

Sunburst FORWARD



HHC Soldiers relax, enjoy organizational day activities



Capt. L. Pilar Restrepo, the company commander, and First Sgt. Francis Halmsteiner, the senior enlisted adviser, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), make the first cuts in two 13th ESC cakes at the 13th ESC organizational day at the joint operations center here May 22.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), got together for a night of barbecue, relaxation, and team building, at the 13th ESC Joint Operations Center May 22.

The event, an organizational day for Soldiers of HHC, was intended as a way for Soldiers to get together outside of work and relax prior to their pending redeployment this summer, said 1st Sgt. Francis Halmsteiner, the senior enlisted

adviser with HHC, 13th ESC.

The idea for an organizational day came together in April. “I was at the compound, talking to the commander, and she said we needed to do an organizational day,” said Sgt. Austin Nightingale, an executive administrative assistant with HHC, 13th ESC, and a Missoula, Mont., native.

Scheduling, when working with a group of Soldiers who run 24-hour operations, immediately became a conflict. “It had to be at the [joint operations center], and it had to

take place at night, so the day shift and night shift could both participate,” Nightingale said.

Soldiers participated in card games, ping pong, checkers, and played video games, while enjoying barbecue catered by food service specialists who work at the dining facility here.

“It’s a great idea to get everyone together so they can loosen up and relax,” said Spc. Melissa Posey, an automated logistics specialist with the 13th ESC and a Philadel-

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Organizational day (continued)

phia, Miss., native.

Posey said, "It's great, because we get a chance to see people from other sections."

The theme of seeing people from other parts of the command was a fairly constant one for all participants, some of whom had not seen each other since the command deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood in July, 2009.

"I think it's great for the command to bring everyone together outside of work and just give us a chance to socialize with each other," said Capt. Anthony Lenze, an administrative law attorney from Valencia, Pa.

While some Soldiers looked at the event as a way to meet with people they hadn't seen in a while, or as a team building exercise, most agreed that it accomplished the job of helping people relax.



Spc. Martha Bolt, a paralegal with HHC, 13th ESC, and Managua, Nicaragua, native, said, "It's a great distraction, to be able to forget about the hustle and bustle of work for a few hours and just have a good time and good food with fellow Soldiers."

(above) Master Sgt. Michael Bair, the chaplain assistant NCOIC with the 13th ESC, returns a serve during a ping pong match at the 13th ESC organizational day at the joint operations center here May 22.

What are you most looking forward to when you get home?



Sgt. Austin Nightingale, Executive Administrative Assistant, and a native of Missoula, Montana.
"Running on Town Lake in Austin."

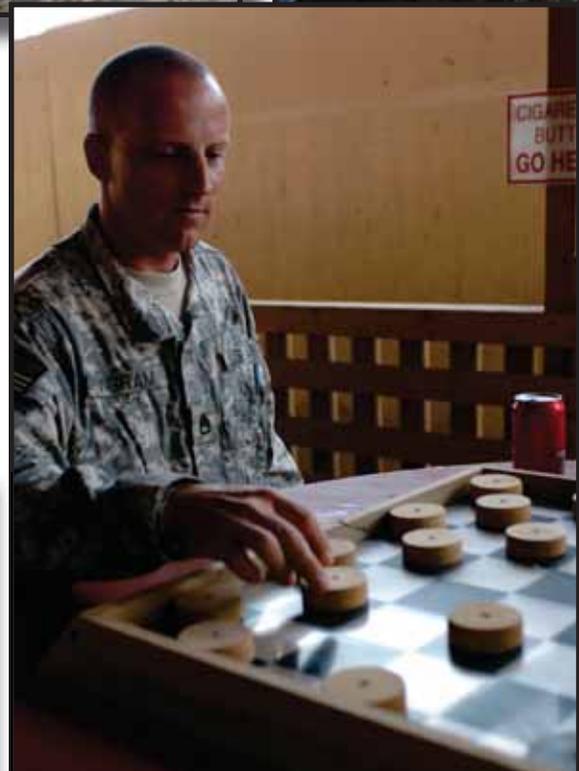


Spc. Melissa Posey, automated logistics specialist, and a native of Philadelphia, Mississippi.
"Being with my Family and friends."



Spc. Martha Bolt, Paralegal, and a native of Managua, Nicaragua
"Walking my dog and not having to travel to use the bathroom."

More photos from Organizational Day



Get to know your 13th ESC Soldier: Secretary General Staff

Lt Col. Derrick Corbett: The 13th ESC's Secretary General Staff was born in Atlanta, Ga. "When I was growing up, Atlanta wasn't known as the A-T-L. However, music and art were still big in my family and in the neighborhood. In high school, I had a passion for music but with no money for college, Army ROTC became a means to an end. I attended college on a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship and have been fortunate to serve my country for the past 17 years."

He graduated from South Carolina State University where he majored in Business Management and received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1993.

His first duty station was Mannheim, Germany as a platoon leader in the 28th Transportation Battalion. From 1996 to 1997 he supported Operation Joint Endeavor as a Trailer Transfer Detachment commander. He commanded the 418th Transportation Company from 2000 to 2002. In 2007, LTC Corbett was a planner in the G-5 Plans, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Before coming to the HHC, 13 ESC, LTC Corbett was the Executive Officer for the 180th Transportation Battalion at Fort Hood.

After this deployment, LTC Corbett will be returning back to his alma mater, South Carolina State University, to be the Professor of Military Science. "This next assignment is about giving back: giving back to my wife, my daughters and to those whose shoulders I've stood on to be where I am today."

Corbett said, "When I think about the magnitude of what the 13 ESC has done here in Iraq, I'm reminded of how as a lieutenant I had to read the book *Moving Mountains*, by retired Lt. Gen. William G. Pagonis, Col. Gus Pagonis' father, that chronicled the logistical effort required to sustain Operation Desert Shield/ Storm. I'm not comparing the efforts required to sustain each operation but I'm certain that what we've done in support of the Reduction of Forces will undoubtedly be studied as a monumental feat in the history of military logistics."



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