

# The Expeditionary Times

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

## Honorable service



Seven Soldiers with 2025th Transportation Company receive Combat Action Badges

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## Joint operation



Allied Repairs to merge with KBR, Inc.

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## Special delivery



Mississippi Guardsmen deliver gifts from Rhode Island town

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**Soldiers deliver supplies to new school**  
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Lt. Col. Andrea Shealy, the 36th Sustainment Brigade inspector general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Savage, Minn., native, passes out bags of school supplies to Iraqi students at the Al Moamen School Feb. 18 in the Dhi Qar province of Iraq.

# 90th Sustainment Brigade cases colors, heads home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

The 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a casing ceremony Feb. 19, outside of the brigade headquarters building, to retire the brigade's colors for its re-deployment from Iraq.

Even though the 90th Sust. Bde., out of Little Rock, Ark., deployment was cut down to five months, unit leaders praised its success. In a speech, Col. Gary L. Spry, commander of the 90th Sust. Bde. and a Fishers, Ind., native, said the unit's Soldiers can be proud of what they did in Iraq.

"You were here and you did

your part," said Spry. "Today, we begin the long journey home and reintegrate with family and friends."

Lt. Col. Terry L. DeWitt, the 90th Sust. Bde. deputy commander and Arkadelphia, Ark., native, said the 90th's mission was to provide logistical support for Warfighters in their area of operations.

"We supplied food, ammunition, medical supplies and fuel to our customers, and we

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## Balad Blotter February 19 - February 25

### PATROL RESPONSE/ASSAULT:

A victim made contact with patrol one at the H-6 Housing Entry Control Point. A patrol transported victim to the Law Enforcement Desk for further processing. Patrol one initiated a question and answer session with the victim, who said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant, that at roughly 12:00 p.m. Feb. 19, the subject threw a bucket at him then choked him with one hand for roughly 10 seconds. The victim said, at that time, co-workers pulled the subject off of him. The victim said he was unable to identify the co-workers who separated him and the subject. The victim said the subject works for Kulak, a contracted company, but was unable to provide any pertinent information about the subject. The victim said he received minor injuries including pain in his throat but did not have any visible marks. The victim did not request medical attention or treatment. Patrol one made contact with personnel at Kulak Man Camp/Victory Loop and Sustainer Extension who said the subject would return in roughly 30 minutes. Patrol one made contact with the subject at Kulak Man Camp. The Counter Intelligence Services Team was notified but did not respond because no Panjabi interpreters were available. Patrol one initiated a question and answer session with the subject, who said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect, that at roughly 12:30 p.m. Feb. 19, the victim verbally abused him by saying, "You cannot handle my penis, this is not your native place," so he "friendly pushed" him. The subject said he did not throw a bucket at the victim and when he choked the victim, it was in a joking manner. The subject said he pushed the victim on the upper part of his chest with one hand and the victim stumbled back one step. The subject was released via Department of Defense Form 2708 Receipt for Inmate or Detained Person.

### DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

A complainant notified the Law Enforcement Desk via landline to report damage to a white Nissan Pathfinder at Building 41850/Tamp Communications. The complainant said, via Air Force Form 1168/Statement of Witness that at roughly 6:30 a.m. Feb. 22 he arrived at Tamp Communications to report to work and saw there was no visible damage to the vehicle. The complainant said, at roughly 9:45 a.m. hours, the witness reported damage to the complainant's vehicle. Upon further investigation, the complainant discovered the passenger side window shattered and found a rock on the seat. The cause of the rock going through the window is unknown. The rock is approximately one inch by one inch. Damage to property consisted of shattered passenger side glass. The patrol took 14 digital photos. There are no further suspects, witnesses or investigative leads at this time.

NIPR: 443-8602  
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# Chaplain's Corner: remain faithful

By LT. COL. GARRY W. LOSEY  
13TH ESC CHAPLAIN



Two weeks ago, we studied one of the fruits of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22, where it says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness." I would like to focus on faithfulness.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary has several definitions of the word: "steadfast in affection or allegiance: loyal; firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty: conscientious; given with strong assurance: binding or a faithful promise; true to the facts, to a standard, or to an original or a faithful copy."

In the lesson, which was from the study guide we use in our service, it says: "The fruit of the Spirit known as 'faithfulness' could also be called 'fidelity.'" It speaks of endurance as a firmness of purpose, especially when the going is tough.

Faithfulness implies steadfast adherence. Synonyms, according to Merriam-Webster, include loyal, implying "a firm resistance to any temptation to desert or betray"; constant, stressing "continuing firmness of emotional attachment without necessarily implying strict obedience to promises or vows"; staunch, suggesting fortitude and resolution in adherence and imperviousness to influences that would weaken it; and resolute, implying "firm determination to adhere to a cause or purpose."

As we approach the middle of our deployment. We have to keep our heads and hearts focused. We

must focus on the end goal and not lose sight of our part in the process.

Being faithful also includes being dependable, honest, loyal and showing integrity. These are also core values of the Army.

From the study guide, we get these definitions of faithfulness:

**Dependability** – Dependability means people can count on you. When was the last time someone let you down? Do you remember how that made you feel? What does it say about your character if you lack dependability?

**Honesty** – Honesty is truthfulness. It means you are not going to lie, cheat or steal. Honesty is a cardinal building block of a strong character and should be in full play every day of our lives.

**Integrity** – Integrity is like a code of honor. If you have integrity, you have certain values and beliefs that you live by. It also means you respect the values and beliefs of others. Integrity is also one of the building blocks of character.

**Loyalty** – Loyalty is allegiance. It means standing by someone even when times get tough.

When these traits are an active part of our lives, our mission will be easier and the time will go by faster and with a lot less stress.

When we look back after we complete our mission, we can hold our heads high because we have been faithful to our task. More importantly, we have been faithful with dependability, honesty, integrity and loyalty.

It is through this faithfulness to our leadership that we can accomplish this important mission and be faithful to the end.



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
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194th Engineer Brigade

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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: manage your promotion

By MASTER SGT. MARTA CRUZ  
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



Although the Army promotion system varies from the active component to the Reserve components, each has an automated system that calculates each Soldier's promotion points to be promoted to sergeant through sergeant major.

The system is only a tool that relies heavily on the data that is entered into it. That is why you must be involved in the promotion process.

Your commander is required by Army Regulations 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions, to verify the unit eligibility roster before each promotion board. This includes adding names and deleting names.

Note: a name can only be deleted if the Soldier is formally denied consid-

eration per AR 600-8-19, paragraph 7-33.

Your first line leader is required by the same regulation to review with you the enlisted promotion worksheet to verify and update the information for accuracy, and to obtain in writing whether you accept or decline consideration.

If you are not available in person, your commander may verify the data with you and obtain your choice by

phone, fax, mail or e-mail, and then sign the worksheet for you.

Before every promotion board, your first line leader should sit down with you, but if he or she does not approach you, then you need to bring the issue to his or her attention.

Your first line leader, first sergeant, and command sergeant major want the best for you, but you are the one ultimately responsible for managing your career.

Joint Base Balad (13th ESC): DSN 433-2125  
Lt. Col. Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)  
Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)  
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.): DSN 827-6115  
Lt. Col. Gary Davis

Taji (155 HBCT): DSN 834-3079  
Lt. Col. Paul Bird

Adder/Tallil (36th Sust. Bde./41st IBCT):  
Maj. Andrea Shealy - DSN 833-1710  
Maj. Jeffrey Copek - DSN 833-5915  
Master Sgt. Marta Cruz - DSN 883-1710

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# HOME: 'you were here and you did your part'



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, delivers a farewell speech to the Soldiers of the 90th Sustainment Brigade out of Little Rock, Ark. The casing ceremony was held outside the 90th Sust. Bde. headquarters building Feb. 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

## HOME FROM PAGE 1

made sure they received everything they needed," he said.

DeWitt said this was a newly formed unit and a lot of the Soldiers learned for the first time how logistics operated in a combat zone with an ESC.

DeWitt also praised the support received from their family readiness group at home.

"They did an awesome job keeping us informed on what's going on at the home front," DeWitt said. "They were supportive and involved in a lot of the things we did."

Sgt. Walter E. Walker II, a senior intelligence analyst with the 90th Sust. Bde. and a Cabot, Ark., native, said the unit's Soldiers overcame obstacles at the beginning of the deployment.

"When I got to the unit, right before the deployment, there really wasn't an S2 section, it was just me," he said. "I found some noncommissioned officers and officers to better equip us to do our mission and do it effectively."

Walker said he was glad to help the 90th accomplish their mission.

"I'm happy that I could put out some (intelligence) that could help the troops outside the wire and pos-

sibly save lives," he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. David W. Day, the senior enlisted adviser with the 90th Special Troops Battalion, 90th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Little Rock, Ark., native, said they had to cross-train a number of Soldiers in order to complete the mission.

"We had to overcome a few things, the biggest one being not knowing each other, but we gelled as a team," he said. "We put our egos aside, rolled up our sleeves and did what needed to be done."

Day said he was happy the brigade completed its mission with a positive attitude.

"We had Soldiers from 42 states and every one of them was an asset to the 90th," said Day. "I hate to see them go."

In his farewell speech to the 90th Sust. Bde., Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, said he was impressed at the outstanding job the 90th did at JBB.

"Make no doubt about it, you are a part of history," said Wentz. "You provided world class sustainment support and performed the mission with quiet professionalism. This brigade has done it all with pride and professionalism."

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# 2025th Transportation Soldiers awarded Combat Action Badges

BY 1ST LT. RAY ALDAZ  
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Seven Soldiers with the 2025th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were awarded the Army's Combat Action Badge during a ceremony Feb. 2 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

The Soldiers reacted to small arms fire attack during convoy operations around the city of Baiji, Iraq, during two separate instances in October. The unit suffered no casualties from these attacks.

The Soldiers who received the CAB were Staff Sgt. Michael Roberson, a squad leader and a Talladega, Ala., native; Sgt. James Priest, an assistant squad leader and an Albertville, Ala., native; Sgt. Thomas Perrigo, a truck com-

mander and East Aboga, Ala., native; Spc. Jamie Parker, a driver and a Banks, Ala., native; Spc. Richard Gardner, a driver and a Talladega, Ala., native; Spc. Stenie Seals, a driver and a Talladega, Ala., native; and Spc. Joseph Deck, a driver and a Sebastian, Fla., native.

Lt. Col. Steven S. Debusk, the 264th CSSB commander and an Elkton, Md., native, pinned the badges on the Soldiers.

Although these awards went to only seven Soldiers, the ceremony honored the service of the entire company and the dangers all drivers face, said Debusk.

The upcoming drawdown and increased operational tempo means more drivers on the road more often, he said. With the elections approaching, drivers understand they must be more mindful of hazards and rely on their training to carry out their mission safely, said Debusk.

Priest said, "This award is really for all of the Soldiers who do the job, regardless of the risk. I am just truly glad that none



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Benoit

Spc. Richard Gardner, a driver with the 2025th Transportation Company and a Talladega, Ala., native, salutes Lt. Col. Steven Debusk, commander of the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Elkton, Md., native, during a Combat Action Badge award ceremony Feb. 2 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

of us were hurt and we were all able to come back. Hopefully, this will continue

throughout our tour and we can return home safely to our families."

## Transportation company stands down for safety

BY 1ST LT. DANIELLE R. GORDON  
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Soldiers with the 40th Transportation Company, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) conducted a training stand down on Feb. 6 and Feb. 7 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The training stand-down focused on safety, and ensured all training and procedures met or exceeded established standards, said Capt. Juan Villatoro, the 40th Trans. Co. commander and Los Angeles native.

"Bottom line, the (Soldiers have) a better understanding of their duties and responsibilities, not only as drivers but as leaders when it comes to safety," he said. "The leaders are more engaged



Courtesy photo

Members of the 40th Transportation Company, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) practice tying down a load on a trailer Feb. 6, during the company's safety stand down day at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

and on the lookout for safety."

Included in the training were hands-

on preventive maintenance measures and classroom instruction, taught by

some of the company's senior noncommissioned officers, said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Grogman, truckmaster with the 40th Trans. Co. and a Kansas City, Mo., native.

"The safety stand-down went very smooth," he said. "The hands-on training was the best part of the classes. The Soldiers put the knowledge they learned in the classroom to work in the motor pool."

Grogman agreed that the training helped Soldiers and NCOs develop a sharper awareness of their responsibilities in concern to safety.

The unit rotated through the classes, learning about vehicles, forms, loads and scenarios. The refresher training used the Army's "crawl, walk, run" method, to focus on sometimes overlooked methods and procedures, said Villatoro.

"I believe the last two days have only made this unit better and better," he said.



## Give a Shout Out!

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## Correction

In the Feb. 24 edition of the Expeditionary Times, the article, "Provider command staff briefs incoming replacements" should have said, "The 15th Sustainment Brigade will transfer authority to the 3rd Sustainment Brigade in May and is scheduled leave later in the year, after the closure of Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq." The Expeditionary Times regrets this error.



# Mississippi Guardsman embodies honor

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

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

Q-WEST, Iraq – A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier received a Command Sergeant Major Award during a ceremony Feb. 5 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Spc. Jonathan C. Hudson, a gun truck commander with the Base Defense Operations Center, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, out of Senatobia, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Batesville, Miss., native, was acknowledged for embodying honor, one of the seven Army values.

To honor outstanding service at the end of the deployment, the senior non-commissioned officers recognized seven Soldiers from throughout the battalion who embody each one of the Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, said Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell.

“This is an NCO-driven effort to honor Soldiers who stood out during the deployment,” said Campbell, a Senatobia, Miss., native. “The NCOs wanted to remind every Soldier in the battalion that outstanding service is not always the result of a single act. It is the everyday practice of upholding the Army values.”

Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines, the battalion operations sergeant major and a



**Spc. Jonathan C. Hudson (left), a gun truck commander and a Batesville, Miss., native, receives a Command Sergeant Major Award from Sgt. Maj. John T. Raines, a battalion operations sergeant major and a Flowood, Miss., native, during a ceremony in the Base Defense Operations Center Feb. 5 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Both men serve with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Senatobia, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Hudson received the award for embodying honor, one of the seven Army values, and Raines presented it on behalf of battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell.**

Flowood, Miss., native, said Hudson is an indispensable asset to the company.

“Honor provides the moral compass for character and personal conduct,” he said. “It is to have a keen sense of right and wrong, to live by words and deeds above reproach, living up to all the Army values. During this deployment, Spc. Hudson has embodied all the Army values, stepping apart from the junior

enlisted Soldiers in HHC.”

Raines said a shortage of NCO's in the BDOC required junior Soldiers to assume greater responsibility.

“Spc. Hudson has stepped up as an operations NCO, filled in as a tactical operations center NCO and has served as the truck commander of the battalion commander's personal security detail,” he said. “He has excelled in all these

duties and proven to be reliable for any task assigned. Being a Soldier is about more than your small team or even your company. It is about doing right all the time and having the fortitude to live up to these values, even if it is going to alienate you from your peers from time to time. Spc. Hudson truly embodies the Army value of honor and lives up to all the Army values.”

Hudson said he takes care of the battalion commander's truck now, but began as a driver, then became a gunner and later a truck commander, making him familiar with every aspect of the job.

Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy R. Tullos, operations NCO and a Florence, Miss., native, said Hudson had to choose between the Army values and his peers on two occasions.

“He found it within himself to follow the Army values, to choose the path that was the harder one,” he said. “He has used this deployment to show that he is not a typical specialist in the Army, and I look forward to seeing how far he rises through whatever path he chooses.”

Campbell said all Soldiers must uphold the Army values, but these Soldiers were chosen for their exemplary embodiment of those values.

Hudson said he was humbled by the distinction.

“There (are) a lot of good Soldiers in the company, and the senior NCOs picked me,” said Hudson. “Honor is living up to all the Army values, and to be recognized for that is especially nice. I always try to do the right thing and follow the rules. I'm going to tell the truth, even if some people don't want to hear it.”

# Sustainment brigades prep for transfer of authority

BY MAJ. TIM OHLHAVER  
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq – Col. Sean Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosted the California National Guard's 224th Sustainment Brigade during their pre-deployment site survey.

The PDSS involved visiting present

and future mission locations, and a local Iraqi leader, Feb. 6 through Feb. 11. The 36th Sust. Bde. worked closely with the 224th Sust. Bde. Dragon Slayers to prepare them for their upcoming mission.

Ryan, a Temple, Texas, native, said his objective was to expose the 224th to as much of the mission as possible in the short period of time allotted.

The Soldiers also visited contingency operating locations Adder, Kalsu and Scania. In each location, the 36th Sust. Bde. addressed missions, customer service and adjustments the 36th made to accommodate the changing situa-

tion in its area of operations. They also rehearsed several regularly scheduled events.

Al Asad air base was the site visited for future operations. The combined team met with the 96th Sust. Bde., who discussed their area of operations, support boundaries, contracts and the commodities managed from that location.

The last item was a key leader engagement with a local Iraqi business leader, a first for Col. Lisa Costanza, commander of the 224th Sust. Bde. and a Long Beach, Calif., native.

“I have not been on one of those

(KLEs) before,” Costanza said. “It was my intention to follow Col. Ryan's lead, to see how they are actually conducted. I know he has been doing this for a while. I think that objective was met.”

Lt. Col. Darrell Debish, 36th Sust. Bde. support operations officer and an Austin, Texas, native, said the visit itinerary was exhausting.

“This space is 154,000 square kilometers of sustainment area, (roughly) the size of Arizona,” he said.

Costanza said Ryan and the 36th Sust. Bde. definitely set the 224th up for success.

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# Blood support detachment stocks medical facilities

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH S. VANKLOMPENBERG  
*EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The blood support warehouse at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and the 932nd Blood Support Detachment out of Fort Hood, Texas, work around the clock to collect, manufacture, store and distribute blood and blood products to medical treatment facilities throughout Iraq.

“All blood products for distribution come through us,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Bravo, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the blood support warehouse, 932nd Blood Support Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade, a 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) subordinate unit at Fort Hood.

Bravo, a Sacramento, Calif., native, said his 10-man warehouse team receives weekly blood product shipments from the United States for on-site storage and distribution throughout theater.

His team keeps stock of pure blood and blood products, such as packed red blood cells and plasma, he said.

Keeping fresh blood on site at every medical facility requires constant rotation, said Bravo, so his team works 24/7, using whatever means of travel available to move the products in the timeliest manner.

“Whatever is going on in theater affects how we move blood,” he said.

Fresh blood has a shelf life of 42

days, so the warehouse team takes advantage of technological advances to ensure there is never a shortage, said Bravo.

By removing the plasma from the blood and adding glycerol, the team can freeze the blood at low temperatures and store it for up to 10 years. The frozen blood product, called cryoprecipitate, takes two and a half hours to properly thaw and prepare for use, so fresh blood products are still required for emergencies, when speed is the key to a patient’s survival.

Speed has become a specialty for the warehouse Soldiers, said Maj. Teresa Terry, commander of the 932nd BSD and a Fort Walton Beach, Fla., native.

Terry said the team can receive a call for blood, have it prepared and packed on ice, and transported to the hospital, ready for medical evacuation or the operating room, in 17 minutes. Just two months ago, the turnaround time was 23 minutes, she said.

Storing and distributing blood products to the entire country are prominent missions for the small unit, but the warehouse team is only one aspect of the blood support detachment. On Dec. 28, the BSD formed a second team to pick up an additional mission.

At the Air Force Theater Hospital at JBB, a four-Soldier team with the 932nd took over the platelet apheresis and emergency blood collection mission, so the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing’s apheresis team could deploy to Kandahar, Afghanistan, said Terry.

Until the Air Force team is ready to take over in Kandahar, the 932nd



Staff Sgt. Chris Bravo, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the blood support warehouse with the 932nd Blood Support Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade and a Sacramento, Calif., native, removes cryoprecipitate from a deep freezer Feb. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The cryoprecipitate is a frozen blood product that, when properly stored, has a shelf life of up to 10 years.

supplies platelets to both Iraq and Afghanistan, she said.

In the event of a dramatic blood shortage, the apheresis team has trained to conduct an emergency whole blood drive, during which it would obtain blood and blood products from Soldiers at JBB.

“Until we run out of blood, we won’t be doing that,” said Terry.

Although they have not had the need for an emergency blood drive since arriving in October, the team conducted a mock event in late February with great success, Terry said. The team

is limited to collecting 10 blood units per hour, and had 12 volunteer donors lined up within 10 minutes, she said.

In preparation for the upcoming drawdown of troops from Iraq, the BSD took on yet another mission, training Iraqi doctors, nurses and lab technicians in the proper collection and rapid HIV and hepatitis testing of blood and blood products.

“It’s all about helping them so their civilians believe in their healthcare system,” said Terry. “That is the big picture of what we’re trying to provide.”

# Transportation Soldiers provide safe travel in Mosul

BY SGT. KEITH S. VANKLOMPENBERG  
*EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF*

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq – As Iraq’s national election draws near, Soldiers with the 733rd Transportation Company work to provide safe travel in northern Iraq.

Thirty-five Soldiers with the 733rd Trans. Co. left Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, to assist with the Disputed Internal Border Sites mission at Contingency Operating Location Sykes, Iraq, said 1st Lt. Brandon Lewis, the officer in charge of the Mosul DIBS mission with the 733rd Trans. Co., 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Ninety-two Soldiers came to Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, to build up checkpoints for the DIBS mission around the city of Mosul, he said.

The DIBS mission is headed up by the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and aims to provide extra checkpoint security at locations along what is traditionally the religious and cultural border between Iraq and Kurdistan, said Lewis, an Ocean View, Del., native.

Lewis said the 733rd assists the 26th BSB because it needed a transportation company to deliver concrete barriers to the checkpoints in and around Mosul.

“Our mission is to build up different checkpoints along main arteries in northern Iraq,” he said. “The goal is to finish building checkpoints for speed mitigation and for the prevention of hostile acts.”

Spc. Jeremiah Hastings, a mechanic with the 733rd Trans. Co. and a Milford, Del., native, provides preventive maintenance on the DIBS mission vehicles and provides vehicle recovery support on the nightly barrier delivery missions.

“It’s a good mission and it protects Soldiers as well as the Iraqi people,” said Hastings.

Lewis said the upgraded checkpoints, which are run by the Iraqi Army, Peshmerga – the Kurdish armed forces – and the U.S. Army, will be especially beneficial in the coming weeks as Iraqis travel in and out of Mosul, Iraq, for the elections.

“It’s going to increase their level of confidence in voting and traveling,” he said.

Since beginning the DIBS mission Jan. 5, 12 checkpoints have been completed.

They are scheduled to finish the final three checkpoints before the March 7 elections, said Lewis.

The 733rd Trans. Co., an Army Reserve unit out of Reading, Pa., arrived in country in August and has dealt with an ever-changing mission. Before the DIBS mission, it acted as a vehicle recovery unit, then a personnel security detachment, and finally a line-haul transportation unit, delivering water and other sustainment supplies to bases around COB Q-West, said Lewis.

“I am proud of my Soldiers,” he said. “They have demonstrated amazing flexibility.”

Hastings said the DIBS mission will soon be complete and his unit will return to COB Q-West to continue sustainment operations, but the Soldiers are proud of the time they spent at COB Marez preparing for a historic election.



# Soldiers deliver supplies to new school

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. 1ST CLASS TAD BROWNING  
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DHI QAR PROVINCE, Iraq – Task Force Rawhide Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) delivered school supplies to Iraqi students and teachers at the newly opened Al Moamen School Feb. 18 in the Dhi Qar province of Iraq.

A local teacher said the children enjoy the new school, which was constructed by local Iraqis with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and opened in early January. Prior to its opening, teachers and students worked out of mud huts with no windows or doors.

Capt. Arthur Smith, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Frisco, Texas, native, said he saw the improvements and changes firsthand.

“As we rolled up, we got an opportunity to see what the old school looked like and it’s unbelievable that they were actually teaching people in those little mud huts, but the new school is beautiful,” said Smith. “It looks like it’s something you could find anywhere. It’s very modern – they have indoor plumbing and enough desks for all of the students. It seems like a pretty decent facility and they’ve done a good job building it.”

Lt. Col. Peter Bistransin, the officer in charge of the 36th’s Civil Military Operations and an Austin, Texas, native, said the unit coordinated with the school principal to schedule the visit and ensure it provided the teachers



**Lt. Col. Andrea Shealy, the 36th Sustainment Brigade inspector general, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Savage, Minn., native, sits with Iraqi students at the Al Moamen School Feb. 18 in the Dhi Qar province of Iraq.**

and the students with the proper supplies.

“We provided the students with a student pack,” he said. “We also had packs for the teachers because they need different things like staplers, tape and all sorts of things to conduct their classroom lesson plans.”

Bistransin said the mission start-

ed early and all of the supplies were quickly passed out.

Smith, whose wife is a bilingual kindergarten teacher in McKinney, Texas, said the students reminded him a lot of his wife’s students.

“It was actually kind of cool to just hear kids, their voices echoing down the hallway,” he said. “When we got

there, I saw these young children and I thought of my wife’s kindergarten class.”

Lt. Col. Andrea Shealy, the 36th Sust. Bde. inspector general and a Savage, Minn., native, said she was excited to see the children, who range from first through sixth grade, because she has her own children that age.

“I sat down

**An Iraqi student smiles in front of a bag of school supplies at the Al Moamen School Feb. 18 in the Dhi Qar province of Iraq.**

by two little girls who were waving at me ... and there was a little girl behind them that was off by herself and she looked extremely shy,” she said. “So I went and sat by her for a few minutes. It was very cute because she kept stealing glances at me ... if I looked at her, she would look down right away. She was very sweet.”

Shealy said the students were calm and reserved while she was in the rooms, but she could tell they were having fun looking at the new supplies when she left.

“I think the kids were pretty excited to get the school supplies,” she said. “They were very polite when we handed the school supplies out and they didn’t want to rip into bags while we were there. They kind of sat the bags on the desk until we left, and then I peeked back into one class ... the kids were up out of their desks, opening their supplies, having fun. There was laughter.”


Shealy said she was grateful for the opportunity to visit, and plans to use this experience as a way to explain to her daughter why she is here.

“I have a 3-year-old at home that doesn’t understand why I am so far away from her right now,” she said. “The only thing I can tell her ... is that I am over here helping Iraqi children. It will be nice to be able to send pictures home, so she can see what I am doing over here.”








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# Allied Repairs to merge with KBR, Inc.

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Allied Repairs, a military support maintenance company, was slated to merge vehicle maintenance and repair operations with KBR, Inc. contractors March 1 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“Rather than having two separate maintenance companies, we want to combine them together,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Marriott, an automotive technician with the 514th Support Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

With an increased work force, Allied Repairs’ operational productivity will almost double, said Marriott, a St. Petersburg, Fla., native. Soldiers and KBR, Inc. contractors have experience and knowledge that, when combined, will make for an overall better maintenance shop, he said.

“When you combine the two together, you have a maintenance facility capable of fixing anything,” said Marriott.

Allied Repairs has shops dedicated to the repair of all Army equipment, said Marriott. As the drawdown approaches, the need for maintenance on Heavy Equipment Transporter systems has become a priority to aid units in the condensation of U.S. forces, he said.

The 514th has taken steps, under the guidance of the 13th ESC, to ease the stress of logistical movements for the repositioning of U.S. forces during the drawdown, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Mackey, an engineer technician with the 514th SMC and an Albany, N.Y., native. With the five-year HET system repair service, tractors and trailers are repaired to operational standard, he said.



**Spc. Scott Gordon, a Heavy Equipment Transporter system mechanic with the 514th Support Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Lewis Wash., native, uses a blow torch to perform maintenance on a steering component of a HET Feb. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

The focus of the maintenance is more on the M-1000 HET trailer than the M-1070 HET tractor. The trailers need more service because they undergo heavier usage, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Burrow, a senior automotive technician with the 514th SMC.

“(The repair service) consists of a complete tear down of all the components of the trailer,” said Burrow, a Harrisburg, Pa., native. “We rebuild those components, put them back on the trailer and roll the trailer back out, so it’s almost as new as if it came off the manufacturing line.”

The Soldiers strip down the axles and gearing box and detach all the major components, said Burrow. The trailers undergo a thorough maintenance process to ensure they are in nearly peak operational condition, he said.

The HET system serves an important role in the movement of military equipment, said Mackey, because it has the most powerful tractor, and a trailer with the heaviest load-bearing capability of any transportation vehicle in the Army system.

The HET system has been used by the Army for almost 20 years with few changes, he said.

Mackey said the 514th SMC is one of the few units in Iraq that conducts a complete breakdown and repair of the M-1000 HET trailers. The HET systems came into Iraq early in the war and rarely leave the country, he said.

The five-year trailer service began roughly a year ago under the 699th Support Maintenance Company, and the 514th SMC took it over in late

spring of 2009, said Mackey.

“Before this program, these trailers hadn’t been touched in 10, 12 years,” he said.

Marriott said tractors go through semi-annual, annual and bi-annual maintenance processes. These checks are usually done by the transportation company’s own mechanics.

With more than 300 trailers in country, only about 40 have gone through the five-year service in the past year, he said.

Mackey said the 514th SMC gained experience in trailer repair and maintenance through trial and error. Techniques and tools were developed to increase efficiency and overall Soldier safety, he said.

The merger between the two groups could save the Army millions of dollars a year, said Mackey. The Soldiers alone repair roughly 12 trailers a month, but with the civilian contractors, the goal is 16, he said.

The KBR, Inc. contractors will receive on-the-job training as they work on HET systems and components, said Mackey. The vast majority of these civilian contractors have prior mechanic experience, he said.

As the U.S. works to responsibly drawdown troops and equipment, the demand for serviced trailers has increased, said Mackey. The HET system remains a vital transportation asset to U.S. forces in Iraq, he said.



**Spc. Scott Gordon, a Heavy Equipment Transporter system mechanic with the 514th Support Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Lewis, Wash., native, and Pfc. Anthony Fillingham, a HET system mechanic with the 514th SMC and a Kansas City, Mo., native, perform maintenance on a HET Feb. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**



# Providers bring new life to trucks with Project Phoenix

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, rebuild Heavy Equipment Transporter systems to ensure the M-1070 HET tractors in Iraq are mission capable.

Project Phoenix began in October 2009 as a unit priority to support the 1483rd Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Staff Sgt. Terry L. Stallings, the non-commissioned officer in charge of Project Phoenix with the 3666th SMC, 541st CSSB, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC, said the project has been a valuable learning experience for the Soldiers and a vital component to the 1483rd Trans. Co.'s success in Iraq.

"This is the Army's heavy hauler," said Stallings, a Buckeye, Ariz., native. "It hauls everything from (the M-1 Abrams main battle tank) all the way down to a Humvee. There's really not much these vehicles can't pull."

He said the HET systems have been hauling vehicles since the beginning of the war, and a majority of them have not been serviced in that time.

Spc. William L. Hemphill, a Project Phoenix team leader with the 3666th

SMC, said it is his responsibility to ensure all of the tractors are inspected properly as soon as they enter the shop.

Spc. Bryan J. Laning, a Project Phoenix mechanic with the 3666th SMC, said after the vehicles have been inspected and the tractors have been taken apart, they wait for the parts to arrive and then reassemble the trucks when they receive them.

Laning, a Mesa, Ariz., native, said the mechanics make sure all of the fluids are topped off in the engine and the vehicle does not leak. Then they test the engine and test drive the vehicle.

"To make sure we didn't miss anything," he said.

Hemphill, a Chandler, Ariz., native, monitors man hours used for each vehicle, the road tests those vehicles undergo and when those tests are completed. He then takes the vehicle to maintenance control to be signed off by an outside inspector.

"Usual turnaround time on these vehicles is 45 to 60, days depending on the amount of work that needs to be done," he said.

The most common and lengthy delays occur when the mechanics must order and wait on parts, Laning said.

However, Stallings said other problems can occur during the process of rebuilding the tractors.

"It could be anything from a simple maintenance repair to a major overhaul," he said. "It really depends on the condition of the truck."

Stallings said their shop gets the worst of the worst, and they do not re-



Spc. William L. Hemphill, a Project Phoenix team leader with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, Ariz., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Chandler, Ariz., native, prepares the cab to be lifted off of a Heavy Equipment Transport truck Feb. 25 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. Project Phoenix is a mission in which Soldiers with the 3666th SMC strip down HET systems and rebuild them.

lease any vehicles until they are convinced they are ready to go.

"On average, we're pumping out about 1,200 to 1,400 man hours per truck ... spending about \$66,000 on all man hours per truck," he said. "We're also spending about \$120,000 on parts per truck."

Stallings said they have finished six HET systems since they started, out of the nine that needed repairs.

Hemphill said it is critical they do their job properly because lives depend

on the functionality of these systems.

"The vehicles we're working on, I don't think I've seen one yet that is 10 years old," he said. "The wear and tear on these vehicles is pretty heavy. The vehicles are designed to pull the (M-1000 HET trailer), which is a (part of the) Heavy Equipment Transport system. It's a trailer that was designed to pull a 70-ton payload. They're the ones that are no longer mission capable and we bring them back to that standard or better."

## Soldiers support equipment, supply movement

BY STAFF SGT. ROB STRAIN  
15TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Army's equipment in Iraq ranges from supplies and parts to weapons and trucks, all of which must be documented and tracked as the drawdown approaches.

The 514th Support Maintenance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) does exactly that.

"The Army puts a lot of focus on property accountability, and my job as a supply sergeant for the 514th SMC is to carry this concept into our specific area of operations," said Sgt. Renee Messina, the company supply sergeant and a New York native.

Upon entering Iraq, most incoming units inherit equipment from their predecessors that stays throughout the military's operation in country, said Messina. This equipment can become unusable, and units are left with items that can be turned in or relocated to meet the needs of another unit.

"We agreed right away that our unit

had fallen into a lot of equipment that we couldn't imagine a need for – a short walk through containers and storage area confirmed this," said 1st Lt. Jess Henry, 514th SMC's executive officer and a Steamboat Springs, Colo., native.

The command team and supply section with the 514th SMC worked together closely to identify \$4.5 million worth of equipment that was unnecessary to successfully execute the unit's missions, Messina said. They also located and turned in an additional \$2 million worth of unaccounted-for equipment, she said.

All of this equipment was turned in, thus making it available in the Army sup-

ply and allowing it to be reset, repaired, or disposed of properly, said Messina.

"It's fantastic that everyone in the company buys into the responsible drawdown," said Capt. Christopher Tramontana, 514th SMC's commander and an Albany, N.Y., native. "Every section was eager to support my intent of identifying equipment that didn't support our mission."

The hard work and long hours put into the process paid off instantly, Messina said. The 514th kept only the equipment it needed for its mission and nothing more, freeing space, time and labor to be focused on other tasks at hand, she said.

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ON THE WEB





# Mississippi Guardsmen deliver

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Mississippi Army National Guardsmen delivered care packages from a Rhode Island town to a village near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, during a perimeter patrol Feb. 1.

Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the Q-West force protection company out of Hernando, Miss., delivered clothing, school supplies and other items donated by residents of Barrington, R.I., to the villagers of Jedallah Anuk, Iraq.

Victoria Belmont, a Barrington grade school teacher whose son and daughter served as Army officers, organized the effort.

"I am thrilled to know that the packages have arrived," said Belmont, a first- and second-grade teacher at Primrose Hill Elementary School in Barrington. "I am even more excited to think that I can finally give some feedback to so many people who have continued to support my efforts over the years."

Belmont said she represents the people of Barrington, and has gathered and sent donations to Jedallah Anuk for seven years.

The effort began in 2003, when Belmont's son deployed to Iraq as an AH-64 Apache Longbow pilot serving with the 101st Airborne Division. She read about a 101st program called Adopt-a-Village, in which an American community could support a designated Iraqi community in the division's area of responsibility. Belmont committed to adopting a village on behalf of Barrington and was assigned Jedallah Anuk.

"It was an effort to establish good relations between our American Soldiers and the people of Iraq," she said. "The Barrington town council passed a resolution to support the people of the village of Jedallah Anuk in their efforts to achieve self governance, equality and freedom."



Children from Jedallah Anuk, a village near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, run ahead of the gun trucks from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during a humanitarian mission. The Mississippi Army National Guardsmen, who serve as the Q-West force protection company, delivered the packages on behalf of Barrington, R.I. residents.

Local schools, churches and businesses contributed, and Belmont said the effort has continued since.

The Soldiers who delivered the packages were glad to help, said Capt. Drew Clark, commander of A Company, 2/198th CAB.

"This is a different mission than my Soldiers usually do, and it gives them a chance to get to know the local people on a more personal level," said Clark, a Madison, Miss., native.

Staff Sgt. Kenwith D. Scott, a squad leader, patrol

commander and a Rosedale, Miss., native, said delivering the gifts was beneficial for the Soldiers as well as the people of Jedallah Anuk.

"Helping people that need help is always a good thing," said Scott. "My Soldiers don't get a chance to interact with the locals much, so this was a great opportunity to reach out and to get to know the people and learn more about their culture."

Spc. John W. Day, a truck commander and a Williston, Tenn., native, said he was grateful for the experience.

"This is the first time I've ever had a chance to do something like this, to get out with the people and give gifts," he said. "It reminds me that these people need our help and that not everybody is a bad guy."

Day said the humanitarian mission allowed him to see the war from a significantly different point of view, one that he would always remember.

"This was my first time ever to walk through an Iraqi village because, during patrols, we drive our gun trucks around villages," he said. "I was nervous at first, but the people were happy to see us and glad for the gifts. It was a great experience to see firsthand how they live, instead of seeing it from behind all that armor."

Pfc. Hunter J. Brown, a gunner and a Daleville, Miss., native, said he also appreciated the unique mission.

"I've never went inside a village before, and it was exciting to go in where the people live, to interact with them in their own village," said Brown. "This was outstanding and a big change from our regular patrols, basically driving around but staying away from the vil-



A girl accepts a T-shirt from a Mississippi Guardsman during a humanitarian mission Feb. 1 in Jedallah Anuk, a village near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Members of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the Q-West force protection company, delivered the packages on behalf of Barrington, R.I., residents.



# Gifts from Rhode Island town



Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th  
ion to deliver care packages Feb. 1. The Mississippi



Children from Jedallah Anuk, a village near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, wait at the village schoolhouse Feb. 1 to receive donated care packages from Mississippi Guardsmen with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

lages. This was a good change of pace.”

Spc. Robert S. Bowen, a driver and a Southaven, Miss., native, said it is important that U.S. forces continue to help the Iraqi people.

“Helping the Iraqis is always worthwhile,” said Bowen. “These people out here in the little villages don’t have much money, and they don’t seem to get much support from the government. So I’m glad we can help.”

Spc. Jeffery D. Thompson, a radio operator, gun truck driver and a Wyatte, Miss., native, said the mission sent a powerful message to the Iraqis.

“It was a great opportunity to assist the people, especially the children who need clothing, shoes and school supplies,” said Thompson. “It showed we’re here to help, that we care. I was glad we could help the people from Barrington deliver these gifts. It shows that Americans are united and that they care about rebuilding Iraq.”

Ibrahim Hawaas Madlul, the mukhtar, or village leader, of Jedallah Anuk, said he was grateful to both the people of Barrington and to the Mississippi Guardsmen for the gifts.

“On behalf of my village, I want to thank the people of Barrington for these gifts,” said Madlul. “The coats and shoes and the school supplies have made us happy. I also want to thank the Soldiers from Mississippi for delivering them to us.”



(Above) Spc. John W. Day, a gun truck commander with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Williston, Tenn., native, jokes with Iraqi children Feb. 1 as he guides his vehicle through Jedallah Anuk, a village near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, during a humanitarian mission to deliver care packages. The Mississippi Guardsmen, who serve as the Q-West force protection company, delivered packages on behalf of Barrington, R.I., residents.

(Left) Ibrahim Hawaas Madlul, the mukhtar, or village leader, of Jedallah Anuk, a community near Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, examines one of the boxes sent by Barrington, R.I., residents and delivered by Mississippi Guardsmen during a humanitarian mission Feb. 1. Members of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the Q-West force protection company, delivered the packages on behalf the Barrington residents.



# Providers manage munitions in Iraq, Afghanistan

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 63rd Ordnance Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, run operations to support the logistical supply for all types of munitions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 63rd Ord. Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) operates the only corps storage area in Iraq, the largest ammo holding point in country, said 1st Lt. Shawn Green, a platoon leader with the 63rd Ord. Co.

The CSA provides ammunition to U.S. armed services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, said Green, a Graham, Wash., native. The Soldiers process the ammunition, move it from one point to another and store it.

"They specialize in the logistics of ammunition," he said.

Sgt. Nicole Howard, an ammunition stock control accounting sergeant with the 63rd Ord. Co., said munitions are sent from Kuwait to



Spc. Robert Grasse, an ammunition storage processor with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Gardner, Maine, native, uses a forklift to move crates of munitions Feb. 25 at the corps storage area at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

JBB, where they are received and processed at the CSA.

"We support almost any unit in Iraq," said Howard, a Durham, N.C., native. "We support units at JBB and other (forward operating bases). They will take that ammo we send and push it out to their own units."

Official requests for munitions are submitted to the 13th ESC. The orders are verified, the information is sent

to the CSA to be processed and the order is prepared for shipment. The average turnaround time to prepare a shipment is 12 to 24 hours, said Howard, roughly the same amount of time it takes the CSA to in-process ammunition into the holding areas.

Green said the decreased number of service members in Iraq has led to an ammunition surplus. For proper operational security, this ammuni-

tion is sent to the theater storage area in Kuwait.

"We're collecting up all the ammo that is not needed here to be used in other places as part of the War on Terror," he said.

As FOBs throughout Iraq are downsized or closed, excess ammo is transported from those bases back to the CSA at JBB, said Howard. With fewer troops in Iraq, excess ammo is sent to the Theater Storage Area in Kuwait, she said.

Green said Soldiers at the CSA are trained to handle and store munitions, as well as identify hazards and mitigate risk when processing and receiving ammo.

If packaged munitions show signs of damage, they are inspected by a group of civilian contractors who work alongside the Soldiers with the 63rd Ord. Co., said Green. Any damaged munitions are disposed of through controlled detonations, he said.

Since the 63rd Ord. Co. took over CSA operations in October, the unit has processed roughly 4,300 tons of ammunition, totaling more than \$98 million, said Green.

The CSA is slated to be downsized later in the year as the number of U.S. troops in Iraq drops to 50,000, he said.

## JBB contractors educate Iraqis about local business opportunities

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
ALLISON M. BOEHM  
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A group of 14 Iraqi contractors attended a tradeshow site visit Feb. 6 at JBB to discuss future construction projects.

The meeting marked the first time a group of local contractors came on base for this type of business.

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron along with the Joint Contracting Command in Iraq briefed the local attendees on the U.S. government contracting process and also explained the proposal, bidding and award processes before taking the group to three sites of future construction.

Local contractors will work on enclosing two of the 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron's buildings' alcoves.

"This project will not only support the 532nd Lions by adding additional office space and storage room, but it will also help better support their mis-

sion," said Lt. Col. John Tryon, 332nd ECES programs flight chief. "The projects have been recognized as candidates for the Iraqi's capability to do good work. These ventures will allow the local contractors to successfully complete all requirements and do so without being under an extreme time crunch. Their work will undoubtedly enhance the mission of the 532nd."

Along with the alcove reconstruction, contractors will soon begin demolishing old legacy buildings and replacing the structures with new trailers that meet living standards. The main goal of the construction will be to better JBB.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the Iraqis to feel some ownership over JBB and allows them to continue where we will leave off," said Jennifer Pollard, the Joint Contracting Command in Iraq contracting specialist. "We need to leave JBB in a position that has responsible construction companies to continue the efforts to return JBB back over to the Iraqi people."

Once bidding is complete and set contracts are awarded, the LNs will begin work on the projects.

"This is important because we are



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Y. Bateman





Air Force Capt. Jeffrey Hughes with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron discusses future construction projects with 14 Iraqi contractors who attended a tradeshow site visit Feb. 6 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The meeting was the first time a group of local contractors came on base for this type of business.

meeting mission requirements by supporting our user as well as supporting responsible drawdown efforts by demolishing existing buildings and consolidating (the) security forces footprint here," said Tryon. "From a

host nation development prospective, we are giving local national contractors an opportunity to develop their engineering capability and economic opportunities by coming on base to complete projects."



# 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.



# Quartermaster Soldiers keep units mobile

By 1st Lt. Monica Patton-Neal  
36th Sust. Bde.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 108th Quartermaster Company out of Fort Lee, Virginia, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) help line units fulfill their mission by ensuring vehicles function properly.

Sgt. 1st Class Julius Chatters, a mechanical maintenance supervisor and a New Orleans native, said the 108th QM Co. maintenance platoon implements an aggressive maintenance program that addresses all scheduled and unscheduled services for its unit.

“By doing this, we afford our commander the maximum support assets available to be used in support of any mission the company is tasked with, on or off post,” said Chatters. “We also exchange old tires, trailers or trucks for newer or better conditioned ones.”



U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sebastian Wyatt

The maintenance platoon with the 108th Quartermaster Company, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sebastian Wyatt, a maintenance technician and a Saint Joseph, Trinidad, native, said scheduled services can include replacing all fluids, checking the engine oil and filter, lubricating lube points and

inspecting wheel seals.

“Some examples of unscheduled services are quality assurance, which refers to the quality of work on a particular project,” said Wyatt. “Quality control ensures a particular part is functional.

Lastly, technical inspections are performed to ensure the entire vehicle or piece of equipment will perform up to standards.”

According to Army Regulation 750-35, the maintenance platoon has Soldiers with five different job descriptions.

Most of the platoon’s Soldiers are light wheel vehicle mechanics. Others are automated logistics specialists, who are responsible for the clerical operations and record keeping for the maintenance section.

Quartermaster equipment repairers fix equipment that is controlled by a supply section. Lastly, construction equipment operators and generator mechanics are led by a maintenance technician.

“The most important part of any maintenance program is the daily scheduled preventive maintenance checks and services,” said Chatters. “When executed properly and regularly, it will ensure any deficiency which may hinder the equipment from staying in tip-top shape is addressed in a timely manner, to reduce unnecessary down time.”

## Charlie Wilson drops a bomb on service members

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Charlie Wilson of the Charlie Wilson Band performed for more than 300 service members and civilians at the Sustainer Theater Feb. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

This is his second tour in Iraq, which ran Feb. 17 to Feb. 25 with a final stop in Kuwait.

Wilson recently overcome prostate cancer and put out a new album, and then came to JBB and performed his hit single “There Goes My Baby.” He also performed some of his classic Gap Band songs, including “You Dropped a Bomb on Me.”

Wilson, a Tulsa, Okla., native, who now lives in Los Angeles, said this was his second tour in Iraq.

“I love it because men and women of the military like to feel like they are at home,” he said. “It’s great to see their smiles, even if it is for only a few moments ... It’s good knowing they’re having a good time.”

Wilson said he knows Soldiers have tough jobs.

“I know it’s kind of crazy out there and anything can happen,” he said.

Jenna Lankford, an assistant for Wilson and a Los Angeles native, said the group was more prepared than it was last year and knew what to expect.

“We come here for the troops,” said Lankford. “It’s not about getting paid; it’s about the people risking their lives for us

and us being able to give one good night of entertainment.”

Spc. Tyler E. Klinger, a food service specialist with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Kent City, Mich., native, said he was relatively unfamiliar with Charlie Wilson but he wanted to see a good concert.

“I think these shows are great for morale,” said Klinger.

Spc. Vashion R. Lee, also a food service specialist with the 13th ESC and Tallahassee, Fla., native, said he had heard of the Gap Band and knew Wilson’s other music.

“I heard his music when I was growing up all the time,” said Lee. “I know he has been working with R. Kelly as well.”

Wilson said he has made some memories in Iraq.

“I love coming here,” he said. “I come here to make (service members) have some fun and that’s the bottom line. I’ve been asked to come back next year and I’m delighted to.”



Charlie Wilson of the Charlie Wilson Band performs for service members Feb. 24 at the Sustainer Theater at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Wilson, a Tulsa, Okla., native, who now lives in Los Angeles, performed in Iraq for the second consecutive year, wrapping up this tour Feb. 25.

Wilson said he appreciates service members’ work and will continue to bring his love to them.

“From the bottom of my heart, anything I can do for you just ask and I’m on my way,” he said. “I don’t care what it is or what’s going on; if you can get me here, I’m there.”

Where do you read  
your  
Expeditionary  
Times?

For distribution, contact the 13th ESC PAO at  
Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Joint Base Balad :  
318-483-4603

COB Adder:  
318-833-1002

COB Taji:  
318-834-1281

COB Q-West:  
318-827-6101

Al Asad Air Base:  
318-440-4103

COB Speicher:  
318-849-2501

e-mail:  
escpao@iraq.centcom.mil



# Liaison officers help incoming units prep for deployments

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – When Soldiers deploy, liaison officers are the behind-the-scenes asset to pre-mobilization travel and training.

Soldiers who travel through Kuwait are greeted by an LNO, who takes care of their unit until they leave for Iraq.

Master Sgt. Robert T. Holifield, an LNO with the 15th Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said LNOs help Soldiers transition into and out of Kuwait, and ensure they complete the training necessary for mission success in Iraq.

“We’ll send them a training schedule ahead of time,” said Holifield, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., native.

This schedule comes about 15 days prior to their arrival, to show them exactly what to expect at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, he said.

Soldiers should begin hydrating as early as possible in preparation for the deployment, to prevent dehydration, said Holifield.

Master Sgt. Harold R. Allen, the LNO noncommissioned officer in charge with the 13th ESC out of Fort Hood, Texas, said the LNOs are there to take care of Soldiers.



**Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Smyrna, Tenn., wait for their convoy security live-fire training to begin Feb. 15 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Liaison officers schedule training prior to the Soldiers’ arrival and ensure each unit knows its training and travel plans from Kuwait to Iraq.**

“This is a mission that takes a lot of responsibility, to ensure the Soldiers are able to get where they need to go,” said Allen, a Philadelphia native. “You’re solely responsible for ensuring that each Soldier was trained to standard and that each Soldier was able to depart here with all the tools they needed to fly north.”

Sgt. 1st Class Willie E. Nash, an LNO

with the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th ESC, said the LNOs’ jobs revolve around when and where Soldiers train.

Nash, a Houston native, said there are four mandatory training events all Soldiers must attend: the counter-improvised explosive device class, the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle

training, the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer class, and test firing at the weapon range.

Unit commanders can add additional training to the schedule if they so choose, said Holifield.

Allen said his mission as a liaison officer never ends. LNOs also schedule flights, making them responsible for ensuring each unit reaches its correct destination, he said.

“It’s very important when you transition from one stage to another,” Nash said.

Without LNOs, every mission would be at a standstill, said Holifield.

“If you don’t have LNOs here on ground letting these units know what is going on, there would be a lot of confusion,” he said.

Allen agreed, and said Soldiers would also face the danger of receiving inconsistent training.

“Having somebody specifically from the 13th ESC ensures they receive the same training,” he said.

Despite a lot of travel and long hours, Allen said the LNOs are proud to prepare and train Soldiers.

“I’d like to say that having the LNOs at Buehring is a key to success for the 13th ESC,” he said. “To have Soldiers that are trained to standard and to have the tools that they need to go forward, this is a big plus for us.”

# Maintenance Soldiers celebrate Mardi Gras

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. WAIWAH ELLISON  
36TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 546th Maintenance Company out of Fort Polk, La., 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) celebrated Mardi Gras with a half day of festivities Feb. 19 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

“Mardi Gras is a huge tradition in the state of Louisiana, and being from Fort Polk, we thought we’d have our own celebration in the form of a fun run,” said the 1st Sgt. Tony C. Stephens, the 546th’s 1st Sgt. and a Raleigh, N.C., native. “We solicited the 546th Family Readiness Group and Soldiers’ Angels of Louisiana for help, and they responded tremendously. They sent boxes upon boxes of beads, masks,

decorations and music, and we literally ran with it.”

Sgt. Sabriya F. Mitchell, operations noncommissioned officer with the 546th Maint. Co. and a Newark, N.J., native, said the unit’s Soldiers handed out beads to unsuspecting passersby during the run.

“It was an excellent morale booster to Soldiers like me and everyone around,” Mitchell said. “It was a chance for us to spread the Louisiana spirit to the rest of the community on COB Adder.”

Capt. Andy S. Lawrence, commander of the 546th Maint. Co. and a Reno, Nev., native, said the Soldiers’ Angels of Louisiana sent care packages to Louisiana-based units all year. For Mardi Gras, they sent more than 100 boxes to remind Soldiers of home, he said.

“Soldiers of the 546th enjoyed the Mardi Gras Fun Day, (as) evidenced by the smiles on their faces,” said Lawrence. “One thing is for sure, they cannot wait to return to Louisiana and experience the real Mardi Gras celebration next year.”



**Spc. Keambra A. Gipson, a supply specialist with the 546th Maintenance Company out of Fort Polk, La., 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Dallas native, and Spc. Tiffany D. Jones, a motor pool mechanic with the 547th Maint. Co. and a Shreveport, La., native, prepare banners for the vehicles in preparation for the Mardi Gras Fun Run Feb. 19 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.**



# Transportation Soldiers celebrate black history with music mural

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. CORINE MARGETIAK  
15TH SUST. BDE.

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

TAJI, Iraq – In 1926, the second week of February was called “Negro History Week,” as founded by U.S. historian Carter G. Woodson. Now, February is known in the United States as Black History Month, honoring black historical figures and their contributions throughout history.

The 1483rd Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) honored the black musicians who have made a mark in history with a mural painted on a wall outside the unit’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation building.

The creative force behind the mural was 1st Lt. Kelly McGoldrick, one of the unit’s equal opportunity representatives and an Ohio native, and Spc. Nicole Day, the manager of the 1483d Trans. Co. MWR and a Carrollton, Ohio, native.

“We wanted to do this,” Day said. “I didn’t want the wall to be just pretty; I wanted it to be informative.”

Day said it took her about a month

to sketch and paint what she wanted the mural to look like. The final picture consisted of a mouth and microphone, a guitar, a saxophone, a trumpet and a wavy keyboard, with music notes containing names of famous musicians.

The singers included Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley, and Gladys Knight; the guitarists were Jimi Hendrix, B.B. King, Bo Diddley, and Chuck Berry; Charlie “Bird” Parker, John Coltrane, and Pharoah Sanders were included for their skills on the saxophone; trumpeters Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Quincy Jones; and pianists Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Little Richard, Art Tatum and Fats Domino.

Art Tatum is a native of Toledo, Ohio, the city just north of the Village of Walbridge, the home of the 1483rd Trans. Co.’s armory.

“I wanted to put a hometown hero,” Day said.

On Feb. 5, Soldiers with the 541st CSSB gathered outside the 1483d Trans. Co. MWR to celebrate Black History Month.

“We kicked off the evening with the National Anthem by Jimi Hendrix,” said Day. “It was followed by other artists, including all who were listed on the wall.”

Dry erase boards with quotes from music artists were placed around the picnic tables next to the mural, and each



Soldiers with the 1483rd Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) admire the mural painted outside of the company Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. The mural was sketched and painted by Spc. Nicole Day, manager of the company MWR and a Carrollton, Ohio, native, in celebration of Black History Month.

picnic table featured sheets with short biographies of artists printed off of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Web site.

Sgt. Kimberly Hill, the 1483rd Trans. Co. retention noncommissioned officer and a Newark, Ohio, native, attended the event.

“I think Spc. Day did an amazing job on the mural with very limited resources,” Hill said. “The theme she picked to celebrate Black History Month was perfect because music is an experience everyone can share and appreciate, regardless of their background.”

# Painting honors Oregon landscape, universities

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

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING LO-

CATION SCANIA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Moises Becerra, an infantryman and team leader with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Eugene, Ore., native, grabbed his paints and brushes to create a work of art Jan. 25 at Contingency Operating Location Scania, Iraq.

Becerra designed and painted the A Co. T-wall mural based on Oregon, the company’s home state.

“Painting large scale is what I really love,” he said. “It’s just a hobby.”

An officer taught Becerra to paint at a military college in Mexico City more than 20 years ago.

“I had the opportunity to meet a colonel who was a muralist,” he said. “He invited me to take part in a couple of murals. They are still there.”

The mural Becerra painted for A Co. is a postcard from Oregon.

It portrays Mount Hood, a prominent mountain in Oregon, as well as



Staff Sgt. Moises Becerra, an infantryman and team leader with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Eugene, Ore., native, paints a mural for his company on a T-wall at Contingency Operating Base Scania, Iraq.

ducks and a beaver in military uniform, the mascots for the two Oregon universities. The postcard has a Task Force Volunteer crest as a stamp, and is painted as though it was taped to a vehicle.

“It is to give you hope,” he said. “When you are traveling down the road you can look at it. People who

have never been to Oregon see the mural and say, ‘Now, I want to go.’”

Becerra said he had help from other Soldiers, but they give him all the credit.

Spc. Joshua Francis, a medic with A Co. and a Springfield, Ore., native, is one of them.

“Sgt. Becerra is awesome,” he said.

**Do you  
have a  
story  
idea?**

**Contact  
us at:**

**escpao@iraq.centcom.mil**



# 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

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

## Level: Hard

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- What year was the first summer Olympiad televised live?
- What athlete was protected by seven security guards at the 1994 Winter Olympics?
- What general stormed into the boxing ring at the 1928 Olympics to protest judges ruling for a South African over an American?
- What woman won five U.S. figure skating titles from 1969 to 1973, but never an Olympic gold medal?
- How many athletes competed for Israel in the 1994 Winter Olympics?

1. 1960 2. Nancy Kerrigan 3. Douglas MacArthur 4. Janet Lynn 5. One

## 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)	

### CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

0900 Chapel- Next Iraq/MWR East	
1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)	

1400 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)	1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
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### WEDNESDAY

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel
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### LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday

1700 Provider Chapel
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### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday

1000 Provider Chapel
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### CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)
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### 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)
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1100 Provider Chapel	1100 Air Force Hospital
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Thursday	1100 Air Force Hospital
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Mon., Wed., Fri.	1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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Monday-Friday	1130 555th Engineer Bde. (Bldg. 7200)
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### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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Saturday	0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
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### ISLAMIC PRAYER - Friday

1230 Provider Chapel
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### PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday

1900 The Shack
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Saturday	1900 The Shack
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### GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday

0900 Provider Annex
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### 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.

Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

### EAST FIT-NESS CENTER

Open Court Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m.  
Monday- 8 p.m.

Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30-6:30 a.m.

Yoga Class: Mon., Fri., - 6-7 a.m.

Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30 p.m.

Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 7:15-8 p.m.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

a.m., 5-6 p.m.

Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.

### EAST REC-REATION CENTER

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m.  
Monday- 8 p.m.

Karaoke: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m.

Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m.

9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m.

Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m.

6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.

p.m.

Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m.  
Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m.

Monday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.

Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m.

9 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m.

Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.

Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m.

Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m.

Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.

Power Abs: Mon., Tue., - 8 p.m.

Friday- 9 p.m.

CC Cross Fit:

Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m.

Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.

Monday- Saturday- 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 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m.

Texas

Hold'em:

Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.

Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.

Salsa: Wednesday- 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., 7:30pm

9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.

Ping-pong

tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m.

Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m.

Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m.

Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.

Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m.

WEST FIT-NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6 on 6 volleyball tourney:

Friday- 7 p.m.

Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.

Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.

Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m.

Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., - 7 p.m.

Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m.

Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.

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

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



### Thursday 03/04/10

Kansas State @ Kansas, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Memphis Grizzlies @ New Orleans Hornets, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
Indiana Pacers @ Portland Trail Blazers, Tape Delayed 7:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
NBA on TNT: Los Angeles Lakers @ Miami Heat, Live 5 p.m. AFN/ sports

### Friday 03/05/10

Thursday Night Showcase: LSU @ Ole Miss, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Memphis Grizzlies @ Chicago Bulls, Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/ sports  
NBA Friday: Detroit Pistons @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Live 4 p.m. AFN/sports  
NBA Friday: New Orleans Hornets @ San Antonio Spurs, Live 6:30 p.m. AFN/ sports

### Saturday 03/06/10

2010 Davis Cup - 1st Round: USA vs Serbia - Day 1: Rubber 1, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Texas A&M @ Oklahoma, Live 9 a.m. AFN/sports  
Florida State @ Miami, Live 9 a.m. AFN/xtra  
West Virginia @ Villanova, Live 9 a.m. AFN/ prime Atlantic  
Dallas Mavericks @ Chicago Bulls, Live 5 p.m. AFN/ xtra

### Sunday 03/07/10

2010 Davis Cup - 1st Round: USA vs Serbia - Day 2: Doubles , Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Virginia Tech @ Georgia Tech, Tape Delayed 2 a.m. AFN/xtra  
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Milwaukee Bucks, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/xtra  
HBO Boxing After Dark: Devon Alexander vs Juan Urango, Tape Delayed 5 a.m. AFN/sports  
Florida @ Kentucky, Live 9 a.m. AFN/ sports



### Monday 03/08/10

2010 Davis Cup - 1st Round: USA vs Serbia - Day 3: Rubber 4, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
2009-2010 PBA Tour: Don Johnson Eliminator, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/xtra  
The Honda Classic: Final Round (PGA National Resort and Spa - Champion Course, Palm Beach Gardens, FL), Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/ xtra

### Tuesday 03/09/10

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship: Teams TBD (Albany, NY), Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
San Antonio Spurs @ Cleveland Cavaliers, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
Southern Conference Championship: Teams TBD (Charlotte, NC), Tape Delayed 8 a.m. AFN/sports

### Wednesday 03/10/10

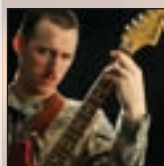
Sun Belt Conference Championship: Teams TBD (Hot Springs, AR), Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
Summit League Championship: Teams TBD (Sioux Falls, SD), Tape Delayed 7 a.m. AFN/sports  
Northeast Conference Championship: Teams TBD, Live 4 p.m. AFN/xtra



# Arts & Entertainment

## Jay Farrar, Ben Gibbard pay homage to Jack Kerouac

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Jack Kerouac's "Big Sur" finds the author struggling to deal with fame and alcoholism and subsequently moving to a cabin in the woods of Central California to be alone. "Big Sur" was one of Kerouac's final novels, released 13 years after "On the Road."

Kerouac died in 1969, at age 47. Despite living a short life, he influenced countless writers, artists and musicians, particularly those interested in Americana and a nomadic lifestyle.

A film was recently made about Kerouac's time in the woods of Big Sur, and musicians Jay Farrar and Ben Gibbard

made the album, "One Fast Move or I'm Gone," as its accompaniment.

Farrar is best known for his work in the bands Uncle Tupelo and Son Volt, and his style is most definitely Americana, country and folk.

Gibbard is the lead vocalist of indie-rock heavyweights Death Cab for Cutie and Postal Service, and has recorded two solo albums and other work with iAll-Time Quarterback!

Both performers have been known for collaborating with other musicians and bands, but had never worked with each other until now. Both cited Kerouac as one of the greatest influences on their songwriting, though it seems more obvious in Farrar's work than Gibbard's.

"One Fast Move or I'm Gone," sounds like a Son Volt album that features Gibbard. If you read my recent review of the

last Son Volt album, you'll know what to expect. The music is old-school country with slow strumming acoustic guitars and piano upfront and steel guitar providing a background ambience. It's very simple and not very upbeat.

Some songs feature Farrar heavily on vocals and others favor Gibbard. On a few songs, they share roles equally and their voices really complement each other. Farrar sounds like a sad old soul and Gibbard pushes the higher register of his familiar melodic voice.

Those who only know Gibbard from Death Cab or Postal Service might not think he can handle Farrar's country stylings, but Gibbard's solo work and his collaborations with Feist and Jenny Lewis have proven him as a man who knows folk and country as well as any.

Farrar wrote the majority of the

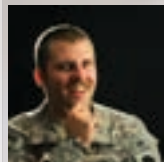
tracks on the album with the assistance of Gibbard, though Kerouac is credited as co-writer on every track. In fact, many of the lyrics came from "Big Sur."

Standout tracks, for me, are the opener, "California Zephyr," the title track, "One Fast Move or I'm Gone," and the album closer, "San Francisco," which features an extremely haunting harmonica. An album, with a fantastic single, that bookends itself with its best tracks stands out as a success. There is no need to skip any songs here.

This might not be the fun road trip album that you could expect from Gibbard playing Kerouac, but it would play very well on a lonely drive in the rain. Sad, introspective music is not for everyone, or every day, but it has its role, and "One Fast Move or I'm Gone" does it very well.

## Cera shines in 'Youth in Revolt'

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



The humor in "Youth in Revolt" targets teenagers, but Michael Cera ("Superbad") has incredible moments as Francois Dillinger, main character Nick Twisp's alter ego.

The humor is inconsistent and the characters are excessively intelligent, but this movie is definitely worth a view.

The story revolves around Nick Twisp (Cera), who is similar to the characters we've seen Cera play before without the nervous charm and wit. He's a nerdy introvert who heads out to a small lake town for a few weeks so his mother's boyfriend, Jerry (Zach

Galifianakis), can hide from the three Sailors he ripped off.

While hiding out, Nick meets a young girl named Sheeni Saunders (Portia Doubleday), and immediately falls in love with her. Sheeni comes from a very conservative, Christian family, but she likes bad boys, which is the total opposite of Nick, so he decides to win the affection of Sheeni by creating a bad boy alter-ego known as Francois Dillinger.

The movie starts off a bit of a slow note, but once Nick meets Sheeni, it picks up.

The humor, however, was very inconsistent. Sometime the jokes were very witty and at other times the humor seemed juvenile.

The acting was solid. This is the best work Cera has done since "Arrested Development." The character of Nick was similar to the acting he's done in

the past, but I thought this character seemed a little more grounded in reality.

He wasn't as witty and charming as usual. He just seemed like a nervous, nerdy teenager.

Cera truly shines as Francois. Francois is the definition of a rebel without a cause. His delivery was great and I never would have thought of Cera as a super cool, tough guy, but he pulls it off and saves the movie from being another mediocre teen comedy.

Doubleday ("Legend of the Mummy") was also great. She was way too smart for her age, but she had a great mix of quirk and charisma.

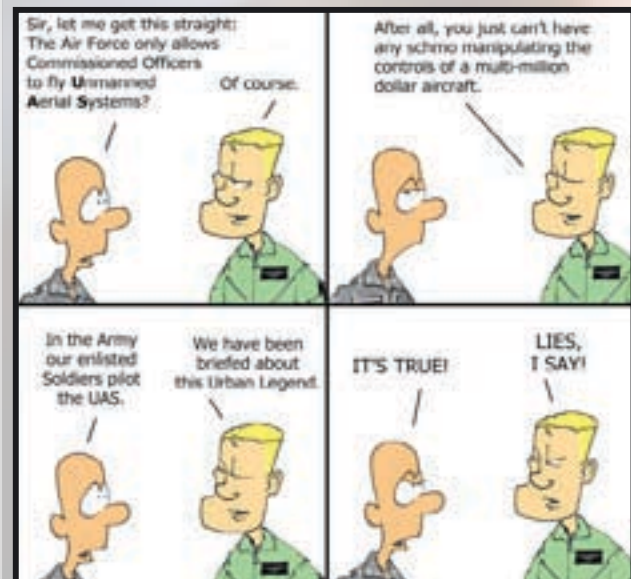
With such a good cast, I was surprised when the other stand-out actor in this movie for me was Fred Willard ("Anchorman"), who played Cera's illegal immigrant-hiding neighbor. He's in

a million movies and he's always funny, but this might be my favorite role of his. He, like Cera, toned down his typical eccentric acting and based it a little more in reality, and in the end, it paid off.

My biggest complaint about the acting was Justin Long ("Accepted," and the Mac from the Mac versus PC commercials). The Mac guy was set to be the next John Cusack, and now all he does are weird, over-the-top characters. This time he played Sheeni's perpetually high older brother, and he was more distracting than funny.

The story was relatable for teens, and, although the humor is hit-or-miss, it has some great moments – all of which feature Francois. This movie isn't great, but it's several notches better than any other teen comedy that's come out in the past two or three years. It's worth a watch.

### PVT MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

#### Wednesday, March 3

5 p.m. Daybreakers  
8 p.m. Shutter Island

#### Thursday, March 4

5 p.m. Shutter Island  
8 p.m. Avatar

#### Friday, March 5

2 p.m. The Book of Eli  
5 p.m. The Spy Next Door  
8:30 p.m. Cop Out

#### Saturday, March 6

2 p.m. The Spy Next Door  
5 p.m. Cop Out  
8 p.m. Nine

#### Sunday, March 7

2 p.m. Cop Out  
5 p.m. The Book of Eli  
8 p.m. The Spy Next Door

#### Monday, March 8

5 p.m. Nine  
8 p.m. The Book of Eli

#### Tuesday, March 9

5 p.m. The Spy Next Door  
8 p.m. Cop Out

#### Wednesday, March 10

5 p.m. Cop Out  
8 p.m. Nine





# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew D. Leistikow

Members of the Combined Security Force prepare to enter a room during a demonstration for the CSF Graduation Ceremony Feb. 15 at the Kirkuk Training Center in Kirkuk, Iraq. The CSF is a unit composed of U.S., Kurdish and Iraqi personnel designed specifically to increase security during the election process.

(Right) An Iraqi Soldier climbs on the back of 1st Lt. Brandon Frei, with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and a Las Vegas native, to secure the rooftop for the first Tripartite Medical Civil Action Project Feb. 9 at Albu Gade, Iraq. C Troop, 1-14 Cavalry worked with the Iraqi and Peshmerga Army to provide security for U.S. Army medics and Iraqi and Kurdish doctors.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anderson Savoy



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shannon Lott

Officers with 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police secure the area of operations after successfully performing an ambush during a two week training course, Task Force Nassir, Feb. 16 at command observation post Cashe North, Baghdad. The training is completely run by the Iraqi Federal Police, but overseen by U.S. Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and is designed to enhance the combat and leadership skills of the Iraqi Federal Police.

An Iraqi girl sits through a preventive health class which teaches children the importance of washing their hands and brushing their teeth as part of the first Tripartite Medical Civil Action Project Feb. 9 at Albu Gade, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anderson Savoy



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anderson Savoy

(Above) Pfc. Annabel Chong, with C Company, 296th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division and a Cerritos, Calif., native, takes the blood pressure of a local Iraqi farmer in the first Tripartite Medical Civil Action Project Feb. 9 at Albu Gade, Iraq. U.S. Soldiers worked with the Iraqi and Peshmerga Army to provide locals with medical attention.



# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Iraqi legal system discussed at Rule of Law conference

BAGHDAD – U.S. Joint Forces held a Rule of Law conference at the U.S. Embassy Feb. 3 and 4 in Baghdad.

U.S. and Iraqi legal experts gathered from across the country to discuss the importance of future U.S. and Iraq partnerships to expand Iraq's judicial system capabilities.

Participants discussed myriad topics during the two-day conference focused on the long term goal of creating an independent, secure and all-encompassing judicial system.

A major legal challenge in Iraq now concerns lost property because about 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes. The Iraqi government is now contending with more than 10,000 claims for lost property. Many of the claims are complex and require unique legal defense expertise.

"Compensation is being considered for those in extremely complex lost property disputes where an agreement cannot be made," said conference panelist Mark Storella.

## Iraqi Security Forces campaign against Kata'ib Hezbollah acts

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces arrested 22 suspected Kata'ib Hezbollah terrorists Feb. 12 during a series of joint security operations targeting an Iranian-backed lethal aid smuggling and rocket attack network operating in rural villages southeast of Baghdad near the Iranian border.

Initial reports indicate five suspected Kata'ib Hezbollah terrorists were killed during the operation, but the number of casualties has not yet been confirmed.

Iraqi and U.S. intelligence reports led ISF and U.S. advisers to the village of Ali ash Sharqi, roughly 265 km southeast of Baghdad, in search of known weapons cache sites and lethal-aid smugglers loyal to the Kata'ib Hezbollah terrorist organization.

While approaching the village, the joint security team was fired upon by individuals dispersed in residential buildings. In response to the threat, and in accordance with escalation of force procedures, members of the security team returned fire, killing individuals they believed to be enemy combatants. Local authorities responded to the scene and transported the remains to an Iraqi medical facility in the area.

During the engagement, one suspected terrorist fled the scene on foot. The security team pursued the suspect, who was apprehended in a nearby field. The suspect sustained injuries while fleeing and was evacuated to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

The joint security team continued the operation, which resulted in the arrest of 12 suspected Kata'ib Hezbollah terrorists believed to be actively smug-



gling and stockpiling Iranian-made weapons near homes in Ali ash Sharqi.

In Ali al Gharbi, a village roughly 245 km south-east of Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisers searched for warranted members of the Kata'ib Hezbollah terrorist organization believed to conduct assassinations, extort civilians and local Iraqi businesses, and transport weapons from Iran into southern Iraqi provinces.

During the operation, ISF and U.S. advisers searched residential buildings for the warranted individuals. Evidence found on the scene, including electric circuits used to detonate improvised explosive devices, several assault rifles and military equipment, led ISF to arrest 10 suspected Kata'ib Hezbollah weapons smugglers. Those arrested are believed to be associated with fellow network members involved in rocket attacks targeting security forces operating in southern Iraq.

Iraqi and U.S. intelligence sources indicate a recent increase in lethal aid smuggling facilitated by members of Kata'ib Hezbollah, who then stockpile weapons and explosives in Iraqi communities for future attacks.

Kata'ib Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for rocket attacks aimed at security forces working to secure populated areas. The Iranian-backed terrorist organization continues to conduct and claim responsibility for attacks resulting in civilian deaths and collateral damage. Joint security operations conducted today along the Iranian border are expected to disrupt Kata'ib Hezbollah's efforts to transport rockets, explosives and other weapons into Iraq, thereby increasing security in southern Iraqi provinces.

## Ninewa province raid uncovers cache

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION MAREZ, Iraq – The Iraqi Army and U.S. Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division collected a large weapons and explosives cache in Ninewa province, Feb. 7.

The combined forces acted on a tip that led them to a

house in the Al Zuhier neighborhood of Mosul.

When they discovered the extent of the cache, however, they called in an explosive ordnance disposal company.

Members of the 38th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, with the 2nd Brigade Heavy Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga., responded and discovered more weapons and bomb-making materials throughout the house and behind false walls.

The following items were discovered in the cache: 26 AK-47 assault rifles, four Russian RPK/RPD 7.62mm squad automatic weapons, four long rifles of unknown origin, one bolt-action rifle of unknown origin, one sterling 9mm machine gun, one .22 cal. hand gun, 700 60mm mortar rounds, 125 82mm rounds, 100 mortar primers, 35 rocket-propelled grenade motors, three rocket launchers, seven RPG launchers, 40 grenades of unknown model and 50 Russian RGE-5 grenades.

The troops also confiscated several thousand Iraqi dinar and an Iraqi gas mask, as well as American military products including a pair of night vision goggles, optical weapon sights, five military-issue bulletproof ballistic armor plates and four body armor vests.

The cache further contained infrared sensors, wiring and IED electronic components, nine Iraqi license plates, more than 10,000 rounds of 7.62mm machine gun ammunition, several thousand feet of detonation cord, several thousand feet of explosive time fuse, seven boxes of projectile fuses, 30 pounds of rocket propellant and 10 boxes of 14.5mm ammunition.

"I was amazed at how much work they had actually taken to plaster the walls up to make them look like the rest of the room," said 1st Sgt. Jeremiah Raemhild from 38th EOD. "That's a lot of work to hide something. It definitely was a long-term storage site for the weapons."

It took about six hours for the Iraqi Army and Soldiers to move the ordnance and weapons to waiting trucks, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Barker, 38th EOD.

"We pulled out hundreds of pieces of ordnance, mortar tubes, AK-47s, projectiles and improvised explosive device materials," he said.

The Iraqi Army collected the equipment it could use. The rest, including all the electronic components and cell phones, was tagged, recorded and sent away for analysis. Specialists will look them over to answer questions, including where the weapons came from, or what techniques bomb-makers are using.

"We're trying to get Mosul back to a state of normalcy," said Sgt. Jeremy Robinette, 38th EOD. "Taking the weapons from this cache off the streets will create a better environment where Iraqi kids can grow up."

During Robinette's first deployment to Iraq, his team leader lost part of his arm and leg to an IED. Finding the cache was a big payoff, he said, and it was a reward for all of the hard work his EOD company was doing.

Robinette said the unit makes a difference.

"We saved lives that night," he said. "We took assets away that could have been used in complex attacks or indirect fire, with minimal risk and loss. We've made Mosul a safer place."

## Military policemen teach Iraqi guards search procedures

CAMP CROPPER, Iraq – In a continuous effort to strengthen security forces in Iraq, Soldiers with the 89th Military Police Brigade taught Iraqi Federal Police security guards search techniques at the Judicial Develop-



ment Institute in Baghdad Feb. 18.

Out of the roughly 5,130 FPSs who guard government buildings throughout Iraq, roughly 50 participated in the training on personnel and vehicle searches. These men acted as subject matter experts and trainers for the other guards to ensure that everyone learned the information.

The individual search portion of the class was split into two techniques, a pat down for higher officials and techniques to regain control in a risky situation.

"These searches are the basics," said Sgt. Jarvanus Harris, personnel security detail team leader with the 89th MP Bde. "It determines what things are brought onto an installation. Teaching them to search vehicles and personnel is the first step in preventing many attacks happening on posts and at the gates."

Maj. Ruse Wiley, force protection officer in charge with the 89th MP Bde., said, "If they apply the training it will protect the visitors and the compound. They don't know who the enemy is."

Iraqi officials said they were pleased with the training and looked forward to more training with U.S. forces to perfect their security.


"It was a very good training today with the forces," said Samil, assistant of the general manager in charge of security guards and the administration of the high judge council. "They got information and experience as well as the practical exercise."

Samil said he was excited to see the Iraqis gain complete control of their guard post, but believed they still require more training and experience.

Wiley said, "It's really exciting sharing training, experience and knowledge with our Iraqi counterparts. It will definitely happen again in the near future."

In addition to the training, the 89th Force Protection team conducted a vulnerability assessment on the JDI compound which resulted in new T-walls, guard shacks and an improved entry control point.

## Ministries complete landmark joint training in Kurdistan

 ERBIL, Iraq – The Iraqi and Kurdish ministries of interior launched a joint training program Feb. 11 at Erbil.

This was the first customized two-week training workshop of its kind, specifically focused on the professional development of the two ministries' planning officer and budget officer corps.

The joint, or inter-ministerial, training program is facilitated by the Naval Postgraduate School Defense Resource Management Institute in Monterey, Calif. Three NPS senior instructors administered the inaugural MoI/KMoI Manager Planning and Tracking Officer Course Workshop from the KMoI headquarters complex in Erbil province.

Both of the ministries sent 21 officers to the workshop, which covered topics in program management, planning and budget formulation. The workshop also included MoI-led instruction on the MoI strategic planning system and the budget formulation and contracting processes.

Tariq Rashid, KMoI directorate of administration, coordinated the training workshop event. During his closing address to the class, he said the training and instruction provided is integral to the development of the ministerial workforce.

"It is (the KMoI) wish to continue the spirit of co-operation and partnership in future training efforts," he said.

Maj. Gen. Kareem Qasim Hammadi the senior class

leader, a workshop participant and the MoI planning section director, offered a similar perspective as the KMoI director.

"The training workshop provided an invaluable opportunity for both ministries to learn from each other," said Hammadi. "This type of training is a new and vital start for us as planning officers."


J.T. Sebastyn, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission – MoI adviser and a Department of Defense civilian, was on site to provide coordination support for the NPS DRMI instructors.

"The training workshop was remarkable on several different levels," he said. "The professional exchange and inter-ministry collaboration has left a profound impact on the senior leadership from all sides."

Stephen Hurst, NPS senior instructor for the training workshop, spoke on behalf of the DRMI instructor cadre.

"The workshop participants are experts in their respective fields and represent the future leadership of Iraq," Hurst said. "(They) brought their own experiences to the educational process, thus enriching the quality of learning. Their acceptance of this program will ensure its future viability. We look forward to conducting similar programs both in Iraq and Monterey, in the coming years."

## Fort Suse Correctional Facility renovations complete

 SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq – Engineers from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region District, Kirkuk Resident Office, managed a renovation project to double the size of the inmate capacity at the Fort Suse Correctional Facility in Sulaymaniyah.

The challenge to engineers was to perform the renovations at the facility while 1,200 inmates were still incarcerated at the 32-year-old structure.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq estimates there are more than 44,000 inmates and detainees incarcerated in Iraqi at correctional facilities and detention centers across the country. The Iraqi Correctional Service estimates that 16 of its facilities operate at 105 percent capacity.

Based on these estimates, demand outweighs supply. To alleviate the shortage, the Iraqi Correctional Service turned to USACE to solve its growing overcrowding problem.

The Fort Suse facility is similar to the recently renovated Chamchamal Correctional Facility in that both sites were pre-existing forts built by the Russians in the late 1970s.

In 2005, Fort Suse was converted from a United Nations detention facility to a Multi-National Forces – Iraq detention center following an \$8 million renovation by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and ECC International. In September 2006, MNF-I returned the center to Iraqi control and the facility was converted to a correctional facility.

The USACE \$14.9 million renovation includes providing new security fencing and guard towers, new visitation rooms, the renovation of the kitchen area, construction of a new laundry facility, library, staff clinic and the construction of new cell blocks to house an additional 1,200 inmates. The project also calls for the construction of living quarters for 300 guards, the installation of a new fire suppression system and the installation of new generators to provide uninterrupted electrical power to the facility.

"The intent of the renovation not only allows for additional inmates but houses those inmates in accordance with United Nations (Geneva Convention of 1955) standards," said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Harden, a program engineer for the Fort Suse project. "The overall design is to provide living conditions in the correctional facility that will meet or exceed those standards."

Harden said the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs construction and prisons training group was specifically chosen to ensure that U.N. standards were met in the design of the building and the training of the correctional facility staff. INL is a branch of the U.S. Marshalls Service. INL representatives deployed to Iraq are headquartered at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and are attached to the U.S. State Department.

"INL and USACE are required to adhere to all 95 articles outlined in the U.N. resolution that form the basis of our mandate to execute the project" said Harden. "The goal of the Fort Suse renovation efforts is it to increase the inmate capacity while allowing the correctional facility to operate in a safe, secure and humane environment."


Maj. Edward Allen, officer in charge of the Kirkuk Resident Office, said, "The key to the success of the project was communication between all parties involved. This project made coordination a very important element with the contractor having to complete security construction prior to starting the rehabilitation. Fortunately, the warden was very accommodating and made the process run smoothly."

"Overall, the project was a complete success. The prison is more secure and the guards are safer due to the upgrades."

The Kurdish owned Daban Group is the general contractor for the renovation project. Funding for the project was provided by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Fund.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. Government and the Government of Iraq. Since 2004, USACE has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$9.1 billion, and has more than 350 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

## US lauds Iraqi Police for raid netting 2 alleged al-Qaeda terrorists

 BASRAH, Iraq – Police forces from Wasit province captured two alleged criminal members of Al Qaeda in Iraq during a raid in the al-Suweira and al-Aziziya districts north of Kut early Feb. 18.

The detainees are suspected of armed operations against civilian and security forces.

The arrests resulted from a joint raid by Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Forces operating in the Suwariyah District of Babil.

The two detained are suspected AQI operatives allegedly responsible for assassinations of government officials, emplacing improvised explosive devices and extortion.

"This ISF-led operation is one small example of the improved security for the Iraqi people, as two dangerous AQI operatives are now off the streets," said Lt. Col. Matt Hackathorn, a United States Division – South spokesperson. "Continued improvements in the ISF ensure a secure environment and help Iraq develop strategic depth."



# Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

(Above) Capt. Drew Clark, a company commander and a Madison, Miss., native, and 1st Sgt. John L. Beasely, a company senior noncommissioned officer and a Hernando, Miss., native, chat while drinking chai tea at the home of a farmer who grows wheat and raises sheep Feb. 5 near Al Qayarah, during a security escort mission to the Tigris River pump house that supplies water to Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Marc Jones

Sgt. Lana Thompson, the small arms noncommissioned officer in charge for the armament section of the 1st Maintenance Company, 260th Combat Service Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Riley, Kan., native, spot checks Spc. Cortney Fontus, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, and Spc. Sean Machen, a Sacramento, Calif., native, on their knowledge of their personal weapon systems.



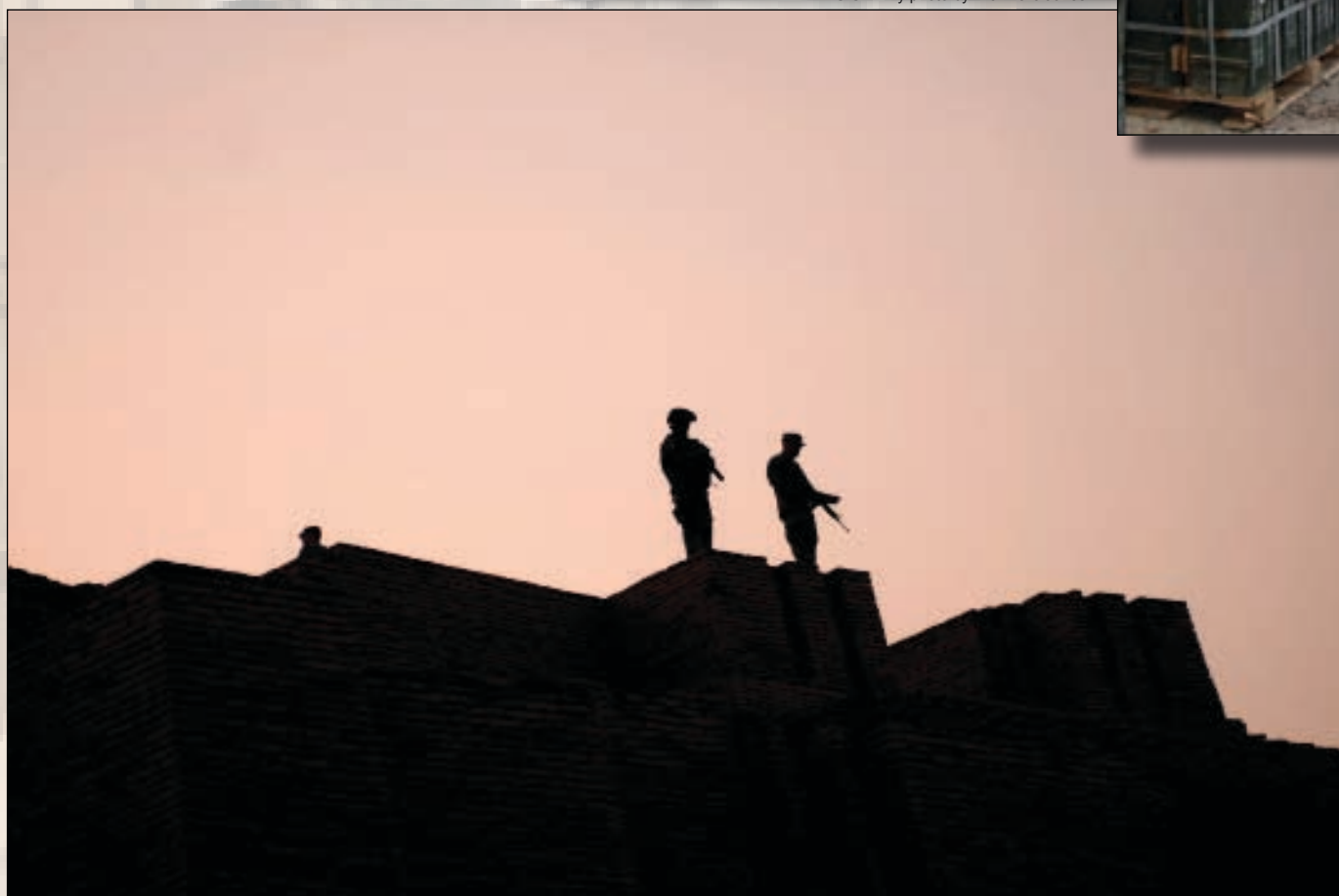
U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Marc Jones

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Newton, the section supervisor for the ground support equipment platoon of the 1st Maintenance Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Riley, Kan., native, makes the final checks on the motor pool's hazardous materials consolidation point.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Meeker

(Above) Pvt. Nicholas Williams, an ammunition specialist of the 60th Ordnance Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Grand Prairie, Texas, native, operates a forklift of ammunition while Pvt. Jose Cruz, an ammunition specialist with the 60th Ord. Co. and a Trenton, Tenn., native, ground guides the forklift to a pallet during ammunition loading operations.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan

Soldier's with the New Mexico National Guard's 1115th Transportation Company, assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand atop the Ziggurat of Ur Feb. 3 outside Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.