



The Expeditionary Times

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Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, gives coins to nominated Soldiers in recognition of excellence they have shown in their professions, following a discussion with Reservists about the current state of the Reserve component and possible changes, during a meeting in Sustainer Theater Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Chief of Reserve pays troops holiday visit

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—“You are the envy of the world,” said Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, in a gathered town hall meeting with Army Reserve Soldiers in Sustainer Theater Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The Army Reserve is a force that levies both being a Soldier and a civilian, said Stultz.

On Christmas day, the Reserve Soldiers were able to discuss the current state of the Reserves and what new changes might be in store.

“The most respected profession in the world are the men and women in uniform,” said Stultz.

“You have the respect and the admiration of the people of the United States.”

Unlike the Active Army component, the Reserve and the National Guard only drill once a month and perform an annual training event once a year. In these components, Stultz said the Soldiers are more accountable because they must juggle civilian jobs while maintaining their military standards.

“In the Reserves, we have very well-educated men and women with great civilian jobs,” said Stultz. “And for some reason, these men and women raise their hand knowing they could be deployed.”

These citizen-Soldiers are enlisting because they are receiving the training and experience through the military that offers them a better chance at getting a good job, said Stultz.

A challenge for these Soldiers is they are often torn between the reserves and getting a good job.

“If you find a good job that requires you to move, we will find a way to keep you in the Reserve,” he said.

The problem is that recruiters target the same candidates that most jobs do, creating a smaller market for both sides, he said. That’s one of the reasons that Stultz has begun meeting with businesses to work on a partnership with the Reserves to branch an agreement.

Employer-Partnership is an agreement with a number of businesses that are looking to hire Soldiers as employees. These companies know that a Soldier already has the training and the dedication to get the job done, said Stultz.

The connection between these businesses and the Army Reserve is that, the more they work together, the better Soldiers and employees they will get, he added.

TOWN HALL cont. page 6



NFL stars and service members come together to play in the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl flag football game

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Share your New Year's resolution

LT. COL. GEORGE HOLSTON
GARRISON CHAPLAIN



Well the New Year has finally happened, 2011 is here. Take a deep breath, and let it out – you've made it through the holidays. Now, it's just a matter of getting through the endless Bowl games (although the only one I was really interested in was the Liberty Bowl on December 31; you'll have a fifty-fifty chance of guessing which team I cheered for*), and getting through the seemingly endless days of a deployment. Perhaps you're looking forward to R&R in a few weeks (mine's coming), or maybe, best of all, going home. No matter how one approaches the New Year, challenges and opportunities abound. What will 2011 hold for you and your family? What are your goals? What are your dreams?

Every year, many of us make New Year's resolutions: exercise more, eat a more healthy diet, lose weight, stop smoking, and the list goes on and on. How many of those resolutions make it through the year? I won't ask how many don't survive the month of January. Research has shown that an overwhelming majority of people who make New Year's resolutions fail to keep them past the first several weeks of the new year before slipping back into their old habits, and routines. So, why make resolutions? My hunch is that we make New Year's resolutions as a way of acknowledging the chance for starting over that is offered each January. Each year, we're given an opportunity to begin again, to try a new way of living. That means that we're aware that some of the old ways just don't work for us anymore, and that something has to change. Yet, change is difficult, especially if one relies only on his/her own personal strength and abilities.

One avenue that helps change occur is the presence of a supportive community that will hold us accountable and, at

the same time, encourage us to persevere. The simple truth is that we cannot go it alone; we need others to help us, even if all they do is cheer us on. Ever notice how much more fun PT is when you do it with another person? How much more pleasant a meal is when eaten with another person (yes, that even goes for the dining facility)? We are created for relationships, and one of the well-known aspects of mental health is the presence of other people in a person's life. Remember one of the risk factors in thinking about suicide prevention is asking the person at risk if she/he has a friend or co-worker with whom they can talk things over. The same applies when we are trying to change some aspect of our lives. To have another person aware of our desire to change will help us be accountable, and give us the assurance that we're not going through this alone.

So, perhaps a good New Year's resolution for the coming year is to be more intentional about our relationships. What are you going to do to enhance the quality of the communication between you and your family at home? How would you like to change the climate of your work section? How do you want to enhance your spiritual resilience? What would you like to change about yourself? With whom are you going to talk to about this? Maybe, just maybe, by sharing your goals and dreams with another, you'll be more likely to see them through to completion.

What are my New Year's resolutions? First, I want to work on building the quality of my communication with my family, especially my wife. Second, there's this doctoral dissertation that's been hanging over my head for almost a year now, and I need to get it finished (my wife wants to live with me in some capacity other than student). Those are my resolutions, what are yours?

Have a great and blessed New Year!

*I'll give you a hint, their mascot is a beautiful, white English Bulldog by the name of UGA.

Correction

In the Dec. 22 issue of the Expeditionary Times, a photograph outline on page 8 incorrectly identified the photographed Soldier as Sgt. Jumon Mathis. The Soldier is Spc. Luvern Wheeler, an assistant squad leader with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Fayetteville, N.C. native.

If you would are interested in submitting a correction, or a story or photograph of your own, please e-mail us at escpao@iraq.centcom.mil.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

103rd ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mark W. Corson

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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 103rd 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: Multilingual in the military

MAJ. ERIK VERHOEF
103RD ESC DEPUTY IG



The Army gains strength and a desirable skill set from Soldiers who are bilingual or multilingual. The Army trains linguists and provides incentives for Soldiers in certain specialties to attain proficiency in different languages. Soldiers who are proficient in more than one language possess a valuable skill, especially when used appropriately. The Army provides guidance on the use of language in AR 600-20 para 4-13 and the Army language policy states;

English is the operational language of the Army. Soldiers must maintain sufficient proficiency in English to perform their military duties. Their operational communica-

tions must be understood by everyone who has an official need to know their content, and, therefore, must normally be in English. However, commanders may not require Soldiers to use English unless such use is clearly necessary and proper for the performance of military functions. Accordingly, Commanders may not require the use of English for personal communications that are unrelated to military functions.

The Army language policy provides guidance and establishes English as the operational language. It does not cover politeness or courtesy. In general, most people want to understand what people are saying and also to be understood. Ensuring those around us can understand and participate in our conversations will help to avoid confusion. No matter the language used, good taste and decorum should always be encouraged.

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"Droit et Avant"
Right, then Forward

Make sure you are correct before
correcting others

Combat Stress: Be S.M.A.R.T. when setting goals

MAJ. LORIE FIKE
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



Happy New Year! As we ring in the new year, many of us make new year's resolutions. It may be easier to turn your resolution into a reality by setting goals. Your resolution or goal may be to lose weight, buy a house, get promoted, or earn a college degree. But what steps are required to ensure that your goals become reality as opposed to just wishful thinking? S.M.A.R.T. is a simple acronym to help you turn your dreams into reality: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely.

Specific. Did you ever tell your friends you were going to lose weight while deployed? If you did, congrats. That's a good goal, but is it specific enough? You could go back

home weighing one pound less than you did when you arrived. Technically, you achieved your goal, because you did, in fact, lose weight. Goals need to be specific. "I want to lose 20 pounds in the six months I am deployed." Why does the goal need to be specific? It is because of our next step, which is measurable.

Goals need to be measurable so that progress can be tracked. If your goal is to lose 20 pounds in six months, your progress can easily be tracked through weekly weigh-ins. The scale will determine whether you are moving toward your goal or falling backward. Goals need to be measurable to enable you to reach your desired outcome. Write your goals down, and track your progress!

Achievable is the next requirement of a goal: "I want to lose 25 pounds in the next month before I redeploy." Hmm, not really achievable in the context of one's health! Goals should be able to be accomplished with available resources.

I want to lose two pounds per week until I lose 20 pounds." From there, that goal can be broken down to smaller goals. I WILL go to the gym today, and I WILL NOT get dessert/ice cream at the dining facility. Small successes such as these pave the way toward goal completion, so celebrate the little steps along the way.

Being realistic with your goals is also important; trying to save for a Lamborghini on an E-4 budget is a bit far-fetched. Being real to yourself when it comes to your goals will maximize your success rate, so you won't be easily discouraged.

The last step is being Timely. How long will it take you to complete your goal? Six months? One year? Five years? How many short-term goals will it take to complete your long term goal? Consider these when mapping out your goals, so you can in turn measure your specific goals to see if it they are realistic, measurable, and achievable.

So be S.M.A.R.T. with goals, and good luck!

Army Chief of Staff reenlists, recognizes Soldiers



U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. presents a coin to Sgt. Clyde Skinner III, a forward observer with the U.S. Division-North Fires section, Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, during a ceremony Dec. 24 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. Skinner's leadership recommended him to receive a coin in recognition of his outstanding performance while deployed as part of USD-N in support of Operation New Dawn.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. ANDREW INGRAM
U.S. DIVISION-NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

SPEICHER, Iraq—

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. administered the Oath of Enlistment to 66 U.S. Division-North Soldiers

during a Reenlistment and Reaffirmation ceremony Dec. 24 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

During the ceremony, Casey asked the reenlisting Soldiers to emulate the dedication to their duty and comrades displayed by recent Medal of Honor recipients Staff Sgt. Robert Miller and Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta.

"When you read the narratives of both of these awards, what you see is the bond of trust that is present in a Special Forces A Team, a platoon and throughout our Army," said Casey. "It is this trust that has bonded us together over this decade of war."

After the ceremony, Casey personally signed the reenlistment contracts.

"Reenlisting meant a lot more to me knowing Gen. Casey was part of the ceremony," said Spc. Ryan Fischer, a cargo

specialist with the 403rd Cargo Transfer Company, 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Upper Perkiomen, Pa., native. "I probably won't get this opportunity again, so this was a great experience for me."

During his visit, Casey also recognized exceptional USD-N Soldiers during a special coining ceremony.

Sgt. Clyde Skinner III, a forward observer with the USD-N Fires section, Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, said he felt honored that his leadership selected him to meet the Army's highest ranking officer.

"This is a real honor for me," said the Clearwater, Fla., native, who said he is grateful that his leadership recognized his hard work.

Leaders selected Soldiers to meet Casey in recognition for their outstanding performance while deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.

"Everywhere I go, I see Soldiers making a difference for the Army and for their country," said Casey. "Here is no different."

Casey visited COB Speicher as part of a tour of U.S. military installations around the world.

Facilities-transfer marks continued progress



Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet, Contingency Operating Base Adder garrison commander with the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Atascadero, Calif., native, met with Brig. Gen. Hakeem Aboud, commander of Ali Air Base, and Mr. Hassan Hammoudeh, Government of Iraq commander of logistics, to sign documents and to turn over several facilities to the GoI Dec. 23 at COB Adder, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. NATHAN LAVY
224TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Representatives from the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi Air Force met with leaders from the 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to turn over several facilities to the GoI Dec. 23 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Following the historical Iraqi Air Force's Squadron 70 stand-up ceremony Nov. 23 at Ali Base, Iraq (COB Adder), a document-signing and facilities-transfer ceremony was held to represent another step forward in the U.S. Army's partnership with the Iraqi Air Force.

Lt. Col. Nicole Balliet, COB Adder garrison commander with the 224th STB, and an Atascadero, Calif., native, met with Brig. Gen. Hakeem Aboud, commander of Ali Air Base and Mr. Hassan Hammoudeh, GoI commander of logistics.

"Today is a great day; it is an honor and a privilege to be part of such an historic event," said Balliet. "Today we turn over facilities of Ali Base to our Iraqi partners. This signifies the continued transfer of authority to the Government of Iraq. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Iraqi Air Force."

After Balliet spoke to all those in attendance, Aboud delivered his words of appreciation to the U.S. Forces and spoke to the significance of the signing and facilities-transfer.

"Today is a very important day for our Air Force," he said. "Today we'll receive eight buildings. In the near future we'll receive more buildings. We hope to work together to succeed in our mission. Our mission is not only to fight terrorists. I'd like to thank all U.S. Forces for their help from the beginning."

Other event special guests included Col. Hashem Hassan, commander of logistics at Ali Base; Col. Nazeh Al Fahed, commander of Squadron 70 at Ali Base; members of the U.S. Air Force and the Army.



Roman Catholic chaplain is one of few serving in Iraq

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq—

With the candles glowing on the altar, making the gold crucifix nearby shine, a transformation took place as a Soldier in the Army Combat Uniform donned his vestments; first the white alb, then the stole, and finally the purple chasuble, becoming a priest of the Roman Catholic Church.

Lt. Col. Richard Piontkowski, deputy command chaplain with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Grand Island, Neb., native, is one of nine Roman Catholic chaplains in Iraq ministering to the spiritual needs of more than 10,000 Catholic service members in Iraq.

In addition to the dual role of Soldier and priest, Piontkowski also serves as deputy command chaplain: an administrative role that can be filled by any chaplain of his rank, and as pastor to all the Catholics in his sector, a spiritual role that can only be filled by an ordained priest.

"Part of being the deputy command chaplain is that you're pastor to all the Soldiers, no matter what their belief system is," said Piontkowski. "Whoever comes in, for whatever reason, that's your Soldier."

Piontkowski said that his main concern as a Catholic pastor is for the Soldiers in his care to receive the sacraments.

There are two other priests stationed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq: one in the Air Force and one in the Army, equaling approximately one third of all the priests in Iraq. This concentration allows them to take turns traveling to remote bases that lack a full-time priest to say mass and administer the sacraments.

Piontkowski and Master Sgt. Kevin Zavala, master chaplain assistant with the 103rd ESC, and a Necedah, Wis., native, traveled to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, which has a large population of active Catholics but no resident priest, to lead the Christmas celebration.

"It's good for all of us to be able to go to Mass because even if we can't be with our Families this year, we can celebrate with our military Family here," said Sgt. 1st Class. Willy Anderson, support operations noncommis-

sioned officer-in-charge with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 103rd ESC, and a Dodge, Neb., native.

Piontkowski said attending Mass to celebrate Christmas during a deployment is like a little bit of home, something familiar and comforting. Approximately 100 service members and civilian contractors attended Mass at Liberty Chapel on Christmas Eve.

"It really helps to keep things in perspective; it's a very calming influence," he said. "It reminds them of times they were home with their families. Even if this year they can't be with their families bodily, spiritually they can be."

At home in the civilian world, Piontkowski is rector of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral in Grand Island, Neb. Flexibility is the most important lesson he learned at the Cathedral that has helped him on his deployment so far, he said.

Although this is his first overseas deployment, he was activated in 2004-2005 with the 89th Regional Readiness Command of Wichita, Kan., to deal with pre and post mobilization issues.

"I'm enjoying the deployment," said Piontkowski. "It's a good opportunity for me to help people and to learn a lot."

He added that his judgment of an area is by people, never by place, and that the people he has met here, service members and locals, mostly interpreters and religious leaders have been great people.

"I've learned how I react to explosions, for one, and I've learned how this culture, which is so related to biblical times, how they look at history, including historical events occurring now, in such a non-Western way," he said.

In addition to other duties, chaplains receive referrals from unit leadership of Soldiers dealing with combat stress and other mental health challenges.

"I want someone dealing with suicidal ideation to see a mental health professional," said Piontkowski. "I think as chaplains, we are more like first aid in these situations, but we are a bit more ubiquitous than combat stress specialists," he said.

Nevertheless, as an experienced priest, there are few personal problems here Piontkowski hasn't dealt with in his parishioners back home.

"My advice to Soldiers here is, while you're brushing up on your battle skills, it's not a bad idea to brush up on your spiritual skills as well," he said.

Despite the challenges of ministering to a congregation of



Lt. Col. Richard Piontkowski, deputy command chaplain of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Grand Island, Neb., native, administers Roman Catholic Mass Dec. 22 at Freedom Chapel at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

thousands spread over an area as large as California, Piontkowski maintains an upbeat, jovial attitude and balances his many roles to effectively serve the Soldiers entrusted to his care.



Lt. Col. Melvin Zimmer, communications officer with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, dressed as Santa Claus, mingles among Soldiers with the 103rd ESC during the unit's holiday party held Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Service members celebrate holidays overseas

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The holiday season during deployment can mean an increased sense of homesickness and solitude for service members who are away from family and friends. At Joint Base Balad, however, troops had the opportunity to participate in several holiday activities and events held Dec. 24-25 to remind them that they were far from alone this season.

On Christmas Eve, eight sections within the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) participated in a holiday decorating contest. Judging was based on festiveness and creativity, and the judges included Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Runnels, senior enlisted advisor for the 14th Transportation Battalion, 103rd ESC, and a Baton Rouge, La., native, and Sgt. 1st Class Amanda Prier, military justice noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 103rd ESC, and an Eagle Rock, Mo., native. After visiting each participating section in the contest, the judges deliberated and waited until the 103rd ESC holiday party later that morning to announce the winner, the G-6 section.

“[The contest] reminds them [Soldiers] that Christmas is here and to be involved with it,” said Runnels. He added that Soldiers’ involvement in holiday activities could effectively boost their morale during the season.

The majority of 103rd ESC Soldiers took part in the unit’s holiday party, hosted by Soldiers with Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 103rd ESC. One Soldier dressed



Soldiers and Airmen read scripture during the Protestant candlelight service held Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

in a Santa Claus costume to help set the mood for the party. Lt. Col. Melvin Zimmer, assistant chief of staff G-6 with the 103rd ESC, and a Des Moines, Iowa, native, said he decided to use the costume to “put a smile on someone’s face” and to help everyone get in the holiday spirit.

Zimmer said that the costume was his way of making the most of the holiday season away from home. “You can either wish you were somewhere else, or you can make the best of it,” he added.

In honor of Maj. Dave Burns, a deceased Soldier who served with the 372nd Engineer Brigade, an organization in the U.S. donated hundreds of gifts to the unit. Zimmer fulfilled

his role as Santa by distributing the gifts to each 103rd ESC Soldier at the party.

In addition to heartwarming gifts, the party offered food, music and a place to get away from work for a couple of hours.

“[The party] makes us forget we’re in Iraq for a second,” said Capt. Lynnea Cameron, commander of HHC, 103rd ESC, a Montgomery, Ill., native, and primary party planner. She and several other Soldiers with the 103rd ESC spent weeks planning and decorating for the party.

In addition to the social events offered at JBB to enhance service members’ holiday season, chaplains facilitated a number of holiday church services to fulfill troops’

spiritual needs. On Christmas Eve, chaplains hosted a Protestant service, in which attendees took part in an intimate, candlelit gathering to sing carols and read scripture.

“Every person has a spiritual side,” said Lt. Col. Erik Feig, chaplain with the 103rd ESC, and a White Bear Lake, Minn., native. “That spirituality is not only personal, but exists within a community. It’s important for people to participate in the activities for both [personal and communal spirituality]... You gotta say to yourself, ‘I can handle this, but I can’t handle it alone.’”

On Christmas morning, another service was held for those wishing to participate, during which Lt. Col. George Holston, a chaplain with the 103rd ESC, spoke to the crowd about the importance of remaining connected with family during the holidays, even from thousands of miles away.

One last social event was offered for service members on Christmas day. The JBB Talent Showcase allowed several service members to show off their unique musical and comedic talents, and to end the holiday on an entertaining note. Audience members could participate as well by joining in holiday-themed games in between acts. In the end, Sgt. Tracie Slempa, a broadcast specialist with the 103rd ESC, and a Pittston, Pa., native, took first place for her powerful rendition of singer/songwriter Alicia Keys’ “How Come You Don’t Call Me Anymore.”

These events were a few of the many opportunities service members at JBB had to get together with others during the holiday season away from home. Even outside the holiday season, troops have access to a number of social activities every day to take a break from work.

“Together, we’ll not only get through the holidays, but we’ll find some joy in it as well,” said Feig.

Troops thank DFAC workers with holiday goodies

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. GAELN LOWERS
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Contractors received quite a surprise when Santa Claus visited the dining facility where they worked and handed out presents, stockings and other goodies at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The presents and stockings included toothpaste, toothbrushes and other various hygiene products, as well as lots of candy.

"They were a little unsure of what to think at first because we surprised them," said Maj. Darrel Freund, supply section officer-in-charge with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command, and a Pierre, Fla., native. "After they figured out what was going on, everyone was smiling and trying to get a photo with Santa."

Santa, who was played by Spc. Joshua Fillingane, combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sust. Bde., and a Fairmont, Minn., native, said that he was excited to do his part and make them smile.

"It was just like little kids at the mall," said Fillingane. "It was awesome. They were all deserving of it because they work hard all year and get very little appreciation for it. I was happy to do my part and make their day. I really enjoyed seeing them smile and laugh."

The employees, who work for Tamimi (the company that provides the workers for the dining facilities at JBB), primarily come from Pakistan, India and Nepal, and work 12 to 13-hour days, seven days a week, and serve approximately 3,000 patrons per meal, said Master Sgt. Verna Bellamy, chief food operations sergeant with the 3rd Sust. Bde., and a Monroe, La., native.

Bellamy, who deployed with the brigade in April 2010, was there since the workers transitioned in country, and has seen the hard work that each person puts into his job. She was glad to be able to give back to them during the holiday season.

"I love to give during the holiday season," said Bellamy. "It shows them that there are still people that care. There are



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rachel Smith, brigade food service technician with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Cleveland native, dresses as a reindeer to hand out stockings to the dining facility workers at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

still people that think about you during the holidays, and I am always there for them if they ever need anything."

Freund, Bellamy and their battle buddy, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rachel Smith, brigade food service technician and a Cleveland native, dressed up as reindeer to assist Santa in handing out the stockings and candy. They were pleased to see the joy and excitement on the workers' faces as Santa surprised them.

"When Santa said, 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' they all started clap-

ping," said Bellamy.

Smith added that the excitement the workers felt was palpable, and their happiness was apparent by their facial expressions. "Just to give them a simple stocking was the biggest thing for them."

Although the workers were excited to receive the gifts, the four individuals giving them were just as fulfilled.

"My brief tour of duty as one of Santa's helpers was one of the highlights of my tour," said Freund.



Brig. Gen. Mark Corson (left), commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Maryville, Mo., native, and Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, participate in an interview with Reuters about the current state of the Army Reserve during Stultz's holiday visit Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

REENLIST from page 1

During the town hall meeting, Stultz said he couldn't believe the difference in Iraq since his tour in 2003.

"In Christmas of '03, we didn't even know that it was Christmas because we were under such a high-alert," he said.

As part of the ceremony, Stultz and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Schultz, senior enlisted advisor for the Army Reserve Command, presented their coins to Soldiers who have excelled while in theater.

Stultz also reenlisted two Soldiers: Spc. Candice Ray, a truck driver with the Army Reserve Command Augment Detachment 77, and a Houston native; and Sgt. Mark Horn, a construction equipment repairer with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Washington, D.C., native.

Both Stultz and Schultz opened the floor to questions after the town hall meeting was finished. They answered questions about the changes in promotion and anything else the Soldiers wanted to know. At the end, Stultz invited Soldiers up onto the stage for photos to show that he was there for them on Christmas.

"I said that if the Soldiers have to be here, then I want to be here too," he concluded.

Soldiers distribute donated shoes to Iraqi children

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. COLTIN HELLER
109TH MPAD

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq—

Laughter echoed amidst table games and crafts as children from an Iraqi orphanage in Tikrit attended a special day for the Soldiers and orphans hosted by U.S. Division-North Dec. 17 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Soldiers with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), from Freemont, Neb., also handed out shoes donated by “Let Them Walk in Our Shoes”, to the Iraqi children.

The charitable organization from Palmerton, Pa., and surrounding communities collected approximately 6,300 pairs of shoes, donating and shipping 3,500 pairs of footwear to the 4th Infantry Division to be distributed to local Iraqi communities during their deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

Sgt. Glenn Shannon, automated logistics noncommissioned officer with the 394th CSSB, said he coordinated with Iraqi civilians who run the orphanage to have children at COB Speicher for Iraqi Kids Day.



Staff Sgt. Travis Hill, the logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Freemont, N.H., native, helps an Iraqi child try on a new pair of shoes during Iraqi Kids Day held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility Dec. 17 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

“We wanted the kids to have the things they needed, and we wanted to see them smile.”

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility hosted the event. Kids enjoyed pizza, made crafts and played games donated by Families of 394th CSSB Soldiers.

Soldiers greeted 28 children with cheers

as they entered the MWR facility, joining the Iraqi youth as they drew with crayons and coloring books, and played board games, ping pong and air hockey.

Shannon, a Bellevue, Neb., native, said he looks forward to another Kids Day with the Iraqi children early next year, especially

during the warmer weather when they can play outside.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Hollanbach, a mechanic with the 394th CSSB, and a Greenville, N.H., native, handed out boots and shoes to the orphans who traded, mixed and matched footwear with one another.

“You could just see their faces light up at the sight of the shoes,” said Hollanbach, who helped the children try on their new shoes. “The look on their faces makes it all worth it.”

Staff Sgt. Travis Hill, the logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 394th CSSB, spent time passing a soccer ball back and forth with the children wearing their new shoes.

“It’s good to see them smile, said Hill, a Freemont, Neb., native. “It’s not every day that we can help the kids in Iraq.”

Sgt. Jeremy Stover, an automated logistics NCO from Kearny, Neb., said he saw a side of his Soldiers not often seen during the day to day routine of a deployment.

“This really helped the morale of the Soldiers as well as those of the children,” said Stover, who helped plan the event.

The children took home plastic hats, balloons and other toys and party favors also provided by the Families of the 394th CSSB Soldiers.

The event marked the first time in several years that an Iraqi Kids Day has been held at COB Speicher.

Cavalry trooper steps into war zone a second time

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. PATRICK CALDWELL
3-116TH CAVALRY REGIMENT

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Renata Hadzic, a

Pocatello, Idaho, native, already knows a great deal about war. She is a member of Golf Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), deployed to Iraq.

Images flirting across her mind’s eye tell part of the story; images of huddling in her home in war-torn Bosnia in the shadows of a single light, powered by a car battery; reflections of bellicose Serb soldiers walking through her town, and of course, there are the rumors of war; the knowledge that somewhere, every day, in her town people were killed by bombs, by an artillery round or by sniper.

And always, her family struggled as the bloody conflict in Bosnia in the 1990s continued.

“As the war went on we had to sell things,” she said.

In one of the unforeseen consequences, the deadly atmosphere became just another commonplace thing for Hadzic.

“Growing up, I was used to it,” Hadzic said.

She was lucky, she admits now. Her family found a way out. Her father moved the family to Twin Falls, Idaho, and there, as a fourthgrader, Hadzic faced another set of challenges.

“My whole 3rd grade year I couldn’t speak English,” Hadzic said.

Spc. Hadzic’s American story begins in southern Idaho and it is a familiar immigrant tale; a trip to the United States, a period of adjustment and assimilation. The story could end

with her growing up in Idaho, finding success and then going to college. The war portion of her account should end with the departure from Bosnia.

But it doesn’t. Instead Hadzic is back in a war zone, by choice.

Hadzic, 24, is just one of more than 1,500 Army National Guardsmen from Oregon, Idaho and Montana deployed to Iraq. Hadzic did not try to avoid a second journey to a war torn nation. Instead, she said she welcomed the chance to donate something to the nation that offered her family sanctuary and a new home.

“I always wanted to join the military. I wanted to give back. I would not have the life I have now if I was in Bosnia,” she said.

Now deployed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, as part of the 116th Regiment’s 3rd Battalion, Hadzic’s unit operates Mine Resistant Ambush Protected combat vehicles. Hadzic sits behind the wheel of a one of Golf Company’s - MRAPs. She said she is happy to be a driver.

As a driver, Hadzic’s responsibilities don’t end when she shuts down the MRAP. She must work to maintain the vehicle and ensure it is ready to go on the next mission.

Hadzic believes she has an advantage with her unit deployed to Iraq.

“I was a little more prepared coming from a war torn country,” she said. “I think I’m a little more compassionate regarding the people here.”

Hadzic, who is studying law enforcement at Idaho State University, said she is pleased she is with her unit in Iraq.

Spc. Renata Hadzic, a vehicle driver with Golf Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Pocatello, Idaho, native, climbs from down from a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 18.



Tostitos “Salute the Troops” game, a night that will not be forgotten



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers.

STORY BY

SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

Players from team Freedom (white jerseys) line up against team Liberty, as LaVar Arrington, former Washington Redskins linebacker, prowls the line of scrimmage during the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl at Joint Bas Balad, Iraq on Dec. 21. Hundreds of service members from all across base, came to the game to cheer on their friends.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— With one second left on the digital clock, Jim Kelly threw a “Hail Mary” into the end zone where wide receiver Bruce Adams caught the pass to win the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl flag football game Dec. 21 at Killeen Field on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The game was held in conjunction with the United Services Organization to bring together former college coaches and National Football League players with service members.

Sgt. Bruce Adams, orderly room noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Prichard, Ala., native, played as wide receiver, safety, and was also the team captain.

“It’s an honor to be able to stand on the field with these two great coaches, Gene Stallings and Bobby Bowden,” said Lt. Col. Gary Hunt, force management officer with the 103rd ESC, and an Oneonta, Ala., native.

Hours before the players’ names were announced for the pre-game, it took a lot of effort to get Killeen Field into game shape.

“We had to first remove the larger rocks, before we could bring out the racks and scrub the field,” said Spc. Kevin Bussman, a mechanic with the 289th Quartermaster Company, 13th CSSB, and a Long

Beach, Calif., native.

Spray paint, white chalk, cones, and all other markers were brought out to complete the transformation from a normal field into the site of the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl game.

The winning team was supposed to get the opportunity to get a picture taken with a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at the end of the game, but there were some doubts about getting the large vehicle onto the field.

“Some service members told me that it would be impossible to fit my truck [MRAP] through the hole in the fence,” said Spc. Joshua Preston, heavy wheeled vehicle operator with the 512th Personnel Security Detachment, 13th CSSB. “But, then I never thought it would be impossible to meet Zach Thomas, so I knew that parking my truck would be easy.”

Zach Thomas, a former linebacker for the Miami Dolphins, was one of a dozen players who played alongside service members in the game.

In the midst of the holiday season, when service members were away from their homes and families, the flag football game

was a chance for troops to come together as the former players and coaches brought the U.S. to JBB.

“It’s really exciting to see the enthusiasm of the troops at Christmas time,” said Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC, and a Maryville, Mo., native. “It’s awesome to be able to watch some football and spend some time with the troops.”

The game was filled with plenty of quick action and high scoring as the first touchdown was scored in the first two minutes of the game. Rodney Peete, a former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback, completed a pass to Zach Thomas in the corner of the end zone for the first score. Later in the game, Jevon Kearse, a former Philadelphia Eagles defensive lineman, reached above a sea of hands to draw in a pass for a touchdown.

The former NFL players were not the only ones to make impressive plays. Capt. Brian Harper, operations officer-in-charge with the 13th CSSB, and a Forest, Miss., native, made a few skillful catches and moves. During one down, Harper caught a pass out in the flat with room to maneuver.

An effective block by one of his teammates opened up daylight for a run. A quick juke by Harper faked out the defenders and allowed him to tip-toe the sideline for a few yards before going out of bounds.

For one Airman, the game was more than an entertaining display of friendly competition; it was more like a fantasy realized.

“I am the self-proclaimed number-one Buffalo Bills fan,” said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Ed Madden, superintendent of the 332nd Security Forces Group, and a Big Pond, Pa., native. “It’s been a dream come true for these heroes to open their hearts and come here and play some football with us.”

Madden’s newest claim to fame is a black eye that he received from Kelly during practice the day before the game. To Madden, not even a black eye could ever stop him from being a Bills’ fan, or from partaking in the once in a lifetime experience, he said.

Adams caught the pass for his team to win the game in the closing seconds, but to hundreds of service members, there were no winners or losers. The game was a culmination of events that gave the players opportunities to meet and interact with players who they might never have met under any other circumstances.

As the MRAP pulled onto the field at the end of the Tostitos “Salute the Troops” Bowl game, which allowed players, coaches, and service members to have a night they will not soon forget.

“Football helps bring us all together,” said Hunt.

‘IT’S AN HONOR TO BE ABLE TO STAND ON THE FIELD WITH THESE TWO GREAT COACHES, GENE STALLINGS AND BOBBY BOWDEN,’

—Lt. Col. Gary Hunt

TEAM LIBERTY IS THE 2010 WINNER



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers

TOP CENTER:Airmen acted as color guard for the opening ceremonies before the game



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Angel Wallace

TOP LEFT: The game announcer points by the clock and score board. The game would drastically change as both teams would fight for the lead until the clock finally tick zero.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew G. Keeler

TOP RIGHT: Chief Master Sgt. Ed Madden, superintendent of the 332 Security Forces Group, and a Big Pond, Pa., native, takes a break and watches his team mates play. During practice yesterday Madden, while with the former National Football League players and the other service member players, he received a black eye during a pass play from Jim Kelly, former Buffalo Bills quarterback. "I'm the self-proclaimed number one Bills' fan", said Madden. And, this black eye would not change that.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers.

BOTTOM LEFT: Zach Thomas, former Miami Dolphins linebacker, gets tackled by player on team Liberty during the game. Thomas, who recorded over 1,000 tackles in his career, caught a pass early in the game for a touchdown

BOTTOM RIGHT: With a second left on the clock, it was Jim Kelly, former Buffalo Bills quarterback, who threw the game winning touchdown pass to win the game for team Liberty. "These Soldiers keep trying to thank us, and we just want them to know, thank you for everything you are doing for us," said Kelly.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers.

Firefighter competition offers valuable experience

STORY BY
1ST LT. RONNIE PATRICK
319TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—Maintenance platoon Soldiers with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were presented with awards Dec. 20 for being the Contingency Operating Base Adder 2010 Fire Prevention Week Fire Muster Champions.

Air Force firefighters celebrated and promoted National Fire Prevention Week at COB Adder by arranging a competition to give service members a little experience in what their jobs entail.

The competition consisted of four-person teams competing in several events all based on firefighting skills. The teams participating in the competition were timed as they completed the events, including the ladder and litter carry, hose roll and drag, and a dummy drag.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Heyward, a motor sergeant with the 319th Trans. Co., and an Augusta, Ga., native, is an emergency medical technician in his civilian career; he is aware of how strenuous the job can be.

"The competition is designed to give people a feel for some of the duties and tasks firefighters conduct on a daily basis, and to create awareness of how physically demanding the job can be," said Heyward.

His team from the 319th Trans. Co. consisted of Sgt. Charles Norwood, a senior mechanic and an Augusta,



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Craig Durante

Soldiers with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), display their awards for being the 2010 Fire Prevention Week fire muster champions Dec. 20 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Ga., native; Spc. Stanley Quarles II, a heavy wheel vehicle mechanic and a Charleston, S.C., native; and Spc. Deuntae Scott, a heavy wheel vehicle mechanic and an Augusta, Ga., native. The team earned the fastest time in all events and won

first place in the competition.

"It's a tough job," said Norwood. "Firefighters everywhere deserve a lot of credit, especially here in Iraq, where the weather can be extremely harsh."

Equipment repairer cross-trains for force protection

STORY BY
SGT. BLAKE PITTMAN,
110TH CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Though combat operations have come to an end in Iraq, and U.S. Forces have transitioned from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation

New Dawn and the drawdown of forces continues, there is still the potential of attack on bases and the need for Soldiers performing security at Contingency Oper-

ating Base Adder, Iraq.

Pfc. Burtis "Buddy" Wright, a power generation equipment repairer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Nashville, Ga., native, is one of the Soldiers tasked as the first line of defense for service members and Department of Defense contractors at COB Adder.

Since the maintenance of power generators on COB Adder is carried out by contracted workers, there was little need for the trade Wright was trained for when the 110th CSSB deployed to Iraq. Wright found

himself reassigned as a force protection specialist working at one of COB Adder's Entry Control Points.

"It's not the most glamorous job in the world, but it's a vital job and I'm glad to be doing something productive," said Wright.

Wright said duty at the ECP can certainly be anything but ideal. Among the jobs he has been tasked with is convoy tracking, which involves working out on the lanes monitoring the arrival and departure of all convoys to and from COB Adder. Working at the ECP since July, Wright has endured Iraq's hottest months working under the sun in full combat gear.

There is reprieve from convoy tracking duty, however. Soldiers working at the ECP rotate between different work stations, including traffic control.

Without sacrificing any attention to detail, Wright keeps the line moving quickly even while communicating with the Iraqi contractors and contractors from other countries, many of whom speak no English, through pantomime.

Wright's time at the ECP is coming to a close as the HHC, 110th CSSB prepares for redeployment to Georgia in early 2011. He said that he is happy at the prospect of coming back [off ECP duty] and working closer to the company.

Material redistribution plays vital role in drawdown

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. RONNIE PATRICK
319TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers working on the Material Redistribution Team with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), play a vital role in their mission and help save the Army millions of dollars at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The MRT concept is about two years old. Its purpose is to identify, organize, and reallocate excess material in theater, to further expedite redeployments, and to reduce the amount of waste from previous units' deployments.

"Having been in the military for a while, I've noticed every time we've redeployed, most of our equipment was left behind, either for the incoming unit or left out in a retro-

grade property assistance team yard," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Walker, MRT noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 319th Trans. Co., and a Charlotte, N.C., native.

Spc. Thomas Gil, MRT leader with the 319th Trans. Co., and a Tampa, Fla., native, said that with use of the MRT, units are no longer wasting operational equipment.

The U.S. military faces a complex challenge in Iraq while in the early phase of Operation New Dawn. The removal and redistribution of material that has accumulated during seven years of combat operations in Iraq was initially an intimidating task, but has quickly become a highly cost-effective and historic operation.

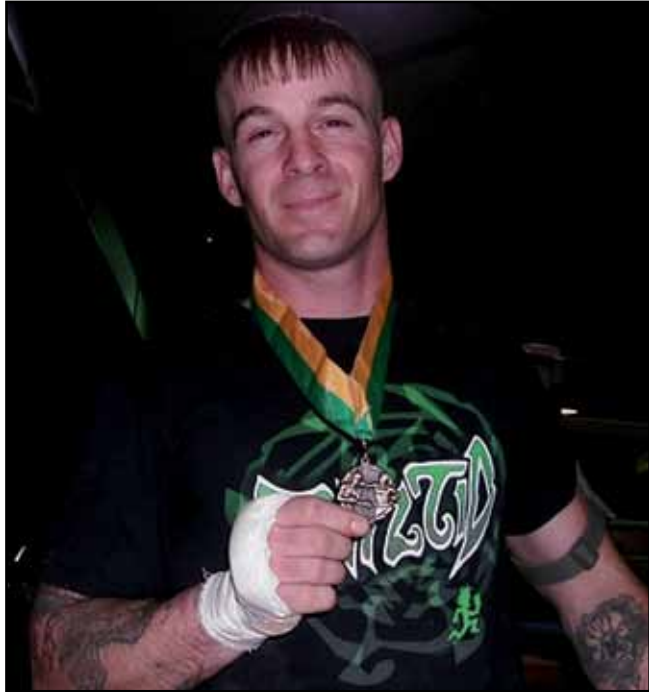
MRTs make the Army more cost efficient; what gets redistributed either goes to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom or back to the States based on identified needs.

"We often come across parts or equipment that a unit might need," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kelly, an MRT squad leader with the 319th Trans. Co., and a St. Petersburg, Fla., native. "So every time we open a container, it's like Christmas at Wal-Mart."



Spc. Thomas Gil, Material Redistribution Team leader with the 319th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Tampa, Fla., native, returns from an MRT mission recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Transportation troops emerge victorious at Fight Night



Pfc. Kristopher Billings, a nuclear biological chemical specialist with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a London, Ohio, native, displays his victory medal shortly after his win by a choke hold recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SPC. CHRISTIANA BANKOLE
15TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

As Soldiers and civilians filled the seats inside Memorial Hall, they were about to witness an event filled with bruised ribs and bruised egos. However, this was not the World Wrestling Entertainment coming to demonstrate their fighting skills to the crowd, but service members competing at fight night recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Spc. Jason Smith, a heavy wheel vehicle operator, and a Whiteville, N.C. native, and Pfc. Kristopher Billings, a chemical biological radiological and nuclear specialist, and a London, Ohio, native, both with the 15th Transportation Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), won their matches against competitors based on weight class and skill level.

Sgt. Courtney Anderson, a heavy wheel vehicle operator with the 15th Trans. Co., and a Los Angeles native, hosted the amateur night and arranged practice time for each Soldier to work on protective skills training and techniques that would assist in their victory against their opponent. Anderson, who is also the lead instructor at the fight house, known as the Sprung Gym, said Smith and Billings both achieved overall

levels of fitness to train, fight, and win their rounds.

"There is no greater feeling knowing that, with what these Soldiers achieved here on the mat, they can close the fight with the enemy in combat," Anderson said. "With an opportunity for each Soldier to train for their matches, it gave them more confidence, which, I feel, allowed their victory to supersede."

Smith, with experience in boxing and level-one combat-ives certification, said going against his opponent and winning his match made him more confident in knowing that hard work pays off.

"With this being my first fight, I'll admit I was a bit nervous," said Smith. "Once I got in the ring, it wasn't as bad. I was learning jujitsu and kickboxing, and that helped me to be more prepared for my opponent and whatever he was going to throw at me. I feel I was fairly paired up against someone who was just as skilled, if not a little more than myself. Overall it was a good match, good challenge."

Prior to joining the Army, Billings was an amateur wrestler in the Florida fight circuit with a record of 12 wins and two losses. With his fighting background as four years of high school wrestling and four years of Muay Thai kickboxing, Billings said both skills allowed him to win his match.

"I like fighting," said Billings. "It allows me to release a lot of aggression and test my reflexes, stamina, and ability to learn and counter my opponents moves against me."

After Smith's and Billings' victory at Fight Night, COB Adder now knows the skills within the 15th Trans. Co. and what they represent.

Maintenance shop keeps generators, forklifts running

STORY BY
SPC. DAVID CHRISTIAN
298TH SUPPORT MAINTENANCE COMPANY

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—

Soldiers with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), ground-supported equipment (GSE) repair shop work toward keeping generators, forklifts and light sets running to keep missions going and to expedite drawdown operations.

"Most of what we see here comes from equipment not being properly maintained," said Sgt. Eric C. Graffi, GSE repair shop noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a Bellefonte, Pa., native. "Soldiers develop an attitude of 'if it is

still capable, it works just fine' when it comes to maintaining their ground-supported equipment."

Sgt. Todd Wilson, a generator mechanic and Knoxville, Tenn., native, also saw room for improvement. "What I would like to see is a set of standards that create more of an awareness about maintaining their ground-supported equipment."

"We see multiple sizes of generators, from five-kilowatt through 60-kilowatt generators, we have worked on a few cranes, and fuel pumps," said Graffi. "We have also worked on numerous light sets, which are not military equipment."

Wilson said the shop works on generators for the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar equipment and generators that belong to individual units. He said that generators must be reset after 10,000 hours of operation, which is about a year of operation.

"Most of our individual work orders come from the light

set program," said Graffi. "We started working on light sets by piecing a few together with parts from several non-repairable light sets. Word got out, and now units bring them to us quite frequently."

Various companies gave them multiple non-reparable light sets for scrap parts, and from those the 298th SMC has been able to keep more than 150 light sets working throughout central and northern Iraq.

"If a company brings a light set that cannot be repaired, we use parts from it to keep others working," said Graffi. "The problem is that there are no other military personnel who work on these light sets. Our shop is just trying to help other units in our area continue work in well lighted areas, to keep their night operations going."

Graffi added that consolidation of working light set parts into working equipment has saved the Army approximately \$1 million.

Training teaches Soldiers to 'bounce back' from stress

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. LORRAINE R. SIAN
8TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), participated in resiliency training recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The training was given by Staff Sgt. Cynthia Mason, detachment first sergeant with the 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., and a Glendale, Ariz., native, and Staff Sgt. Sebastian Zarasua, the resiliency center noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Battery, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and a Crawford, Neb., native. In order to bring the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program to more Soldiers, the 3rd AAB, 4th ID, recently opened the Iron Stronghold Resiliency Center at COB Adder.

The program is designed to enhance the resilience, readiness and potential of Soldiers, Family members and civil-

ians by building strength in every area of life. This does not just mean strengthening physical fitness, but also emotional, social, spiritual, and Family.

Mason attended a 10-day Master Resilience Trainer course in Philadelphia. "The MRT course is the best training that the Army has provided me," he said.

The Soldiers with the 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., completed seven hours of training prior to entering theater; the Soldiers are very active and knowledgeable about "bouncing back" from the stress of being away from Family. The interactive MRT course includes large and small group training; Soldiers learn resilience skills and are able to instill these skills in others.

"I believe that the training has been very beneficial," said Sgt. Ashley Brown, receiving section sergeant with the 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co., and a Reidsville, N. C., native. "It teaches us as Soldiers and leaders how to deal with our issues, whether they are personal or work-related, in a more positive and productive manner."

Zarasua assisted the class given to the Soldiers at the ammunition supply point. Soldiers were taught certain areas of resilience skills focusing on deployment scenarios, such as accurately identifying a problem and how to identify a solution strategy, how to stop catastrophic thinking, and reducing



Soldiers with the 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), brainstorm during resiliency training recently at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

anxiety and improving problem solving by identifying the worst, best, and most likely outcomes of a situation.

Soldiers with the 2nd Det., 8th Ord. Co. have visited the resiliency center and said they found that it is a place for them to relax and recover from the everyday stress of deployment.



Useful tips for OCONUS leave

SPC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Rest and recuperation leave: those precious 15 days of much-needed recharge that are probably in the back (or the front) of all of our minds from the moment we hit boots on ground. Many service members, especially those with families, decide to spend that time at home where everything is familiar and comfortable. Others might opt for a little more adventure and travel to a country outside the U.S.

As a young Soldier without a family of my own, I've decided to spend my R&R in a place that is totally unknown to me. I figured I'm already on the other side of the world, so why not explore a different country while I'm over here? So a friend and I who are both deployed here took the OCONUS (outside the continental U.S.) R&R path and will venture to Australia at the end of this month. We plan to see some colorful coral in the Great Barrier Reef, enjoy the sun-soaked beaches, and finally crack the mystery of whether or not toilets in the Southern Hemisphere actually do flush in the opposite direction. Some of you might be thinking, "Watch out for the sharks," but as it turns out, sharks ended up being the least of our worries while planning for our trip.

My first word of advice for those going OCONUS for R&R is to start planning early. Unlike CONUS leave packets, traveling to a different country requires a great deal more paperwork and, of course, more online training. If you do not yet have a passport, it is a good jumping-off point because much of the paperwork for OCONUS leave requires you to provide your passport number. It's not a difficult process, but it takes roughly six weeks to complete.

Some of the other paperwork, which can all be found or completed online, includes:

- A visa. A few countries require an electronic travel authority (ETA: basically an electronic visa), but most still require a regular visa
- Online clearance through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (found at <https://apacs.dtic.mil/>)
- Your current vaccine administration record (you can find this on AKO under My Medical Readiness)
- Foreign travel certification (done through your S2 section)
- Anti-Terrorism Level 1 training certificate
- Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape (SERE 100) training certificate, which must have been completed within the last 12 months
- A scanned photo of your passport
- U.S. Department of State/Embassy registration

The rest of the paperwork is usually provided by your unit's administrative section, as it is paperwork that everyone must fill out prior to R&R.

Now that you've completed your leave packet, you can start the fun part: planning where to stay and what to do when you get there. I recommend starting early on this as well, because many hotel websites will offer deeper discounts if you book your stay a couple months early. I'll issue one caveat, though: If possible, only book hotels that do not charge extra for changing your check-in date. As you all probably know, air travel in and out of country is unpredictable, and Murphy's Law will almost certainly take effect; what can go wrong, will go wrong. So working with a flexible hotel company will relieve some stress on your mind and your wallet.

My final piece of advice is to not plan *too* much ahead of time. Dictating your agenda down to the minute will open up more opportunity for disappointment when (not if—when) things don't go as planned. Not to mention the fact that you've been working nonstop for several months in the uniform, and a strict schedule will probably leave you more exhausted than recuperated. Leave room for spontaneous adventure and discovery, and allow yourself to get lost because you might be surprised what you'll see while finding your way back.

Word on the Street

What is your favorite memory from 2010?



"My best memory of 2010 was buying my first car outright, a 30-year anniversary Mustang I got on leave. I've had cars before, but this is the first one I pointed at and said, 'That's the one,' and then bought it."

Cpl. Robert Fox, a heavy construction mechanic with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Rochester, N.Y., native



"My best memory of 2010 was seeing George Strait and Reba McEntyre in concert with my fiancée while I was on leave."

Sgt. Stephen Lasagna, a mechanic team leader with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Davidsville, Pa., native



"My best memory of 2010 was going home and seeing the Pittsburgh Penguins beat up on the Philadelphia Flyers. We lost the game, but we won both fights and there was Flyers' blood on the ice."

Sgt. Michael Montgomery, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Huntingdon, Pa., native



LEARN THE DRAWDOWN

The 840th Transportation Battalion is hosting Integrated Booking System/Container Management Module Training 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Sunday at the battalion headquarters, 7119 Eagle Dr. (near bus stop #62) at Joint Base Balad.

You will need to make reservations for the class by calling 318-483-4241.

WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?



"My goal for the rest of this deployment is to save as much money as possible for my wedding when I get home, and to do a motor swap."

Sgt. Shelby Gallagher, 3/368th Financial Management Company, 24th Financial Management Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade.



"I want to spend more time with Family, run more, do cardio, and save more money."

Spc. David Molina, 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to further myself in my education, get my degree in criminal justice, and change my MOS to Criminal Investigation Division."

Sgt. Shatara Bryant, 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"To bring all our Soldiers back home timely, whole in mind, body and spirit and ready to move onto the next adventure."

Command Sgt. Maj. Vickie Dunlap-Jones, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"This year I want to stay in shape by competing in triathlons and doing charity walks with my family."

Sgt. Earl Grater, 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to become more positive, having a better outlook on things and to be more open minded, flexible."

Pfc. Victoria Prescott, 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"My New Year's resolution for this year and for many years to come is to make a difference in the world by showing compassion where it is needed."

Sgt. Scott Britton, 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to spend more time with my family and further my military education."

Staff Sgt. Paul Cox, 224th Special Troops Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I am trying not to repeat the mistakes I made this past year. Tomorrow should never be yesterday."

Spc. Jasmine Fudge, 565th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to further my education because I want to build houses. I also want to get into better shape..."

Pfc. Keith Gonzales, 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to write a book, learn to play the guitar, and work on civilian certificates for my [IT] Information Technology jobs."

Capt. Russ Cunningham, HHC, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"Travel more, live life to the fullest, and be more understanding of others."

Staff Sgt. Kenitra Damudt, 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"This year, I want to spend so much time in the gym that I'm able see my abs again."

Spc. Jeffrey Cantey, 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"I want to go to the Soldier of the Month and promotion boards and make sergeant before we return home."

Spc. Kristie Hatch, 2nd Detachment, 8th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade



"My New Year's resolution is to find a job and career in electrical engineering."

Sgt. Jon Simons, HHC, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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

Level: Hard

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Which artist made his name with paintings of soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles?
2. In which country can you see the Sphinx?
3. Who became potter to King George III in 1806?
4. Who painted The Persistence of Memory?
5. Which 17th century artist painted more than 60 self-portraits?
6. What nationality was Picasso?
7. Of what type of artist is Kandinsky generally regarded as the first?

1. Andy Warhol 2. Egypt 3. Josiah Spode 4. Salvador Dalí 5. Rembrandt 6. Spanish 7. Abstract

JBB Worship Services

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
Wednesday 8 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel

GENERAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Provider Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
12:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)

Sunday 5 p.m. Provider Chapel
5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

LUTHERAN

Sunday 8 a.m. Provider Chapel Annex

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

LATTERDAY SAINTS

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
12:30 pm. Air Force Provider Chapel
Saturday 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
Mon-Fri 11:30 a.m. Provider Chapel

Confessions: Sunday 8-8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 6 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex
Saturday 7 p.m. The Shack (Bldg 7556)

* For holiday services, refer to page 12

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel 433-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

*Current as of Jan. 5, 2011

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Open Court Volleyball: Sunday 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jui-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m.	Caribbean Night: Friday 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday 7:30 p.m. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.,	8 p.m. Friday 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Mon., Saturday 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday 5:45 a.m., 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday 8 p.m. H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday 8 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday 8 p.m.	7 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m. Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat., 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
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UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 1/5/11

NHL: Minnesota Wild @ New Jersey Devils, 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: Ohio State vs Arkansa, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN Sports
NBA: Atlanta Hawks @ Sacramento Kings, Live 6 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Sugar Bowl: Ohio State vs Arkansa, Delayed 3 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Sugar Bowl: Ohio State vs Arkans, Delayed 9 p.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 1/6/11

COLLEGE BB: UAB @ Duke, Live 3 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Memphis @ Tennessee, Live, 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
NBA: Los Angeles Lakers @ Phoenix Suns, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Live Football, 11 p.m. AFN Sports

Friday 1/7/11

NFL: Live, Midnight AFN Sports
NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder @ Dallas Mavericks, Live 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: GoDaddy.com Bowl: Middle Tennessee vs Miami, Delayed 4 a.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: GoDaddy.com Bowl, Delayed 4 p.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 1/8/11

NFL: Live, Midnight AFN Sports
NBA: Houston Rockets @ Orlando Magic, Live 4 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE: AT&T Cotton Bowl: LSU vs Texas A&, Delayed 3 p.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live, 8 p.m. AFN Sports

Sunday 1/9/11

NFL: Live, Midnight AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Miami (FL) @ Clemson, Live 2 a.m. AFN Prime Pac
COLLEGE: BBVA Compass Bowl: Pittsburgh vs Kentucky, Delayed 11 a.m. AFN Xtra
COLLEGE BB: St. John's @ Notre Dame, Delayed 6 p.m. AFN Xtra

Monday 1/10/11

NFL: Live, 12:30 a.m. AFN Sports
NHL: New York Islanders @ Chicago Blackhawks, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
NFL: Live Football, 3:30 p.m. AFN Sports
COLLEGE: Kraft Bowl: Nevada vs Boston College, Delayed 6:30 p.m. AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Sports Lounge': Vikings Learn to stop Vick

BY SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



EAGLES... Lost. On Tuesday night, the Philadelphia Eagles missed a golden opportunity to take control of their playoff destiny and have a good chance to get a first round bye.

The New York Giants defeated the Eagles 24 to 14, but the score does not explain the frustration that this game created for a fan to watch. Let's start at the beginning. I'm a die-hard E-A-G-L-E-S fan. My father, Hal Keeler, introduced me to the birds at a very young age and took me to my first Eagles' game at Veterans stadium. It was loud, a little violent.. The team at that time was a little different. They had players like Randall Cunningham and Mike Quick and they kelly green jerseys with a swooping eagle grasping a football.

The symbol might have changed, and the names on the roster might have changed too; But, the excitement on game day lives on with each and every blow of the whistle. And, that is only the beginning of why I am a Philadelphia Eagles fan.

What happened Tuesday night was a waste of a good opportunity. Brett Favre, who had yet to pass his concussion test, was sidelined for the game. It meant that rookie Joe Webb got the start. Webb, who had two interceptions and one fumble last week against the Chicago Bears, faced Asante Samuels and the Eagles defense who already had more than 20 interceptions this season. The game should have been almost a guaranteed win. What could go wrong, when the Eagles even had an extra day of rest? Nothing, however, is guaranteed in the NFL. This game is further proof of that.

Michael Vick, a potential Most Valuable Player candidate, finally met a defense that could control both his running and passing abilities. The Vikings stacked six defensive backs for almost the entire game. What these extra DBs offered is better zone, and double coverage on wide receivers. They present more obstacles and hands in the air to stop quarterbacks from tossing slant passes.

The Vikings used this formation to mask blitzing DBs from coverage DBs. One set of downs, a wide receiver might be covered by player one, while player 2 blitzed the quarterback. On the next down, these two players might switch roles. And, on the third down, they both might blitz

and allow another player to cover their wide receiver.

It's a lot to process when a quarterback has about three to five seconds to get rid of the ball, which forces the offense to run the ball more. At least it should have forced the Eagles to run more. Especially when Lesean McCoy is having a great season. The Eagles' coaches should have put more faith in their line to open holes for McCoy.

With the playoffs around the corner and the Eagles no longer fighting for a first round bye, it means that the last game of the season is a coin flip. They face a Dallas Cowboys team that was eliminated from the play off race a long time ago and will be playing for mostly pride. But, do not let this game distract you from the chance of serious injuries before the playoffs.

The Eagles should choose to sit their starters and play their backups to eliminate any risk of chancing a major injury for a throw away game. Even if it is against a division rival like the Cowboys, the chance of losing a player like Desean Jackson or Vick is too great.

Read next week's edition for the Ex. Times Playoff picks for the NFL post season, and which teams have a chance at the Super Bowl.

TRON: Legacy a brilliant combination of acting, SFX

BY SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



'TRON: Legacy' is an amazing movie which I give a 5 out of 5 rating. Now that I've gotten that out of the way, let's talk about why.

The original TRON was a work of pure light and magic. It helped push the design of combining digital effects with live actors in movies at a time when the technology was changing and developing, that is, 1982. I admit, I was not born when TRON came out in theaters. I saw the movie when I was young, though, and became fascinated with the unison of both a live actor and a world of digital effects. I saw TRON for the first time in 1993 when the movie was more than a decade old.

In current theme of movie design and the use of digital effects, there is more stress put on flashy sound effects than

on the human actor. It sounds like something from the movie Terminator, humans being replaced by machines in movies. The sad truth is that it's evident in almost every blockbuster film out there. Movies like Iron Man, Spiderman, Clash of the Titans, etc. are placing more importance on a computer-generated character to tell a story than the actual actor themselves. How far has the movie genre changed since the original TRON was released?

With the current trend for flashy effects, I was concerned that even a classic like TRON would get more than an update and become ruined by special effects. I was happily mistaken.

Legacy is a rare breed of movie that emphasizes the human aspect of technology instead of the technology itself. The relationships on screen are a credit to the actors and not a digital artist who creates them on a computer.

Sam Flynn, son of Kevin Flynn, the original creator of the Grid or the digital universe, is the main character and is

on the lookout for his father. In TRON, Kevin Flynn was the main character who went into the Grid in search of a piece of information.

Kevin goes missing after promising to show Sam his new project and 'the miracle' he has discovered. The movie then jumps 20 years into the future and we follow Sam as he visits his father's old arcade to find a similar looking scanning device that brought Kevin into the Grid in TRON. The beam brings Sam into this new Grid, and we have a very symbolic few scenes that mimic his father's first start in TRON.

An important factor that sets Legacy apart is that the movie explains more about what is going on than TRON did, including the data disc that every program receives when they enter the Grid. Besides being a weapon that cuts through almost anything, it also holds all the information that the wielder learns. Basically it's a cutting, bouncing, and recording hand recorder with video. These details give audiences a better understanding who did not see the TRON.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Reel Movie Times

Wednesday January 05
5 p.m. Little Fockers (PG-13) (1st Run)
8 p.m. For Colored Girls (R)

Thursday January 06

5 p.m. Gulliver's Travels (PG)(1st Run)
8 p.m. Little Fockers (PG-13) (1st Run)

Friday January 07

6 p.m. Harry Potter Deathly Hallows (PG-13)
9 p.m. True Grit (PG-13) (1st Run)

Saturday January 08

2 p.m. Harry Potter Deathly Hallows (PG-13)
5 p.m. True Grit (PG-13) (1st Run)
8 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13)
Midnight: True Grit (PG-13) (1st Run)

Sunday January 09

2 p.m. True Grit (PG-13) (1st Run)
5 p.m. Unstoppable (PG-13)
8 p.m. Harry Potter Deathly Hallows (PG-13)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE

103RD ESC



Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, serves food to service members during a Christmas meal Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers



Lt. Col. Erik Feig, chaplain with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presides over a Protestant candlelight service Dec. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter



Lt. Col. George Holston, garrison chaplain with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presides over a Catholic Mass Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter



A service member dressed as Santa Claus greets troops as they enter the Oasis dining facility Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter



103rd Soldiers dressed as Santa Claus and reindeer take a breather with an elf, after completion of the Jingle 5K run at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 25.

U.S. Army photo by Maj. Angel Wallace



Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, senior enlisted advisor for the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd ESC, decide what to eat for Christmas dinner Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gaelen Lowers



Maj. Laurel Williamson with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) receives a donated gift from a Soldier dressed as Santa Claus at the 103rd ESC holiday party Dec. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter



Service members and civilians participated in a talent showcase on Christmas, Dec. 25 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter



Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Runnels, senior enlisted advisor for the 14th Movement Control Battalion, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), makes a Soldier dressed as Santa Claus perform push-ups during the 103rd ESC-hosted holiday decoration contest Dec. 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Emily Walter