



The Expeditionary Times

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U.S. Army Sgt. Joshua Pearman, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, shows Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, proper maintenance procedures for an Iraqi Army humvee during a vehicle maintenance class at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb 3, 2011. In addition to teaching combat skills, U.S. forces are training Iraqi soldiers at GWTC for logistics and maintenance operations to keep Iraqi Army units running smoothly.

Iraqi soldiers learn maintenance skills

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. SHAWN MILLER
109TH MPAD

GHUZLANI



WARRIOR TRAINING CENTER, Iraq—

Beyond the combat skills Iraqi soldiers learn at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, troops of 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, now know how to keep their vehicles, and consequently their missions, running smoothly.

U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, hosted a class on preventive

maintenance, checks and services for their Iraqi partners at GWTC, near Mosul, Iraq, Feb. 3.

U.S. Army Spc. Joshua Pearman, an instructor from the Combat Ready Team, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., walked Iraqi vehicle crews through the step-by-step process of checking their humvees for daily mission readiness.

"We're teaching them how to do 'before, during, and after checks' on their humvees," said Pearman, a native of Bristol, Tenn.

Checking even the simplest components and keeping the vehicle clean helps prevent most of the problems that crews may encounter, he said.

Following a day of classroom training covering manuals and instructions, the students got their hands dirty with a practical exercise, performing maintenance on Iraqi Army service vehicles.

"The class had good benefits for us, and I learned a lot of things, especially when we got our hands on the vehicles," said Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Bn., 11th Bde.

Pearman led Hussain and his crewmembers through the methodical process of checking fluids, belts, tires, seatbelts, and other parts as the Iraqi soldiers took notes, jotting down deficiencies.

"We're teaching them how to keep the problems small instead of letting them get bigger," said Pearman, noting how even minor faults can place a mission in jeopardy. "It keeps the crew rolling; it keeps the mission going safely."

U.S. Soldiers of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. are leading Iraqi units of 2nd Bn., 11th Bde., through a

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**Service members serve as
Soldiers, civilians**

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Enjoying the 'fruits' of deployment

CAPT. SCOTT BAUER
CHAPLAIN
724TH ENGINEER BRIGADE



I have literally enjoyed the fruits of this deployment. While I certainly miss my berry patches and garden beds of Northern Wisconsin, I have had a tremendous opportunity to get to know the regional flora. Beyond fruitless palms and exotic Asiatic Poplars with their willow like strands of aromatic waxy leaves, I recently got to know subtropical date palms and pomegranates. In late November, another chaplain taught me how to select, peel, and eat the dates from the many trees on Victory Base. On Joint Base Balad, a pomegranate tree grows outside one of my unit's buildings. The "City of Wonder" Facebook application mentions the pomegranate as being highly symbolic. More than a flavoring of our energy drinks and more famous than for oxidant-rich oddly shaped bottles of expensive juice, the pomegranate has held great symbolism throughout many cultures and specific importance in the Middle East.

Greek pagan lore blames the pomegranate for winter. After the goddess Persephone had been abducted to the underworld, Fate dictated that for each pomegranate seed Persephone had eaten during her captivity, she would return to Hades for a month every year. The months she is away when the earth loses fertility, we call winter.

A parallel eating of pomegranate seeds has been blamed for even greater hardships than just winter. The forbidden

fruit of the Garden of Eden (on the west bank of the Tigris River) is often portrayed as an apple in western thought as the Latin words for apple and evil are very similar. Yet, that same Latin genus also refers to the pomegranate. A pomegranate is used in many non-western pictorial representations regarding that account from Genesis.

Pomegranates have been used and mentioned in many Asian cultures and religions. Remnants of pomegranate rinds have been identified at digs of the most ancient city of Jericho from the Bronze Age levels upward. Pomegranate shapes decorated the temple of Solomon and the high-priest's vestments. Pomegranates have been a fertility symbol for the Hindu religion and for Chinese culture. Koreans and Japanese have cultivated pomegranate varieties for the beauty of its bark. The Qur'an (55:068) lists dates and pomegranates in the abundance of creation.

Even in the West, pomegranates have more than their fair share of representation. Some of the earliest representations of Jesus also feature pomegranates as decoration and symbolism. The first Anglican Queen, Ann Boleyn, chose a pomegranate to decorate her personal crest. The pomegranate is the main symbol for Grenada in southern Spain, so -- not surprisingly -- Spaniards introduced the pomegranate to Latin America, California, and Arizona. Even the American founding father Thomas Jefferson had a pomegranate shrub growing at Monticello.

No matter what is being served at our DFACs, no matter what fruit is fresh or in season, we have an opportunity to understand, embrace, and perhaps even taste the fruits of our deployments.

Have you got a story to tell?

The 103rd ESC PAO is looking for Soldiers who have deployed before for interviews and photographs of Joint Base Balad, COB Adder, COB Taji, COB Speicher, and Iraq.

If you are interested in submitting 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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The Weekly Standard: Change, our constant companion

MAJ. ERIK VERHOEF
103RD ESC DEPUTY IG



This article is taken from a paper by Vicki Heath called Managing Change: The Three Laws for Successful Transition. Change is out there for us as we continue with the drawdown and change is hard for some people. To make the managing of change even more difficult, most change our Soldiers will face in the next months will not be pleasant. Most changes will be by a necessity that decrees our quality of life. Vendors are leaving, Army Post Offices are closing, fast food is going away, and the Exchange is starting to pare down their inventory to the essentials. On top of all that, units may have to move from one set of offices to the next in order to facilitate the drawdown. As leaders we need to be aware of all this change and the effect it has on Soldiers.

Vicki uses Newton's three laws of physics to teach us how to manage change.

The first law of physics states: an object will remain at rest or in motion until a force acts upon it. In this case the change is the object. All change will need some "force" in the form of communication with our Soldiers to make it

happen and for the Soldiers to accept it.

The second law of physics states: the rate of change in motion of an object is proportional to the force acting on it and inversely proportional to its mass. What does all that mean? Simple, the bigger the change required, the more leaders need to talk with their Soldiers. Even in the Revolutionary War it was important for leaders to communicate with their Soldiers, as is evident by this quote from Baron von Steuben: "You say to your soldier, 'Do this' and he does it. But I am obliged to say to the American, 'This is why you ought to do this' and then he does it."

The third law of physics states: every action is met with an equal and opposite reaction. This is not true for the vast majority of Soldiers as they instinctively know why things have to change. But keep the third law in mind for those Soldiers that need a little extra help dealing with the change. And guess what?

More communication is the answer. The article even suggests conducting face to face communication.

Don't forget communication is a two way street. First listen to the Soldier resisting change to figure out what the problem is; then address those concerns. As a leader, don't assume you know what the problem is and then start lecturing. Start with questions and dig deep into the issues

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before starting to address the concerns.

While all this may sound like a lot of effort, and it is, it will help your unit in the long run and keep Soldiers out of the IG's office.

Combat Stress: The endurance of battlemind

SGT. AMBER BROWN
85TH COMBAT STRESS CONTROL



Battlemind, resiliency, combat stress... Terms that have become widely used in today's Army. The question is, what are they and how do they apply to you as a deployed Soldier? We all go through a rigorous pre-deployment process before we get ready to deploy. We make sure that all of our paperwork is taken care of, and we train to be physically ready to deploy. Behavioral Health is here to ensure you are mentally ready to deploy, and the Combat Stress Control teams stand ready and willing to help you remain mission effective while deployed.

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research defines Battlemind as a Soldier's inner strength to face fear and adversity with courage, and the two key components are mental toughness and self-confidence. Steeling your Battlemind allows you to remain competent and strong when faced with challenges and adversity. Battlemind skills are necessary tools

needed to do the job in theater, but they can cause problems if they are not adapted when you return home. One concept is Targeted vs. Inappropriate aggression. This concept reinforces the need to make quick decision and channel anger to remain energetic, vigilant and alive. If Soldiers do not adapt these combat skills upon redeployment, they may find themselves short-tempered with loved ones for no reason, sometimes leading to disagreements among family and friends. Soldiers who find themselves overly aggressive can practice relaxation techniques to combat inappropriate aggression. Understanding Battlemind skills gained through training and practice can allow you to appropriately deal with loved ones and tough situations upon redeployment.

Resiliency is also a hot topic in today's Army. Resiliency is an individual's ability to "bounce back" after adversity or change. Soldiers may experience traumatic situations while deployed, and they may experience increased stress, but it is important to understand that what they are experiencing is a NORMAL reaction to an abnormal situation. Pointing out the normal feelings of the deployment is just one part of what we do. Combat Stress Control is available to help Soldiers

manage their feelings and keep them channeled into positive outlets. Talking with others around you about what you are feeling or engaging in projects may prevent you from becoming a "Behavioral Health Casualty". We all know that stress is normal and often times beneficial, but when stress begins to negatively affect your daily life, you must take steps to help regain control and effectively manage the stressors you may face during deployment.

Most Soldiers who have deployed before know that going home to loved ones can be just as stressful as the day the deployment began. The final phase of Battlemind and Resiliency training is ensuring that Soldiers have the tools that are necessary to deal with any stressor that may arise upon redeployment. There is also training available for family members so that they are aware of stressors caused by the deployment and know what to expect and how to deal with obstacles as a family once their deployed Soldier returns home. Whether this is your first or your fourth deployment, stay battle ready by steeling your Battlemind, remaining resilient, and never be afraid to come to the Combat Stress Control Clinic, no matter what your Battlemind needs are!

Casualty Liason Team important to service members

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. R. MICHAEL LONGORIA
9TH AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY TASK FORCE

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER,



Iraq— If you blink, you might not see them. Four Airmen are working seamlessly with 91 Army Soldiers supporting joint operations at the Contingency Operating Base Speicher Combat Support Hospital, Iraq.

The Airmen are assigned to the 467th Casualty Liaison Team, which is responsible for completing reports on any casualty incident involving service members, U.S. contractors and Department of Defense personnel on the base.

"Our casualty liaison team is unique because we are all from different areas of the United States and have varying levels of experience," said Master Sgt. Apryl Wagner, the 467th CLT non-commissioned officer in charge and a Hastings, Minn., native. "We first met at the casualty liaison training course, and then spent a month together at combat skills training. We have continued to bond and have performed well together in the joint environment."

CLT members report on all battle and non-battle illnesses or injuries, ranging from broken arms to those who pay the ultimate sacrifice.

"We ensure that all casualties are accounted for, reported and documented," Wagner said. "It is vital that our reporting occur in a timely and accurate manner as it serves as the basis of providing casualty information concerning the incident circumstances to the next of kin."

In the event something does happen to one of the more than 4,500 personnel assigned to COB Speicher, the team receives a phone call or page and gets to the hospital as fast as they can.

"I've had to jump off of the treadmill and sprint from the gym to the hospital," said Staff Sgt. Janae Steude, a 467th CLT team member and a Nampa, Idaho, native.

According to U.S. Forces - Iraq's Casualty Reporting and Processing Standard Operations Procedures, the team has three hours to send a report after an incident occurs.

"We want to get the report out immediately," Wagner said. "Especially if it is something tragic, we want headquarters to have all the information as soon as possible, so they can notify the service member's family."

After the team member on duty is notified, they grab a CLT support form and make their way to the hospital. They

gather all of the patient's information and any doctor's notes regarding the incident.

"We gather all pertinent information regarding the incident including the severity and diagnosis of the casualty's injury, as well as if it was a hostile or non-hostile," Wagner said.

Once the team member has gathered the required information, they enter it into the Defense Casualty Information Processing System, which generates the report. The team also does supplemental reports on any patient that has a serious injury.

"We will do a report on them every 24 hours until their status is upgraded to a non-serious injury," Wagner said.

The completed reports are sent to United States Forces - Iraq and the other team members, to keep them informed on what has happened.

"USF-I decides if any further action is required in regards to the incident," Wagner said.

Casualty reporting is a job the team is happy not to do, but they remain prepared to respond the moment they are called.

"Based on our mission, it's good when our section is slow. It means people are alive and healthy," said Steude, who is on her fifth deployment in eight years. "But anything can happen at any time, so we must be ready 24/7."



“Are you ready to rock?” Ronnie Winter, lead vocalist of Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, encouraging the screaming crowd of service members that surrounded the stage during the RJA show at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members from all across the base came to the Sustainer Theater to enjoy the rock band perform some of their newer, and well-known songs.

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus brings the rock to Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS
SPC. MATTHEW KEELER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— With hundreds of service members crowding the edge of Sustainer Theater’s stage, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus rocked a free concert on Feb. 9, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



“This song is the story of the Red Jumpsuit Apparatus put into a song,” Ronnie Winter, the lead vocalist of RJA, said introducing a little about the band to crowd before their next song. “We are five kids from the same hometown, not put together by a label, not put together by a corporation, put together by friendship and music. This song is called ‘In Fate’s Hands’”.

The story of how the band was chosen is an adventure of its own.

“We were told three weeks to prepare, and then we left February 2,” said Staci Winter, manager of video and audio for RJA and married to Ronnie Winter.

RJA was instructed to bare-bone their equipment due to transportation issues that might arise during their travels, and to make it easier for set up and break down, she said.

“We did a few shows in Kuwait, two shows in Baghdad and here we are in [Joint Base] Balad,” said Ronnie Winter. “We have a few more shows to go before we head home. It’s a lot to take in at once, I’ll tell you what.”

For RJA it was the first time that they had been to Iraq, but performing for the troops was something that they had been trying to do.

“We have been wanting to do something like this for a long time,” said John Wilkes, drummer for RJA. “The stars aligned, giving



Ronnie Winter (LEFT), lead vocalist for Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, talks and prepares to sign a CD for Pfc. Scott Waterman (RIGHT), a convoy escort team driver with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Portland, Ore., native, after the RJA show at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

us the opportunity to be here.”

For other members of the band, seeing the country with their own eyes was a real change from their normal life.

Matt Carter, rhythm guitar for RJA, felt very privileged and honored to come to Iraq, because a lot of people that aren’t in the military do not get a chance to come here, and hear some of the different stories.

While not performing their shows at different forward operating bases, the band has gotten a chance to see and experience different duties of the service members.

“We have a lot of respect for the things that you [service members] do day in and day out for us, and the United States,” Staci said.

Ronnie Winter even went into a little story about his experience on their tour in Iraq.

I’m a little uncomfortable about flying, and yesterday we did our first tactical

landing, said Ronnie Winter. “Let’s just say I kind of thought we were going down.”

All of this added experience with the service members of Iraq and Kuwait has helped open their eyes to what the troops go through day in and day out, said Wilkes. “As Americans I feel we have really big hearts. That’s why I’m here, and that’s why you are here.”

“A lot of our friends and family were concerned about us [RJA] coming here, but I don’t feel like we have been in any more danger than you [service members] are in everyday,” said Staci. “I’ve been really blessed to get a chance to come here.”

RJA performed a number of their well-known songs like “Face Down,” “Choke,” and “False Pretense,” which was featured in the movie, “Never Back Down”. As part of their visit to JBB, the band offered free CDs to the service members.

“Make sure you grab a free CD, before

you leave, because remember we are here for you guys,” said Ronnie Winter, before the end of the concert.

After the performance, service members got a chance to get a free compilation of some of their songs played during the show, while meeting the band.

Pfc. Scott Waterman, a convoy escort team driver with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Portland, Ore., native, presented something special to Ronnie Winter after the concert, the combat patch from his right shoulder.

“Walking up and saying thank you to them [RJA] is one thing,” said Waterman. “But, presenting them a combat patch is something that they will never forget.”

“When I first presented the patch to him [Ronnie Winter], he was really appreciated and thankful. He thought it was the coolest thing, because no one has ever given him a patch before,” said Waterman. “He told me that this meant a lot to him, and that he would hold onto it.”

It really meant a lot to Waterman the way Ronnie Winter accepted the patch, and didn’t simply brush it off, he said. “It helped prove that they were really here to support us.”

A Soldier is presented a combat patch for serving with a unit in a combat zone.

After every service member’s CD was signed, photos had been taken, and hands were shook, the band was able to head back to their living quarters. The next morning they would board transportation, and head to the next show in support of the troops.

Even when the echoes of the show were silent, Ronnie Winter’s final words to the troops during the show still remained in the air of the Sustainer Theater, “God bless you guys, and God bless the United States of America.”

Personal touch from battalion personnel section

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. CONSTANCE OBERG
394TH CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



SPEICHER, Iraq—

During Reserve weekends in the United States, many Reservists don't get as many opportunities to focus on the jobs they were trained in, but being deployed and sent overseas gives them that chance to become truly proficient.

"Working as Reserve [troop program unit] Soldiers, they have never had the opportunity to fully work within their career field," said Capt. Bridget Keith, personnel officer-in-charge, with the headquarters and headquarters company for the 394th CSSB, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Columbia, S.C., native. "The Soldiers have really shown their growth throughout the deployment; not once have they ever complained about their workload."

Recently all four of the battalion's personnel section, junior enlisted Soldiers, Spc. Jessica Walrath, Pfc. Ashley Reiten, Pfc. Amanda Hlavac-Baker and recently promoted Sgt. Caleb Hoot received recognition for their excellence in their job performance.

"I couldn't have asked for better Soldiers in my section; they are very giving and very professional. Their services to other Soldiers is exemplary," said Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Livasy, senior human resources noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the HHC for the 394th CSSB, 3rd Sus. Bde., and a Cut and Shoot, Texas, native.

Duties for the personnel section have included awards, promotions, strength

management reports, Rest & Relaxation leave packets, emergency leaves and daily functions such as birth month audits and updating personnel files. On a drill weekend, not many of these duties were required.

"Being deployed and coming over here has helped them. Also, being a Reservist, they have been able to adapt not only to Reserve S-1 duties and responsibilities but to active duty and National Guard duties as well," added Keith. "They have had to learn to work all three components. National Guard and active duty process their human resource documents differently."

With every new unit coming in there is always a warm hand off from the outgoing unit, but the junior Soldiers, never having deployed before, were not quite sure what to expect.

"When I first got into country it was a little overwhelming. You didn't know what everyone needed from you and how to exactly complete each task that they gave you and how they wanted it done," said Reiten, awards and strength manager with the HHC for the 394th CSSB, 3rd Sus. Bde., and an Omaha, Neb., native.

According to Staff Sgt. Michelle Butler, human resource sergeant with the HHC for the 394th CSSB, 3rd Sus. Bde., and a Gardena, Calif., native, strength management reports at this level are usually done by a first lieutenant and staff sergeant, but the Soldiers have been running those reports with zero-percent deficiencies for three quarters now.

"The outgoing unit was an active duty unit and this was their job they did every day, even back in the States," said Spc. Jessica Walrath, promotions boards' specialist with the HHC for the 394th CSSB, 3rd Sus. Bde., and a Loup City, Neb., native.

Even though a promotion board only



Pfc. Amanda Hlavac-Baker, awards and strength manager, and a Omaha, Neb., native; Spc. Jessica Walrath, promotions manager, and a Loup City, Neb., native; Pfc. Ashley Reiten, strength and awards manager, and a Omaha, Neb., native with the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), check awards that have come through their section to be processed for their down trace units end of tour awards.

happens once a month, Walrath admitted that it takes just about the whole month to make sure the subordinate units are following the right formats, and then she focuses on quality control for all the packets going before the board.

"When I first found out that I would be doing the packets for the promotion board I thought, 'once a month, how easy,'" she said. "Now I see there is a lot of prep work that needs to be done, [and] there is way more to it."

Currently the Soldiers are working on the awards for the 394th CSSB, but also for the

subordinate units.

"We check for grammatical errors and formatting to make sure it is all correct," said Hlavac.

Working extensive hours is nothing new for the section and the HHC leadership praises the team for their hard work, and acknowledges that they are up to any challenge they are presented with.

"Working as young junior Soldiers their professionalism and actual dedication to getting the mission done has shown how mature they are for the job that they have been assigned to do," said Keith.

Mechanics inspect, repair vehicles for battalion

STORY BY
LT. RYAN SCHULTE
C Co., 1-163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATION LOCATION



KALSU, Iraq—

Soldiers with Charlie Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have completed work on more than a dozen Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles since arriving in Iraq in November, bringing them to fully mission capable status at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq.

Sgt. Dwayne Conley, mechanic with C Co., 1-163rd Inf. Regt, and a Great Falls, Mont., native, climbed around a MRAP and put the finishing touches on a new motor that he and his fellow mechanics recently installed.

"When we first arrived, these vehicles needed some work, but we are finally getting them up to par, and we are seeing fewer problems with them on a regular basis," Conley said.

Conley and his team work a regular



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Robert Nichols

Sgt. Dwayne Conley, a mechanic with Charlie Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Great Falls, Mont., native, works on a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle on Jan. 15 at Contingency Operating Location Kalsu, Iraq. Conley and his team keep convoy support vehicles rolling on missions throughout southern Iraq.

shift, seven days a week and are required to inspect 100% of all vehicles when they come off missions, sometimes requiring them to remain at the motor pool late into the night.

"It's great to see mechanics who put the mission first," said Master Sgt. Eric Leistiko, a platoon sergeant with C Co., 1-163rd Inf.

Regt, and a Geraldine, Mont., native.

Even though the tasks are difficult, Conley said that the mechanics he works with on a daily basis make it much easier.

"All the mechanics are a bunch of good guys who always put forth the effort to get the job done," Conley said.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth House, a motor sergeant with C Co., 1-163rd Inf. Regt, and a Helena, Mont., native, is especially proud of Conley and his team of mechanics. "They are the best crew I've had the opportunity to work with in my 20-year-long career," House said.

Soldiers learn suicide intervention skills through ASIST

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. ARTHUR TARADEJNA
749TH CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with the headquarters and headquarters company of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), completed Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Jan. 24-25 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The Soldiers received their ASIST training from 1st Lt. Dana Durham, chaplain with the 749th CSSB, and a Waco, Texas native.

“The training goes beyond the suicide prevention training all Soldiers receive, by providing a structured model to work with in achieving a successful intervention process,” said Staff Sgt. Rudolph Juarez, motor pool non-commissioned officer with the headquarters and headquarters company of the 749th CSSB, 224th Sus. Bde., and an Antioch, Calif., native.

Juarez has been with the 749th CSSB for three years, and is on his second deployment. He said the training is valuable for leaders at all levels, and considers it a privilege to be able to get this training in a war zone.

The training covers the entire process on how to prevent suicide by studying the actions, thoughts, feelings, events, and physical aspects which can contribute to a Soldier having suicidal thoughts.

Spc. Tommy Williams, a signal support systems specialist with the 749th CSSB, 224th Sus. Bde., and Vacaville, Calif., native, also attended the training.



Staff Sgt. Rudolph Juarez (LEFT), a motor pool non-commissioned officer with the headquarters and headquarters company of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Antioch, Calif., native, participates in an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training role-play scenario with Pfc. Anthony Carter (RIGHT), an information technology specialist with the 749th CSSB, 224th Sus. Bde., and an Oakland, Calif. native, Jan. 25 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

“I liked the role playing in the class where we role-played different scenarios. I don’t wish for anyone to be in this situation, but I am now more comfortable in being able to help Soldiers through this difficult period in their lives,” said Williams.

Iraqi from page 1

25-day training cycle at GWTC as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, an Iraqi-led initiative to train IA battalions on collective unit skills as they shift to national defense operations.

“It means a lot to me, because it’s very good skills and experience,” Dafer said. “It’s also very useful for civilian life if I get out of the Army.”

Dafer said that he expects to eventually become a trainer himself, sharing the knowledge learned at GWTC to fellow Iraqi soldiers after U.S. forces transition out of Iraq.

As other Iraqi units of 2nd Bn., 11th Bde. participated in squad battle drills throughout GWTC, the maintenance crews learned the skills necessary to keep their combat arms personnel on the move.

Sgt. Dafer Hussain, 2nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, performs preventive maintenance, checks and services on an Iraqi Army humvee during a maintenance class at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Feb. 3, 2011. U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, taught Iraqi Soldiers proper PMCS procedures and the importance of proper vehicle maintenance as part of a 25-day training cycle at GWTC. U.S. Forces are leading Iraqi Army units during the second iteration of Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, an Iraqi Army initiative training IA battalions on individual and collective tasks in an effort to create a modern self-sustaining military force capable of defending the Iraqi nation.



Soldiers, Airmen celebrate Chinese New Year

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers, Airmen and civilians celebrated the Chinese New Year Feb. 3 with food, games and karaoke at the Dragon's Den at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The Chinese calendar has been in continuous use for centuries and predates the International Calendar, based on the Gregorian calendar, by more than 430 years. Because the Chinese calendar follows the lunar cycle, this is the year 4708. Each new year is associated with one of 12 different animals. This year is the year of the rabbit.

The Chinese New Year celebration, or XinMao as it is formally named in Chinese, started out with many traditional dishes including cucumber kimchee, Bulgogi, which is grilled, marinated sliced beef, kimbap, which is Korean sushi, Filipino fried noodles, called pansit, lumpia, which is fried beef and vegetables rolls, and various other items in Asian cuisine.

After dinner, attendees played trivia games, tried out different activities and sang karaoke.

"I think everyone had a good time today," said Staff Sgt. Francis Robinson, intensive care unit technician for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a native of Olympia, Wash., helped as an event organizer. "It has taught everybody a little about Chinese culture. I definitely think everybody enjoyed themselves."

Robinson added that honoring the cele-



Staff Sgt. Francis Robinson (LEFT), intensive care unit technician for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and a native of Olympia, Wash., serves Sgt. 1st Class Tami Jones (RIGHT), noncommissioned officer in charge of electronic warfare with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Moultrie, Ga., during the Chinese New Year celebration Feb. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

brations of other cultures was important for everyone, especially those who serve in the military.

"Being in the military, we have such a diverse group of people," she said. "We work with people from all over the world. It's good to experience other people's cultures. No matter what country you're from or they're from, it's all about learning and being able to

have that cultural awareness and diversity."

First Lt. Youngmoon Shim, officer in charge of the communications and network operations section for the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a native of Seollal, Korea, and one of the organizers for the event, emphasized that taking time to relax in a deployed environ-

ment was also important.

"This is a very stressful environment, and I thought this would be something special for everyone to relax and enjoy," she added. "Even though I am not Chinese, I, as a Korean, celebrate Chinese New Year. I am glad we could provide a different cultural experience to Servicemembers in a fun way under a deployed environment."

Montana senator visits troops in Baghdad

STORY AND PHOTO BY
STAFF SGT. APRIL DAVIS
116TH CAVALRY BRIGADE

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq— U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., visited Soldiers with the Montana Army National Guard's 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, based out of Belgrade, Mont., Jan. 19 at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq. The 1-163rd Inf. Regt. is currently serving under the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in support of Operation New Dawn.

Senator Tester took time out of his schedule meeting with military and political leaders in Iraq, to thank Montana Soldiers for their service. The senator met with the commander of the 1-163rd Inf. Regt., Lt. Col. Theodore Hull, a Helena, Mont., native; senior enlisted advisor for the battalion, Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood, a Corvallis, Mont. native; and Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Sgt. Jonathan Simons, a Stevensville, Mont. native, and Spc. Justin Vanbuskirk, a Bozeman, Mont. native. Tester also met Sgt. Robert Gilham,

a Billings, Mont., native, serving with the 86th Combat Support Hospital at Victory Base Complex.

"The senator thanked us and said he's praying for us," said Hull. "We appreciate that he took the time to visit with us. It was a highlight, especially for these young Soldiers to have this opportunity."

During the meeting Hull explained the unit's convoy security mission to the senator. Hull said this meeting was the second time Tester had personally thanked him for the battalion's service in support of Operation New Dawn. Tester called Hull and expressed support for the battalion in November as the unit was departing Camp Shelby, Miss. on its way to Iraq.

"I was getting ready to put 600 Soldiers on a plane to go downrange and I get a call on my cell phone," said Hull. "The voice on the other end was Senator Tester wishing us well on our deployment."

Hull said little things like the senator's phone call, his recent visit in Baghdad, and all the care packages and letters from Montana citizens make his Soldiers feel appreciated.

Tester echoed the support of Montana citizens in a Jan. 19 press release after visiting the Montana Soldiers.

"Folks in every corner of our state know



U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., (second from left) meets with Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood (right), command sergeant major of the Montana Army National Guard's 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Corvallis, Mont., native, and Lt. Col. Theodore Hull (second from right), commander of the 1-163rd Inf. Regt., and a Helena, Mont., native, Jan. 19 at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad.

that we've got good reason to be proud of the Montanans who serve our country," he said. "Visiting with these folks reinforces, for

me, that the Montana tradition of service to country is alive and well and that Montanans have an awful lot to be proud of."

Selfless service,



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez, ammunition logistics noncommissioned officer with the support operations section, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), wades through the smoke as he helps to contain the fire during the wild-fires in California, as a volunteer firefighter.

STORY BY
2ND LT. SHEILA BABOT

749TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

For seven California Army National Guardsmen, selfless service goes beyond their Army service into their civilian jobs.

Seven Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment

Command (Expeditionary), are civil servants serving overseas in Operation New Dawn at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Gregory Crowe, a battle noncommissioned officer with the 749th CSSB, and a Long Beach, Calif., native, is also a correctional sergeant for the California Department of Corrections. Crowe has a multitude of responsibilities

ranging from assigning and supervising correctional officers, arbitrating disputes, commanding instant response teams at his facility, to inspecting and ensuring facilities are fully operational. Crowe is a 10-year Army veteran and a nine-year veteran of the Susanville High Desert State Prison.

“Working for the California Department of Corrections is very challenging,” Crowe said. “The key is to remain firm, fair and consistent when dealing with the inmate population. I enjoy working for the department as it allows me to do my part for the community.”

Another one of California’s silent heroes is Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez, an ammunition logistics noncommissioned officer with the support operations section of the 749th CSSB, and a Soledad, Calif., resident. Perez, a 14-year Army veteran, is a naturalized citizen originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, who now serves as a Monterey County juvenile institutions officer. Perez is also a 14-year veteran of the California Department of Corrections. Perez holds many duty positions including state certified drug and alcohol counselor, truancy officer,

and a juvenile hall high-security, incarcerated youth supervisor. He developed, implemented, and managed a mentoring program designed to instill team building skills among rival gang members. His mentoring program has been successful because the system brings rivals together to work toward common goals. Perez was recognized shortly after taking on a supervisory position as the Monterey County Probation Department Officer of the Year for his achievements in 2006.

In addition to his correctional service, Perez is a 15-year volunteer fire fighter with the Salinas Fire Department.

“I wanted to set a good example for all of the children,” Perez said.

1st Lt. Sean Birtcil, a battle captain with the 749th CSSB, and a Walnut Creek, Calif., native, is a Contra Costa County deputy.

“One of the most fulfilling aspects of being a deputy sheriff is knowing that no two days are alike,” Birtcil



Silent heroes

‘Since childhood I always wanted to be a police officer, and when an opportunity came available, I jumped at the chance to fill a childhood dream,’

-Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Eaddy



courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Jenkins, a supply non-commissioned officer working in the property book office non-commissioned officer with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Washington, D.C., native, works as a field training officer with the Hayward Police Department, in California.

said. “The sheriff’s office offers unique and multiple ways to serve my community and also allows me to serve my country in the National Guard. Moreover, I feel like I provide a service to the community serving in both uniforms. I know that what I bring from logistics to the sheriff’s office is training that I would have never received in the sheriff’s office.”

In Birtcil’s current battle captain position, he is responsible for situational awareness of all incidents within the battalion and reporting them appropriately.

1st Lt. Chad Garton, a military intelligence officer with the 749th CSSB, and a Sunnyvale, Calif., native, is a deputy sheriff with the Santa Clara County sheriff’s office. He said his three years of service has taught him how to be a better Soldier and to be a better peace officer.

“I am able to apply aspects from both jobs together like critical thinking, discipline, military bearing, command presence and attention to detail,” Garton said. “These are all useful skills that can be used in the civilian world of law enforcement.”

As a sheriff’s deputy his primary duties include conducting patrols and coordinating law enforcement efforts with the San Jose Police Department.

“I decided not to be a military policeman because military intelligence interested me more and I thought MI would be a lot more interesting than being an MP, which was my second choice, and I got MI, so that’s the route I went,” Garton said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Jenkins, a supply noncommissioned officer working in the property book office with the 749th CSSB, and a Washington, D.C., native, has served for the last 14-years as a field training officer with the Hayward Police Department. He trains new and lateral incoming officers to conduct investigations, write reports, and conduct patrols, court testimony procedures and case law.

“Once I completed my college education, I sought a job opportunity that would bring similar comradery as my active duty military experience, and the police department

provided the structure of a paramilitary organization I had become accustomed to,” Jenkins said.

After 20-years of military service, Jenkins said he looks forward to retirement and the satisfaction of knowing that he has helped to shape and develop young leaders to fill his boots.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Eaddy, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator with the 749th CSSB, and a Sacramento, Calif., native, serves as the highway movement NCO in Iraq and is a parking enforcement officer, and an eight-year veteran with the West Sacramento Police Department in the U.S.

Eaddy wanted to be a police officer since he was a little boy.

“Since childhood I always wanted to be a police officer, and when an opportunity came available, I jumped at the chance to fill a childhood dream,” Eaddy said. “I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching, teaching and mentoring Soldiers as an NCO. It is one of the highlights of my career.”

Capt. Bertrand Barton, a logistics officer serving as a safety officer with the 749th CSSB, and a Los Angeles, Calif., native, is a Shasta Dam Sergeant of the Guard and supervisor, where he has served for the past nine years. He said he leads a crew who protect four major dams and a series of smaller dams and reservoirs, diversion tunnels, power plants and associated infrastructure inside a 100-mile radius in California.

“I love my job for several reasons,” Barton said. “For one, Chenega Security & Protection Services at one point held most of the Army security contracts in the eastern U.S., and Chenega has modeled itself after the Army in many respects. I love the beauty of Northern California and the impressive infrastructure of the Bureau of Reclamation that is so vital to all of California. I never get tired of it.”

For all of these California Army National Guardsmen, selfless service is a way of life. Whether they have been practicing this for three or 34 years, they are fulfilled with the paths they have chosen. At the end of the day, these men all wear two or more hats serving the citizens of California and their country. They all carry and understand the risk and responsibility for their selfless service, duty, loyalty and honor.



courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jose Perez, an ammunition logistics noncommissioned officer with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Guanajuato, Mexico, native, as a civilian, works as a correctional officer in Salinas, Calif.



courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Gregory Crowe, battle noncommissioned officer with the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Long Beach, Calif., native, works as a correctional sergeant High Desert State Prison uniform in Susanville, Calif.

Chaplain inspires hope, courage in Soldiers

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Silhouetted against the shadows of a dozen Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, the chaplain prayed.

He prayed for the men standing around him in a semi-circle; he prayed for their families back home in places like Oregon and Idaho. He prayed for their spouses and daughters and sons and brothers and most of all, he prayed that on this cold January night, the men in the MRAPs would be safe.

Then the prayer ended. The Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Brigade (Expeditionary), slowly began to wander away, back to their MRAPs that would, in a few short hours, carry them down a stretch of Iraqi highway that may or may not be safe.

A Soldier lingered. He chatted with 1st Lt. Jock Johnson, chaplain for 3rd Battalion, 116th Cav. Regt., 3rd Sus. Bde. Then, he too walked away; back to his MRAP.

"It was good," Johnson said. "I think they appreciate that the chaplain showed up."

Johnson walked slowly down the line of MRAPs from Alpha Company, 3rd Bn., 116th Cav. Regt., 3rd Sus. Bde., talking, laughing, pointing. He stood at the end of the line and surveyed the vehicles.

For Johnson, the very act of meeting and praying with Soldiers before they go outside the wire carries its own kind of significance, its own form of sanctity. There, down the line of MRAPs, the 3rd Battalion chaplain can recognize devotion and fellowship and, in a strange way, purity.

"This is one of those things you can't measure," he said.

He probably wouldn't label his profile as a "beacon of light" to Soldiers, but Johnson fills a role that is distinctive, at times challenging and more often than not, rewarding.

Chaplains are woven into the very fabric of today's Army. They exist at a rare intersection between counselor and religious mentor where they balance faith with the mission

and nurture Soldiers while furnishing a foundation of encouragement.

"The chaplain's role is kind of unique in that we provide religious support and, at the same time, we offer aspects of well-being life counseling," Johnson said.

More than 25,000 chaplains have served in Army ranks through its history, and more than 700 are now serving Soldiers in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a chaplain, Johnson must minister to a large group of men and women with diverse beliefs. Some are Catholic or Protestant or Baptist. Some place their convictions in other faiths. All of them though, by virtue of their calling as Soldiers, are members of Johnson's ministry in Iraq.

"I think my job is real critical," Johnson said. "It isn't [as] critical when things are going well. But it is when things are not going so well."

One key goal of chaplains in the Army is to help with the free exercise of religion, an aim Johnson takes seriously.

"My job allows Soldiers to express themselves and protect their religious practices," he said.

Johnson is well-versed in scripture and can discuss religious philosophy easily, but his real focus is on the average Soldier. It is there, among the Soldiers, where Johnson said he secures the most reward.

"Me going out to a CET [Convoy Escort Team] shows them I'm approachable. I'm someone they can confide in. The easiest thing (about my job) is going out and visiting troops. I enjoy praying with the troops," Johnson said.

Johnson, a business and computer technology teacher in civilian life at Irrigon High School in Irrigon, Ore., used to be a pastor fulltime, but said he always wanted to serve his country.

"When I was a pastor, and even before when I was going to Bible School, I thought it would be interesting to be a chaplain. But it wasn't the right time," he said.

Like so many Americans, the deadly Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks helped push Johnson into a more proactive role.

"After 9/11, I wanted to look for a place to serve. My kids are older, and they are always looking for chaplains. There are never enough," he said.



1st Lt. Jock Johnson (MIDDLE), Chaplain for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prays with soldiers from A. Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) before a night convoy escort mission.

While Johnson said his passion is teaching, he also said he believes the role of the chaplain is essential to the overall health of his unit. While he acts as a chaplain and a counselor to Soldiers, he is also a key instrument for the 3rd Battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Phil Appleton.

"Sometimes the command will ask us to gauge the morale of the troops, and sometimes we can act as the counselor for the commander," he said.

In the end, though, it all comes back to the spiritual welfare of the Soldier, Johnson said. He said he sympathizes with the challenges Soldiers in the 3rd Bn., 116th Cav. Regt. face on the roads as part of convoy

escort teams.

"Some of our Soldiers are seeing a lot of time outside the wire," he said.

So Johnson's role runs a full circle each week. He visits a number of different CETs preparing to go out on convoy duty and it is usually in the dark, under the stark lights of a company staging area. There he gathers around a group of Soldiers and prays. The focus, of course, is partly on divine guidance. Yet another main element to his prayers rests, as it should and as it always has, on the Soldiers. He prays for their safety and their families and their future.

"I pray they don't get hurt. I pray they do a good job," he said.

Escort teams complete preparation for future missions

STORY BY
1ST LT. WILLIAM BURKE
319TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—

Soldiers with the 319th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), have been tasked with more than just their normal line-haul mission at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

In addition to utilizing the line-haul trucks, transportation Soldiers have been running the central receiving and shipping point, the materiel redistribution team, and a

complete Convoy Escort Team.

Soldiers with the 319th Trans. Co., completed a fast-paced and comprehensive training timeline to fully train the 25 CET Soldiers. They coordinated the acquisition of eight Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, force protection ammo for M2 .50 caliber machine guns, and additional equipment necessary to conduct the escort mission. To date, they planned, coordinated, and supervised over 15 convoy logistic patrol missions escorting over 1,800 vehicles and accumulating more than 5,400 miles collectively with no injury.

The CET officially stood down, as they prepare for their own redeployment operation.

"It has been my honor serving with these Soldiers who love to have fun, but conducted their missions with professionalism and

gravity," said 1st Lt. Jon Turner, a CET platoon leader with the 319th Trans. Co., 749th CSSB, and a Pittsburgh, Pa., native.

Spc. Acquaintina Burgess, a CET driver with the 319th Trans. Co., 749th CSSB, and an Augusta, Ga., native, is one of two females on the team. Her experiences as a driver have far exceeded her expectations.

"I'm one of the guys," Burgess said. She has had her fair share of long work hours, sometimes waking up before dawn. Burgess and all of the safety CET members make sure that all vehicles are properly maintained, mission briefs are conducted, test fires performed, and pre-combat checks and inspections are conducted before a mission to ensure all Soldiers are mission capable. The tactical operations center is always on standby to assist in the success of a mission.

"Staying alert, getting enough rest and

being aware of your surroundings is vital to every mission," said Pfc. James Bass, a CET gunner with the 319th Trans. Co., 749th CSSB, and a Ring Gold, Ga., native.

Pfc. Kasey Coile, a Union Point, Ga., native, and Pfc. Andrew Jenkins, an Evans, Ga., native, each gunners with the 319th Trans. Co., 749th CSSB, were both excited to learn they would be running security for 319th Trans. Co. as well as for other transportation units.

The ultimate goal on every mission is success and safety, once the mission is completed, they know how to unwind. Football, soccer ball and basketball are a few things that help the team relax when they aren't on the road. Being able to kick back and relax plays an important role for CET members, but when it's time to be serious, they show up and work hard.

Native pride runs deep for deployed Montana Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. MICHAEL CREDEN
A. Co., 1-163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— The state of Montana has a population of just fewer than one million. Of that number, according to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2009, 6.4 percent identify themselves as Native Americans.

Almost 10 percent of the Soldiers in Alpha Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are Native Americans, better representing the demographics of Montana. Eleven of the 131 Soldiers are “Natives,” the preferred name as opposed to “Indians.”

For the Native American Soldiers of A Co., serving in the U.S. Army serves many purposes, and most of them are quite personal.

“There is pride and honor being in the Army noting the warrior history of my past,” said Sgt. Myers Brien, truck commander with A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., and a Crow Nation native from Crow Agency, Montana.

“Veterans in Native American tribes have high levels of respect in their tribes,” said Spc. Benjamin Bighead, a mechanic with A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., and a Heart Butte, Mont., and Northern Cheyenne native.

“Serving helps you to get jobs on the

reservation.”

Some of the best and high-paying jobs on the reservation are working for the tribal government or for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. By federal law, having served in the military gives preferential points for a government job.

Brothers, Spc. Germaine Jackson and Spc. Gerald Jackson, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle crew members with A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., and Hungpapa Sioux natives from Poplar, Mont., said serving in the Army is helpful in recruiting other family members and others on the reservation.

“It doesn’t matter if the person is troubled or on the right path; they will join on the inspiration you show them,” Germaine said.

Veterans have additional special honors bestowed upon them during pow-wows and Sundance’s.

“Having the right to raise the flag and be in the Honor Guard is a respected honor in our society,” said Sgt. Shawn Moore, an MRAP mechanic with A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., and a Roundup, Mont., and Chippewa native.

Germaine is especially proud of being able to serve in A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt. During World War II, Bravo Company, 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., was a pure native company from Poplar, Mont., as popularized in the book *From Poplar to Papua*, written by Martin Kidston in 2004.

“It was always my dream to join as an 11B (infantryman),” said Pfc. Bruce Dogtakinggun, an MRAP gunner with A Co., 1st CAB, 163rd Inf. Regt., and a Browning, Mont., and Blackfoot tribe native, said about



(TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT): Soldiers, Spc. Benjamin Bighead, a Heart Butte, Mont., native; Pfc. Bruce Dogtakinggun, a Great Falls, Mont., native; Sgt. Shawn Moore, a Roundup, Mont., native; Spc. Germaine Jackson, a Poplar, Mont., native; Spc. Gerald Jackson, a Poplar, Mont., native, and (BOTTOM ROW LEFT TO RIGHT): Spc. Zachary Iron, a Hardin, Mont., native; Sgt. Myers Brien, a Great Falls, Mont., native, and Spc. Michael Whittle, a Great Falls, Mont., native; all with Alpha Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are Native Americans serving in various positions at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

serving in the Army. “I love my job and I love to get down and dirty. I look forward to going Active [duty] after this deployment.”

What helps all of them make it through the deployment is seeing each other and

showing the sense of spirit unique to their culture. Most of all, they will come home combat veterans and viewed by their native peers with a high level of respect that will continue for the rest of their lives.

Sergeant shares battlefield experience with Soldiers

STORY BY
SPC. SPRING SMITH
B. Co., 1-163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— A Soldier with Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), shares his experience by moving from the battlefield to the office.

Staff Sgt. Allen Hunt, operations noncommissioned officer with B. Co., 1-163rd Inf. Regt., and a Whitefish, Mont., native, compared his current deployment in Operation New Dawn with his last two deployments.

“This deployment is considerably different than my last deployments,” Hunt said regarding his peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

During those deployments he served as an infantryman leading Soldiers on combat patrols and as a truck commander. During his second deployment, as a squad leader, Hunt earned a Purple Heart medal when an Improvised Explosive Device was detonated while he was scanning for IED’s, causing injuries to two members of his squad and

himself. Though multiple pieces of shrapnel were embedded in his right arm, Hunt refused buddy aid until all members of his squad were treated by the platoon medic. He then proceeded to execute medical evacuation operations for himself and his injured squad members while directing the gunner of his vehicle to continue scanning for possible “triggermen”. To this day, Hunt still has pieces of rock under the skin of his arm.

Sgt. 1st Class Harley Lysons, a platoon sergeant with B Co., 1-163rd Inf. Regt., and a Missoula, Mont., native, served with Hunt on his last deployment, and he describes Hunt as a combat-hardened Soldier.

On this deployment however, Hunt will be leading his troops from inside the B. Co. operations office instead of on the battlefield. He is preparing for his promotion to sergeant first class, and he is now responsible for organizing and planning missions and providing mission guidance. Also, during this deployment, there is a wife and two children back home; on his past deployments, he was single and without children.

“This deployment has its pros and cons,” Hunt said when describing his feelings on his current deployment. “For one, I have a family to miss this time, which is definitely tough. Also, it’s a lot different being in an office while the rest of your company is on a mission. I miss being out with my guys, but I appreciate the different areas of experience I am gaining.”



U.S. Army photo by Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood

Staff Sgt. Allen Hunt, operations sergeant with Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 1-163rd Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Whitefish, Mont., native, conducts a patrol during Operation Iraqi Freedom III January 2005.



Cell Phone companies, the good and bad

SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Last week we discussed historical perspectives of cell phones and their market and its impact on American society. This week I will look at the different choices consumers have regarding mobile service and show what the pros and cons are regarding that service.

The biggest carriers are AT&T, Verizon, and Sprint. There are a number of smaller carriers as well, like U.S. Cellular, T-Mobile, and MetroPCS. The first three are considered national carriers, while the last three are regional carriers.

Verizon and AT&T have the most subscribers by far, accounting for nearly 150 million people. Verizon purchased Alltel wireless in 2009 and became the No. 1 carrier in the United States as a result. It was also, one of the first carriers to offer a 3G network.

3G is the third generation of wireless technologies which we touched on last week. It comes with enhancements over previous wireless technologies, like high-speed transmission, advanced multimedia access and global roaming. 3G is mostly used with mobile phones as a means to connect to the Internet in order to make voice and video calls, to download and upload data and to surf the net.

Verizon offers unlimited calling and data plans, however, 3G networks are limited to urban areas. They use BREW instead of Java for games and other applications. Its smartphone selection is varied and includes handsets that run on Palm, Google Android, Windows Mobile, and BlackBerry operating systems.

Their Friends & Family option offers unlimited calling to a select group of numbers, including landlines. As a CDMA carrier, Verizon's international coverage is limited to a handful of countries but it offers dual-mode handsets. They also offer prepaid plans.

Customers of Verizon rave about the service it provides per Root Wireless, a company that specializes in wireless coverage mapping and provides unbiased data collection and mapping to aid consumers in purchasing decisions. They also speak highly of the coverage. Detractors have said their customer service is sub-par and their service is "overpriced". At the same time, Verizon has been called one of the top carriers by Consumer Reports.

Lastly, Verizon started carrying the I Phone, the tremendously successful product which was exclusive to AT&T prior to this year, which will woo customers who may not be pleased with AT&T for whatever reason.

AT&T was formerly known as Cingular Wireless prior to 2007, and is the second largest carrier. They do not offer unlimited data plans like Verizon does. Their "roll-over" plans let you roll unused minutes over to the following month, and offers extensive international roaming. You can pay an extra fee to expand night and weekend hours. They have a good selection of smartphones with all major operating systems, and until this year were the exclusive carrier of Apple's I Phone. High-speed 3G networks are limited to urban areas similar to Verizon. A 4G LTE network is in development, and they offer pre-paid plans as well. Root Wireless' take on AT&T? Its fans say it offers "great service with cool phones" and the "best coverage out of the top carriers," while its detractors complain of "bad product and worse customer service" and say it is "epically terrible." Consumer Reports, who recently surveyed 60,000 cell phone subscribers for their annual survey, said their results show AT&T is solidly in last place again for almost everything—including customer support, problems making calls, and value for the money.

Next week I will continue our look at mobile carriers, giving you the good and bad.

Word on the Street

How do you break up the routine, while you are deployed?



"To break up the deployment I plan on starting a woodshop, maybe take some woodshop classes if they are offered."

Staff Sgt. William Pedersen, Milpay chief with the 395th Financial Management Detachment, 24th Financial Management Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Hyrum, Utah, native.



"To break up the deployment I like to go to the gym, or spend personal time with my husband who is also deployed."

Sgt. Thuy-Tien Lindsay, cashier with the 395th Financial Management Detachment, 24th Financial Management Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Decatur, Ga., native.



"To break up the deployment I like to set new goals, new work-outs, meeting new people, to help break up my routine."

Spc. Sabrina Christiansen, cashier with the 395th Financial Management Detachment, 24th Financial Management Company, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Pomona, Calif., 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.

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“We ask for peace so that all Christians can live in peace with Muslims.”

-Mr. Raphael Kutaimi, rector of the Baghdad cathedral, and sole survivor among the clergy who were officiating during a deadly attack on their church in Baghdad last year. About 40 Iraqis, including those wounded and their relatives, made a pilgrimage to the renowned Catholic shrine at Lourdes in France.

“I feel proud to provide service to the community, I will work for free.”

-A local volunteer that works on women's literacy in Iraq, teaching reading and writing skills. The initiative has been launched by social organizations in coordination with the education committee in Baghdad provincial council.

“A big priority now for us is developing the logistics capability, rather than the command and control, and developing the surveillance and target acquisition capability.”

-British army Brigadier Johnny Torrens-Spence, deputy commander of Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq

“I order to reduce my salary 50 percent and return it to the state budget as of this month... This will contribute to reduce the disparities in living standards in the various states of society.”

-Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

“You can see a significant trend line down in the number of casualties - Coalition, civilian and Iraqi security force casualties. That improvement in numbers of casualties is a direct result and improvement of our operations and the 227,000 trained and equipped members of the Iraqi security force we have patrolling the streets of Iraq today.”

-Multi-National Force Iraq Spokesman Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch told reporters in his weekly press conference from Baghdad

SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE ARMY

Social media is another set of tools that helps spread the Army message faster than ever... It is important to understand the tools and their overwhelming benefits and sometimes dangerous ramifications... Our Soldiers and their Family members are the strength of our nation... Soldiers have always been and always will be our greatest story tellers, and social media tools allow us to tell their story more effectively- Maj. Gen. Stephen Lanza, Chief of Public Affairs



OPSEC Awareness

With the speed of technology it is important to understand the information that is communicated to the world, and how far that information might travel, or to who.

Unit Policy

Setting guidelines and rules will help Soldiers understand what they can do and what they cannot do while joining Social Media blogs and websites.

Uniformed Code of Military Justice

It is important to understand that messages or statements made on Social Media networks are still punishable under UCMJ, because even off-duty, a Soldier represents the Army.

Geotagging on Social Networks

Certain Social Media sites allow pictures, profiles, and messages to be tagged with a location. To help maintain OPSEC guidelines about revealing current locations and potential for movement, rules should be set about, and photos in question should be shared with your Public Affairs shop.

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

Level: Hard

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE MATH TRIVIA

1. What mathematical symbol did math whiz Ferdinand von Linde mann determine to be a transcendental number in 1882?
2. What do you call an angle more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees?
3. What Greek math whiz noticed that the morning star and eve ning star were one and the same, in 530 B.C.?
4. What's a flat image that can be displayed in three dimensions?
5. What number does "giga" stand for?
6. What century did mathematicians first use plus and minus signs?

1. Pi 2. obtuse 3. Pythagoras 4. a hologram 5. one billion 6. the sixteenth

JBB Worship Services

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

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

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

LUTHERAN (LCMS)

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 Feb. 16, 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.

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.

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

Chess & Domi-
noes Tourney:
Friday
8 p.m.

Salsa Class:
Saturday
8:30 p.m.

Poker:
Saturday
7:30 p.m.

8-ball tourney:
Monday
8 p.m.

Karaoke:
Monday
8 p.m.

Swing Class:
Tuesday
8 p.m.

Table Tennis:
Tuesday
8 p.m.

Plastic Models
Club:
Wednesday
7 p.m.

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

Poetry Night:
Thursday
8 p.m.

6-ball tourney:
Thursday
8 p.m.

Caribbean
Night:
Friday
8 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.

Salsa:
Tuesday
5:45 a.m.,
7 a.m., 3 p.m.,
6 p.m.

Poker:
Tuesday
7 a.m.,
3 p.m.

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

P90x:
Mon., Sat.,
4:30 a.m., 4
p.m., 10 p.m.

Midnight
Soccer:
Tue., Thu.,
8 p.m.

Yoga:
Wednesday
8 p.m.

MACP Level 1:
Friday
8 p.m.

5 on 5 Basket-
ball:
Saturday
8 p.m.

Boot Camp:
Sunday
8:45 a.m.

Tue., Thu.,
7 p.m.

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

Bingo:
Sunday 8 p.m.

Texas

8 p.m.
Friday
9 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

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8:30 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

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.

Guitar Lessons:
Thursday
7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Squat Compe-
tition:
Saturday
8 p.m.

Darts:
Saturday
8:30 p.m.

WEST REC-
REATION
CENTER

Green Bean
Karaoke:
Sun., Wed.,
7:30pm

9-ball tourney:
Monday
8 p.m.

Friday

Ping-pong
tourney:
Tuesday
8 p.m.

Foosball
tourney:
Tuesday
8 p.m.

Jam Session:
Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

8-ball tourney:
Wednesday
8 p.m.

Guitar Lessons:
Thursday
7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Squat Compe-
tition:
Saturday
8 p.m.

Darts:
Saturday
8:30 p.m.

WEST REC-
REATION
CENTER

3 on 3 basket-
ball
tourney:
Saturday
7:30 p.m.

6 on 6 vol-
leyball
tourney:
Friday

8-10 p.m.

8-10 p.m.

8-10 p.m.



UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 2/16/11

NFL: Live, Midnight, AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Michigan State @ Ohio State,
5 a.m., AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Villanova @ Seton Hall,
1 p.m., AFN Sports
NBA: Utah Jazz @ Phoenix Suns,
4 p.m., AFN Sports

Thursday 2/17/11

COLLEGE BB: Duke @ Virginia,
3 a.m., AFN Sports
NHL: Minnesota Wild @ Chicago Blackhawks
11 a.m., AFN Sports
NBA: NBA Tonight, 1:30 p.m., AFN Sports
Outside the Lines: First Report, 11 p.m., AFN Sports

Friday 2/18/11

NFL: Live, Midnight AFN Sports
NBA: San Antonio Spurs @ Chicago Bulls,
4 a.m., AFN Sports
NHL: Washington Capitals @ San Jose Sharks,
4 p.m., AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Clemson @ North Carolina State,
7 p.m., AFN Sports

Saturday 2/19/11

NFL: Live, Midnight AFN Sports
NHL: Columbus Blue Jackets @ Chicago Blackhawks,
4:30 a.m., AFN Prime Pacific
NBA: All-Star weekend, 3 p.m., AFN Sports
COLLEGE BB: Colorado @ Kansas,
10 p.m., AFN Sports

Sunday 2/20/11

COLLEGE BB: BYU @ TCU,
12:30 a.m., AFN Prime Atlantic
COLLEGE BB: Texas A&M @ Oklahoma State,
5 a.m., AFN Prime Atlantic
2011 Northern Trust Open: 11 a.m., AFN Sports
NHL: Pittsburgh Penguins @ Chicago Blackhawks,
11:30 p.m., AFN Prime Atlantic

Monday 2/21/11

NHL: Montreal Canadiens @ Calgary Flames,
2 a.m., AFN Prime Atlantic
COLLEGE BB: Florida @ LSU,
5 a.m., AFN Prime Atlantic
NBA: 60th All-Star game, 11 a.m., AFN Sports
NASCAR: Daytona 500, 9 p.m., AFN Sports

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Sports Lounge': Super Bowl XLV

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAY CALEF
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Super Bowl XLV has come and gone, and continued in the recent tradition of National Football League Championship games that lived up to the hype that is associated with the most watched television event of the year.

As a matter of fact, it became THE most watched event in the history of television based on viewers, topping last year's Super Bowl by 8 million viewers. There were a grand total of 113 million viewers who at one time peaked into this game during the evening, or nearly half of the adult population of the United States.

And standing tall at the end were the Green Bay Packers, the storied franchise whose city is nicknamed "Titletown", a team with the smallest television market in the NFL, a team that has won more NFL Championships than any other franchise, and added a fourth Vince Lombardi Trophy to their mantle.

They did it by winning six games in a row. At one time

the Packers were 8-6 and in serious danger of missing the playoffs. Aaron Rodgers, the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player, suffered a concussion mid-year and things were not nearly as clear as Green Bay made them during their championship run.

Then, in spite of one of the worst running games in the league, the Packers won their last two games, qualified for the playoffs, and proceeded to win three games on the road to qualify for the Super Bowl, becoming only the second team in the NFL and the first from the National Football Conference to do so.

Rodgers threw for 304 yards against Pittsburgh to garner the MVP award, effectively slicing and dicing the Steeler secondary with precision passes to perhaps the most talented receivers in the league. With the help of a pick-six of a Ben Roethlisberger pass in the second quarter, the Packers were able to open up an huge 21-3 lead before the Steelers scored a game saving touchdown with less than a minute left in the half.

Statistics lie. They always have. The Packers were outgained in every category, and their time of possession was less than the Black Eyed Peas, the halftime entertain-

ment, performed. Yet because of two turnovers, they held an 11 point lead at the break. But you knew the way the Steelers drove for their touchdown that they were not finished.

And they weren't. They cut the lead to 21-17, and had the ball going for the lead when Clay Matthews caused a fumble which the Packers recovered, and quickly turned into a touchdown. While this wasn't insurmountable (it happened early in the fourth quarter), it changed the Steelers game plan and made them pass-centric.

The defending champions showed what they are made of, and finally did get a big score with a touchdown at the six minute mark, followed by a two point conversion which put them within a field goal. Then, even with 3 turnovers leading directly to 21 Packer points, Pittsburgh still had a chance to win with three minutes left down 31-26. But a four and out did the Steelers in, making world champions of the Packers.

The Packers are a young team, and sportscasters pontificated about a dynasty in the making. The Pack of the 60's, the Dolphins and Steelers of the 1970's, the 49ers of the 80's, the Cowboys of the 90's, along with the Patriots of the past decade all won back to back Super Bowls.

Time will tell if the Pack will also be a team of the ages.

Yogi Bear, weaker than the average movie

BY SPC. ZANE CRAIG
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Yogi Bear is a 2011 movie based on the classic Hanna-Barbera TV series. It is directed by Eric Brevig and stars Dan Aykroyd as Yogi and Justin Timberlake as Boo-Boo. Tom Cavanagh, the guy who plays Dr. Dorian's big brother in Scrubs,

plays the main human character, Ranger Smith. His love interest is played by Anna Faris, from the Scary Movie series, who plays Rachel, a wildlife documentary filmmaker.

Mayor Brown, of the city adjacent to Jellystone Park, needs to solve a budget crisis and decides to do so by opening the park to commercial logging which would make enough money to give each citizen a \$1,000 payout in addition to a balanced budget. He is basically a stock character bad guy, aggrandizing his power with an easy fix instead of asking the

citizens to take responsibility for their problem and sharing a financial sacrifice to repair the damage.

To avoid this disaster for the park, Ranger Smith has one week to come up with \$30,000 to close the deficit. He decides to have a celebration of the park's 100th anniversary featuring fireworks. He persuades Yogi to stay away from all the picnic baskets for the good of his home. Yogi, however, trying to help the cause, puts on a waterskiing display that causes the fireworks to fire directly at the crowds and sabotages the event.

Though I don't want to give anything away, the plot is incredibly predictable with one-dimensional characters who are either good or evil. The simplistic black/white dichotomy is somewhat appropriate for children, the intended audience, but it is even more exaggerated in this case than in a typical Disney movie.

I didn't have any clear expectations going to see the movie, but I remember watching the Hanna-Barbera cartoon

before school in the morning. It was one of my favorites when I was five, so maybe I had unreasonable expectations for the movie twenty years later.

Perceptions also change over twenty years. Today, I found the way Yogi talks, grating and totally out of place in the contemporary setting. It also would have been disappointing to see a beloved character reinvented beyond recognition. Maybe the people responsible for this disappointment should have contemplated this before embarking on this project.

The computer-generated bears look ridiculous and incongruous in an otherwise non-animated setting. Also, the movie is meant to be viewed in 3D, which isn't an option here, which subtracted further from the visual appeal.

I give this movie a rating of one out of five. Even for parents with young children back home, this movie is far-cry from the original cartoon. If you plan to see it, which I highly discourage unless you have a case of nostalgia, prepare to lower your standards.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday February 16
5 p.m. How Do You Know? (PG-13)
8 p.m. The Roommate (PG-13)

Thursday February 17
5 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)
8 p.m. The Roommate (PG-13)

Friday February 18
6 p.m. Season Of The Witch (PG-13)
9 p.m. Just Go With It (PG-13)

Saturday February 19
2 p.m. Season Of The Witch (PG-13)
5 p.m. Just Go With It (PG-13)
8 p.m. Gulliver's Travels
12 p.m. Just Go With It (PG-13)

Sunday February 20
2 p.m. Just Go With It (PG-13)
5 p.m. Gulliver's Travels (PG-13)
8 p.m. Season Of The Witch (PG-13)



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Keeler

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, a rock band from Middleburg, Fla., brings their blending of rock and screaming music to the cheering service members of Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members from the Air Force, Army, and Navy crowded the stage to rock to the band’s music.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Arthur Taradejna

Staff Sgt. Rudolph Juarez, motor pool non-commissioned officer with the headquarters and headquarters company of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and an Antioch, Calif., native, studies Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training Jan. 25 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Zane Craig

20th Engineer Brigade took over from the 36th Engineer Brigade Feb. 9 in a transfer of authority ceremony at Sustainer Theater, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.