade and Iraqi soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Construction Engineer Battalion are building living quarters for U.S. Soldiers on the Diyala Media Center Combat Outpost on Jan. 21.




U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jacob H. Smith

U.S. Army Capt. Justin Cuff, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, pulls security while on a dismounted patrol outside an electrical sub-station in the Abu Ghraib area of Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 22.



# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Basrah team prepares to secure waterways for elections

 BASRAH, Iraq – In preparation for the upcoming elections, the Tactical Response Team of Basrah's Special Weapons and Tactics unit conducted reconnaissance operations on the Shatt al-Arab waterway in mid-January.

The operations proved the TRT's ability to expand their patrol capability and fully access the waterways in Basrah's vicinity. "With this increase in access, we have a significant capability to choke off extremist activity during the Jan. 31 elections, a time in which criminal attacks are predicted to intensify," said a SWAT advisor.


Historically, the waterway lacked law enforcement presence, thereby allowing a free flow of lethal aid to criminals and terrorists in Iraq.

Established in December, Basrah TRT enhances Iraqi Security Forces' capability through maritime and urban-strike operations, increasing ISF's ability to limit criminal activity.

"At first, locals did not know why we were on the river and what we were capable of doing for them," said an Iraqi TRT member. "Now, they line the shores and wave as we go by."

"They are also more interactive and provide us with information that can help us better secure Basrah's waterway," the TRT member said.

## Iraqi ERB to expand protection for all of Iraq

 BAGHDAD – More than 120 new Emergency Response Brigade officers stood shoulder to shoulder and recited the oath of allegiance to Iraq Jan. 22 during the selection course graduation ceremony here.

The ERB, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, consists of a specially trained and equipped force to complete the most demanding security missions in the country, said Brig. Gen. No'man Dakhil Jawad, ERB commander.

"Our mission will lead Iraq to a more secure and stable country," General No'man said.

According to Adnan al-Asadi, senior deputy interior minister, the stability Iraq has today is due in large part to units like the ERB.

"Two years ago, we could never have guessed we would have the security that we have now," he said during the graduation. "You are responsible for the bright picture ahead ... continue to put Iraq first."

The capability of the force is instilled through dawn-to-dusk training conducted by the Iraqi-led instructors, said an ERB official.

The new graduates were led through five weeks of specialized training courses, which included small-arms proficiency; close-quarters battle techniques hand-to-hand combat; urban movement; reactive sniper fire and continuous physical fitness.


The rigorous training thinned the class size by nearly half, but that's what it's expected to do, an ERB official said.

"We want to make sure that the training prepares the officers for real-world missions so they're pushed to their limits," said an advisor to the ERB.

The ERB will continue to grow in size and capability in the coming months. Officials expect the next training class to begin in March.



## Iraqi, Coalition accelerate growth of medical logistics

 KIRKUSH – Highlighting the accelerated growth of medical logistics in Iraq, the Ministry of Defense Director of Logistics and the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq Health Affairs directorate presided over the ribbon-cutting Jan. 12 for a new medical warehouse at the Kirkush Military Training Base.


"The purpose of this mission was threefold: support the Surgeon General's logistics staff as they launch operations of the class VIII medical warehouse, inspect the coalition-built Iraqi outpatient medical clinic and review the Basic Medic Course training program," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jeff Plummer, Deputy Director, MNSTC-I Health Affairs.

The Iraqi medical logistics system is growing more and more independent every day. In addition to five Class VIII warehouses at the Taji National Depot, there are seven geographically-dispersed sub-warehouses in the Surgeon General Office's plan for medical supply distribution.

MNSTC-I Medical Logistics Officer, U.S. Army Maj. Ed Rodriguez noted, "The opening of the Kirkush facility marks the third sub-warehouse placed into operation. Our next step is to bring Iraqi theater medical logisticians to MoD Class VIII warehouse locations for detailed and professional warehouse management training."

The new warehouse, along with other joint efforts to bolster the MoD's medical system, is another milestone towards strengthening Iraq's security and sustainment capabilities.

## New generator provides 24-hour electricity, 24-hour health care

 CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq –The Wynot Health Clinic operates 24-hours a day to provide health care for local citizens, thanks to a generator provided by the Wynot City Council and Coalition forces

Jan 22.

"We want to thank the Coalition forces for helping us keep this health clinic running for the people of Wynot," said Atia Ibraheem, Wynot City Council member. "By helping us provide the electrical power necessary to run the clinic, this creates a benefit for the people and the future of Wynot."

In the past, the health clinic usually had electricity for only a few hours a day because reliable 24-hour power is not yet available for the entire area. With the new generator, the clinic now runs on continuous power.

"With this new source of power, we will be able to continue providing effective health care for the people of Wynot," said Dr. Wahab Mustafa, Wynot Health Clinic.


Capt. Ryan Nacin, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and Navy Lt. Colin Gandy, civil affairs officer, 490th Civil Affairs Bn., worked with the Government of Iraq and the Wynot City Council to purchase the generator.

"This is a great day for Wynot -- the city council has worked very hard for several weeks to get this project off the ground, and with this new addition of the generator to the operations of the health clinic, the city council is doing an excellent job for its people," Nacin said.

The clinic has operated for more than 54 years and provides daily immunizations and vaccinations, checkups for diseases, medicine and emergency aid to the communities of Owja, Tarabla and Al Qador near Tikrit.

A national plan is in progress to provide adequate electricity for all the citizens of Salah ad-Din province within the next three to five years.

## NATO Codification System presentation to the Government of Iraq

 BAGHDAD - Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq welcomed senior Iraqi Army leadership, along with MNSTC-I logisticians and the Defense Logistics Information Service, to the Blackhawk Conference Center on Jan. 21 to discuss and promote the NATO Codification System.

Helmick remarked that the Government of Iraq was being presented a unique opportunity to seek sponsorship as a 'Tier 1' member nation of the NCS. The DLIS commander, USMC Col. Laura Sampsel, explained the NCS organization and the benefits of joining. She stated by joining the NCS, Iraq would become "a member of the international logistics community."

Additionally, a significant benefit to the Government of Iraq is membership in the NCS provides a 'common language of supply' readily understood by all users, both within the country and internationally.

"Membership by the Government of Iraq will greatly help their nation with their acquisition process and sustainment of equipment by providing international access to supplies and equipment," said U.S. Army Col. Michael Sage, Assistant Chief of Staff J4, MNSTC-I. The senior Iraqi Army leadership, led by Staff Maj. Gen. Sadeq, representing the Logistics Directorate, concurred that membership in NCS would clearly enhance the logistical capability of the Iraqi Security Forces.

Added Helmick, "Now is the time for Iraq to request sponsorship into the NCS, and work will begin immediately to accomplish this important goal."





U.S. Army photo by Spc. Amanda Tucker

**Staff Sgt. Shaka Hodges**, the joint distribution center noncommissioned officer in charge for the 590th movement control team, out of Charleston, S.C., tends the grill during a morale-team building barbecue at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 23.

# Sustaining the Line



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lacy Briscoe

**Soldiers from the 503rd Maintenance Company**, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, assists several Airmen at Sather Airfield with the recovery of a T-72 Soviet-designed battle tank, Jan. 25. The 503rd Maint. Co. is currently deployed in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. First Class Adam V. Shaw

**Col. Martin B. Pitts**, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, hands out jerseys and soccer balls to local Iraqi children after meeting with community and Iraqi military leaders during the souq at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Jan. 24.

**Staff Sgt. Anthony Evans**, platoon sergeant, Echo Co., 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is presented a "hawkeye" award for marksmanship during a unit safety stand-down day at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex, Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Jan. 23. The 32-year-old from Las Vegas said the day reinforced the importance of preparation and situational awareness in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson