



THE WRANGLER

2nd Edition

Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation New Dawn

May 2011

SOLDIERS CONDUCT

MEDEVAC TRAINING

Just Get It Done!



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The WRANGLER

*The Official
4th Sustainment Brigade Magazine*

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*To the Soldiers, Civilians, and Family
Members of the Wrangler Brigade*

Team Wranglers--

It has been another quick, but extremely busy and productive month in the Wrangler Brigade. Our Soldiers continue to remain vigilant while sustaining multiple units throughout Iraq.

In the last month, we have finalized a building named "The Wrangler Dome" that we will open with the first iteration of the Combat Logistic Patrol Academy at the end of May. This academy will allow our Soldiers to receive extensive training on weapons

familiarization, counter improvised explosive devices systems, different communication systems, buddy-aid and ending with a combatives block of instruction. The CLP Academy is a hands on training course that works to build the teams and esprit de corps of our soldiers whether they work inside, or have to go outside of the Contingency Operating Base to do their jobs.

We will conduct our Town Hall meeting with the Rear-detachment, families, and friends on May 17, 2011 at 1800 CST. This open forum will afford everyone in attendance an opportunity to voice any questions or concerns pertaining to our mission and the support that we are providing to people of Iraq. I urge participation so that we as a team can make any adjustments and or corrections for the brigade and its operations. I welcome all comments and concerns.

As always, a special thank you to our families, friend, and supporters who stand with us each and every day. Your support is vital to keeping us focused here, so we can get back home to you safely.

Wranglers! Just get it done!
Wrangler 6

4th Sustainment Brigade
Commander
Col. Ron Kirklin

WRANGLERS



*To the Soldiers, Civilians, and Family
Members of the Wrangler Brigade*

Duty is the basis of our Army ethic and the first topic in our larger discussion of the Army Profession. Without duty to ourselves, our Families, our Army, and our County, the rest of the Army Values have little merit.

Duty means to "fulfill your obligations." This means more than just completing assigned tasks. It means working as a team to accomplish a mission and never taking an easy wrong over a hard right. It also means taking responsibility for your actions and the actions of your subordinates.

Our Soldiers are entrusted to defend the Constitution and the rights and interests of the American people. They maintain a trusting relationship with the American people through exemplary duty performance. When I think of duty, I think of the oath of enlistment I took on my first day in the Army.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

The recent repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is a good example of this oath. Regardless of your feelings on the repeal, we have a duty to defend the laws of this land. We must treat all Soldiers with dignity and respect. We, as leaders, cannot tolerate anything less. We will implement this change with the same leadership, professionalism and respect that our noncommissioned officers have shown throughout the Army's history.

Ultimately, we have a duty to accomplish all tasks to the fullest of our professional, legal, and moral obligations. Duty prohibits us from engaging in illegal and immoral actions and obeying unlawful orders. As a senior noncommissioned officer, you are the standard bearer for your unit. Our Army needs Soldiers who always choose the hard right over the easy wrong and those decisions begin with you. Army Strong!

4th Sustainment Brigade
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R. R. Frey

GLERS



SENIOR LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS TRANSPORTATION MISSIONS

Article by 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Senior leaders within the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command showed support to the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., prior to departing for a mission at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

When tasked with missions, Soldiers from the 15th Trans. Co., expect to load, stage and roll out. Prior to their last mission, key leaders paid the soldiers a special visit.

Command Sgt. Maj. Erik Frey, the command sergeant major for the 4th Sust. Bde., and a Pierce, Neb., native, went to the staging lanes with Command Sgt. Maj. Paulo Vaka, the command sergeant major for the 749th CSSB, and a Palo Alto, Calif., native. Together, they represent the senior-enlisted leadership for 15th Trans. Co.

“It is important for senior leaders to share the same hardships as their Soldiers,” Frey said. “Going on missions with the Soldiers gives me situational



Command Sgt. Maj. Erik Frey, the command sergeant major for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Pierce, Neb., native and Command Sgt. Maj. Paulo Vaka, the command sergeant major of the 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and a Palo Alto, Calif., native discuss leadership strategies prior to a mission on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney)

awareness and more of an understanding in order to advise the commander.”

The senior leaders were able to get an update on unit welfare, morale and capabilities and to gain insight to further adapt their command strategies.



Soldiers from the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, ensure that their loads are tied down correctly before moving out for a mission at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Patrick Maloney)

“It’s good to see key leadership from the brigade and battalion coming out to support the Soldiers when going out on combat logistical patrols,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Franz, a platoon leader with the 15th Trans. Co., and an Orlando, Fla., native. “The visibility from brigade and battalion helps the soldiers see what they’re doing really matters.”

Frey advised his soldiers on everything it takes to be a deployed soldier and how to accomplish the mission in Iraq.

“Stay focused, but stay in touch with Family, friends and also fellow Soldiers,” he said. “Soldiers need to stay away from pity parties.”

Frey said he has completed his 30-day assessment of the brigade and is pleased with what he has found.

“The units within the brigade have high morale and should be proud of their historical deployment.”



Just get it fastened.

‘SUPER BULLET’ SOLDIER WINS 749TH CSSB SOLDIER OF THE QUARTER

Article by Spc. Victoria Prescott
2nd Det., 8th OD Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – After weeks of preparation, company-level boards, mock boards and hours of study sessions, Spc. Kristie Hatch, an ammunition specialist with 2nd Platoon, 8th Ordnance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Burlington, N.C., native, added another accomplishment to her deployment checklist by winning the Soldier of the Quarter for 749th CSSB.

“I went to the board to prove that

there is nothing I would ask or expect my Soldiers to do that I have not already done myself,” Hatch said. “If I can accomplish this and set an example for other Soldiers to follow, then there’s nothing they can’t accomplish.”

The Soldier of the Quarter board, which was composed of five members ranging from sergeant major to staff sergeant, asked questions from the Army study guide. The board also consisted of an essay assignment explaining how diversity, empowerment and leadership affect the Army.

“From the moment that Spc. Hatch reported to the president of the board, she represented herself, the 8th Ordnance Company, and the 749th CSSB, flawlessly,” said 1st Sgt. Ken Baker, the first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 749th CSSB, 4th Sust. Bde., 310th ESC and a Paradise, Calif., native. “She was truly representative of confidence under fire. I am extremely proud of her accomplishments.”

Hatch said she is looking forward to competing at the Soldier of the Year board.



Spc. Kristie Hatch, an ammunition specialist with 2nd Platoon, 8th Ordnance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Burlington, N.C., native, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Paulo Vaka, the command sergeant major of 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Cynthia Mason)

WE GET THE JOB DONE!

Article by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terrie Wood
941st Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The truck platoons and the maintenance section of the 941st Transportation Company stay late to ensure the mission is ready for departure on time. There are deadlines to meet and papers to sign. Trucks are ready. Personnel are ready. Maintenance is complete.

“We accomplished our mission,” said Spc. Shameka Conyers, an automated logistical specialist with the 941st Trans. Co., 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Mount Pleasant, S.C., native. Her mission is to get the trucks dispatched for the movement.

Sometimes to accomplish the mission, it requires the Soldiers to work long days to meet deadlines.

“We are often on a short timeline,” said Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Decker, a wheeled mechanic with the 941st Trans. Co., and a Dothan, Ala., native.

All sections have to work together to ensure the success of the mission. The

communications section’s role consists of checking the radios and other equipment for readiness to ensure the safety of the mission.

“Safety is key,” said Pvt. Peter Gessner, a truck driver with the 941st Trans. Co., and a Charleston, S.C., native. He said that safety is always an aspect of the mission both on and off COB Adder.

The 941st Trans. Co., remains mission-ready even when the mission isn’t ready for them. If there is an unscheduled delay, it simply gives more time to make sure that everyone involved



Staff Sgt. Miguel Alatorre, with the 941st Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a San Diego, Calif., native, discuss plans for the upcoming mission on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terrie Wood)

in the mission is fully prepared.

The convoy commanders and leaders review paperwork. The drivers check supplies on their trucks. Then, it is simply a matter of waiting and staying ready for the time to roll out.



Pfc. Nicholas Matthews, a soldier with the 941st Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Charleston, S.C., native, brings in radios from the repair shop in preparation for the upcoming missions on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terrie Wood)



Sgt. Latoya Watson and Spc. Shameka Conyers, both with the 941st Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and Mount Pleasant, S.C., natives, discuss the dispatch needs for the upcoming mission on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 19. (U.S. Army photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terrie Wood)



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AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Caswell, Joint Distribution Center operations supervisor for the 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Philadelphia, native, operates the 24-hour Joint Distribution Center at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, seven days a week with his team of seven Soldiers.

The JDC is a logistical hub for a variety of customer units in Iraq and serves as a cargo hub that receives, screens, issues and pushes out cargo.

“We facilitate both inter- and intra-theater cargo movement,” Caswell said.

Soldiers working in the JDC yard are not transporters by trade but hold



Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Caswell, Staff Sgt. Ricardo Lawrence, Spc. Jason Ojeda, and Spc. Joni Acevedo, all with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), take a break from daily operations at the Joint Distribution Center on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, April 14. (Photo by Spc. Maribel Granados)

JDC KEEPS IT ALL MOVING

Article by Cpt. Damian Oliver
189th CSSB UPAR

a variety of military occupational specialties. The JDC staff receives cross-training on the job, which helps them support their current mission.

Soldiers are encouraged to put their skills from other disciplines to good use on a daily basis.

“It’s been a new experience, but it’s been a great example of Soldiers from different fields coming together to get a job done,” said Staff Sgt. Ricardo Lawrence, the JDC non-commissioned officer-in-charge and a New York City, native.

Visual inspections, radio frequency tags, and proper paperwork ensure everything that is supposed to be on the trucks is on the trucks, and everything that is supposed to be in the yard is in the yard.

“The inventory idea is similar to warehouse operations I’m used to,” Lawrence said. “My experience in that area has helped out a lot.”

Units move trucks in and out of Al Asad Air Base, carrying equipment where missions require it. Units in convoys arrive at the JDC carrying everything from multi-pack boxes and pallets to entire vehicles.

Once the trucks hit the yard, the team goes to work checking paperwork, shipping documents, and inspecting cargo. Pallets, containers, trailers, and vehicles are all processed through the screening lanes and sent to their assigned place in the yard.

Once the JDC staff receives and stages the incoming cargo, they send it out to the units on the ground where it is

needed. This requires coordination with the local movement control team and the units who are shipping and receiving the cargo to make sure the operation moves efficiently.

Getting the right things to the right places is paramount to success at the JDC. As units prepare to depart or relocate, their equipment must do the same, but not always at the same time.

This occasionally results in gaps in paperwork and communication, which creates a challenge, but the JDC staff is prepared and ready to assist.

“Many of the logistics skills I would use are similar here; I use the same computer systems to track things and

See JDC Page 11

JDC Continued from page 10

research movement codes and property owner codes for customer units to ensure it all ships properly,” said Spc. Joni Acevedo, an equipment receivable/parts sergeant and JDC administration specialist in the support operations office for the 189th CSSB and a San Antonio, native.

The Superchargers do everything from tracking down unit information online to conducting maintenance and inventories.

In one month, the JDC has moved more than 1,000 pieces of inbound and outbound containers and hundreds of pieces of rolling stock.



Staff Sgt. Ricardo Lawrence with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), poses for a photo at the Joint Distribution Center on Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, April 14. (Photo by Spc. Maribel Granados)

WRANGLERS REMEBER LIFE, SERVICE OF FELLOW SOLDIER

Article by Sgt. Angiene Myers
4th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, gathered for a remembrance service at Victory Chapel on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, in honor of a fallen rear-detachment Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Randy Richard, a material management non-commissioned officer with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, and a Mamou, La., native.

Voices filled the chapel as Soldiers sang their hearts out in tribute.

Words of admiration also filled the chapel as Richard’s comrades took stage to speak of his presence.

Richard enlisted in the United States Army Feb. 21, 1991. He completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Va. He was awarded the military occupational

specialty 92A, an automated logistics specialist.

Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, gather in Victory Chapel at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, to attend a remembrance service held for Sgt. 1st Class Randy Richard. (Photo by Sgt. Angiene Myers)



Sgt. Maj. Mark Hart, the plans and operations sergeant major with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, and a Memphis, Tenn. native, sings “Eye is on the Sparrow” as a tribute during the remembrance service held for Sgt. 1st Class Randy Richard at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. Angiene Myers)



Sgt. Camacho Roberts, Sgt. Zerphlee Watson, Staff Sgt. Rhonda Gibson, Staff Sgt. Shemeka Gulley, Staff Sgt. Bridget Savage-Balque, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tracey Wallace, all soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade sing tributes during a remembrance service held for Sgt. 1st Class Randy Richard at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. Angiene Myers)

15TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN DRIVER’S TRAINING

Article by Staff Sgt. Ashly Liggins
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - Throughout a career in the transportation corps, Soldiers will often repeat training to master their skills in the area of truck driving while in combat.

Soldiers with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, continue to participate in the company’s annual drivers training on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The Road Warrior Family conducts driver’s training courses, as the mission permits, not only to train the soldiers, but to remind them not to become complacent in the skills that may seem second nature.

Sgt. 1st Class Jemse Cruz, the senior truck master with the 15th Trans. Co., and a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, said driver’s training is always beneficial, even to the most skilled soldier.



Spc. Adam Dennahl, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a native of Idaho Falls, Idaho, watches as another Soldier learns the method of coupling and uncoupling with a heavy equipment transport vehicle during drivers training at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 2. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashly Liggins)



Spc. Jaclyn Bartlett, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with the 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a native of Norfolk, Va., demonstrates ground guiding a heavy-equipment transport vehicle to its trailer at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashly Liggins)

“The Road Warriors will be redeploying in the next couple of months,

but that isn’t a reason to not recertify and improve on driving skills,” Cruz said.

Even the newest transporters of 15th Trans. Co., find the training effective.

“Regardless of how fresh this training may still be for some, it is important for us

to be reminded of the proper execution to perform tasks in the safest ways while we are on the road,” said Pfc. Ryan Krueger, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with 2nd Platoon, 15th Trans. Co., and a native of Kiel, Wis.

“Our unit uses different vehicle systems on the road and it is important that we cross-train the Soldiers,” Cruz said.

The training is conducted by selected and qualified primary instructors who are knowledgeable about the equipment.

Sgt. Roberto Sandifer, a heavy-wheeled vehicle operator with 2nd platoon, 15th Trans. Co., and native of Fort Pierce, Fla., is one of the primary instructors in charge of conducting training. He said that even in the home stretch of a deployment, soldiers need to remain observant.

4th SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE LEADERSHIP HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING

Article by Maj. LaKesha Warren
4th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Senior leadership for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, conducted a town hall meeting with Family members and Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, via video teleconference at the brigade’s headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Adder May 18.

Col. Ron Kirklin, a Killeen, Texas, native, and commander, 4th Sust. Bde., and his staff met with the Family members to answer questions or concerns that they had regarding the brigade’s deployment, mission and the support provided to the people of Iraq.

One of the largest topics of discussion was the timeframe of Soldiers returning home to their Families.

“The big question: ‘When are we coming home?’ This is still an unanswered question, but I can tell you to keep the

mindset of 12 months,” said Kirklin.

Kirklin and Lt. Col. John Hickey, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., and native of Killeen, Texas, discussed topics that ranged from initiatives taken at Fort Hood, support from local leaders in the Central Texas area, Mayor Cell duties in Iraq, newsletters, social media and bringing the troops home safely to their loved ones.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Kirklin expressed his gratitude to all the Families back home for the sacrifices they’ve endured by sending their Soldiers to support the mission.



(From left) Lt. Col. Robert Villalobos, deputy commanding officer, 4th Sustainment Brigade, native of Germantown, Md., Col. Ron Kirklin, commander, 4th Sust. Bde., native of Killeen, Texas, Lt. Col. John Hickey, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., native of Killeen, Texas, attend 4th Sust. Bde.’s first town hall meeting at the brigade headquarters, Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, May 18. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Lakesha Warren)

“I appreciate what everyone is doing and sacrifices everyone has made, because of what you do we are able to stay focused on the mission out here,” said Kirklin. “You’re the best! I brag about you all the time, we are truly a great team and family. I am blessed to have your support.”



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UNIT CONDUCTS MEDEVAC TRAINING

Article by Spc. Spring Smith
Bravo Co., 1-163rd CAB,

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - Soldiers with Bravo Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, conducted medical evacuation training with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Brigade.

The purpose of the training was to ensure that Soldiers in both battalions are confident in executing the necessary steps to save the lives of their comrades as quickly as possible when disaster strikes.

Soldiers in Company B, simulated a convoy mission while driving down a back road on COB Adder. After using a smoke grenade to emulate an improvised explosive device alongside the road, the leadership told the Soldiers who were injured, what injuries were sustained and whether or not the vehicles involved in the blast were operable.

The Soldiers began the medevac process to get their comrades out of the hostile area. They set up a landing zone for the helicopter, called in their nine-line medevac request for medical transport to evacuate a casualty, and began administering basic first aid while communicating with Company G about estimated time of arrival, coordinates, etc.



Soldiers with Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, prepare a Soldier for medical evacuation during a training exercise on Contingency Operating Base Adder. (U.S. Army photo by Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood)

“Having an aviation asset available made the training much more realistic,” said 1st Lt. Mathew Bartlett, a San Dimas, Calif., native. “It was cool to meet the pilots we will be working with. Also, the younger guys who have never worked with an aviation asset were pretty pumped.”

Sgt. Evan Baldwin, the team’s medic and a Missoula, Mont., native, shared the same feelings as Bartlett.

“It gave us a chance to freshen up our skills and practice those scenarios in the environment in which they will be needed,” Baldwin said. “The training was very helpful. I feel very confident in my team and our ability to accomplish the mission.”

Spc. Seth Pettit, a Plains, Mont., native, acted as a dismounted soldier for the training. He was responsible for helping the medic remove casualties from the vehicle, applying buddy aid, and helping Baldwin load casualties on and off the helicopter.

“I found the training very useful,”



Soldiers with Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command retreat from the medevac helicopter after loading a wounded soldier for medical evacuation during a training exercise on Contingency Operating Base Adder. (U.S. Army photo by: Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood)

he said. “We have never had the chance to load and unload casualties on and off a [helicopter] before. The realistic aspect was very helpful too, such as using mine resistant ambush protected vehicles rather than Humvees and also practicing in this environment. This training definitely solidifies my confidence in my team’s ability to handle a situation like that.”

Each platoon within Company B will be conducting this training within the next couple of months.



Soldiers with Company B, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command prepare to move a litter with a wounded Soldier for medical evacuation during a training exercise on Contingency Operating Base Adder. (U.S. Army photo by: Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood)

WRANGLERS RUN 5K FOR SEXUAL ASSUALT AWARENESS

Article by Pfc. Amy Lane
Public Affairs Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The month of April is sexual assault awareness month, and deployed soldiers, airmen and civilians showed their support April 27 by participating in a 5K for Sexual Assault Awareness on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Among those participants were soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. The route began at the House of Pain gym and circled around the base.

Sgt. Linwood Johnson, a garrison billeting noncommissioned officer with 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., and a Richmond, Va., native, finished the run in 21 minutes and 7 seconds.

“The run went well,” he said. “A lot of people came out and we had really nice weather. I think I have a little more in the tank to keep improving for the next one.”

Johnson, who ran with his workout



Staff Sgt. Gregory Coots, a chaplain assistant with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Middlesboro, Ky. native, and Capt. Luis Kruger, a chaplain with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Ponca City, Okla., native, run in the Sexual Assault Awareness 5K at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 27. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)

partner, said he works out twice a day. He ran the 5K for fun and as part of his daily workout.

“Back at Fort Hood, I was running 10 miles a day,” he said. “Over here I’ve been running seven miles a day and going to the gym as well.”

Johnson said this is the second 5K event he has participated in since arriving at COB Adder in February and he plans to run in any future races that are planned.

“I’ll admit, I’m a little competitive,” he said. “I’m competing with myself to see how much I can improve my time and competing to see how much I can improve compared to other soldiers.”

The top finishers from each category and age group earned prizes including



Soldiers run in the sexual assault awareness 5K at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, April 27. April is sexual assault awareness month. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)

medals and Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards.



Staff Sgt. Delvin Bailey, an information system operator-analyst with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Chicago, Ill., native, and Staff Sgt. Shawn Scurry, a communication network specialist with 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th ESC and a Chester, Pa., native, run in the Sexual Assault Awareness 5K April 27 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)

‘ROAD WARRIORS’ COMPETE IN ANNUAL TRUCK RODEO

Article by Spc. Christiana Bankole
15th Trans. Co. UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - The Road Warriors, Soldiers of 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, participated in the unit’s annual, week-long truck rodeo at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Each day, the Road Warriors competed in trucking events, which varied by the vehicle driven by each platoon. The platoons used vehicles such as the heavy-equipment truck and the M915 Line Haul truck.

Sgt. 1st Class Jemese Cruz, a senior truck master with 15th Trans. Co., and a native of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, coordinated the daily schedule of events with the help of the company’s operations team.

“I felt satisfied with the overall turnout of the truck rodeo,” Cruz said. “Despite missions and tasking, we were able to put all events together and execute.”

The truck rodeo featured 21 events, including the serpentine course, tire changing, load tie-down drills, hasty recoveries, straight-line backing, and written training. Several relay events tested skills and encouraged friendly competition.

Sgt. Kale Baldwin, a heavy equipment transporter with 15th Trans. Co., and a Wetumka, Okla., native, said the truck rodeo definitely sharpened the Soldiers’ abilities as truck drivers.

“Soldiers were challenged to have prior knowledge of their equipment and how to properly use it,” Baldwin said, who was also one of the judges in charge

of safety and making sure Soldiers paid attention to detail during the event.

Visitors from the 749th CSSB stopped by throughout the week to show their support for the competitors. Command Sgt. Maj. Paulo Vaka, the command sergeant major of the 749th CSSB and a native of Palo Alto, Calif., said events like the truck rodeo are great training tools for Soldiers.

“It’s always excellent to see Soldiers training for what they’re going to do outside the wire,” Vaka said. “It’s fine to have down time, but too much down time can lead to



Spc. Joseph Besmer, a heavy equipment transporter with 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Fairfax, Va., native, ties down a load on a heavy equipment truck during a timed event at the annual truck rodeo on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Christiana Bankole)



Sgt. 1st Class Jemese Cruz, senior truck master with 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Bayamon, Puerto Rico, native, gives the daily briefing to soldiers competing in the annual truck rodeo at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Christiana Bankole)

trouble, so it’s good to be training.”

First Lt. Daniel Reep, the executive officer for the 15th Trans. Co., and a native of Oxford, Miss., said the rodeo was an awesome event for Soldiers to build camaraderie among their peers in the area of transportation.

“The annual truck rodeo gave us a chance to have fun, while performing our annual recertification of all of our drivers,” Reep said. “Overall, the events brought teams together and built esprit de corps.”



Sgt. William Monroe, a heavy equipment transporter with 15th Transportation Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Norfolk, Va., native, replaces a boogie tire on a heavy-equipment truck during a timed event at the annual truck rodeo on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Christiana Bankole)

BATTALION S-1 OPERATES THE ID CARD FACILITY FOR AL-ASAD AIR BASE, IRAQ

Article by 1st Lt. Kristen Adamc
189th CSSB UPAR

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Roger Phillip, the identification card facility site security manager and human resources supervisor for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., assumed responsibility for managing the physical and operational security of the real-time, automated personal identification system workstations on base.

These workstations are used to update Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System information and to issue common access cards to service members from all branches of the U.S. military as well as Department of Defense contracted civilians.

Soldiers operating the ID card



Spc. Pamela Williams, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Marshall Islands native, posts the new hours of operation at the ID card facility at Al Asad Air Base. (U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Maribel Granados)

facility spent five days getting necessary DEERS and RAPIDS certifications and training on the CAC equipment before opening the facility. DEERS and RAPIDS operations are normally a brigade-level function, the facility’s team executes the CAC mission in addition to their battalion-level human resources responsibilities.

Spc. Pamela Williams, a native of the Marshall Islands, and Pfc. Natasha Ware, a native of Jersey City, N.J., both human resources specialists assigned to the battalion personnel section, provide customer services at the facility during the day shift.

“This is my first deployment and I am thankful because my work



Spc. Pamela Williams, a Marshall Islands native, and Pfc. Natasha Ware, a Jersey City, N.J., native, both human resources specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 189th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, pose for a photo at the ID card facility at Al Asad Air Base. (U.S. Army photo by: Spc. Maribel Granados)

environment is much better than I expected,” Ware said.

Sgt. Roy Ramos, a human resources non-commissioned officer with HHC, 189th CSSB and a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, operates the facility during the night shift.

“I like supporting the soldiers and the mission on Al Asad,” Ramos said. “Even when I support the civilian contractors here, I know that I have given them what they need to go support the Soldiers, too. We are all working together toward a common goal and it is what I have been training to do.”

In the short time the 189th CSSB DEERS and RAPIDS team has been operating the ID card facility, nearly 400 CAC issues have been processed.



Staff Sgt. Melissa Meinzer, a Reno, Nev., native, and the non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the 54th Quartermaster Mortuary Affairs Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Roseburg, Oregon native stands with fellow mortuary affairs specialists, Spc. Pierre Perea, a Cobb County, Ga., native, Cassandra Goddard, a Border, Texas, native, Spc. Danita Clowney, a Pittsburgh, Pa., native, and Spc. Jason Tinker, a Roseburg, Ore., native. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

54TH QM DOES JOB WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – When a neatly folded American flag is given to a Family member of a fallen Soldier, it signifies the Soldier’s last return home.

But before a service member makes his/her final journey, they must be properly cared for. And that’s where members of the 54th Quartermaster Mortuary Affairs Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, come in.

The 54th QM Co., which is currently deployed to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, is one of two mortuary

affairs companies in the active-duty Army and one of nine currently in theater.

Pfc. Cassandra Goddard, a mortuary affairs specialist and a Border, Texas, native, works alongside four others in initial receiving and processing of deceased service members and civilians for COB Adder and United States Division-South.

“We have a four-hour window to process the remains, their personal belongings they had at the time of death, and ready them for a ramp ceremony to fly them out of country,” Goddard said.

Once the first four hours are in the

books, there are 20 hours remaining for the team to process the service member’s personal belongings and have them flown home.

“You can’t get attached,” said Spc. Pierre Perea, another mortuary affairs specialist on the team, and native of Cobb County, Ga. “I’ve seen fellow coworkers in years past have problems on the job. I’ve had to intervene to make sure they get through the processing – you just have to get it done.”

The team, which has been at COB

See DIGNITY page 19

DIGNITY Continued from page 18

Adder for barely a month, works in six-month intervals; rotating out with other teams at Fort Lee, Va.

Spc. Jason Tinker, a Roseburg, Ore., native, said his team will soon take on responsibility from two other mortuary affairs locations in Iraq in addition to their current responsibilities.

“We’re going to be really busy very soon,” he said. “But we have already started packing as a pre-emptive strike.”

Tinker joined the Army after years of running his own business in general contracting, working as a firefighter, and accruing three degrees.

“I wanted to join as far back as 18 years old,” he said.

Now three years into his service, Tinker, like others he works with, said he finds total fulfillment in his job.

“While working out here, I’m not doing this for the Army – I’m doing it for the Families,” Tinker said. “For us, it’s all

about dignity and respect.”

Tinker also understands the nuances of his work.

“It takes a specific type of person to do this duty,” he said. “Civilians have approached me at airports and thanked me for my service. They ask me what I do, and I tell them. Then they rave about how hard it must be to do that – and they’re right.”

Tinker said that during his years of working in mortuary affairs, he’s processed hundreds of fellow service members.

“After all the work, I still see the faces. I still see their patch,” Tinker said. “I’ve run across Soldiers wearing the same patch and find myself just wondering. And I know that any day could be the one where I see one of my friends.”

Despite the difficulties of his undertakings, Tinker said he still sees the positives.

“When I go to bed at night, I’m satisfied in the work I’ve done.”



Spc. Jason Tinker, a mortuary affairs specialist with the 54th Quartermaster Mortuary Affairs Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Roseburg, Ore., native, closes a container housing the personal belongings of a deceased service member at Contingency Operating Base Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

SUDOKU



The rule are simple. All you have to do is fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the number 1 through 9. **Remember**, each puzzle has only one solution.

**Puzzle: Easy
Solution on Page 21**

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

WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT: THEY CALL HIM ‘BIG COUNTRY’

Article by Spc. Sean McGuire
Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist



Pfc. Clifton Myers, a signal support specialist with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, stands outside his brigade headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Myers works in the brigade operations section and is a native of Houston. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - If there ever was a true Texan in the 4th Sustainment Brigade, he could be found in the brigade operations section.

Pfc. Clifton Myers, a signal support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Houston, Texas, native, stands tall, towering over most counterparts, but he carries a casual and humor-filled persona.

The 22-year-old has sported the

Army’s uniform for nearly two years and the Wrangler patch since early 2009. As a signal support specialist, Myers worked in the brigade help-desk section until he recently made the switch to plans and operations.

“In S-6, I worked with tactical communications,” Myers said. “I’d troubleshoot systems and set up accounts, even dig trenches for cable line. There never was a set job; I did everything. Now, I’m in another section, doing various tasks under the battle captains, but again, I do just about anything.”

He said he enjoyed being a part of

the S-6 family before he made the switch.

“My non-commissioned officers taught me a lot about being a soldier on top of the details of the job,” he said. “I miss those guys, but the new job and crew I work with are great too.”

Once this tour is complete, Myers looks forward to the possibility of moving on to see what else the Army has to offer.

“I’d love to go to a brigade combat

See **BIG COUNTRY** page 21

BIG COUNTRY Continued from page 20

team,” he said. “I’ve seen how my job works in the sustainment world and I’d like to have the other viewpoint.”

Beyond his days of troubleshooting networks or briefing battle captains, Myers embodies the spirit of a down-home, relaxed country boy.

“I’m the guy you see wearing jeans, boots, a T-shirt and baseball cap outside [of] work,” Myers said. “I’ve always spent time with my Family and had a love for the outdoors.”

Myers intends to find a place to settle down when he is finished with his military career.

“The Army is my high-tempo,”

he said. “It keeps things moving fast, and when I get out, I just want to find a huge piece of land and build on it; acres of land, a huge house, fences – everything.”

Myers eyed locations like Marble Falls during trips around central Texas.

“I’d love to build a house there one day, as it has the Colorado River running through it,” he said. “I’ve also looked at states like Wyoming and Montana. It’s about the open space for me and a relaxed-life pace.”

The first thing he wants to do when he sets foot back in the States and returns to his black labs and girlfriend is to hit the open road.

“Once cleared after our redeployment, I’m just going to get in my truck and drive,” Myers said. “It’ll be good to be back with that freedom.”



Puzzle Solution From Page 19									
8	1	3	5	6	2	7	9	4	
5	6	2	9	4	7	3	8	1	
9	4	7	8	1	3	2	5	6	
6	7	5	4	3	9	8	1	2	
1	2	8	6	7	5	9	4	3	
4	3	9	1	2	8	5	6	7	
2	5	1	7	9	6	4	3	8	
7	9	6	3	8	4	1	2	5	
3	8	4	2	5	1	6	7	9	



4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF THE **TEAM WRANGLERS**





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WRANGLERS CHALLENGE EACH OTHER IN COMBATIVES CLASS

Article by Pfc. Amy Lane
Public Affairs Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – An important part of being a Soldier is continuing to train throughout one’s career in the Army, and one aspect of that training is self-defense.

Soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, are in charge of teaching the basic combatives course to service members at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Students learn basic hand-to-hand combat moves for self-defense.

Soldiers attend the five-day course, which used to be called Combatives Level 1, for four hours each evening after work.

Spc. Andrew McAllister, an ammunition accounting specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., 310th ESC, and an Atlanta, Ga., native, said he wanted to attend the class because he had only practiced combatives during basic training.

“Every Soldier needs to know hand-to-hand fighting moves,” he said. “The class made for some long work days, but it was worth it. And it was a lot of fun.”

McAllister, who had a little boxing experience while growing up, said the class was great physical training. He learned 18 basic moves during the week-long training.

“I feel like I know the basic moves pretty well,” he said. “The instructors gave a really good step-by-step breakdown of each move.

Then there was a good combination of

drilling it and practicing it.”

One of the instructors, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Zucker, the combatives non-commissioned officer-in-charge, a gun truck NCOIC for the 4th Sust. Bde., and an Olympia, Wash., native, has been teaching the course for seven years.

Zucker said he feels it is important for each Soldier to take the course.

“Combatives is combat-oriented, hand-to-hand training,” he said. “It is not kung-fu or [mixed martial arts]; it is battled-tested training. This stuff actually works.”

Zucker said the class teaches Soldiers how to defend themselves in situations that

See CHALLENGE page 23



Combatives students watch as their instructors demonstrate a move during the basic combatives course May 6 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)

CHALLENGE Continued from page 22

actually occur on the battlefield. They can accommodate up to 40 students per class and welcome all units and all branches on COB Adder.

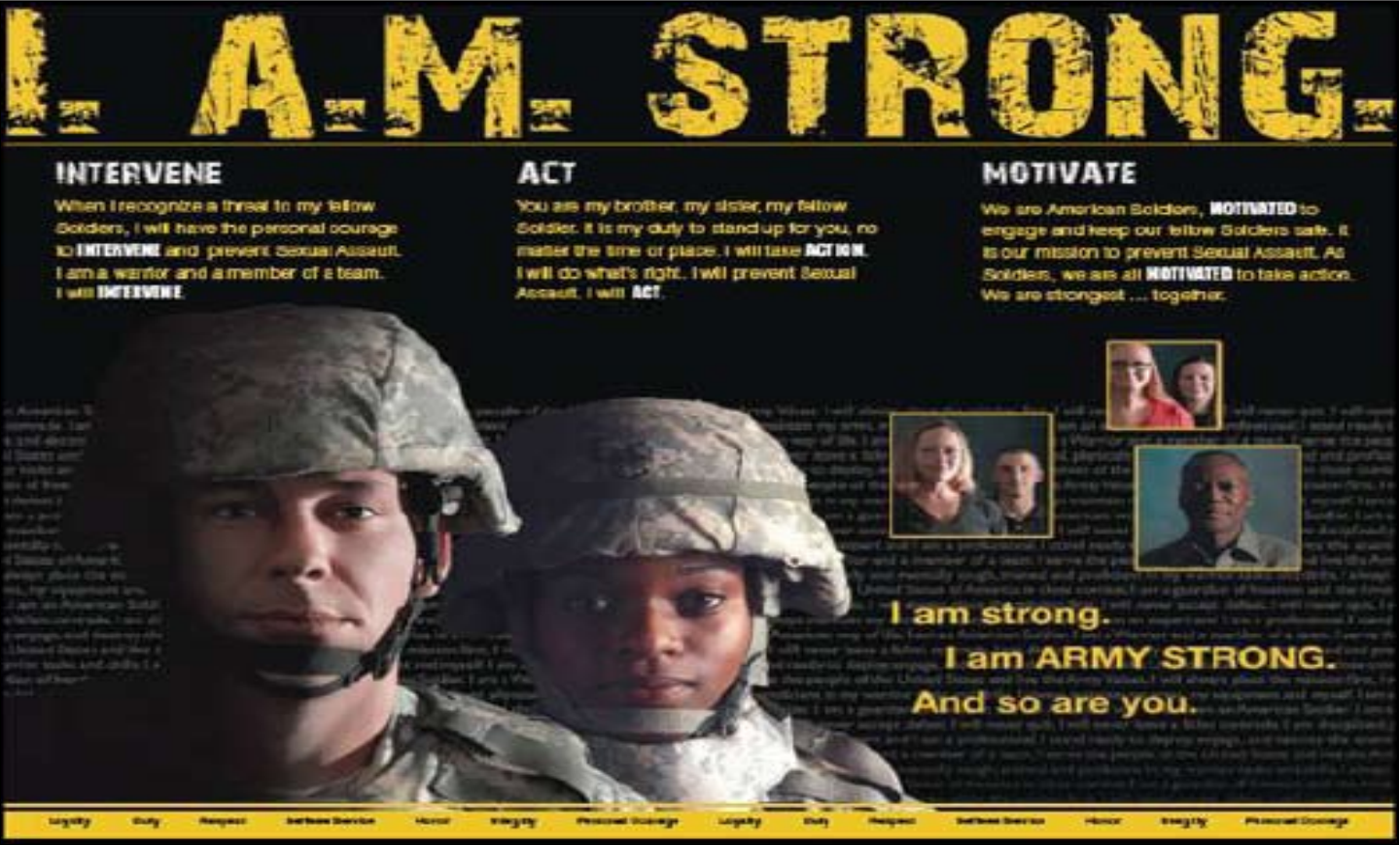
“I love watching the Soldiers learn the moves and learn why each move works,” he said.



Spc. Lizzette Reyes, a support operations administrator for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Holyoke, Mass., native, and Spc. Donzaleigh Panton, an awards clerk with the 4th Sustainment Brigade and a Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., native, practice for their final test while Spc. Xavier Rice, an ammunition specialist for the 4th Sustainment Brigade and a Radcliff, Ky., native, offers assistance. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)



Sgt. Ryan McNary, a truck commander with Company Alpha, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Lewistown, Mont., native, and Spc. Joshua Negaard, a gunner with Company A, 1-163rd CAB, and a Grass Range, Mont., native, demonstrate a move during a basic combatives course May 6 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy Lane)



WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT: NCO IMPRESSES WITH KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONALISM

Article by Pfc. Amy Lane
Public Affairs Specialist

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq - As the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, comes to the end of their deployment, certain Soldiers stand out in the minds of people they’ve been in contact with.

Sgt. Jedediah Pinnock, the information management and communications office noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 632nd Maint. Co., and a Alamogordo, N.M., native, is one of the Soldiers who stands out in the mind of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michelle Schweitzer, the S-6 officer-in-charge for the 749th CSSB.

“The knowledge and professionalism that I’ve seen in the brief time that I’ve known him has really impressed me,” she said. “We recently had an issue that no one else was able resolve, but when I asked him about it, he took care of it right away.”

He originally joined the Army in 1997 as a network switch operator/maintainer. He got out of the Army and attended college with the help of the G.I. Bill, but he said he missed the Army and came back after a six-year break in service.

Upon reentering in 2007, he said he reclassified to microwave systems operator/maintainer because it was very similar to his previous job.

This is Pinnock’s first deployment, and he said he has appreciated the opportunity to learn new things.

“This has been a real growth opportunity, personally and professionally,” he said. “Overall, I think the deployment has gone really well, and it has been a good

experience. I’ve learned a lot and I think we’ve done a good job.”

Pinnock has been working as the IMO NCOIC for the last two years, and he says the job is much different in garrison than it has been during this deployment. He has worked more in depth with radios and the Counter Remote Control Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare system.

“I never had the opportunity to work with CREW systems before,” he said. “Now I’m supervising the people who work with them.”

He said he has also been working more in depth with radios while in Iraq. His other daily duties include testing cables and troubleshooting hardware and software. He is the first line of troubleshooting to fix computer and network issues.

Pinnock said the best part of the deployment has been seeing the whole unit spend time together rather than separated by platoons, he said.

“I’ve noticed that the company has



Sgt. Jedediah Pinnock, the information management and communications office noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 632nd Maintenance Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and an Alamogordo, N.M., native, works with a radio system March 30 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Amy M. Lane)

really come together and gelled as a team,” he said. “It was nice to see everyone spend time together at our company barbecues and events.”

Though he has enjoyed his experiences in Iraq, Pinnock said it will feel good to be stateside again soon.

“I’m really excited to see my kids,” he said. “That’s the main thing I’m looking forward to when I get home.”



WRANGLER PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Left center, U.S. Army Col. Ron Kirklin, Commander of 4th Sustainment Brigade and staff officers, from left to right, U.S. Army, Lt. Col. Robert Villalobos, Deputy Commanding Officer, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Chris Abbott, Support Operations Officer and U.S. Army, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Britton, Operations Officer stand in front of the Brigade’s headquarters proudly holding the Belton County Flag. In honor of the Belton County flag, Col Kirklin would like to thank Mr. Jim Covington, Mayor of Belton County, Mr Jay Taggart, member of the Board of Directors for Belton County’s Chamber of Commerce, and sponsors for their continuous support for the Soldiers and families of 4th Sust. Bde., while conducting sustainment operations during the drawdown efforts of Operations New Dawn. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. LaKesha Warren)

ASPHALT ON ADDER’S CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER

Article by Capt. Antowne M. Wilson
4th STB UPAR

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Much time, energy and effort has gone into planning for the anticipated surge of soldiers and equipment moving in and out of Contingency Operating Base Adder in support of the reposturing of U.S. forces in Iraq.

One important aspect of that planning has been the asphalt laying project at the Convoy Support Center.

COB Adder Facilities Engineering Team along with Regional Contracting Center South worked tirelessly to get the asphalt project sourced and approved within a narrow, two-week timeframe.

“I understood the mission from the beginning and how important the new roads would be in the Convoy Support Center,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Ruston, a Fountain, Colo., native, and the contingency contracting officer with RCC South. “We viewed this project as priority number one.”

Staff Sgt. Eric Gorham, a Lena, Ill., native and the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Directorate of Public Works, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, is the acting contractor officer representative for this project.

This is Gorham’s fourth combat deployment, but he said that hasn’t dampened his drive and motivation to tackle the daily challenges in DPW.

“I like my job, because I get to do something new and exciting every day,” he said. “I also enjoy meeting new people and working with the local citizens on various projects.”

Gorham said he understands the importance of this project being finished correctly and on time. This project began in early April and is projected to end in mid-June. Gorham said he is confident that the project will meet its deadline



Construction workers with a local company work alongside the Contingency Operating Base Adder Facilities Engineering Team and the Regional Contracting Center-South to complete asphalt laying at the Convoy Support Center on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, May 17. The project began in early April and is projected to end in mid-June. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Antowne M. Wilson)

without major setbacks.

“The new asphalt will make it easier for trucks to move within the CSC and limit the dust which currently causes low visibility that slows down the convoys,” Gorham said.

He said he is pleased with the current progression of this project and is eagerly looking forward to the next big challenge.

4TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE HELPS MOTHERS CELEBRATE SPECIAL DAY

Article by Sgt. Angiene Myers
4th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – The mothers of Contingency Operating Base Adder were given special treatment in a two-part celebration that included a Mother’s Day tea party and a Mother’s Day barbeque.

The event was coordinated by Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, who are currently deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

The Mother’s Day celebration was sponsored by Capt. Tracet Bradley, the commander of the HHC, and hosted by Sgt. Suzanne Samson, an administrative assistant for the directorate of logistics and a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, both with the 4th STB.

“Although I am not a mother myself, I have seen the faces of mothers who have been separated from their little ones during this time and it is a heart-wrenching experience,” Bradley said.

“So when the opportunity came to celebrate the mothers of COB Adder, I asked how could I help and ensured my support without reservation.”



Members of Contingency Operating Base Adder’s men’s choir serenade the mothers of COB Adder during a two-part Mother’s Day celebration sponsored by the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, May 8. (U.S. Army photo by Angiene Myers)

For the first part of the celebration, mothers gathered into the Mayor Cell conference room where they were treated to musical selections by COB Adder’s men’s choir. Male Soldiers, who volunteered their time to make the day special, served refreshments and handed out gift bags.

“We know you are far from home, but we recognize that it’s Mother’s Day, and we appreciate you as moms, and we wanted you to come out in fellowship with us,” said Samson.

Staff Sgt. Shemeka Gulley, the logistical noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, and a Jacksonville, N.C., native, said she appreciated the thought that went into putting the event together.

“It’s a good morale builder,” said Gulley, who is a mother of two. “Who would have thought that when we deployed to Iraq, there would be something special like this for mothers who had to leave their children to do their jobs?”

Later in the evening, the celebration continued at Memorial Hall where both male and female service members came out to listen to music, play games, win prizes and eat food hot off the grill in celebration of all the mothers on COB Adder.



Sgt. 1st Class Simona Hall, a material control supervisor with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Hartsville, S.C., native shows off her dance moves at the second half of the two-part Mothers Day celebration on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq May 8. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Angiene Myers)

“I’m deployed with a lot of soldiers that are females,” said Sgt. Dathan Toson, a garrison billeting sergeant with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, and an Albany, Ga., native. “I want to make sure that on their day they can maybe let the day-to-day stressors of this deployment go for a second and enjoy their day as a mother. I’m going to give the mothers all the support I can on their day.”

As the celebration came to an end, there were smiles on the faces of all the mothers of COB Adder that attended the event.

“I saw joy and happiness in the faces of our mothers as they celebrated their day with their extended Army family,” said Bradley. “This day was truly a day I will remember forever.”


With Father’s Day approaching, the fathers on COB Adder can expect the same special treatment from the mothers of COB Adder.

“I am working with the team to honor fathers next month,” Bradley said. “Many of the fathers came out to the Mother’s Day event to serve the mothers of COB Adder and show their appreciation. I feel it is our obligation to show them the same love.”



Sgt. 1st Class Oran Spradley, the movement fusion non-commissioned officer in charge with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Harrisburg, Pa., native, provides musical entertainment to the service members that attended the second half of the two-part Mother’s Day celebration on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, May 8. (U.S. Army photo by Angiene Myers)

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ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

Must Read: Under the Dome by Stephen King

Surpassing 1,000-pages, Stephen King's 2010 release *Under the Dome* is another epic-sized read in a long line of such. It's lighter on the supernatural and horrifying – and when it's introduced, it's forced and rushed – but it's heavy on characters and their development. Based on a small town that suddenly has an invisible dome placed over it, trapping residents inside and keeping everyone else out, *Dome* leads you from the front through its main character, a former Army officer that hears the call to duty once again. His mission: saving a town not only from the unknown horrors that brought about the dome but also a tyrant doing everything he can to use it for his own gain. And not only that – but what he's brewing on the outskirts of town. Get lost in the king of nightmare's latest.

Must Hear: Build a Rocket Boys! by Elbow

Elbow, a British alternative band, has graced music enthusiasts since the early 1990s and since 2001 with their inaugural studio album debut, *Asleep in the Back*. Featuring an eclectic, largely angelic playing style that is heavy on its reliance to Guy Garvey's lead-vocals, Elbow has been a quiet force in the rock theater where over-done choruses and blandness has reigned. 2008's *Seldom Seen Kid* was their magnum opus – the perfect culmination of decades of musical exploration, consisting of enough originality and pop-attraction. And it was remarkable enough to catch the attention of the Coen Brothers who used the track *Grounds for Divorce* in its film *Burn after Reading* starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt. 2011's latest installment in the Elbow train is *Build a Rocket Boys*, a record showing Garvey and company never stay put and continue to drive for their limits. Lacking considerable input from guitarists and an even increasing reliance on Garvey's ethereal vocal skills, the album pushes for simplicity. Trumpets, violins, cellos, and youth choirs accompany the quietest, most poignant and heart-warming (or wrenching) record Elbow has produced. And it's the closest thing you'll ever hear by them to a Garvey solo project.

High points are *The Birds*, *Lippy Kids*, *Neat Little Rows*, *Jesus is a Rochdale Girl* and *Open Arms*

Must See: The Big Four Live in Sofia, Bulgaria

For the very first time in the 30 odd years Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth and Anthrax have brought their ruthless thrash and speed metal styles of musicianship together into one special concert extravaganza. Last year during the Sonisphere Festivals that are traveling across the globe, the four-bands who comprise what fans declare as the Big Four of thrash united in Sofia, Bulgaria – and that night has since been enclosed into a DVD that certainly bears a “must have” label for any fan. Memorable moments include Anthrax's energetic performance of *Indians* and Black Sabbath's *Heaven and Hell*, of which they paid tribute to Ronnie James Dio, the former front man for the legendary metal originators and solo-artist who recently passed away; Megadeth, while braving rain and the fading vocals of masterful shredder Dave Mustaine (who ashamedly dubbed in vocals for the DVD), stormed through classics *Holy Wars...* the *Punishment Due* and many others; Slayer, the undeniably most taboo, brutal, and vicious speed-metal band still kicking, ripped fans in attendance with performances of *World Painted Blood*, *Raining Blood*, and *Angel of Death*; and the headliners, Metallica, the biggest hard rock and heavy metal band of the last 30-years, stuck to their cool-guys dynamic with tremendous renditions of *Creeping Death*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *All Nightmare Long*, *One*, and *Nothing Else Matters*. Each band's set pushed the hour-limit, stretching the run-time of the concert to well over five-hours. The biggest moment of the night: when members of all four bands joined together on stage to play Diamond Head's *Am I Evil?* This concert DVD is a must-buy and a sign of things to come between these four bands that have stood the test of time.