

Serving the 4th Sustainment Brigade during Operation New Dawn

Sept. 2011



Just Get It Done



# **Table Of Contents**

#### **COMMAND**

- 4 Brigade Commander's Corner
- 5 Brigade Command Sergeant Major's Corner

#### **FEATURES**

- 7 TF 183 assumes command from TF Griz
- 8 Step aerobics with SPO Nation
- 9 Modern Army Combatives Program
- Wrangler inspired by 9/11
- Headquarters and Headquarters Company welcomes new commander
- 12 565 transfers authority to 305th Quartermaster
- Chaplain draws from 9-11 motivation, inspires Soldiers
- 13 'Pit Crew' protects Soldiers on roads











The Official
4th Sustainment Brigade Magazine

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

Team Wranglers-

Phase II has begun and the deliberate drawdown of forces from Iraq have begun in earnest efforts. We welcome the 2-183rd Combined Arms Battalion, from Virginia, 305th Quartermaster Company, Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 24th Ordnance Detachment, from Fort Stewart, Ga., to the Wrangler team. We said farewell to 1-163rd Combined Arms Battalion, from Montana and will soon say farewell to the 565th Quartermaster Company, from out of Fort Hood, Texas, and the "Goldminers" of the 749th Combat Service Support Battalion, from California.

Our withdraw/retrograde operations are well planned and synchronized from the platoon on the ground to the U.S. Forces - Iraq level. This will ensure an orderly and responsible drawdown, focusing on the very best force protection for our Soldiers until the day they conclude their mission and return home safe.

As part of the drawdown, we bid farewell to the 36th Infantry Division as they return to central Texas and say Aloha to the 25th Infantry Division who assumed control of our area of operations this month. We are looking forward to having a great working relationship with the Tropic Lightning team.

We are in the process of transitioning to the sole sustainment brigade in Iraq. This includes coordinating with 77th Sustainment Brigade as they close the North and transition the remainder of their mission and units to the 4th Sustainment Brigade. We continue to lean forward with the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command to help the U.S. and Iraqi forces set the conditions for the transformation of Operation New Dawn.

The Adder Convoy Support Center is fully operational and has evolved to be the model CSC in theater. Lt. Col. John Hickey and the Wolfpack are hard at work to ensure the very best services are provided to every Soldier as their convoys pass through Contingency Operating Base Adder on their way home.

To our Families and community partners, thanks for being our biggest fans as the Wrangler Team continues on with this mission. You are our biggest motivators and supporters and I would like to thank you for cheering us on until the end of the fight. Thank you!



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

"We learn from history that those who are disloyal to their own superiors are most prone to preach loyalty to their subordinates. Loyalty is a noble quality, so long as it is not blind and does not exclude the higher loyalty to truth and decency."

- CPT Sir Basil Liddell Hart



Leaders,

Loyalty, according to our Army Values, means bearing true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other Soldiers. It means you believe and are devoted to something bigger than yourself. It means you will be loyal to those with whom you serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike.

The NCO Guide says loyalty means standing by your Soldiers' honest mistakes and taking pride in their accomplishments. It means executing a commander's decision without "talking down" about it with peers or subordinates.

These definitions are easy to understand. Most of us have no issues being loyal to those with whom we serve when we are all geared toward the same goal. The definition gets a little hazy though when you're faced with a moral dilemma, pinning your loyalty to the unit against your loyalty to the Army. Or the loyalty of your subordinates against the loyalty of those you serve.

As seen in recent history, Soldiers can be negatively influenced by ethically-bankrupt NCOs, thus directly influencing troops to compromise their values and ethics on the battlefield. Soldiers in this scenario sometimes make a conscious decision to follow this leader, knowing full well the NCO is not living the Army Values, not following our Professional Military Ethic, and certainly not in keeping with our Oath of Enlistment and Code of Conduct. What would make Soldiers follow a morally and ethically-bankrupt NCO and forgo the loyalty to the Army's mission?

The short answer is that Soldiers sometimes have to choose between loyalty to a leader and loyalty to the Nation and U.S. Constitution. But as professional NCOs, why are we forcing our Soldiers to make this choice? When you fail to follow an Army Value, you are forcing your Soldiers to compromise theirs. It is imperative that we, as senior leaders, live all the Values to be the ethical standard bearer our Soldiers need and deserve.

I need you to get involved with your Soldiers and talk about these values. Pull your Soldiers aside, during monthly counseling or in a public forum such as Sergeants Time, and have a frank discussion about loyalty. Talk about proper actions when loyalty is tested. Talk about being loyal to the team and the Army's mission. With this dialogue, only then can we truly understand what it means to be loyal and be a professional Soldier. Sergeant, take charge!

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

GLERS



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### TF 183 assumes command from TF Griz

Article by Capt. Robert Au Buchon 2/183rd

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with
Task Force 183, 2nd Squadron, 183rd
Cavalry Regiment, 4th Sustainment
Brigade, 310th Expeditionary
Sustainment Command from
Portsmouth, Va., assumed command
of the convoy escort mission in
southern Iraq from Task Force Griz,
1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd
Infantry Regiment, 4th Sust. Bde.,
from Belgrade, Mont., during a
transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 28
at Contingency Operating Base Adder,
Iraq.

According to Lt. Col. T.J. Hull, a Helena, Mont., native and the commander of Task Force Griz, his soldiers escorted millions of gallons of fuel and tens of thousands of tons of various commodities safely throughout Iraq. This was done while driving

more than 1 million miles in MRAPs of all types,

"The Soldiers of Task Force Griz have set a high standard, and we will have to work hard to meet that standard," said Lt. Col. William Korsen, a Virginia Beach, Va., native and the commander of Task Force 183.

The soldiers of Task Force 183 come from all over Virginia. These citizen soldiers are from various occupations to include police officers,

lawyers, firemen, students, security guards and dock workers, just to name a few.

"Operation New Dawn has presented us with a myriad of both challenges and opportunity," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Hughes, a Washington, D.C., native and the assistant convoy commander with 2nd Sqdn., 183rd Cav. Regt. "The professionalism and attention to detail extended from the [noncommissioned officers] of the



Lt. Col. William Korsen, a Virginia Beach, Va., native and the commander of Task Force 183, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Gibbs, senior enlisted leader for Task Force 183 and a Virginia Beach native, uncase the unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Aug. 28. The ceremony signified the unit's arrival in Iraq and the assumption of their mission under the 4th Sust. Bde. (Photo by Spc. Sean McGuire)

Command Sgt. Maj. John Wood, the senior enlisted leader for 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command from Belgrade, Mont., cases his unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Aug. 28. The ceremony signified the unit's departure from Iraq and the conclusion of their mission under the 4th Sust. Bde. (Photo by Spc. Sean Mcguire)

# Step aerobics with SPO Nation

Photo featue by Maj. Lakesha Warren 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

Since March, many Wrangler Soldiers have enjoyed a step aerobics class taught by one of their own.

Capt. Vontrese Sturdivant, a Miami native and the support operations current operations battle captain with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, began instruct the class because she wanted to incorporate a different style of physical training.

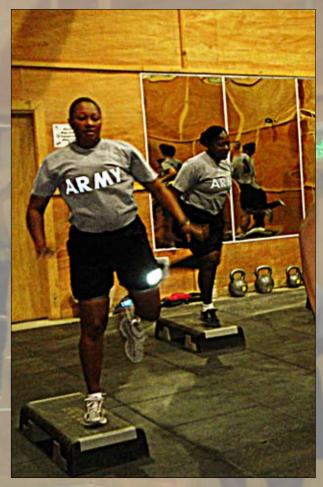
"Step aerobics is a high-tempo cardio workout that I've been instructing for 15 years," she said. "I love it and I love motivating my students to have fun and reap the benefits of a good workout."

Sturdivant, who will be a liaison officer for the brigade at Victory Base Complex, Iraq, for the remainder of the deployment, is not going to be able to teach the class anymore. Maj. Jeanette Brown, a Jamaica,

West Indies, native, and the brigade information systems manager, will step in to take her place.

Brown said she loves the toning and cardiovascular benefits, and participants will see benefits from just three days a week.

"The cardio and strengthening also helps to increase lung capacity and endurance for your run days," Brown said. "So come out and enjoy the lift you will get both in body and spirit with the 3 day a week step aerobics with SPO Nation."



Maj. Jeanette Brown, a Jamaica, West Indies native and the brigade information systems manager with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, teaches a step aerobics class on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Maj. Lakesha Warren)



Capt. Vontrese Sturdivant, a Miami native and the support operations current operations battle captain with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, teaches a step aerobics class on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Maj. Lakesha Warren)



Soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, participate in a step aerobics class on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Maj. Lakesha Warren)

# Modern Army Combatives Program

Article by Pvt. Andrew Slovensky US Division Center

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— "This isn't a class for people who want to go and become UFC fighters," said Sgt. Isaac Cadena, a Modern Army Combatives Program basic course instructor with the 4th Sustainment Brigade.

Cadena said the purpose of MACP is to train service members to defend themselves and share that training with their unit. Soldiers of the 4th Sustainment Brigade have been teaching combatives courses to service members during their deployment on Contingency Operating Base Adder. The instructors have taught 17 classes of basic and tactical-level combatives to more than 200 students, improving their combat sharpness and skills.

The courses cover the techniques and drills available to service members when encountered with a hostile enemy. The training isn't just hand-tohand combat, but includes enhancing overall combat readiness and confidence and the history of MACP according to Army regulation 350-1



Soldiers conduct warm-up exercises during a basic-level Modern Army Combatives class on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Sept. 1. The course is the last basic-level class offered by the 4th Sustainment Brigade here. (Photo by Pvt. Andrew Slovensky)

that governs Army training.

To earn certification in basic-level combatives, the service members

taking the course are required to demonstrate to the instructors that they aren't just proficient in the drills they learn, but that they are also capable of training others the moves and proper techniques.

"They have to teach the instructors back the techniques they were taught to prove they are proficient enough to teach soldiers back home what they've learned," said Cadena.

The students did this by calmly explaining, in detail, each step of the drill while performing the chokes, holds and mounts on their fellow pupils.

The skills students

learned here will go back home with them.

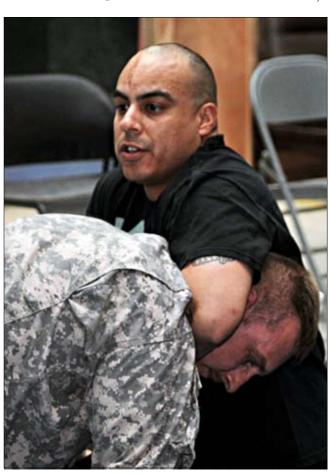
"Even back home in America it isn't always safe," said Cadena. "These skills aren't only for the battlefield."

For example, in May 2011, Staff Sgt. Eddie Peoples, 386th Movement Control Team in Vicenza, Italy, subdued a bank robber while on leave in Sarasota, Fla., crediting combatives training he received in the Army.

Soldiers who attended the courses on COB Adder walk away feeling more confident in combat readiness. Sgt. Tomes Weekes, a native of Miami, said he was convinced to take the basic level course by others in his unit who had already gotten certified.

"Most of my detachment has already done the class, and I'm the last one to go through," said Weekes, who is deployed with the 8th Ordnance Battalion here.

"What I've learned so far is that no matter how strong you are, it's more reliant on technique than on strength," said Weekes. "It makes you disciplined because you have to rely on what you've learned and use your mind."



Sgt. Isaac Cadena, Modern Army Combatives Program instructor for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, demonstrates a guillotine choke on Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ahlers during a MACP basic-level course on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Sept. 1. (Photo by Pvt. Andrew Slovensky)

# Wrangler inspired by 9/11

Article by Spc. Amy Lane 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Most Americans remember exactly where they were and what they were doing on Sept. 11, 2001. It was one of those unforgettable days that many people relive on each year's anniversary.

Cpl. Kammal Peterson, a San Diego native and the identification card facility site security manager for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, is no exception.

"I was still in college in the ROTC program," Peterson said. "We were on the range that day and had only been out there for an hour when we were told to go inside. There were people gathered in the hallway watching TV. I saw that the World Trade Center had been attacked."

Peterson has family members in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and he knew his uncles sometimes worked at the World Trade Center. When he contacted his family, he learned that one uncle had a meeting scheduled in the World Trade Center that day, but was called away to do something else at the last minute. He lost many colleagues that day.

Though he was already thinking about joining the military prior to the attacks, Peterson considers the events of 9/11 to be one of the major influencing factors when he enlisted in 2007.

"Initially there was a lot of opposition from my family," he said. "But I knew, especially in a time of war, not as many people would want to join. So I wanted to be there."

Peterson said his family eventually came around, and they are proud of him. His stepfather is a military chaplain, and Peterson plans to follow in those footsteps.

Peterson,
who is currently
completing his
second deployment
to Iraq, wanted to
do something that
would be beneficial
to others, not just to
himself. He saw his
service in the Army
as a way to help.
But he doesn't feel
like he's completely
fulfilled those goals
yet.

"I'm working towards becoming a chaplain," he said. "My stepfather is guiding me in the steps towards making that transition. I want to finish out my career as a military officer."



Cpl. Kammal Peterson, a San Diego native and the identification card facility site security manager for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, joined the Army because he was inspired by the events of 9/11. Peterson, who is currently completing his second deployment to Iraq, wanted to do something that would be beneficial to others, not just himself. (Photo by Spc. Amy Lane)



Cpl. Kammal Peterson, a San Diego native and the identification card facility site security manager for the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, battles an opponent during a combatives tournament on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Aug. 13. Peterson joined the Army because he was inspired by the events of 9/11. (Photo by Spc. Amy Lane)

# Headquarters and Headquarters Company welcomes new commander

Article by Staff Sgt. Angiene Myers 4th Special Troops Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq — Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, gathered to welcome a new commander and to bid farewell to its outgoing commander Sept. 2 at Memorial Hall on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Capt. Tracet T. Bradley, the outgoing commander for HHC, STB relinquished command of the HHC to Capt. Monte L. Tartt, a Flint, Mich., native.

Lt. Col. John Hickey, commander of STB and an Alexandria, Va., native, officiated the ceremony. In his remarks, Hickey thanked the outgoing commander for her service and welcomed the incoming commander to his new position.

Bradley addressed the soldiers of HHC for the last time as their commander and congratulated Tartt on his new command.

"I feel we have helped and watched each other develop and grow," Bradley said. "This deployment has been an enriching challenge for all of us. Capt. Tartt, best wishes to you in your command. You are exactly what the team needs, carrying on the Michigan legacy for three commands."

Standing proudly in front of the soldiers of the HHC, Tartt thanked his wife, 1st Lt. Lucia Tartt, for her unwavering support and extended his thanks to the soldiers that he is now charged to lead.

"Thank you for your disciplined participation in today's ceremony," Tartt said. "I am both proud and humbled to serve as your commander."



Capt. Monte L. Tartt, the incoming commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Flint, Mich., native, stands in front of the soldiers of HHC for the first time after taking command during a change of command ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson)



Capt. Monte L. Tartt, the incoming commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and a Flint, Mich., native, cuts the first slice of cake with his wife 1st Lt. Lucia Tartt, a Houston native, after the HHC change of command ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angiene Myers)



Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, stand in formation under the guidance of 1st Sgt. Alan Kitchen, the first sergeant of the HHC, and a Bangor, Maine, native, during the company's change of command ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 2. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angiene Myers)

### 565th transfers authority to 305th Quartermaster

Article by Spc. Amy Lane 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – In a brief, outdoor ceremony, the 565th Quartermaster Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, transferred authority to the 305th Quartermaster Company Sept. 14.

"Every mission we've asked you to do, you've done," said Lt. Col. Robert Villalobos, the deputy commanding officer for the 4th Sust. Bde. and a Palm Coast, Fla., native. "You've shown yourselves to be professional, effective and efficient."

Villalobos reminded the soldiers of the 565th QM Company that he spoke at their deployment ceremony last fall, and he congratulated them on their accomplishments over the last year.

"You've been making it happen

since the day you got here," he said. "You've done an outstanding job."

The 305th QM Company accepted the mission of running various facilities on COB Adder, including the Class 1 yard, the supply support activity center, and the central receiving and shipping point.

"Long-term, our intention is to leave the country as clean as when we came here," said Capt. Ervin Williams, the commander of the 305th QM Company and a Blountstown, Fla., native.



Soldiers with the 565th Quartermaster Company and the 305th Quartermaster Company, 749th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, gather around Lt. Col. Robert Villalobos, the brigade's deputy commanding officer and a Palm Coast, Fla., native, after their transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Sept. 14. (Photo by Spc. Amy Lanc)



### Chaplain draws from 9-11 motivation, inspires Soldiers

Article by Capt. Robert Au Buchon 2/183rd

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Maj. Bob Patton, the chaplain for 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, of Portsmouth, Va., dedicates his time and service to helping the soldiers of Task Force-183.

Patton called to serve soldiers early in his life, joined the Army in 1984 as an infantry officer in several roles to include commanding an infantry company at Fort Benning, Ga., prior to leaving the Army in 1993 to pursue his dream of becoming a minister.

"My wife and I believed that God was leading us into full-time ministry to serve couples and families," Patton said of his decision to leave the military.

Patton, deeply affected by the Sept. 11 Pentagon and World Trade Center attacks, sought a way to return to the military and reduce the impact of sustained conflict on Army soldiers and their families.

After several years of working for the Campus Crusade for Christ and a civilian job working at Fort Lee, Va., Patton joined the Virginia Army National Guard October 2009.

"During the longest sustained conflict in our nation's history the stress of family separated by multiple deployments brought into clear focus the role and the need for chaplains," he said. "My hope and desire was, if the Army, to assist soldiers, could use my experience of 14 years of ministry and

Army families that God would open the doors for me to return to serve our nation. Every soldier deserves a chaplain."

When not activated, Patton works full time as the Protestant director for religious education at Fort Lee and has day-to-day to contact with soldiers and their families. Patton's role at Fort Lee is to serve alongside the installation and unit chaplains to meet the Protestant religious education needs of the Fort Lee community.

Now deployed to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Patton provides religious services to the task force and meets with every convoy before the soldiers leaves on missions and offers an opportunity to pray, hoping to provide a calming influence on a sometimes-frenetic environment.

### 'Pit crew' protects soldiers on roads

Article by Capt. Robert Au Buchon 2/183rd

CONTINGENCY OPERATING
BASE ADDER, Iraq – Mechanics of
Task Force 183, 2nd Squadron, 183rd
Cavalry Regiment, 4th Sustainment
Brigade, 310th Expeditionary
Sustainment Command, from
Portsmouth, Va., have been setting
the standard for installing upgrades
to Mine Resistant Ambush Protected
vehicles in theater.

The mechanics were given the job of installing additional armor to the Caiman MRAPs and were told that the standard was six hours of installation time per MRAP. The squadron's maintenance leaders, Warrant Officer 1 Robert Thompson from South Hill, Va., and 1st Sgt. Donnie Hodge of Courtland, Va., thought they could do a little better.

After the first upgrade kit, the mechanics were averaging two hours

of installation time utilizing a pit crew style of maintenance.

Thompson said that every mechanic learned a specific function of this installation and learned how to do it faster and better. More importantly, they did it safely and quickly, he said.

The key was letting the mechanics learn how to do the task using a hands-on approach.

"I gave them the requirements, and they figured out the rest of it. They provided the input and the how-to," Thompson said.

The mechanics are now instructing other units how to utilize their method of installing the armor and have installed six other upgrade kits for other units.

"I think it's amazing how the EFP armor can protect the crew from blasts," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Beazley, a senior mechanic from Blackstone, Va.

This time saved resulted in safer vehicles and limited downtime so the soldiers could accomplish their mission.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Beazley, a senior mechanic with Task Force 183, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a Blackstone, Va., native, performs a quality check on the installation of new armor upgrades for a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. (Photo by Spc. Samantha Belrose)