



THE Q-WEST Knight

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Personal Security Team swings in, helps local Iraqi School

By Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
16th SB Public Affairs

JADDILAH SOFLIH, Iraq – A group of hardened combat veterans from the 16th Sustainment Brigade put a lighter touch on their normal duties here, Dec. 17.

Soldiers from the Personal Security Team, Bravo Co, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., delivered a brand new swing set to the Jaddilah Soflih Elementary School.

Three Soldiers from the PST spent two days building the swing set. The idea came from one of the Soldiers who wanted to do something outside his normal vehicle commander duties.

“We did it for the kids,” said Sgt. Nicholas Nipitella, vehicle commander, PST. “They don’t have much and we’ll do anything we can do to put a smile on their faces for a little bit.”

One child’s father said it was a kind gesture from the US Army.

“We thank you very much,” said Hussin Ismml. “We thank the Coalition forces and will do anything we can to help you.”

All the kids rushed to the swing set once it was in place, each one wanting a turn on the school’s new toy.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw

Soldiers from the Personal Security Team, Bravo Co, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, unload a new swing set they built for the Jaddilah Soflih Elementary School in Jaddilah Soflih, Iraq, Dec. 17

“It makes me feel good,” said Nipitella as he watched the children swing. “It puts a smile on my face like it does theirs.”

One Iraqi girl, a four-year old named Maehsen, summed up the good deed.

“I love it.”

The roughly 4,000 Soldiers of the 16th Sust. Bde., based out of contingency operating base Q-West, conduct sustainment operations and logistical partnerships with Iraqi units across northern Iraq in support of Multi-National Division North.



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IN THIS ISSUE



Season's Greetings to all 16th Sustainment Brigade Knight Warriors, families and friends! Christmas is the season of hope, and although the majority of us are separated from our loved ones, the holiday season brings the hope of seasons to come where families can spend time together.

As we prepare to transition to what we anticipate to be a busy 2009, I'd like to recognize some of the brigade's major accomplishments of 2008.

The January 2008 field training exercise (FTX), and our support of the 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's mission readiness exercise (MRX) at Hohenfels Training Area (HTA), Germany, was the first time the 16th SB headquarters and subordinates were certified in a "deployed" environment, separately from a brigade combat formation.

This was a significant, historical training event for us, the 21st Theater Sustainment Command and the U.S. Army Europe.

The 10-day leader recon with our predecessors followed shortly thereafter. It paid huge dividends for our newly formed brigade staff and command teams. We've come a long way operationally since that January 2008 FTX. Even our 16th SB MRX at Fort Campbell, Ken., which was a monumentally successful training exercise and deployment certification event, pales in comparison to how the brigade is functioning currently here at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Q-West.

Our April brigade FTX and the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion MRX at HTA gave us an opportunity to further refine how we operate as a brigade, and to train new personnel who arrived after our

Fort Campbell exercise.

We followed up our three exercises with the adventure of loading and shipping the equipment that we would need to accomplish our mission at Q-West, and then it was time for block leave, and our deployment ceremony.

Our actual deployment from the mild temperatures of Bamberg, Germany, to the scorching 125-degree temperatures of Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in July 2008, proved to be quite a shock to our collective system! We were able to acclimate, grit our teeth and safely complete all of our required training before loading the planes bound for COB Q-West. The "right seat ride," "left seat ride," "relief in place," process which was a combined effort between the 3rd Sustainment Brigade from Fort Stewart, Ga., and the Knights of the 16th SB, was a challenging time for the brigade as we took over the reins of the busiest sustainment brigade in Iraq.

We conducted our transition of authority (TOA) ceremony on Aug. 9, 2008, and haven't looked back since! The holiday season has been made easier as we are blessed to have much of our home-station team here with us as the 391st CSSB, C Det 106th Finance Detachment, 574th Quartermaster Company, and 18th CSSB are all part of the deployed 16th Sustainment Brigade family here in northern Iraq.

We begin 2009 with a new Strategic Framework Agreement and Security Agreement with the government of Iraq which will require us to modify how we operate here in Iraq.

We will see a transition of U.S. presidential power from President George W. Bush

to President Barack Obama. We will then support the Iraqis with their provincial elections in the end of January 2009. We hope to see a large turnout for the Iraqi elections like we saw for the U.S. elections back in November 2008.

Later in the spring of 2009 we hope to transition some of the provinces of northern Iraq from Coalition force control to Iraqi provincial governmental control.

Part of our 2009 transition plan is to increasingly help the Iraqi's with their logistics units. We will help open two new Iraqi military bases this spring, and we will have 16th SB Soldiers on those bases helping the Iraqi Army become more self-sufficient and self-sustaining. Upon the completion of this project in May 2009, we will then help transition out our 391st CSSB with a new CSSB from Fort Bragg, N.C. The 18th CSSB will transition out two months later, and shortly thereafter, the 16th SB headquarters and the 16th STB will transition with a Sustainment Brigade from Fort Bragg. We look forward to the hope of what 2009 brings not only to the families of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, but also to the families of Iraq as well. As always we appreciate your steadfast support for our Soldiers as we support the mission and the people of Iraq.

In closing, "Leadership means setting an example. When you find yourself in a position of leadership, people follow your every move." – Lee Iacocca from Ultimate Leadership by John C. Maxwell. Happy Holidays and continued God Speed.

Knights Pride!

Letters to the Editor!

If you have suggestions, comments or complaints, send them to adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil and your comments and suggestions might appear in the next edition of The Q-West Knight!

Logisticians work with local village leaders, sustain Iraq



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade and local Iraqi community leader Doctor Mohammed, known as just "Doc Mo," discuss the security situation in the community and at Contingency Operating Base Q-West in the village of Jaddilah Soflih, Iraq, Dec 17.

By Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
16th SB Public Affairs

JADDILIAH SOFLIH, Iraq – Logisticians met with local Iraqi leaders in order to strengthen the relationship between contingency operating base Q-West and the local villages here, Dec 17.

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, command sergeant major, 16th Sust. Bde. met with community leader Doctor Mohammed, known as just "Doc Mo," and discussed the security situation in the community and at COB Q-West.

"Establishing and maintaining a vibrant relationship with the local Iraqi leadership is a critical component to the success of COB Q-West operations and more importantly gets at the core of the 16th Sustainment Brigade's Multi-National Division-North mission: fostering a secure, stable and self reliant Iraq," said Pitts.

Dr. Mohammed wanted to meet with the leaders from the 16th Sust. Bde. at his house to share in a custom.

"When you eat together, in Arab culture, it means that you will not stab someone in the back," said Dr. Mohammed. "This is an opportunity to share our culture and build on our relationship with the west."

Dr. Mohammed realizes his importance to the coalition forces.

"Without the help of the locals, it would be tough to know who the insurgents are."

During the visit, Soldiers from the personal security detail, Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., gave the villages elementary school a new swing set.

"We did it for the kids," said Sgt. Nicholas Nipitella, vehicle commander, PST. "They don't have much and we'll do anything we can do to put a smile on their face for a little bit."

One of children's' fathers said it was a kind gesture from the US Army.

"We thank you very much," said Hussin Ismml. "We thank the coalition forces and will do anything we can to help you."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
Children from the Jaddilah Soflih Elementary School in Jaddilah Soflih play on their new swing set.



First, I want to congratulate the winners of the New Year's Eve "Midnight Madness Fun Run" here. Congratulations to the top three male finishers, Sgt. Corey Duever, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Don Duell and Maj. Michael Pierce, as well as the top three female finishers, Rebecca Messenger, Cassandra Anthill and Stacy Novack. Also, congratulations to everyone who participated and began the New Year on a positive footing.

I'd also like to thank everyone that worked to ensure that Soldiers had a memorable holiday season.

Now that the holidays are behind us, it

is time to refocus our attention on the mission ahead. Leaders at all levels must be engaged with their Soldiers, engaged in their training, engaged in their professional development, engaged in their work, and even in their lives. Every Soldier must be set up for success.

Training never stops. When units get lackadaisical, they gamble with their Soldiers' lives. Ranges, CLS, combatives, STX lanes — take advantage of all the training opportunities here.

We have many new units joining us here at Q-West. I would like to see us partnering with new units for their first sixty days.

We all have lessons-learned to share, and we have all experienced pitfalls that we weren't prepared for.

Safety is crucial. We can't afford mistakes. Remember that everyone is a safety officer, and if you see an unsafe act, or a hazard, speak out. We need every Soldier to stay engaged in Safety so

we can accomplish our mission in getting all the HOOAHs home safe and sound.

From the 16th Sustainment Brigade command team, we'd like to congratulate everyone on making 2008 an incredibly successful year, and to wish everyone a *Happy New Year*.



Iraqi Army Soldiers build relationships with delivery to small village

By Capt. Jacqueline Baird

81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion

KHADAN, Iraq –Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 7th Brigade, accompanied by their Coalition partners, built relationships with children and villagers here during a special mission Dec 20.

Sustainers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade from Everett, Wash., watched as Iraqi Soldiers handed out toys and blankets to the local children of the village.

“This mission provided an opportunity for the soldiers of the IA to demonstrate a commitment to the lives of the local people,” said Lt. Col. Ken Garrison, commander, 81st BSTB. “The villages were selected by the IA Commanders based on their assessment of the need. These villages are seldom visited, and the people clearly appreciated the visit by their Soldiers.”



Photo by Capt. Jacqueline Baird

(Above)
Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 7th Brigade, unload a truck carrying school supplies, toys and blankets. The Soldiers spent time in the village building relationships with the community as well as their Coalition partners from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.



Photo by Capt. Jacqueline Baird

(Right)
An Iraqi Army commander hands out toys to the children of Khadan Village. Washington Guardsmen accompanied Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 7th Brigade of the Iraqi Army to a local village here, Dec 20. The Guardsmen from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade out of Everett, Wash watched as Iraqi Soldiers handed out toys and blankets to the local children of the village.

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Commander, 16th SB

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer
Command Sergeant Major, 16th SB

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HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

Healers on the Battlefield

By Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Hardiek
NCOIC Surgeon Cell, Q-West

The Combat Lifesaver program is an essential "combat multiplier" in today's non-linear battle field.

The program was developed to train non-medical Soldiers to perform lifesaving steps beyond self-aid or buddy-aid. This training becomes the selected Soldier's secondary mission, but in no way takes the place of the combat medic. The Combat Lifesaver Program has evolved over the years from "sticks and rags" type of medicine, to a more comprehensive, tactical emergency trauma care under extreme and often dangerous situations.

Today's combat lifesaver is highly skilled, learning pertinent life-saving medical skills such as tactical combat casualty care, managing a casualty's airway, treating pen-

etrating chest trauma, decompressing a tension pneumothorax, hemorrhage control, and initiating intravenous infusion, as well as performing needed casualty evacuation.

"These carefully chosen lifesaving skills provide the best intervention to the major preventable causes of death on today's battlefield..."

These carefully chosen lifesaving skills provide the best intervention to the major preventable causes of death on today's battle field, thus saving lives. According

to Army Regulation 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development, at least each squad, crew, or equivalent-sized deployable unit will have at least one member trained and certified as a combat lifesaver.

However, today's commanders clearly understand the significant role of combat lifesaver and have often increased this ratio to upwards of 90 percent. This kind of aggressive thinking has had a direct impact on getting wounded Soldiers the immediate medical care needed to save lives.

In conclusion, many times a Soldier is sent to a combat lifesaver course to obtain promotion points or to increase the number of combat life savers that can be utilized for range coverage. Although these are indeed important, they are completely overshadowed by the real purpose of the combat lifesaver, to save lives and "conserve the fighting strength."

CHAPLAIN'S THOUGHTS

Greetings from your Liberty Chapel

Staff Sgt. Thaddeus Emily
Chaplain Assistant, Q-West

The chapel has some exciting things going on this month. Want to read a book to your child and have them read along with you? This month we are starting are new "Video Storytime" for all parents out here. Come on by and pick a book, record yourself reading it and send it home to the family.

Don't have kids? That's OK. We also offer "A day in the life of a Soldier." One of our staff members will make a video of where you live, eat, and work (security allowing of course); your friends; and what you do for fun. This will allow those worried loved-ones to see what you do in sup-

port of your country. Just call and make an appointment and one of the helpful unit ministry team staff members will make the video for you.

The 16th Sustainment Brigade UMT is

"The 16th Sustainment Brigade UMT is now offering video-teleconference counseling."

now offering video-teleconference counseling. If you are having an issue with a loved one at home that requires counseling with a chaplain, we here at your Liberty Chapel

can make arrangements for you and your spouse to have the counseling together with our new VTC equipment.

Do you like to read? Your Liberty Chapel has a modest library (it is growing every day) of religious based fiction and non-fiction books, free for check out. The 16th Sust. Bde. UMT also offers a selection of free greeting cards and letter writing materials. We also offer a wide variety of other services, studies and programs to help meet your religious and spiritual needs.

Liberty Chapel is building L-27, next to the Knight's Feasting Hall. Contact number is 243-5489 or 827-6104. So come on down to your Liberty Chapel. We are here for you.

Infantry helps local man and opens the roadway



courtesy photo
Spc. Luis Valdivida (left) of Easy Co., 1-185th Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, assisted a local man with a wrecker recovery while Capt. Robert D'Andrea (right), commander, Easy Co., translated for the convoy commander and wrecker crew after coming across a broke down vehicle during a mission. The Soldiers towed the truck to a nearby service station and provided the driver with food and water for the evening. Since the vehicle was off the road, it could no longer impede other convoys from passing through.

By Sgt. Justin Cruz
Echo Co., 1-185 Armor

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from 1st platoon, Easy Co., 1-185 Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, assisted a local man with his broke down dump truck while on mission.

While on mission, the lead scout vehicle discovered a suspicious red dump truck blocking the number two lane.

During the investigation into the suspicious truck, the driver was discovered sleeping on the side of the road. No interpreter was available, so a Soldier from the patrol, who had a previous deployment with the Iraqi commandos and studied Arabic at UCLA, talked to the driver.

The driver, Hashem, said his vehicle battery was dead and another truck was towing him using the steel cable attached to the front of his truck. The truck's air brakes locked up and the cable broke leaving him stranded on the road. The other vehicle left him there.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Vaughn, convoy commander, Easy Co., 1-185 Armor, decided to tow the truck to a nearby service station and provided the driver with food and water for the evening. The wrecker operators assisted the driver with his brakes and towed the vehicle to a nearby service station.

Hashem is a father of four, two girls and two boys. He was on his way home at the time of the break down.

Since the vehicle was off the road, it could no longer impede other convoys from passing through.

'Team player' receives award for mechanical excellence

By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Mattingly
Bravo Co. 1-184th Infantry

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Pfc. Jerry McKeever, Bravo Co., 1-184th Infantry, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, earned the unit's first Maintenance Excellence award here, Dec. 12th.

The Bravo Co. command team gave Pfc. McKeever the award based on his motivation and initiative on performing preventive maintenance checks and service, and maintaining his platoon's vehicles combat ready at all times.

"He is constantly making sure vehicles are ready for quality control inspection and does not take any short cuts when it comes to PMCS," Sgt. 1st Class Rafael Rodriguez, maintenance non-commissioned officer in charge, Bravo Co. "Pfc. McKeever is self-motivated and an asset to his platoon and the mission."

McKeever earned the award for not only his technical ability, but his ability to help others.

"Ultimately, Pfc. McKeever received this award because he's a team player," said Capt. Peter Lewis, commander, Bravo Co. "Sure he knows a lot about cars and applies it to his job, but he helps his peers do a better job maintaining our combat platforms.



courtesy photo

That's what's important."

This is the first award of its kind presented by the command team while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bravo Co. plans to make this award a monthly event. The award is designed to recognize soldiers who go "above and beyond" their duties helping the unit's maintenance section.

LAW AND ORDER

Tax time...even in the desert

Spc. Ryan A. Frick
Paralegal, 16th STB

As we cross over into the New Year, tax day seems to loom ever larger. To compensate for being away from an installation tax center, deployed service members have several benefits in regards to filing taxes, from extensions of deadlines to deferral of payment.

Service that qualifies for an extension of deadlines, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, includes service in the Armed Forces in a combat zone, qualifying service outside of a combat zone, and service in a qualified hazardous duty area of deployment away from your permanent duty station in support of operations.

Full explanations of these terms can be

found on the IRS website, www.irs.gov, in Publication 3, "Armed Forces Tax Guide." The qualifying service member has an extension of 180 days from the last day of qualifying service, plus, the number of days that were left for the service member to take action with the IRS. For example, a service member who deployed to Iraq on 01 December 2007 would have a deadline extension of 180 days, plus 106 days – the number of days that were left to take action with the IRS.

Furthermore, there are additional benefits to deployed service members. A service member may qualify for a deferral of payment of owed income taxes if they are performing military service and that military service has materially affected the service member's ability to pay. If the service

member already has a payment plan with the IRS, such as an installment agreement, they can request a "referral of payment" in writing. If there is not a current payment plan, the service member must wait until they receive a notice asking for payment to request a deferral.

If a service member decides to file taxes while still in a combat zone, there are ways to accomplish this. If they are married filing jointly, the non-filing spouse must complete an IRS Form 2848 authorizing the filing of their return by their spouse.

A final excellent resource is www.militaryoncesource.com. Using this military portal gives the service member access to free electronic filing through H&R Block.

UCMJ actions pending for 16th SB Soldiers on Q-West, Habur Gate, Marez, Speicher and elsewhere

- During summary court-martial proceedings, a Soldier was found guilty of refusing to go to work, leave her CHU, or acknowledge orders from commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers. The Soldier received confinement at the Theater Confinement Facility for 28 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of failing to sign out on the unit locator board and not having a battle buddy. The Soldier received 8 days extra duty.

- A Soldier was found guilty of consuming alcohol in violation of General Order Number One. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private, which was suspended, and forfeited \$400.

- A Soldier was found guilty of negligently losing a targeting laser sight. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, which was suspended, and received 14 days extra duty.

- A Soldier was found guilty of speaking disrespectfully to a warrant officer and leaving without being dismissed. The Soldier received a written reprimand.

- A Soldier was found guilty of consuming alcohol in violation of GO 1. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, forfeited \$500 for two months and received restriction and extra duty for 30 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of being disrespectful in language to a NCO by stating, "I'm not signing that [expletive]" and I don't give a [expletive]." The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, forfeited \$417, which was suspended and received extra duty for 14 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of consuming alcohol in violation of GO 1. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private, which was suspended, forfeited \$500 for two months and received restriction and extra duty for 30 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of violating a battalion policy limiting CHU visitors. The Soldier received extra duty for 5 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of possessing and transferring sexually explicit material in violation of GO 1. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of sergeant, forfeited \$1,361 for

two months and received extra duty for 45 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer by stating, "You are no bigger man than me." The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, forfeited \$417, which was suspended, and received extra duty for 14 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of failing to go to her appointed place of duty four times, disobeying a commissioned officer, being disrespectful to a NCO by saying "[Expletive] you and get the [expletive] out of my face." The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private, received 45 days extra duty and forfeited \$673 which was suspended.

- A Soldier was found guilty being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer by stating, "[Expletive] [expletive] mother [expletive]" and failed to go to his appointed place of duty 4 times. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private, forfeited \$754 for two months and received extra duty for 45 days.

See UMCJ, page 10

Old Soldiers learn a new trade

By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Mattingly
Bravo Co. 1-184th Infantry

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from Bravo Co., 1-184th Infantry, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are preparing for convoy security missions in Northern Iraq. This is a new concept for the light infantry unit that is equipped to handle movement the old fashion way.

“It’s challenging, doing a mission we don’t normally train for back home in the States,” said Sgt. Jurell Snyder, battle sergeant, Bravo Co., 1-184th IN. “But it does make us better soldiers because we cross train in many different areas.”

This deployment marks the second time that Bravo Co. has been in Iraq. The first time the company conducted check point security in and around the International Zone.

“It’s ok, but I would rather be doing an infantryman’s job,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Schmehl, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Co. “It’s a challenge learning to prepare for a different type mission.”

“It has definitely helped my military career,” said Staff Sgt. Omar Tejada, assistant operations non-commissioned officer, Bravo Co. “It is more mental than physical.”

For many of the soldiers in the unit, this is a new mission. The unit is a traditional light infantry maneuver unit. In the past their training had consisted of dismounted combat patrols and dismounted combat operations.



Photo by Sgt. William Gospodnetich
Pfc. Mitchell Miller, gunner, Bravo Co., 1-184th Infantry, 16th Sustainment Brigade conducts final inspections on his vehicle during motor pool operations before moving to the staging area prior to a mission.

The company has rapidly adapted to the new mission, new equipment and new operational procedures. The unit is now currently conducting combat logistical patrols throughout Northern Iraq until the middle of next year.

Logisticians knock out combatives

By Sgt. 1st Class Adam V. Shaw
16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Eight Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade spent a week on the



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
Spc. Justin Tolleson, gunner, physical security team, Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, chokes out his opponent, Spc. Nikifor Banchoff, joint network node operator, B. Co., during combatives training at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Gym at Contingency Operating Base, Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 4.

mat learning how to clinch, grapple, and choke during combatives training at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here from Dec. 1 to Dec. 5.

“The purpose of this training is to instill the Warrior Ethos, on top of multiple other reasons this is important,” said Sgt. Travis McGruder, physical security team, Bravo Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde. “It provides a realistic understanding for Soldiers to understand how combatives fits into their duties and possible situations they could be faced with in combat.”

McGruder, a “level-4” combatant, was the head instructor for the training. The Pine Mountain, Ga., native was a “level-1” and “level-2” Army combatives instructor at Fort Benning, Ga.

“I first got into combatives in 2003 when I first arrived at Benning,” said McGruder. “The day I graduated level one, my unit was holding an open combatives tournament. My team brought home 2nd place that year, falling only to the Ranger battalion.”

He spent the next few years at Fort Benning earning his level 3 and 4 certifications before being assigned to the 16th Sustainment Brigade where he became part of the PST where he serves as the team’s hand to hand combatives instructor. However, he put together this training for the entire brigade to certify Soldiers as level one combatants.

“These students came a long way since the first day and you can tell that everyone gave 110 percent,” said McGruder. “Just look at their faces and check out their bruises. That goes to show that this is real training. Level one is a **See Combatives, page 11**

CAREER COUNSELOR

November Reenlistments

Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Wade
Career Counselor, COB Q-West

During the month of December the brigade accomplished its fiscal year mission in the first quarter. The new bonus change took place Dec. 31. It dropped in almost every area so Soldiers took advantage of it and reenlisted prior to the change. Over \$500,000 in bonuses was paid out during the month of December. We had the following Soldiers who reenlisted:

SFC FAVORS, SFC HARDIEK, SFC QUINOES,

SSG ESPINOZA, SSG SAMBOU, SSG PARRINO, SSG PLAMORE, SSG SANCHEZ,

SGT JIMENEZ, SGT MILLELSTAEDT, SGT NICHOLAS, SGT JUSAY, SGT YUHICO, SGT HUNTER, SGT EPPERSON, SGT NUMA, SGT VANDYKE, SGT MENDOZA, SGT HERNANDEZ, SGT TRAPPIER, SGT PICKETT, SGT LAMKINS, SGT BISHOP, SGT JOHN-SON, SGT AROCHO, SGT MACAR-

THUR, SGT CRUZ, SGT TOLDOYA,

SPC PEPLER, SPC CROBSY, SPC VALDERAMA, SPC BETHEA, SPC BARRETT, SPC COURTRIGHT, SPC CASTLE, SPC GONZALES, SPC CONKLIN, SPC TALBOT, SPC GOMEZ, SPC ELKINS, SPC STASIO, SPC HURST, SPC NIEDER, SPC WHETTEN, SPC BUSH, SPC BEARD, SPC MARTINEZ, SPC ESPADA, SPC SMITH, SPC MCKNIGHT, PFC PETERSON, PFC KALEOPA.

All of the Soldiers had different military occupational specialties, and reenlistments covered all of the options: needs of the Army, current station stabilization, Army retraining, overseas assignments, and Co-nus station of choice.

Please have your Soldiers visit the Career Counselor office today to see their options.

For More Information:

Web:
www.armyreenlistment.com

Location: Across from the S-1 shop of the 16th STB building.

SIPR number:
243-5092

Global:
arthur.wade@iraq.centcom.mil

Letters to the Editor!

We're always trying to improve our newsletter, and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Also, if you have any story ideas, let us know!

UCMJ actions pending, from page 8

- A Soldier was found guilty of being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer by ripping off his own rank and throwing it at the NCO and failing to go to his appointed place of duty 4 times. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, which was suspended, forfeited \$417, received extra duty for 14 days and an oral reprimand.
- A Soldier was found guilty of assaulting another Soldier by putting him in a chokehold. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private and forfeited \$352 both of which was suspended, and received extra duty for 14 days.
- A Soldier was found guilty of being disrespectful to a noncommissioned officer by

refusing to "At Ease," and saying "when the [expletive]..." The Soldier received 14 days extra duty.

- A Soldier was found guilty of consuming alcohol in violation of GO 1 and assault consummated by a battery by engaging in a fight. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private, which was suspended, forfeited \$225 for two months and received extra duty for 10 days.

- Two Soldiers were found guilty of consuming alcohol in violation of GO 1 and assault consummated by a battery by engaging in a fight. The Soldiers were reduced to the grade of private first class, which was suspended, forfeited \$225 for two months and received extra duty for 10 days.

- A Soldier was found guilty of failing to report for guard duty. The Soldier was reduced to the grade of private first class, which was suspended, forfeited \$454 and received restriction and extra duty for 14 days.

**BRIGADE JUDGE ADVOCATE'S
LEGAL SERVICES CENTER
HOURS OF OPERATION**

Monday	0900-1700	Tuesday	0900-1700
Wednesday	0900-1700	Thursday	1300-1700
Friday	0900-1700	Saturday	0900-1700

CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1330-1350
CLOSED ON SUNDAY

Powers of Attorney and Notarities handled on a walk in basis

Consultation with Attorney is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays*

*If you need to speak with an attorney regarding divorce/separation matters, you must come by the office one day prior to your appointment and retrieve reading material

Clients from remote bases will be seen on an as needed basis - Please inform the paralegal if you are from off the COB



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Multi-National Force-Iraq Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson takes notes as Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, sergeant major, brigade support operations, 16th Sustainment Brigade, talks about safety issues facing Soldiers in their living and work areas, during a battlefield circulation luncheon with senior non-commissioned officers at the Knight's Feasting Hall dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Q-West Dec. 6. Wilson heard concerns about electrical safety, vehicle shortages, promotions and other issues from enlisted leaders at the logistics base in northern Iraq.

Combatives, from page 9
foundation to build off of, it's the starting point."

Some Soldiers were apprehensive as to whether the training was right for them.

"I expected it to be hard and it was to a certain extent," said Pfc. Edward Yahn, driver, PST. "I thought my size would be an issue, but with patience, you can win regardless of how big or small you are."

The 140-pounder from North Anson, Maine, said that applying the fundamentals helped him overcome his size issue.

"Using good technique will make it so that you don't have to use as much strength," said Yahn. "You really just have to have a good head on your shoulder."

ders."

Other Soldiers came into the class with a different mentality.

"I came in just trying to overpower everyone," said six-foot-one, 190-pound, Pfc. Adam Lillo, joint network node operator, Bravo Co. "This class helped me with my techniques because I didn't really know what I was doing before."

The Eau Claire, Wis., native, who was named honor graduate for winning the class's combatives tournament, found that the training will serve as a useful tool in his military career.

"It helps with my physical conditioning for my physical training test," said Lillo. "It also gives you the ability to overcome the mind and body."



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Soldiers run, dance for the new year at Q-West

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-West, Iraq – Spc. Matthew Grossman, a 20-year-old native of Augusta, Ga., celebrated the New Year at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here by playing Guitar Hero with friends.

“You always miss home, but it’s been good, and I’ve made a couple of new friends,” said Grossman, a chaplain’s assistant, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “And it makes me feel like a rock star.”

Soldiers played video games, pool, ping pong, shuffle board, and they danced and spent time with friends to celebrate the New Year. MWR officials also held a raffle, and a 5-km midnight “fun run” on the flight line here.

“We had many volunteers that came forward to help for New Year’s Eve,” said Robert Garcia, MWR coordinator. “We wanted to make this day more important than any other day for Soldiers, to celebrate this occasion.”

For Spc. Michelle Denish, a 21-year-old native of Emerson, Mo., who met Grossman while playing Guitar Hero, the festivities were a way of getting out of her room.

“There’s nothing else to do,” said Denish, a heavy equipment transporter (HET) driver, 129th Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. “I had a hot coco, stayed up past midnight, that’s all I know.”

Denish said it was good to be out with other Soldiers, but it was hard for her to be away from her two-year-old son, Asher.



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Spc. Matthew Grossman, chaplain’s assistant, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and 20-year-old native of Augusta, Ga.; and Spc. Michelle Denish, heavy equipment transporter (HET) driver, 129th Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and 21-year-old native of Emerson, Mo., celebrated the New Year at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here by playing Guitar Hero with friends Dec. 31. “You always miss home, but it’s been good, and I’ve made a couple of new friends,” said Grossman. “And it makes me feel like a rock star.”



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Soldiers dance and play games, and spend time with friends to celebrate the New Year at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center at COB Q-West Dec. 31. MWR officials also held a raffle, and a 5-km midnight “fun run” on the flight line. “We had many volunteers that came forward to help for New Year’s Eve,” said Robert Garcia, MWR coordinator. “We wanted to make this day more important than any other day for Soldiers, to celebrate this occasion.”

Sgt. Christopher Copas, quartermaster chemical and equipment repair non-commissioned officer, 506th Quartermaster Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, spent his holiday playing darts with his Soldiers.

“Honestly, it’s not a bad base, but, of course, if I had my choice I’d be home with my wife,” said Copas, a 26-year-old native of Huber Heights, Ohio, who is on his third deployment. “I just wanted to hang out with my Soldiers and make sure they had a good time.”

For some Q-West Soldiers, the night was a reminder that their tour of duty in Iraq was almost over, and a time to reflect.

“The hardest part about being deployed on New Year’s Eve is not being with my wife and baby girl,” said Spc. Joseph Heath, forward observer, 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and 21-year-old native of Winona, Miss., who has spent two New Years’ at Q-West because of his unit’s 15-month deployment. “But we’re leaving soon. And there wasn’t a lot of combat going on, which means we’ll be going home with almost all of our guys.”

51st Trans Co. gets its bay doors



courtesy photo

Contractors install the new door on the 51st Trans. Co. maintenance platoon's work area.

Story By Capt. Matthew Davis
51st Trans Co., 30th CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — 51st Transportation Company, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, employs Iraqi Contractors for the installation of its motor pool doors, Dec. 18.

The 51st Motor Pool, home to the Maintenance Platoon, has long since lost its mainte-

nance bay doors. The building has been nothing more than a hollow 'tube' since the unit first arrived at Q-West, and has been ignored by all the harsh elements of desert life with the exception of direct rainfall. Maintenance Soldiers and Soldiers from the line platoons working in the bay were directly subject to the intense summer heat; sand and dust storms swept through at will. Heading into the winter months Soldiers had no way to contain the heat

Personal Security Team pins on Combat Action Badge



Photo by Spc. Erin Smith

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade, pins a Combat Action Badge on Sgt. 1st Class Michael "Latino Lover" Garcia, non-commissioned officer in charge, personal security team, B. Co, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde., during an awards ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Dec. 12. Garcia and his team were engaged by an improvised explosive device while on mission, Oct. 6.

from the heaters; cold rain and wind took the place of the sand and dust.

Doors were needed with urgency. After being held up in storage for months at an unknown location until after the Olympics in China, the doors finally arrived - leaving all involved scratching their heads about who would install them. It was then decided that Mustafa and Vahid with their team

of Iraqi contractors would come in to lend their knowledge and expertise to the job at hand. With their immeasurable skill and outstanding work ethics the doors were up within two days.

"It is a good thing," said Chief Warrant Officer James Inman, maintenance tech, 51st Trans. Co. "Now the Soldiers working [in the bay] can be as warm as I am in my office!"



Farewell To The 3/444th Postal Platoon Warriors

By 1st Lt. Lianna Scharff and Staff Sgt. Rene Williams
101st Human Resource Co.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Soldiers of 3/444 Postal Plt. recently transferred authority to the 4/18 Postal Plt. after completing an eight-month deployment supporting postal operations on Joint Base Balad, Forward Operating Bases Paliwoda & Grizly.

The 3/444th was recognized for their hard work and dedication during their award ceremony held on 2 December 2008.

Attached to the 101st HR Company, 3/444 Postal Soldiers were responsible for ensuring over 13,000,000lbs of mail safely arrived at its final destination. During their tenure over 15,000 absentee ballots combined were delivered or processed for return to the United States for counting. As they prepare to leave they will also see the ground breaking for a new East Side Post Office. Additionally they provided Soldiers for processing personnel in and out of the JBB PAX terminal as well as real time

casualty reporting at the JBB hospital.

3/444th Soldiers touched the lives of all personnel on JBB by providing outstanding Postal training to over 1,000 mail clerks and conducting unit mail room inspections for all units assigned to JBB.

"I am proud to have served with the 101st HR Company in its postal operations mission," said Sergeant 1st Class Kevin Johnson, platoon sergeant. "I am leaving with a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as knowing that I have positively affected the morale of thousands Soldiers on Joint Base Balad."

Another Soldier talked about her deployment experience as the contracting officer representative.

"It was a good learning experience in comparison to my last deployment. I was able to see as well as be a part of the mail process from the US to the Joint Military Mail Terminal and throughout MND-N," said Staff Sgt. Tracy Snow, postal operations. "I am also proud to have been a part of the life support for FOB Paliwoda, Grizly, Normandy and Caldwell by sending the



courtesy photo

Platoon Leader, 1LT Jesse Rosser (left) and Platoon Sergeant Sgt. First Class Kevin Johnson (right) show off their awards and 101st Screaming Eagle plaques for their after the 3/444 Postal Platoons awards ceremony.

necessary supplies as well as coordinating with the Red Cross in getting the Soldiers Starbucks coffee and other amenities that were not available at their location. Overall, my ability to help service members as well as all DoD/DA civilians in reception of their organizations mail and seeing the effect that it had on their morale made my job worthwhile."

Soldiers share Christmas with Iraqi children in border town



Photo by Spc. Sean Dillard

2nd Lt. Nathan Lewis, executive officer, Logistics Task Force Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, gives a slinky to a young Iraqi boy in Zakho, Iraq, Dec. 27. "I'm just happy to give back to a community of people that have given so much to us," said Lewis, a 23-year-old native of Burke, Va.

See Christmas, page 16

Logistics Soldiers train Iraqis to warehouse, track parts

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
16th SB Public Affairs

AL KASIK, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Josue Martinez doesn't mind serving at this Iraqi Army base, far from his Army peers at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Martinez, logistics advisor non-commissioned officer, Al Kasik Logistical Training Assistance Team, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, is one of several sustainment Soldiers living at Al Kasik and working with logistics counterparts in the Iraqi Army.

"I volunteered for this," Martinez said. "I've built warehouses before. Now that I've been here,

and have been able to teach others what I know; my legacy will be that."

The LTAT serves many roles at the divisional Iraqi base, including training Iraqi Soldiers to operate and repair military and civilian vehicles from Russia, Japan, the U.S., and other countries; small arms repair and maintenance; and generator maintenance, but warehouse-operations training is critical, Martinez said.

"It's very important," he said. "The warehouse is the core of sustainment in the battlefield. People without equipment can't do anything; they just stand around looking at each other."

Iraqi Army Sgt. Qaisar Jabar Gatie, maintenance sergeant at the

See Warehouse, page 15

Warehouse, from page 14

3rd Motor Transportation Regiment warehouse, works with the LTAT Soldiers.

"I have a good relationship with them," said Gattee, a 23-year-old from Muthana, near Baghdad, through a translator. "We learn from them how to organize our stuff."

Gattee, and his older brother Satar Jabar Gattee, both joined the Iraqi Army at the same time, "to defend our country and support our family," he said. He and his brother pay for their parents' home.

The logistics team has helped the Iraqis organize, equip and operate two warehouses at the base.

"Basically we had to start from scratch," Martinez said. "We helped organize their parts, and helped them to stand up the different sections you need in a warehouse, and showed them, hands on, the flow of parts from a request from a customer all the way to installation on a vehicle."

The team has faced many challenges, from scheduling problems, to getting parts and equipment, to disagreements with Iraqi leaders over warehousing issues, but the biggest challenge is abstract, Martinez said.

"The biggest challenge for us is the language gap, because most of the things we teach are concepts, and it's very difficult to teach another person to think the way you



Photos by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
Staff Sgt. Ronald Jean-Louis, Al Kasik logistical training assistance team (LTAT), 16th Sustainment Brigade, jokes with Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Emad Abdullah Dhaher (left), maintenance officer, 3rd Motor Transportation Regiment warehouse, Al Kasik, and IA Sgt. Qaisar Jabar Gattee, maintenance sergeant, MTR warehouse, Nov. 22.

think," said the 42-year-old from Killeen, Texas, originally from Guatemala.

Helping the Iraqi Army is beneficial for Iraqis and Americans, said Capt. Erik Mattes, Iraqi Security Forces cell officer in charge, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

"It's to help the Iraqi Army advance their knowledge and skill set in all logistical aspects, so that they can sustain themselves without our help and allow more U.S. Soldiers to come home," Mattes said.

The 28-year-old from Gretna, Neb., who oversees the "Knights" brigade LTAT's at Al Kasik and K1, said working directly with the Iraqis was very interesting.

"It's something different than what you could do anywhere else," said Mattes, who worked on a military transition team during a previous deployment, and is currently serving his third deployment in four years. "Most Iraqis are here to build a stronger Iraq, and are nice people like you and me."

Hammers take the Diamondback Softball Championship

By Capt. Angela Velasco
18th CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE DIAMONDBACK, Iraq – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, took home the Diamondback Softball Championship here, Dec. 7.

The Hammers pounded the team from the 632nd Maint. Co., 18th CSSB, 15-1, to take home the base crown.

"We just went out to have fun and get our minds off the daily

routine," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Ramer, personnel non-commissioned officer in charge and captain of the Hammers.

The Unionville, Illinois native and his team outplayed ten other units in the Diamondback Softball League.

The 18th CSSB is based out of Grafenwoehr, Germany. Their Soldiers provide logistical and sustainment support to coalition forces deployed throughout northern Iraq. They have been deployed for seven months and will redeploy Sep. 2009.



courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Ramer, personnel non-commissioned officer in charge and captain of the Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Hammers, gears up to swing at a pitch during the Contingency Operating Site Diamondback Softball Championship game, Dec. 7. The Hammers pounded the team from the 632nd Maint. Co., 18th CSSB, 15-1, to take home the base crown.

Soldiers share Christmas cheer with Iraqi children in border town

By Spc. Sean Dillard
16th SB Public Affairs

HABUR GATE, Iraq — Soldiers from Logistics Task Force — Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, gave Iraqi children in nearby village of Zakho, Iraq, stuffed animals and school supplies, and received in return a Christmas performance Dec. 27.

"This a unique experience," said Capt. Charles Ausman, commanding officer, LTF-A, and 27-year-old native of Cincinnati, Ohio. "The Soldiers will take this with them wherever they go."

The Iraqi children put on a morality play for the U.S. troops in the village's Catholic church. The church provides services to more than 600 families in the region along the Turkey-Iraq border. Twenty families live inside the village of Zakho.

Soldiers appreciated the opportunity to do something meaningful for the holidays.

"It's always better to give than to receive," said Spc. Andrew Hinshaw, satellite operator, Bravo Co., 16th STB, and 37-year-old native of Dallas, Texas. "Christmas is a perfect time for that."



Photo by Spc. Sean Dillard

Sgt. Lisha Robinson, operations non-commissioned officer in charge, Logistics Task Force-Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, sits among Iraqi children while they listen to Jingle Bells in Zakho, Iraq Dec. 27. "I was actually making a difference to see other kids happy," said Robinson, a 27-year-old native of Tampa Bay, Fla. "There is always someone worse off than you."

233rd Transportation Company celebrates holidays

2nd Lt. Charles York
233rd Transportation Co.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq - With the holiday season in full swing, it can be tough for deployed Soldiers to deal with the separation from their family and loved ones.

One way that the 233rd Transportation Co. has combated this stress, is to come together and celebrate the holidays with just a little reminder of home. Soldiers from the 233rd Trans. Co. celebrated the holiday season with a get together here, Dec. 24.

Because of all of the anonymous care packages that the company has gotten over the past month, each Soldier was able to get a present from under the Christmas tree.

1st Sgt. J. C. Scott, first sergeant, 233rd Trans. Co., wearing his Santa hat, handed every Soldier their present.

The transportation Soldiers also held a drawing and had competitions in order to

earn \$20 AAFES gift cards and an iPod. A few of the competitions included a door decorating contest, an Army knowledge contest, as well as a gift given to the Soldier who held the highest physical fitness score in the company.

"The company has deployed five times since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and this was the first time that the company celebrated the holiday season like this," said Sgt. Elizabeth Robinson, a Bardstown, Kentucky native, who helped coordinate the event.

Pfc. Christina Disano, from Brattleboro, Vermont, started planning this event as early as late November. Disano stepped up to the challenge and made sure that she could brighten up the deployment for 250 Soldiers.

"It was a lot of hard work, but I believe that I made this event enjoyable for everyone," said Disano.

Capt. Lydia Welch, commander, 233rd



courtesy photo

1st Sgt. J. C. Scott, first sergeant, 233rd Transportation Co., wearing his Santa hat, handed every Soldier their present at a holiday get together at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Dec. 24.

Trans. Co., awarded Disano with a Certificate of Achievement and a company coin for all of her hard work, as she was able to balance her heavy equipment transport missions, as well as the holiday event.

“FLE Renegade” provides support forward to Marines at Sinjar

By Capt. Patrick T. Lyons

497th Trans. Co., 30th CSSB

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SYKES, Iraq — Providing first-class logistics support to the Marine Corps and never let a mission fail is the mission of Forward Logistics Element Renegade since arriving at Sykes, Nov. 14. The FLE provides Meals-Ready-To-Eat, rations, bottled water, bulk water, and fuel to the Marines at Sahl Sinjar Air Base, located in Northwestern Iraq, who are conducting counterinsurgency operations to prevent foreign fighters from infiltrating across the Syrian border.

Lt. Jeff Harasimowitz, FLE officer in charge, 497th Transportation Co., and Staff Sgt. Stephan McQueen, non-commissioned officer in charge, 497th TransCo., provide experience and leadership to the 37 Soldiers from the 497th Trans Co. out of Fort Lewis, Washington, who were conducting a combat logistics patrol resupply to Sinjar on the morning of Dec. 14.

FLE Renegade conducts Combat Logistics Patrols two to four times a week to resupply the Marines on ground at Sinjar to ensure they never miss a hot meal, always stay hydrated, and never run out of fuel. The FLE provides their own convoy security with Armored Security Vehicles and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles while also providing line-haul capability with a fleet of M915's, used to haul both fuel tankers and flatbed trailers.

The day starts early, waking-up at five in the morning, followed by the priorities of work, including preventive maintenance checks and service, refueling, proper head-space and timing of the .50 cal machine guns, test-fire, and a convoy safety brief given by Lt. Harasimowitz. The brief consists of route details, the latest route intelligence, and Soldier safety prior to departure. After his closing remarks, 1LT Harasimowitz signaled for the drivers, gunners, and truck commander's to mount up and prepare for departure.

During the CLP, every element of the FLE performed their designated roles: the scout vehicle provided forward observation, the gunners ensured 360 degree security, TC's maintained lines of communication, and the convoy commander provided command and control. After about 2 ½ hours of negotiating the harsh, unimproved roads of Alternate Supply Route Santa Fe from Sykes to Sinjar, FLE Renegade arrived safely at the austere location with no vehicle breakdowns

and no enemy activity.

“The scout vehicle is critical for providing safety for the convoy by identifying potential improvised explosive devices before they detonate,” said Spc. Samuel Grove, gunner, 497th Trans. Co., FLE Renegade. “It is an honor to help support the Marines and the mission has been an experience of a lifetime. I don't want this mission to end.”

Upon arrival, the FLE immediately began downloading supplies including MRE's and bottled water to the appreciative crowd of Marines of Combat Logistics Company 19 of the Marine Air Ground Task Force on ground at Sinjar.

“The support is going great. We actually had to tell the FLE to temporarily stop their resupply since they are so responsive. We appreciate everything the FLE has done for us,” said Lt. Joe Mad-dux, commander, CLC-19.

FLE Renegade, since arriving from COB Q-West on Nov. 15, has had little difficulty in accomplishing their mission despite having to provide support to the Marines for the first time.

“Our biggest challenge was coordinating between two sister organizations, the Army and the Marines. We have overcome these obstacles and are ready to provide support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week,” said 1LT Jeff Harasimowitz, FLE OIC.



Photo by Spc. Jordan Heer
1st Lt. Jeff Harasimowitz, Forward Logistics Element Renegade officer in charge, 497th Trans Co., front-right, and Staff Sgt. Stephan McQueen, FLE Renegade non-commissioned officer in charge, 497th Trans Co., front-left, conduct a convoy safety brief with the Soldiers of FLE Renegade prior to departure to Sinjar at Forward Operating Base Sykes on Dec. 14.

Human resource Soldiers make second Christmas in Iraq special

By Staff Sgt. Renae Williams and 1st Lt. Lianna Scharff
101st Human Resource Co.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Soldiers of the 101ST Human Resources Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, found a way to enjoy the festivities of the season despite serving their second consecutive Christmas downrange.

The HR Soldiers day began with a 5-km “jingle bell” run and a Christmas parade.

Sgt. Brenda Allen, postal plans and operations sergeant, 502nd Postal Plans and Operations, took her time to coordinate with various agencies on Joint Base Balad to donate games and prizes to the unit for entertainment and morale. She also put together activities ranging from indoor bowling to a white elephant Christmas gift exchange.

“Even though I had [duty] the day prior, I stayed because of the atmosphere — it was joyful and beats staying in my room,” said Spc. Ronnie Bizzell, clerk, 502nd Postal Plans and Operations. “I played video games, dominoes, bowling and ate lunch with my platoon. I had a great time filled with lots of laughter and fun.”

Another Soldier said she wasn’t expecting the activities that were planned.

“I thought some of the Soldiers would be a bit down due to it being their second Christmas in theater away from their families,” Sgt. 1st Class Dionne Alexander, 101st Human Resource Co. “But thanks to Sgt. Allen’s thoughtfulness, the day was wonderful. There was no differentiation between ranks; the highest to the lowest all had a great time especially during the bingo and bowling games.”



courtesy photo

1st Lt. Jeff Harasimowitz, Forward Logistics Element Renegade officer in charge, 497th Trans Co., front-right, and Staff Sgt. Stephan McQueen, Forward Logistics Element Renegade non-commissioned officer in charge, 497th Trans Co., front-left, conduct a convoy safety brief with the Soldiers of FLE Renegade prior to departure to Sinjar at Forward Operating Base Sykes on Dec. 14.

Army cooks in remote site maintain 24-hour dining facility



Photo by Spc. Sean Dillard

Sgt. Sheena Kenshaw, food service specialist, Logistic Task Force, Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, prepares spaghetti for Habur Gate Soldiers during Christmas time.

By Spc. Sean Dillard
16th SB Public Affairs

HABUR GATE, Iraq — Soldiers from the Logistics Task Force — Alpha, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, serve up hot plates of food for Soldiers in this remote border crossing on the Turkish border, often with a little creativity.

The dining facility caters to 70 to 150 people at any one time, serves three hot meals a day, and is always open for snack and drinks. Convoys of Soldiers traveling through Iraq often stop at the tiny DFAC.

Soldiers from this remote site handle their own food needs, often by augmenting their food stocks with fresh fruit and vegetables from Turkey.

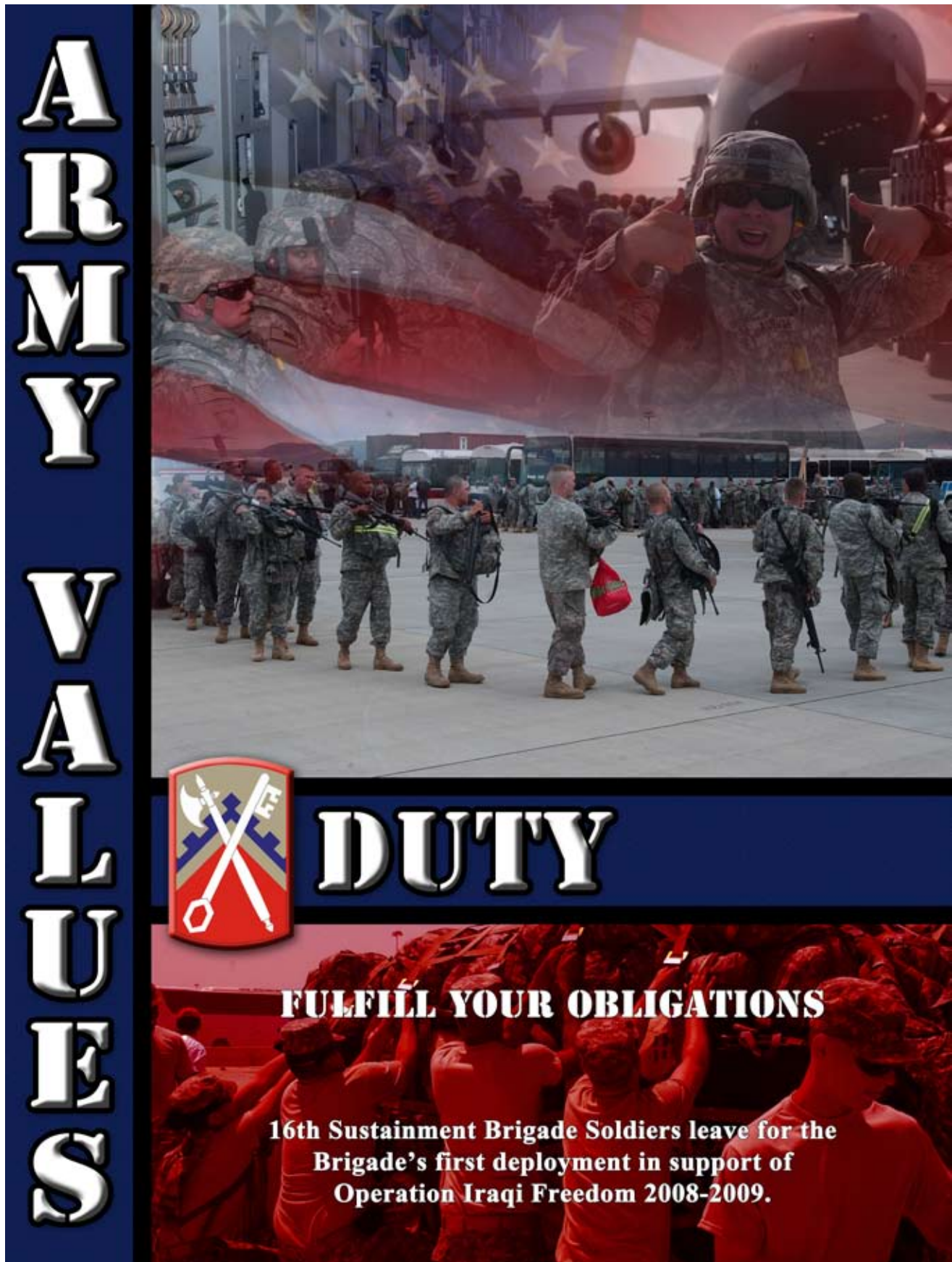
“Our Soldiers work very hard,” said Capt. Charles Ausman, commanding officer, LTF-A, and 27-year-old, from Cincinnati, Ohio.

There are 18 Iraqis that work in the Army dining facility that clean and serve the food, but only Soldiers prepare the food.

“It’s easier for Soldiers to see other Soldiers prepare their food,” said Sgt. Sheena Kenshaw, food service specialist, LTF A, and 41-year-old native of Huntsville, Ala.

Kenshaw said that this is her third deployment, but the first time she has prepared food for Soldiers.

“We take great pride in serving food to everyone who wishes to eat here,” said Kenshaw.



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**16th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers leave for the
Brigade's first deployment in support of
Operation Iraqi Freedom 2008-2009.**

FAMILY READINESS

America Supports You program is seeking ambassadors

Eric Jones

FRSA, 16th Sustainment Brigade

This month I wanted to take the opportunity to tell our brigade about an outstanding organization that you have probably seen commercials for, but may not know much about. Well here are some frequently asked questions with the basics about the organization, I encourage everyone reading this to take a moment and go to the website and consider becoming an America Supports You ambassador!

What is America Supports You?

America Supports You is a Department of Defense program that connects our military members and their Families with citizens who want to show their support by providing meaningful assistance. www.americasupportsyou.mil provides a one-stop location where our service members can find hundreds of support organizations eager to help.

Why was America Supports You created?

The Department of Defense launched the America Supports You program in 2004 to highlight and communicate to U.S. military members what thousands of individual citizens, community groups, corporations, businesses and others are doing to support them and their Families.

Who is part of America Supports You?

There are currently more than 390 not for profit organizations, called America Supports You home front groups that provide direct tangible support such as care packages, financial assistance, help for the wounded and much, much more. Although the Department of Defense cannot endorse any non-profit organization, we are grateful for the efforts of all of the home front groups as they work each day to meet the needs of our military community.

Become an Ambassador

An America Supports You Ambassador raises awareness for the America Supports

You program and has personally experienced the impact this program has on our military men and women and their Families.

Ambassadors are familiar with the types of support available and direct those seeking assistance to the ASY web site or appropriate home front group.

Ambassadors are committed to informing those in their circles of influence about the resources available.

Ambassadors are committed to thanking our military men and women for their service and thanking all who support our troops.

When and how should people contact America Supports You?

If you know of a service member or military Family in need of assistance, please direct them to www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil. People may also contact the America Supports You team at americasupportsyou@osd.mil.

HAPPY NEW YEAR O-WEST MWR January 2009 Fitness center						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Spin class @ 0530 & 1630 YOGA Class @ 2000-2115 Mon, Wed, Fri	MARTIN LUTHER KING 5K TBD	Karate Class every Mon, Wed, Fri @ 0730 Martial Arts Class Every Sun. & Tues @ 1900	1 BBALL LEAGUE 1900-2200	2 Volleyball League Championship 1915-2215	3 BBALL LEAGUE 1900-2200
4 Dodgeball league Coaches meeting 1930	5 Open Court Basketball	6 BBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS 1900-2200	7 Open Court Volleyball	8 BBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS 1900-2200	9 Open Court Basketball	10 BBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS 1900-2200
11 BBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 1900-2100	12 Dodgeball League 1930-2100	13 BBALL ALLSTAR GAME 1900-2200	14 Dodgeball League 1930-2100	15 OPEN COURT BASKETBALL 1900-2200	16 Dodgeball League 1930-2100	17 OPEN COURT VOLLEYBALL 1900-2200
18 Flag football Tournament Coaches meeting 1930	19 Dodgeball League 1930-2100	20 Open court Volleyball 1900-2200	21 Dodgeball League 1930-2100	22 Open court Basketball 1900-2200	23 Flag football Tournament 1700-2200	24 Flag football Tournament 1700-2200
25 Flag football Tournament 1700-2200	26 Dodgeball League Playoffs 1930-2100	27 Open court Dodgeball 1900-2200	28 Dodgeball League Playoffs 1930-2100	29 Open court Basketball 1900-2200	30 Dodgeball League Playoffs 1930-2100	31 Dodgeball league Championship game 1930-2100

FAMILIES!

Let your Soldier see you, and get a touch of home! Send photos of families and friends, school and community events, and special occasions. Submit pictures with full names and a description of the action in the photos.

Send us Pictures!

Contact the 16th SB Family Readiness Support Advisor, or e-mail SPC Smith at erin.smith@iraq.centcom.mil

ARMY VALUES



PERSONAL COURAGE

FACE FEAR, DANGER, OR ADVERSITY

**16th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers of the PST train
in combatives and Combat Life Savers Course.**



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Cadene Blue, night battle captain, 16th STB, sits on Santa Claus' lap at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Complex at COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25. The MWR gave out stockings full of beanie babies, candy and Christmas cards to Soldiers who were on Santa's "Nice List." Sgt. 1st Class Paul McKenna, operations non-commissioned officer in charge, Alpha Co., 1-184 Infantry, 30th CSSB., assumed the role of Santa.



(Left) Maj. Michael Mouritsen, human resources team, 16th SB, looks to throw a touchdown during the brigade support operation's "Christmas Bowl" at COB Q-West, Dec. 25. Human resources pummeled supply and services, 35-21, in what was billed as the "battle for SPO supremacy."



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Armstrong, and his wife, Sgt. 1st Class Anilyn Armstrong, talk with their sons, Jabbalex-is and Chris Jr., who are in Germany, during the Christmas video tele-conference at COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25.



Master Sgt. Terri Jasso (left), looks on as Pfc. Ulises Martinez (right), hands Spc. Brishon Merriweather (center), a present during the 16th SB brigade supply section's white elephant Christmas gift exchange at COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25.



Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Alexander (left), and Maj. Roger Jackson, engineer, 16th Sust. Bde., inspect the structural integrity of the ginger bread church at the Knight's Feasting Hall, COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25.

Christmas on the cob!



Soldiers from the 16th SB command group raid the brigade supply section's Christmas party at COB Q-West, Dec. 25. Soldiers from the supply section have vowed to get revenge.

(Below)

Maj. Michael Pierce, and Maj. Sean Corey, race their candy carts during the 16th SB staff's "Christmas 500" at COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25. The staff had to race their candy carts head-to-head and cross the finish line about 500 centimeters away. Maj. Terry Windmiller, took home the crown.

(Background)

Santa Claus runs in the 5K Jingle Bell Jog at COB Q-West, Iraq, Dec. 25. Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mckenna, operations non-commissioned officer in charge, Alpha Co., 1-184 Infantry, 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, assumed the role of Santa.



Voices on the COB

"Do you have a New Year's Resolution?"



"Not really. I've been too busy. Maybe to be more successful, get more experience and do my best, and to go back to the states for vacation."

Agnes Bati, MWR coordinator, Budapest, Hungary



"Just to make the thousand pound club and quit smoking."

PV2 Raymond Marquez, infantryman, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, California National Guard 21, San Jose, Calif.



"To stop [expletive] swearing."

USAF Staff Sgt. Douglas Brock, combat logistics non-commissioned officer, 70th Medium Truck Detachment, 28th Joint Logistics Task Force, 25, Fremont, Calif.



"Mine is not to get locked in the bathroom repeatedly, over again."

Pfc. Felicia Ballard, supply clerk, 506th Quartermaster Company, 19, Romeo, Mich.



"To be the 'trillest' musician in the 16th Sustainment Brigade, ever. Also, I plan to look fit and good-looking."

Spc. Chad Henson, property clerk specialist, brigade property book office, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 22, Little Rock, Ark.

Comic Ideas Wanted!

If you have an idea for a short comic strip about life out here on Q-West, please e-mail SPC Smith at erin.smith@iraq.centcom.mil



Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX JANUARY 2009 RECREATION

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Archery Class Every Sunday At 1300 and 1700	HAPPY NEW YEAR			1 Chess Tourney 2000hrs	2 New Years Poker Tourney Week 4	3 Electronic Music Night 2100
4 ONE NIGHT ONE BIG POKER TOURNEY 2000	5 8 BALL 2000Hrs	6 1000Hrs	7 9 BALL 2000Hrs	8 SPADES 2000hrs	9 Week 5 POKER LEAGUE Latin 2100	10 HIPHOP
11 Music Video Night @ 2000hrs	12 BALL LEAGUE	13 2000Hrs	14 BALL LEAGUE	15 2000Hrs	16 Week 6 POKER LEAGUE Latin 2100	17 KARAOKE NITE @ 2000HRS ELECTRONIC MUSIC @2100
18 ONE NIGHT ONE BIG POKER TOURNEY 2000	19 BALL LEAGUE	20 2000Hrs	21 BALL LEAGUE	22 2000Hrs	23 Week 7 POKER LEAGUE Latin 2100	24 HIPHOP
25 Music Video Night @ 2000hrs	26 BALL LEAGUE	27 Shuffle Board 2000hrs	28 BALL LEAGUE	29 2000Hrs	30 Final Table POKER LEAGUE Latin 2100	31 Electronic Music Night 2100