

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 2, Issue 7

Navy, Army work Together

Navy CHT helps with cargo
yard in Al Asad

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233rd Trans keeps on Rollin'

Sustainers provide
logistical support

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Tank Awakened

Joint effort at Liberty; un-
earths T-72 Soviet tank

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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

Security Agreement, page 4



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

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, command sergeant major, Multi-National Force – Iraq, shakes hands with a young Kurdish boy in the town of Zakhu, in northern Iraq near the Iraqi-Turkish border, Feb. 4. Wilson visited thirty 16th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers at Habur Gate, Iraq, a remote convoy center for the Army and a staging point for commercial convoys entering Iraq from Turkey. During his visit, Wilson addressed the progress of the Security Agreement which became effective Jan. 1.

Iraqi Railroad rolls back into Taji

By 1st Lt. Ray K. Ragan
123rd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment PAO



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Iraqi national distribution capability took a big step forward Feb. 10 as the Iraqi Railroad successfully picked up cargo from

Iraqi Transportation Network trucks at Camp Taji and moved it to the Port of Umm Qasr. The rail spur at Taji opened for cargo movement for the first time since 2004. A 20-car IRR train owned and operated by the Government of Iraq picked up 40 empty containers for movement to the port of Umm Qasr. The operation was an important step in an effort to link Iraqi

trucking, Iraqi rail, and Iraqi port operations.

One Iraqi with a critical role in the day's event stated the operation was a sign of Iraq's rebuilding effort. "It's our country and we want to serve our country. Whatever it takes to do, we'll do it. So we came here to serve our country; rebuild it," Mohammed, the train's engineer said through an interpreter.

The IRR is a key piece of transportation infrastructure for Iraq according to Maj. Scott D. Meyer, Strategic Mobility – IRR program officer, Multi-National Force-Iraq. Meyer said that Iraq has a geographic advantage to turn it into a hub for moving cargo from the port at Umm Qasr to Turkey, Syria and Jor-

dan. The rail lines themselves are in good repair and Iraq has experienced operators for running the trains, Meyer added.

Meyer said that the IRR and Iraqi Transportation Network, a consortium of all Iraqi owned trucking companies, are work-



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ray K. Ragan

Mohammed, an engineer for the Iraqi Railroad poses outside the engine of his train as it performs a historic first pick-up at Camp Taji, Iraq on Feb. 10.

See TAJI EXPRESS,
Page 4

332 ESFS Blotter

5 Feb. – 12 Feb.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY:
A reporting party walked into the law enforcement desk and reported a medical emergency at Killeen Field. He reported a victim experiencing extreme pain in the area of his spinal cord while playing flag football. Base patrol was dispatched along with the fire department and medical team. The emergency units arrived on scene and made contact with the victim who was transported to the Air Force Theater Hospital for further evaluation.

THEFT OF UNSECURE PERSONAL PROPERTY:
A reporting party telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a theft which had occurred at dorm 400. The base patrol was dispatched. The base patrol arrived on scene and made contact with the RP who stated he left for work the day before and hadn't taken his iPod. When he returned from work he couldn't find his iPod. In addition, the RP stated he waited for the alarms he had set on his iPod but did not hear anything in his living space.


WIND DAMAGE:
A vehicle driver came to the law enforcement desk and reported vehicle damage that occurred at Pennsylvania Avenue and the main laundry point. A base patrol interviewed the driver who stated that he was driving south on Pennsylvania Ave when a tree limb blew off the tree next to main laundry and struck the vehicle driver's side bottom corner of the windshield. Damage to the vehicle consisted of a cracked windshield.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY:
A law enforcement patrol radioed the law enforcement desk to report a medical emergency at the SERKA camp. The victim appeared to be paralyzed on the left side of his body and could not speak. Medical personnel were contacted and responded. Medical personnel arrived and transported the victim to the Air Force Theater Hospital for further evaluation. The victim's injuries consisted of being paralyzed on the left side of his body and having loss of speech. He was unresponsive when being evaluated by medical personnel.

NIPR- 443-8602
SIPR- 241-1171
Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

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



Feb. 9, 2009

3^d ESC FLIPL Report

Unit leadership must ensure proper accountability for sensitive items. They should ensure SOPs are in place and enforced.

Item	Description	Action	Cost
AN/PEQ 2A (Infrared Aiming laser and illuminator)	A Soldier went to the education center with his weapon and attached AN/PEQ 2A. On the way back from the education center, the Soldier noticed that he was missing his AN/PEQ 2A. Equipment was not securely fastened to the weapon.	Lost equipment Soldier charged	\$724.00
Rifle 5.56MM M16A2	Soldier was conducting PMCS on her vehicle. The Soldier moved the vehicle and drove over her weapon in the process. An assistant driver was not present.	Damaged Soldier charged	\$449.00
NVGs: AN/ PVS-14	Soldier wrapped his NVGs in his balaclava before he left the staging area at BIAP and placed them on the seat of the vehicle. At the end of the mission checks, the Soldier noticed the NVGs missing.	Lost Equipment Soldier charged	\$1,587.90
ASV M1117	A vehicle caught fire during road test. The fire suppression system failed to activate, resulting in significant damage to the vehicle.	No one charged	\$160,056.80
RT-1523A (Radio Transmitter)	Property was lost during shipping of vehicles.	No one charged	\$10,301.00

ACoFS G4
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
DSN: 318-433-2023
Sustaining the Line!

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
555th Engineer Brigade
304th Sustainment 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^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

Chaplain's Corner

"The most successful people are those who are good at Plan B."

- James Yorke

Do you remember Murphy's Law: *"Whatever can go wrong, will go wrong?"* And the follow on joke: "Murphy was an optimist!"

The reality for most of us is that Plan A never works! That is not surprising is it? If all we have is Plan A, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment and frustration.

In this life we have to always be flexible. The Marines call it "Semper Gumby." Rarely does life go according to plan. We have to adjust fire and drive on.

If we know that Plan A may not work, doesn't it make sense to come up with Plan B ahead of time? In the sport of wrestling, the successful wrestler must know how to counter his opponent's moves. He spends countless hours in practice working on Plan B before he ever gets on the mat in competition.

Scriptures teach us that *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."* Proverbs 16:9 Make your plans but be adjustable. God may have something entirely different in mind for you.

Are you dealing with the disappointment of a failed Plan A? Don't despair. Life happens. Get to work on your Plan B. And may God grant you great success in all you do!

Submitted by Chaplain (CPT) Peter Strong, brigade chaplain, 304th Sustainment Brigade

Hooah of the Week



US Army photo by Spc. Brian A. Barbour

Sgt. Cheryl L. Schaffer is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general for being selected this week's "Hooah of the Week". Schaffer is a Sierra Vista, AZ., native and Army reservist with the 418th Quartermaster Battalion out of Tucson, AZ. Schaffer is attached to the 3^d ESC where she works as the G-3 operations administration NCO in the Joint Operations Center. Schaffer was selected as "Hooah of the Week" for her job excellence in keeping information systems working and information flowing at the JOC.

Sustainer Challenge

Send your team photos

Are you participating in the 2009 Sustainer Challenge competition?

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

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil



Members from the HHC, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) trains for the upcoming Sustainer Challenge by participating in the Valentine's Day 5K run at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 14. The Soldiers are (from left to right): Spc. Amanda Tucker, Maj. Mike Arnold, Master Sgt. Juan Dominguez, Spc. Andre Tacardon.

Wilson spells out Security Agreement at Habur Gate

By SGT. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th Sust. Bde.
Public Affairs

HABUR GATE, Iraq — Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, command sergeant major, Multi-National Force — Iraq, visited Soldiers in northern Iraq near the Iraqi-Turkish border, Feb. 4.

During his visit to Habur Gate and Contingency Operating Site Marez, he addressed the progress of the implementation of the Security Agreement throughout Iraq.

Wilson discussed the Security Agreement that became effective Jan. 1 with 30 Soldiers from Logistics Task Force — Alpha, 16th Sustainment Brigade during a dinner at the “Habur Gate Café.”

“The mission hasn’t changed,” Wilson said to the junior enlisted Soldiers. “But how you operate within that mission has. We are now

guests; we are not here in a combat role.”

One of MNF-I’s top priorities in Iraq now is building economic infrastructure and increasing foreign investment, Wilson said.

The MNF-I senior non-commissioned officer told the Soldiers that several corporations, to include oil industry leaders and auto manufacturers, had recently approached MNF-I and the Iraqi government.

“[Saddam] Hussein didn’t keep up infrastructure, and Iraq also got behind technologically,” Wilson said. “It’s like buying a car and never changing the oil—the engine’s going to blow. We need to open up investments.”

Wilson concluded his visit by thanking the 16th Sust. Bde. Soldiers for their contribution to improving Iraq’s economy.

“Everything you guys have done here has helped us move into a strategic partnership with the Iraqi government,”

Wilson said.

In addition to his brief meeting with the 16th Sust. Bde. Soldiers, Wilson had the opportunity to visit some local Kurdish citizens in a nearby town.

Wilson toured the town of Zakhu while escorted by Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde., and Sgt. 1st Class Donald Davis, first sergeant, LTF — Alpha.

Yahya Sami Jamil, manager of a small general store he owns with his brother that accommodates to the Americans at Habur Gate, was grateful to meet Wilson and show his guest the Kurdish community. The town is a rarity in Iraq where Soldiers drive around in non tactical vehicles and walk the streets without wearing protective armor.

“Of course we are glad to meet any guests from the U.S. Army,” Jamil said. “The Kurdish people and government are friends of the Army and the U.S.”

Habur Gate, a four-story building with a fenced-in yard, provides support to commercial trucks from Turkey and their convoy of Army escorts—consisting of Soldiers from the 16th Sust. Bde. The facility is responsible for fueling and performing basic maintenance on vehicles, as well as providing meals and quarters for the Army transportation Soldiers. There is also a small aid station at the center.

Habur Gate Soldiers facilitate approximately eight convoys a week, Davis said.

Upon leaving Habur Gate, Wilson travels to COS Marez-East to visit Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde. COS Marez is another logistics support site for convoys traveling to Mosul.

The site, some 80 miles south of Habur Gate, offered a very different atmosphere of northern Iraq. Due to the poor security in the town, Mosul is one of a few towns in Iraq where the Army has difficulty

implementing the new “share the road” policy outlined in the Security Agreement.

Wilson reiterated the Coalition forces role in the Security Agreement during a luncheon with senior enlisted leaders from the 18th CSSB, to include the Army’s plan to reduce troop strength in Iraq later this year.

He said, the Army will comply fully with the Security Agreement and continue to work with the Iraqi government under the broader Strategic Framework Agreement in areas of education, culture, economics, technology, health and rule of law.

Wilson adds the success of the recent elections in Iraq and the improvement of the Iraqi Security Forces, a cause for optimism.

“We want to work ourselves out of a job,” Wilson said.

Taji Express

ing together to move cargo efficiently. The ITN is responsible for short-haul of cargo and the IRR is responsible for long-haul.

“Trucks are more efficient with short-haul and trains are more efficient with the long haul,” Meyer said. As part of Tuesday’s rail operation, ITN trucks delivered the 40 containers that were uploaded on the IRR rail cars.

In addition to demonstrating transportation infrastructure progress, these initial small rail movements will eventually prove the IRR ready for regular transportation of cargo, added Meyer. He stated as the IRR moves more and more cargo for both the Iraqis and Coalition forces it offers the option to move Iraqi transporters and Coalition forces off

Iraq’s roads.

Upon arrival in Umm Qasr, the IRR will load cargo and move it back through Iraq.

Sustainers and transportation experts from the 10th Sustainment Brigade provided partnership and planning for Tuesday’s [proof of principle] rail operation. Maj. Peter P. Vien, brigade engineer, 10th Sust. Bde. said that coordination involved all echelons of command starting at MNF-I, through the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and the 10th Sust. Bde.’s higher command.

“I think it was very successful, because this will be the first time we had the Iraqis come into Taji and pick-up stuff and move it out, Vien said.

Continued from Page 1



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ray K. Ragan

An Iraqi Railroad locomotive arrives at Camp Taji, Iraq on Feb. 10, to begin a rail operation moving 40 containers from Camp Taji to the port city of Umm Qasr.



**287th Sustainment Brigade,
COB Adder**
<http://www.287susdbde.com/>





A message from the Commanding General



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 3rd SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE SALAD
APO, AE 09391

REPLY TO:
ATTENTION OF

AETV-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: African American/Black History Month Observance 2009

1. Each February, African American/Black History Month is celebrated to honor men and women who helped shape the course of American History by recognizing their ethnic heritage, struggles to overcome racism and stereotyping, proud achievements and continual progress. The 2009 National Theme for African American/Black History Month is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

2. African Americans have contributed much toward shaping America's history, often against considerable odds. Changes in attitudes and advances in the areas of civil rights and education have enabled African Americans to reach the forefront of American politics, public service, sports and entertainment, as well as in our nation's military.

3. As we celebrate African American/Black History Month, I salute all Soldiers and their Family members, past and present, for their significant and continuing contributions to our Army and our nation. I encourage all Soldiers and leaders to support events throughout February in honor of African American/Black History Month.

4. "Sustaining the Line."


MICHAEL J. LALLY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A

Sustainers break bread; feed the soul

BY LT. COL. RENEE ROUSE
304TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- The 304th Sustainment Brigade from Riverside, California, hosted its first prayer luncheon here, Jan. 29.

The event helped to further enable the Warfighter by providing spiritual guidance to conquer the emotional demands of deployment.

The guest speaker was Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wilbert Harrison of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from Fort Knox, Ky. His

inspirational message was on the topic of spiritual leadership. He expressed the necessity to link spiritual leadership into a significant relationship with younger Soldiers thereby enabling them "To Bridge the Gap."

When one thinks of spirituality in the Army, it is not something that exudes tactics; however, it can be described as a connection that Soldiers share through their interpersonal, intra-personal and extra-personal relationships. Spirituality can be observed by the activity that it produces. It enhances harmony, productivity, and peace in our everyday lives.

The prayer luncheon was orchestrated by the unit's ministry team, Chaplain (CPT) Peter Strong from Seattle, Wash., and Staff Sgt. Randall A. Vilavicencio from Tacoma Park, Md.

More than forty-five Soldiers were present for the prayer luncheon. 304th Sust. Bde. commander, Lt. Col. Norman B. Green commented that the prayer luncheon is something he "would like to see each battalion sponsor on a monthly basis."

Entertainment was provided by the 304th Sust. Bde's very own band that consisted of Master Sgt. Angela Shinholster from Sea Pleasant, Md.; Staff Sgt. Geraldo Regalado from Baldwin Park, Calif.; Sgt. Freddie Scott from San Francisco, Calif.; Sgt. Asoiva Thomsen from Menifee, Calif., and Spc. Betty E. Rivera, from Pasadena, Calif.



Lt. Col. Norman B. Green, brigade commander, 304th Sustainment Brigade presents a certificate to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wilbert Harrison, of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from Fort Knox, Ky., during a prayer luncheon at Joint Base Balad, Jan. 29. The luncheon provided the Soldiers a spiritual guidance to conquer the emotional demands of deployment.

JBB Legal Assistance Office is Here to Help

BY MAJ. BRIAN NOMI
JBB COMBINED LEGAL CENTER

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- The 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Combined Legal Center (CLC) operates a legal assistance office (LAO) in building 7235 at Joint Base Balad, six days a week.

Some benefits of the legal assistance services consist of:

- Notarizing documents
- Providing powers of attorney or wills.
- They also give advice relating to issues on:
 - Family law (divorce, child custody and support, etc.)
 - the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act
 - Landlord-tenant law
 - Bankruptcy or debtor/creditor issues
 - FLIPL responses
 - And many other issues of law that may affect the military community.

For individuals that need to apply for U.S. citizenship, should make an appointment to get assistance with the process.

The office also assists first-time passport applications; limited to 20 customers per month.

Military member or dependent, retired military member, or DoD civilian are eligible for legal assistance services. Foreign nationals and contractors are generally not eligible for legal assistance unless they provide proof of their contract

with the U.S. Government specifically entitles them to such assistance.

The JBB LAO recently added new members to their staff: Maj. Brian Nomi, Sgt. Freddie Scott and Spc. Jacklyn Mims, and are ready to assist service members with a litany of legal issues.

The JBB LAO office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Walk-in appointments are taken but subject to availability of staff. It is recommended to call ahead to schedule an appointment.

If seeking legal advice, it is very important to bring all relevant documents. The staff will do their best to accommodate service members from a remote FOB, however, making an appointment here is recommended.

The JBB LAO is located in the CLC, at the intersection of Hawk and Pennsylvania Avenue; the barriers are painted like a castle with a blue sky above it.

For further assistance, please contact the LAO at DSN 318.433.2836

Prevent accidents before they happen.

Always wear the proper safety equipment to minimize the risk of injuries.

Washington Guardsmen honored during combat patch ceremony

BY SPC. JOSHUA MEDFORD
UPAR, 30TH CSSB,
16TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Two



Soldiers were awarded the Army Commendation medal for spotting an improvised explosive device during a convoy in the Ninawa province in

northern Iraq, while others received combat action badges, during a combat patch-donning ceremony here Jan. 12.

Spc. Don Graham, infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Sgt. David Eckroth, 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt., received Army Commendation medals for their role in spotting an IED.

Graham, from Stevenson, Wash., also received a Combat Action Badge because an

IED detonated on his vehicle during a convoy from Contingency Operating Base Speicher to Q-West, Dec. 2. Spc. Diana Ogaz, from Vancouver, Wash., the driver of the vehicle Graham was in the vehicle when the IED detonated, was also awarded the CAB.

"It gives me a better feeling of purpose, being over here, as far as finding the IED," Graham said. "Finding the IED before it detonated is a great feeling, just to know that it won't be able to kill anybody."

The unit, which deployed to

Iraq in November 2008, has already faced hardships and come out on top, said Capt. Kevin Deleon, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Bn., 146th FA Regt.

"Although we have been at COB Q-West for just a few short months we've been able to spot several IEDs before detonation," said Deleon. "I am certain that lives were saved because of the alertness and attention to detail demonstrated by these fine Soldiers. It is a testament to the high

quality of our Soldiers and I am proud to serve with all of them."

The battery, composed of Soldiers from Washington and Texas Army National Guards, has thus far completed more than 50 convoy escort missions, Deleon said. The security the unit provides has enabled supplies to flow freely throughout northern Iraq. The Soldiers of Team Halo also try to improve relations with local Iraqis by distributing food, water, and toys to children while on missions.

An Important mission in JSS Hunter

BY 1ST LT. MAN FUNG WONG
UPAR, 590TH QM Co.,
398TH CSSB, 10TH SBDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — In the



harshest parts of Iraq where civilian contractors are rare, you will find the field service companies that provide some of the most basic luxuries to our battlefield Soldiers. One group is the 590th Quartermaster Company from Fort Drum, New York.

The 590th QM Co. provides shower, laundry, and clothing repair (SLCR) services to some of the most underdeveloped forward operating bases, com-

bat outposts, and joint service stations in Iraq. One of the company's most remote sites is JSS Hunter.

While the JSS Hunter is not the prettiest location in the world, it provides a base of operation for over 800 Soldiers. There are a few luxuries offered here. There is a small post exchange trailer that sells snacks and drinks, and a small Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facility that provides entertainment to the Soldiers.

The 590th QM Co., 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, provides a service that makes these Soldiers' lives just a little better. Staff Sgt. Victor Pinell, a native of Long Island, N.Y., and the noncommissioned officer in charge for

the SLCR team located at JSS Hunter said, "We give Soldiers the luxuries of life which we take for granted. A hot shower and clean clothes after spending days outside the wire should be provided to every warrior in a modern fighting force."

In addition, the Soldiers of the SLCR team have found other ways to make the living conditions at JSS Hunter better for everyone.

Staff Sgt. Jason Duggins from New York said, "We built rooms in our tents to give each other a little bit of privacy. After the compliments and accolades we received from other Soldiers, we began teaching and guiding others on the fundamentals of planning and erecting structures within their tents to make life more toler-

able for everyone."

Most service members in the United States Armed Forces fail to realize that the Army still provides shower and laundry services.

"I always thought that we contracted out the shower and laundry jobs to civilians," says Capt. James Lucas, company commander of Delta Troop, 1-9th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "In remote locations such as these, where even contractors won't provide services, I can see the need for this military occupation specialty, or MOS, in the Army."

Although it is not the most glamorous of jobs, the Soldiers from the SLCR team are highly motivated and complete the mission to the best of their abil-

ity. "Everyone has a role in this war, and I guess this is ours" said Spc. Jesus Rodriguez, a native of New York. This motivation explains the accolades and compliments from all the Soldiers who operate at JSS Hunter.

The mission of the SLCR team is to provide shower, laundry and renovation to every Soldier that requires it. In reality, they are providing a greater service. They are improving the quality of life for their fellow Soldiers, and making life just a little bit easier. Not many people are aware of these dedicated Soldiers and the great service they provide. However, the few that are aware truly appreciate and acknowledge the importance of their mission.

Iraqi Family accepts Sustainers' generosity

BY CPT. JONATHAN ROACH
UPAR, 353rd Trans. Co.,
16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — The



soccer balls, clothes, books and candy were very different from the usual loads of heavy equipment, but the transportation Soldiers hauling the

load were proud of the mission.

"Humanitarian duties are the most fulfilling to me," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Baxter, platoon sergeant, 353rd Transportation Company, and Belle Plaine, Minn., native. "These are the memories that I carry around for the rest of my life. This is my third deployment and the second one of the three where I have been able to do some humanitarian duties. This is what it is all about."

During a logistical mission, Soldiers from the 353rd Trans. Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, took time to bring care packages to a Family who lives on the banks of the Tigris River Dec. 12.

Khalif, a middle-aged Iraqi man, invited several of the transportation Soldiers into his home, and introduced them to his Family. After some hot, sweetened tea, the Soldiers played with several of

Khalif's six children.

Soldiers handed out boxes containing clothing, soccer balls, crayons, coloring books, candy, personal hygiene products, paper, and other writing supplies to Khalif's family.

They finished off their cultural adventure by showing off one of their favorite pastimes in Minnesota, by fashioning a fishing pole out of an antenna and string, and used paper clips as hooks, to attempt to catch a fish from the Tigris. While their endeavor was un-

successful, they accomplished their mission to bring smiles to a few faces.

The 353rd Trans. Co. performs convoy sustainment operations by hauling water, fuel, and various other classes of supply in Multi-National Division North. Several missions have required the unit to provide logistical support by transporting equipment on their heavy equipment transport trucks to a pump house along the Tigris River, near Al Qayyarah, Iraq.

Navy, Army work together to move cargo at Al Asad

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

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Forty-one Navy reservists from Omaha, Neb., and Chicago have moved millions of pounds of air cargo for the Army, Marines, and Air Force since arriving here in November.



“Our mission is primarily to run the cargo yard and provide support for the Army,” said Chief Petty Officer Bret Willard, operations chief, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Forward, Foxtrot Company, Cargo Handling Team, and native of Omaha, Neb.

It’s all part of a unique partnership, where the Marines own the base, the Air Force runs the missions, and the Navy manages a joint services cargo yard for an Army sustainment unit, the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Fort Drum, N.Y.

“I haven’t actually really been able to tell the transition of where the Army begins and the Navy stops,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Thoramae C. Kurshinsky, also a native of Omaha, Neb. “The Marines, the Army, the Air Force, everyone really comes together. I couldn’t imagine working with a better crew than I’m working with right now.”

On her third deployment, and a first not at sea, Kurshinsky said she was surprised by how easily the different services work together. On any given day, the Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Soldiers cooperate to keep the cargo



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerald E. Palmquist, a native of Stanton, Iowa, moves a 20-foot cargo container with a Kalmar vehicle at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 21. A Navy reservist, Palmquist’s unit, Foxtrot Company, Cargo Handling Team, is attached to the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

yard going like a smooth running machine, she said.

The Navy reservists receive both incoming and outgoing cargo here at the airfield. They verify the contents and ensure the cargo – which can be anything from C-130 props to tires to personal footlockers – is loaded for air shipment, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jerald E. Palmquist, the yard boss and a native of Stanton, Iowa.

“Making sure people get what they need in a timely manner is really important,” he said. The cargo handlers’ efforts enable the warfighters – making sure they receive all of the supplies and spare parts they need to sustain the fight, he said.

During a few short months, the Sailors of the Cargo Handling Team moved 1,827 pallets and 72 storage containers, totaling to over 4.2 million pounds of cargo, while performing customs inspections, Willard said.

“One of the things that took us by surprise [when we began this mission] was the Kalmar operations,” Willard

said. “We had one person that was certified to operate a Kalmar (a heavy duty container mover).”

Within two weeks of taking over the mission, the unit set up a school to train and certify six of their Sailors on the new equipment, he said.

Additionally, Willard said the unit needed three Sailors to work as full-time mechanics. Reservists with mechanical backgrounds were identified, and those Sailors who once worked on motorcycles or automobiles retrained to work on forklifts and cargo container movers.

“As soon as we got here, our attitudes were positive and I think that helped us out a bunch,” Willard said. “The highlight of my day is seeing my folks do their job, making sure they have the proper tools and equipment to do their jobs. And if everything’s moving, then it’s a great day.”

“I feel [our missions is] pretty important,” Palmquist said. “I’m glad to be here. If I had to pick any one place to be, this is probably where I’d be.”



Senior Airman Joseph Berube guides a 20’ cargo container onto a flatbed truck at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 21. Airmen, Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers work together at the joint yard to prepare cargo for air shipment.



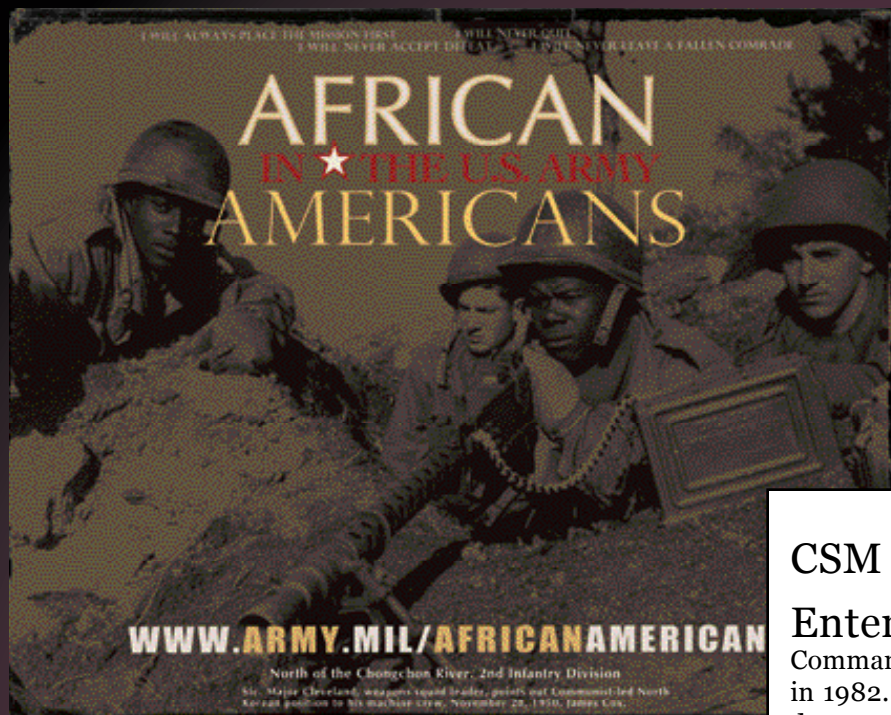
Task Force Muleskinner

10th Sustainment Brigade



10th Sustainment Brigade, Camp Taji

<http://www.taskforcemuleskinner.army.mil/mm.asp>



CSM Michele Jones

Entered Service: September 1982

Command Sergeant Major Jones enlisted in the Army in 1982. She is the first woman to serve as class president at the United States Sergeants Major Academy, as a division Command Sergeant Major, and as Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve. Throughout her military career, CSM Jones has dedicated herself to the issues of the enlisted Soldier. She dedicates the majority of her time traveling throughout the United States and overseas visiting and listening to Soldiers and their families. She represents their concerns and issues at all levels within the Army, Department of Defense and Congress. She believes in going to the Soldiers and not waiting for them to come to her.



DOD National Theme:
*"The Quest for Black
 Citizenship in the Americas."*

JOINT BASE BALAD
Presents
African American/Black History Month
Observance

MWR East Facility
19 February 2009 at 1130 to 1300 hours

Guest Speaker: LTC James-Michael Yates
EO Program Manager
Task Force 34

Lunch will be provided
Essay Awards Presentations
H6 Choir
Ugandan Choir
Inspirational Dance Praise Team

Contact: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3^d ESC HR/EO Advisor @ 433-2527,
 MSgt Joseph Newton 332nd AEW EO Director @ 443-8459,
 SFC Everett Worman 555th EN BDE EO Advisor @ 483-4645,
 SFC Lisa Paxton 304th SB EO Advisor @ 433-2917,
 SSG DaMon Walker 51st ESB BN EOL @ 483-2217,
 SFC Wanda Allen HHC/3d ESC EOL @ 483-2274

Iraqi and American Leaders meet during “Read Iraq” Program at Al Harazh

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq – Tribal leaders part-
nered with Sustainers in
a continuation of the
“Read Iraq” program
for the benefit of Iraqi
youth at Al Harazh,
Iraq on Feb. 3.



The program
was an initiative
of the 287th Sustainment Brigade civil
military operations, whose Soldiers
volunteered to read to Iraqi children
to further their understanding of the
English language.

Iraqi leaders Shaykh Gatiea Katie
and Al Batha City councilman Moham-
med Al Tayieh welcomed Lt Col. Clint
Moyer, 287th Sust. Bde., civil military
operations chief and his team to their
village school. The meeting allowed



Sgt. Timothy Shull shows Al Soonobar students an illustration from a Dr. Seuss book during his “Read Iraq” presentation at Al Harazh, Iraq, Feb. 3.

the leaders to further Iraqi-American
relations.

The school hosted approximately 45
students, four teachers, and one head-
master. It is small, consisting of three
classrooms and one office. The walls
are made of mud, with reed bundles
from the nearby Euphrates River for
the roof using natural light to illumi-

nate the classrooms.

Volunteer readers Cpt. Traci Earls
and Sgt. Timothy Shull each went into
a classroom to read books by Dr. Seuss.

“One fish, two fish, red fish, blue
fish...” read the volunteers. In the of-
fice, Mohammed Al Tayieh met with
Moyer and members of his staff.

Mohammed expressed his concerns
for the safety of his Coalition friends.
He warned that the roads may not be
safe for Coalition forces to travel due to
the Ashira pilgrimage that will last until
Feb 16.

“The roads this far south may not be
clear until the 19th,” Mohammed said.

He assured Moyer that a vast major-
ity of the travelers are peaceful al-
though there may be a few people with
ill intent among them. Most pilgrims,
he said, have good honorable inten-
tions.

Both the Iraqis and Americans
voiced their approval over the success
of the recently completed provincial

elections in Iraq. The voting process
was peaceful and the Iraqis are waiting
for results.

The leaders settled into the school’s
office and discussed the needs of the
52 families in the local area. Discus-
sions focused on the local leaders hopes
of building two more schools and the
need for clean drinking water.

Moyer explained that all approved
projects would continue. New projects
are on hold due to a recently decreased
project budget.

“If present projects are completed
under budget, new projects could pos-
sibly be started to obligate any remain-
ing funds,” Moyer said.

The leaders meeting concluded with
handshakes and a procession to the
front of the school.

“What would you do if your mother
asked you,” a volunteer read. With the
final words of Dr. Seuss, this session of
“Read Iraq” came to an end.

Convoy academy keeps Soldiers’ skills fresh

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq – A group of Soldiers
from Fort Sill, Okla. as-
sumed a special and
critical mission in Jan-
uary to support Texas
Guardsmen who re-
cently arrived here
on Contingency
Operating Base



Adder.

Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Bat-
talion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment,
host a convoy academy to teach the
new battalion of convoy escorts les-
sons that Soldiers experienced and
learned out on the roads of Iraq.

“This is a program the brigade com-
mander tasked us with because we are
on month 12 of a 15-month deploy-
ment,” explained Haught. “He asked
us to share the lessons learned and
run the guys through some practical
exercises.”

Haught said the convoy academy
has been an on-going training pro-
gram for the past year. His unit has
taken over to train the Texas National
Guard Field Artillery, 3rd Battalion,
133rd Field Artillery Regiment, who
arrived in theater in December.

“It’s a common misconception that
when you come into theater you’re in
a combat zone now so training time is
over; its execution time,” said Capt.
Deron R. Haught, the commander of
Battery C, 1st Bn., 17th FA Regt., from
Fort Sill, Okla. and native of Harris-

ville, W.Va. “The fact of the matter is
training has just begun.”

Haught said his company has en-
gaged the enemy over 20 times with
no loss of a life among the Soldiers or
civilians they were escorting.

By the end of January, Haught said
they will have trained 28 sets in the
battalion. A set is typically made up of
six vehicles with three man crews.

The two-day training starts with
phase one in a classroom. Haught said
they explain what the escort mission is
and the duties and responsibilities of
everyone in a set.

“We have been driving the routes
they will be driving, so we like to give
the new guys real life scenarios so they
can benefit from our experience,” said
Staff Sgt. A. Bubba Broadbent, a phase
one instructor with the 1st Bn., 17th
FA Regt. and native from Johnstown,
Ohio.

The next phase is the motor pool
where they go over the pre-combat
checks and pre-combat inspections
with the Soldiers. Haught said one of
the best lessons learned is teaching
the way PCC/PCI’s are done.

“The way we do our PCC/PCI’s is
dress right dress. We use a checklist
and every set is inspected the exact
same way,” Haught said. “It sets the
tone for the mission.”

The third phase of training is a
medical evacuation class where Sol-
diers practice communicating with a
medevac helicopter, establish a land-
ing zone and then load a patient as
propellers turn over their heads.

“I think it’s good to provide mede-
vac training throughout the deploy-
ment because it keeps the Soldiers

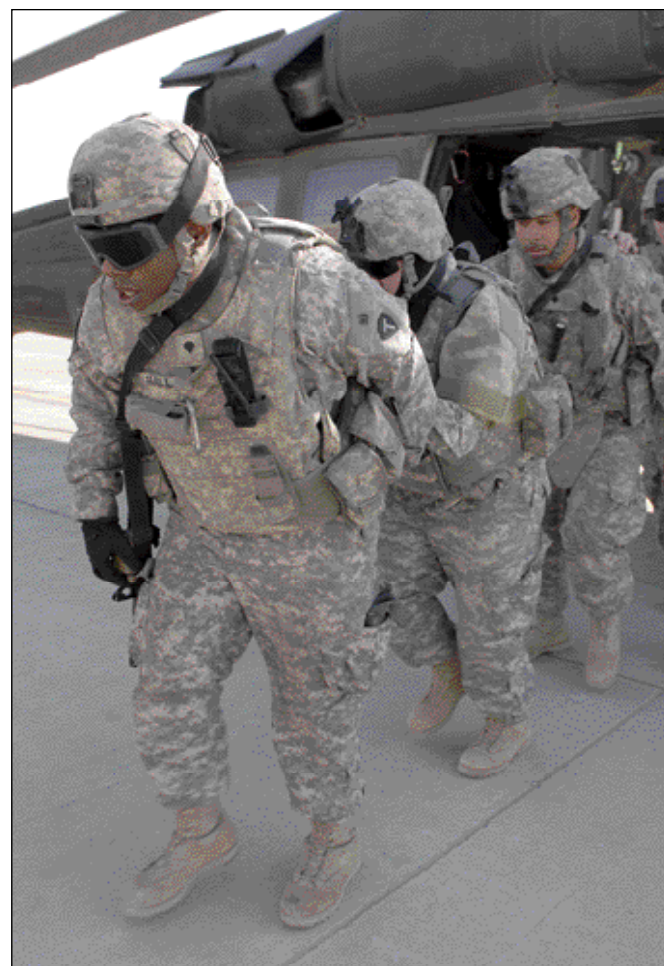
sharp,” said Capt.
Gene P. Lawrence,
commander of Bat-
tery A 3rd Bn., 133rd
FA Regt., and na-
tive of Austin, Texas.
“These are perishable
skills so it’s good to
keep them fresh in
their minds.

“I’m glad we have
a unit to share their
experiences with us,”
Lawrence said. “They
have the expertise to
provide the training
that will help us do
our job.”

The final phase is
the IED lane where
everything the Sol-
diers learn is put into
practice. They react
to a simulated IED,
treat casualties, call
for medevac, recover
a vehicle and continue
the mission.

“The training
doesn’t end after two
days,” Haught said.
“We constantly preach
to the Soldiers to con-
tinue to train and con-
tinue to do these stan-
dard rehearsals.”

Haught attributes
the success of the
training to the noncommissioned of-
ficers teaching the classes. He said the
NCOs in his company are in charge on
the road and are best suited to train
the next set of convoy commanders.



Soldiers from Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, a National Guard unit from El Paso, Texas practice a safe departure from the loading zone after unloading injured Soldiers from a medevac helicopter during the convoy academy training at Contingency Operating Base Adder on Jan. 13.

“These Soldiers move up and down
an extremely complex, ever changing
battlefield,” Haught said. “It speaks
volumes of the professionalism of our
Soldiers, especially our NCOs.”

Iraqi ammunition leaders host 3^d ESC at depot

By SPC. AMANDA D. TUCKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

BAYJI NATIONAL AMMUNITION DEPOT, Iraq – Iraqi ammunition managers and leaders met with key leaders of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at the Bayji National Ammunition Depot Jan. 26 to give Iraqi leadership a chance to inform Coalition forces of needed assistance in training and developing their munitions capacity to issue, store, receive, secure and plan for replenishment of munitions.

3^d ESC key leaders included Col. Curt

Higdon, the G-3 operations officer and Henryville, Ind., native and Lt. Col. Billy V. Hall, the chief of the Iraqi security forces transition team and Whitesburg, Ky., native.

The Iraqi BNAD installation commander and Iraqi Army ammunition director of Baghdad led Coalition forces on a tour of the ammunition depot.

During the tour Coalition forces were shown a warehouse and an earth covered igloo for ammunition storage. Currently, there are 78 warehouses and 100 earth covered igloos at the BNAD for ammunition storage.

Another stop during the tour included the ammunition yards. More than 110 ammunition yards were once full of scattered ammunition back in October. Now, the Iraqi Army are moving the contents

of the last yard into warehouses and earth covered igloos. While at the yard, the ammunition director showed Higdon the different types of ammunition contained in the yard, including ruined ammunition expected to be destroyed.

The last leg of the tour included the two Iraqi generals showing their guests the land reserved for ammunition demolition. The generals explained all ammunition that was disposed of was reported and authorized before trained engineers properly disposed it.

Since working with the logistics military advisor team from Multi-National Security Transition Corps-Iraq, the depot has no security issues.

"We still think they need to do some work to define what their policies and their procedures are, to get those pub-

lished so that there is clear understanding and communication across all levels of how logistics will work," said Hall.

After the tour, Coalition forces sat with the Iraqi forces and shared a large meal served especially for the visiting leaders. Foods included: bread; rice; soup; bananas; oranges and various other Iraqi foods.

The short time spent together provided the key leaders of both parties the opportunity to discuss transportation; disposal; accountability; security and safety in dealing with the ammunition.

"The visit was very successful and (beneficial) for me," said the IA director. "I want to thank all the Coalition forces for their support ... and for any support they plan to provide in the future."

Soldiers train to stay alive in vehicle rollovers

By SGT. 1ST CLASS KEN MATTINGLY
UPAR, Bravo Co., 1st Bn.,
184th Infantry, 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, twisted, turned, and fought their way out of disabled and damaged vehicles during a safety day vehicle egress exercise here Jan. 30.

"Rollovers can happen anywhere on the road," said Capt. Peter Lewis, commander, Co. B. "This training is important in maintaining muscle memory in exiting vehicles in stressful situations. It is a perishable skill."

The training is designed to teach

Soldiers to "egress," that is, get out of their tactical vehicle in the quickest and safest way possible. The training included rollovers in various scenarios, including water rollovers.

"The crews learn to work as a team," said 1st Sgt. Steven Trester, first sergeant, Co. B. "It helps them survive on the modern battlefield. We need to remember that there is more than just one enemy on the battlefield."

The Co. B Soldiers also participated in armored security vehicle training and egress techniques for other tactical vehicles. The rollover training was conducted at the Q-West Convoy Logistics Patrol Readiness Center.

"This training increases the Soldier's survivability," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Hernandez, truck master, Co. B. "The more a Soldier knows, the bet-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. William Gospodnetich

A Soldier from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, exits a Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer after being turned upside down at the Q-West Convoy Logistics Patrol Readiness Center, Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, Jan. 30. The simulation creates more realistic disorientation and battlefield conditions, and improves a Soldier's ability to exit his tactical vehicle quickly and safely.

ter prepared he is. He needs to be able to function in all kinds of situations. We tried to make it as realistic as possible."

Washington Guardsmen sharpen skills with vehicle interdiction training

By CAPT. JACQUELINE BAIRD
UPAR, 81st BSTB, 16th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Washington Guardsmen trained to stop and search suspicious vehicles during vehicle interdiction training here Jan. 31.

The Everett, Wash.-based Soldiers of the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are responsible for force protection at the base, and regularly conduct convoys

with Iraqi Security Forces in the Ninawa Province.

Because the Guardsmen regularly conduct mounted and dismounted patrols of the area surrounding the base, it is essential for them to train in many infantry tactics, techniques, and procedures, said Capt. Forrest Horan, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 81st BSTB. Force Protection Soldiers have a critical mission on the base.

"Squads were trained to stop vehicles, force the enemy from their vehicle, eliminate immediate threats and search vehicles according to both Army and police SWAT (special weapons and tactics)

standards," said Horan. "The training focused on identification of suspicious vehicles, sensitive site exploitation and detainee operations. The training will culminate in a squad live fire exercise."



U.S. Army courtesy photo

This kind of exercise keeps complacency down and offers the force protection Soldiers realistic training to accomplish their mission, Horan said.

Pfc. Coye Underwood, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, apprehends and searches Staff Sgt. John Bryant, 81st BSTB, during vehicle interdiction training at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Jan. 31. The Everett, Wash.-based Soldiers are responsible for force protection at the base, and regularly conducts convoys with Iraqi Security Forces in the Ninawa Province.



Pvt. 1st Class Matthew D. Williamson, a Plainwell, Mich., native and Sgt. Terrell L. Moore, a Columbus, Georgia, native, heavy wheeled vehicle operators for the 233rd Transportation Company, from Fort Knox, Ky., are putting on a central tire inflation system cover on a Heavy Equipment Transport military vehicle on Contingency Operating Base Speicher Feb. 2.



Spc. Benito Cruz, a wheeled vehicle mechanic for the 233rd Transportation Company, from Fort Knox, Ky., and Whiting, Ind., native, opens the air conditioning relief valve while working on a Heavy Equipment Transport military vehicle, in the motor pool at Contingency Operating Base Speicher Feb. 2.



Spc. Jonathan L. Schellenberg, a Grand Rapids, Mich., native, and Spc. Benito Cruz, a Whiting, Ind., native, are wheeled vehicle mechanics for the 233rd Trans. Co., from Fort Knox, Ky., fix an air conditioning compressor for a heavy equipment transporter military vehicle on Contingency Operating Base Speicher Feb. 2. In one day in the motor pool, the 233rd Trans. Co. mechanics work an average of eight to 10 vehicles.

Cold Steel Keeps HETs Moving

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – When the 233rd Transportation Company, from Fort Knox, Ky., drives through the streets of Iraq, it is because its maintenance platoon prevents, maintains and fixes problems to keep the trucks moving.

The maintenance platoon fixes the heavy equipment transporters, large military vehicles designed to haul heavy cargo as large as tanks.

“My maintenance section is probably one of the tightest platoons I have,” said Capt. Lydia Y. Welch, the commander for the 233rd Trans. Co., and Elizabethtown, Ky., native.

When the unit first arrived, vehicles were breaking down before making it out the gate. Thanks to the mechanics, missions are running for up to a week with no breakdowns. There are only two vehicles non-mission capable out of more than 130 in the company.

“That speaks volumes for the amount of work that

the mechanics and the operators together are doing,” said Chief Warrant Officer Joseph R. Scarpill, the unit maintenance officer for the 233rd Trans. Co. and Warrington, Pa., native.

Heavy wheeled vehicle operators fill out a DA Form 5988 when something is wrong with vehicles during a weekly or post mission preventive maintenance checks and services inspection. Then it is the mechanic’s job to fix the problem.

The mechanics do more than just fix the HETs. In addition to wheeled vehicle mechanics, the maintenance team consists of prescribed load list clerks; petroleum, oil and lubricants team; welders and power generation technicians.

PLL clerks order replacement parts for vehicles and send old, broken parts to be refurbished or rebuilt. When the mechanics solve the maintenance issues on the vehicle, the PLL clerk is the one that tracks the information that the services are complete.

POL workers order, issue and replace all the oils in the motor pool. They also manage the hazardous materials in the area such as batteries and used oil.

The welders make or cut off pieces of HETs using plasma cutters, oxygen/acetylene torches and metal inert gas welders. They have cut rims off trailers, made cab mounting brackets and are constantly

helping convoys that stop at COB Speicher needing metal fabrication.

Due to the lack of generators, the generation mechanics are being cross-trained to work on vehicles as well.

“My platoon is probably the best group of mechanics that I’ve had the opportunity to work with in 17 years,” said Scarpill.

Scarpill laughed as he admitted there were some mistakes that the platoon has learned from. He recalled a time when the mechanics forgot to put an inner gear in the steering pump, which takes approximately half a day of dismantling to access. The truck was re-assembled and the mechanics found the steering wheel wouldn’t turn and had to disassemble the vehicle again to replace the inner gear.

Since arriving in theater six months ago, the platoon has replaced approximately 30 engines. One engine can take anywhere from four to seven days depending on the complications involved. There are nights when the mechanics don’t go home until 2 a.m. because trucks have to be ready for upcoming missions.

“They’re the guys that don’t mind working the long hours,” said Welch.

“Failure is not an option,” said Scarpill. “We will not miss a mission because of maintenance issues.”

HET Company Moves Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. AMANDA TUCKER
Expeditionary Times Staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – The 233rd Transportation Company, from Fort Knox, Ky., moves equipment throughout Multi-National Division-North by Heavy Equipment Transporter military vehicles.

The 233rd Trans. Co. mission is to provide responsive, tailored, and adaptive heavy equipment transport capabilities, staging, onward movement, integration, retrograde, and sustainment operations in support of Operation Iraq Freedom and a full range of joint military operations.

The 233rd Trans. Co. has deployed six times in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Five of the six deployments were spent in Kuwait. During the unit's time stationed in Kuwait, more than 85 percent of their mission time was spent supporting units in Iraq.

"It was hard on the trucks (and) it was hard on the Soldiers going on mission," said Capt. Lydia Y. Welch, the commander of the 233rd Trans. Co., and Elizabethtown, Ky., native.

The 233rd Trans. Co. relocated to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, and the shorter distance between them and the units they support make it easier on the mission.

The unit has overcome multiple challenges to accomplish their mission.

One of the first obstacles was addressed before deployment.

"When you deploy with a unit there is always some sort of camaraderie built before you leave," said Welch.

But with the unit spread across three bases: Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, and Fort Knox, the

leadership knew there would be problems trying to work together for the first time in theater.

You have to get used to the new tactics, techniques and procedures in theater; the weather; the time difference; change in vehicles; new routes and new rules, said Welch. "It's bad enough you have to get acclimated to all that, but you certainly shouldn't have to get used to the company (standards of procedure)."

To establish a standard between the three, the first sergeant and commander of the 233rd Trans. Co. visited each company every six weeks. The company also conducted a mission readiness exercise and joint training exercise together before deploying.

Another difficulty presented itself when the unit arrived at COB Speicher; their new motor pool and the HETs were less than satisfactory. The vehicles were breaking down frequently and the vehicle parts were spread across the motor pool.

"There was a time that we could not roll out of the motor pool without having a breakdown. Now, I have Soldiers that go 150 miles and back without a single breakdown," said Welch.

Once the vehicles were mission ready, the 233rd Trans. Co. Soldiers also adapted well from hauling track vehicles to other types of equipment throughout theater.

Although the unit had to overcome multiple challenges since arriving in theater in 2008, the 233rd Trans. Co. has conducted 40 convoys, driven more than 240,613 miles and hauled more than 18,895 tons of equipment. They also have a 98 percent unit readiness rate, the highest in their brigade during the last 10 months.

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph R. Scarpill, the unit maintenance officer for the 233rd Trans. Co. and Warrington, Pa., native, helps Capt. Lydia Y. Welch, the commander for the 233rd Trans. Co., and Elizabethtown, Ky., native, to put on her Deltoid and Axillary Protectors (DAP) before a mission Feb. 6. The 233rd Trans. Co. moves equipment throughout Multi-National Division-North by Heavy Equipment Transporter military vehicles.



Heavy Equipment Transport military vehicles split into lanes in preparation for mission on Contingency Operating Base Speicher Feb. 6. HETs are capable of carrying loads as big as tanks.

Sustainers become NCOs during Induction Ceremony

BY SPC. KELLY ANNE BECK
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – More than one hundred Soldiers, including four Soldiers from the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were inducted into the noncommissioned officer corps at the eastside Morale Welfare and Recreation center here Jan. 21.

The Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3^d ESC were promoted to sergeant during a NCO induction ceremony, signifying an important step for each Soldiers' military career because they are now in a role of leadership.

"We don't need chevron wearers, we need standard bearers," Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, the com-

mand sergeant major of Multi-National Force-Iraq, said in his speech during the ceremony. "We need dedicated leaders who will set the standards and lead our Soldiers."

Sgt. Karl Paul, a native of Hinesville, Ga., the chemical NCO for HHC 3^d ESC who was promoted during the ceremony, said he felt honored to be a part of the ceremony. He is excited to be the type of NCO Sgt. Major Wilson described and to lead by example.

One of the most important things about being a good NCO is making sure that each Soldiers actions speak louder than his words, Wilson said.

"When you say you take care of Soldiers you must truly mean it. Not just in combat, but in all aspects of leadership," Wilson said. "You must focus, train, mentor, teach and coach."

In Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson's speech, he talked about the impact that a good NCO can have on the career of his subordinates.

Paul said once he graduated from basic combat training and advanced individual training, as an active duty Soldier he had nowhere to go to find housing because he didn't have an NCO to help and mentor him. From that moment, he said once he became a NCO he would never let a Soldier feel as confused as he did.

Since then Paul said he has been fortunate enough to have several great role models from the HHC 3^d ESC, but draws inspiration from both the good and bad.

"I take bits and pieces from all leadership that I have been fortunate to be a part of," Paul said. "I take the good with the bad qualities; you have to learn from the bad. In order to be a good NCO you have to be well rounded with everything, not the best at everything," he said.

In his speech, Wilson said being an NCO in the Army is not only an example for other Soldiers, but even for

other countries' Soldiers.

"Many of the world's armies are looking at our NCO corps as a model for their own, and they recognize the vital roles NCOs play in our Army," Wilson said.

Being a NCO is a challenge, Paul said, and though being a role model to many may be difficult, he said he felt ready.

The first two lines of the NCO Creed ['No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer'] will inspire him every day, Paul said.

Moments before the promotable Soldiers walked through the NCO archway, symbolizing their transfer into the NCO corps, Wilson said, "Don't just wear the chevrons. They must mean something. If they don't mean anything to you, don't put them on."

As every newly promoted NCO took their steps through the archway, they all pinned on their chevrons.

Sustainers man FOB Loyalty's Army Post Office

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. SHAWN HAFELE
510th HRC, 10th SBTB, 10th SBDE

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - Forwarding Operating Base Loyalty is an extremely small location that is both personal and rewarding. However, its size has nothing to do with the postal mission.

The team here consists of five Soldiers who conduct the postal operation at one of two postal locations and do not employ any contractor augmentation support since arriving at FOB Loyalty, April 24

Spc. Julia Griffin, the postal supervisor in charge and a native of Charleston, S.C.; Pfc. Cassandra Mannon, a native of Gallipolis, Ohio; Spc. Eugene Muller, native of Capetown, South Africa but now a resident of Houston,

Texas; Spc. Maria Powell, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. are Soldiers at FOB Loyalty who work in every aspect of their primary duties to meet the postal mission.

Presently, the postal mission consists of movement of mail on the FOB as well as conducting the quarterly mailroom inspections for 35 mailrooms.

In addition to their FOB postal mission, these Soldiers tracked ballots for the 2008 presidential election, welcomed and distributed the surge of holiday mail, and trained a brigade's worth of replacements.

Without missing a beat or losing their focus on the mission at hand, they demonstrated the self discipline to handle the extended hours. The previously untrained staff now has an operation that is well-polished and a postal team that welcomes all new challenges with incredible pride and professionalism.



Pfc. Cassandra Mannon, a Gallipolis, Ohio native, helps unload mail at Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Iraq. Mannon is currently deployed with 510th Human Resource Company, 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



Sustainers graduate Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection class

STORY AND PHOTO BY
KIYOSHI C. FREEMAN
Expeditionary Times Staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Twenty-six students completed a week-long anti-terrorism/force protection class here at the Chapel Annex on Feb. 6.

Students completed 40-hours of coursework on everything from their roles and responsibilities as anti-terrorism officers to managing entry control points and performing vulnerability assessments. As anti-terrorism officer, or ATOs, they advise their commanding officers on how best to protect service members.

During his speech at the graduation ceremony, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commanding general, 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Fort Knox, Ky., said, “As we work through [the new Security Agreement] there’s lots of changes about how we look at security in Iraq. Now we’re turning more into a partner.”

As a partner, he went on to say, Coalition forces will manage their security

differently than before. It requires a delicate balancing act between base access for Iraqi partners, like the Iraqi Transportation Network, and installation security.

“And it’s a trade-off,” Lally said. “It’s a risk management that you got to work through. That’s what you guys bring to the table.”

Often the training is simply thinking like a terrorist, finding weaknesses in security, and then figuring out a way to reduce that risk, said Sgt. Maj. Doris E. Long, operations sergeant major with

the 304th Sustainment Brigade, a reserve unit from Riverside, Calif.

“Once we make that risk assessment, we reinforce those areas we see as vulnerable,” she said.

It’s a constantly evolving process which changes based on location, identified threats and available assets, said Capt. Roberto Santiago, an AT/FP instructor and assistant operations officer, Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Sandbagged windows, concrete blast walls, point defense systems, guards at dining facilities, everything evolves and adapts based on ATO recommendations.

“Ever since 9/11, it’s a totally different world,” Santiago, a native of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, said. “Now every gate that you go through in the States or anywhere else in the world, you got some type of serpentine, some type of T-wall, some type of barrier, and somebody who is over-watching the whole process.”

Most ATOs are additional duty positions within units; a second job for Soldiers who already have other responsibilities.

Long said she was surprised

by all the responsibilities which go along with being an ATO. Initially, she received no training or preparation, only a memo for guidance.

“I would go in there (3^d ESC’s AT/FP office) every day, sometimes two or three times a day, and ask questions,” Long said. “I just kept pursuing to find more and more information. And I still didn’t feel as though I knew enough.”

However, the course was an opportunity to clarify and refine everything Long and the other ATOs in her brigade had learned on their own.

“I only had small pieces of what force protection was when I started this job two months ago,” she said. “This class tied it all together for me.”

In his speech, Lally stressed the importance of the anti-terrorism and force protection mission. As Coalition forces – the brigade combat teams in particular – begin to pull out of cities and redeploy, he said, ATOs for sustainment units like the 304th Sust. Brig. may find themselves taking over the duty once reserved for traditional, frontline units.

“I believe that force protection is important right now. And with the shaping of the battlefield, it’s going to be even more important,” Long said. “There’s no room for complacency here.”



Capt. Roberto Santiago (top right corner), the assistant operations officer, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, walks students through a class on how to search a vehicle at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 4. The class was part of a week-long course on anti-terrorism and force protection.

Fifteen Months of Logistics Success

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. TIMOTHY CASTEN
*24th Ord. Det., 398th CSSB,
10th Sust. Bde.*

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Fifteen months ago, 2nd Platoon, 24th Ordnance Detachment, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. and Fort Benning, Ga., arrived in Kuwait with a formation of 29 Soldiers.

The platoon was newly-formed; the leadership had not worked together at all, and many of the noncommissioned officers and Soldiers hadn’t touched a round of ammunition. Their mission was simple: run an ammunition supply point at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Little did they know how critical the mission would be supporting the Multi-National Division - Baghdad and Multi-National Corps - Iraq war fighting operations.

After arriving at Baghdad International Airport, they were taken to their living quarters immediately and began their relief in place and transfer of authority within a day with the 1st Platoon, 63rd Ordnance Company.

From that point, the 2nd Plt., 24th Ord. Det. hit the ground running.

Weeks after the TOA, the Soldiers



Spc. Sharon Spradling, a native of Trenton, Ga., and Spc. Angelia Mowery of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., prepare a box of ammunition for shipment out of the ammunition supply point. These Soldiers are currently deployed with 2nd Platoon, 24th Ordnance Detachment, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad and Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

discovered the importance of their mission.

Their task is to provide armor support to the Camp Stryker Add on Armor (AOA) site. They receive, issue, and ship more than 60 short-tons of Bradley Armor Tiles and Abrams Armor Tiles to the AOA in a two-day period. This armor is crucial for the survivability of the Soldiers conducting missions on the streets of Baghdad.

In February 2008, the platoon leadership devised an expansion plan for the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP).

This allowed the platoon to develop the future of their ASP and to leave their mark for ongoing operations. The ASP needed separate basic load ammunition holding area and separate enemy remnants of War area.

The plan, approved by the Multi-National Corps - Iraq, now doubles the ASP’s workload by increasing the allowed net explosive weight

from 299,000 pounds to 550,000 pounds. The construction is currently in progress, and scheduled to be completed by March 2009.

Leadership did not stop there; they also developed site improvements to the ASP and will receive a drainage system and other improvements to their force protection measures.

In April 2008, the 2nd Platoon, 24th Ord. Det. provided direct support to the Battle of Sadr City as the platoon effectively issued and shipped more than 600,000 rounds of ammunition

within a 30-minute period of execution. Their dedication and steadfast work ethic ensured that the Soldiers at the front of the battle were getting the logistics support they deserve.

In August, 3rd Platoon, 24th Ord. Det. received a mission change and moved to Camp Liberty to assist 2nd Plt., 24th Ord. Det. Upon leaving Al Taquaddum, the 3rd Plt., 24th Ord. Det. provided assistance in closing down the base. Within a 30-day period, the platoon moved more than \$30 million worth of ammunition. Their hard work contributed greatly to the completion of turning TQ over to the Iraqi Army.

Both platoon missions now provide logistical support and would not be successful without their unit’s maintenance section, hard work and technical expertise. The maintenance section maintains the platoon’s equipment and keeps the readiness rate always above 90 percent.

The 24th Ord. Det. has proven during this deployment the high standard of logistics (class V) ammunition support.

Their operational responsibilities for the procurement, receipt, safe issue and storage of more than 14,300 short tons of munitions valued in excess of \$325 million directly support various units operations throughout Iraq.

M88 Awakened: Joint heavy recovery Operations

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. LACY BRISCOE
503RD MAINT. CO., 398TH
CSSB, 10TH SBDE

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - An Airman prodding a jackal hole at Sather Airfield here looking for pesky creatures, came across something much more interesting.

Airman 1st Class Thomas Burns, a Spencerport, N.Y. native and member of the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, found an object protruding from the hole that turned out to be the tread of a T-72 Soviet-designed battle tank - still attached to the rest of the tank and completely buried in the ground.

He notified his supervisor and immediately realized the tread had the potential of causing a life-threatening situation if left in place.

The tread was considered a non-tangible piece of equipment that could catch the fu-

selage on the bottom of an airplane if forced to conduct an emergency landing on the airfield. The strong durability of the tread could (in theory) tear the belly of a plane during an emergency landing and lead to injuries of the passengers and crew.

The only solution was to remove the old tank.

As the excavation began, the Air Force used a back hoe to dig out around what was identified as a T-72 Soviet-designed battle tank. Realizing they needed additional reinforcements to pull the 41.5-ton piece of metal, the 503rd Maintenance Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade was sought for assistance.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Torres, a Brooklyn, N.Y. native, Sgt. Anthony Gomez, a native of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Spc. Austin Jayko, a White, Ga., native, a recovery team supported this unusual mission.

1st Lt. Lacy Briscoe, an Orem, Utah native, along with the Air Force commander, Maj. Jack Evans, of Maryville, Tenn., and



Soldiers from the 503rd Maintenance Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, assist the Air Force on Sather Airfield with the recovery of a T-72 Soviet-designed battle tank at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The 503rd Maint. Co. is currently deployed in support of Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

the 503rd Maint. Co. recovery crew examined the deteriorating tank.

The Air Force estimated the tank was hit in 2003 during the initial ground war and had deteriorated to the point there were no moving parts.

The recovery team traveled to Camp Liberty and awakened an M88 tracked recovery

vehicle from a deep sleep and drove it off Pad 21 for the first time since 2003 to rescue the Air Force from their unusual situation.

Torres, Gomez and Jayko hooked the tank to the boom and dug the spade several inches into the ground for additional leverage. While Air Force Tech Sgt. James Simmons, a native

of Highland Mills, N.Y., pushed with the bull dozer, Gomez powered the boom and pulled the corroded hunk of steel onto the low-boy trailer. The tank did not want to leave its home on the airfield and was dragging a piece of tread behind it deep into the ground. This made it very difficult to move onto the low-boy trailer. This heavy oxidized piece of steel would not cooperate, but Briscoe and the recovery team did not give up.

After several attempts and tricky obstacles, the tank was successfully loaded onto the trailer and with pure determination of the team: both the Airmen and Soldiers worked valiantly together to force the tank to sit on the trailer after an eight hour effort of assessing, tugging, pulling, and lifting the T-72.

The 503rd Maint. Co. recovery team support was crucial in assisting the 447th EOSS and successfully removing the potentially harmful piece of machinery from the airfield. Their effort will allow the airfield to continue a safe landing operation.

AZ ARNG MPAD Forward challenges

BY MAJ. CHRISTOPHER
A. EMMONS
123RD MPAD COMMANDER

BASRAH, Iraq -- When Phoenix, Ariz.'s 123rd Public Affairs Detachment deployed to Iraq in October 2008, the unit did not realize that being separated by several hundred miles would be one of the challenges they would face.

Through teamwork, varied experiences, and determination of three Soldiers, a forward element of the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Arizona Army National Guard, works diligently at Contingency Operating Base Basrah to ensure the public affairs mission of Multi-National Division - Southeast is accomplished successfully.

"It continues to be a pleasure to have the (MPAD) team here, and their contribution to our mission is significant and valued," said British Col. Dickie Winchester, chief of media op-

erations for the British army currently in command of MND-SE.

Winchester said the efforts of the MPAD's forward team have highlighted this Coalition forces work in a positive way and provided a direct information connection with Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

"Having access to DVIDS (digital video imagery and distribution system) gives us a gateway to both American and British audiences and is important for those audiences to understand the significance of why we are here," he said.

Capt. Jeffrey A. Johnson, a native of Reno, Nev., and the MPAD forward officer in charge, said it has been a rewarding experience building strong relationships with his British counterparts.

"The biggest challenge we have faced is developing a public affairs program that is separate from the British mission of influence," Johnson said.

The British media operations team is made up of 13-members from the British armed forces.

Johnson added in a joking manner that one of the most interesting challenges was learning to understand the nuances of the English language as well as the varying accents.

Winchester describes it best, "America and Britain are two nations separated by a common language."

Winchester spoke very highly of the work being performed by the MPAD forward team. A sto-

ry written by Johnson on a holiday charity play, "Pantomime" performed by British soldiers was applauded back home in London, he said.

Winchester said stories like Johnson's help subtly illustrate the improved conditions in the Basrah area.

Johnson's previous public affairs experience and filling the public affairs officer position in the 123rd MPAD, offered him

the opportunity to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Johnson is a member of the Nevada Army National Guard. His last duty assignment was commander of the 106th Public Affairs Detachment based in Stead, Nev.

Other Arizona ARNG Soldiers working with Johnson are Staff Sgt. Aaron C. Thacker, public affairs operations NCO and native of Tempe, Ariz. and Sgt. Lorne W. Neff, video broadcaster and native of Tucson, Ariz.

Thacker has eight years of experience as an Army journalist; five of those years were spent on active duty and the remaining as a Guard member. While on active duty, one of his public affairs assignments was chief editor of the Fort Bliss Monitor newspaper at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Neff was a video broadcaster on active duty for five years prior to joining the National Guard. He deployed with the 123rd MPAD in 2004 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and was assigned in Qatar as the Central Command forward media relations.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karah Cohen

Staff Sgt. Aaron C. Thacker, British army Lt. Col. Dickie A. Winchester, Capt. Jeffrey A. Johnson, and Sgt. Lorne W. Neff stand outside the Multi-National Division-Southeast Headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Basrah, Iraq, Jan. 14.


LOYALTY

*Bear true faith and allegiance to
the U.S. Constitution, the Army,
your unit and other Soldiers.*

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

ARMY
VALUES

CALL TO DUTY
SOLDIERS ON THE MOVE


U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG

JBB Religious Service Schedule

PROTESTANT

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel
0930 Provider Chapel
1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1100 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel
1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 1100 MWR East building
1200 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1230 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
1900 Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 0900 MWR East building
1030 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
1400 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)
1900 Freedom Chapel (West side)
Wednesday 2000 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

LITURGICAL

Sunday 1500 Gilbert Chapel (H-6)

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 0900 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 1530 Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)

Sunday 1300 Provider Chapel
1530 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1900 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Saturday 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
(Sacrament of Reconciliation Sat 1600 or by appointment)

Sunday 2000 Freedom Chapel(West side)
0830 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
1100 Provider Chapel
1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel
Thursday 1100 Air Force Hospital Chapel

Mon, Wed, Fri 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
Mon - Fri 1130 555th Eng. Bde. Bldg 7200

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
Saturday 0930 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)
1700 Gilbert Mem. Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday 1230 Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 1900 The Shack
Saturday 1900 The Shack

GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 0900 Provider Annex

For more information, call

Gilbert Chapel: 433-7703
Provider Chapel: 433-2430
Freedom Chapel: 443-6303
AF Hospital Chapel: 443-2547/2546

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.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey:
Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 8-10 p.m

Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Level: Very Hard

Last weeks answers

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

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



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 2/18/08
Michigan State @ Purdue, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Buffalo Sabres @ Toronto Maple Leafs, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Kentucky @ Vanderbilt, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
Atlanta Hawks @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Michigan State @ Purdue, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Maryland @ Clemson, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 2/19/09
New York Islanders @ New York Rangers, Live 3 p.m. AFN/xtra
Orlando Magic @ New Orleans Hornets, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Los Angeles Kings @ Anaheim Ducks, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Lakers @ Golden State Warriors, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Penn State @ Illinois, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Providence @ Louisville, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
New Jersey Nets @ Dallas Mavericks, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 2/20/09
San Antonio Spurs @ Detroit Pistons, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Boston Celtics @ Utah Jazz, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Thursday Night Showcase: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Thursday Night Showcase: Teams TBD, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
Tour of California: Stage 5 - Visalia to Paso Robles, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
Washington @ UCLA, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 2/21/09
Colorado Avalanche @ Washington Capitals, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Anaheim Ducks @ Detroit Red Wings, Live 3:30 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
Dallas Mavericks @ Houston Rockets, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Atlanta Hawks @ Portland Trail Blazers, Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Orleans Hornets @ Los Angeles Lakers, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Denver Nuggets @ Chicago Bulls, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Army @ Navy, Live 9 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Tennessee @ Kentucky, Live 9 p.m. AFN/xtra
Marquette @ Georgetown, Live 10 p.m. AFN/sports
Washington State @ UCLA, Live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra
North Carolina @ Maryland, Live 11:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 2/22/09
Memphis @ UTEP, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
California @ Oregon State, Live 1 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas A&M @ Texas Tech, Live 2 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
UFC 95 Countdown, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/xtra
Florida State @ Virginia Tech, Live 4 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Oklahoma @ Texas, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
UFC 95: Sanchez vs Stevenson (O2 Arena, London, England), Live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
Butler @ Davidson, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Chicago Blackhawks @ Dallas Stars, Tape Delayed 8:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tour of California: Stage 7 - Santa Clarita to Pasadena, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Philadelphia 76er's @ Miami Heat, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/xtra
Villanova @ Syracuse, Tape Delayed 9:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
Boston Celtics @ Phoenix Suns, Live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 2/23/09
Miami Heat @ Orlando Magic, Live 1:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Detroit Pistons @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 4 a.m. AFN/sports
Arizona @ Arizona St., Live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
UFC 95: Sanchez vs Stevenson (O2 Arena, London, England), Tape Delayed 6 p.m. AFN/xtra
Wake Forest @ Duke, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 2/24/09
Louisville @ Georgetown, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
San Jose Sharks @ Dallas Stars, Live 4 AFN/xtra
Kansas @ Oklahoma, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
Louisville @ Georgetown, Tape Delayed 11 a.m. AFN/sports
Kansas @ Oklahoma, Tape Delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
Atlanta Hawks @ Utah Jazz, Tape Delayed 5 p.m. AFN/sports
Boston Celtics @ Denver Nuggets, Tape Delayed 9 p.m. AFN/sports

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.

Wyoming

- All new buildings that cost over \$100,000 to build must have 1 percent of funds spent on art work for the building.
- Junk dealers may not make any business transactions with drunk persons.

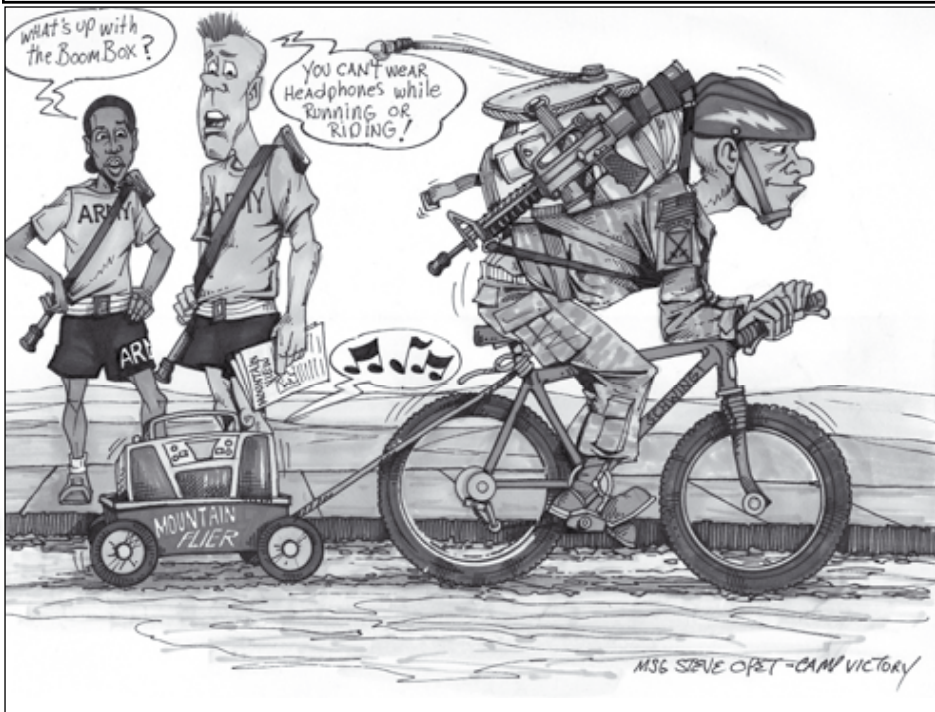
New Jersey

- Drivers must warn those who they pass on highways before they do so.
- It is illegal to wear a bullet-proof vest while committing a murder.
- One must yield a phone line to a person if it is an emergency.

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Valentines Day Shout Outs!



Happy Valentines Day!

To my wife Donna and daughter Gabrielle,
I miss you both. I can't wait for us to all grow and
mature as a family. I know Daddy is away from home
a lot, but I just want to tell the two of you that every-
thing I do, and what I'm capable of doing, is because
of you. You two are my drive and determination in
all facets of life.

Spc. Byron Miller
B Co., 16th STB, 16 Sust. Bde
COB Q-West



Pfc. Robert Holcombe,
Love you, miss you,
need you.

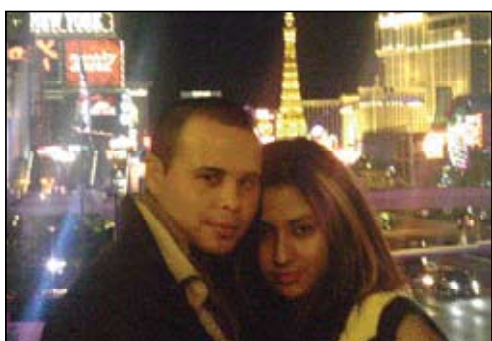
I love you more than all
the stars in the sky.
I love you more as each
moment passes us by.
I love you more with ev-
ery breath I take.
I love you more with
each promise we make
Happy Valentines Day!
Love always,
your wife

To my parents Wanda White and Hurley Miller,
Thanks for raising me to be the man that I am today.
Parents don't hear this enough, but I'm proud of you
both, and I'm proud to be your son.

Spc. Byron Miller
B Co., 16th STB, 16 Sust. Bde
COB Q-West



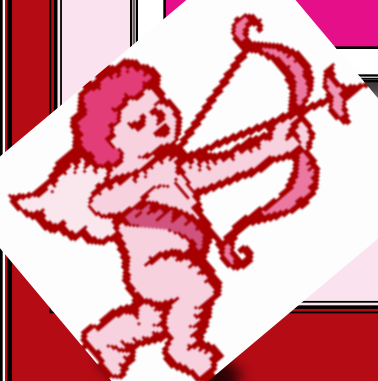
Happy Valentines, SFC Jeff Bridges.



Pvt. Francisco Osorio and his
wife Zyanya,
699th Maintenance Company,
1st Brigade Support Battalion

Maj. Trey Rhodes, 3d ESC G6
Happy Valentine's Day honey from Elizabethtown,
Kentucky!!
We Miss You and send lots of Love, Hugs, and Prayers.
We can't wait for R & R to see you and do fun things
together again.
We are so proud of You and all you do!!
Stay safe.

We Love You,
Your wife Theresa,
your son Carson and daughter Lily





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SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Wednesday, February 18

5 p.m. Yes Man

8 p.m. Marley and Me

Thursday, February 19

5 p.m. Marley and Me

8 p.m. Valkrie

Friday, February 20

LIVE CONCERT

Saturday, February 21

2 p.m. The Spirit

5 p.m. Friday the 13th

8 p.m. The Unborn

Sunday, February 22

2 p.m. Friday the 13th

5 p.m. Doubt

8 p.m. The Spirit

Monday, February 23

5 p.m. The Unborn

8 p.m. Friday the 13th

Tuesday, February 24

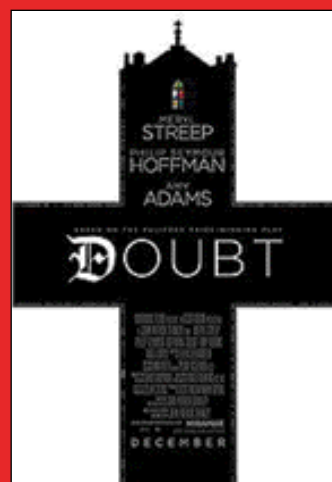
5 p.m. The Spirit

8 p.m. Doubt



The Spirit

The Spirit is a 2008 American comic book adaptation, written and directed by Frank Miller and starring Gabriel Macht, Samuel L. Jackson, Sarah Paulson, Scarlett Johansson, and Eva Mendes. The film is based on the newspaper comic strip The Spirit by Will Eisner. Batfilm, OddLot, and Lionsgate produced the film.



Doubt

Doubt is a 2008 film adaptation of the John Patrick Shanley stage play Doubt: A Parable. Written and directed by Shanley and produced by Scott Rudin, the film stars Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis. It premiered on Oct. 30 at the AFI Fest before being distributed by Miramax Films in limited release on December 12, 2008 and in wide release on Dec. 25.

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner

Army Pfc. Toby Barnes from Cornelia, Ga., of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division talks to two Iraqi girls during a joint patrol with Iraqi police to conduct post election surveys in Al Iman, Iraq, on Feb. 3.



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

Khalid Hasam prepares khubz for the Souq at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Jan 24. Hasam prepared hundreds of khubz by rolling the dough out like a pizza dough then putting it on a round rock and slapped on to the inside wall of the large round stone oven. The impact of the slapping action causes the dough to stick to the wall of the traditional oven, where it remains until it is bubbling and brown and cooked through.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Heidi Davis

The Tactical Response Team, which is the latest addition to Basrah's Special Weapons and Tactics, demonstrate their capability to capture criminals attempting to use Iraq's waterways. This new team provides more flexibility in combating criminals on land and on water because of the special training the cadre received in maritime and urban-strike operations. The team used the crowd gathered for a city-wide celebration as an opportunity to demonstrate their skills to the public. The demonstration reiterated their ability to add to the safety and security of all Iraqis, instilled confidence in their ability to serve the community and deterred would-be law breakers as provincial elections approached.




U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class James Wagner

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conduct post election survey with Iraqi voters at a market in Mahawil, Iraq, on Feb. 5.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Estonia ends Iraq mission

 BAGHDAD – Due to the increased security and stability in Iraq, the Republic of Estonia has transitioned its forces from Coalition operations to the NATO training mission in Iraq. Multi-National Corps – Iraq held an end of mission ceremony for the forces of Estonia in the Coalition at the Joint Visitor Bureau on Camp Victory Feb. 7.

“The nation of Estonia began its mission in Iraq in June 2003,” said Marine Maj. Gen. Paul Lefebvre, deputy commanding general, MNC-I. “Since that time, they have rotated forces ten times in direct support of Coalition operations.” Estonia performed many security operations to help provide the people of Iraq a safe and secure environment.

“Since 2003, they have been involved in 350 operations and 2,300 patrols,” Lefebvre said. “This diligence resulted in the discovery of several hundred caches and the confiscation of over 1,000 small arms and rocket propelled grenades, more than three tons of pure explosives and thousands of rounds of ammunition.”

The efforts made by the Estonian contingents helped bring peace and democracy to the region of Iraq under their supervision.

“We recognize and honor what you gave Iraq,” said Abdul Qader Mohammad Jassim, Minister of Defense, Republic of Iraq. “What you gave is security. Last elections there were 300 attacks with 150 of those being effective. This election, there were only 11 and of those only two were effective. We will always remember the sacrifices the Estonians made for us.”


Estonia voiced its continued commitment to the Coalition with a visit from the Estonian Minister of Defense, Jaak Aaviksoo.

“International support is of fundamental importance,” Aaviksoo said. “What is equally important is that we continue to cooperate despite that our mission with Multi-National Force is over.”

Estonia will continue maintaining officers in the NATO training mission in Iraq.

Estonia also has forces in southern Afghanistan.

IA leaders meet with 2nd BCT counterparts

 FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – Iraqi and American Soldiers intermingle in a sea of different uniforms. Translators move fluidly within the crowd, going from one group to the next. The Iraqis explain their unique situations to their American counterparts using hand gestures; the Americans nod eagerly in understanding. A signal is given and the crowd starts to move toward three long tables where each Iraqi Soldier sits next to his U.S. partner.

This meeting at K-1, a military base in Kirkuk Province, on Feb. 5 was an opportunity for Iraqi Army officers from the 12th IA Division to converse with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers with whom they will be working over the next year.

This was the first opportunity for many of the 2nd BCT Soldiers and IA officers to meet one another.

“Our purpose is to be here with you, enabling your efforts,” said Maj. Christopher Norrie, S-3, 2nd BCT. “We are very excited about working with you.” “The 12th IA Division is in the lead in this area,” said Norrie to the group of IA leaders.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Ameer, the division commander for 12th IA Division, sitting beside Col. Ryan Gonsalves,

commander, 2nd BCT, emphasized the importance of having strong lines of communication between the IA and Coalition forces.

“There is one essential task and that is communication,” said Norrie, emphasizing the two commanders’ points.


“The key to all of this is communication; we are available 24 hours a day to answer questions and to help enable your efforts in the region,” said Norrie.

For the Iraqis, this meeting was chance to outline what help they may need in this region.

“It is very important to meet each other and understand each other’s problems,” said Lt. Col. Khalil Al-Zawbai, public affairs officer, 12th IA Div.

“The Kirkuk region is special,” said Khalil. “We have different ethnicities and languages, and it is important to understand this when planning for the future. Meetings like this help us figure out how we can give a helping hand to one another.”

Iraqi Army provides security for road improvement project

 ALBU HASSAN, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers provided security while Soldiers of A Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, performed much needed maintenance on an Iraqi road outside of Albu Hassan Feb. 3.

The road is a shortcut for Iraqi citizens to travel from various villages to bigger cities like al-Hillah and Karbala.

The 9th Eng. Bn. coordinated the project and contacted the IA to provide security for U.S. Soldiers on the ground.

IA Soldiers secured the surrounding area while Cpl. Bracy L. Bahm, a heavy construction equipment operator from Company A, filled in holes, graded mud and smoothed out the road with a D7 Dozer.

“The IA know what they are doing, and they are always monitoring their sectors,” said Bahm. “This is my second mission with the IA, and I trust them to protect me while I am working out here.” The road is located next to a heavily-used railroad track, which is potentially dangerous for the citizens who travel along the route.

“Many of the bad areas on the road forced local nationals to walk around leading them close to the dan-

gerous rail road tracks,” said Bahm. “The Iraqi citizens are now able to walk back and forth to the villages and cities while they maintain a safe distance from the railroad tracks.”


The road also provides an easier route to the various markets within the province, which encourages economic activity.

“Citizens can bring their goods to the markets using this road, rather than taking the long drive around other cities and towns,” said Sheik Abas Sabur al-Sultani, a student at the Democratic Religious University in al-Hillah. “Approximately two million Shiite citizens will also utilize this route for the upcoming Arba’een pilgrimage.”

The improvements were completed and all the Soldiers safely left the area. Iraqi pedestrians and motorists started using the freshly graded road to travel between the towns and cities immediately.

“It may not seem like much,” said Bahm, “but we fixed three miles on this road and provided an easier means of travel for the Iraqi citizens.”

Quba facilities to receive improvements

 TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces, in conjunction with 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – North, are working together to make Quba, Iraq, a safer place and to restore essential services to the region.

The Quba Imam Boy’s school is scheduled to be renovated within the upcoming weeks. Currently, the school remains a danger to students living in the area, as the building is currently structurally unsafe.

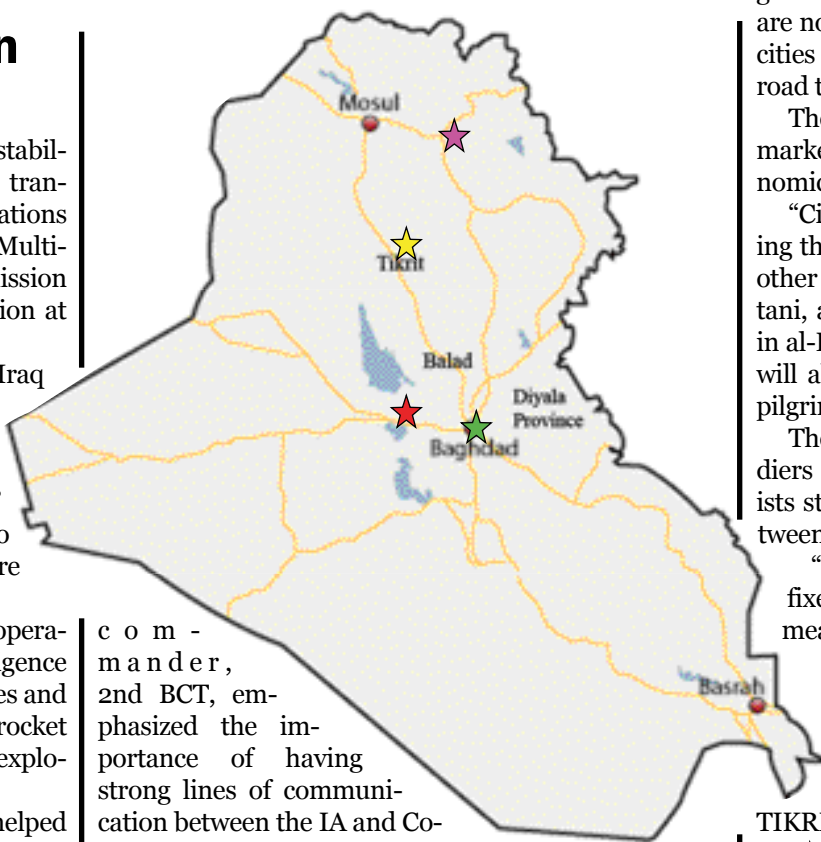
To facilitate the reconstruction of the schoolhouse, ISF and U.S. forces have contracted several renovations to take place in the near future, starting with the addition of clean running water and procedures to make the site structurally safe for both students and teachers.

“Right now this school is in pretty bad shape,” said Capt. Jeremiah Hurley, commander, Company Charlie, 1st Bn, 24th Inf. Reg. “There’s a lot of water damage, cracks in the ceilings and the walls, cracks in the roofs. So our first priority is to get these the cracks filled to prevent further water damage, repaint the school – just general refurbishments so the kids can have somewhere to go to school.”

The first step in reopening the school is to check the overall structure and appearance of the school.

“We wanted to go out and make sure there was a proper infrastructure in place and that there are seats to sit in for the kids,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Smith, a squad leader with Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 1st Bn, 24th Inf. Reg.

“I noticed there wasn’t any running water at the school, but that’s why we’re out here – to make sure these things get taken care of,” said Smith. “The standards that we as Americans have compared to the Iraqis are completely different. It is not for me to dictate how they should keep up their school because it’s not something we are accustomed too. But what we can do for the school we will.” The Imam boys school is not the only project ISF and U.S. forces are currently working on. “I have a couple big water projects as well,” Hurley stated. “It’s really the lasting project that will benefit the area long-term, because some of these towns do not have water. This project will consist of setting up water pumps to pump water from the canal, water purification, because it’s also their sewage canal, and distribution to other locations.” Working together, ISF and U.S. forces are on a mission to ensure structures in Quba are up to standard and in working order.

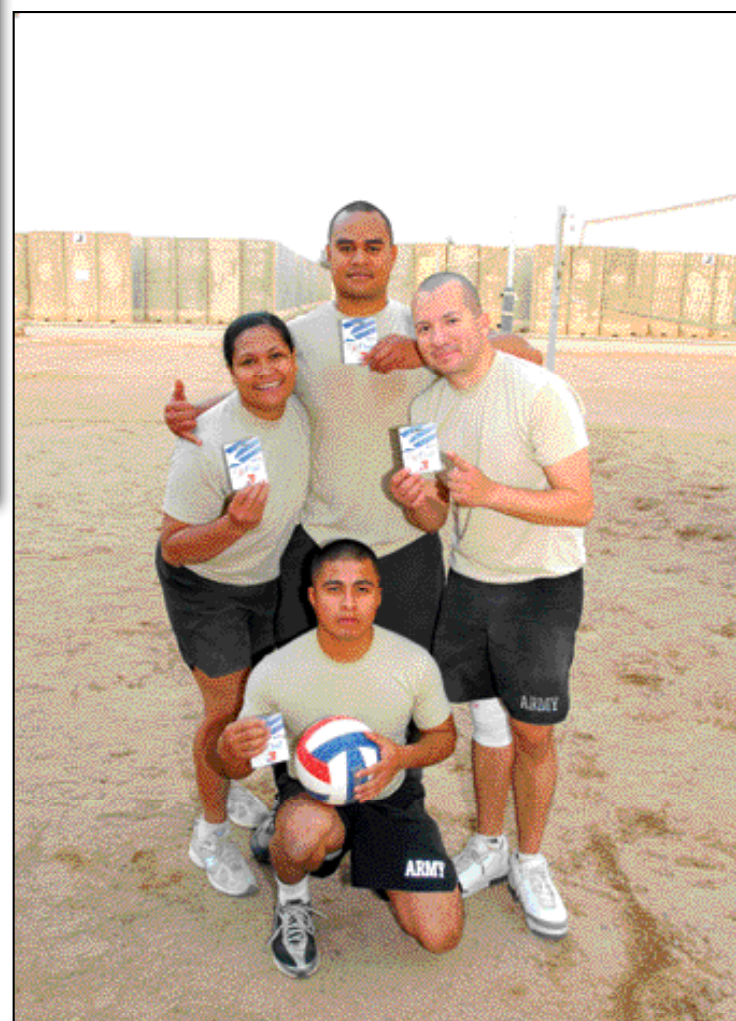


Sustaining the Line



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samuel Trokey

Pvt. Carissa Peters, a Shawano, Wis. native, and a power generator equipment repairer assigned to the 62nd Quartermaster Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, had an opportunity to spend some time with her cousin, Sgt. Jerry Waukau, a native of Menominee Indian Reservation, Wis., who was deployed to Forward Operation Base Falcon with Co. E, FSC, 94th BSB. Peters said, "in the midst of war, reuniting with a loved one is a welcome relief, I was very sad to see him go." Peters along with the other Soldiers of the 62nd Quartermaster Company are currently serving a 15 month tour of duty in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Lee

Members of the 304th Sust. Bde., "Earthquake 1" volleyball team shows their prizes after winning the Army vs. Air Force Volleyball Tournament. The tournament consisted of five Army and Air Force teams. The 304th Sust. Bde. Soldiers def. Air Force 21-18.



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

Spc. David Melanz, motor transportation operator, 353rd Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Justine Heimer, squad leader, 353rd Transportation Co., take time out of their Sunday to run down Main Street at Contingency Operating Base Q-West Jan. 18. "I run to live," said Heimer. "I think it's important to set a good example for my troops."



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

Soldiers from the 497th Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, take advantage of some down time with an impromptu game of touch football at Contingency Operating Base Q-West Jan. 18.