

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

OIF 09-11

SUNBURST

Magazine

The Pulse of Global Logistics

Forward

Volume 7, Issue 1
Winter/Spring 2010

SUPPORTING AFGHANISTAN

13th ESC ships bullets

Operation Clean Sweep

More than \$680 Million saved!

Closure for Wounded Warriors

Operation Proper Exit comes to JBB



CONTENTS

Cover: Spc. Anthony Zavala, an ammunition specialist with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New York City native, loads belts of ammunition to be shipped to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom March 11 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah, 13th ESC Public Affairs)

Back Cover: Staff Sgt. Jermaine Millwood, a heavy wheeled vehicle operator with the 445th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Randolph, Mass., native, was among eight Soldiers awarded the Combat Action Badge by Col. C. J. Read, 96th Sust. Bde. commander and a Layton, Utah, native, Jan. 5. The Soldiers were on a logistical convoy when they encountered small arms fire. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Navara Torres 445th TC)

The SUNBURST is a quarterly magazine distributed in electronic and print format. It is authorized for publication by the 13th ESC Public Affairs Office.

The contents of the SUNBURST are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense.

The SUNBURST is a command information publication in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

The Public Affairs Office is on Fort Hood's Support Ave. in building 39048, DSN telephone: 288-7342. Website at www.hood.army.mil/13sce.

Contact Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson via e-mail at joel.f.gibson@conus.army.mil



**13th ESC Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz**

**13th ESC CSM
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph**

**13th ESC Chief of Public Affairs
Maj. Raul Marquez**

**13th ESC
Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson**

**Editor
Spc. Naveed Ali Shah**

**Staff Writers
139th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment**

Staff Sections

- p. 3 CG's Comments and CSM's Corner
- p. 4 Chaplain's Corner
- p. 5 Retention

*P*roudly representing



Cover Stories

- p. 7 ESC ships bullets from Iraq to Afghanistan
- p. 26 Provider's save Army more than \$680 million
- p. 30 Injured Soldiers finally get 'Proper Exit' at JBB

Other Stories

- p. 6 Providers manage munition in Iraq, Afghanistan
- p. 8 509th Movement Control Team works to improve travel at Speicher
- p. 9 Four-Star general visits Balad, talks drawdown
- p. 10 Camp Adder area Soldiers visit local shaykhs
- p. 12 Joint effort increases efficiency of equipment drawdown
- p. 13 Command Sergeant Major recognizes Soldiers hard work
- p. 14 Provider Soldiers inducted into Sergeant Audie Murphy Club
- p. 16 Training lane gets U.S. Iraqi Soldiers mission ready
- p. 18 Leaders discuss COL Scania closure
- p. 22 Provider Soldiers operate Army's largest SSA
- p. 24 Fuel flows for the first time at Adder's new fuel farm
- p. 27 Quartermaster Soldiers preserve Iraqi environment
- p. 28 Mississippi Guardsman uses ingenuity to protect convoying Soldiers
- p. 32 Arizona Soldiers donate clothing to local Iraqi community
- p. 34 Transportation Soldiers provide safe travel in Mosul
- p. 36 Military officials, Muslims renovate mosque at Taji
- p. 37 Soldiers pay final respect to fallen comrader
- p. 38 Tennessee Guardsmen 'Share the Road'



Last Published Issue
Vol. 6 Issue 4
Fall/Winter 2009

CG'S COMMENTS

COMMANDING GENERAL

Paul L. Wentz



Greetings, to all of our Families and friends back home and abroad. On behalf of the Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), thank you for your unwavering support. It remains a source of strength for all of us here.

First, I would like to congratulate the people of Iraq on their historic elections. Their resiliency has been the catalyst for significant and positive developments in Iraq.

supply system. As we reduce our footprint, we continue to eliminate excess and create efficiencies by consolidating sustainment capabilities at key contingency operating locations throughout Iraq.

During this quarter, the 90th Sustainment Brigade headquarters from Little Rock, Ark., completed its mission and returned home. The 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Mississippi conducted a transfer

Our Soldiers and civilians continue efforts in support of the responsible drawdown of forces. Operation Clean Sweep has set the conditions for the retrograde of equipment, and to date has saved the Army and American taxpayers more than \$685 million in supplies, parts and equipment that has been returned to the

of authority with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Tennessee. The Dixie Thunder Soldiers from 155th HBCT provided convoy security day in and day out, and did a magnificent job protecting our convoys and facilitating sustainment operations throughout northern Iraq.

As we welcome the 278th ACR, we say Godspeed to the 90th SB and the 155th HBCT. Thank you and your families for your service and sacrifice to our country.

The transition of units will continue throughout the summer. In April, the 49th Movement Control Battalion out of Fort Hood, Texas, will TOA with the 14th MCB from Vicenza, Italy. The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team out of Oregon, will TOA with the 256th IBCT from Louisiana, while the 96th SB out of Salt Lake City, Utah, will complete its mission and redeploy.

As we get closer to the summer and our return back to Fort Hood, I want the Provider Soldiers to remain vigilant and stay focused. There is much still left to do—let's finish strong with safety at the forefront of all we continue to do.

Phantom Support!

2010 is upon us, we've come a long way in our deployment and it's getting to the point where we need to sprint through the finish line.

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has done a great job at facilitating the responsible drawdown of forces and strategic reposturing and redistribution of equipment, thanks in large part to the efforts of everybody involved in Operation Clean Sweep-Iraq.

We need everybody to support this great program. Part of its success has been Soldiers' willingness and eagerness to identify excess equipment. Over the course of six years, a military force conducting numerous missions every day can accumulate a great deal of equipment. In order for us to properly achieve a responsible drawdown, we need to make sure that equipment gets back into the supply system through Clean Sweep.

Soldiers, as we prepare to wrap up our mission here in Iraq, keep the mission clearly in focus. Don't let up and don't become complacent. Complacency kills, and it's during the final stretch of any operation when it can set in most easily. Continue to do the great job for which this command has become known.

You've all done incredible work. Without the full

effort of everyone involved there's no way we could have been as successful as we have been. With that continued effort, I know we'll do a fine job the rest of the way

Keep your Families in your hearts and the mission uppermost in your minds.

Provider 7,
Phantom Support!

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Mark D. Joseph



CSM'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Marriage - on the rocks?

Marital separation is not a pleasant experience. In fact, someone has said, "It's like giving birth to a barbed wire fence." Not a pretty picture. Usually the separation was preceded by weeks or months of unresolved conflict. Now you are separated and wondering, "Where do I go from here?" The Biblical ideal is to seek reconciliation, but that takes time. Maybe my spouse is willing and maybe not. In the mean time, what am I going to do with myself?

I want to suggest that it is God's desire that you use this time to grow as a person. God's purposes are clear: He wants to use even the difficult times of life to develop in us the Christ-like qualities that can bring healing and restoration.

However, if I am going to grow through this painful time, I must not allow my hurt and anger to control my thinking. Hurt and anger are to be acknowledged, but are not to master our lives. As Christians, Christ alone is our Lord, and He is also our Savior. He will make it a time of personal growth if we are willing to co-operate.

Ann was separated and praying for reconciliation, but in the meantime, she wanted to make the most of her life. However, she was plagued with feelings of inferiority. People like Ann typically blame themselves for the separation. They plead with their spouse for a chance to start over and when the spouse refuses, they could sink into deep depression. What is the answer to this downward spiral?

Psalm 15:2 challenges us to "speak the truth in our hearts." We are to tell ourselves the truth. The truth is you are made in the image of God. You have tremendous value. Your abilities are many. You have scores of wonderful characteristics that others admire.

God has not given up on you. The apostle Paul wrote, "I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1:6). In spite of all that has happened, God still intends to bring you to wholeness. He has strong and positive purposes for your life. You must tell yourself this truth and behave accordingly.

What do you know about yourself? What kind of person have you been through the years? Has your attitude toward life been negative or positive?

One wife said, "My husband is so negative that when he wakes up in the morning he either says, 'Oh, no, I overslept!' or, 'Oh, no, I woke up too early!'" For that husband, every day started off wrong. Thousands of people choose to live life with that attitude: something is wrong with everything. Could that be your attitude? If so, do you think it may have contributed to the breakdown of your marriage? Can you imagine the emotional drain on your spouse when he/she heard your daily message of doom?

The Bible says that we are responsible for the quality of life we live. Our response to God, our decisions, our attitudes will determine that quality. You need not be controlled by past attitudes. Ask God

to help you see the world from His perspective. Every person a person of worth. Every day an opportunity in which to do good. This attitude leads to personal growth; and can then lead to relational growth.

Do you tend to hold things inside, instead of letting them out? One husband said: "I realize now that I did not share my feelings with my wife. I kept my thoughts to myself. I basically lived my life and she lived hers. Now that she is gone, I have so much I'd like to say to her."

Do you keep your feelings bottled up inside? Then use this time of separation to learn to release those feelings. Find a pastor, chaplain, counselor or trusted family member and ask for help. When you learn to communicate constructively with someone else, you can then communicate with your spouse.

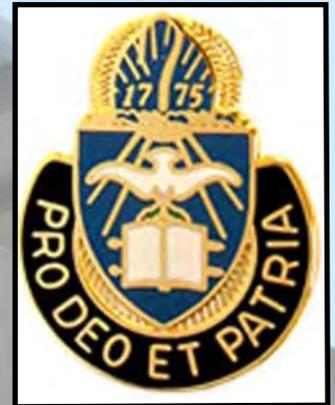
The tendency to keep quiet is not all bad. The scriptures say we are to be "slow to speak".

It's when that tendency is carried to the extreme that it causes problems. You can learn to share your thoughts and feelings. Communication skills can be learned. Many churches offer communication workshops. Find out what is available in your community and start growing.

The past cannot be relived. Your parents, for better or worse, dead or alive, known or unknown, are your parents. Your childhood, pleasant or painful, is your childhood and stands as history. The same is true of your marriage. You cannot undo the past. It is futile to reason or think that, "We should never have gotten married in the first place." The fact is, you did. That cannot be undone, and now we must look to The Lord God for His guidance today.

We waste our time and energy when we ponder what might have been: "If I had..." or "If he or she had..." We must simply admit failure to ourselves, to God and to our spouses. Accept God's forgiveness, forgive yourself, and trust that you spouse will eventually do the same.

Truly, you cannot live in the past, even if you wanted to. You must concentrate on today and the future, for this is a partnership between you and God to develop. Seek to work on what you know are your weaknesses. Explore your interests. Let God teach you new things. If and when your spouse is willing to work on reconciliation, you will be ready.



Chaplain (CPT) Robert Kinnune
Army Garrison Chaplain, Joint Base Balad

RETENTION

13TH ESC CAREER COUNSELORS/RETENTION NCOS

13TH ESC- AC CAREER COUNSELOR MSG HARVEY, CHAROLETTE

at CHAROLETTE.HARVEY@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-433-2526

13TH ESC RC CAREER COUNSELOR-MSG BERGMAN, KIMBERLY

at KIMBERLY.BERGMAN@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-433-2502/2505

15TH SB- MSG ROSS , TIMOTHY

at TIMOTHY.ROSS@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-827-6066

15TH SB- SFC MOORE, OPHELINE

at OPHELINE.MOORE@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-827-6438

15TH SB- SSG CULOTTA, SHANNA

at SHANNA.CULOTTA@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-827-6426

36TH SB- SFC LIBBY, JEFF

at JEFF.LIBBY@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-833-1004

49TH MCB-SGT ORNELAS, OSCAR

at OSCAR.ORNELAS@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-483-2958

90TH SB- SFC MILLER, VERDEAN

at VERDEAN.MILLER@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-433-2502

96TH SB- SGM KARMAZSIN, MELANIE

at MELANIE.KARMAZSIN@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-834-3184

41ST IBCT- SFC ROSE, DARIN

at DARIN.ROSE@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-485-2115

155TH HBCT-SGT SPEARS, MICHAEL

at MICHAEL.SPEARS1@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL or 318-243-9066

Providers manage munitions in Iraq, Afghanistan

Story and Photo by Spc. Michael Camacho
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 63rd Ordnance Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, run operations to support the logistical supply for all types of munitions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 63rd Ord. Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) operates the only corps storage area in Iraq, the largest ammo holding point in country, said 1st Lt. Shawn Green, a platoon leader with the 63rd Ord. Co.

The CSA provides ammunition to U.S. armed services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, said Green, a Graham, Wash., native. The Soldiers process the ammunition, move it from one point to another and store it.

“They specialize in the logistics of ammunition,” he said.

Sgt. Nicole Howard, an ammunition stock control accounting sergeant with the 63rd Ord. Co., said munitions are sent from Kuwait to JBB, where they are received and processed at the CSA.

“We support almost any unit in Iraq,” said Howard, a Durham, N.C., native. “We support units at JBB and other (forward operating bases). They will take that ammo we send and push it out to their own units.”

Official requests for munitions are submitted to the 13th ESC. The orders are verified, the information is sent to the CSA to be processed and the order is prepared for shipment. The average

turnaround time to prepare a shipment is 12 to 24 hours, said Howard, roughly the same amount of time it takes the CSA to in-process ammunition into the holding areas.

Green said the decreased number of service members in Iraq has led to an ammunition surplus. For proper operational security, this ammunition is sent to the theater storage area in Kuwait.

“We’re collecting up all the ammo that is not needed here to be used in other places as part of the War on Terror,” he said.

As FOBs throughout Iraq are downsized or closed, excess ammo is transported from those bases back to the CSA at JBB, said Howard. With fewer troops in Iraq, excess ammo is sent to the Theater Storage Area in Kuwait, she said.

Green said Soldiers at the CSA are trained to handle and store munitions, as well as identify hazards and mitigate risk when processing and receiving ammo.

If packaged munitions show signs of damage, they are inspected by a group of civilian contractors who work alongside the Soldiers with the 63rd Ord. Co., said Green. Any damaged munitions are disposed of through controlled detonations, he said.

Since the 63rd Ord. Co. took over CSA operations in October, the unit has processed roughly 4,300 tons of ammunition, totaling more than \$98 million, said Green.

The CSA is slated to be downsized later in the year as the number of U.S. troops in Iraq drops to 50,000, he said.



Spc. Robert Grasse, an ammunition storage processor with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Gardiner, Maine, native, uses a forklift to move crates of munitions Feb. 25 at the corps storage area at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

13th ESC ships bullets from Iraq to Afghanistan

Story and Photo by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Beans and bullets, as the old Army adage goes, keep the U.S. military running strong.

As the responsible drawdown of forces and equipment escalates following the Iraqi Parliamentary elections in March, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers are ensuring the proper retrograde of ammunition in conjunction with troop levels.

“There are four different actions that are currently being taken with excess ammo. It is shipped back to Kuwait, where it can be stored and used at a later date in other areas of operations; it will be sent to (Operation Enduring Freedom) if needed; if it is unserviceable, it is demilitarized in country; or if requested, it will be sold to the Iraqi Army through Foreign Military Sales,” said Master Sgt. Jarrett Roemer, the 13th ESC support operations ammunition noncommissioned officer in charge.

Provider Soldiers in Iraq are hard at work shipping bullets, among other things, to Afghanistan in support of OEF. By sending ammunition to Afghanistan, the benefit is twofold, said Roemer, a Floresville, Texas, native.

First, the Soldiers on the frontlines in support of OEF receive the tools they need to take the fight to the enemy, he said.

“Some of the ammo we have is important to OEF, because some of it is in short supply in Kuwait and we may have more than we need due to years of ammo being pushed into Iraq,” said Roemer. “Kuwait only receives ammo once a quarter by vessel. So if they run low and we can support OEF from Iraq, it eliminates the Warfighter having to



Pfc. Kenny Mevler, an ammunition specialist with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), prepares a crate of ammunition to be shipped to Afghanistan in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

possibly wait on a longer resupply.”

Second, shipping supplies directly from Iraq helps keep extra trucks and troops off the roads, potentially saving lives, he said.

“By sending the ammo straight from Iraq, you alleviate the need for the ammo to be shipped to Kuwait,” said Roemer.

“More than 2,400 short tons of ammunition have been retrograded, demilitarized, or shipped to Afghanistan since the 13th ESC took over logistical operations for the Iraqi theater in August,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Denise Miceli, the 13th ESC support operations ammunition technician and a Chicago native. She said approximately 400 short tons of ammunition have been shipped to Afghanistan thus far.

Roemer said despite how much

ammo they have already moved, they still have a ways to go.

“The goal for the 13th, when it comes to the subject of retrograde, is by the end of our tour to have removed about 4,200 short tons of ammo from Iraq,” he said.

The responsible drawdown of troops and equipment takes a lot of work behind the scenes, but Soldiers on the front lines of logistics operations here in Iraq know the importance of their mission, said Pfc. Candace Moore, an ammunition stock control and accounting specialist with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC.

Moore, a Lake Charles, La., native, said, “I’m proud of the work we do, because I’m part of something big and not a lot of people can say that.”

509th Movement Control Team works to improve travel at Speicher

Story and Photo by Sgt. Keith VanKlombenberg
13th ESC Public Affairs



Service members and civilians wait to board their flight outside the new passenger terminal at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION SPEICHER, Iraq – Although military travel is not known for its comfort, a group of Airmen at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq, work hard to make it a positive experience.

The 509th Movement Control Team with the 49th Transportation Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade is a team of “green suits,” or Airmen who deploy under Army units. The team is made up of Airmen from bases throughout the United States, Germany and Japan.

“We’re like a pick-up basketball team,” said Air Force 1st Lt. Jason C. Henry, commander of the 509th MCT and a Reading, Penn., native.

Instead of coming together for sport, Henry said the men and women on his team came together to manage air travel coming in and out of COL Speicher and try to make the process easier on service members and civilians.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment the team has made in this regard was finishing the new passenger terminal, which had been in the planning stages since 2007, said Henry.

The \$2 million project, which was completed in early November, brought travelers out of a tent and put them in a brand new hardened shelter with a few

extra comforts. Henry said the 49th Trans. Bn. paid for flat-screen televisions in the terminal so travelers could enjoy movies while they wait, as well as receive up-to-date flight information on the new arrival and departure displays.

The terminal will soon have free wireless Internet as well, said Henry.

“It’s all about quality of life,” he said. “How can we make it easier on (service members)?”

Other projects in the works include a new parking lot and an improved baggage system that will shorten the walk travelers make to palletize gear, he said.

The main goal of these improvements is to separate the passenger terminal from the heavy equipment used in the area, said Henry.

“We’re trying to figure out the best way to make it safe,” he said.

The 509th works to improve more than the aesthetics of the travel facilities.

“When we first got here, customer service was lacking,” said Senior Airman Salome Douglas, a passenger terminal representative and Germantown, Md., native.

Douglas said the new facilities have improved morale among travelers, but the most important contribution the unit made upon its arrival in August was to make customer service the main priority.

“Everybody is a priority and everybody is going somewhere,” said Henry.

Henry said his team has gathered information from movement control teams throughout Iraq to improve operations and create a facility that rivals the terminal at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“That’s the vision,” he said. “We’re just trying to get there in the next 45 days.”

The 509th MCT is scheduled to redeploy in February, but Henry said his unit will put together a plan so the team replacing them can continue to improve travel in the area.

“This is what we are doing here,” said Henry. “Now build upon it.”

Four-star general visits JBB, reflects on women's history, talks drawdown

Story and Photo by Sgt. John Stimac
13th ESC Public Affairs



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command and a Fort Belvoir, Va., resident, speaks with Staff Sgt. Solmarie Ramirez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of asset visibility for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native, after presenting her with the general's coin for excellence and commitment to her mission. The ceremony was held at the 13th ESC's Joint Operations Center, March 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command and a Fort Belvoir, Va., resident, made a March 20 visit to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to discuss the upcoming responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment in Iraq.

Dunwoody was briefed on base closures and the drawdown of personnel, both military and contractors, during a logistics-capacity briefing at the Mirage dining facility.

She addressed the crowd, saying how proud she was of everyone at JBB and the progress being made here in Iraq.

“You are all making such a huge contribution over here,” she said. “They know that you are going to make it happen, we have the best of the best in logistics right here.”

Dunwoody said she tries to make a trip to Iraq every six months to observe the changes being made.

“With the drawdown and all the work that’s going on,” she said, “we need to ensure that the transition from responsible drawdown to a responsible reset is happening.”

With all the logisticians here at JBB, Dunwoody simply wanted to say thank you.

“I want to tell all these (service members) and civilians that I appreciate what they do every day, and what they are doing is making a difference,” she said. “Some of them have been here up to four times in the past eight years and they are still here, committed and making a difference.”

After a command brief with Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, the commanding general of the 13th ESC, Dunwoody presented coins to 10 Soldiers at the Joint Operations Center, for each Soldier’s commitment to excellence and the mission of the 13th ESC.

Staff Sgt. Solmarie Ramirez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of asset visibility for the 13th ESC and a San Juan, Puerto Rico, native, said she received a coin for her role in researching purchasing requests and account maintenance.

“We handle all the purchase requests for all the brigades and brigade combat teams that fall under the 13th ESC,” said Ramirez.

“We also track equipment in theater for the supporting brigades,” she said.

Ramirez said she was proud to find out she would be coined by Dunwoody.

“It was an honor,” she said, “and knowing that she is the first four-star female general, that made it even more of a surprise.”

Ramirez said this should be a message for female Soldiers to keep working hard and represent excellence for all females.

The month of March commemorates Women’s History Month and Dunwoody is the first four-star female general in the history of the Army.

Dunwoody said she wanted to commend all the female Soldiers and civilians that are working hard every day.

“This is a great month to reflect on our history, those pioneers that opened the door for us, for me,” she said. “These women will open the doors for the future generations.”

Dunwoody said this is a wonderful month for women in the military to pause and reflect on how fortunate they are.

“I continue to tell them all that they can be anything they want to be if they have the passion, work hard and give it their all,” she said.

Camp Adder area Soldiers visit local shaykhs, pump houses

Story and Photos by Pfc. Lisa Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 546th Maintenance Company and the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met with local leaders Jan. 18 and visited the four pump stations along the Euphrates River that provide water to Camp Adder and Camp Cedar II, Iraq.

First Lt. Nicholas R. Blair, the officer in charge of the Canal Pump Team with the 546th Maint. Co. out of Fort Polk, La., said his team delivers fuel to all four pumps about three times a week.

Blair, a Norton, Mass., native, said local shaykhs own the pump sites and local Iraqis are in charge of the general upkeep and maintenance of the pumps.

Therefore, when the team goes out to the sites, they always interact with the local population, he said.

Blair said it is obvious his Soldiers have a good relationship with the local children in particular, as the children generally run to greet the Soldiers, who bring them candy or other items that have been donated to the unit for distribution.

The closing of Cedar II will cut his teams' mission in half as only two of the pumps will be needed to keep Adder running, Blair said.

"(The closing of Cedar II) will affect it drastically, 50 percent of what we do outside will fundamentally be cut," said Blair. "We deliver 900 to 1,000 gallons (of fuel) to each site per week.

This will drop it down from 4,000 gallons to 2,000 gallons. We will just deliver fuel to the Tallil site, and the Euphrates 2 site."

Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sust. Bde out of Temple, Texas, and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, visited the pump houses and had lunch with two of the local shaykhs.

"I think it was successful," said Ryan. "The engineers were out working on one of the pumps where the earth had kind of fallen in some, and (it was) a good chance just to meet with the local



Col. Sean A. Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Cedar Park, Texas, native, is given a tour, Jan. 18, of one of the water pumps on the Euphrates River that supplies water to Camp Adder, Iraq.

shaykhs that ... actually have a contract to maintain the pumps and make sure that we have water.

Ryan said the shaykhs help ensure the security of his troops while they in the area.

"They help us," said Ryan. "If there is ... anything going on, on their land, they let me know."

The pump houses are a vital link between the local population and U.S. forces in the area, said Ryan.

"We are starting to interact more with the local population," said Ryan. "We see a lot more acceptance with the shaykhs, as well as the local populace that work there. There is not conflict, or friction points, with the pump houses because it is a win-win situation. It is how we get our water and our lifeline here on Adder, and it provides some business to the shaykhs, and ultimately spreads throughout their communities."



Lt. Col. Peter M. Bistransin, the civil military officer with the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Austin, Texas, native, hands out Frisbees to some of the local children Jan. 18 at one of the water pumps on the Euphrates River that supplies water to Camp Adder, Iraq.

More than 3,000 Soldiers moved in first fixed-wing

Story and Photos by Pfc. Lisa Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – More than 3,000 Soldiers participated in the first fixed-wing redeployment operation out of Camp Taji, Iraq, Jan. 27.

Traditionally, Soldiers would be transported via helicopter to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, or Baghdad International Airport in Baghdad before they departed to Ali Al Salim Air Base in Kuwait, said Staff Sgt. Rufus Brumfield, senior enlisted adviser with the 384th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“We are able to move numerous (passengers) straight from here and they don’t have to stop at another installation like BIAP,” said Brumfield, a New Orleans native. “They can fly from (Camp Taji) straight to Ali Al Salim and then to the states. We can cut out a lot of travel time and moving back and forth.”

This major redeployment involved the transportation of more than 3,000 Soldiers in roughly two weeks, said Capt. William Bailey, commander of the 384th MCT.

“Soldiers get to Kuwait faster by offering a fixed-wing solution out of Taji, as opposed to having to connect somewhere else,” said Bailey, a Huntsville, Miss., native.

Roughly 200 to 300 Soldiers were moved each night, he said.

The Soldiers are moved in a Boeing C-17 Globemaster III or a Lockheed C-130 Hercules out of Camp Taji, said Bailey. Their gear is palletized and loaded onto the plane, he said.

The operation had been in the initial planning stages since August, said Maj. Richard Michaels, division transportation officer with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. and the 30th HBCT redeployed at the same time, said Michaels, a Jefferson City, Tenn., native. With two heavy brigade combat teams being redeployed at once, BIAP would have had more than 800 Soldiers a day bound to Ali Al Salim, said Michaels.

This would have caused heavy congestion in the terminal and complicated the redeployment process, he said.

To mitigate travel flow congestion, they decided to use the flight line at Camp Taji to conduct a mass redeployment of 1st Cav. Div., he said. The 30th HBCT would leave the Baghdad area through BIAP, said Michaels.

“Redeploying the 30th and 1st Cav. was 8,000 Soldiers leaving Iraq at the same time,” said Michaels.

The operation out of Camp Taji reduced the units’ overall travel time by four days, said Michaels. With two to three flights flying out a night, the operation took roughly 16 days, said Michaels.

“This allowed us to keep the Soldiers in the battle space doing (transition training) with the incoming unit, for two days longer,” said Michaels. “This gained them a little more efficiency with their (relief in place) and their efficiency of getting out of Iraq.”

Several units assisted in the process, Michaels said. The MCT, the Air Force logistics teams on the flight line and the senior airfield authority combined with expertise from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, made for quick and efficient operation execution, said Michaels. “The ease and smoothness of this operation is about 10 times better than any brigade redeployment or deployment we’ve experienced out of BIAP,” said Michaels.

“Having a whole C-17 dedicated to a redeployment has been huge to the mission’s success.”

The operation was a major success due to cooperation with the different military branches and groups that played a role, said Michaels. The success at Camp Taji was a testament to what can be accomplished when the branches come together in the aid and support of one another, he said.

“Being able to leverage all the joint capabilities that reside within this theater to redeploy Soldiers and get them out on time is certainly what we have to work for even as the drawdown approaches,” said Michaels.

(Photo) Redeploying Soldiers with the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, file onto a C-17 Globemaster III Jan. 26 at Camp Taji, Iraq. More than 3,000 Soldiers left Camp Taji in a 16-day period, marking the first-fixed wing redeployment operation from Camp Taji.

Joint effort increases efficiency of equipment drawdown

Story and Photo by Sgt. Keith VanKlombenberg
13th ESC Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION SPEICHER, Iraq – As the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment in Iraq draws near, the Corps Distribution Center at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq, has become a hub in the effort to move excess equipment out of Iraq.

The CDC, run by the 611th Seaport Operations Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is responsible for processing excess cargo, containers and vehicles coming out of locations around northern Iraq, and preparing them to be moved to Contingency Operating Location Marez, Iraq, Joint Base Balad, Iraq, or locations in Kuwait.

“We’ve been getting a higher volume of equipment lately,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Ackley, the officer in charge of the CDC.

As the drawdown from Iraq begins, his yards will likely get busier, but his team works to increase efficiency and decrease the time it takes to move equipment, said Ackley, a Columbus, Ohio, native.

The biggest increase in workload and efficiency has been at the Joint Distribution Center, said Sgt. Alger Warthen, a cargo specialist and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the JDC.

“This is one of the most important yards in the CDC,” he said. “We process all loose cargo that comes in from northern Iraq.”



Spc. Russell Patrick, a cargo specialist with the 611th Seaport Operations Company and a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, separates cargo in the Joint Distribution Center at Contingency Operating Location Speicher, Iraq.

Warthen, a Jacksonville, Fla., native, said his team primarily separates cargo to be convoyed south, but recently started working with Airmen to palletize cargo that would move faster by air.

Two Airmen from the 509th Movement Control Team joined the JDC in November to assist in the movement of retrograde material, said Air Force 1st Lt. Jason C. Henry, commander of the 509th MCT and a Reading, Penn., native.

Henry said his Airmen inspect the yard looking for equipment that meets Air Force requirements, provide a pre-joint inspection, and palletize the equipment to be flown south by the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, saving the Army from making

unnecessary convoys and allowing some equipment to be flown to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“If I can move that for you faster, I’d think you’d want that,” he said. “We (have to) help each other.”

In addition to sorting and palletizing cargo, the Airmen also train Soldiers in the JDC to process paperwork according to Air Force requirements.

“They are down here to show me how to do the paperwork, what to bill and how to process it,” said Warthen.

Henry said he and his unit are proud to be part of a joint effort assisting the 264th CSSB in the drawdown process.

“I try to do everything I can to help the 264th,” he said. “The relationship is great.”

Command sergeant major recognizes Soldiers' hard work

Story and Photo by Pfc. Lisa Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – First Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, the former Multi-National Corps-Iraq CSM, met with members of the personal security detachment with the 36th Sustainment Brigade out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Jan. 3 at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Grippe recognized six outstanding Soldiers in the PSD by presenting them with a coin for excellence.

“Over the last six and a

half years, we have put a lot of blood and treasure into this country,” said Grippe. “Because of all that hard work we have done at the lowest tactical level, we are starting to have all this success here in Iraq, (with) capacities building in the government, the economy and the military. It is because of young women and men ... who come over here for multiple tours and successfully get out there and interact with the Iraqi military and civilian sector.”

Grippe said he relies

heavily on his own PSD, and believed it was important to meet with the 36th Sust. Bde. PSD Soldiers to thank them for their service.

“It really means a lot to me as a corps sergeant major to continually be out myself, with my own PSD, out battlefield circulating and visiting young Soldiers ... to ensure that they know what the commander and I are thinking of your hard work out there,” he said.

Spc. Christopher L. Vinson, a driver with the 36th Sust. Bde. PSD, was recognized by Grippe and his command as one of the Soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty. He was selected from among his peers for working as a gunner and assisting with communications and electronic warfare operations, in addition to his primary job as a driver.

“It made me feel good (to be recognized),” said Vinson, a Daingerfield, Texas, native, “good about myself as a person and about the difference I am making in Iraq.”

Vinson said the meeting with Grippe highlighted the important role he and his teammates play in Iraq.

“It made me feel like I am actually a part of something, like I am actually making a difference,” he said.



First Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe presents Spc. Michael A. Johnson, a gunner and driver with the 36th Sustainment Brigade's personal security detachment and a San Antonio native, with a coin for excellence Jan. 3 in Grippe's office at Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq.

Provider Soldiers inducted into SAMC

Story and Photos by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Seven Soldiers were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony Jan. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The Soldiers represented many different units, including the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas, the 37th Engineer Battalion, and the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Artillery Regiment.

The 13th ESC Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the quarter were also recognized for their accomplishments, and awarded Army Achievement Medals for their efforts.

The Balad SAMC invited Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC, to be the guest speaker.

“These new Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members are going to go on and do great things and continue to train these young Soldiers,” said Wentz.

The club was established in 1986 at the 13th ESC’s home in Fort Hood, Texas. Carrying on the tradition of excellence, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, senior enlisted adviser with the 13th ESC, said he decided to hold the board during this deployment to challenge his Soldiers.

“The most important quality a candidate needs to have is confidence,” said Joseph. “It’s not about knowing the answer. The Soldier also needs to be able to maintain military bearing



Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, the senior noncommissioned officer with the 13th ESC, present a medallion and plaque to Sgt. Jeremy Jackson, a Sgt. Audie Murphy Club inductee, during a ceremony Jan. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

throughout the process.”

The Balad SAMC is an active chapter, frequently volunteering at events around the installation. Its president is Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Thompson, the operations NCO with the 159th Seaport Operations Company.

“I want to thank Sgt. 1st Class Thompson, from the 159th Seaport Operations Company, for providing leadership, mentorship and guidance for the Audie Murphy Club here on JBB,” said Wentz.

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club is an exclusive organization with a rigorous selection process. NCOs from the rank of sergeant to sergeant first class are eligible to come before the

board, but only a few make it.

“Only a small percentage of noncommissioned officers are selected for induction into this organization,” said Wentz. “They have definitely earned it.”

Soldiers and Airmen from throughout Balad attended the ceremony, including Command Chief Master Sgt. Paul Burgess, the senior NCO with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

“I loved the ceremony,” said inductee Sgt. 1st Class Marlon Williamson, the senior NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 49th Transportation Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC. “I think the ceremony was

outstanding. A lot of time and effort went into it, just like a lot of hard work and dedication went into becoming a member of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club.”

Williamson, a Detroit native, said he worked to be inducted for years.

“I finally got the opportunity to go before the board and be recommended, and it feels outstanding,” he said.

Events like the Soldier of the quarter board allow Soldiers the chance to better themselves, said Sgt. Miriam Espinoza-Torres, the 13th ESC NCO of the quarter and command group operations NCOIC with the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th SB, 13th ESC.

“It’s a great opportunity for Soldiers to ... get out there and do something for themselves and improve themselves,” said Espinoza-Torres, a Rock Island, Wash., native.



Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Thompson, the operations noncommissioned officer with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, leads the inductees in the oath of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony Jan. 4 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The inductees and the NCO and Soldier of the quarter worked hard and earned the recognition they deserved, said Wentz.

“Today’s inductees have

demonstrated the ability and fortitude to accept and engage the challenge,” he said, “knowing that they and those with whom they serve will be better for it.”

Soldiers save ACUs from wear and tear



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

Training lane gets U.S., Iraqi Soldiers mission ready

Story by Sgt. Candace Westlund, photos by Spc. Cory Grogan
41st IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP ADDER, Iraq -- The 121st Brigade Support Battalion out of Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted a convoy exercise with the Iraqi Army's 10th Motor Transport Regiment at the Convoy Academy Jan. 7 at Contingency Operating Location Adder, Iraq.

More than 2,000 Soldiers have been trained at the Convoy Academy where the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, out of Tigard, Ore., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), facilitates training and manages the building as units come through.

"We provide the building and set up the lanes," said Staff Sgt. Chris Austin, a Sherman, Texas, native.

We have also done Combat Lifesaver certification training. We built onto the facility and have done a lot of improvement for the next unit to take this over."

The training was started by the 121st BSB to ensure



A Soldier with the 121st Brigade Support Battalion and an Iraqi Army Soldier work together to tend to an Iraqi Army vehicle during a training exercise Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.

that convoy commanders are ready to lead the mission, said Master Sgt. Rico Figueroa, a Puerto Rico native.

The training lane was voluntarily implemented by 121st BSB Soldiers to help them remain up to date on tactics, techniques and procedures, he said.

To make the training more realistic, the unit requested support from the Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, he said.

"It is realistic being hit with the explosion," said Figueroa.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Alderman, a platoon sergeant with the 121st BSB and a Thomasville, Ga., native, said he has been hit with an explosively formed projectile on a convoy.

The explosion during training consists of noise and smoke, which causes no damage to the vehicles in the convoy. Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers then practice reacting to the initial explosion, vehicle damage and simulated casualties.

"This helps make sure we are on the same page for training," said Amged Yousef, an interpreter from Cairo.

Yousef said he believes this training serves a greater purpose in building the relationship between the U.S. Army and the IA. He said the Iraqis understand these training opportunities will not be around forever.



A member of the Iraqi Army pulls security during a training exercise with the 121st Brigade Support Battalion as his fellow service members load a casualty after a simulated improvised explosive device attack Jan. 7 at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Providers run laundry facility for Soldiers at Paliwoda

Story and Photo by Spc. Michael Camacho
13th ESC Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION PALIWODA, Iraq –A shower, laundry and clothing repair team provides daily laundry operations for the roughly 500 Soldiers and civilian contractors stationed at Contingency Operating Location Paliwoda, Iraq.

The SLCR team with the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is one of a few such teams in Iraq, as most SLCR teams were replaced by contractors on larger bases. However, the SLCR teams remain useful for remote locations, said Sgt. Jake Rademacher noncommissioned officer of the COL Paliwoda laundry facility.

One SLCR team can provide uniform and shower maintenance for 1,500 to 3,000 Soldiers at a base, said Rademacher, a North Platt, Neb., native.

The SLCR team, comprised of five Soldiers, uses the Laundry Advance System, an industrial size washing machine with a user interface able to monitor the status and problems that may occur during the washing process, said Rademacher. It takes roughly five hours from the time clothes are turned in to wash, dry and fold them, he said, and most Soldiers retrieve their laundry within 24 hours.

The laundry point processes roughly 250 bundles a day, said Spc. Winston Ryan, a textile

service specialist with the 263rd QM Co.

Bundles can consist of as little as one set of ACUs or a set of sheets, said Ryan, a North Platt, Neb., native. The SLCR team puts 25 to 30 bundles into the LADS, roughly 200 pounds of laundry, to make up each load, he said.

The gratitude of patrons is obvious when they receive their clean laundry, said Rademacher.

“One of the best things about this job is the level of appreciation that you get from the Soldiers you support,” he said.

The SLCR team provides clean uniforms and socks, which alone should earn them high praise, said Capt. Ronald Opperman, the personnel officer with 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment and an Oklahoma City native.

“They keep us clean and we love what they do for us,” he said.

Rademacher said the importance of clean laundry is essential to the day-to-day mission of the personnel they support. Without a



Spc. Nicholas Diaz, a textile specialist with the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an El Paso, Texas, native, folds freshly cleaned laundry at the laundry facility at Contingency Operating Location Paliwoda, Iraq. Diaz is a part of a shower, laundry and clothing repair team assigned to COL Paliwoda to operate the laundry services for its roughly 500 Soldiers and civilian contractors assigned there.

laundry facility, service members would have to find their own means to wash clothes, he said, which could lead to substandard hygiene.

“Without our services, the Soldiers here on post would have definite threat of disease,” he said.

Leaders discuss COL Scania closure

Story and Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

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

Capt. William L. Waldman, the officer in charge of base closure on COL Scania with the 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), spoke at the meeting about his proposed plan for Scania.

Waldman, a Hatfield, Penn., native, said he is in the planning phase of his 210-day plan for the base closure.

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

Even at this early stage, measures are being taken to ease into the final goal, said Waldman. A base-wide inventory is being conducted with the goal of eliminating unnecessary assets, an Environmental Closure Survey Team examined the base for environmental issues, the Base Closure Assistance



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

Team visited to help guide them through the process, and some excess equipment has already been removed from the base, he said.

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

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

The convoy support center at COL Kalsu has been designed similarly to COL Scania’s CSC, and is scheduled to be fully operational by June 1, said Ryan.

“The same footprint that we use here for parking has already been developed in (COL) Kalsu,” he said. “But there are some logistical issues, just with some bridging and things, traffic pattern issues that we are trying to (address in order) to mature Kalsu to be an area where trucks can remain overnight.”

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

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



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

Camp Taji unveils new rotary passenger terminal

Story and Photo by Sgt. Keith VanKlombenberg
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Command elements from the 49th Transportation Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team garrison command and 1st Air Cavalry Brigade took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 5, celebrating the opening of the Capt. Edward “Too Tall” Freeman Rotary Wing Passenger Terminal at Camp Taji, Iraq.

The new terminal features two hardened structures capable of holding up to 300 passengers and replaces a small trailer, comparable in size to a containerized housing unit, said Lt. Col. Peter Haas, commander of the 49th Trans. Bn., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, native.

Haas said he flew in from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and was impressed with the work of the 384th Movement Control Team, which runs the terminal under the command of the 49th, and the improvements from the old terminal.

“You can hardly compare the two,” he said.

Haas said the terminal at Camp Taji is the last of eight terminals run by the 49th to receive renovations.

“We always like to be a part of making things better for our Soldiers,” he said.

Capt. William Bailey, commander of the 384th MCT out of Fort Eustis, Va., said his team has moved 2,100 Soldiers per week, for a total of 30,000 since its arrival in September. The new terminal, he said, is making the process smoother and more comfortable.

“We’ve seen a lot of smiles on people’s faces,” said Bailey, a Huntsville, Ala., native. “It shows what we’re doing here in Iraq ... making our footprint better.”

Ground work for the project began with the 974th Transportation Detachment, which preceded his



Members of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the 155th Brigade Combat Team garrison command, along with Capt. William Bailey, commander of the 384th Movement Control Team, unveil the dedication of the new rotary passenger terminal to Capt. Edward “Too Tall” Freeman Jan. 5 at Camp Taji, Iraq. Freeman, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam conflict, was a helicopter pilot for 1st Air Cav. Bde. and a native of Mississippi, the home state of the 155th HBCT.

team, he said, and continued with a partnership between the 384th, the 155th BCT garrison command and the 1st Air Cav. Bde.

Bailey said the 1st Air Cav. Bde. provided guidance and specifications for the construction of the helicopter pad. The 155th managed work orders and maintenance. The 384th managed the building with support from its higher headquarters at the 49th Trans. Bn. Dedicating the building to Capt. Edward Freeman was an example of this partnership.

Freeman, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam conflict, was a helicopter pilot for the 1st Air Cav. Bde. and a native of Mississippi, the home state of the 155th HBCT.

Bailey said the terminal began operations the day before the official unveiling, and had already succeeded in redeploying a battalion-sized element.

Bailey said, “I’m just proud to be a part of it.”

OM AROUND TH ESC



Photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

A shepherd walks his flock past a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle mired in a sinkhole in Ninewa province, Jan. 18. The gun truck belongs to Soldiers with 3rd Platoon, 204th Military Police Company, 519th Military Police Battalion, out of Fort Polk, La. Members of the Q-West quick reaction force for recovering vehicles – manned by C Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, out of Oxford and Indianola, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) – recovered the vehicle.



Photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

Byrd, a gate sentinel and a Tutwiler, Miss., trucks pass the main entry control point Agency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq. A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a mechanized unit of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), that provides force protection. This marked the unit's sixth month of ECP. There have been no security breaches during



Photo by/Pfc. Lisa Cope

One of the students at Ibn Rushed School near Nasariyah, Iraq, smiles and waves after receiving school supplies from Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, out of Temple, Texas, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Jan. 13.

Providers operate Army's largest supply support activity at JBB

Story and Photo by Spc. Michael Camacho
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 716th Quartermaster Company out of Jersey City, N.J., manage the largest multi-category Supply Support Activity facility in the Army at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The facility provides logistical support primarily for the units operating in Multi-National Division – North to keep them mission ready, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vincent Koski, the SSA accountability officer with the 716th QM Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“As the largest SSA in the Army, we are here to provide to the ever-changing battlefield,” he said.

The SSA provides logistical service for units in Iraq and supports the roughly 13 other SSAs country wide, said Koski, a Chesterfield, Va., native.

“We work hand in hand with other SSAs,” he said. “If they need a part at their SSA and they don’t have it, they go through the system. It’ll come to us and we’ll pull the part for them and ship it out to their location.”

Koski said shipments are prepared and ready for transportation within 24 hours of order. The facility processes more than 3,000 SSA referrals per week and regularly supports other SSAs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The SSA processes an average of 1,200 supply requests and issues an average of 500 supplies daily, said Sgt. Joshua Davis, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the SSA at JBB, with the 716th QM Co.

“Anybody who needs a part, we’re there,” said Davis, a Chesterfield, Va., native. “We do our best to help them out ... we always get the job done no matter

what.”

The SSA provides general unit and office supplies, vehicle oils and petroleum products, wood and fortification supplies, and repair parts for military vehicles, said Koski.

Roughly 50 percent of the supplies are repair parts for land and aviation vehicles, he said.

“It’s a wide range of repair parts,” he said. “It can be something as small as a bolt or as big as an engine. If it deadlines that vehicle, we’ll do our best to support that customer.”

Koski said petroleum products are the second most often issued items followed by general supplies.

Stocked with the majority of the supplies the military needs on a regular basis, the facility’s warehouses are stocked and prepared to support mission readiness.

The facility stocks items based on the needs of the Army by looking at the demands of the past 24 months, said Koski.

When supplies are not in stock and need to be ordered, the arrival time can depend on the stock of other SSAs in or around Iraq and the priority of the item, he said.

Though most orders arrive within 30 days, factors such as location, weather and item priority can affect the item shipment time,



Spc. Elwin Crowner, the high-item-priority manager with 716th Quartermaster Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Annapolis, Md., native, moves boxes at the Supply Support Activity March 23 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

said Davis.

The Soldiers at the SSA establish a good working relationship with their customer units and organizations that depend on the facility, said Koski.

“We try to provide adequate customer support,” he said, “getting input from the customers when issuing the (supplies).”

As bases have begun to close and downsize, more supplies are being processed through the SSA and put back into the Army supply system to be used by units in need, saving the Army more than \$275 million, said Koski.

Koski said the SSA can provide support to any branch of service in Iraq and abroad, if necessary. The facility at JBB has roughly 500 customers, but because of their proximity and size, they are able to support troops serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The SSA has made an effort to anticipate the supply needs of the units in Iraq, said Koski.

“We try to be proactive in what’s coming up ... and the changing face of the battlefield,” he said.

Use of US dollar to be eliminated in Iraq

Iraqi dinar to protect Soldiers, stimulate local economy

Story and Photo by Pfc. Lisa A. Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION
BASRA, Iraq – United States currency may soon become difficult to find in Iraq as part of an effort to protect Soldiers and increase the value of the Iraqi dinar.

Sgt. Brittany A. Raimer, a dispersing manager with the 368th Finance Management Company, out of Wichita, Kan., 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said eliminating the use of U.S. currency on the battlefield will help to stimulate the economy of Iraq.

“One of the main focuses of finance is to ultimately eliminate U.S. currency from the battlefield,” said Raimer, a Lake Charles, La., native. “Our government is implementing the use of the Iraqi dinar, to both undermine the dependency the Iraqi nationals have on American currency and to back the Dinar, greatly increasing its weight on the market.”

The use of electronic fund transfers to pay vendors and contractors, and urging service members to rely on the Eagle Cash Card, rather than cash, are two major changes that have been implemented in Iraq to eliminate the use of cash, said Raimer.

“The Eagle Cash Card enables personnel to have a direct link to the bank account without the hassle of hard cash,” said Raimer. “The stored value card has been instrumental in effectively moving toward a cashless battlefield.”

Sgt. Toni M. Guillery, a dispersing agent with the 368th FM Co., and a Lake Charles, La., native, said the Eagle Cash Card is designed to help prevent service members from losing money or being robbed while in country.

“Carrying a single card is better than

carrying a wad of money in your pocket, but one concern that I do have is ... on the kiosks, you have to use a pin number in order to access the money, but when you go to vendors, you do not,” said Guillery. “If you (fill the card) up to the max, and you lose that card, and somebody picks it up and finds it and they are a dishonest person, they can go and spend that money.”

Guillery said the unit only disburses U.S. cash to service members who are about to go on mid-tour leave or re-deploy.

Guillery said the unit disburses less than \$10,000 in U.S. cash per month, but disburses more than $\text{ع.}351,000,000$ (IQD), the equivalent of roughly \$300,000, per month.

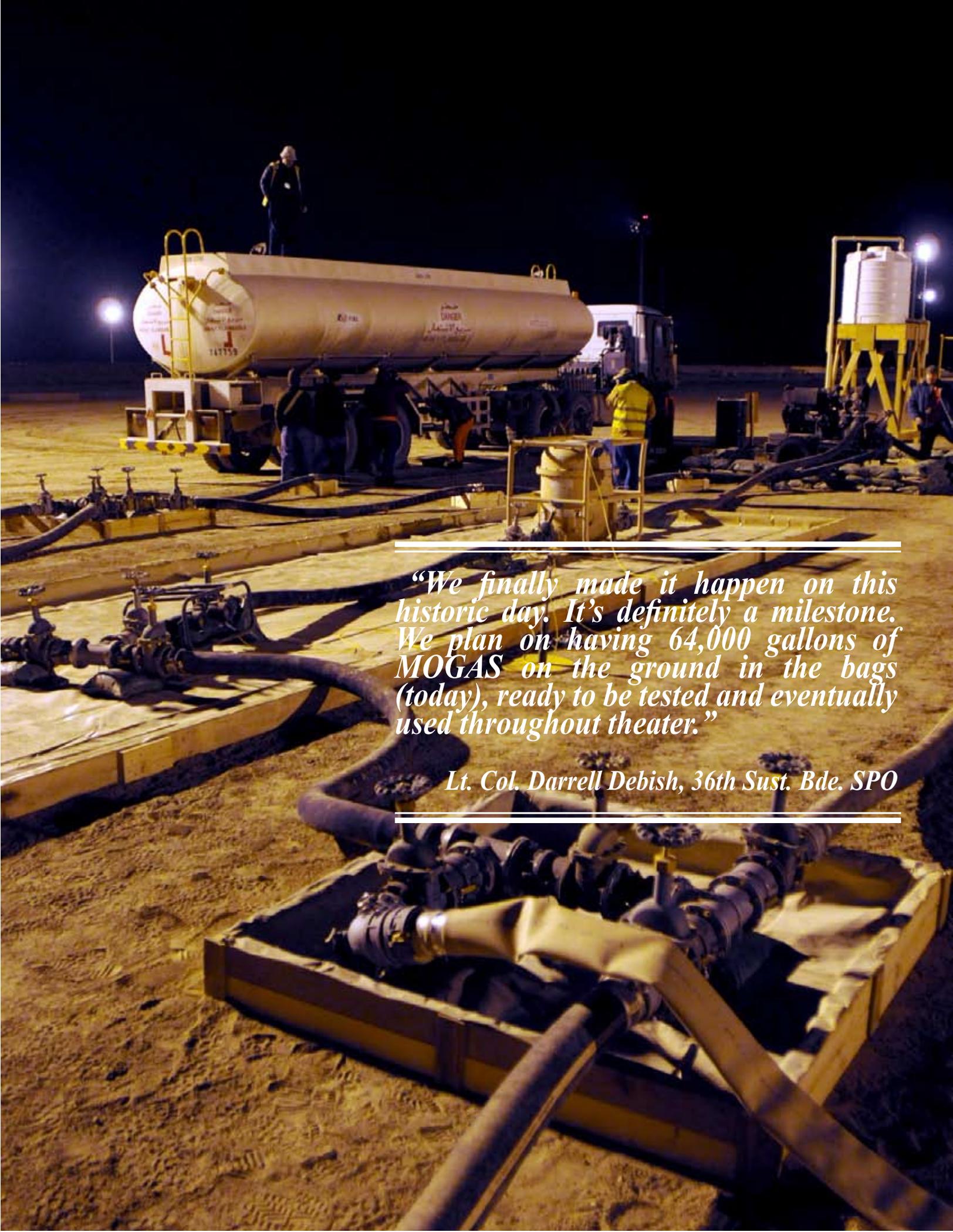
The current exchange rate is $\text{ع.}1,170$ to \$1, said Guillery.

Raimer said the transition away from the U.S. dollar has aided the progression of the banking industry in Iraq.

Raimer said, “The progression (away from U.S. currency) has greatly supported the modernization of the banking system, thus improving and instilling trust in the local economy.”



The contents of the cash drawer Jan. 27 at the finance office at Contingency Operating Location Basra, Iraq illustrates how the use of U.S. cash is being eliminated in Iraq.



“We finally made it happen on this historic day. It’s definitely a milestone. We plan on having 64,000 gallons of MOGAS on the ground in the bags (today), ready to be tested and eventually used throughout theater.”

Lt. Col. Darrell Debish, 36th Sust. Bde. SPO

Fuel flows for first time at new Adder fuel farm

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Tad Browning
36th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Under the light of a full moon, with temperatures in the mid 30s, KBR, Inc. employees stood by as the first fuel truck arrived at the newly constructed fuel farm Jan. 28 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, to begin fueling operations.

Col. Sean Ryan, commander of the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), described the process as “a vision, a concept, a plan and a reality.”

Lt. Col. Darrell Debish, the support operations officer with the 36th Sust. Bde., said the first few drops of fuel in the motor gas bags were the culmination of 48 months of planning and execution.

“We finally made it happen on this historic day,” he said. “It’s definitely a milestone. We plan on having 64,000 gallons of MOGAS on the ground in the bags (today), ready to be tested and eventually used throughout theater.”

Debish said after the fuel trucks completed filling the bags with the initial 64,000 gallons, that fuel would sit for a designated amount of time and samples would be taken to a lab to be tested. When the lab clears the sample, the fuel bags will be certified as operational.

Lt. Cmdr. Brock Harrill, officer in charge of U.S. Navy Petroleum Detachment, was on sight to oversee the petroleum operations. Harrill works with the 36th Sust. Bde. and the contractors.

He said roughly nine to 12 months ago, they graded and leveled the area,

built access roads and put in the lighting. Harrill said the berms, the bladders and the assembly of the fuel systems began roughly three months ago.

“This has been a hugely successful construction effort,” he said.

“The Red Horse construction squadron from the Air Force came out and did the bulk of this construction in a 10 to 12 week period.”

Harrill said it was a challenge to put together enough materials to assemble the farm because there is a very large demand for war material in Afghanistan, where the emphasis of the war effort is, under the direction of Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of United States Central Command.

“As we have been able to disassemble other fuel farms around the country and downsize, we’re able to get those parts and bring them here and assemble this,” said Harrill. “It’s a very slow and cumbersome process. Another challenge is operating two fuel farms in parallel, Adder and Cedar (II), with basically the same group of people. That’s extremely difficult.”

Debish said some hoses do not fit and some couplings are bad, representing typical problems in a new operation. The dysfunctional pieces



Col. Sean Ryan, 36th Sustainment Brigade commander, watches a fuel gauge as the first gallons of motor gas fill the fuel bags Jan 28 at the Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, fuel farm.

are not revealed until pressure builds in a hose, he said.

“The biggest thing was making sure the pump was running, making sure you have your safety stuff out here ... and actually getting the fuel through three or four different manufacturer’s hoses,” said Debish. “If they are all Goodyear, that’s great. If they are all B.F. Goodrich, that’s fine. But once you get it working, it’s like dominoes, they all fall.”

As the bags fill, the fuel farm will begin to serve all of southern Iraq, he said.

“The fuel farm here is the center piece of the new Convoy Support Center Adder, which will be the main logistics and fuel hub for all of southern Iraq,” said Harrill.

Harrill said the fuel farm represents the most collaborated project in Iraq.

“This is a fuel farm for the Army, to be run by the Navy, built by the Air Force to give fuel to the Marines,” Harrill said.

Providers save Army more than \$680 million

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Joel F. Gibson
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) saved the Army more than \$680 million by coordinating the cataloging and redistribution of excess equipment throughout Iraq since August.

Through Operation Clean Sweep, the 13th ESC recovers excess equipment that is not in use or needed for operations here in Iraq. The equipment is returned to the supply system for redistribution in theater, in Afghanistan and throughout the Army, said Col. Gus Pagonis, the support operations officer with the 13th ESC and a Copperas Cove, Texas, native.

Operation Clean Sweep in Iraq was designed to address the massive build up of equipment since Operation Iraqi Freedom started in 2003, Pagonis said.

“Imagine if you did not go through your garage or your attic for about seven years, what would be left there?” he said. “Now multiply that by about 150,000 and that’s what we have here in Iraq right now.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Guy Hunter II, the senior logistics adviser for the reset and redistribution branch with the 13th ESC and a Victorville, Calif., native, said this represents years of backup.

“You have a unit that falls in on another unit’s location that they (transferred authority) with, and into a motor pool that already has 25 or 30 containers,” said Hunter. “Before Operation Clean Sweep, units throughout Iraq were not doing the normal day to day supply operations of command supply discipline because (operational tempo) was so high, so that kind of got left behind.”

Because combat operations slowed down during this phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, units across Iraq, along with the 13th ESC, can focus on identifying excess equipment and bringing it back to the supply system for other units to use or send back to the United States, said Hunter.

Pagonis said Operation Clean Sweep is about providing an easy way for units to maintain supply discipline.

To facilitate the redistribution of supplies and equipment, the 13th ESC coordinates with its subordinate sustainment brigades to send materiel redistribution teams to forward operating bases throughout Iraq, said Lt. Col. Ben Harvey, the reset and redistribution branch chief with the 13th ESC and a Chattanooga, Tenn., native.

As a drawdown tool, Operation Clean Sweep has been instrumental in making the transition easier for redeploying units because MRTs can go to their locations and assume control of the excess equipment for proper disposal, said Hunter, but the program also has long-lasting potential.

“Operation Clean Sweep is an enduring process that we need to continue to do all the time,” Hunter said. “It’s not just because we’re here in Iraq, we also need to do it in the states. Things accumulate and it’s easier to say, if you’ve got a container, ‘Oh just put it in the container,’ when it should actually go back into the supply system so somebody else can use it.

“As long as we continue ordering and purchasing things, we need to continue doing clean sweeps.”

Sgt. Maj. Dennis Strubhart, the senior noncommissioned officer for support operations, 13th ESC and a Riviera, Texas, native, said Operation Clean Sweep’s capacity to catalog and redistribute items speeds those processes along.

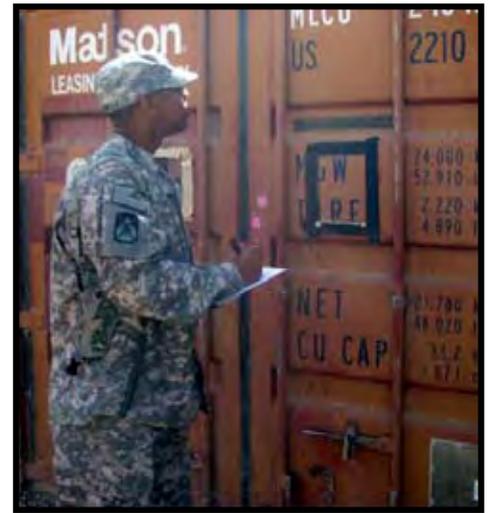
“It could take years for them to get back in the supply system,” said Strubhart. “The Army doesn’t have to keep spitting out money for items it already has, and it only takes a month or two from the initial cataloging of items to redistribution to units that need those items.”

As important as the money Operation Clean Sweep saves is the time it creates for units, said Hunter.

“They’re just doing a unit move back to the states – they’re not competing with transportation assets for all their equipment and all the excess equipment that has to go home,” Hunter said. “It’s an immense time savings for them.”

Pagonis said the materiel redistribution teams are the driving force behind Operation Clean Sweep.

“It’s the Soldiers on the ground who are making the difference, the 13th ESC Soldiers who are down there every day going through all this stuff, cleaning out your garage every day for a year would be a tough thing to do, especially if every night the garage filled back up,” Pagonis said.



Staff Sgt. Mario Dillard, a supply sergeant with the 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), verifies serial numbers on containers to be turned in during Operation Clean Sweep.

Quartermaster Soldiers preserve Iraqi environment

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jorge Anaya
40th QM Company

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 40th Quartermaster Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), take steps to care for the environment during their sustainment operations in Iraq.

The 40th QM Co. hazardous material team works to ensure used and contaminated fluids are disposed of properly.

Staff Sgt. Jose Velez, the shop foreman with the 40th QM Co. motor pool and a Bayamon, Puerto Rico, native, supervises the mechanics as they perform their scheduled services.

“All liquids in the equipment must be swapped out with new fluids, to keep the machinery in steady working order,” said Velez. “These liquids are now considered waste and must be contained properly to ensure the U.S. Army is not contaminating Iraqi soil.”

Sgt. Michael Aubut, a generator mechanic and a Madison, Wis., native, takes contaminants to the hazardous materials yard and accounts for all HAZMAT, such as used batteries, engine oil, anti-freeze and fuel deemed useless for equipment.

Aubut said used oil is taken to industrial plants where it is heated and separated from water, solids and other impurities, and then filtered and refined. Benefits of recycled oil include additives for manufactured products mainly used for mechanical engines, hydraulic fluid and even fuel for industrial burners, he said.

All personnel who are HAZMAT qualified are taught the Environmental Protection Agency regulations for transportation, management and disposal of contaminants. The EPA inspects U.S. facilities to ensure compliance with federal law, and any violations not corrected are met with heavy fines and possible jail time, said Aubut.

Sgt. Louinique Pierre, the HAZMAT Yard noncommissioned officer in charge and a Pompano Beach, Fla., native, explained the scale of operations facing the 40th.

“We receive plenty of hazardous waste from the surrounding units,” he said. “At times, we receive up to 4,000 gallons of waste and maybe up to 19,000 pounds of vehicle batteries. We are

inspected to ensure compliance, and my Soldiers are trained to know their purpose in the HAZMAT Yard and how much their contribution is helping.”

Spc. Raymond Palardy, the 40th QM Co. HAZMAT team clerk and an Ash Way, R.I., native, said paperwork helps them keep track of the contaminants each unit turns in.

The job requires at least 40 hours of HAZMAT management and knowledge of EPA standards and regulations training, said Palardy.

Paperwork proves that units are following these standards, he said.

The 40th QM Co. HAZMAT team takes pride not only in accomplishing their mission, but also how they perform their duties.

“The U.S. Army is demonstrating to their Iraqi sponsors that by containing, safeguarding and properly transporting contaminants, we are not only caring for the environment, we are also caring for its occupants as well,” said Pierre.

“The HAZMAT team is contributing not only to the U.S. Army, they are also caring for the environmental health and safety of Iraq.”



Sgt. Louinique Pierre, the Hazardous Materials Yard noncommissioned officer in charge with the 40th Quartermaster Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Pompano Beach, Fla., native, supervises Cpl. Chad Campbell, a Beaverton, Mich., native, and Spc. Toni Rogers, a Martinez, Ga., native, both HAZMAT Yard clerks, as they strap containers to pallets in preparation for transportation Feb. 8 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Mississippi Guardsman uses ingenuity to protect convoying Soldiers

Story and Photo by Capt. Murray Shugars
2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – Winter mud can pose safety and security risks to gun truck crews, but a Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier invented a method for minimizing those risks for his scout gun truck.

Spc. Michael A. Boucher, a driver with 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, out of Greenwood, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Batesville, Miss., native, designed and installed additional mud flaps to the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit, which is attached to the front of the gun truck to absorb bomb damage and shield the vehicle and crew.

Boucher's ingenuity significantly improved the effectiveness, security and safety of his scout vehicle, and therefore, the platoon, said 1st Lt. Nathan W. Hughes, Boucher's platoon leader.

"Mud is a big problem during rainy season, and the SPARKs kicks mud up onto the (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected) truck, making the situation worse," said Hughes, a Batesville, Miss., native. "The windows got muddy and the scout truck would have to slow down for safety. The scouts would even have to stop every six or eight miles, just to wash the mud off the windows. This slowed the whole convoy and put all the vehicles at greater risk. Spc. Boucher came up with an idea to solve the problem, gained the necessary materials and fixed it on his own. No one told him to do this."

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Cullom, Boucher's platoon sergeant, agreed.

"We conduct our missions at night, so we always operate in conditions of limited visibility, but the mud makes it a lot worse, and the scouts need to see the roads," said Cullom, a Flowood, Miss., native. "If they can't see the roads, they can't effectively scout for the convoy. The extra mud flaps Boucher added have made a big improvement on their ability to see the roads."

The mud flaps also enabled the turret gunner to provide better security, said Spc. Robert S. Lacey, the truck's gunner.

"Mud covered my blast-resistant windows, my goggles and my weapon and ammunition," said Lacey, a Houston, Miss., native.

"That reduced my effectiveness a good deal. For instance, if the truck is near something, I've got to be able to look down through my turret windows. Also, if my weapon and ammunition get fouled in mud, the gun could malfunction. Since Boucher made those mud flaps, I haven't had any issues with mud. It's easier for me to scan through my



Spc. Michael A. Boucher, a gun truck driver and a Batesville, Miss., native, explains how he made additional mud flaps for the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit, which absorbs bomb damage and shields the vehicle and crew, in his company motor pool Feb. 4 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

windows so I don't have to stick my head above them, which puts me at risk."

Boucher said he spent several weeks finding the materials to build the flaps, then he mounted the flaps.

"I used a section of wire mesh from a scrap ... barrier to make the curved form," he said. "I went to the department of public works and got a sheet of quarter-inch rubber, a one-by-four board and mounting bolts."

"It took me so long because I had to cut the ... mesh with bolt cutters," he said. "I cut the rubber flap with the serrated blade of an Army-issued multi-purpose tool."

Boucher has made other improvements to his MRAP, such as mounting a spotlight on the gun turret – In addition to those mounted on either side of the gun truck – for the driver and truck commander, said Cullom.

"He figured out a way to mount the light without interfering with the rotating turret," he said. "This has increased the scout truck's security at night because three sets of eyes can scan with the spotlights. He made a metal plate to mount the light, he rigged the power cable and he figured out a way to mount the remote control panel in the turret."

Boucher said he enjoyed fixing the problem.

"I like fixing things, and back home, I have a small engine business on the side," he said. "My dad taught me to work with my hands, fixing cars and go carts, and I've always enjoyed that. Anyway, I was just doing what needed to be done."

Deployed Soldiers train incoming troops

Story by Sgt. Ryan Twist
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait— Soldiers with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) convoyed to Kuwait to train incoming Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment before they travel to Iraq to replace the 155th.

The 278th ACR, out of Knoxville, Tenn., trained on Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, which they will use for their convoy security duties in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Jon M. Morgan, an instructor with Task Force 1, 155th Infantry Regiment out of McComb, Miss., 155th HBCT, 13th ESC, said his unit gave the incoming Soldiers a thorough rundown of their equipment.

“We’ve been showing them how to do (preventive maintenance checks and services) on a vehicle,” said Morgan, a Biloxi, Miss., native. “We’ve been showing them the weight distribution of the vehicle, how it handles, how it hits pot holes.”

First Lt. John A. Wasik, an executive officer with Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment

out of Cookeville, Tenn., said when a unit goes into theater, the incoming and outgoing units usually do a relief in place/transfer of authority, which takes anywhere from two weeks to a month. Wasik, a Cookeville, Tenn., native, said the training the 155th provided allowed his unit to speed up that process.

“We don’t have to worry about going outside the wire in country (Iraq) and learning on the fly,” he said. “By doing this here, it will help us establish any (standard operating procedures) in country (Kuwait) before we go up north. It’s going to help our guys tremendously.”

Sgt. Joshua W. Lively, a gunner with HHT, 2nd Sqdn., 278th ACR, said the hands-on training was good.

“We’ve had a lot of one-on-one training with the 155th guys,” said Lively, a Knoxville, Tenn., native.

Spc. Adam D. Brown, a gunner with F Troop, 2nd Sqdn, 278th ACR out of McMinnville, Tenn., said he appreciated his trainers’ experience.

“It’s really good to know, especially being your first time over ... to have that reassurance that you’re going to learn something from someone that already knows what’s going on,” said Brown, a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native. “Not only does it boost our knowledge, it also boosts your confidence in the mission that you’re going to do.”

In Kuwait, there is time to train on the MRAP and its equipment but in Iraq, there is less time to focus directly on training as Soldiers perform their mission, said Brown. The convoy security mission

comes first and on-the-job training comes second, but this training removes such issues.

“You get to go into battle confident, ready and prepared,” he said.

Because he is a gunner, Brown said his training in Kuwait provided him with the skills necessary to succeed.

“Pass it on to other gunners what you need to know; know your weapon inside out; be able to take your stuff apart in the dark; no matter what, be prepared for anything,” he said. “That’s definitely something I’ve learned here that I want to pass on to others.”

Pfc. Brent M. Duncan, a driver with F Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 278th ACR, said he learned to use an LED (light-emitting diode) light and PMCS his vehicle.

Duncan, a McMinnville, Tenn., native, said the pre-deployment training helped Soldiers acclimate and prepare, something books or slide shows would not have provided. He said he especially appreciated the driver’s training, because MRAPs are much larger than Humvees.

“It’s better that we’re getting to touch the vehicles now instead of getting in country and then touching them, because going from something like a Humvee to this is a big jump,” he said.

Wasik said the MRAP training was valuable to him as well.

“I think the training has been invaluable down here,” he said. “You get familiarized with the vehicle, the piece of equipment, or the weapon system before you go into a combat scenario, and that’s what this has allowed us to do.”

The Soldiers absorbed the training well, said Wasik.

“I appreciate the 155th coming down here with a plan to get us up to speed on the (tactics, techniques and procedures) that are happening up north, and also giving us time to drive their vehicles,” he said. “Some units aren’t crazy about doing that, and we really appreciate it.”



US Army Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Benoit

Staff Sgt. Jon M. Morgan, an instructor with Task Force 1, 155th Infantry Regiment out of McComb, Miss., 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), trains Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment how to do preventive maintenance checks and services to the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle Feb. 14 at Camp Buerhing, Kuwait. Morgan, a Biloxi, Miss., native, trained the 278th for its upcoming deployment when it will replace the 155th HBCT.

Proper Exit brings injured Soldiers back to Iraq

Story by Sgt. Ryan Twist
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Eight Soldiers who were injured while serving in Iraq returned to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Feb. 5 during Operation Proper Exit Four, to tell their stories and witness the changes the country has undergone since they last served here.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John A. Elder, the superintendent with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, said the program gives injured Soldiers a chance to travel throughout the country and revisit once familiar locations.

Elder, an Appomattox, Va., native, said the injured Soldiers tell their stories so the service members who are here now can understand the country's improvements.

"It's a good chance for those Soldiers to come back to Iraq, see what goes on and leave the country on their own terms," he said.

The Soldiers revisited the Air Force Theater Hospital at JBB, where they were treated before they were evacuated from the country. Their tour was a chronological duplicate of their first visit to the hospital, starting with the stability room, moving through the emergency department and then to the helicopter pad, said Elder.

Some of the Soldiers had never even seen the hospital because it was a complex of tents when they were last here, he said.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," he said. "Proper Exit Three, last time, was supposed to come through and the weather stopped them from coming

here. It was very disappointing when they didn't come. This will be one of the highlights of my tour here at the hospital."

The injured Veterans came back to tell Soldiers serving here what they have done with their lives since they were injured, using their life stories to inspire their fellow Soldiers, said Elder.

"To watch them get off that helicopter laughing, joking and just having a good time, was really, really pleasing for me," he said. "It's an honor for me to be here to help these guys."

Capt. Ferris W. Butler, former platoon leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., said it was amazing to come back.

When he was injured at the end of 2006 by an improvised explosive device, the country as a whole was in turmoil, said Butler, a Port Tobacco, Mass., native. He said the Soldiers were uncertain if America would stay as long as it has to further freedom and democracy in Iraq. It was a time of struggle and uncertainty, said Butler.

"To be able to come back a few years later, after I've suffered losing both feet from elective amputation," he said, "it just brings so much closure to the entire mission. To see the country thriving, to see the Iraqi government and the Iraqi Army take over, it really means a lot."

In 2006, there were no vehicles on the road and all of the bridges were shut down, said Butler. In the four years that have passed, the

country has changed, he said.

"We've literally been all over Iraq," he said. "To see the lights on at night, to see the water running and to see all the vehicular traffic going through the streets, it's absolutely unreal. We are literally rebuilding this country, said Butler.

Staff Sgt. Allison M. Evans, a supply sergeant with the 159th Seaport Operations Company out of Fort Story, Va., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said this event helped the Veterans find closure and gave the younger Soldiers a better perspective, opening their eyes to the war as a whole.

Evans, a Jacksonville, N.C., native, said they witnessed the Veterans' strength in how they live their lives and cope with their difficulties.

"It kind of makes me feel like I don't have as much to stress out about because these guys have overcome so much," she said. "I can overcome the little things I do every day."

Some Veterans have come back more than once to help out new Soldiers who participate in the event, Evans said.

Elder said Soldiers who are interested in Proper Exit, but do not want to come to Iraq, can speak with Soldiers who have participated, to get a wealth of information about the program and those Veterans' experiences.

"I really see the looks on their faces," he said. "I know they're getting a lot out of it. I just thank them for having the strength and

courage to come back. These guys went through some horrific times in their lives and they fought back from almost certain death in some cases. They are much stronger men than I could ever dream of being. I have a tremendous amount of respect for these Soldiers. I'll be there for them, anything they need."

Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Fort Hood, Texas and a Mansfield, Ohio, native, hugged Capt. Ferris W. Butler, former platoon leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., during Operation Proper Exit Four at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Butler, a Port Tobacco, Mass., native, participated in the event, in which previously injured Veterans returned to Iraq to tell their stories to the Soldiers now serving there.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ryan Twist



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ryan Twist

Capt. Ferris W. Butler, former platoon leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, N.Y., talks to the Soldiers at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east Feb. 5 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Butler, a Port Tobacco, Mass., native, participated in Operation Proper Exit, which brings Veterans who were injured in Iraq back to the country to revisit the area and share their stories.

Arizona-based unit brings cloth

Story and Photos by Sgt. Ryan Twist
13th ESC Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company provided clothing and other donated items to the local community during a humanitarian aid mission March 21 near Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The items were donated through the Arizona Army National Guard, by a local organization in Arizona called Students Helping Students, started by a fellow Soldier to give to those in need.

Staff Sgt. Rose L. Mattie, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3666th SMC out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Phoenix native, said the mission provided a chance for the local community to see the Soldiers do something positive and also gave the Soldiers a chance to see the culture and life outside the wire.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raymond L. Baxter, an Allied Trades supervisor with the 3666th SMC, said the opportunity to conduct the mission came before they left the U.S.

Baxter, a Phoenix native, said he was approached a week before the deployment by Lt. Col. Dawn E. Latting, the Defense Movement Coordinator for the Arizona National Guard and a special education teacher who started the program, and asked if the unit would be interested in bringing clothing to distribute to the local Iraqi children.

“We were able to bring five tri-wall boxes full of clothes for the kids,” he said.

Students Helping Students gives deployed Arizona units a chance to give back to the local community and offer some much-needed help to the children at the same time, said Baxter.

After they arrived in Iraq, the Soldiers cleaned the clothing and other items and sorted them, removing anything inappropriate.

Mattie said the clothing ranged from toddler to young adult, and they put together a complete outfit for each bag.

“We had 50 female and 50 male outfits that we put together,” she said. “We distributed all of them and are hoping we can get some more and do it again.”

Spc. Zandrast R. Rast, a supply clerk with the 3666th SMC and a Fort Defiance, Ariz., native, said her job was handing out the clothes as soon as they arrived at their destination.

“I was on the team to just hand out the clothes and ... to give out candy,” she said.

Rast said she could tell they needed help.



Staff Sgt. Rose L. Mattie, the operations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), folds clothing to be handed out during a humanitarian aid mission March 14 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq. Mattie, a Phoenix native, planned and coordinated the event.

“From what I saw, the little kids didn’t have much,” she said. “It felt good to give them clothes and to see their faces when they saw them.”

Rast said when she got out of the vehicle, it reminded her of growing up on the Navajo reservation. People always brought them food but never clothing, so her family had to find them clothes to wear. Rast said she understood how the Iraqi children felt.

“I just wanted to help,” she said.

Rast said it was important to show they cared.

“A lot of kids need help and some people just don’t

ing to give to local community

want to do it because (they think) it's their parents' responsibility," she said. "Sometimes they can't help the situation that they're in. It felt good, and if I were ever given a chance to do this again, I would."

Baxter said watching everyone hand out bags to the smiling children was an amazing feeling.

"It seemed like it went too fast," he said. "(We) were only there for a short period of time. We can't help all the kids, but to help some of them is great."

Baxter said he thinks the Soldiers will value the experience they were given.

"I think if you have a chance, an opportunity to help somebody, whether it's the Iraqi kids or even U.S. kids, take the time and do it," he said. "The way you feel inside after you help somebody is just great. I have kids of my own and I love volunteering. I was really happy to do this mission."

Baxter said his favorite part of the event was hearing the other Soldiers when they returned from the mission, talking about how great it was and how they planned to volunteer again.

Mattie said this was not her first time on a humanitarian aid mission.

"I really like doing this kind of stuff," she said. "I've had some experience before, going to Africa and to Jordan for a cultural mission. I think it's a great idea mainly for my troops to get out there and see different (cultures) because I've had these experiences. I wanted to make sure I could get some of our Soldiers out there ... to experience what is outside this military role."

Mattie said she tries to teach everyone that even though they are in a combat zone, there are people like them outside the wire.

She said they are planning a similar mission with the Operation Back to School program.

"I definitely want my Soldiers to take (away) the fact that they got a great experience and they did something ... positive over here, a selfless act," she said. "They actually contributed to something which probably will have an impact bigger than they could even imagine right now."



Spc. Samuel E. Valencia, a welder and a Chandler, Ariz., native, and Spc. Zandrast R. Rast, a supply clerk and a Fort Defiance, Ariz., native, both with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pass out clothing to local Iraqi children during a humanitarian aid mission March 21 near Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Transportation Soldiers provide safe travel in northern Iraq

Story and Photo by Sgt. Keith VanKlompberg
13th ESC Public Affairs



Trucks carrying concrete barriers sit waiting for nightfall, Feb. 25 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Each night, Soldiers with the 733rd Transportation Company, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) deliver the barriers to checkpoints in and around Mosul as part of the Disputed Internal Border Sites mission, which aims to provide extra security at what is traditionally the religious and cultural border between Iraq and Kurdistan.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq - As Iraq's national election draws near, Soldiers with the 733rd Transportation Company work to provide safe travel in northern Iraq.

Thirty-five Soldiers with the 733rd Trans. Co. left Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, to assist with the Disputed Internal Border Sites mission at Contingency Operating Location Sykes, Iraq, and 92 Soldiers came to Contingency Operating Site Marez, Iraq, to build up checkpoints for the DIBS mission around the city of Mosul, said 1st Lt. Brandon Lewis, the officer in charge of the Mosul DIBS mission with the 733rd Trans. Co., 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment

Command (Expeditionary).

The DIBS mission is headed up by the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and aims to provide extra checkpoint security at locations along what is traditionally the religious and cultural border between Iraq and Kurdistan, said Lewis, an Ocean View, Del., native.

Lewis said the 733rd assists the 26th BSB because it needed a transportation company to deliver concrete barriers to the checkpoints in and around Mosul.

"Our mission is to build up different checkpoints along main arteries in northern Iraq," he said. "The goal is to finish building checkpoints for speed mitigation and for the prevention of hostile acts."

Spc. Jeremiah Hastings, a mechanic with the 733rd Trans. Co. and a Milford, Del., native, provides preventive maintenance on the DIBS mission vehicles and provides vehicle recovery support on the nightly barrier delivery missions.

"It's a good mission and it protects Soldiers as well as the Iraqi people," said Hastings.

Lewis said the upgraded checkpoints, which are run by the Iraqi Army, Peshmerga – the Kurdish armed forces – and the U.S. Army, will be especially beneficial in the coming weeks as Iraqis travel in and out of Mosul, Iraq, for the elections.

"It's going to increase their level of confidence in voting and traveling," he said.

Since beginning the DIBS mission Jan. 5, 12 checkpoints have been completed. They are scheduled to finish the final three checkpoints before the March 7 elections, said Lewis.

The 733rd Trans. Co., an Army Reserve unit out of Reading, Pa., arrived in country in August and has dealt with an ever-changing mission. Before the DIBS mission, it acted as a vehicle recovery unit, then a personnel security detachment, and finally a line-haul transportation unit, delivering water and other sustainment supplies to bases around COB Q-West, said Lewis.

"I am proud of my Soldiers," he said. "They have demonstrated amazing flexibility."

Hastings said the DIBS mission will soon be complete and his unit will return to COB Q-West to continue sustainment operations, but the Soldiers are proud of the time they spent at COB Marez preparing for a historic election.

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Memorial Pavilion



Sponsored by the 13th COSCOM Association
The official Association of the 13th Sustainment Command

Honoring Those Who've Sacrificed

The Concept

Artist's concept of the 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion

The 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion will be built on Guidon Parade field on Fort Hood, Texas near the 13th ESC Headquarters and completed in the Summer of 2010.

The design is a marquee that includes a monument, a wall of honor inscribed with the names of their fallen, a walkway tribute constructed of engraved bricks, and a meditation area. The Monument will honor individuals and units who served under the 13th ESC, in both peacetime and in war, since 9/11/01. The Wall of Honor will pay tribute to those who have fallen while overseas with the 13th ESC while serving as part of the Global War on Terrorism. The Brick Walkway will honor all service members and the friends and Family to our nation, and is open to all to participate.



The Monument

The Monument is an obelisk-like octagon of black granite that will be topped with a blasted insignia of the 13th ESC that "overwatches" the Wall of Honor. The Monument will be inscribed with words of comfort and information, and the monument will serve as the anchor to the entire Memorial Pavilion. Supporting the foundation of the Monument near the base will be a lasting tribute to the agencies and corporations, who through their generous contributions represent all the donors who will have made this memorial a reality.

Meditation Area

The Wall of Honor will be flanked by a pair of black granite benches set in to the foundation of the Pavilion. Each bench will be inscribed in honor of the previous designation the Command was recognized as during GWOT, "13th COSCOM" and the "13th SC(E)." The meditation area will be shaded in the summer by a "mighty oak" tree that symbolized the steadfastness of the soldiers of the 13th ESC. The motto "Remembering Those Who've Sacrificed" aptly describes everyone who have been a part of the 13th ESC, whether soldier, family member, or friend. This recognizes that all have sacrificed in some way.



The Wall

The Wall of Honor will be a number of evenly spaced black granite panels inlaid into a wall of native limestone, signifying the relationship the 13th ESC has with Texas. Each panel will have names and units of fallen service members who served with a unit that was assigned/attached to the 13th. Units will have been assigned or attachment to the 13th ESC for combat operations; or one of the organic Ft Hood based Brigades, such as CDC, 64th CSG, 1st Med Bde, 15th Sus. Bde and 4th Sus Bde. Names will include all who have fallen, whether under fire or not. All will have occurred overseas while supporting GWOT.

Brick Walkway

Laser engraved bricks are available to soldiers, their family, friends, and those interested in leaving a lasting legacy as part of the 13th ESC memorial. Tribute bricks can be for veterans of other services or from other periods of service, or family members.



The 13th COSCOM Association is not affiliated with nor endorsed by the US Government, the United States Army or the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The 13th COSCOM Association is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

Want more information?

Write: 13th COSCOM Association
P.O. Box 5490
Ft Hood, TX 76544

email: president@13cca.org
on the web: <http://www.13cca.org/memorial/>

Military officials, Muslims renovate mosque at Taji

Story and Photo by Spc. Michael Camacho
13th ESC Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Two officials with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) began supervising the renovations of the mosque Jan. 1 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

In 2009, Multi-national Force – Iraq put out an order to repair any mosque on an American base to make it usable for the Iraqis when American forces turn the bases over, said Maj. Terry Partin, a religious customs adviser for the project and brigade chaplain with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 155th HBCT, 13th ESC.

The project totaled roughly \$17,000, he said. In addition to the structural repairs, the electrical wiring was redone and the building put on the primary power grid, said Lt. Col. Paul McDonald, brigade engineer with the 155th HBCT.

Reliability Management Solutions, which has the maintenance contract at Camp Taji, was assigned to renovate the mosque, said McDonald, a Jackson, Miss., native. The mosque renovation would provide a safe religious structure for the Islamic Soldiers in the Iraqi Army, said McDonald.

“The structure would be restored for their use when (U.S. forces) turn over the base in the near future,” said McDonald.

Due to religious and cultural sensitivities, the project was not just a simple home improvement operation, said McDonald.

To help ensure respect for Islam, Partin requested that predominantly Islamic contractors repair the mosque, said Partin, a Richton, Miss., native. Cultural awareness and religious customs were a priority, said Partin.

Partin and McDonald were allowed special permission to enter, observe and make assessments of the mosque on the U.S. Army monitored half of Camp Taji.

“The biggest part of doing it right, is when we have it ready for turnover, it is done to their cultural and religious standards,” said McDonald. “We went through several iterations of plans to make sure we were doing



Civilian contractors began to renovate a mosque Jan. 1 on the U.S. military monitored side of Camp Taji, Iraq. Military officials with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were tasked with overseeing the proper renovation of the mosque and ensuring that respect was shown to Islam and the mosque during the construction.

everything properly.”

Partin said there was no major damage inside, but lack of maintenance allowed water to damage the interior.

The goal of the renovation was to keep it safe from any further damage and to make it operational, he said.

“The mosque here has not been vandalized,” said Partin. “It had taken a rocket or mortar round that had hit the roof and it caused some damage to the parapet, which is the wall around the top.”

Cultural affairs liaisons, who were civilian contractors with the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gave advice about what was needed to make the mosque meet religious standards, said Partin.

“He made sure we didn’t do anything that might be offensive to (Muslims),” said Partin.

There were no major complications or delays on the renovation process, said McDonald. The process is well within the planned time frame, he said.

McDonald said the renovation is scheduled to be finished in the first week of February.

“Much of the building was in good condition,” said McDonald. “While its structure is not complex, it is a matter of treating their culture and religion with respect and establishing a safe and functioning facility for them.”

Providers pay final respects to fallen Soldier at Balad

Story and Photos by Pfc. Lisa Cope
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers and Airmen gathered to pay their final respects to Sgt. William C. Spencer, at a fallen Soldier ceremony March 1 at the Joint Operations Center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Spencer, a gunner with G Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), died Feb. 25 from an aneurysm while serving at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Spencer, a Clinton, Ky., native, was born Aug. 11, 1969, and is survived by his mother, Sharon Welch, and his sister, Sharon Whittle.

He was posthumously promoted from specialist to sergeant Feb. 25.

Spc. Quentin K. Schul, the administrative operations chaplain assistant with the 13th ESC and a Victoria, Texas, native, spoke at the ceremony and read Spencer's biography.

"(Sgt.) William Clifton Spencer gave the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "We will not forget."

Col. Knowles Y. Atchison, deputy commander for the 13th ESC, placed the ceremonial identification tags on the fallen warrior memorial in the foyer of the JOC.

Sgt. Spencer is a hero, said Atchison, a Fort Hood, Texas, resident.

"This is a sad moment," he said. "If he had not been here, would he still be living? That is what I ask myself. We will never know the answer to that question, but the fact is that he was here and he was making a contribution, he was serving his country. That makes him a hero. It puts him in the top five percent of the American population."

Spencer will not be forgotten, said Atchison.



Col. Knowles Y. Atchison, deputy commander with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Hood, Texas, resident, places Sgt. William C. Spencer's identification tags on the fallen warrior memorial March 1, after a ceremony in Spencer's honor in the foyer of the Joint Operations Center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Spencer, a gunner with G Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th ESC and a Clinton, Ky., native, died Feb. 25 from an aneurysm while serving at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Providers 'share the road'

Story and Photo by Spc. Naveed Ali Shah
13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As United States Forces-Iraq prepares for the strategic reposturing of equipment and personnel in theater, Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are already working to share the roads with the Iraqi population.

In previous years, service members' main focus was to ensure the convoy's security and integrity remained intact, said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, the noncommissioned officer in charge of safety for the 13th ESC. Now, while maintaining integrity within the convoy, Soldiers have learned to move through Iraq without causing damage and allowing Iraq's civilian population to move freely on the roads, he said.

"Before, they might have gotten run off the road," said Young, a Hernando, Fla., native. "That caused problems and hurt our relationship. With the new Share the Road policy and guidelines, we're building a better relationship and allowing them to get back to their life."

The 13th ESC created the new Share the Road policy in an effort to mitigate the erosion of the U.S. - Iraqi relationship, by reducing hazards to the civilian population that may be caused by U.S. military convoys, said Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar, a force protection noncommissioned officer with the 13th ESC.

"The policy is simple," said Salazar, a Houston native. "Be considerate to the Iraqi drivers."

The guidelines that have been put into place are commonsense measures, he said.

"Basically, it allows the troops to stay vigilant while allowing the Iraqis to see the convoys are not a threat," said Salazar.

In a broader sense, the 'Share the Road' policy will help U.S. forces move towards the strategic



Sgt. William Rhinehart, a team leader with F troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hendersonville, Tenn., native, observes as Spc. Hulon Holmes, an infantryman also with F troop, 2nd Sqd., 278th ACR, and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, conducts a functions check on his weapon during pre-mission checks and inspections prior to a convoy-logistics patrol March 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 13th ESC put out a new Share the Road policy, which aims at mitigating the erosion of the U.S. - Iraqi relationship by reducing hazards to the civilian population that may be caused by U.S. military convoys.

reposturing of equipment and personnel.

"It absolutely supports the mission we're in from a counter-insurgency standpoint," said Lt. Col. Wade Wallace, command judge advocate for the 13th ESC. "We're in a position to move this to the next stage."

On the ground, troop commanders are implementing new strategies to reflect the 13th ESC's guidelines.

"Run hard, run clean; that's our motto," said Lt. Col. John Krenson, commander of 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC, with the Tennessee National Guard, and a Nashville, Tenn., native. "Run hard means to create a hard target for the enemy to engage, but we understand the impact on the Iraqi population, so

run cleans mean to be safe. It's a difficult balance to achieve."

This strategy requires leaders at the lowest levels to ensure their Soldiers understand the rules of the road and the possible implications of accidents.

First Lt. Matthew Wallace, a platoon leader with F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th ACR, 13th ESC, prepared a special pre-mission briefing for his Soldiers.

"It's my intent to conduct a successful convoy-logistics patrol in support of (Operation Iraqi Freedom). We will do this by maintaining an aggressive and constantly vigilant posture while still showing restraint and respect for the local populace," said Wallace, a McMinnville, Tenn., native, in his mission brief. "In doing so, I intend to take away the



Spc. Jonathan Piccone, an infantryman with F troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a Gallatin, Tenn., native, hands his night vision sight to Sgt. William Rhinehart, a team leader with F troop, 2nd Sqd., 278th ACR, 13th ESC, and a Hendersonville, Tenn., native, during pre-mission checks prior to a convoy March 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Leaders at every level conduct multiple checks and inspections prior to missions in order to ensure success.

enemy’s initiative with the support of the non-combatant populace with which we may interact.”

In 2005 the 278th’s mission was focused on combat patrols, but now they’re focused on providing convoy security while alleviating the tension which previously defined of Iraqi civilian and U.S. military relations.

“We’re shifting away from a threat standpoint and moving to a partnership standpoint,” said Wallace.

During the 278th’s mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Wallace said their training was based upon reaction to contact, whether small-arms fire or improvised explosive devices. Upon arriving here in Iraq, the Soldiers had to adapt to the rules of engagement, and now they are implementing the Share the Road policy, as well, he said.

“There’s going to be a learning curve because we’re a new unit,” said Wallace. “Training always depicts a worst-case scenario, but the Soldiers have learned to adapt. They’ve been doing very well and I’m confident they’ll continue.”

278th Armored Cavalry Regiment takes command



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

13th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)
Public Affairs Office
BLDG 7508 New Jersey Ave
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
APO AE 09391

