

## Engine work



**Mechanics keep VIPs safe in Baghdad**

**Page 5**

## New command



**Medical evacuation companies transfer authority**

**Page 8**

## Straight shot



**Iraqi Soldiers train at 9 mm pistol range**

**Page 12-13**

# Providers deliver school supplies to rural Iraqi schoolchildren

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

PFC. LISA A. COPE

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Staff

Sgt. Imelda P.

Quiroz said de-

livering school

supplies to Ibn

Rushed School,

a rural school

outside of Na-

sariyah, Iraq, reminded her of the visits humanitarians made to her school when she was a child in Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Quiroz, the supply accounting noncommissioned officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), moved to Arlington, Texas, and joined the Army, but she said the Jan. 13 trip to the Iraqi school brought back 20-year-old memories. She said she always looked forward to the visits and believes they are **SEE SCHOOL ON PAGE 4**



Staff Sgt. Mario A. Bonilla, a training noncommissioned officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, out of Temple, Texas, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), delivers school supplies to a student Jan. 13, at Ibn Rushed School, near Nasariyah, Iraq. Soldiers with the 36th Sust. Bde. visited to distribute school supplies to the students and teachers to further the Iraqi civil capacity and aid the next generation of Iraqi leaders.

# Training lane helps US, Iraqi Soldiers prep for missions

BY SGT. CANDACE WESTLUND  
41ST IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – The 121st Brigade Support Battalion out of Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted a convoy exercise with the Iraqi Army's 10th

Motor Transport Regiment at the Convoy Academy Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.

More than 2,000 Soldiers have been trained at the Convoy Academy where the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), out of Tigard, Ore.,

facilitates training and manages the building as units come through.

"We provide the building and set up the lanes," said Staff Sgt. Chris Austin, a Sherman, Texas, native. "We have also done Combat Lifesaver certification training. We built onto the facility and have done a lot of improvement for the next unit to take this over."

The training was started by the 121st BSB to ensure that convoy commanders are ready to lead the mission, said Master Sgt. Rico Figueroa, a Puerto Rico native. The training lane was voluntarily implemented by 121st **SEE LANES ON PAGE 4**



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan

Members of the 121st Brigade Support Battalion move an Iraqi Army Soldier with a simulated injury by litter during a training exercise with the Iraqi Army Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.



## Balad Blotter January 7 - January 14

### FAILURE TO OBEY ORDER OR REGULATION:

A complainant telephoned Defender Control and said a K-9 unit passed through his gate in route to a possible disturbance between the subject and witness one. Patrolmen were briefed and dispatched. They arrived on the scene, contacted the witnesses and subject and determined the subject had gained unauthorized entry to the facility after being turned away by the guards.

The subject was searched but nothing was found. All property was retained on the person. The subject was transported and advised the subject of his rights under IAW Article 31/UCMJ via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant.

The subject acknowledged his rights, declined legal counsel and made a written statement. The subject said, via AF Form 1168/Statement of Suspect, he and witness two approached the location. The subject said he did not believe it was after 8:30 p.m. The subject said witness two escorted him and witness four into the location to show them it was closed. The subject said they exited the location and re-entered through the back door. The subject said he was aware of the proper procedures but he wanted hot food. The subject said he attempted to walk away but the guard would not allow him to, stating he could be detained.

Witness one said, via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Witness, the subject approached the exit at the location and, when he attempted to stop the subject, the subject continued into the building. Witness one said, when he followed the subject into building, the subject turned around and exited the building. Witness one said the subject then said, "this is a military base and I can do what I like." Witness one said he then took the subject's ID.

Witness two said, via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Witness, the subject approached her entrance at roughly 8:36 p.m. and asked if it was closed. Witness two said the entrance was closed. Witness two said the subject then forced his way through into the entrance. Witness three said, via AF IMT 1168/Statement of Witness, he was exiting the location when he heard personnel yelling. Witness three said, when he turned the corner, he watched the subject and a guard exchanging words. Witness three said the guard said the subject was approaching the exits attempting to enter the location. Witness three said the subject said he was an American Soldier and the guard could not talk to him that way.

Witness four said he and the subject approached the location and saw the "Closed" sign had been placed on the location. Witness four said they did not believe it was after closing time, so they asked to speak with the noncommissioned officer in charge of the DFAC so they could get food. Witness four said he and the subject entered the location through an exit in an attempt to obtain food. Witness four said, when they entered location, all the hot meals had been removed, so they exited the location. Witness four said, when they exited location, they were approached by the guard. Witness four said the subject and the guard then got into a verbal altercation.

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# Chaplain's Corner: success, self-fulfilling prophecy

BY LT. COL. GARRY LOSEY  
13TH ESC CHAPLAIN



Henry Ford once said, "If you think you can or you can't, you're right."

Our minds play a powerful part in how we see ourselves and how others see us.

When faced with a difficult task, if we perceive that we can accomplish the task, then we are at least 50 percent of the way there. Our thoughts determine our attitude and actions, and it is those thoughts that lead us to accomplish or struggle with the tasks before us.

Have you ever heard the term, "Self-fulfilling prophecy?" What this basically means is, if you believe in your mind and heart you will fail, you will have set yourself up to move in that direction.

On the other hand, if you believe in yourself, if you are self-confident, if you are hopeful and optimistic, good is more likely to come your way.

Of course, there is more to it than just thinking happy thoughts and being positive. You have to build skills and competencies, and you must be prepared to accomplish the task at hand.

French novelist, poet and journalist Anatole France said, "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."

The start of a new year it is a perfect time to dream and believe in yourself.

You now have 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. Each one of those moments is a gift from God to accomplish the tasks that you have been given.

Here is the chance to take your skills, talents and time and see what can be accomplished.

I know sometimes it seems a little overwhelming, but take one step at a time and move forward and, when you get down the road, you will look back and be amazed at what you have accomplished.

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie once said, "Think of yourself as on the threshold of unparalleled success. A whole clear, glorious life lies before you. Achieve! Achieve!"

There is a text, Philippians 4:13 which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Think positive and enjoy achievements you never thought possible. You're right – you can do it.



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and reviewed by the ESC G2 for security purposes.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. Building 7508, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 13th ESC, APO AE 09391. Web site at [www.dvidshub.net](http://www.dvidshub.net)

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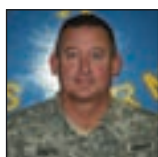
## 13th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 13th 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.



# The Weekly Standard: behavioral health performance objectives

By LT. COL. GARY DAVIS  
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



**R**aters of officer evaluation reports and noncommissioned officer evaluation reports, there are new counseling requirements for NCOERs and OERs.

The vice chief of staff of the Army said raters will address the handling of behavioral health issues in their evaluation counseling.

Part of that discussion must include how behavioral health impacts command climate and overall unit performance. All raters must discuss with rat-

ed officers and NCOs the importance of their support of behavioral health goals during the initial performance counseling for a new rating period.

Additionally, all rated officers and NCOs will have behavioral health performance objectives documented on the Department of the Army Form 67-9-1, OER Support Form, and the DA Form 67-9-1A, Developmental Support Form, for officers or DA Form 2166-8-1, NCOER Counseling and Support Form, for NCOs. Behavioral Health Performance Objectives for both officers and NCOs.

For your reference, see Milper Message Number 09-295, Leader Support of Behavioral Health Goals, issued Dec. 9.

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# Combat Stress: mental health reviews, treatment save lives

By NAVY CAPT. STEVE BRASINGTON  
COMBAT STRESS CONTROL PSYCHIATRIST



**S**oldiers receiving care at the Combat Stress Clinic sometimes hear "you do not need antidepressants" from co-workers who are not qualified to make mental health decisions.

A one-time visit to talk to somebody or to attend a class does not usually elicit a negative remark from the Soldier's associates.

However, when a Soldier starts taking antidepressant medication, co-workers tend to react.

According to the Outreach Center for the Defense Center of Excellence, 44 percent of 2007 suicide victims in the Army had a history of at least one mental disorder. Mood disorder identified as the leading disorder among the dead.

According to a fact sheet on depression and suicide published by the American Association of Suicidology, depression is the most prevalent mental health disorder associated with death by suicide.

Although depression is common, less than 25 percent of depressed patients receive adequate diagnosis and management.

Treatment for clinical depression is highly effective. Medication alone helps more than 60 percent of patients.

Outcomes are improved when medication is combined with talk therapy.

A complication of untreated depression involves high rates of substance abuse, which elevates the risk of suicide.

On a <http://www.defense.gov> news release (no.967-09), Gen. Peter Chiarelli was interviewed about substance abuse.

"The incidence of substance abuse is up at our camps, posts and stations," he said.

To make substance abuse services more accessible, Chiarelli expressed interest in hiring more substance abuse counselors to provide on demand services to Soldiers. The vice chief of staff of the Army is focused on lowering the death rate by suicide.

The American Psychiatric Association reported that 90 percent of people who commit suicide have pre-existing depression, another mental disorder or substance abuse in combination with a disorder such as depression or anxiety.

Antidepressants are non-habit forming. These medications produce no recreational effects and have no street

value among drug abusers.

The Depression Fact sheet from the American Psychiatric Association explains the full benefits of taking a medication may not be realized for two or three months, adding that psychiatrists usually recommend the patient continue to take the medication for at least six more months after symptoms are well controlled.

If a Soldier stops an antidepressant medication during the initiation phase because the Soldier understands that mood altering medication is frowned upon by the chain of command, then the treatment that Soldier receives will not be adequate. When the Soldier is encouraged to stop coming to treatment after feeling well for a month or two, then a potentially lifesaving treatment has been compromised.

To improve crisis assessments, a command representative or a chaplain acting on behalf of the commander's interest should send the following critical information along with the Soldier to the evaluation:

- a description of long term functioning and performance;
- recent changes in behavior;
- disciplinary problems;
- pending investigations;
- past administrative actions;
- plus a clear articulation of the concern at the time of referral;
- and the desired outcome following evaluation or specific question.

When the Soldier first meets a mental health professional, he or she faces a complete stranger.

People in the unit have lived and worked with the Soldier for months or years. You are part of your unit's suicide prevention program. If you are concerned enough to seek help for a battle buddy, then follow through by providing additional information based on your knowledge of pertinent military performance and daily interactions.

This is easier than a nine line casualty report by radio.

You have the power to identify a condition associated with premature loss of life, loss of manpower and loss of training.

Do not attempt to be an expert in mental health. Just be an ACE - ask, care and escort.

To finish the job, give a report as outlined above when you drop the person for evaluation to combat stress control.

The author may be contacted at [steve.brasington@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:steve.brasington@iraq.centcom.mil)

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

### What is a DSARC?

The deployed sexual assault response coordinator is considered the center of gravity when it comes to ensuring victims of sexual assault receive appropriate and responsive care. They serve as the single point of contact to coordinate sexual assault victim care.

### What is a UVA?

The unit victim advocate provides essential support and care to the victim, including providing non-clinical information on available options and resources to assist the victim in making informed decisions as they progress through resolution and healing. The UVA maintains communications and contact with victims as needed for continued victim support.

If you need a SARC or UVA, call the Joint Base Balad SARC at 443-7272 or contact the SARC via pager at 443-9001, pager 159 for help. Soldiers should seek assistance with their UVA or DSARC. Soldiers may also call 443-7272 or dial 443-9001, pager 122/135 for assistance.

# SHOUT OUT!!!

## Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

## E-mail: [escpao@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:escpao@iraq.centcom.mil)



# Soldier volunteers in Iraq, is reminded of her childhood

## SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

important to public relations in Iraq.

Soldiers with the 36th Sust. Bde., out of Temple, Texas, delivered the supplies to the teachers and students at Ibn Rushed School to further develop the Iraqi civil capacity and help educate the next generation of Iraq's leaders.

"I think things like this make a difference in other countries, because I came from another country and I remember always going to a Bible school in the summer," said Quiroz. "I didn't speak English, so I remember how a whole bunch of ... people used to come and I looked forward to them coming every summer. That always stayed in my head."

The trip to Ibn Rushed School was the first mission for Lt. Col. Peter M. Bistransin, as the civil military officer with the 36th Sust. Bde. Bistransin became the unit CMO in December.

Bistransin, an Austin, Texas, native, said the students reacted well to the visit.

"First, we went in and (the teachers) had the kids stand up when I walked in, and they had them sit down," he said. "(The kids) are very



A classroom of children at Ibn Rushed School, near Nasariyah, Iraq, greets Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, out of Temple, Texas, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Jan. 13. The Soldiers visited to distribute school supplies to the students and teachers to further the Iraqi civil capacity and aid the next generation of Iraqi leaders.

well disciplined. As soon as the teacher let them talk and stuff, they were very friendly and ... they were really appreciative of us coming by."

He said he believes it is important

to have the Soldiers spend time with Iraqi students.

"I did not want to rush in, drop off the supplies and rush out," said Bistransin.

Bistransin said chalk was the most useful donation to the school because most of the instruction is done on the blackboard to help the children who do not have books.

"I did not see all the kids having a book," said Bistransin. "I saw that the teacher had a book, and they used (the blackboard a lot). With a lack of books, chalk would probably be a very key element in getting the subject matter to the students."

Quiroz said she knows the kids will remember this visits from the 36th Sust. Bde. just as she remembers the Bible school from her childhood.

"For me, it has been over 20 years ago and I still remember, so I think they will remember this," said Quiroz.

Quiroz said her trip taught her why the volunteers in Mexico were so willing to help her when she was a child.

"Now I understand why they kept doing it," said Quiroz. "It actually does feel really good to go out there. So, whenever they do stuff like that I always try to volunteer, because I know it made a difference in my life."

## Training strengthens US, Iraq bond

### LANES FROM PAGE 1

BSB Soldiers to help them remain up to date on tactics, techniques and procedures, he said.

To make the training more realistic, the unit requested support from the Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, he said.

"It is realistic being hit with the explosion," said Figueroa.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Alderman, a platoon sergeant with the 121st BSB and a Thomasville, Ga., native, said he has been hit with an explosively formed projectile on a convoy.

The explosion during training consists of noise and smoke, which causes no damage to the vehicles in the convoy. Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers then practice reacting to the initial explosion, vehicle

damage and simulated casualties.

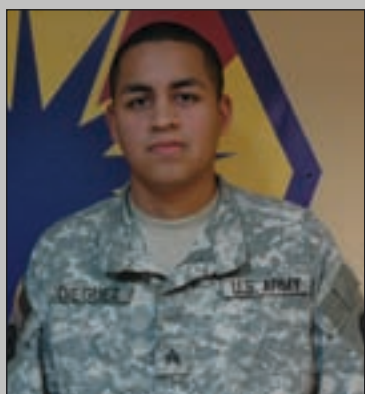
"This helps make sure we are on the same page for training," said Amged Yousef, an interpreter from Cairo.

Yousef said he believes this training serves a greater purpose in building the relationship between the U.S. Army and the IA. He said the Iraqis understand these training opportunities will not be around forever.

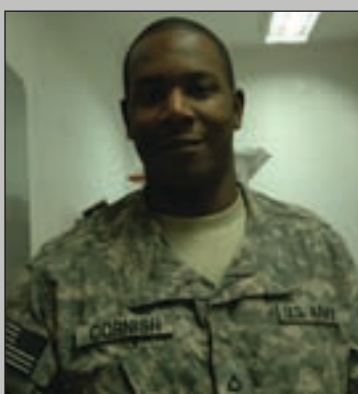
## Correction

In the Jan. 13 edition of the Expeditionary Times, the story, "Soldiers provide potable water at Poliwo-da" should have used the spelling Paliwoda to describe the location throughout the story. The contingency operating location was named after Capt. Eric Paliwoda who died in Balad.

## What do you miss the most about home?



Sgt. Moises Dieguez, a chemical sergeant and a Houston, Texas, native said, "Sushi."



Pfc. Bruce Cornish, a supply specialist and a Philadelphia native, said, "My truck and watering my lawn."



Spc. Chanell Shropshire, a supply specialist and a Jacksonville, Fla., native, said, "My truck, my house, and my son."

## Do you have a story idea?

Contact us at:

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# Mechanics keep VIPs safe

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLLEN  
41st IBCT

**VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Baghdad** –The mechanics with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are part of the personal security detachment on mission at the Joint Visitors Bureau hotel at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

These Soldiers take care of the tactical vehicles used to transport visiting dignitaries to VBC, said Sgt. Daniel Egbert, senior mechanic and a Salem, Ore., native.

"We work on the Humvees and the (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected) vehicles," he said.

He said the problems that arise are usually not critical. The PSD makes note of vehicle issues that need atten-

tion, fill out the paperwork and give it to the mechanics.

"After we get the paperwork, we troubleshoot to see what is wrong with the truck," said Egbert. "Usually, it is just a switch not put in the (correct) position all the way and no fault is found. There are a lot of switches."

Many of the issues are due to idle time, leaving the vehicles sitting with the engines running.

"The vehicles are fired up in the morning and are not shut off until they come back here," said Spc. Jacob Olson, mechanic and a Prineville, Ore., native. "The vehicles are left on during meetings. If the VIPs need to leave quickly, then they can jump in the trucks ... and go when they need to go."

Idle time creates carbon build-up in the engines.

"Carbon build-up causes the engines to not last as long," said Olson. "One hour of idle time equals 33 driven miles."



Sgt. Daniel Egbert, senior mechanic with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and a Salem, Ore., native, is stationed at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, with the personal security detachment at the Joint Visitors Bureau hotel. The PSD's mission is to provide security to visiting dignitaries as they travel around the VBC area, as well as manage and provide security at the hotel.

## Personal security Soldiers learn new routes, areas

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
PFC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION ADDER, Iraq** – The 36th Sustainment Brigade personal security detachment left Contingency Operating Location Adder, Iraq, Jan. 1, to conduct a ride-along with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Tigard, Ore., to learn the route between Victory Base Complex, Iraq, and Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

As part of the upcoming drawdown of forces from Iraq, Al Asad will become part of the area of operations for the 36th Sust. Bde. out of Temple, Texas.

Command Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Shockley, with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Richardson, Texas, native, said the main goal of the mission was to familiarize herself and her team with the area and the units at Al Asad.

Although the PSD was not assembled until July 3, Shockley said she is amazed at how well the team works together and said she has full trust in the Soldiers' abilities and skills.

"I would go anywhere, with anyone of them, at any time," she said.

The team was originally scheduled



The 36th Sustainment Brigade personal security detachment out of Temple, Texas, poses for a group picture in Al Faw Palace during its eight-day mission Jan. 1 through Jan. 8, at Camp Victory, Iraq.

to return to COL Adder Jan. 6, but mission requirements kept them out until the night of Jan. 8. This shows how important it is for the members of the PSD to be flexible and reactive to changing missions and extended timelines, said Shockley.

Sgt. McArthur W. Jones Jr., the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 36th Sust. Bde. PSD and a Fort Worth, Texas, native, said another goal of the mission was team building.

"It went great," he said. "The mission was accomplished. ... We became more familiar with the route, and we were

able to team build with the (command sergeant major)."

While traveling one of the routes, the team halted for roughly an hour as an explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed an improvised explosive device directly in its path.

"That is something we train for, that is something we prepare for, we understand the dangers that are out there on the (main supply routes)," said Jones. "It just so happened that a unit in front of our convoy found the IED, and EOD and (quick reaction force) took care of it. ... It gives us more confidence that

route clearance is definitely doing their job, because they are finding the IEDs before we find them."

Although the mission went well, everyone was relieved to get back to COL Adder, Shockley said.

"It is kind of funny, because you are not home but you consider it home," she said. "I think everybody had that sense of homecoming when we rolled in. We knew not only that we were back home, but job well done and mission complete with everybody safe. If we have that every time, that is the best that we could ask for."

**13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)**  
"Phantom Support"



<http://www.hood.army.mil/13sce/>

ON  
THE  
WEB



# Engineering commander visits Rawhides new fuel farm

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Robert Harris, commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade Rawhides, visited the 36th Sustainment Brigade's new fuel farm Jan. 5 at Contingency Operating Location Adder, Iraq.

Service members from the Army, Navy and Air Force met Harris at the site of the new fuel farm at COL Adder.

The fuel farm, which is still under construction, is the center piece of the new Adder Convoy Support Center. Harris said Maj. Gilbert Spring, with the 36th Sust. Bde., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), planned the fuel farm to maximize efficiency for its future users.

It is the military version of a full-service truck stop, offering fuel, a mechanical repair shop, food and temporary sleeping facilities.

The CSC is being constructed to help resupply contracted truckers during the increased traffic as the United States prepares to draw down its forces from Iraq.

Harris visited his subordinate units to update himself on their ongoing projects.



**Capt. Smiley Garcia, petroleum officer in charge with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, Lt. Cmdr. Brock Harrill, with the Navy petroleum oil and lubricants team, 36th Sust. Bde., and Brig. Gen. Robert Harris, 194th Engineer Brigade commander, discuss the design and efficiency of the Camp Adder, Iraq, fuel farm currently under construction, Jan. 5.**

The Air Force's 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron is tactically controlled and locally directed by his command. At least one member of each service discussed his or her part in the planning, building and running of the unfinished facility.

Air Force Capt. Seth Foulkes, the 557th's construction site officer in

charge, is responsible for ground moving, which includes grading and dirt wall construction.

Lt. Cmdr. Brock Harrill, with the Navy petroleum oil and lubricants team, 36th Sust. Bde., will run the facility once it is operational.

Harris and Spring discussed two basic options for completing con-

struction projects of this nature.

Spring said, "The way I see it, we can choose between civilian contractors and military engineer units to build the fuel farm and other projects. While we have good support from civilian contractors, the military engineers are also a good resource and we need to utilize them while they are available."

Harris said as the drawdown moves closer, plans need to be submitted quickly for future engineering work. Each project will be accomplished in accordance with its priority.

Harrill discussed running the fuel farm after its construction, and explained his involvement.

"The Army has been taxed heavily with United States' commitments around the world in recent years," he said. "The Navy is contributing forces to the land effort in ways not directly involving combat. ... The Air Force is building the new fuel farm for the Army, to be run by the Navy, to give fuel to the Marines."

After Harris' visit concluded, Spring said, "We request support from Brig. Gen. Harris and his brigade in many areas. They have given us very solid support. We work well together. Their priority of work and their follow through on projects has been excellent thus far."

## Homes moved from Cedar II to Adder in \$60 million project

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
PFC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Moving the containerized housing units from Camp Cedar II, Iraq, to Contingency Operating Location Adder, Iraq, began Jan. 8 in preparation for the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment from Iraq.

Almco Group, the company contracted to do the construction work on the project, moved 34 of the 847 structures in the first three days of construction.

Maj. Gilbert M. Spring Jr., the brigade engineer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Temple, Texas, works on the Cedar movement project and has a hand in the construction of a new convoy support center at Adder.

Spring, a Lufkin, Texas, native, said Almco began the moving and construction seven days ahead of schedule to move all of the structures by their Oct. 20 deadline. He said they will easily meet that deadline.

Spring said the third phase of the project, moving of the structures and hooking up the facilities in Adder, will cost roughly \$10.6 million of the \$60 million designated for the project.

Spring said any project costing more than \$750,000 is considered a military construction project and must be approved by Congress.

Spring said this will be the last MILCON project in Iraq.

"This project, CFC phase three, is the only funded MILCON project in Iraq this year," said Spring.

Spring said the completion of this project will bring to fruition his work and that of the two engineers who proceeded him.

"It is like a legacy project," said Spring. "The other engineers prior to me, my predecessors for the past two years, they designed, planned the stuff; I am executing it."

Daniel C. Rossiter, a design engineer with Almco Group, and a Steven's Point, Wis., native, said he works on the CSC phase three project at COL Adder,



**Workers with Almco Group, the company contracted to move the containerized housing units from Camp Cedar II to Contingency Operating Location Adder, Iraq, continue with the relocation of the structures Jan. 12, a project they started seven days ahead of schedule.**

as well as a couple of other projects at Iraqi Army Camp Ur, Iraq.

Rossiter said everything is projected to be moved from Cedar to Adder by Aug. 1.

"We are a little bit ahead of schedule

right now, which is good," said Rossiter. "We are just trying to make that Aug. 1 date work for everybody, trying to get everything across, and (make) a seamless transition ... from Cedar over to here."



# Oklahoma unit completes Operation Clean Sweep at Normandy

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION NORMANDY, Iraq – The 910th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Ardmore, Okla., completed Operation Clean Sweep Jan. 14 at Contingency Operating Location Normandy, Iraq.

Operation Clean Sweep is an 80th Ordnance Battalion project that brings teams to locations throughout Iraq to remove excess and unused equipment and property that is not on units' property books, said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Vance, an automated logistics specialist with the 910th Quartermaster Co., 80th Ord. Bn., 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"The goal is to save the U.S. government and taxpayers a tremendous amount of money," said Vance.

Vance said the project also helps units avoid ordering unnecessary equipment by redistributing it from units that have too much but, as the responsible draw-down approaches, they focus more on sending the excess home.

When the project at COL Normandy

reached its completion, Vance said his team had gathered nine or 10 connexes full of excess and overstock equipment from units on the base.

He said the cargo obtained ranged from a few books to large generators and refrigeration units.

"We've seen everything," said Vance. "It's always something different."

Vance said Operation Clean Sweep begins when a liaison visits a location in Iraq and tells the Mayor's Cell a team is on its way. The individual units then locate any excess and prepare to send it out.

"They're really good about having everything ready," said Spc. Bernardo De Luna, a petroleum supply specialist with the 910th and a Wichita Falls, Texas, native.

De Luna said he volunteered to be a member of Operation Clean Sweep after the petroleum supply mission at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, was completed.

"It was an opportunity to see different parts of Iraq and get outside JBB," he said.

Before the mission at Normandy, Operation Clean Sweep took De Luna and the team to COL Warhorse.

"We picked up a lot of experience at Warhorse," he said. "We knew what to expect (at COL Normandy)."

De Luna said the nine-man team



The 910th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit out of Ardmore, Okla., completed Operation Clean Sweep Jan. 14 at Contingency Operating Location Normandy, Iraq. Operation Clean Sweep is an 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) project that brings teams to locations throughout Iraq to remove excess and unused equipment and property that is not on units' property books.

completed the mission at COL Normandy in 11 days.

"We work as a team and we don't stop until the mission's done," he said. "We don't want to leave anything behind."

Vance said the Operation Clean Sweep team will likely conduct another mission in northern Iraq before

the 910th's scheduled redeployment in February.

He said his team will go home knowing it was a vital part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This is very rewarding, helping clean up the country so we can return it to Iraq," said Vance.

## Joint Distribution Center Soldiers retrograde equipment

BY CAPT. SCOTT PETERSON  
96TH SUST. BDE.

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Three Soldiers with the 1218th Transportation Company work in the Joint Distribution Center Jan. 8 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, ensuring the flow of cargo throughout the country.

They handle phone calls, keep up with e-mails, maintain spreadsheets, address concerns and answer questions from Soldiers, Airmen and Marines who drop in. Their mission is to push cargo out of Al Asad Air Base.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Swaim, JDC assistant noncommissioned officer in charge and a West Palm Beach, Fla., native, said the Soldiers assist units and agencies in shipping and receiving goods and cargo by air and by ground.

"We are the heart of the logistics systems here on the base; everything goes through us whether it's coming in or going out," Swaim said.

The JDC is operated by a 12-Soldier team of the Florida National Guard's 1218th Trans. Co., 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment

Command (Expeditionary).

Swaim said the Al Asad JDC handles an average of more than one million pounds of cargo per day. That cargo can be as small as a spare part or as large as shipping containers and combat vehicles.

Swaim said the one million pounds of daily cargo has only 96 hours to sit idle. After that, it is considered late or becomes frustrated cargo. He describes the process of pushing cargo to recipients inside of those first 96 hours as a "melee of coordination," cross referencing radio frequency identification tags, checking transportation movement requests, and making and answering countless phone calls.

"That is our biggest challenge – pushing cargo out to the receiver inside of that 96 hour window," Swaim said. "We spend a good portion of our time trying to keep cargo from becoming 'frustrated' or just sitting here too long."

Since the 1218th Trans. Co. took control of operations Nov. 21, Swaim said nearly 45 million pounds of cargo have been pushed through this logistics node.

Swaim said the key to a successful flow of cargo is adopting a customer service oriented approach while simultaneously enforcing that the yard is not a storage facility.

"If the customer doesn't come and get their stuff, and they don't return our

phone calls and e-mails, we will gladly return their cargo back to the sender – a procedure we have made clearly known," he said.

The JDC team has a pair of palletized loading system trucks and an M915 tractor-trailer system at its disposal for on-post deliveries.

"It is a win-win – customers get their stuff and we can meet our 96-hour goal," he said.

However, the approach of strictly enforcing the standard has worked. Sgt. 1st Class Shawanna Brown, JDC noncommissioned officer in charge and a Belle Glade, Fla., native, said due in part to the efforts of her Soldiers, not a single piece of cargo has had to be returned to the sender or sending unit. She said that is a significant accomplishment considering the volume and team's short time frame.

First Sgt. Bobby Parlor, a Wellington, Fla., native, said two months ago, the Soldiers with the JDC team were conducting convoys, managing the unit's operations center, operating the airfield departure control group, and providing some management to the dining facilities at Al Asad. Parlor said the JDC Soldier's flexibility and ability to learn this new task, which none of them trained for, is a testament to their character and the inherent ability of all Soldiers to adapt and overcome.

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4. Smoke detector is operational.
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly



# Medical evacuation companies transfer authority

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF LOWRY  
TASK FORCE 38 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Two medical evacuation companies transferred authority in a ceremony Jan. 5 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

C Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment assumed authority for medical evacuation operations at JBB from C Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Task Force 38's medevac unit.

As the drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment moves forward, C Company, 7-101 Avn. will now report to 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and U.S. Division Center, said Maj. Brady Gallagher, the unit's commander and a Cullman, Ala., native.

"We now stand ready to answer the call of the wounded without hesitation and without fail," he said.

Gallagher's unit replaces C Company, 7-158 Avn. from the Oregon Army National Guard, commanded by Maj. Geoffrey Vallee, a Eugene, Ore., native.

The Oregon-based unit flew more than 3,000 hours, conducted roughly 380 missions and carried roughly 900 patients.

During the ceremony, Vallee ex-

pressed confidence in the incoming unit.

"What a professional group," he said. "We all feel good about leaving the mission in good hands."

He then thanked his troops for their hard work during the nearly 10-month deployment.

"I appreciate your efforts," he said to them. "You did an outstanding job."

Col. David Wood, Task Force 38 commander, praised the medevac Soldiers for their performance in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Maj. Vallee, you and your Soldiers have earned a well-deserved rest," said Wood. "Depart theater and execute your de-mobilization as safely as you arrived. Thank you for your service to Task Force 38. Thank you for your service to all the Soldiers in Iraq and to the nation."

He then offered some advice to the incoming unit.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Zach Holden

**Maj. Brady Gallagher (center), commander of C Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment and a Cullman, Ala., native, uncovers the unit flag during a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 5 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The unit, out of Fort Campbell, Ky., assumed authority of the medical evacuation mission at JBB from Task Force 38's medical evacuation unit, the Oregon Army National Guard's C Co., 7th Bn., 158th Aviation Regt.**

"During your deployment there will be change here in Iraq," Wood said. "Do not become distracted. Your mission is critical and you must stay focused."

"Maj. Gallagher, you have brought an experienced team to the fight. I have no doubt you will skillfully execute your mission. I look forward to serving with you."

## Provider medics teach Iraqi officers combat medicine

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – U.S. military medics held a three-day class in first aid and combat medical assessment for Iraqi Army medical officers, starting Jan. 12 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

This marks the first comprehensive medical response training the Iraqi Army officers have had in years, said Maj. Christy Allen, medical operations officer with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). It took roughly two months to coordinate all the groups involved, using visual learning aids written in English and Arabic to bring the officers up to date on combat-lifesaving techniques, she said.

The three-day course focused on combat medical procedures to stabilize injured Soldiers so they can be transported to a medical facility to receive proper treatment, said Col. Mark Brewer, brigade surgeon with the 96th Sust. Bde.

The U.S. Army medics' lectures were translated and explained in detail by Iraqi Army Maj. Adnan Naji, a senior medical officer and commander

of the Taji Location Command Medical Clinic Level 2, said Allen.

"Once the language barrier and the comfort level were established, then the class became much more interactive," said Allen.

The course featured an in-depth approach to promote greater retention of the learned material, said Brewer. The Iraqis were eager to learn and participated readily in the classes, he said.

"Several years ago, they had some lectures but not a hands-on class," said Brewer, an Aurora, Colo., native. "They need to get their hands dirty and practice what we're teaching them."

Iraqi medical training is not at the level it should be, he said. The U.S.-directed classes are intended to change that and give the Iraqis medical experience and expertise similar to that of



**Spc. Christopher Graham, a brigade medic and health specialist with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Pleasant Grove, Utah, native, assists Iraqi medical officers with the use and application of a tourniquet. Graham was an instructor teaching combat medical procedures to staff members Jan. 12 through Jan. 14 at Taji Location Command Medical Clinic level 2 at Camp Taji, Iraq.**

U.S. Soldiers, said Brewer.

This type of training is vital to help increase the survival rate of combat-injured service members, said Brewer.

Naji, a Baghdad native, said he had two major priorities for his staff during this training. First, he said, his medics should be trained to use the supplies and equipment they have on hand in Taji. Naji said he also aimed

to refresh and improve the life-saving techniques of his medical staff.

The three-day class includes instruction on the proper use of medical equipment, said Staff Sgt. Michael Carlson, a medic with the 1161st Transportation Company Task Force, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC. With this knowledge, they can continue to train and update one another, he said.

"We've just begun training with the Iraqis," said Carlson, a Yakima, Wash., native. "They would be considered to be at a paramedic-trained level with the training they have received prior. It makes them more trauma-based as far as the things they're going to face as they repatriate their own country."

The Iraqi officers all have prior medical experience, primarily with the Ministry of Health in Iraq, said Spc. Christopher Graham, a brigade medic and health specialist with the 96th Sust. Bde. This training reinforced what they already knew and gave them a deeper understanding of medical treatment for combat and trauma injuries, he said.

"It gives them a real world application on how you actually do these procedures on people who are injured in combat," said Graham, a Pleasant Grove, Utah, native. "It brings them up to date."



# Force protection Soldiers make Victory Base Complex hard target

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLEN  
41ST IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Baghdad – Force protection Soldiers at Victory Base Complex set blast barriers weighing between 8,000 to 16,000 pounds each around an entry control point Jan. 9 in Baghdad.

Those force protection Soldiers, with the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), upgrade, repair and maintain the entry control points and towers at VBC, said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Safley, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 1/82 CAV, force protection team and a Vancouver, Wash., native.

“In the most general term, force protection is construction,” he said.

Taking care of the ECPs and towers began shortly after the battalion arrived in Iraq in July, said Lt. Col. William Prendergast, commander of the 1/82 CAV and a Portland, Ore., native.

“My sole focus, along with the commanders, was with the ECPs – in an infantryman’s terms ‘improving the foxhole’ – meaning the way we did business, how the ECPs looked, and how it operated,” Prendergast said.

The improvement came in the form of setting standards and putting up more jersey barriers, which altered



Force Protection Soldiers with B Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, move the stairs of an observation post at an entry control point to Victory Base Complex Jan. 9. The entry point was upgraded to provide more security for VBC. Blast walls were added and more Hesco barriers are being replaced and added to support the base of the observation point.

traffic patterns and the flow of individuals and vehicles onto VBC, he said.

“We are adding T-walls so there will be no more driving through, only foot traffic,” Safley said.

The project also includes adding

support and protection to an observation post and the perimeter wall with Hesco barriers and sand bags, he said.

Other duties of force protection include stringing concertina wire and cables along the tops of the barriers

and maintaining the light towers on convoy security companies’ gun lines.

“Doing those things may deter someone who wants to do harm to VBC from going out and actually doing it because they say ‘That’s a hard target,’” Prendergast said.

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# Transportation unit slated to transfer vehicles to composite company

By SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A transportation task force began preparing to relocate its fleet of more than 55 tractors and 110 40-foot flat bed trailers Jan. 13 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The 1161st Transportation Company Task Force, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), will not be replaced when it leaves Iraq in the coming weeks.

The unit's fleet will be relocated and transferred to a transportation company at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq, said Capt. Leslie Jines Jr., commander of the 1161st Trans. Co. TF. The unit will gain more than 55 M915 line-haul tractors to increase its mission readiness and capabilities, he said.

The receiving unit, the 724th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC, is transitioning to a composite transportation unit, said Jines, a Selah, Wash., native.

"During the strategic drawdown of forces, they've decide to form two composite transportation companies in theater," said Jines. "(The 1161st Trans. Co. TF) has become a donor unit to help build these composite transportation organizations."

Composite transportation companies' vehicle assets include heavy equipment transporter systems, M915 line-haul tractors and palletized load systems, said Jines. This array of vehicles allows for versatility in mission capability, he said.

What a 915 fleet could move is different from what a HET system could move, said Jines. The composite companies will be able to accomplish al-



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Anthony Latham

**Spc. Katrina Briggs, a communications support specialist with the 1161st Transportation Company Task Force, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Moses Lake, Wash., native, conducts a radio systems check on an M915 line-haul tractor prior to a convoy mission leaving Camp Taji, Iraq.**

most any transportation mission given to them, Jines said.

"That commander will have at his disposal a variety of vehicles to choose from to support missions," said Jines.

The maintenance teams with 1161st Trans. Co. TF inspected and repaired the unit's fleet to ensure mission readiness when the equipment is transferred, said 1st Sgt. David Luther, senior enlist-ed adviser with the 1161st.

"Our maintenance department and operators did a full (technical inspection) on all the vehicles, getting every little thing fixed, so we turn them over in the best condition possible," said Lu-

ther, a West Richland, Wash., native.

Each part of the system, the tractor and its primary and secondary trailers, took roughly eight hours to inspect, said Luther.

"It's well worth it," said Luther. "We're giving them the best equipment we can."

During its 10 month tour in Iraq, the 1161 Trans. Co. TF conducted roughly 350 missions and drove more than 136,700 miles throughout Iraq, said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Fisher, truck master with the 1161st Trans. Co. TF. The unit transported more than 32 million pounds of multiclass supplies and

materials, primarily rolling stock and repair parts, said Fisher, a Kirkland, Wash., native.

As an M915 line-haul tractor unit, the 1161st Trans. Co. TF provided valuable transportation support to the sustainment operations at bases in the surrounding areas of Camp Taji, said Fisher.

The final mission of the 1161st Trans. Co. TF will be delivering its tractor trailer systems to the 724th Trans. Co., said Jines.

Jines said, "It's a great mission for my Soldiers to finish up their deployment with."

## Arkansas mechanic up to elbows in missions throughout Iraq

By 1ST LT. RICHARD PARADISO  
15TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – An Arkansas mechanic serving with the 159th Seaport Operations Company has put a decade of work in his field to use for the Army, serving in and around Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Spc. Jason Stacy, a Pangburn, Ark., native, serves as a light wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 159th SOC's Convoy

Support Team, a group of Soldiers composed of mechanics, communications experts and a senior vehicle operator. He and his co-workers ensure the 159th's vehicles remain mission ready at all times, which can equal long hours for Stacy and his co-workers.

"Spc. Stacy is already working at a level echelons above a normal specialist, he would be a great asset to the maintenance Warrant Officer Corps," said Warrant Officer Thomas Mims, the 159th maintenance technician and a Montgomery, Ala., native. "This guy can fix anything."

"He is approached regularly by seniors, peers and subordinates alike for his mechanical knowledge," said Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Brewer, the 159th SOC motor sergeant and a Virginia Beach, Va., native. "We are proud to have such a resource as him in the company and it will be a sad day when he leaves us."

Stacy volunteers for missions to outlying bases in addition to his duties at JBB.

"Whenever we have a maintenance issue out at (Contingency Operating Location) Grizzly or Caldwell, he is the first one to volunteer to go out and fix

it," said Capt. Philip McDowell, commander of 159th SOC and a Charlottesville, Va., native. "We almost always send him because we know he can get the job done."

Stacy said he learned the tricks of the trade from his father, a former Army motor sergeant.




"I've been working on vehicles for about 10 years now and my knowledge just comes from my experiences with all of the people and vehicles that I work on," said Stacy. "It's my job, it's what I do. If something breaks we are supposed to fix it, plain and simple."



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# Iraqi Soldiers train a

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer  
96th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Members of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) traveled to the Iraqi side of Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 11 to train Iraqi Army officers on the proper use of a 9 mm pistol.

The event was also meant to build camaraderie between the U.S. and Iraqi armies, said Staff Sgt. John Richardson, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Logistics Training Advisory Team, 1161st Transportation Company, 96th Sust. Bde., and a Tacoma, Wash., native.

"The Iraqi Army is a new army," said Richardson, who also acted as NCOIC for the range. "This partnership is important for building relations. If they have any questions, or don't understand something, we can help them. It's a give and take. I've learned a lot from working with the Iraqi Army, more about their culture and who they are than I knew when I first deployed."

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Meyers, an air operations manager with the 96th Sust. Bde., and a Cortland, N.Y., native, trained the Soldiers on basic shooting techniques.

"Basically, ... we just showed them the techniques so that they could teach them to their junior Soldiers," Meyers said.

"Most of my career in the Army has been teaching Soldiers. For the past 10 years I've been in that element, and I get a lot of satisfaction out of seeing the end product, and seeing somebody succeed."

To prepare to instruct students with whom he did not share a common language, Meyers met with a transla-

tor who helped translate U.S. Army instructional charts into Arabic, he said.

"I got with an interpreter and we developed a plan based on what we do in the Army for classes, and what we do prior to going to the range," he said. "We introduced that by coming up with different charts showing what to do in their language."

Meyers said he taught the students in a different way than he teaches U.S. Soldiers.

"We did a dry run, and I worked with the translator on a few occasions," he said. "I taught the class, slowing it down to his pace, so he'd be able to get the point across. It was a little difficult at first because I'm used to talking to other Soldiers and communicating with them. I had to remember to slow down and take a breath to let the translator do his job."

When preparing his lesson, Meyers said he took the cultural differences between U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers into consideration.

"The Iraqi officers don't like to be offended, and they don't like to be told what to do," he said. "Basically, we just had to show them what we do and maybe they would want to use it."

Richardson said the U.S. Soldiers' role was largely advisory, with question and answer opportunities to allow the Iraqis to learn in a comfortable environment.

"When we're working with them, we follow their customs," said Richardson. "We understand that it's their military and they're in control."

With live ammunition and some students who were completely unfamiliar with the 9 mm pistol before, the instructors said they took extra time to stress proper safety techniques and procedures.

"When you go out and try to train and be proficient, if you don't have that element of safety there, it's really easy for someone to get hurt," said Richardson. "With a weapon, it could be fatal. We emphasize these things because we want the Iraqis to understand that safety is paramount. We always say, 'Train how you fight,' and we're trying to instill that in the Iraqis."

Both the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers agreed the training was effective, not only in teaching Iraqi officers how to use a 9 mm pistol, but also in building the relationship between U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers.

"I think they're starting to understand that we're here working for them," said Meyers. "This is their country, and we want them to eventually sustain it and be their own element here. To work with the leaders was especially nice because we showed them what they can show their junior Soldiers. It was a joint effort between both of us, and it was really fun."

Iraqi Army Pfc. Sarmad Abd-aljlil, a quality assurance/quality control Soldier for information technology, displays his target after shooting at a 9 mm pistol range Jan. 11 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Lt. Col. Harry Kim, the officer in charge of the Iraqi Security Forces with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Agoura Hills, Calif., native, said Abd-aljlil was given an award for being the top shooter.



Iraqi Army officers aim at their targets at the 9 mm pistol range. Members of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) trained Iraqi officers in proper shooting technique and safety methods.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

An Iraqi officer fires on the target at a 9 mm pistol familiarization range. Soldiers from the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) traveled to the Iraqi side of Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 11 to instruct the Iraqi officers in proper shooting and safety techniques.





# at 9 mm pistol range



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

ol firing range Jan. 11 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Mem-  
nt Command (Expeditionary) instructed the of-  
.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tanner, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Personal Security Detail with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a West Jordan, Utah, native, clears an Iraqi officer's 9 mm pistol at the firing range Jan. 11 at Camp Taji, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

First Lt. Anthony Latham, the officer in charge of the Logistics Training Advisory Team, 1161st Transportation Company, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Burlington, Wash., native, addresses a group of Iraqi officers Jan. 11 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Latham was part of a group from the 96th Sust. Bde. sent to run a 9 mm pistol familiarization range for the Iraqi Soldiers.

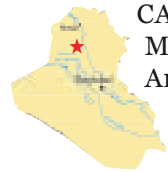
U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John



# Mississippians mark six months at Q-West entry control point

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS  
2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq – Members of a Mississippi Army National Guard unit marked their sixth month of entry control point operations and no security breaches Jan. 10 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.



Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss., took little notice of the occasion, though they approach their duties with pride.

“As far as protecting the force, I feel this is the most important job on post,” said Pfc. Quintavis B. Byrd, a gate sentinel and a Tutwiler, Miss., native. “I’m not knocking any other job, but we stop threats here from getting on post. I’m proud of doing this.”

Sgt. Russell R. Rippy, an assistant sergeant of the guard on his fourth deployment, said he agrees.

“All missions are equally important, no matter what, but operating the entry control point is extremely important,” said Rippy, a Nashville, Tenn., native. “If anything goes down, the Soldiers here are the first line of defense.”

Duty positions with the ECP include gatekeepers, tower gunners, surveillance system monitors, radio-telephone operators, badging specialists, and sergeants and assistant sergeants of the guard, said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hughes, sergeant of the guard and a Batesville, Miss., native.

Hughes said the gatekeepers monitor the flow of civilian and military traffic and validate civilian badges, over-watched by the tower gunners and surveillance system monitors.

The badge specialists validate the paperwork of civilians and issue temporary visitor passes or badges to Iraqi workers who enter the base.

The RTO maintains regular communications with the base defense operations center and informs higher command of any issues.

All of this is supervised by the sergeants and assistant sergeants of the guard, Hughes said.

Hughes said cross-training and rotating duties is a standard operating procedure at the ECP.

“We rotate duty positions so everyone gets time in every position, even

as SOG or ASOG,” said Hughes. “This keeps us fresh, versatile and confident. No matter what the rank, when a Soldier is in a leadership position, he has to make decisions and everyone has to follow those decisions. That also helps to build future leaders.”

Rotating duties and practicing battle drills keep everyone focused, said Spc. Jonathan A. Mercer, an Independence, Miss., native.

“This is a fairly safe job, but we keep in the back of our heads that anything could happen,” said Mercer. “We practice battle drills to stay ready and rotate jobs every day. That way, we have no choice but to stay on our toes.”

Hughes said nearly every member of the ECP operation volunteered for the duty and their morale is high.

ECP operations have a predictable battle rhythm, a contributing factor to the high number of volunteers, said Sgt. Schedrick O. Johnson, a sergeant of the guard.

“During my last deployment, I did convoy escort missions, and I never had a set schedule,” said Johnson, a Magnolia, Miss., native. “The ECP mission is more predictable. It’s more laid back and less stressful.”

Spc. Ryan E. Ohlendorf, a gate sentinel and a Horn Lake, Miss., native, said he preferred the ECP mission for the same reason.

“We have a set schedule, and I like that,” said Ohlendorf. “Our families get used to it, so they know when they’ll hear from us. That’s a big reason a lot of guys volunteered for this job.”

Spc. Calvin L. Davis, a machine gunner and a Red Banks, Miss., native, said exactly that.

“I volunteered for this duty because I wanted set work hours to make it easier to communicate back home,” said Davis.

These volunteers are diligent workers and have performed very well, but the key is relevant and rigorous training, said Hughes.

“Those of us who deployed in 2005 with the brigade faced (improvised explosive devices), rockets and fire



**Pfc. Quintavis B. Byrd, a gate sentinel and a Tutwiler, Miss., native, watches gun trucks pass the main entry control point Jan. 10 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Byrd serves with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized infantry unit out of Hernando, Miss., that provides force protection to Q-West. This day marked the unit's sixth month of ECP operations. There have been no security breaches during its tenure.**

fight,” Hughes said. “This time, the biggest fight we have is with complacency, keeping Soldiers sharp and focused. We go to the weapons range as much as possible. Otherwise, we practice our 26 battle drills to improve our response times, especially for medical evacuations.”

Staff Sgt. Robert L. Howze, another sergeant of the guard, said he agrees complacency was a challenge, but his biggest challenge was preparing Soldiers on their first deployment on how to do the mission.

“They had to learn the rules of engagement, the ECP battle drills, but they caught on quick,” said Howze, a Hattiesburg, Miss., native. “We continue to practice our battle drills, but they have performed well. I have a lot of confidence in my Soldiers. They stay focused and don’t complain.”

The battle drills prepared the ECP personnel to handle an Iraqi Army vehicle rollover, said Rippy.

“Through diligent practice, everyone on the gate that day knew their tasks,” said Rippy. “They knew where they needed to be and what they needed to do. There was a lot of panic among the Iraqis, but my Soldiers were calm as they dealt with the situation – securing the scene, providing immediate first aid, reporting to higher command and coordinating the medical response team.”

Howze said this is good duty for Soldiers deployed for the first time.

“Working at the ECP gives them a general idea of what’s going on in

Iraq,” said Howze. “The younger Soldiers get to know the people and the culture. They interact every day with local nationals, probably more than most Soldiers in the battalion. My Soldiers get to know the people by name, get to know about their lives.”

Meeting local Iraqis is one reason Spc. Thomas L. Hill, a badge specialist and a Southaven, Miss., native, said he prefers to work at the ECP.

“I like working with the local Iraqis very much,” said Hill. “I meet hundreds who come in and off the base every day. We talk, and I learn about their lives. I know a lot more about this country because I know so many Iraqis personally. No matter where I go on the base, I run into Iraqis I know from working here.”

Ohlendorf said becoming familiar with Iraqis who frequent the ECP helps them recognize unusual behavior or circumstances.

“We get so we recognize everyone, and we know their moods, if they are relaxed or anxious,” said Ohlendorf. “It’s easy to spot unfamiliar people and vehicles, or familiar vehicles that have something out of the ordinary. We always watch the faces, whether we know them or not, to look for signs of nervousness. If we see anything suspicious, we halt the vehicle far back from the gate.”

Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Brown, an SOG and a Hernando, Miss., native, said passing through the ECP is a tedious process that can cause delays and test the patience of commuters.



# Traveling Soldiers pursue higher education



Cpl. Dawn M. Salazar, a combat medic with the 36th Sustainment Brigade personal security detachment and an El Paso, Texas, native, gets caught up on her schoolwork during a break in her mission Jan. 8 at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY PFC. LISA A. COPE  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION KALSU, Iraq – Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade personal security detachment out of Temple, Texas, find time to further their education, despite spending a majority of their time on the road conducting missions.



Cpl. Dawn M. Salazar, a combat medic with the 36th Sust. Bde. PSD, completed a psychology course through Park University out of Parkville, Mo., and is taking two more sociology courses to earn a degree in nursing.

Salazar, an El Paso, Texas, native, said Park University is convenient for her because it offers courses on base, the semesters are only eight weeks long and the school is paid for by the Army's tuition assistance program. She said it can be difficult to stay focused on her studies, however, because she likes to play cards with fellow Soldiers on her down time.

The amount of travel required by her job makes it more

difficult to access the Internet or find the time to keep up in her courses, said Salazar, but her leadership supports her educational goals and helps her achieve them.

"I had to reschedule an exam twice, on top of waiting until the last minute to do the paper but (Staff Sgt. McArthur W. Jones, Jr.) has been good about it, too," she said. "He let me stay back on one mission so I could get the paper done."

Jones, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 36th Sust. Bde. PSD, said he supports the Soldiers on his team who pursue a higher education, because he too is enrolled in a Fundamental Academic Skills Training course to improve his general technical and overall armed services vocational aptitude battery scores.

This will help him advance his military career, said Jones, a Fort Worth, Texas, native.

He said some of his Soldiers have also taken correspondence courses, and never negatively affected the mission.

"My Soldiers are outstanding," said Jones. "They can continue on with their education and the mission at the same time. It has never been a problem."

"I encourage all of my Soldiers to continue their education."



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{No prior experience required}



# Force protection uniform postures

	IBA	Kevlar	Uniform	Conduct PT
<div>U1</div> 	Accessible within 10 minutes.	Accessible within 10 minutes.	DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT or off duty and can be worn in DFAC/PX.	No restrictions.
<div>U2</div> 	Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.	Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.	DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.	Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.
<div>U3</div> 	Worn outside hardened facility.	Worn outside hardened facility.	Same as U2. DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.	Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.
<div>U4</div> 	Worn.	Worn.	Same as U3, but with ballistic goggles and combat earplugs.	Not authorized.



# US, Iraqi Soldiers work together

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – U.S. Army Soldiers work with Iraqi Army Soldiers to provide 24-hour support in the base defense operations center on the Iraqi Army-monitored half of Camp Taji, Iraq.

Camp Taji is separated into two halves, one monitored by U.S. Forces and the other monitored by Iraqi military, said Master Sgt. Jimmy Smith, noncommissioned officer in charge of partnership with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), BDOC.

The partnership between the 155th HBCT and the Iraqi Army promotes an equal level of base security and force protection on both halves of Camp Taji, said Smith, a Huntsville, Miss., native.

"We have only half the post," he said. "If we had a problem over here or opposite, there could be a problem on that side; then both sides can react together."

Since the time of the reformation of the Iraqi Army, U.S. military forces have made it a goal to train Iraqi service members in standard operating procedures similar to those used by U.S. forces.

The presence of U.S. Soldiers in the Iraqi BDOC started with the 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery Regiment, out of Pennsylvania, said Chief Warrant Of-



**Spc. Brendan Mummart, a surveillance operator and with the 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and a Hattiesburg, Miss., native, instructs Iraqi Army Sgt. Hussein Kareem, a radio transmitter operator with the Taji Location Command Military Police Brigade and a Babil, Iraq, native, on the use of the camera systems that monitor the perimeter of Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 14. U.S. Army Soldiers serve with Iraqi Army MPs to provide base defense operations to the Iraqi monitored side of Camp Taji.**

ficer 4 Billy Brassel, officer in charge of force protection with the 155th HBCT.

The 155th HBCT was responsible for BDOC operations at Camp Taji after it replaced the 1/108th FAR in July, said Brassel. At the same time, it was responsible for carrying on the mission to support the Iraqi BDOC, Brassel said.

As the Iraqi Army's BDOC became more established in steady operations, it

was referred to as the Saif BDOC, rather than the IADOC, said Brassel, a Grenada, Miss., native. Saif is the Arabic word for sword, he said.

This allows for almost immediate reaction on both sides, said Smith. Before the partnership, there was a much slower and more disorganized communication flow between the two forces, he said.

The Iraqi Army guards the east and south gates as well as its area of responsibility at Camp Taji, said Sgt. 1st class Jacob Thomas, noncommissioned officer in charge of operations with the 155th HBCT. In the Saif BDOC, two U.S. Soldiers assist in monitoring the Iraqi Army's area of responsibility with the use of a camera surveillance system, he said.

If any incident occurs, they alert both commands, he said. They then observe and provide information to Iraqi Soldiers who communicate to the command, said Thomas, a Union, Miss., native. The information collected is used to assess the situation, he said.

"They can get eyes on whatever is happening," said Thomas. "(The Iraqi Army) commanders can get a better feel for sending their guys out to (apprehend) someone or react to any situation accordingly."

Although both sides have their own BDOCs, a constant communication flow provides intelligence on occurrences within and around the Camp Taji perimeter, said Thomas.

Force protection at any installation prepares every service member to defend and serve his or her country, said Brassel.

"The partnership between the two military groups provides base-wide security at Taji," said Brassel. "It also gives Iraqi forces the experience they need when U.S. Forces withdraw out of Iraq."

## Soldiers reflect on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As Martin Luther King Jr. Day approached, Jan. 18, Soldiers throughout Joint Base Balad, Iraq, reflected on what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy means to them.

In 1963, King directed a peaceful march on Washington, where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to more than 250,000 people.

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last,'" King said.

According to <http://nobelprize.org>, in the 11 year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled more than 6 million miles and spoke more than 2,500 times, promoting peaceful protest to injustice in the United States.

At 35, he was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, after which he announced he would donate the prize money to the furtherance of the civil rights movement, according to the site.

Pfc. Bruce E. Cornish, unit supply specialist with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Louisville, Ky., native, said King had a vision of blacks joining hands with other races and, for the most part, that is happening.

"It may not be like that for all of America but, for some, we are all getting along the way he would have wanted us to," said Cornish.

Cornish said King's speeches touched most Americans and his words maintain their power today.

"We have a black president," said Cornish. "That means, for the most part, every race voted for President Obama."

Lt. Col. Dan Kozlowski, brigade judge advocate for Task Force 38 and an Indianapolis, native, said MLK Day has meaning for him because he was alive prior to the civil rights act of 1964 and can remember 1968, not vividly, but he remembers how he felt.

Kozlowski, who has taught race relations at Oakland City University, in Oakland City, Ind., since 1996, said he



Courtesy photo

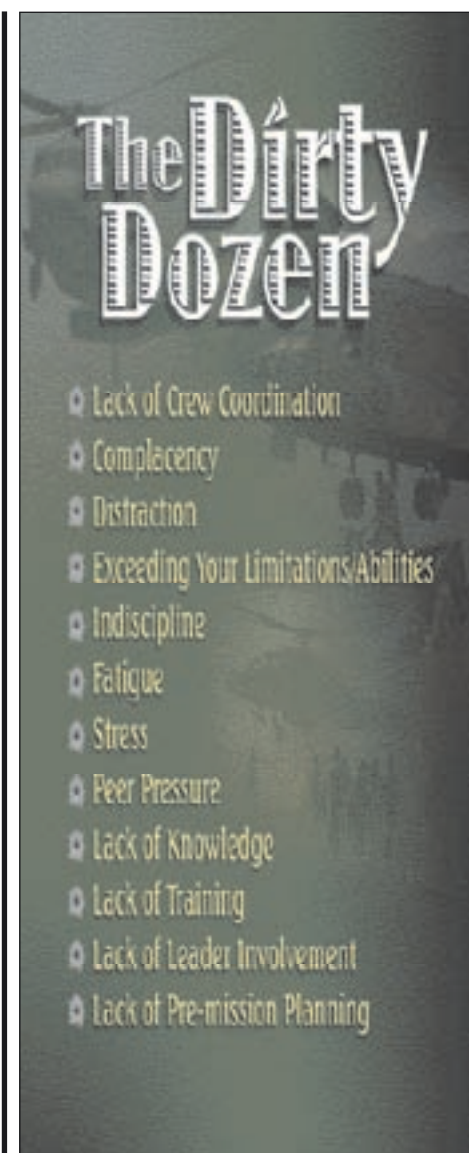
speaks in terms of history. He said he looks at race relations in 10 to 15-year increments, starting around 1967.

"I remember when Richard Hatcher became the first black man elected mayor in Gary, Ind., in 1967 and, 40 years later, we elected a black man as president," said Kozlowski. "I don't think that significance can be lost."

"As you look back, it seems we may have taken two steps forward and one step back," said Kozlowski. "Overall, it seems that progress is being made."

He said race relations have improved, allowing more people to be judged by their character than the color of their skin.

"We can pat ourselves on the back for society that we have come a long way," said Kozlowski.





# Iraqi Soldiers receive Humvee evacuation training

BY MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
36TH SUST. BDE.

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 10th Iraqi Mobilized Transportation Company participated in Humvee egress assistance trainer rollover training Jan. 7 at Contingency Camp Adder, Iraq.



HEAT training takes roughly four hours and consists of a power point presentation on vehicle safety and history, correct ways to get out of, or egress from, a flipped vehicle, types of tactical vehicles, and situations in which Soldiers would need to evacuate a flipped vehicle. After the presentation, hands-on practical exercises using the HEAT trainer simulate vehicle rollovers in a controlled environment.

Sgt. Kevon Williams, noncommissioned officer in charge of the HEAT training facility with the 36th Special Troops Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Worth, Texas, native, said the joint training challenges have been minimal.

“Since we have started training the Iraqi Soldiers over the past month, I have noticed only a small language barrier,” Williams said. “However, the barrier that exists is easy to move beyond because the Iraqis bring excellent interpreters with them to the training.”

Students participate in three phases

of training after the introductory power point presentation: orientation drill, 180 degree egress and 90 degree water egress with casualties involved. During the orientation drill, Soldiers learn the angles the vehicle may come to rest at after a flip: 25 degrees, 90 degrees and upside down at 180 degrees.

The second exercise is the 180 degree egress. During this phase, students use individual restraint systems inside the HEAT simulator while it is rotated 180 degrees to the upside down position. The students must then egress from the vehicle with all weapons and personnel, including the simulated wounded. The students who sustained no injuries then provide 360 degree security around the vehicle.

Finally, students are tested on a 90 degree water egress with casualties. Here, students must all evacuate through the gunner’s hatch at the roof of the vehicle. They must once again provide 360 degrees of security and assess each team member for injuries.

After each phase of training, students discuss what they have learned, what they did well, what could have been done better and how they could improve their results in the future.

“Iraqi Soldiers pay close attention to what we have to tell them and take it to heart,” said Spc. Derek Carraway, an assistant HEAT trainer with the 36th STB and a Portleyden, N.Y., native. “The Iraqi Soldiers actually work very well as a team. I was surprised to see that. When trying to get in and out of the



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Marvin D. Johnson, with the 36th Special Troops Battalion, shakes hands with Iraqi Army 1st Lt. Samih Noori, class officer in charge with the 10th Iraqi Mobilized Transportation Company, after the Iraqi Soldiers completed Humvee egress assistance trainer rollover training Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.

HEAT Trainer they work together and make sure everyone is out. Also, when casualties are involved, they make sure to get them out and pull security.”

Iraqi 1st Lt. Samih Noori, class officer in charge with the 10th Division IMTR, said his Soldiers failed to wear seatbelts and use the gunner restraint systems.

“Now I understand the importance of using the seatbelts,” Noori said. “Seatbelts can save lives or cause lesser injuries as compared to not wearing

seatbelts. From now on, I will be enforcing the wearing of seatbelts with my Soldiers. I also will have my Soldiers practice proper procedures during and after a roll over.”

Williams said safety is a priority in the training.

“Our goal is providing the safest roll over training possible with the closest to real world experience as we can make it,” Williams said. “We are proud to be able to share this training with our Iraqi friends.”

## Comedians offer service members relief from deployment stress



STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Three comedians visited Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 13 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center west to offer service members comedic relief from the deployment’s daily grind.

The JBB show was the second stop for the 10-show Lone Wolf Comedy Tour, which started in Kuwait and will continue on to Baghdad, said comedian D’Sean Ross.

Ross, a Los Angeles native, said this marked his first trip to Iraq and the Middle East.

“Besides the wind and the sand, I have really enjoyed it over here,” said Ross. “The (service members) have taken really good care of us and I am re-

Jeremy Greenberg, a comedian with the Lone Wolf Comedy Tour and a Los Angeles native, performs at Morale, Welfare and Recreation center west Jan. 13 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Greenberg was one of three comedians who performed at the show.

ally glad that I decided to come here.”

Sgt. Chanel Reagan, a human resource noncommissioned officer with Task Force 38 out of Shelbyville, Ind., and an Indianapolis native, said she enjoyed the show.

“They all brought something different to the plate,” said Reagan.

She said she liked Ross because he treated his comedy like a normal conversation and related well to the audience.

“I definitely feel that these are a big morale booster for all the Soldiers,” said Reagan. “I wish we could have these at least once a month.”

Yoursie Thomas and Jeremy Greenberg accompanied Ross on the tour.

Both said performing for the troops was a great experience.

Ross said everyone should stay strong and continue their hard work.

“This trip has really opened up my eyes,” said Ross. It’s really cool to kind of get firsthand knowledge of what (service members) go through every day.”

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# Sudoku

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

Last week's answers

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

Level: Hard

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What landmark invention did Ts'ai Lun invent from bark and hemp in the second century?
2. What “foot doctor” had more than 300 patents?
3. What Italian astronomer invented the thermometer in 1592?
4. What did George Nisser invent after observing high wire performers bouncing on safety nets?
5. Who averaged one patent for every three weeks of his life?

1. Paper 2. Dr. Scholl 3. Galileo 4. The trampoline 5. Thomas Edison

# JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL - Sunday

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel	0930 Provider Chapel
1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)	1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)
1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel	1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

GOSPEL - Sunday

1100 MWR East Building	1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	

1900 Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

0900 Chapel- Next Iraq/MWR East	
1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	
1400 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)	1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

Wedneday

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel

LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday

1700 Provider Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday

1000 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)- Sunday

1300 Provider Chapel	1530 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1900 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	

MASS - Saturday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	
2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side)	

Sunday

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Thursday

1100 Air Force Hospital

Mon., Wed., Fri.

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Monday-Friday

1130 555th Engineer Bde. (Bldg. 7200)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Saturday

0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

1700 Gilbert Memorial 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 FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

# 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 REC- REATION CENTER

4-ball tourney:

Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke:

Monday- 8 p.m.

Aerobics:

Mon., Wed.,

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 Fight-

ing Combative

Training:

Tue., Thur.,

Sat., - 8-10 p.m.

EAST REC- REATION CENTER

4-ball tourney:

Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke:

Monday- 8 p.m.

Aerobics:

Mon., Wed.,

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

p.m.

Caribbean

Night:

Friday- 8 p.m.

Chess & Domi-

noes 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.

Monday- 9 a.m.

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

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., 3 p.m.

P90x:

Monday- Sat-

urday- 4:30

a.m., 4 p.m.,

10 p.m.

Soccer:

Tue., Thu., - 8

p.m.

Yoga:

Wednesday- 8

p.m.

MACP Level

1:

Friday- 8 p.m.

5 on 5 Basket-

ball:

Saturday- 8

p.m.

H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER

Bingo:

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.

Dominoes:

Saturday- 8:30

p.m.

Darts:

Saturday- 8:30

p.m.

WEST REC- REATION CENTER

Green Bean

Karaoke:

Sun., Wed.,

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 Compe-

tition:

Saturday- 8

p.m.

Darts:

Saturday- 8:30

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



# UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Thursday 01/21/10

Wednesday Night Hoops: Wake Forest @ North Carolina, Live 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
South Florida @ Cincinnati, Live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra  
NBA Wednesday: Utah Jazz @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
Baylor @ Kansas, Live 6 a.m. AFN/ xtra

Friday 01/22/10

NBA on TNT: Los Angeles Lakers @ Cleveland Cavaliers,



# Arts & Entertainment

## ‘American Central Dust,’ what country music was meant to be

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“American Central Dust” is my first real foray into the works of Son Volt, though, when I was in college, I used to listen

to old Uncle Tupelo albums at the radio station where I worked.

Uncle Tupelo, young performers, made real country music and, to me, started the alt-country genre.

When Uncle Tupelo broke up in 1994, front man Jay Farrar formed Son Volt.

Jeff Tweedy, Uncle Tupelo’s secondary songwriter, formed Wilco.

The two men have been rivals ever since, but comparing their bands is like comparing apples and oranges.

Wilco consistently infuses avant-garde and pop with alt-country and has become a fairly mainstream rock band. Son Volt has remained very traditional to the definitions of alt-country and Americana.

“American Central Dust” is more country than it is alternative. Electric guitar comes in two flavors, fuzzy or twangy, and is sparse. Lap steel and fiddle are abundant, though each of these

songs could stand alone with just an acoustic guitar. Farrar’s age is just starting to catch up to his voice.

My favorite track is probably the piano-driven “Cocaine and Ashes” – a nod to Keith Richards and the rumor that he once snorted the remains of his father. The strings and the vocal harmonies really complement this song without adding unnecessary density to the track.

Another standout track is “Sultana,” the story of a paddle-wheel ship that exploded and sank on the Mississippi River in 1865, killing an estimated 1,800 people. It offers a history lesson wrapped in a great song – bonus.

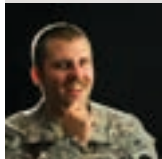
There are no bad tracks on this album. It’s a bit slow and somber, but is perfect for lying in bed with your headphones on. This might just be my new rainy day record.

Son Volt probably would have been much more at home in the 1960’s, but its music is a welcome option to those who refuse to call what they hear on the radio real country.

Jay Farrar isn’t going to Nashville to buy his songs from another artist, he isn’t making tens of millions of dollars and he isn’t using studio production tricks to make him sound good. He is the real thing, and Son Volt is real country.

## ‘Rudo y Cursi,’ a mediocre dramedy about soccer, brotherhood

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“Rudo y Cursi” is funny and serious, with a mix a bit like water and oil. The film has its moments, but it never quite kicks the

winning goal.

Two brothers, Beto (Diego Luna), nicknamed Rudo for his tough playing goalie techniques, and Tato (Gael Garcia Bernal), nicknamed Cursi for his cornball antics after he scores goals, live and work in a poor farm village in Mexico. A soccer recruiter notices the two star soccer players during a dirt field league match. The duo makes its way to the professional league in Mexico City playing on different teams. They become superstars, but the price of celebrity takes toll on them and sends them in a downward

spiral they may not recover from.

This movie deals with some heavy themes but manages to convey them in a humorous manner. It deals with single motherhood, poverty in Mexico, drugs overtaking parts of Mexico, the high price of fame, and sibling rivalry.

These themes keep the audience interested in the film, but the pacing of the movie is a little bit off at times. I also felt like the drama and comedy in this movie clashed. Where films like “Little Miss Sunshine” and “Juno” meshed the two genres well, this movie failed.

The lead actors in this movie were great.

Luna (“Milk”) was great as Rudo. He was a family man who wanted to be recognized for his goalie skills but is constantly tortured by his gambling addiction. He was a hard worker who criticized his brother for being lazy, but the minute anyone said a negative word about Cursi,

he was the first to defend him.

Bernal (“The Motorcycle Diaries”) was just as good as Cursi. His passion was singing and women, and he saw soccer as his way to attaining these dreams, but when he lost focus of his true talent, playing soccer, his life spiraled out of control.

Cursi and Rudo’s relationship in the movie reminded me a lot of my relationship with my younger brother, always criticizing but the first to defend each other.

The film’s strongest aspect was its social commentary on Mexican culture, much of which I had no idea about until I watched the extra features on the DVD. The gender gap is much different in Mexico than in America. The women rely heavily on the men and, in poor regions, single mothers come to rely on their sons. This film showed the two brothers defending and supporting their

mother, and often fighting for her affection, which is very entertaining and, in the end, heartbreaking.

The other strong aspect was the drug culture in Mexico. Rudo gets involved with drugs when his gambling begins to reach dangerous levels, and the brothers’ sister marries a local drug lord in their home village. Drugs lead to Rudo’s downward spiral. However, in their village the drug lord gives local villagers work, fixes roads, builds schools and supports the brothers’ family. It shows the double edge sword of the drug culture in Mexico.

This movie had solid themes and great acting, but poor direction. I advise this movie for people who have knowledge, or interest in, Mexican culture and for anyone with a strong bond with their brother.

However, for a solid dramedy through and through, stick with “Little Miss Sunshine.”

## CLASSIC PVT MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

#### Wednesday, Jan. 20

5 p.m. Armored  
8 p.m. Daybreakers

#### Thursday, Jan. 21

5 p.m. Daybreakers  
8 p.m. Ninja Assassin

#### Friday, Jan. 22

2 p.m. Everybody's Fine  
5 p.m. The Blind Side  
8:30 p.m. The Book Of Eli

#### Saturday, Jan. 23

2 p.m. The Blind Side  
5 p.m. The Book Of Eli  
8 p.m. Everybody's Fine

#### Sunday, Jan. 24

2 p.m. The Book Of Eli  
5 p.m. Everybody's Fine  
8 p.m. The Blind Side

#### Monday, Jan. 25

5 p.m. The Book Of Eli  
8 p.m. Everybody's Fine

#### Tuesday, Jan. 26

5 p.m. The Blind Side  
8 p.m. The Book Of Eli

#### Wednesday, Jan. 27

5 p.m. Everybody's Fine  
8 p.m. The Blind Side





# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



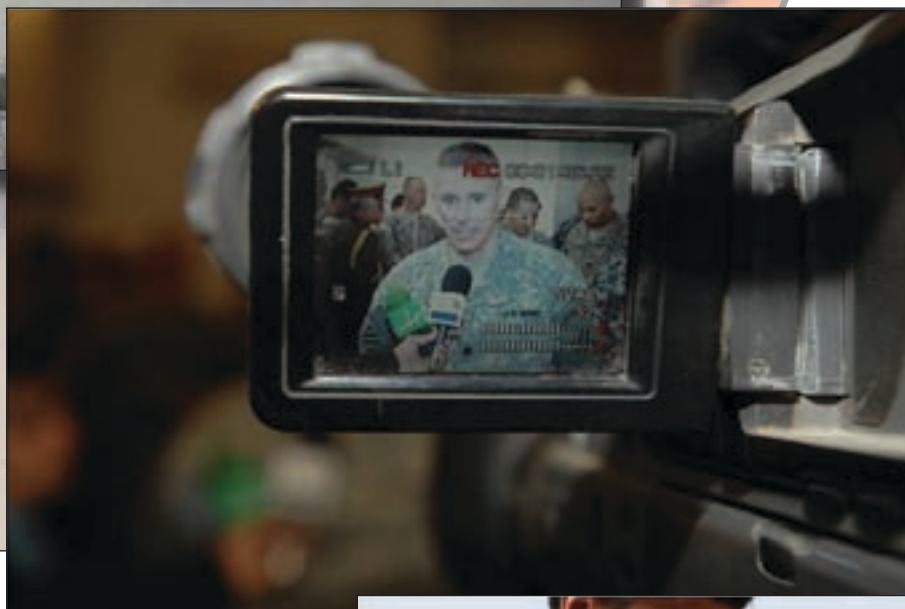
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha R. Ciaramitaro

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Chandler, with the 810th Military Police Company, 203rd MP Battalion, 17th Fires Brigade, takes on an Iraqi police officer in a push-up contest during a break in class.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Holley Baker

An Iraqi Army battalion commander assigned to 27th Iraqi Army, raises the Iraq flag with U.S. Army Capt. Roger Wang, commander D Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, during a ceremony Dec. 29 at Camp Ubaydi, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Vorhees

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Shaun Tooke, commander of the 1st Battalion 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, gives an interview with an Iraqi journalist after a dinner Jan. 6 at Contingency Operating Location Delta, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Tyrone Clakely

An Iraqi police officer spotted an improvised explosive device while walking through the training course Jan. 5 at the Taji Law Enforcement Academy, at Camp Taji, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Holley Baker

An Iraqi investigator from a counter terrorism unit tags a piece of evidence from a simulated crime scene involving a car with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that was detonated Dec. 17 at a range outside Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.



# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq cases its flag

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq held its final ceremony Dec. 31 at Phoenix Base in Baghdad.

Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, the final MNSTC-I commander, recognized the command's contributions to a safer, more secure Iraq since 2004 to an audience of Iraqi officials, U.S. service members and civilians.

Among the honored guests were Salih Sarhan, Minister of Defence secretary, Al Hussein, senior adviser to Defence and Security Council Chairman Hadi Al Ameri, and Lt. Gen. Al Awadi, Federal Police commissioner.

Army Gen. David Petraeus was the first MNSTC-I commander when it activated June 28, 2004. Barbero and each of the five commanders before him witnessed the Iraqi security forces' evolution to a streamlined and professional security force.

"This ceremony is an opportunity to remember we did this together," Barbero said about the partnerships and relationships among Iraq, the U.S. and other nations who worked with MNSTC-I.

Barbero commended the hard work and sacrifices of the countless Iraqis, U.S. service members and civilians who accomplished so much under difficult circumstances.

"We built a proud and capable security force of over 650,000 strong," said Barbero. "A force that today is well-led, trained, professional and dedicated to protecting their countrymen and a democratic Iraq."

As the new United States Forces – Iraq, deputy commanding general for advising and training, Barbero's duties remain essentially the same, to train and equip the Iraqi security forces and ministries. Although the name is changing, the transition will be largely transparent to the majority of former MNSTC-I personnel.

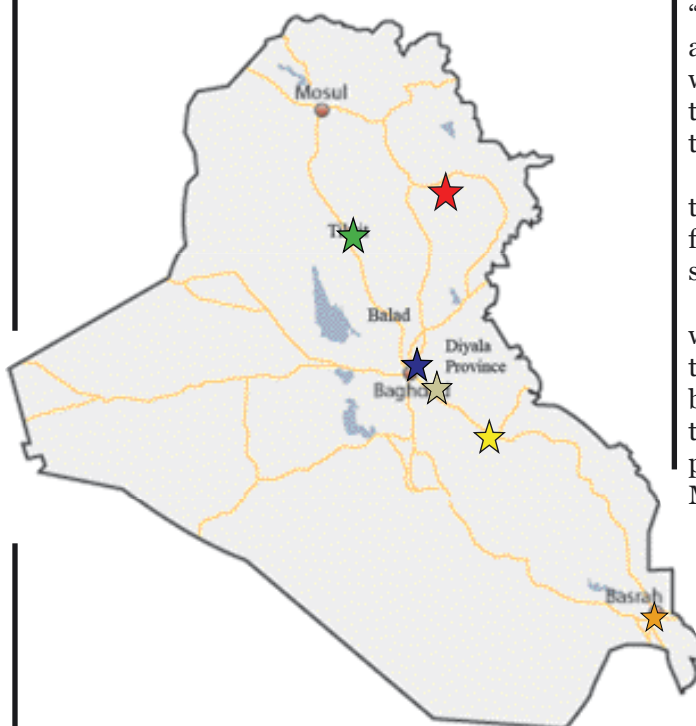
"We cannot rest," said Barbero. "The tasks we face in the future are no less important than the ones we faced in 2004."

The activation of USF-I is part of the evolution of the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces as they prepare to reduce the number of troops in Iraq to 50,000 by Aug. 31, 2010, as stipulated in the security agreement.

## Ministry of Defence medical facilities use latest technology

BAGHDAD – Members of the Ministry of Defence and their family members did not have a working hospital one year ago, but, as of Jan. 3, they have that and a prosthetics clinic with 10 trained doctors and five dentists.

Staff members at the MoD Hospital at al Muthana showcased their advanced equipment for Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, U.S. Forces – Iraq deputy commanding general for advising and training, Dec. 29. "This medical facility provides an additional capability for the Iraqi forces and we are visiting today



to evaluate how we can continue to increase their capacity here for the MoD members, their families and the people in the local vicinity," said Barbero.

The hospital has used USF-I funding assistance to rebuild a helicopter pad, establish a satellite phone communication system and train clinic staff as well as make a host of smaller repairs and improvements.

Barbero examined the hospital laboratory, radiographic center, dental service area, pharmacy, intensive care unit and operating suites before seeing the prosthetic center.

The center, which opened January 2009 is one of 50 in the world capable of virtual-casting, a process in which a three-dimensional image of the limb is created via laser.

The clinic staff has helped more than 2,100 patients and produced 680 prosthetic limbs.

The hospital's emergency room staff treated seven patients injured in bombings Dec. 8 and transported others to Ministry of Health hospitals. One of the explosions occurred within 500 meters of the hospital.

"Although we provide health care for the members of the MoD and their families, we also receive civilians in emergency situations," said Col. Aamer Nejim, hospital commander. "We treated those that we could within our capabilities on the day of the blasts."

## United States Forces – Iraq completes month without combat action death

BAGHDAD – December passed with no service members killed in action.

This was the first month in the history of Operation Iraqi Freedom with no U.S. military killed in combat.

However, three USF-I troops died from non-combat related incidents. "We enter the new year with mixed emotions," said

Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding general of USF-I. "While we are thankful that no troops were killed in action in December, we are equally mindful of those who have lost their lives while serving our nation. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and all that have lost a loved one in Iraq."

The leadership of USF-I reiterated its commitment to supporting the Government of Iraq and its security forces in maintaining a secure environment in which security incidents have been sharply reduced.

"There is still work to be done," said Odierno. "We will continue to advise and support our Iraqi partners to pressure terrorist networks and reduce their capability to conduct high-profile attacks. We will continue to support the government and people of Iraq as they progress toward credible and legitimate elections in March followed by a peaceful transition of power."

## Iraqi Security Forces arrest 4 suspected al-Qaeda terrorists

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested four suspected terrorists Dec. 30 during a joint security operation in northwest Mosul to arrest a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader who operates in eastern Mosul.

Acting pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi court, ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for a suspected AQI leader who has acquired vehicles, pistols and silencers used by the terrorist group to carry out assassinations in the area.

Following preliminary questioning and examining evidence at the scene, ISF arrested four suspected criminal associates of the warranted individual without incident.

## Iraqi Soldiers complete logistics training

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers graduated from the Field Workshop military occupational skills qualification course Dec. 30 in An Numaniyah, Iraq.

The class of more than 200 noncommissioned officers with the 8th and 17th Iraqi Army divisions learned basic Soldier skills before mastering their individual military occupational specialties, ranging from administration to transportation, during the 26-day course.


"The motivation and dedication of these Soldiers has been exceptional," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. John F. K. Jones, senior coalition adviser. "They have embraced their training, have shown steady improvement, and will be an asset to their units."

The MOS qualified cadre issued certificates of completion to the Soldiers and congratulated them on their achievements.

"You are all good examples for the younger enlisted Soldiers to follow," said Lt. Col. Usam Hassan, 8th Division commander. "I challenge you to continue learning to ensure that the Iraqi Army is successful in maintaining peace in Iraq."



## Iraqi operation nets 20, proves abilities

 KIRKUK, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Khatub Umer Aref led more than 400 Iraqi Emergency Service Unit Lions in Operation Lion Dragon Hunt in December, proving the skill, determination and professionalism of his unit in Kirkuk.

The Lions had assistance from D Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Dragons, led by Capt. Jeremiah Fritz, the commander of D Co. In addition to the D Co. Soldiers, the U.S. Army also provided military working dogs to assist in the mission, said Fritz.

"We had two main purposes today," said Fritz. "One was to demonstrate the ability of the Kirkuk ESU to perform clearing operations and also to disrupt the enemy."


In addition to these missions, the ESU and U.S. military searched for anyone staying in the area illegally, said Fritz.

"Every day the ESU is getting better and better; they are very close to being completely independent," said Fritz.

Although no hidden weapons were located, more than 20 people were detained and taken to the Amal Shabi Iraqi Police station for lacking proper identification to be in the area, said Fritz.

"This mission was very successful," said Aref. "Together we made the insurgents fearful and met our objectives. We will continue to do missions like this. We will not give the insurgents a break."


## Emergency response Soldiers arrest suspected kidnapper

 TIKRIT, Iraq – The Baqubah Emergency Response Battalion, partnered with U.S. forces, arrested a suspected terrorist Jan. 3 in Diyala province.

Under the authority of a warrant issued by the Government of Iraq, the ERB made the arrest of an individual suspected of kidnapping, intimidation and displacement of local citizens in Dhiyabah and Abu Sayda.

The suspect is allegedly linked to another individual detained with a warrant by Iraqi Security Forces Nov. 22, on suspicion of murder, kidnapping and violent explosives attacks against Iraqi citizens and ISF units.

## Iraqi operation detains 20 persons lacking proper identification

 BESMAYA, Iraq – Soldiers with the 3rd Field Engineer Regiment, 3rd Iraqi Army Infantry Division completed unit set fielding training Dec. 26 at the Besmaya Combat Training Center.

The comprehensive three-week training program included classroom and hands-on instruction that included marksmanship, route-clearance techniques, and identifying and responding to improvised explosive devices.

The Soldiers learned to prepare suspected IED sites for explosive ordnance disposal teams. As part of their route clearance training, they were required to recognize IEDs, perform vehicle recovery and complete turning maneuvers within the exercise area.


"Our advisers were very impressed with the 3rd FER," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Concannon, the Besmaya CTC deputy senior advisor. "They have done an exceptional job of executing this training."

To graduate, the Soldiers had to complete live-fire events to demonstrate their marksmanship in a close-quarter urban environment.

The 3rd FER worked together strengthening internal bonds in training as its Soldiers honed their skills for combat. While increasing their competencies with weapons, they also strengthened their decision-making abilities and built confidence in their abilities to work as a team.

The 3rd FER is scheduled to resume its engineer mission of supporting the 3rd Iraqi Army in the Ninewah Province following a brief respite from operations.

## Iraqi Army Soldiers complete urban combat training

 SHAIBA, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers graduated from the Shaiba Training Center's M16 Urban Combat Refresher Training course Dec. 24 in Shaiba, Iraq.

The 53rd Brigade, 14th Infantry Division students learned urban combat tactics and procedures during the six-day program, which began by testing their knowledge and handling of the M16 rifle and ended with a close-quarters, live-fire exercise.

The Soldiers completed a weapons refresher phase, which included demonstrating perfect comprehension of the M16A2 rifle's characteristics, mastering assembly and disassembly, constructing proper firing positions and conducting safe range procedures.

Students then moved on to hone their individual and squad level movement techniques, conduct building clearing operations and finally complete a close-quarters marksmanship live fire exercise.


Iraqi Army Capt. Anwar, the Shaiba training officer and weapons wing commander, spoke to the graduating class after recognizing the top squad and marksman.

"This course brought your tactical skills to a higher level," he said. "You must remember your instruction."

Anwar concluded with words of encouragement to his students.

"All of you will be called upon to protect your neighbors and friends," he said. "If you apply your new knowledge, you will prevail over the terrorists and our enemies."

## Emergency response constables find explosive materials

 TIKRIT, Iraq – Emergency Response Battalion constables, partnered with U.S. forces, recovered explosives-making materials in Ras al Jada Dec. 30 near Mosul.


Credible information and local reports led the ERB to a warehouse complex in the Ninawa province where the constables gained entry and began

their search for explosive materials.

During the search of three separate buildings, the ERB discovered roughly 2,500 kilograms of materials commonly used to create homemade explosives, as well as agricultural supplies.

The constables secured the area and removed the material without incident.

## Iraqi Security Forces arrest suspected explosives expert


 BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq explosives expert Jan. 4 during a joint operation in southern Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a residential building for the suspected explosives expert, who they suspect works directly for AQI leadership to coordinate and carry out attacks within the capital city.

Within the building, the security team discovered circuitry, wiring and tools often used to make improvised explosive devices, as well as several IED triggers.

The evidence discovered at the scene and preliminary questioning led ISF to identify and arrest the targeted individual without incident.

## Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School triples training capacity

 BESMAYA, Iraq – The Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School at the Besmaya Combat Training Center held its last graduation of the year Dec. 30 in Besmaya, Iraq.

The school has roughly 50 instructors and the capacity to train more than 300 Soldiers per cycle. This capability has tripled in the past three years due to an expansion of resources available through the Iraqi Army, which has a dedicated school to help them develop this skill.

"This graduation signifies the courage of the Iraqi Soldiers to stand strong and face the dangers presented to the freedom of Iraq," said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Oliver Herion, commander of Combined Joint Task Force – Troy Combined Exploitation Cell.

BDS has trained more than 1,700 bomb disposal technicians in areas ranging from ordnance identification, explosive storage and safety, and demolition operations to vehicle search and clearance operations since its inception in 2006.

The BDS was originally in Basrah and manned by the international professional services firm RONCO Consulting Corporation in 2005, before it relocated to Besmaya in 2006. The Iraqi Army took full control of the school in late 2007.

"The Iraqi Army BDS instructors have set high standards in professionalism and technical ability for their students to achieve," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Christopher Ellette, the explosive ordnance disposal senior enlisted adviser. "These high standards result in a commitment to excellence in their profession once they graduate and return to their units."

The school cadre expects to train an additional 1,700 Soldiers this year.

"We stand ready to answer our nation's call to duty and meet its future challenges with strength and honor," said Col. Jasim, BDS commander.



# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo illustration by Spc. Cory Grogan

An Iraqi Army member pulls security as Soldiers with the 121st Brigade Support Battalion load a casualty by litter during a Convoy Academy training exercise Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan

A line of vehicles are mission-ready at the motor pool for Task Force Atlas with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

Staff Sgt. Jonathan C. Love, a squad leader and a Southaven, Miss., native, scans the rooftops of Al-Qayyarah during a visit to the filtration plant pumping water Dec. 27 to Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Love serves with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team, out of Hernando, Miss. The force protection company for Q-West, A Co. provides security for all missions to the pump house and filtration plant, supplying potable water for the base.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nayara Torres

Staff Sgt. Jermaine Millwood, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator with the 445th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Randolph, Mass., native, was among eight Soldiers awarded the Combat Action Badge by Col. C. J. Read, 96th Sust. Bde. commander and a Layton, Utah, native, Jan. 5. The Soldiers were on a logistical convoy when they encountered small arms fire.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

Capt. Drew Clark, a company commander and a Madison, Miss., native, places specialist rank on Spc. Michael Murtagh, an entry control point guard and a Pickens, Miss., native, during a promotion ceremony in the company area Jan. 5 at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. Murtagh serves with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team, out of Hernando, Miss.