



The Expeditionary Times

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Fresh faces



278th Armored Cavalry Regiment takes over mission

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Equal opportunity



Female Soldiers step into new role

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Soul food



Provider chaplains hold prayer luncheon

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Tennessee Guardsmen begin force-protection mission

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Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC receive an early-morning convoy brief prior to their mission to Marez, Iraq, where they will recon available assets for future missions.

Leaders discuss Contingency Operating Location Scania closure

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION
SCANIA, Iraq – Leaders held a meeting March 14 at Contingency Operating Location Scania, Iraq, to discuss plans to close the location and transfer convoy operations to Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq, as part of the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces and equipment in the Iraq Joint Operations Area.



Capt. William L. Waldman, the officer in charge of base

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, discusses plans for the closure of Contingency Operating Location Scania, Iraq, with Maj. Vincent Felix, the base mayor for COL Scania with the 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sust. Bde. and a Yonkers, N.Y., native, March 14 at COL Scania.

closure on COL Scania with the 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), spoke at the meeting about his proposed plan for Scania.

Waldman, a Hatfield, Penn., native, said he is in the planning phase of his 210-day
SEE CLOSE ON PAGE 4



Balad Blotter March 12 - March 18

ASSAULT:

The law enforcement desk received a 911 emergency phone call relaying there was a disturbance at the complainant's location. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. Charlie-2 and 2A arrived on the scene, conducted an initial sweep of the area and made contact with the witness. The witness said the subject had left the scene and gave the patrol a description of the subject. The witness said she arrived at the location and stated subject came to her room bothering her. The witness smelled alcohol while talking to the subject and asked if he had been drinking to which subject replied "yes." Charlie-2, 2A and Eagle-1 made contact with the subject in his quarters. Bravo-2 and 2A transported the subject to building 7168. Bravo-2 and 2A advised the subject of his rights in accordance with Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to which he acknowledged his rights, requested legal counsel, and declined to provide a written statement. The subject gave written consent to have blood drawn. The subject was transported to the Air Force Theatre Hospital by Bravo-2 and 2A to have blood drawn for blood alcohol content. The subject was then released to his supervisor.

COMMUNICATING A THREAT:

At 1:22 p.m., March 11, the complainant came to the law enforcement desk to report threats and harassment communicated toward his fiancé. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. The patrol assisted the complainant in completing a statement of complainant. The complainant said since November 2008, his fiancé has been receiving threats on the phone and through email from the subject. The complainant said his fiancé's cell phone number has already been changed three times. The complainant also said the subject has attempted to solicit naked photographs from his fiancé. The complainant also said the subject wrote in an e-mail to his fiancé, "You will be dead by the time I get back from Iraq." The complainant said the subject would be returning to the United States in April and he feared for his family's safety.

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Chaplain's Corner: in relationship wounds, turn to God

BY CAPT. ROBERT T. KINNUNE
125TH CHAPLAIN DET.

Through the years I have watched numerous couples come the point of marital separation. For whatever reason, one moves out and finds a new place to live. Now, all of their friends and family discover what may have been true for months. Their marriage is in serious trouble. In this setting, I have seen some who run away from God and the church, while others run to God and his people. That choice is often the difference between reconciliation and divorce.

If ever there was a time we need God it is when our marriages are in crises. Don't allow shame, guilt, or anger to keep you from God. And if you are a friend of someone who is separated, don't allow fear to keep you away from them. Ask God for wisdom and reach out in love.

I really believe that many couples who separate could be reconciled if they would get the proper help. Ultimately that help comes from God, but books, counselors and pastors can be instruments in God's hand. If you are separated, I urge you; don't give up on your marriage.

Take the first step of dealing with your own failures. Perhaps your spouse is 95 percent of the problem, then begin with your 5 percent. Confess your failures to God and accept his forgiveness. Now you are free to seek his wisdom on what to do next. God knows why your marriage is failing and he holds the keys to reconciliation.

Often a troubled marriage drives us to our knees, and that is good. When you are on your knees you are looking in the right direction. God is our ultimate hope for healing and reconciliation. Once you've prayed for his help and his wisdom then take steps so he can guide you. Call a pastor, a counselor, a friend and share your pain. Ask for advice on what you should do. If they rec-

ommend a book, read it looking for the voice of God behind the words you are reading.

Others have walked a similar path. You may learn from their experience. And don't forget to read the Bible. God's clear voice is found in the Scriptures. Establish a time every day to read a chapter and listen to his voice. God wants to walk with you regardless of what your spouse does.

If you are in a difficult relationship, let me encourage you to sing praise to God. Singing is a vehicle of communication. It can lift the heart or depress the spirit, depending on what you sing. Throughout the Psalms we are challenged to sing praise to God.

In Ephesians chapter five, just before Paul talks about husbands and wives loving and serving each other, he says, "speaking to yourselves psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing a making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Singing is good for your marriage. What is important is that you are praising God in the midst of your difficulty. Sing the truth and you are more likely to live by the truth.

Dennis Rainey of Family Life Ministries did a study to find out where people turn for help when their marriages are in trouble. Do you know the answer? The church. That's right the local church. Let me ask you, does your church have a ministry for those seeking help in their marriage?

I believe that the church is part of God's plan for bringing people to Christ who gives help and healing. If your church doesn't have a marriage ministry let me encourage you to pray that God will raise up a couple who have a vision for enriching marriages. It can start with one small study group - five couples who meet once a week and work through a Bible study on marriage. In the middle of tough times in our relationships, turn and run to God and his people.

To Spc. Alexander M. Mateo:

Everyone is looking forward to seeing you soon. We are very proud of you, our Hero Daddy! We love you and miss you and we can't wait to give you plenty of hugs and kisses! God be with you always!

Blessings from Princess Skylar and Gabi Girl :)

To Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Flores,

We miss you and love you very much and cannot wait to have you home again. XOXO

Your wife,
Amparo Flores

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team
155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
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: post deployment/mobilization respite absence

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



The Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence Policy is a program about which Soldiers frequently have questions.

The battalion administrative officer is responsible for calculating and verifying the Soldier's information and

ensures the Soldier is given the correct amount of leave days. Deployment time for PDMRA purposes is from the time the Soldier arrives on Title 10 at mobilization station through their release from active duty date. PDMRA recognizes Soldiers who are required to mobilize or deploy with a frequency beyond established Department of Defense rotation policy thresholds (active component deployment-to-dwell ratio of 1:2 and reserve component mobili-

zation-to-dwell ratio of 1:5). PDMRA is considered non-chargeable leave or administrative absence.

The Army has defined the criteria for PDMRA with regard to creditable deployments/mobilization, administrative absence calculations, and program administration. The criteria for the active component and the reserve component are significantly different. The information for active and reserve components can be found in the most

recent Department of the Army Personnel Policy Guidance dated July 01, 2009, on AKO. The PPG also has a link with detailed information on determining a Soldier's eligibility for credit for previous deployments.

If you have any questions you can contact your battalion administrative officer or the Army G-1 point of contact for PDMRA, the Compensation & Entitlements Branch, at DSN 222-5945 or commercial 703-692-5945.

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Sgt. 1st class Alexander Arce
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

Taji (278th ACR): DSN 834-3079
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

Combat Stress: is anger manageable?

By CAPT. MIKE KNIGHT
1908TH MED. DET.



Effectively managing your anger is critical in the military, especially while deployed. As deployed Soldiers, everyday stressors are

amplified because we are removed from our loved ones and, very often, our normal ways of coping with stress. Being able to handle stressful situations without becoming angry ensures that the mission is accomplished while maintaining our military bearing, unit cohesion and personal morale.

Anger is a basic, primitive reaction to various emotions inside each of us. It manifests at different times and during different situations that are unique for each individual. What is important to realize, is that anger can be controlled by our own thinking. When it is not controlled, it can have devastating effects on our relationships, our health and our career. Studies have shown that people who are predisposed to becoming angry are more likely to have

increased blood pressure, stomach ulcers, and heart problems, among other health problems. Any first sergeant or company commander can tell you that countless Article 15's could have been prevented if the Soldier would have had more control over their emotions. As far as your personal relationships, just a few minutes of anger can cause permanent problems with the people you care about.

Anger management does not equate to never getting angry. Managing your anger is about finding a way to positively communicate your emotions so that your needs get met and the desired effect is achieved.

The first step in doing this is to take ownership of your anger. No one can make you angry. They can however contribute to a situation that you do not care for, but it is your perception and response that generate the angry feelings. You can choose not to get angry about an issue in the same way you choose to get angry. The key to doing this is listening to your own thoughts.

Next, understand what your triggers are and when you encounter them,

pay attention to the thoughts racing through your head. Instead of acting on your impulses, slow down and pay attention. You can also practice relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing and counting to assist you in slowing down a little.

It may also be possible to prevent situations by ensuring that your basic bodily needs are met. It is difficult to think clearly when you are hungry, cold/hot, or have not slept well.

Finally, ask yourself if the situation is really worth the energy to get angry over. There are many things in the military that we cannot control. Spending the time and effort to get angry about those things is time that could better be spent doing something productive. Getting angry will not change the situation and will likely just set you up for failure. Choose not to engage.

If you try these things and still struggle, try one of the 1908th Combat Stress Control's classes at the Patriot Clinic. Anger management classes are offered Monday-Friday at different times. Call the Patriot Clinic at 318-433-2402 to find out when a class is available.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

From the Joint Base Balad sexual assault response coordinator team: Protect yourself from acquaintance sexual assault; know your intentions and limitations and communicate them clearly. You have the right to say "no" to any unwanted sexual contact. If you say "no" say it like you mean it. Back up your words with your body language. Call the JBB SARC at 443-7272 or contact via pager 443-9001, 159 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their unit victim advocate or deployed-SARC; you may also call 433-7272 or 443-9001, 122/135 for assistance.



CLOSE: Scania operations to be transferred to Kalsu as part of responsible drawdown

CLOSE FROM PAGE 1

plan for the base closure.

"Phase one, is planning," he said. "Phase two is more or less drawdown; you are taking a lot of the extra items, unused (containerized housing units), and buildings, taking that stuff and getting rid of it. The third phase is more or less an expeditionary phase where you are ... eating out of a mobile kitchen trailer and living in a tent; you are setting the place up so that it takes only 45 days to get everything out of here. The final phase is the actual closure."

Even at this early stage, measures are being taken to ease into the final goal, said Waldman. A base-wide inventory is being conducted with the goal of eliminating unnecessary assets, an Environmental Closure Survey Team examined the base for environmental issues, the Base Closure Assistance Team visited to help guide them through the process, and some excess equipment has already been removed from the base, he said.

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde. out of Temple, Texas, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, said progress is being made.

"We are looking at what it would take to shut down (COL) Scania," he said. "A lot of other actions have to fall in place; (COL) Kalsu has to be fully operational and accessible to the amount of traffic that will be coming in."

The convoy support center at COL



A rooftop view of Contingency Operating Location Scania, Iraq. The COL is scheduled to close by Oct. 1, as part of the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces and equipment in Iraq.

Kalsu has been designed similarly to COL Scania's CSC, and is scheduled to be fully operational by June 1, said Ryan.

"The same footprint that we use here for parking has already been developed in (COL) Kalsu," he said. "But there are some logistical issues, just

with some bridging and things, traffic pattern issues that we are trying to (address in order) to mature Kalsu to be an area where trucks can remain overnight."

Ryan said closing a base is a large task, but with proper planning and knowledge of available assets, the closing of COL

Scania should run smoothly.

"Base closure is not something that you do in a day," he said. "The best thing we can do is inventory, know what is on the ground, know the personnel, know the footprint, and if you know all of those things, you can plan to dispose of it."

Telling the Providers Story from all across Iraq



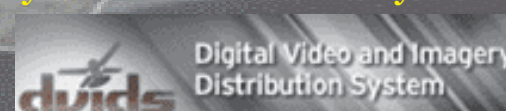
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278th Armored Cavalry Regiment takes over mission

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

TAJI, Iraq – The 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) handed its mission over to the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC, during a transfer of authority ceremony March 12 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The ceremony marked the end of a year-long deployment for the 155th HBCT headquartered in Tupelo, Miss., and the beginning for the 278th ACR out of Knoxville, Tenn.

Col. Knowles Atchison, deputy commander of the 13th ESC, addressed the outgoing and incoming Soldiers at the ceremony.

“(The Soldiers of the 155th) have denied the enemy to reign in its own backyard,” said Atchison, a Fort Hood, Texas, resident. “You have given United States Forces – Iraq operational flexibility and freedom to maneuver on their own terrain, and you have done so with an unprecedented skill, style ... and deadly precision.”

The 155th completed over 5,800 convoy-escort missions and drove more than 500,000 miles during their deployment. The brigade’s Soldiers encountered 79 improvised explosive devices and 72 direct-fire incidents while sustaining minimal damage and no major injuries or loss of life.

Atchison said the 155th did an exceptional job during their deployment and Mississippi is anxiously awaiting their return. He also praised the incoming regiment for the experience they bring to the mission.

“I want to welcome the 278th,” said Atchison. “Here for their second tour in



Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Jennings, the senior enlisted adviser for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Big Rock, Tenn., native, and Col. Jeffrey H. Holmes, the commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, case the brigade colors during a transfer of authority ceremony March 12 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. The 278th ACR out of Knoxville, Tenn., replaced the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC out of Tupelo, Miss.

Iraq, and with over 60% of (them) people who were here before, (you are) a cavalry regiment skilled, trained, experienced and seasoned. You will deny the enemy to reign. You will be the ultimate combat multiplier of the 13th as we provide sustainment all over Iraq. I am proud to serve with you.”

Col. William L. Glasgow, the commander of the 155th and a Brookhaven, Miss., native, gave the incoming unit some advice to help them succeed.

“Just remember a couple of important things: enforce the standards, and ... get (Soldiers) from point A to point B safely,” said Glasgow. “You (Soldiers) will do a tremendous job. It’s going to be different because there is going to be a tremendous withdrawal while you are here.”

Col. Jeffrey H. Holmes, the commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, said his unit appreciated the warm reception. He said the 155th need not worry

about the 278th or their mission, because they had set up the cavalry regiment for success.

“This is a legacy cavalry mission, gentlemen,” said Holmes. “The most vulnerable time during a retrograde operation in a counter-insurgency fight, and we are at that point. (With) 3,400 scouts on the routes, we’re going to do our mission. We’ve got Soldiers (whose) entire career is based on a cavalry mission. We’ve trained 18 months to be here. We’re ready.”

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Quartermaster Company saving wear, tear on Army combat uniforms

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Soldiers with the 263rd Quartermaster Company are now preparing to provide laundry service and set up manufactured field showers for Soldiers in small forward operating bases throughout western Iraq.

Sgt. Tammi L. Welton, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the clothing repair shop with the 263rd QM Co., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Denver native, said members of the 263rd are getting reassigned to small, outlying forward operating bases to concentrate on laundry service.

Welton said these smaller FOB's do not have local nationals or contracted personnel to do the laundry.

"What we do at Al Asad is just part of our (job)," she said. "Our mission takes us to smaller FOBs like Ubaydi, so we can take care of the laundry for the Soldiers there."

Spc. Katherine J. Langley, a fabric repair specialist with the 263rd QM Co. and Bartley, Neb., native, said she is sad to leave Al Asad but the mission will take her elsewhere.

"Now I get to focus on other aspects of my job besides clothing repair," she said. "The mission seems easy, but we have to set up a process for these Soldiers and also set up field showers at these places."

Langley said it is nice to know that she is making a difference for Soldiers who lack the common luxuries of bigger FOBs.

"We are going to make life a little easier for these Soldiers," she said.

Langley said she is proud of the work they have been doing in the repair shop for service members at Al Asad.

"It's really nice when people comment on the good work we do," she said. "When people have holes in their uniforms and we are able to repair it, it is like giving them an extra uniform. They don't have to buy an extra pair."

She said the shop is still seeing a high volume of customers, even though they are getting ready to move.

"Lately we have been getting about 45 repairs a day, and a lot of them are full uniform repairs, so we are keeping very busy," she said.

Though business is booming, the



Spc. Katherine J. Langley, a fabric repair specialist with the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bartley, Neb., native, mends an army combat uniform blouse March 13 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. After March 26, the unit will be dispersing to outlying forward operating bases to provide laundry services for Soldiers.

move is necessary, said Welton.

"This was the first time we were able to do the sewing part of our mission since we (left Advanced Individual Training)," she said. "We are leaving because we need to pull back and disperse to sites that are in need of our services."

The last day to turn in clothes for repair at Al Asad is March 26.

Langley said this is her first deployment and didn't know what to expect when she got here.

"I have heard stories about what we do when we are deployed, but I am glad that I am actually able to perform what I was trained to do here," she said. "I am now looking forward to seeing other parts of Iraq and doing a different part of my job."

Texas finance team provides support for all of western Iraq

BY SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

AL ASAD AIR BASE, IRAQ – Soldiers of A Detachment, 15th Financial Management Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, supply financial assistance to all military personnel and Department of Defense civilians in the western region of Iraq.

The unit's main hub is at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, but platoons travel to remote Forward Operating Bases with as few as 20 Soldiers, to provide financial support and assist with any pay problems that may arise during the deployment.

Staff Sgt. Tre Porter, a disbursing agent noncommissioned officer and a Detroit native, said they also work with the paying agents to purchase goods and fund projects around western Iraq.

"We run operational missions to Ramadi, Ubaydi and (Camp Korean Village), in order to get those Soldiers paid correctly if they are experiencing any issues," he said.

Porter said their everyday operations of cashing checks and setting up Eagle Cash Cards are mainly aimed at military personnel.

"We are making a big push to try to get all Soldiers to use Eagle Cash, to try to reduce the amount of U.S. currency in Iraq," he said. "Getting rid of the U.S. currency makes the Iraqi dinar and their economy better."

Sgt. Michael A. Mahan, the commer-

cial vendor services noncommissioned officer in charge and an O'Fallon, Ill., native, said he helps pay contracts to vendors that provide services in western Iraq.

"They range from life-support contracts all the way to buildings and roads," he said. "We also provide money for contractors to build schools and other off-post projects."

Mahan said these projects are paid through electronic funds transfer directly through the Iraqi banks, thereby utilizing the Iraqi dinar.

"This helps keep our currency out of their banks and it strengthens their economy," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Darrel L. Baxter, the detachment sergeant for the 15th FMC and a Detroit native, said he oversees operations, making sure all

offices are performing correctly.

Baxter said aside from their mission at Al Asad, the unit has weekly missions to smaller FOB's and bi-monthly missions to very remote locations in the western Iraq region.

"It's hard for some of those Soldiers that are at a FOB with 20 or 30 people; financial issues come up and we are here to take care of them," he said.

Baxter said the unit recently completed a transfer of authority with the 125th Financial Management Company, and had to shut down the office for a few days to do inventory and count money.

"We are back and it is very busy since we were closed for a few days," he said. "Our mission will stay the same, and that is to provide financial support for all Soldiers and (DOD) civilians."

Mayor cell keeps living areas safe and clean for Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Although the time is quickly approaching for the Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) to re-deploy home to Oregon, the mayor cell at logistics support area Anzio on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, must continue its mission until all Soldiers have left theater.

The mayor cell is responsible for the safety of all Soldiers and civilians staying in the LSA and must respond to any incidents there.

Master Sgt. Kelly V. Ramer, the assistant to the mayor with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st IBCT and a McMinnville, Ore., native, said he maintains accountability of personnel assigned to the containerized housing units on LSA Anzio.

"We take care of whoever lives in Anzio," he said. "Right now we are monitoring dumpsters to make sure the Soldiers are maintaining operational security."

Ramer said the monitoring must be done because, with so many Soldiers getting ready to leave the LSA and cleaning out their CHUs, some have thrown sensitive military items, such as ammunition, in the dumpsters.

Ramer said he also assists contactors



Master Sgt. Kelly V. Ramer, the mayor's assistant at logistics support area Anzio with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a McMinnville, Ore., native, gathers unusable uniforms left in the drop box to be incinerated March 16 at Al Asad Air base, Iraq.

who need to enter Soldiers' rooms for maintenance issues.

"Whenever someone has an issue with their CHU, we go and open the room up," he said. "We stay until the maintenance is done. This is so there is always a military escort present at all times while contractors are in their rooms."

To make their living areas feel more like home, Ramer said he also put together a self-help center at the LSA, where Soldiers can build desks and patio equipment.

"We acquired tools, electric saws and wood from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, and all branches of service are welcome to use them," he said. "I am just there to ensure their safety while the equipment is being used."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edwin H. Puderbaugh, the mayor of LSA Anzio, with HHC, 141st BSB, 41st IBCT, said he oversees the daily operations at the LSA.

He said he performs safety inspec-

tions and coordinates with the labor department for contracted work in the LSA.

Puderbaugh, a Clatskanie, Ore., native, said in addition to maintaining the records and population density of the LSA, he also keeps a roster of all the temporary personnel assigned there.

"We have 30 temporary CHUs here at the LSA," he said. "We've had as many as 70 occupants at one time, to as low as six occupants staying (here)."

Puderbaugh said he also polices the area daily to monitor for vandalism and graffiti.

"Most of the junior enlisted Soldiers are very good about picking up after themselves," he said. "I have three rules: Do what you're told, don't lie and pick up after yourself. If you abide by all three of those rules, you will be fine."

Aside from CHU maintenance, the mayor cell must assign rooms at all hours when visitors arrive from different bases.

"Most of the flights coming into Al Asad are in the middle of the night, so whoever is on call must go to the billeting office and get that Soldier a room," he said. "Sometimes this happens two or three times a night."

Puderbaugh, a 37-year veteran of the Army, said these Soldiers are some of the finest he has ever met.

"They have reaffirmed my belief that people who volunteer for the military are our future," he said. "It's now time for me to step aside and start looking forward to my retirement."

Superjet Travel Agency opens at JBB

BY SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Military and Maitha General Trading group officials celebrated the grand opening of MGT's Superjet Travel Agency with a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Superjet Travel Agency is designed to lessen delays for third-country nationals traveling for recreational and emergency leave, said Swaraj Bhowal, the MGT manager in Iraq.

There are more than 5,000 TCNs located on JBB, said Bhowal, a Jaipur, India, native. Currently, it takes three to five days for TCNs to travel from JBB to Victory Base Complex, Iraq, where they leave Iraq through Baghdad International Airport to go to Dubai, he said. From Dubai, they will catch a connecting flight to their final destination

"In case of (emergency), what happens is people from Balad ... are not able to go home quickly," he said.

Bhowal said MGT approached the Iraqi Based Industrial Zone with the idea of partnering with Superjet Travels, to bring direct flights between JBB and Dubai.

Commercial chartered aircrafts will utilize the flight lines at JBB to travel between the two countries, said Bhowal. Flights to Dubai are scheduled for once a week with the hopes of expanding in the future, he said.

Once the flight leaves, travelers will be out of Iraq in hours, cutting days off travel time, said Bhowal.

"They will come, they will visit and we'll take care of their visas; we'll book their flights to Dubai and any further flights," he said. "Anywhere they want to go."

With TCNs traveling on chartered jets, space will open up on military air travel out of JBB, said Bhowal.

The Superjet Travel Agency has been

in development for three months. Depending on the venture's success, other Superjet locations may open in the future, Bhowal said.

The MGT Superjet Travel Agency is a joint venture for the IBIZ initiative that will provide travel services for U.S. forces, contractors, TCN's and Iraqi entrepreneurs on JBB, said Sgt. Maj. Charles Scriven, the senior enlisted adviser for IBIZ with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"The employment of Iraqis and the long-term goal of establishing a travel agency service outside of JBB ... will promote tourism in Iraq," said Scriven, a Columbia, S.C., native.

IBIZ assists the development of ideas to aid Iraqi infrastructure on JBB. Together with the Air Force, IBIZ helps start businesses that aid local nationals in the cities close to JBB, said Scriven.

MGT is a well-established company that coordinated the development of the travel agency at JBB, he said.

Scriven said the travel agency will be

managed by MGT personnel and provide jobs for local nationals in the area.

The 13th ESC continues to set conditions for the growth and success of Iraq after U.S. forces withdraw from the country, said Col. Knowles Atchison, the deputy commanding officer of the 13th ESC.

"This is a business opportunity not only for the local Iraqis here, but for all the foreign nationals that happen to be guests in their country," he said.

Iraq is a capable country, said Atchison, an Orville, Ala., native. Their recent election and new businesses opening are perfect examples of how successful Iraq is becoming, he said.

The opening of a travel agency on JBB offers opportunity for further development in the area, said Shoukta Ahmed, mayor of Yethrib, Iraq.

"In the future, we hope for the travel agency to be outside the fence and in our city in order to develop our economy and bring more people into our area," he said.

Female Soldiers step into new role

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. JEFF LOWRY
TASK FORCE 38 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Two female Soldiers with Task Force 38, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment exemplified the "we can do it" motto of women's history month, when they volunteered to serve as UH-60 Black Hawk door gunners at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

"The majority of door gunners are ... males, and when you have a female come into the job it reminds us that we're not the only ones who can do it," said Army Sgt. Daniel Rice, a crew chief and standardization instructor with TF 38 and a New Ipswich, N.H., native. "They can do the job just as well and in some cases better than us."

Spc. Crisma Albarran was a petroleum supply specialist in the battalion's E Company prior to volunteering to be a door gunner with B Co. in October. Since the unit arrived in Iraq in December, she's flown more than 100 hours, progressing toward her door gunner certification.

"The adrenaline rush of being in the sky, to flying over Baghdad; I wanted to be a little extreme instead of being outside the aircraft," said Albarran, an Orland, Calif., native.

Albarran served in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division in 2007 and 2008 as a petroleum supply specialist and fueled helicopters during her last deployment. She said she relished her new job, but didn't realize the extent of a door gunner's tasks.

"I underestimated the responsibilities of a door gunner," she said. "I just thought it was just sitting behind the weapon and flying."

A gunner's responsibilities include passenger and cargo care, pre- and



Spc. Crisma Albarran, a door gunner with Task Force 38's B Company, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and an Orland, Calif., native, detaches an ammunition case from its mount after a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flight March 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Albarran volunteered for the job as door gunner prior to her second deployment to Iraq, and has flown more than 100 hours toward her door gunner certification.

post-flight duties, crew coordination and weapons maintenance.

"We have to make sure our passengers are secure," she said. "They're our primary responsibility; we don't want to lose track of them."

Albarran said she has a great appreciation for her new company, and the guidance they have provided.

"I like interacting with everyone, and everybody has been great teaching me about the aircraft, the UH-60," she said.

Spc. Jessica Sprung, a supply specialist with C Co., Task Force 38 and a Buffalo, Wyo., native, said she had altruistic reasons for volunteering as a door gunner.

"It's a good way to help out especially during a deployment when everybody is stressed out and flying a lot of hours," she said. "You can step in there and relieve a little of the stress and give them a break once in a while."

Like Albarran, Sprung said she saw the opportunity as a new adventure.

"It's pretty exciting to be part of the air crew," she said. "Becoming a door gunner for me is to help them out, do something different. It's pretty cool stepping in that role as one of the only females in the company."

Albarran said she had no reservations taking on a job dominated by men.

"I didn't have an issue with it," she said. "It was the male Soldiers who had to make little adjustments. I've done well fitting in so far."

Members of the 96th attend Combat Life Saver course

SPC. MICHAEL R. GAULT
96TH SUST. BDE.

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The medical section of the 96th Special Troops Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a Combat Life Saver class

March 8 through March 10 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"The purpose of the Combat Life Saver class is to train Soldiers to act quickly and efficiently in first aid, rendering help to a fallen comrade and maximizing on the precious first few minutes that may

save their lives on a battlefield," said Spc. Christopher Graham, a Combat Life Saver instructor and combat medic for the 96th Special Troops Bn., and a Pleasant Grove, Utah, native.

Throughout the 40-hour course, 18 Soldiers studied situational awareness, the evaluation of a casualty, opening and management of the airway, treating of wounds, treating for shock and calling for a medical evacuation.

Through several hands-on practical exercises, the students demonstrated their new skills on peers acting as mock casualties, and on the final day they were given an exam and received certificates recognizing them as Combat Life Savers.

To help teach the course, Graham said he utilized material from the Army Medical Department as well as photographs of accident scenes he had witnessed during his service in the Army and his seven years as a civilian paramedic for Salt Lake County, Utah.

"We have been running the course this way since our arrival in Taji back in October, he said. "(Instructing) with up-to-date information from AMEDD and these visual examples helps keep the course running smoothly with more participation and knowledge retention. Over 200 soldiers were trained this way."


Visual aids were a welcome change for students who had already undergone CLS training.

"The pictures and videos were a much-needed improvement," said Sgt. Michelle Julian, a field feeding noncommissioned officer with the 96th and a San Diego native. "CLS from my basic training in 2007 was not as in-depth as this course was."


As modern medical practices change, so do the lessons taught in CLS courses, said Sgt. Eric Harris, a food-services NCO with the 96th.

"A lot has changed since I last took this course back in 2006," said Harris, a Palm Springs, Calif., native. "With the new procedures and what is not done anymore, Specialist Graham was excellent at explaining the new ways from the old."



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BATTLEFIELD WAS EVEN...
THAT TIME HAS PASSED.



THIRTEENTH
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
SUPPORT TODAY PROVIDE TOMORROW



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STARTING THE TROOPERS FEATURING THE NCOs AND A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THE OFFICERS
PRODUCED BY THE FIRST SERGEANTS AND COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS BASED ON THE GRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE 13TH ESC
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FROM PROVIDER PICTURES and PHANTOM SUPPORT PRODUCTIONS



Service members participate in fire muster

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Joint Base Balad Fire Department held the year's first fire muster, a joint-service competition, March 13 at JBB, Iraq.

The fire muster pitted teams from all branches of service against one another in games that simulated firefighter tasks and skills, said Spc. Clayton Williams Jr., a JBB firefighter with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"It simulates the endurance that firefighters (must) have," said Williams, a Florence, Ky., native.

Firefighters train to save lives in fire emergencies, said Tech. Sgt. Jason Wallace, the assistant JBBFD fire chief of operations with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, but the fire muster focused more on the physical training aspect of firefighting.

"(The fire muster is) a good, fun-filled competition between all the warriors here at JBB," he said.

The JBBFD regularly holds one or two fire musters each year for the JBB community, said Wallace, a Sparta, Tenn., native. The events focus on completing tasks in the shortest amount of

time, to create the sense of urgency that firefighters feel.

"Everything about our job is time-sensitive," he said.

There were four team events: the drag and carry, the hose roll, the bucket brigade and the tug of war.

The drag and carry uses a dummy to simulate firefighters assisting people who would have difficulty moving in an emergency situation. The hose roll requires team work to properly roll out a hose, ready it and hit a target. The bucket brigade was inspired by firefighting techniques from the early 1800's, using buckets of water to put out a fire before the use of pumps and hoses. Finally, the tug of war has teams using fire hoses to spray a bucket suspended overhead on a cable and push it to their opponent's side.

Roughly 16 service members also competed in the Firefighter Combat Challenge, a separate, individual competition where each service member had to perform multiple firefighter tasks to complete an obstacle course.

First place for the Firefighter Combat Challenge for females was Spc. Tamara Boyle, a unit clerk with the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade and a Quincy, Ill., native.

First place for males was Sgt. Antoine Echols, a housing noncommissioned officer with the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, 500th Military Intelligence Brigade and a Blytheville, Ark., native.

Roughly 27 teams from the JBB community participated in the fire muster,



Members of team "Wolf Pack," with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), fire a hose at a target during the hose-roll event at the fire muster March 13 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Team "Wolf Pack" was the first Army team to claim the fire muster's 1st-place trophy in two years.

said Williams. The five-member teams were coed.

The 63rd Ord. Co.'s team "Wolf Pack" took first place in the JBB-wide event.

"Wolf Pack" was the first Army team to win first place in the fire muster team event in two years at JBB, said 1st Sgt. Anthony Sheff, the senior enlisted adviser of the 63rd Ord. Co. and a member of the "Wolf Pack."

The 63rd entered three teams – "The Diesel," "Night Crew," and "Wolf Pack" – to compete in the fire muster, said Sheff, a Winston-Salem, N.C., native.

"We wanted to win not only for ourselves, but for the Army," he said.

Williams said the fire muster took three weeks to plan and coordinate, and approximately 5,000 gallons of water were used for the event.

He also said there was a strong turnout from the JBB community for the fire muster.

"Morale has been improved fivefold, easily," he said. "It's getting warmer outside and it's a good chance to cool off and have an overall fun time."

41st Soldiers recognized for service in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. CORY GROGAN
41ST IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Phillips and Spc. Felix Ortega, a platoon sergeant and a lead gun-truck gunner, respectively, both with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), worked together to earn distinguished awards from the Army while serving in Iraq.

Ortega, a Hermiston, Ore., native, received the 13th ESC Soldier of the Quarter award, while Phillips, a Portland, Ore., native, joined the Army's top noncommissioned officers by being inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.

Capt. Kyle Akers, the commander of C Co., said he was extremely proud of the enlisted Soldiers from C Co.

Ortega said the exceptional leadership of the NCOs in his company is the reason for their success.

He said Phillips taught him a lot about the Army during their deployment, and led him every step of the way as he represented his unit at the company, battalion, brigade and finally, the division level, where he beat out nearly 18,000 other Soldiers to become Soldier of the Quarter.

Phillips said he and Ortega worked together to gain the Army knowledge that is required for their prestigious awards.

He said he is proud to be a part of such a special group of NCOs that competed for a spot in the elite Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. He said being a part of C Co. allowed him to do that, even though when he joined the National Guard in 2005 after coming off of active duty, he didn't know what to expect.

"With C Co., a big constant was experience and professionalism," he said. "The NCOs take their job seriously and treat it like it is a full-time job."



Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Phillips, a platoon sergeant and Portland, Ore., native, and Spc. Felix Ortega, a lead gun-truck gunner and Hermiston, Ore., native, both with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), worked together to receive distinguished awards from the Army while serving in Iraq.

Check CHUsdays

Each **TUESDAY**
Check The
Following
in Your **CHU**

1. Power strips are free of debris and clothing.
2. Electrical devices not in use are unplugged.
3. Power strips and outlets are not overloaded.
4. Smoke detector is operational.
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly

Kalsu conducts trial run of new convoy support center

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION KALSU, Iraq – The Convoy Support Center at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq, which is set to be fully operational by June 1, conducted a trial run March 15, using the lanes to facilitate a full convoy for the first time.

Capt. Corina J. Gonzales, commander of the 601st Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Santa Fe, N.M., native, said they conducted the test run to evaluate what needed to be improved or maintained with the current setup of the CSC.

“Today (was) a rehearsal of the operations for the upcoming Convoy Support Center and (Central Receiving and Shipping Point) here at Kalsu,” she said. “This (was) just something for us to kind of see how we are going to be able to manage the influx of vehicles and cargo coming into this area.”

Gonzales said they looked at clear-



Capt. Corina J. Gonzales, commander of the 601st Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Santa Fe, N.M., native, watches as the first convoy rolls into the new Convoy Support Center March 15 at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq.

ance and turn radius for vehicles coming into the CSC, and other areas related to the CRSP. There are still a few issues that need to be worked out before COL Kalsu is ready to become a main hub, she said.

“The biggest challenge is going to be traffic management,” she said. “This is a fairly small hub. Right now we have one

gate that is open and it is for inbound and outbound traffic flow, which can definitely affect the (main supply route) with convoys being backed up. With the opening of this CSC project, we will have one inbound and one outbound, two separate entry and exits, which is good.”

Maj. Stephen E. Miller, the brigade

engineer for 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Benning, Ga., said the CSC project is about 50 percent complete.

Miller, a Columbus, Ga., native, said the convoy staging lane should hold a maximum of about 600 trucks, and the CRSP yard is designed to hold 800 40-foot containers, with 5 to 7 lanes of rolling stock.

He said the cost of the project was minimized by using 600 T-wall barriers from COL Scania and 1,200 from Contingency Operating Site Hunter, both of which are scheduled to close as part of the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq.

Miller said he felt the trial run was a success overall.

“I think it worked out well,” he said. “There were some issues identified, and that is just design ... you cannot really tell until it is on the ground and you actually test it. A couple of T-walls need to move, some fence lines need to move a little bit, but overall I think the traffic flow that the 36th Sustainment Brigade and the 203rd (Brigade Support Battalion) have come up with is going to work, and I think it is going to be a success for everybody.”

Provider chaplains hold prayer luncheon

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Chaplains with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held the command's first prayer luncheon in the Audie Murphy Room at the Oasis Dining Facility, March 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The event was open to all service members at JBB, but the luncheon's theme of endurance was aimed toward the 13th ESC moving into the last quarter of its 12-month deployment in Iraq.

The message of the luncheon was finding the endurance to complete the mission and drive on during deployments overseas, said Lt. Col. Roy Walker, the command chaplain with the 13th ESC.

“As you get closer to the last quarter that's when people can see the finish line, but they get a little worried about it,” he said.

The luncheon was held to bring hope and peace of mind to service members, said Walker, an Elizabethtown, Ky., native. The topics discussed helped add a level of spiritual, mental and physical reinforcement, which is a top priority for Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the commanding general of the 13th ESC and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, as well as the



Soldiers bow their heads during the first prayer luncheon held by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and its chaplain corps, March 17 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq

command staff, he said.

“For some, it was probably spiritual renewal,” said Walker. “For others it was something to think about, to lift them up if they were feeling physically weary or emotionally that they cannot go any farther.”

Capt. Wanda Acevedo, the plans and operations chaplain with the 13th ESC, said this type of event supports the inner strength of Soldiers.

“It is a time to give religious support and pastoral care, and provide all these things in our units and community,” said Acevedo, a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native. “It's a time to stop, reflect, recharge and continue.”

Endurance is about finding the strength to cross limits and barriers, said Acevedo. With all the different stress factors during deployments, endurance becomes a valuable tool needed to continue the day-to-day mission, she said.

The 13th ESC and its command staff have put a focus on the spiritual needs of its Soldiers in the deployed environment, said Master Sgt. Michael Bair, the command chaplain assistant with the 13th ESC.

“The Army as a whole has come down to say there are multiple facets of someone's fitness; one of them is spiritual fitness,” he said.

The prayer luncheon gave service members time to stop and become spiritually focused, said Bair, a Fredericksburg, Va., native.

“It's a time to slow down, to think, to refocus and go back out and continue driving on with your deployment,” he said.

Walker said roughly 80 service members attended the prayer luncheon, and the 13th ESC's chaplain corps has slated another to be held May 19.

The Dirty Dozen

- ✦ Lack of Crew Coordination
- ✦ Complacency
- ✦ Distraction
- ✦ Exceeding Your Limitations/Abilities
- ✦ Indiscipline
- ✦ Fatigue
- ✦ Stress
- ✦ Peer Pressure
- ✦ Lack of Knowledge
- ✦ Lack of Training
- ✦ Lack of Leader Involvement
- ✦ Lack of Pre-mission Planning

Tennessee Guardsmen beg

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. DESIREE L. NICELY
278TH ACR



(Above) Pfc. Blake Humberson, a Soldier with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Arlington, Tenn., native, makes a new friend in one of the puppies that live at a pump house on the Tigris River, where he and other Soldiers from his unit patrol and convoy to regularly.

(Right) First Lt. Rodney Brock, a platoon leader with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Ocean Springs, Miss., native, walks through the gates of a pump house located on the Tigris River in Ninawa Province, Iraq, and is greeted by the Iraqi Soldiers in charge of its security.



(Left) Soldiers of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC receive an early morning convoy brief prior to their mission to Marez, Iraq.

(Right) Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC, gather for a briefing prior to their departure for a convoy patrol mission to a pump house on the Tigris River.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — The 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Henderson, Tenn., arrived March 1 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, with a mission to provide force protection for the next year.

"It has been a long road to reach our new home, but the work is far from over," said Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Cole, Jr., the commander of 1st Squadron, known as Cobra Squadron. As our predecessors did, we hope to conduct successful and safe missions, as well as foster relationships with the Iraqi Army and citizens."

The Soldiers of Cobra Squadron spent their first days in Iraq training with 2nd Battalion, 198th Com-

in force-protection mission

bined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC, whom they replaced.

It is imperative that the outgoing unit impart as much knowledge as possible to the incoming units so that their missions will be safe and successful, said Lt. Col. Cole.

Cobra Squadron is taking over the force protection mission at a pivotal and historic time in Iraqi history, said Lt. Col. Cole, as the second parliamentary elections in Iraqi history recently took place.

With a drawdown of forces in Iraq looming, the possibility of insurgent activity is likely, said Lt. Col. Cole. Factors such as these motivated his Soldiers to absorb as much information as possible from their predecessors, he said.

"There are many roles included in a force-protection mission; it can come with a number of subcategories," said 1st Lt. Andrew Cole, the executive officer for C Troop, 1st Squadron. "Our Crusader Troop ... is tasked with convoy-security missions, a (Quick Reaction Force) mission, perimeter patrols and manning an (entry control point)."

With so many duties, a right-seat ride was necessary for all Soldiers to properly learn their jobs and responsibilities from the outgoing unit, said 1st Lt. Cole. These began immediately for C Troop, one of the four troops

with 1st Squadron currently at Q-West.

"I was a little surprised, but anxious that we started so fast," said Staff Sgt. Jesse Yawn, a truck commander for C Troop. "They seem to run things the same way we did in training, which is nice. Basically, (they helped) us learn the routes and points of contact for places that we convoy to often."

While they were forced to take the lead quickly due to a constrictive timetable, they have adapted and transitioned well, said Yawn. Cobra Squadron has a successful year to look forward to, he said.



An Iraqi Army soldier displays his voting finger proudly to Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), of the Tennessee Army National Guard headquartered in Henderson, Tenn. The Iraqi Soldier voted in Ninawa Province along with other security personnel, who were permitted to vote prior to the regular parliamentary elections March 7.



Mississippi Guardsmen hand off mission to Tennessee Guard

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

Q-WEST, Iraq — Mississippi Guardsmen handed off base-defense and convoy-security operations to Tennessee Guardsmen during a transfer of authority ceremony March 10 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Senatobia, Miss., cased their colors and passed their duties, responsibilities and legacies to the newly-arrived 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC headquartered in Henderson, Tenn.

The Mississippians arrived in July and assumed numerous major operations such as the Q-West mayor cell, the base defense operations center and a force-protection mission, as well as fielding four convoy-security companies.

Lt. Col. Kerry W. Goodman, commander of 2/198th and a Meridian, Miss., native, praised his battalion's accomplishments.

"We made COB Q-West a better place and accomplished all our assigned missions," he said. "I am proud of this unit; they have done an outstanding job and deserve recognition."

Goodman said the mayor cell, responsible for more than 8,000 tenants, made a definite difference on the post.

"The Department of Public Works completed over 300 projects to improve the quality of life for the residents," he said. "The mayor cell help desk processed over 3,500 requests for assistance from Soldiers. The mayor cell worked the COB through a major water shortage, and cut the daily use of water per Soldier from 33 U.S. gallons a day down to 12 a day. We held over 150 different morale, welfare and recreation events supporting Soldiers and civilians from all walks of life. The water team worked around the clock with contractors and the force protection company to keep the pump at the Tigris River pushing water to our holding lake for consumption."

Goodman said the BDOC, base force-protection section and the force-



Lt. Col. Kerry W. Goodman and Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell, the commander and senior enlisted adviser of 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), respectively, case the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony with 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC, March 10 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

protection company significantly improved security at Q-West.

"These Soldiers ensured no attacks against this base from inside or outside, which allowed all the tenants to accomplish their missions under safe conditions," he said. "The force-protection company executed over 230 perimeter patrols, logging 16,000 miles around and through Q-West. The Aerostat section logged over 3,500 flying hours, monitoring camera surveillance systems 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Entry control point Soldiers cleared every local national who worked on or visited the base, confiscating over 80 gallons of alcohol and thousands of contraband items. The force-protection section also managed the 250 security contractors. Along with the provost marshal, they executed inspections of living areas of the local- and third-

country-national workers."

The convoy-security companies completed scores of missions throughout northern Iraq with no loss of life or major accidents, said Goodman.

"The (convoy-security) companies escorted the sustainment and special logistical missions throughout (United States) Forces - Iraq North, running missions from Kuwait to Habur Gate on the Turkish border," he said. "They executed over 600 combat logistic patrols, logging more than 95,000 miles and escorting more than 40,000 line-haul assets. The battalion also turned in over \$42 million worth of non-mission-essential equipment, 79 pieces of rolling stock and 600 pieces of non-rolling stock to be used by other units in need."

Lt. Col. Jimmie L. Cole, Jr., commander of the 1/278th ACR and a

Mount Juliet, Tenn., native, praised the Mississippians and challenged his Soldiers to surpass the accomplishments of their predecessors.

"I'd like to commend the 2/198th Combined Arms Battalion on their excellent performance and for setting the conditions for a seamless transition and transfer of authority," said Cole. "It's time now for Cobra Squadron, 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment to take charge and improve the well-established battle position left to us by our brothers from Mississippi. First Squadron Soldiers have been well trained and are prepared to continue the high quality of convoy security and force protection established by the 2/198th CAB, in support of the 15th Sustainment Brigade and its subordinate units across northern Iraq and here at COB Q-West."

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)





"Phantom Support"

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

ON THE WEB



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.

Taji conducts mass casualty exercise

By STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE
278TH ACR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – The call comes to the front gate. There has been a blast in the vicinity of the Post Exchange. Initial reports suggest multiple injuries to Soldiers and bystanders.

Spc. Chris Valez, a member of B Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Manchester, Tenn., native, closes his entry gate to COB Taji.

"We just shut down the gates. It doesn't matter where (the explosion) happens. Nothing gets in or out," said Valez.

Meanwhile, at ground zero of the simulated emergency, a frenzy of activity is taking place.

Master Sgt. Melvin Brown, an ob-

server/controller for the exercise with Headquarters Troop, Regimental Troops Squadron and a Whitehouse, Tenn., native, said the scenario simulated a rocket strike near the Post Exchange on the south side of the base.

"We had a good response after the mock explosion," said Brown. "Buddy aid and first aid started almost immediately. The (Secure Our Country) forces secured the area around the PX and the pavilion next to it, which was used as a casualty collection point."

Second Lt. Susan Hughes, the regimental nurse with the 278th ACR and a Knoxville, Tenn., native, said the Troop Medical Center also did its job well.

Hughes said they dispatched ambulances, prepared the treatment center to receive the mock wounded, prioritized the severity of the wounds and prioritized the wounded for forward evacuation.

"(The mass casualty exercise) is for training people to respond as though the situation were real," she said.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Gregory

Volunteers assist a mock casualty at the site of a simulated rocket attack, during a mass casualty exercise March 4 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

"That includes receiving information, dispatching ambulances and setting up the trauma center."

Hughes said another benefit of the exercise is that it identifies possible

glitches in any of the procedures.

The TMC responded excellently, said Hughes.

"I would trust them to save my life," she said.

Blood platelet donations vital in deployed environment

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – When a service member is critically injured in Iraq or Afghanistan and in need of a blood transfusion, it is the responsibility of the 932nd Blood Support Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to ensure units of blood platelets are collected and shipped out to the wounded.

Platelets are one of the most important parts of the blood. They are a main coagulation factor and can play a vital role in saving lives. Since it is impossible to know when service members will be wounded, having a reserve of platelets is crucial.

"We need a stock on the shelves in case of a mass casualty," said Sgt. Daniel Llenas, the apheresis noncommissioned officer in charge with the 932nd. "When we receive donations it goes to trauma victims who are los-

ing a lot of blood. We give them red blood cells and platelets to slow the bleeding and prevent hemorrhaging, which is important because hemorrhaging is one of the main factors of deaths here in Iraq."

Since the shelf life of donated platelets is only good for five days, the 932nd BSD is always in need of donors.

"We need to keep our reserve stocked just in case something happens," said Llenas. "We keep our supply in a platelet incubator and if it sits for too long, the donation will clump up and be unusable."

For that reason, they depend on donations from deployed service members like Air Force Staff Sgt. Ryan Eanes, a surveillance technician with the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron and a Denver native.

"This is the easiest way to help save someone's life," said Eanes. "All you have to do is sit here for a couple hours. It doesn't get easier than that. The bottom line is this saves lives and helps someone in need."

Anyone can donate once their blood is screened to ensure no diseases are



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Linda C. Miller

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ryan Eanes, a surveillance technician with the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron and a Denver native, squeezes a stress ball during a platelet donation March 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Eanes has made nine donations during his deployment. The procedure takes approximately one and a half to two hours after which the donor receives back most of their blood.

passed to the platelet recipient. To screen donors, the detachment draws four tubes of blood and it takes two

weeks for the results to come back.

To donate, contact the 932nd Blood Support Detachment at 443-2828.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact us at:
escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldiers keep vehicles ready to roll

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



TAJI, Iraq – Military vehicles need to perform in extreme conditions with the utmost reliability in order to complete vital missions, which is why

Soldiers with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, work tirelessly to keep them up and running.

Staff Sgt. Jeff R. Joiner, the shop supervisor of the base automotive and maintenance support team with the 3666th SMC, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said his unit has a dual mission at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Joiner, a Gilbert, Ariz., native, said their primary mission is to maintain all the vehicles in the 3666th's inventory and to assist at the battalion level.

"If there is a vehicle within the battalion that they cannot fix themselves, they bring it to the maintenance control shop and we fix it," he said. "We work on pretty much any wheeled vehicle in the Army inventory."



Spc. Richard R. Burkhart, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Peoria, Ariz., native, works on an engine March 16 at one of the maintenance support shops at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The team's secondary mission is to provide convoy support for COB Taji.

If a convoy has a vehicle breakdown near the COB, Joiner said he and his team get them moving as quickly as possible.

"Sometimes (convoys) come to us

in the middle of the night, sometimes they'll come to us during the day," he said. "We're 24/7 support for those guys."

Joiner said the convoy-support mission can be challenging, because they cannot normally wait for parts to be or-

dered before finishing a job; convoy vehicles need to be running immediately.

"We do everything we can to get that vehicle up and running," he said.

Another challenge for Joiner and his team is the lack of surplus parts, as many extra supplies have been shipped out in preparation for the upcoming drawdown in the Iraq Joint Operations Area.

"We may have a job in here that only takes three or four days to do, but we wait sometimes two or three weeks for a part to come in," he said.

Spc. Richard R. Burkhart, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 3666th SMC, said the three maintenance-support shops they run are vital to almost every aspect of the mission at COB Taji.

"If there weren't people here to fix the vehicles, obviously the convoys wouldn't be rolling, the security forces wouldn't be rolling, none of it would be moving at all," he said.

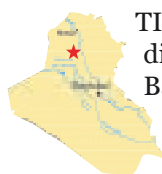
Burkhart, a Peoria, Ariz., native, said he takes pride knowing his work keeps other Soldiers safe.

"If our guys break down outside the wire in a combat zone ... and they come under fire, it could possibly be something we did," he said. "I try to make sure everything is as perfect as it can be when it leaves."

15th Special Troops Battalion hits the range

BY 1ST LT. JOSHUA SINGLETON
15TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION Q-WEST, Iraq -



Soldiers of 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Ft.

Hood, Texas, fired their M-4 and M-16 rifles during a monthly qualification Feb. 26 at Sykes Range at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th STB has been conducting weapons qualification ranges on a monthly basis since arriving at COL Q-West, but this month was unique, as Capt. Carrie Ward, the judge advocate

general officer for the 15th STB, took the reins as range officer in charge.

"Because the HHC consists primarily of battalion and brigade staff sections, we do frequent ranges with smaller numbers, so the sustainment mission is not impacted while readiness is maintained," said Lt. Col. Paula Lodi, the commander of the 15th STB and a Franklin, Mass., native.

"The smaller-scale ranges also provide a great opportunity for leader development," she said. "Captain Ward volunteered to run the range, demonstrating the initiative of someone really looking to use the deployment to grow. I was proud of her."

Staff Sgt. Christopher Cox, a platoon sergeant with HHC, acted as the range noncommissioned officer in charge for

the day, and said the range personnel knew what had to happen and did it without waiting to be told.

"Working with Capt. Ward throughout the day and having it be her first time conducting this type of training was great, and I was impressed. She was motivated the whole time," said Cox, a Houston native.

Soldiers firing on the range said they were pleased with the way the range progressed throughout the day and its efficiency rotating personnel through the process.

The unit achieved a 98 percent qualification rate, the best of five ranges executed by HHC during the deployment.

"I had a great time at the range today," said Sgt. Railin Isaacs, an orderly

room clerk with HHC and a Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, native. "It allowed me to maintain my proficiency with my weapon and have a higher chance of raising my score for promotion points."

The aspect range personnel focused on most throughout the day was safety.

"If there is one thing we are sure to have our eyes on, it would be the safety and well-being of the Soldiers firing on the range," said Staff Sgt. Mzee McIntyre, the range safety officer for the training with the 15th Sust. Bde. and an Evergreen, Ala., native.

"We're out here to give the Soldiers the best opportunity to fire their weapons and, at the same time, provide a safe training environment," he said.

SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Quartermasters train to stay fresh during deployment

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq –



The 263rd Quartermaster Company out of Fort Bliss, Texas, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) continues to train their Soldiers on the technical and tactical skills of their laundry-service mission at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Pfc. Higinio E. Ortiz, a shower, laundry and renovations specialist with the 263rd QM Co. and an El Paso, Texas, native, said they do the laundry for the company once every week to stay proficient.

"It always makes us ready ... to run these (laundry advanced systems)," he said. "(There are) many different types of models and you have to be ready to work on them."

Ortiz said they set the process up to run like the laundry facilities they maintain at smaller forward operating bases. He said the additional training the Soldiers receive on the LADS allowed for the Soldier's clothing to be washed and returned faster.

"Instead of having to wait 48 hours to get their clothes back ... they can turn it in in the morning and get it back by lunch time," he said.

Spc. Hannah R. Perez, an equipment repair specialist with the 263rd QM Co. and an El Paso, Texas, native, said the Soldiers are setting a standard to train hard and stay busy.

"We gain knowledge and people acknowledge what we do," said Perez. "We help everybody and we help ourselves at the same time."

Ortiz said it is important for Soldiers to get clean laundry back the same day because they often leave on convoys, which makes turning in or receiving their clothes difficult.

"It helps boost morale since Soldiers do not have to go to other facilities to get it done and have to wait a couple of days," he said.

Staff Sgt. Tanner A. Kirchner, platoon sergeant for first platoon with the 263rd QM Co. and a Kearney, Neb., native, said the training keeps his Soldiers focused.

"As Soldiers come in (from leave and missions), we want to keep them trained up," he said. "So we have the LADS set up here and we do our own laundry, but it's basically additional training. They can work with the mechanics and learn different things that they don't necessarily get out at the sites."

Kirchner said the Soldiers train on every aspect of the laundry mission.

"Since we have so many different sites and people leaving for various reasons, they're all interchangeable," he said. "So they all need to know every aspect of the job. If someone has to leave, they can step up and fill the role and the mission can go on without a hitch."

First Lt. Diana McCoy, second platoon leader with the 263rd QM Co. and an Olathe, Kan., native, said they train the Soldiers at COB Taji because it gives Soldiers access to a wealth of knowledge.

"We have most of our leadership here that are able to mentor those Soldiers, teach them different aspects of the job so that they don't know just one small piece of the puzzle, they know the entire puzzle," she said. "It's the Army way, the higher you are in the food chain the more information you have, the bigger the picture you see and you can pass those bits and pieces off to your Soldiers."



Spc. Hannah R. Perez, an equipment repair specialist and an El Paso, Texas, native, and Spc. Paola N. Gonzalez, a shower, laundry and renovations specialist and a Whittier, Calif., native, both with the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), retrieve laundry from the Laundry Advanced System March 13 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

'Sons of Anarchy' actors visit Taji, JBB

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Cast mem-



bers from the television series "Sons of Anarchy" visited service members March 14 to March 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and Contingency Operating Base

Taji, Iraq.

Mark Boone Jr., who portrays "Bobby Elvis," Theo Rossi, who portrays "Juice," Dayton Callie, who portrays "Chief Unser," and Kim Coates, who portrays "Tig", all took part in a week-long United Service Organizations tour, making stops in Kuwait and Iraq.

"Sons of Anarchy," which airs on FX, is currently between its second and third season, with filming slated to begin again when the actors return to the U.S.

The actors came to Iraq to show their support for service members overseas, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Darlene Gaskill, the noncommissioned officer in charge of entertainment with the Expedition-

ary Force Support Squadron, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

"They're doing an autograph session to shake hands and let them know they appreciate what the troops are doing," said Gaskill, a Hammond, Ind., native.

She said most of the service members and civilians that attended the public events have been big fans of the show.

The actors held meet-and-greet events at both the East and West Morale, Welfare and Recreation centers, and one at Ciano's restaurant at JBB over the course of three days. During the tour, cast members also stopped at COB Taji, Iraq, for three days and three days at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait.

Cast members made several public appearances and took every opportunity to pose for photos with service members, said Gaskill.

"The cast is very impressed and very grateful for everything the troops



Cast members of the FX show "Sons of Anarchy" sign autographs for service members during a meet and greet March 16 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq

do," she said. "This is their way of giving back to them. It means so much to them to have that individual thank you with each troop."

Gaskill said the turnout for the meet and greets were some of the largest of any celebrity event at JBB. In three days, the cast members met with more than 1,000 troops at JBB and 500 at COB Taji, she said. They visited different units and squadrons, and met with patients currently receiving medical care at the Air Force Theater Hospital at JBB, said Gaskill.

"They have been all over the base, and at every location there are literally hundreds of Airmen and Soldiers who are just waiting to tell them how big of fans they are," she said. "In return, (the cast members) tell them how much they appreciate what they do to protect their freedom."

It has been amazing to see and interact with the service members, said Coates, who was born in Canada and now resides in Los Angeles.

"We give back in a tiny way for what all you men and women do for us back home," said Coates. "What you guys do is very important; we all want you to come home safe soon."

Meeting the cast members from "Sons of Anarchy" is a great opportunity for service members, said Sgt. Scott Voigt, the noncommissioned officer in charge of operations with the 102nd Quartermaster Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Peoria, Ill., native.

"There isn't anything better than having them come out and boost the morale of Soldiers," he said.

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

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

Level: Hard

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Which U.S. general along with Schwarzkopf was leader in the Gulf War?
2. Who, during the Vietnam War, was known as Ha-noi Jane?
3. During World War I what kind of gas was used in the trenches?
4. Which major weapon of war was used for the first time in 1916?
5. In WWII who was in charge of the Africa Corps?

1. Powell 2. Jane Fonda 3. Mustard gas 4. Tank 5. Kommeil

JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL - Sunday

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel
1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel
2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL - Sunday

1100 MWR East Building 1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
1900 Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155)
1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

Wednesday

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel

LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday

1700 Provider Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday

1000 Provider Chapel

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON) - Sunday

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

MASS - Sunday

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

1100 Provider Chapel

1230 Air Force Hospital

Thursday

1100 Air Force Hospital

Wed., Fri.

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

*Saturday

1600-1645 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Confessions or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1800 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday

1900 Provider Annex

Saturday

1900 The Bat Cave

GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday

0900 Provider Annex

GENERAL - Sunday

0900 Provider Chapel 0900 Freedom Chapel

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 483-4107

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR

POOL

Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m.

Tue., Thu.,

Sat., - 6:30 p.m.

AquaTraining: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

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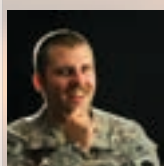
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Arts & Entertainment

'Wonderland' has never been so mediocre

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Either Tim Burton ("Sweeney Todd") is trying to make movies for his kids or Disney had a strong say in "Alice in Wonderland."

This movie was a recipe for classic Burton awesomeness, but it failed to reach anything higher than mediocrity.

This version of "Alice" takes place 13 years after her first visit to Underland, or, as she naively calls it, Wonderland. Upon her return down the rabbit hole, she thinks she is dreaming and that all of her previous memories of this en-

chanted land are dreams she had as a child. In reality, she's been brought back to this world because it is written in a magical tome that she will rid the world of the dreaded Jabberwocky and return the beloved White Queen to power.

Burton tried to reinvent the story of "Alice in Wonderland," but to no avail. The story wasn't a great deal different, and it wasn't needed. This is a classic literary tale and it needed no help.

The movie did have slight glimpses of Burton's flare for the macabre, but overall it had way too many special effects, and they weren't very convincing. If you want a fantasy with great effects and great story I suggest re-watching

"The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

The acting was okay. The best acting in the whole movie was voice work from Alan Rickman ("Sweeney Todd"), who played the blue caterpillar, and Stephen Fry ("V for Vendetta"), who played the Cheshire Cat. These two were captivating every time they were on screen.

Johnny Depp ("Public Enemies") and Helena Bonham Carter (the "Harry Potter" series) were a bit over-the-top as the Mad Hatter and the Red Queen. Their roles required them to be eccentric, but they were just too much.

Mia Wasikowska ("Amelia") was just boring as Alice. She managed to

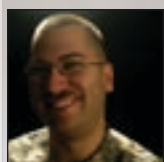
go through an entire movie without showing any emotion.

Burton set this movie up to be epic and the final battle was a bit of a dud. The Jabberwocky battle was very fun to watch, but this could have, and should have, been an epic battle rivaling "The Lord of the Rings" or even the first "Chronicles of Narnia" movie. In the end, it just completely missed and left me with a lot of build up and a little payoff.

This movie was rated PG and made by Disney, but I would say that it is too scary for little kids, and not developed enough for adults. Burton missed the mark. I will say that it was worth my two hours, but overall it was a letdown of epic proportions.

'Left 4 Dead 2' finds safety in groups

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



I'm into zombies. Not so much the George Romero genre, but modernized running zombies hell bent on destroying anything

and everything human.

"Left 4 Dead 2" has plenty of that kind of zombie action.

I played the single player game mode briefly. The concept is that during a zombie apocalypse situation, a group of four survivors must work together with ad hoc weaponry fighting through hordes of regular biting and punching zombies and myriad special zombies to get to a rescue helicopter.

The game admonishes players stray-

ing from the group to stay together ... it is thoroughly sound advice.

When a player or non-player human character takes too much damage, they become incapacitated and must be revived. It's important to keep the group at full strength, because many of the special zombies have attacks that immobilize the humans, who must be rescued before they're finished off.

As a single-player, first-person shooter, the game is fun, but leaves a lot to be desired. The physics are sound, but the game play is simplistic at best. It all boils down to a style seen in older first person shooter games of pointing a weapon, shooting at enemies and reloading the weapon.

Playing the game in single-player mode, you will spend a lot of time rescuing non-player human characters in

your group and in turn being rescued by them. Again it's fun, but it does get old.

What doesn't get old is the multiplayer mode.

In what has become a ritual here at the public affairs office, every Saturday we link up four consoles and four televisions and go at each other in multiplayer zombie action.

During multiplayer games, one team controls humans, and the other team controls a group of special zombies who are assisted by a computer controlled horde of common zombies.

"Left 4 Dead 2" does a great job of replicating feelings of hunters and the hunted in its multiplayer modes.

When playing as the humans, you have a clear cut objective, and if the

zombies kill you, you stay dead.

When playing as a special zombie, while it's much easier for you to die, but it's not a big deal, because after a respawn timer, you're back and ready to stop the human players again.

Special zombies have different abilities, different strengths and weaknesses and it is paramount for the zombie team to coordinate attacks to maximize those abilities.

I have to admit, the back and forth screaming communication in our office really adds to the atmosphere.

As a single-player game, I rate "Left 4 Dead 2" a 6.5 out of 10, though it is solidly enjoyable and pretty much the only current zombie game worth playing. For multiplayer action, I rate the game a perfect 10, I can't even think of any ways to improve it.

PVT MURPHY



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, March 24

5 p.m. Green Zone
8 p.m. The Lovely Bones

Thursday, March 25

5 p.m. Edge Of Darkness
8 p.m. Green Zone

Friday, March 26

2 p.m. The Wolf Man
5 p.m. From Paris with Love
8:30 p.m. The Bounty Hunter

Saturday, March 27

2 p.m. From Paris with Love
5 p.m. The Bounty Hunter
8 p.m. The Wolf Man

Sunday, March 28

2 p.m. The Bounty Hunter
5 p.m. The Wolf Man
8 p.m. From Paris with Love

Monday, March 29

5 p.m. From Paris with Love
8 p.m. The Bounty Hunter

Tuesday, March 30

5 p.m. The Bounty Hunter
8 p.m. The Wolf Man

Wednesday, March 31

5 p.m. The Wolf Man
8 p.m. The Bounty Hunter



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Landon Stephenson



An Iraqi man holds his prayer beads behind his back with hands that participated in the Iraqi elections March 7 near Mahmudiyah, Iraq. The elections were hailed by President Obama as an "important milestone" for the Iraqi people.

(Right) Soldiers from 1st Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, pray before a mission Feb. 24 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The mission was part of a key leadership engagement with local Sheiks to discuss security issues near the Taji Market regarding the March elections.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Advin Ila Medina

(Right) U.S. State Department international election observers Mark Schapiro (left) and John Goodfrey (right) rest March 7 during their tour of polling sites throughout Ninewa, Iraq. Many Iraqis exercised their democratic right to vote despite threats from violent extremist groups.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Rufus Hucks

(Right) Capt. William Fisher, commander of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and 1st Lt. Scott Caflicsh, 1st Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Div., go over a plan of execution with Col. Abbas Mohamad Hussein, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Federal Police, for placement of metal detectors and assistance following the Iraqi national elections March 3 in downtown Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawmon Lott

Iraqis head toward polling sites in May-san province, Iraq, during the historical elections March 7. Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, flew the Chairman of May-san, Abdiltussien AbdulRidha, over polling sites to show the mass of local Iraqi voters and security measures.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jeremy Campbell

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

US military support adds valuable assistance to ISF security successes

BAGHDAD – American military support has added value to Iraqi Security Forces efforts in providing voters a safe environment in which to cast a vote toward the future of Iraq.

Although few requests have come across U.S. military desks for support, the requests that have come in demonstrate the ISF's resolve to quickly analyze where they need help and willingness to ask for it, say U.S. officials – a sign of the strong partnership both countries have developed and nurtured over the years.

Among the requests are for explosive ordnance disposal teams, crime-scene forensics, military working dog teams, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as command-and-control coordination.

Col. Mark Calvert, chief of staff, U.S. Division-Center, said the command-and-control partnership in particular is as close as it can be at the command centers.

"Throughout the various different levels of ISF command, we are partnered side-by-side to ensure we share information and support their requests during these historic elections," said Calvert. "Because of our partnerships at the command centers, we were able to quickly divert our air weapons teams to support Iraqi Security Forces operations on the ground."

That support has also come in the form of escort duties.

U.S. forces were tasked with transporting United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and U.S. embassy observers near polling stations in order for them to ensure legitimate elections transpire.

In Anbar province, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (Advise and Assist) paratroopers assisted the ISF by combining their command and control of forces operating throughout the province, openly exchanging military intelligence and helping the ISF track significant activities.

Col. Mark R. Stammer, commander of the 82nd Advise and Assist Brigade, says this relationship of "by, with, and through the Iraqis" has enabled partnered security elements on the ground to protect Anbari citizens as they cast their votes in the national election.

"The Iraqi Security Forces have conducted countless hours of training and combined operations, allowing them to derail the enemy's efforts to disrupt this electoral process," said Stammer.

Iraqi Security Forces in Ramadi detained five alleged terrorists preparing to emplace 21 improvised explosive devices and seven mortars, according to ISF reports sent to U.S. forces.

"These elections are far too important for the Iraqi people to allow the influence of the criminals from casting their votes of fear and intimidation," said staff Lt. Gen. Abd Al-Aziz Muhammad Jasim Ahmad Al-Mufriji, commanding general of the Anbar Operations Command.

In western Baghdad, Col. John Norris, command-



er of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, traveled around Baghdad, talking to several sheiks. He said the sheiks told him they were very impressed with the amount of voter turnout at the polling sites.

"The election today, as demonstrated by the high voter turnout, was years in the making, and validated the time and effort invested by the U.S.," said Norris. "Today was personally rewarding, having witnessed years of growth, change, and progress."

Iraqi emergency services reach milestone during historic election

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Air Force helicopter medical evacuation system reached a major milestone March 7 as parliamentary elections were underway. For the first time, an Iraqi MEDEVAC crew was there to provide point-of-injury care at the scene of a medical emergency.

Since its rebirth in late 2004, the Iraqi Air Force had used its helicopters only for routine patient transport from one medical facility to another. But in response to a Ministry of Defence directive, aircraft, aircrews and flight medics were on alert to rapidly respond, if necessary, to a mass casualty incident.

"In anticipation of potential violence on election day, we suggested that standing up such a capability ... might demonstrate Iraq's readiness to take the next step in advancing its MEDEVAC system," said Col. (Dr.) Eric Nelson, the U.S. Air Force's senior medical adviser with the Iraq Training & Advisory Mission – Air Force.

Establishing an agile rapid MEDEVAC response capability requires dedicated aircrews and medical teams on alert status, along with the command and control and communications infrastructure to support and direct operations. The Iraqi Air Force is building capacity for crews and medics who will provide a 2-

hour, seven days a week MEDEVAC capability.

Iraq's MEDEVAC crews are all based at Taji Air Base, just north of Baghdad. U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Robert Ramirez, ITAM-AF flight Medic Advisor, worked with his small team of Iraqi Air Force flight medics to ensure they were ready for anything they might face in responding to the point of injury.

"There are lots of moving pieces to a MEDEVAC mission, and rapid coordination of an urgent mission is probably the biggest challenge the Iraqis face," Nelson said.

Although there were several acts of violence during the elections, none of these events was large enough to require the MEDEVAC response units, he said.

"This was a very welcome outcome, but it was reassuring to know that they were ready," said Nelson. "I have no doubt that they would have done well."

Iraqi prosthetics clinic gains new physical therapy equipment

BAGHDAD – U.S. Forces delivered physical therapy equipment to the Ministry of Defence Prosthetics Center March 2 in Baghdad.

The delivery was made as part of a joint effort between the United States Forces – Iraq Surgeon Office, the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission – Ministry of Defence and representatives from the MoD Prosthetics Center to transfer USF-I Foreign Excess Personal Property to the Iraqi people.

The MoD Prosthetics Center at Al Muthana provides treatment and rehabilitative services to members of the Iraq MoD, Ministry of Interior, and Iraqi civilians. Although USF-I and the MoD Prosthetics Center have had a long history of working together, this was the first FEPP transfer of materiel to support the operations at the MoD Prosthetics Center.

"USF-I has built a strong relationship with the Al Muthana Prosthetics Center over the years, and we are proud to support the center in its mission of providing services not only to MoD personnel, but all the Iraqi people," said Maj. Shawn Gelzaines. "This transfer of physical therapy materiel is planned to be the first of several that will build upon our current relationship."

The transfer of FEPP medical materiel is intended to support the distribution of serviceable USF-I excess medical materiel to Iraqi military units, clinics, and hospitals. A second transfer of materiel is currently being coordinated.

Elections in northern Iraq successful

BAGHDAD – Task Force Marne units in United States Division-North successfully fulfilled their supporting role to the Iraqi Security Forces today as the citizens of Iraq went to the polls to vote for the next leaders of their country.

Iraqi Security Forces performed magnificently as

they defeated local extremist attacks aimed at discouraging the Iraqi people from voting. At the end of the day, the Iraqi people were victorious as they successfully executed the elections in a secure environment created and maintained by their security forces.


The Iraqi Security Forces' plan was put to the test early in the day. At approximately 9:30 a.m., reports filtered into the task force headquarters describing extremist attempts to stop the voting process. Despite initial extremist attempts, the plan held together, and it soon became apparent that the ISF was in control. At the end of the day, the ISF, with minimal assistance from their Task Force Marne partners, found and cleared more than 44 improvised explosive devices before they injured or killed innocent Iraqis.

Additionally, extremist attacks were ineffective. Of the approximately 67 attacks throughout the day, only 17 caused injury to people. In all, it was reported through Iraqi sources that one Iraqi policeman lost his life in the performance of his duties protecting his countrymen.

When it became apparent that the enemy had expended most of their efforts in the early part of the day, Task Force Marne leaders noticed that the Iraqis were continuing to make the trek to the polls. As reports came in and the polling places filled up, it was obvious that the undaunted Iraqis would not allow extremists to keep them from participating in democracy.

"The Iraqi people are dismissing the extremists by their actions this afternoon," said Col. Dave Funk, commander of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, in Diyala Province.

US Army engineers provide modern meat-processing plant for northern Iraq

 QADAZILLA, Iraq - High in the mountains of the northern Kurdish region of Iraq, residents of Qadazilla now have a modern, sanitary meat-processing facility providing fresh meat products to the citizens of northern Iraq thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The USACE Gulf Region District, Kirkuk Resident Office served as the management partner for construction of the \$1.1 million meat-processing facility. The government-run project which became fully operational this month was initiated to promote the processing of meat products under sanitary conditions in an effort to reduce health risks for consumers according to local officials.

Maj. Edward Allen, officer-in-charge of the Kirkuk office, said the plant provides an efficient meat-processing capability with an environmentally-friendly waste-disposal system. The facility has two crematories to dispose of the waste products. Allen says there is even a tannery on site to process animal hides to maximize the animals' economic potential.

To maintain the proper sanitation of processed meat, walk-in-freezers were included in the design plan to store the meat products while awaiting shipment to local butcher shops and grocery stores in the area. Additional offices were built on the site so other local area government agencies can share much needed office space in the new building.


"The year-long construction project went well

considering Qadazilla's remote location. Overall the contractor did a very good job," Allen said. "This is one of the best built projects I have been associated with since I've been deployed here in Iraq."

The processing plant has an added bonus of providing more than 30 good-paying jobs to local residents and giving an economic boost to the community. The Turkish owned Levo Company served as the general contractor for the meat processing plant. Funding for the project was provided by the Economic Support Fund.

The USACE in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with 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 250 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

Trebil Point of Entry latest in US turnover to Iraq

 TREBIL, Iraq - United States Division - Center returned Point of Entry Trebil to the Government of Iraq, March 9.


First Lt. Joseph Simmons, a platoon leader with B company, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (Advise and Assist Brigade), and Sameer Al-Haddad, secretariat to the prime minister of Iraq, officially transferred POE Trebil to Government of Iraq control in a ceremony at the outpost.

"This turnover, along with the elections, is another demonstration of the progress that the people of Iraq are making every day," said Al-Haddad.

POE Trebil is the latest in a series of bases turned over to Iraq by U.S. forces, including Camp Al Taqaddum Jan. 15, and bases near al-Qaim, Habbaniyah, Fallujah, Waleed and several smaller combat outposts throughout Al Anbar province.

In accordance with the security agreement between the U.S. and Iraq and upon U.S. withdrawal from a base or facility, it will be returned to the control of the appropriate Iraqi entity or demilitarized and closed. These facilities are able to be closed or transferred to Iraqi control because the Iraqi Security Forces have assumed full responsibility for security in their respective areas.

New Iraqi Army post opens in southern Iraq

 BASRAH - A new Iraqi post officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony March 1 in Basrah, Iraq. The Shaibah Location Command will logistically support the 14th Iraqi Army Division's vital mission of protecting southern Iraq.


The \$38 million project took almost a year to complete and training the location command soldiers on operation and maintenance of the new facilities will continue for another year.

"We thank the United States Armed Forces for making this project possible," said IA Brig. Gen. Sha-beeb, commander of Shaiba Location Command. "This project is critical for the support of the 14th Iraqi Army Division and the security of southern Iraq."

The new location command houses 82 buildings and facilities that include a fuel storage and distribution system, an ice factory, bakery, firehouse, two water-treatment plants, a dining facility, offices and living quarters.

"This project is important and is another key step in the rebuilding of the Iraqi Army," said IA Brig. Gen. Gazi Gasham, from the Directorate of Location Command.

Iraqi instructors prepare to take lead on troop training

 BESMAYA, Iraq - Iraqi Army Instructors completed a train-the-trainer course March 2 here to sharpen their skills prior to teaching Iraqi soldiers how to employ 81 mm mortars later this month.

U.S. instructors evaluated the Iraqi Army cadre's teaching methods to ensure their future students would receive the best instruction possible.

The instructors learned techniques to motivate their students and involve them more directly into subjects such as map reading, calling for fire and occupying a mortar-firing position.

Sgt. Akeel Nama Jafar, an IA forward observer instructor, said when he returns to the classroom, he will use some of the techniques for getting the students' attention and giving the instruction.

"After that," he said, "I'll ask the students questions to ensure they are grasping the concepts."


While the majority of the training is centered on giving lessons and presenting material in a classroom environment, some parts had a more hands-on approach, such as the mechanical section and the mortar system.

Sgt. Saad Ishmael Ibrahim, an IA mechanical instructor, said the training was extremely beneficial and gave him the confidence to lead training.

"The course gave me a chance to practice because of the repetition," he said. "I'm now better prepared to give the classes to my students."

The next scheduled 81mm mortar course is set to begin after March 10.

New Iraqi Army barbers graduate with style

 TAJI - The Administration Affairs School held its first Barber Course graduation ceremony March 1 at Camp Taji, Iraq. The seven graduates, from five Iraqi Army divisions, gained new tonsorial skills they will use immediately to support the soldiers in their units.

The course, which began Feb. 1, included training in sanitation and hygiene, familiarization with the tools and equipment, barber history and shaving techniques during the practical exercises. All soldiers met the minimum requirements on theoretical and practical assessments for completion of the course.

"I am Infantry, so I have learned something new," said IA Pvt. Ali Abd Alameer, 8th Division. "I will use what I have learned with the soldiers at my unit."

At the graduation ceremony, IA Brig. Gen. Abd Al Kareem, commander of the school, presented each student with a certificate of completion for the course and congratulated them on being the first students to graduate from the class.

The students were enthusiastic about returning to their units to put their new knowledge and skills into practice.

Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

Awards are lined up, ready to be presented to Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) March 6 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Medals and awards included Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, Combat Infantry Badges and Combat Action Badges. The Soldiers were acknowledged for their individual service and performance while serving in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen

(Right) Col. Notham, the Dhi Qar Iraqi Highway Patrol Commander, addresses the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Convoy Commanders Conference Feb. 2 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Col. Notham talked about working together with the military to keep the convoys safe, prevent car accidents along the routes and detecting IEDs.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nayara Torres

(Left) Spc. Travis W. Gatewood of the 445th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Dows, Iowa, native, attempts to escape a head lock from Sgt. Jesus Moreno of the 659th Maintenance Co., 260th CSSB, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC and a Fort Bragg, N.C., resident.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan

(Above) A 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) convoy arrives at a stop near the Jordan border.



Soldiers with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand atop the Ziggurat of Ur Feb. 14 during a unit tour of the site.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan