

The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

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Customs training facilitates efficient drawdown

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. DAVID A. SCOTT
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) sponsored a customs and border clearing agent training program June 23 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The program—hosted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Transportation Command—was conducted in an effort to alleviate the potential challenges to the agricultural inspection and homeland security systems in the United States, as a result of significant movements expected to be involved with the upcoming responsible drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq.

Duane Crosby, a supervisory agent with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency of DHS, said the course was about helping service members learn the basic competencies of customs and border protection.

The seminar taught U.S. military personnel how to inspect, certify and pre-clear military travelers, their gear and equipment during the return to the United States or Europe.

About 120 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen attended the two-day CBCA certification class conducted in the base theater.

Crosby discussed a variety of topics relevant to service members, including terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, citizenship and immigration documentation, carry-on and checked baggage.

"The mechanics of this course are all about getting people in this class in a position to do the job I do on a daily basis," Crosby said. "Whether it is airport or seaport, it is about doing the customs inspection job. The more people understand the rules and regulations the better, because technicalities get (illegal) stuff released."

The goal of inspecting cargo, personnel and aircraft, vessels, containers and equipment is to protect the American public from a host of dangers, including exotic diseases, he said.

Crosby said having the military go through the program is a cost-effective and cost-efficient way of accomplishing program objectives for all parties involved,

especially DHS.

"Trust me, if you had to send a bunch of customs inspectors over here, it would cost (too) much money," he said. "We do not have enough manpower to do it, nor is there a budget around to support a mission of this size. This is why we train Soldiers here and let them handle their own."

Crosby said in addition to making things easier for the agencies, the CBCA program helps to minimize the accountability challenges associated with large-scale theater movements.

"It makes our job easy," Crosby said. "People are accountable, because TRANSCOM are involved; CENTCOM are involved. All these other entities come in and are involved to make sure people and equipment get back to their home bases. They are here to ensure they get moved with as (few) problems or discrepancies possible. It's the best thing all around."

Michael Simon, a senior staff officer with the USDA taught, the animal and plant health inspection portion of the course.

Simon discussed a variety of agricultural security issues including the telltale signs of pest infestation, food and produce importation, animal disease infestations and agricultural regulations pertaining to international travel.

The possible introduction of foreign species and uncommon diseases to the U.S. is a real and present danger, he said.

"There are pests and diseases which do not occur in the U.S. but are prevalent in this part of the world," Simon said. "They (microorganisms) can live very well in our arid climates. Foot-and-mouth disease is one example. It is a very destructive virus which can attack our livestock. Its introduction in the U.S. would cause millions of dollars of agricultural damage."

The positive aspects of the program include benefits to personnel and units; once pre-cleared, they are allowed to return home without lengthy delays or possible quarantines, he said.

"This program not only reduces the risk of introducing foreign pests and diseases to the U.S., it also expedites the re-entry of military personnel and cargo into the U.S. Customs pre-cleared, since they normally will not be re-inspected upon arrival," Simon said. "Units will get their equipment faster and the troops will get to their home station faster with this program."

Col. Fredrick Brown, operations officer

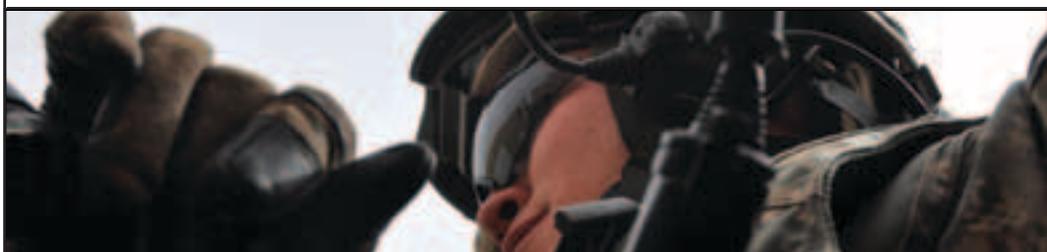
CBCA cont. page 16



Col. Fredrick Brown, operations officer with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) speaks with service members June 24 during a Customs and Border Clearing Agent certification course at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Martin Walker (left), civilian program manager for the Department of Defense customs program, discusses the directives, policies and forms military personnel will be using as customs border and clearing agents during a CBCA certification course June 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



"You can't stray from your mission at all. You can't deviate in any way."

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Balad Blotter

GENERAL ORDER ONE VIOLATION/ARTICLE 92/FAILURE TO OBEY REGULATION:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk to report what he thought was an alcoholic beverage at a location in the H-2 housing area. A patrol arrived on scene and made contact with complainant and witness. The complainant stated via AF IMT 1168, Statement of Complainant, he was directed to conduct a health and wellness inspection. The complainant stated no one was in the room so the witness used a key obtained from the mayor's cell to enter. The complainant stated when he opened the refrigerator in the room he found a half empty bottle of whiskey. The witness corroborated complainant statement. A patrolman receipted for the bottle via Department of the Army Form 4137, Evidence Custody Document, and released the property to Security Forces Investigations. The patrolman initiated transport of subject and advised the subject of his rights via AF Form 1168, Statement of Suspect, in accordance with Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The subject acknowledged his rights and requested legal counsel.

ARTICLE 134/COMMUNICATING THREAT/ARTICLE 117/PROVOKING SPEECHES OR GESTURES/COMMAND DIRECTED MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION ESCORT:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk to report a subject being irrational and threatening others June 15 near Building 7510. The complainant said his commander requested the subject be escorted to the mental health clinic. Patrolmen arrived on scene and contacted the subject, witness one and witness two. Witness one stated via AF IMT 1168, Statement of Witness, that the subject was issued a revocation of an Article 15 and became very upset. She started using provoking speeches and communicating threats that she was going to kill certain personnel in her unit. Witness two stated the subject was getting aggressive, screaming and cursing at witness one and began to use profanity. Patrolmen along with an Army noncommissioned officer initiated transport of the subject to the hospital. Medical staff requested the patrolmen escort the subject during the mental health evaluation. The patrolmen then escorted the subject back to the Provost Marshal's Office. The law enforcement desk advised the subject of her rights in accordance with Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice via AF IMT 1168, Statement of Suspect, to which she acknowledged her rights, requested legal counsel and declined to provide a written statement.

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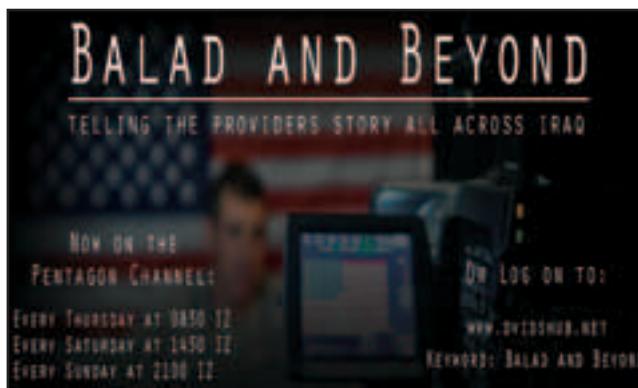
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Change is Okay

LT. COL. ROY T. WALKER
13TH ESC COMMAND CHAPLAIN



It is hard to believe a year ago we were preparing to leave the "Great Place." Yet, here we are, getting ready to return home to our Families and friends and a waiting community.

A year ago, some of us might have thought, "How will I make it through a whole year away from loved ones?" Yet, here we are, days away from returning from a very successful deployment.

As I think back over the past year, I think of the changes that have occurred in my life. The greatest of these changes were the birth of my newest granddaughter, an empty nest with children living away from home and the reality that my wife loves me dearly, but can function seamlessly without me. I also realize some of the faces that saw me off are no longer there to welcome me home. So, I have the joy of a much anticipated reunion and awareness that life over the year away has brought numerous changes.

As each of you prepare to return home, you might live in the barracks with a few close neighbors or in a home with your immediate Family. Regardless of the location, you can be sure your environment has changed. Change is constant in life. It is one life's most difficult encounters.

Benjamin Disraeli said: "Change is as inexorable as time, yet nothing meets with more resistance."

So, I ask each of you to joyfully anticipate your return home. However, remember you, your loved ones and your communities have changed. So, each of us must slowly work ourselves back into the swing of things. This includes working back into our Families, relationships, extracurricular activities—such as drinking, motorcycle riding and even operating our usual vehicles.

I am sure all of us have a long list of things we would like to do when we return. But, moving slow is the key to success. I have learned over the years when I encounter friction as a result of change, the best reaction is to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

As you deal with loved ones, friends, co-workers and frustrating situations, remember the wise words of the apostle James.

He reminds us in James 1:19: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

Putting this into principle will go a long way toward helping you reintegrate. So, enjoy your reunion, expect change, move in slow and be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. I hope you have the greatest reunion possible and know that you ran a good race and fought a good fight. Thank you for a job well done!

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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The Weekly Standard: APFT standards while deployed

SGT. 1ST CLASS ALEXANDER ARCE
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



There is a perceived myth that some Soldiers have concerning the Army Physical Fitness Test and height and weight standards while deployed. The APFT is not automatically waived during deployment. The decision to conduct the APFT while deployed is a commander's decision based on a unit's circumstances. Army Regulation 600-8-19, paragraph 5-6a (4) states the APFT is waived for deployed Soldiers where their mission precludes the administration of the test.

Most missions and locations afford the Soldier time and space to train for and administer the APFT. There are

no waivers for height and weight standards while deployed either. Soldiers must still be weighed in, even if their unit is the rare exception of being one that cannot take the APFT. As Soldiers, it is our personal responsibility to remain in good physical condition. A Soldier's level of physical fitness has a direct impact on his unit's combat readiness.

For Soldiers requiring a test for promotion but are unable to take the APFT; the commander will include a statement in the Soldiers' promotion packet indicating the mission precludes the administration of the APFT. This does not apply to Soldiers who failed the most recent record APFT prior to deployment or failed to take the APFT within 18 months of their mobilization date.

As directed by Headquarters, Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff G-3/5/7, deployed units unable to

administer the APFT due to mission or conditions will annotate officer evaluation reports or noncommissioned officer evaluation reports with the following statement: "Officer or NCO was unable to take the APFT during this period due to deployment for combat operations/contingency operations."

This does not exclude obtaining and annotating height and weight data on evaluation reports.

Upon return from deployment, Soldiers will be administered a record APFT no earlier than three months for active component Soldiers and six months for reserve component Soldiers.

For more information on this matter refer to Department of the Army Personnel Policy Guidance. <http://www.army1.army.mil/MilitaryPersonnel/PPG/PPG.pdf>

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Add a tangible touch to your communication home

CAPT. WILLIAM THOMPSON
1908TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Over the last few weeks you have read articles from my peer, Capt. Mike Knight, regarding redeployment, communication and surviving long-distance relationships. What I would like to do in the next couple of articles is give you some basic tools to help you in each of these areas—where the rubber meets road kind of stuff.

Let's start by looking at long-distance relationships. The first thing to learn is what we are sometimes reminded to do in the military: "think outside the box."

By this, I mean find new and creative ways to communicate with your loved ones. This does not have to focus just on relationships with significant others. It can also apply to parent-child relationships (I have to admit not all the ideas that I am about to share with you have originated with me

but were given to me by Soldiers like many of you).

If you are not accustomed to writing about your emotions or feelings, then find a book of poems or even do an Internet search for some poems. Quote the poems that express how you feel to your loved ones. Find a coloring book, color the pictures and add your own story line on each page to express how you feel toward your loved ones. If you have the time and money, take a photo of yourself, then cut it up and send it home as a puzzle for your family to complete.

Other ideas for you and your children include coloring half a picture, sending it home and letting your child color the rest. You may also consider putting together a model, available through Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and letting an age appropriate child at home finish it.

These are ways for the children to feel connected to you, as well as you to them. Then when you get home your child can show you the results!

Don't forget the USO program of making a video for your kids of you reading a story. If you do this, tell the story with a lot of feeling and expression—your children will love it.

I am aware that this is the generation of instant-gratification (instant messaging, e-mails and video chat), but there is no replacement for a tangible letter that you can hold in your hands, knowing the last person to see it was the one who sent it.

The Patriot Clinic has free cards by the door for Soldiers to take and send home (until the July 28).

I realize many of you reading this may find these ideas outside your comfort zone. I challenge you to find new ideas to communicate back home, even if writing a simple letter is new to you. Give it a try. What do you have to lose?

The main idea is to find a simple thing that you think will touch your loved one and find some way to do it. Be creative!

3rd Sust. Bde. celebrates Signal Corps' 150th birthday

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS RHONDA M. LAWSON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Signal Corps Soldiers from across the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) joined together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Army Signal Corps June 21 at the brigade headquarters building.

"As senior signaleers, we are responsible for pushing the heritage and lineage of the Signal Corps to the younger signaleers," said Master Sgt. Monroe Baskins, communication noncommissioned officer-in-charge with 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Bennettsville, S.C., native.

The history of the corps dates back to June 21, 1860, when Congress authorized the addition of a signal officer to the Army staff. That officer was Maj. Albert J. Myer. He held his position until 1880, when he died, a brigadier general. Later, Fort Whipple, Va., the location of the Signal School, was renamed Fort Myer in his honor.

Baskins said the importance of this history shouldn't be lost on the younger signal Soldiers.

"When I went through (Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses), it was a really big thing," he said. "Now, it's not as big. Some Soldiers don't even know who Brig. Gen. Myer (was). We want to make sure that heritage is not lost in another 150 years when they celebrate the 300th birthday of the Signal Corps."

The brigade's celebration began early, with a Signal Corps display in the main hallway of the headquarters that featured

the corps flag, the Signal Corps Creed, and a historical slide show. Later that evening, Col. Shawn Morrissey, commander of 3rd Sust. Bde. and Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, brigade command sergeant major and a Florence, Ala., native joined Signaleers from across the brigade in wishing the corps a happy birthday. During the celebration, Morrissey complimented the signal Soldiers on their professionalism.

"As commander, I have to be able to talk and the troops need you to be able to call for help," he said. "You all do a fabulous job. Without the Signal Corps, we could not do our mission."

Johnson followed up the colonel's remarks by presenting a brigade coin to Spc. Jason Piggee, a support systems specialist with the joint network node platoon of 3rd Sust. Bde. and a St. Louis native, and Pfc. Andrew Allen, a satellite communications specialist, also with the joint network node platoon, 3rd Sust. Bde. and an Amarillo, Texas, native, for their contributions to the brigade communications shop.

"It was a privilege to see both of my Soldiers get recognized for their outstanding achievements," said Staff Sgt. Audrey Richardson, platoon sergeant of the joint network node platoon with 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Virginia Beach, Va., native. "I love my job and I'm proud to be celebrating (the Signal Corps birthday) in a combat zone."

The celebration ended with the oldest and youngest Signaleers in the brigade cutting the birthday cake: Master Sgt. Wade Duplechin, a 47-year-old communication noncommissioned officer with B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Youngsville, La., native, and Pfc. Danyul Davis, a 20-year-old automation technician with the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Houston native. "This is my



Master Sgt. Wade Duplechin (right), a 47-year-old communication noncommissioned officer with B Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Youngsville, La., native, and Pfc. Danyul Davis, a 20-year-old automation technician with the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Bn., 3rd Sust. Bde. and a Houston native cut the cake in celebration of the U.S. Army Signal Corps' 150th birthday June 21 during a celebration at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Duplechin and Davis are the oldest and youngest signaleers in the brigade, respectively.

first time doing a Signal (Corps) birthday celebration," said Duplechin, who's been in the Louisiana National Guard since 1980. "I didn't expect something like this, but it was nice. It's very good for reminding us where we came from and where we are going."

Maintenance Co. keeps Iraq calibrated

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— Maintenance companies use a variety of tools to fix broken equipment. One unit here is responsible for keeping those maintenance companies ready and prepared to restore equipment by ensuring their tools are working properly. They maintain the maintainers.

The 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) repairs all the test measure diagnostic equipment for customers in southern Iraq.

"The test measure diagnostic equipment has a Department of the Army standard," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Samuel Voight, an electrical systems maintenance technician and officer-in-charge of the TMDE lab with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Jacksonville, N.C., native. "What we do is calibrate that tester. We make sure it meets the Department of the Army standard so the equipment stays safe and stays (operable) for the customer."

There are many different types of TMDE equipment the seven-man team repairs, including torque wrenches service members use to work on vehicles and other tools used to calibrate weapons systems.

"We repair anything that has the capability to test, measure or diagnose. Anything the maintenance teams use to maintain the units (in Iraq) and support the Warfighters," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Perr, senior team chief of the TMDE lab with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Belleville, Ill., native.

On a weekly basis, the TMDE lab processes more than 110 pieces of equipment, averaging about a two- to three-day cycle, Perr said.

When a piece of equipment comes into the shop, it is processed through the direct control area where Perr makes the item available for the technicians to calibrate, he said.

"The Soldiers have to run a test on the equipment to verify it is functioning like it's supposed to and passes its self-test," Perr said. "If the equipment is found not to pass its self-test or does not pass the performance checks, it has to be repaired. Once repaired, calibration is performed as the final step on any piece of equipment going out of here to verify it is accurate enough to meet the customer's need."

As with any mission, there are complications and challenges the TMDE team faces.

"The challenges for us are the heat and the dust," Perr said. "It affects the wear and tear on our generators and our (air conditioning) units. We have to stay in a stable environment. It's a lab environment so everything has to be kept at a certain temperature."

Even though there are challenges, the Soldiers enjoy what they do and work hard, learning new things every day, Voight said.

"They all have a variety of capabilities," Perr said. "That's important because there is a wide variety of test equipment that comes through (the TMDE lab)."

The 632nd has been in theater more than a month. The TMDE lab is working to ensure they are available for their customers' needs.

"There was about a one-month lapse from when the previous unit left until we arrived, so we've been busy getting things set back up, making sure customers know we are here so we can provide support we need to provide to maintain their equipment," Voight said.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Spc. Aaron Cravens, a test measure diagnose equipment technician with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bellevue, Wash., native, hooks up testing equipment to calibrate a Pitot and Static System, used to gauge airspeed in knots, June 15 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



LEFT: Pfc. Marc Trevino, a radio and communications security repair technician with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Keller, Texas, native, works on a piece of equipment in the test measure diagnose equipment lab June 15 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Mechanics with Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) clean a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle engine prior to re-installing it at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Artillery mechanics adapt to MRAP

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE
278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

MAREZ, Iraq

Soldiers with the maintenance sections of Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) keep the wheels of the squadron's Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles rolling through the gates here.

The job of keeping the vehicles in operation can be tedious, nasty and labor-intensive. Because of that intensity, RFS has had to find a way to maximize their mechanics' efforts.

Warrant Officer Anthony Lay, motor officer with RFS and a Dresden, Tenn., native, said the squadron has 84 MRAPs, of differing size and manufacturer, to keep operational.

"The organization we replaced here at (COB) Marez had 45 mechanics plus 18 assisting from the 631st Maintenance Support Team, Florida Army National Guard," Lay said. "The 631st deployment ended in May of this year."

"We have only 22 mechanics among our batteries," he said. "We knew we had to change our (manning) structure, and quickly."

Lay said the solution was to consolidate each individual battery's mechanics into one group to best utilize the resources at hand.

Sgt. 1st Class Royce Rollins, maintenance noncommissioned officer with G Troop, RFS and a Fayetteville, Tenn., native, said the weight of MRAP parts requires two to three people to handle them, when only one mechanic was required to complete the job on a similar part on a humvee.

"By consolidating, we are able to put more (mechanics) on a single vehicle to get it back up," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Rinkes, motor sergeant with A Battery, RFS and a Decherd, Tenn., native.

When walking through the shops, one can see engines as small as that of the Polaris all-terrain vehicle and as large as the power pack of an MRAP. Rollins said these Tennessee Army National Guard mechanics can fix them all.

The mechanics who keep these MRAPs functioning said they aren't doing their job expecting to win medals or recognition, but they do realize the seriousness of their work.

"Without our maintenance sections, the MRAP is just a regimental hood ornament.

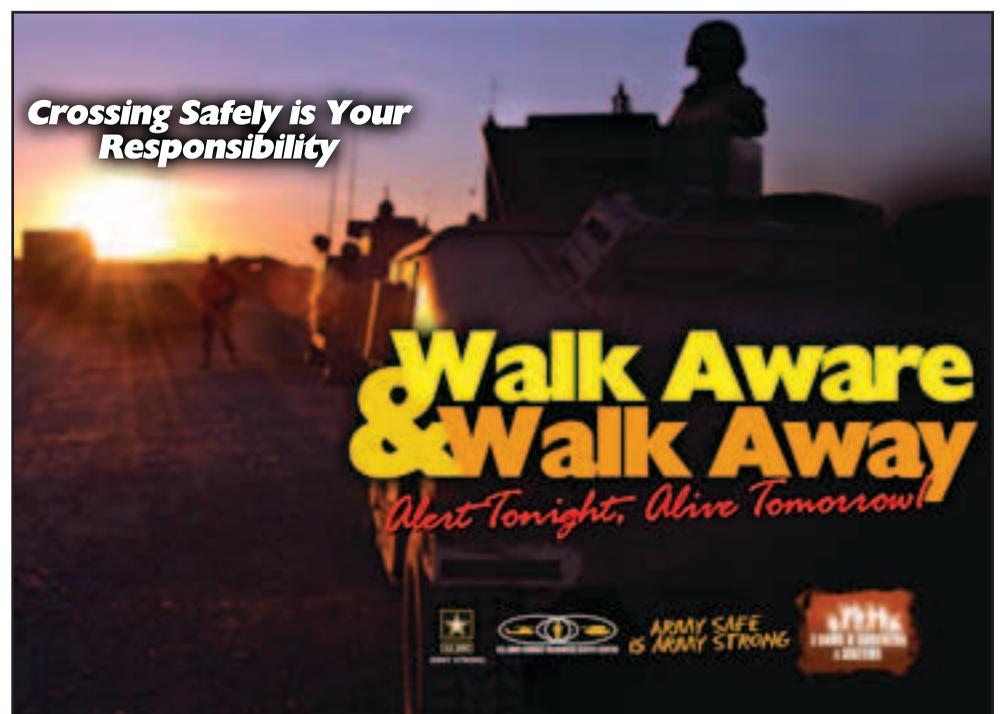
We can't go without them," said Capt. Kevin Levesque, executive officer with G Troop, RFS and a Nashville, Tenn., native.

Spc. Thomas McCauley, a mechanic with A Battery, RFS said he recognized that if he isn't doing his job, one of his friends going outside the wire could get hurt.

Most of the mechanics with RFS, 278th

ACR have spent their careers working on artillery equipment but they picked right up on servicing the MRAP, Rinkes said.

"My people understand principles and concepts of machinery," he said. "They are mechanics at heart. If you're not a mechanic when you get out of school then I can't make you one over here. Your heart has to be in it."





First Sgt. Travis Jernigan (far left), first sergeant with the 2101st Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Clayton, Ala., native, monitors the information being given in a morning briefing June 17 before a convoy movement out of Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Celebrated Alabama unit rolls with tide of cargo

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. DAVID A. SCOTT
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
SPEICHER, Iraq—
As the upcoming responsible draw-down of U.S. troops and equipment from Iraq approaches, the transfer of personnel and cargo out of theater is expected to increase in tempo gradually.

One transportation unit at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq is already prepared for the surge in cargo movements associated with what could prove to be one of the largest redeployments in Army history.

The 2101st Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) arrived in March to Iraq after mobilization training at Army Support Activity-Dix on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The more than 200 Soldiers with the 2101st Trans. Co. are predominantly motor vehicle operators and mechanics responsible for supervising or operating the medium or heavy-wheeled vehicles used to transport personnel and cargo.

First Sgt. Travis Jernigan, first sergeant with the 2101st Trans. Co. and a Clayton, Ala., native, said the mission of the company is determined by the transportation movement releases that are submitted.

“It just depends on what needs to be hauled,” he said. “Having a flatbed mission at the time, we haul pretty much whatever needs to be moved. If it is rolling stock, lumber or whatever it is, it’s what we haul.”

Jernigan, who works for a trucking firm when not on active duty, said the members of the unit rotate their work schedules between convoys and supporting convoys, with little free time.

“At the moment, you can expect a Soldier to be on the road, maybe two days in a row,”

he said. “When not on the road, the Soldier is here helping to load the cargo that needs to be shipped. A day off is something sparse.”

Jernigan said despite the heavy workload, the Soldiers under his charge continue to have high morale during their missions because it is relatively similar to what they do in the civilian world.

“Overall, the Soldiers, when they are on the mission, have a good feeling about it,” he said. “They enjoy it. They would rather be on the road than on the (base). It’s what most of them were trained to do and we have several members who, in the civilian world, are actually truck drivers.”

First Lt. John Hargray, Jr., a quartermaster officer with the 2101st Trans. Co. and a Troy, Ala., native, said the busy Transportation Corps unit continues to adapt to the multi-mission roles that it often receives.

“It’s been pretty good overall, but it has been kind of rough with us running back-to-back missions,” he said. “Overall, this unit has been quite flexible with all the changes that have come down.”

Staff Sgt. Don Anderson, a motor vehicle operator with the 2101st Trans. Co. said he volunteered for this deployment. Anderson, a Veteran of the Army and the National Guard for more than 33 years, said the 2101st Trans. Co. has already been notified to prepare for an increased workload due to the drawdown.

“We have already been told we’re going to be busier. By the end of July, we will be pretty strung out with our current missions and the additional heavy equipment transporter missions,” Anderson said. “We’ll be ready. I’m always ready.”

In Iraq, the 2101st Trans. Co. is known for operating convoy movements from COB Speicher to locations throughout Iraq. But in the unit’s home state of Alabama, it is recognized for its response to an emergency situation during their pre-mobilization period.

“We had a training mission on a weekend in July of 2009 at Camp Shelby, Miss., and the busload that had the personnel for the detachment going back to Aliceville, Ala., witnessed a church bus accident,” Jernigan

said. “They stopped and rendered aid, actually performed some triage, set up a triage station and aided the emergency personnel and the local law enforcement. They were able to aid them and save quite a few lives.”

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley awarded 47 Alabama Commendation Medals to unit members for their actions that day. In addition, those who stepped up and took on

command and control responsibilities at the scene of the accident received Meritorious Service Medals or Army Achievement Medals, Jernigan said.

Whether in Iraq or Alabama, Soldiers with the 2101st Trans. Co. work to ensure those around them are well-cared for. In their current mission, that work will set the conditions for the future success of Iraq.



ABOVE: Spc. Darrel Bradford (from right), a motor vehicle operator with the 2101st Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Birmingham, Ala., native, and Anthony Godwin also a motor vehicle operator with the 2101st Trans. Co. and a McKenzie, Ala., native, work together to adjust chains used to fasten cargo to a truck June 17 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

Organizational day improves company morale

STORY AND PHOTO BY
1ST LT. PAUL BOBICH
60TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq

Soldiers with the 60th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) gathered for an organizational day May 22 at the company headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Capt. David Hankins, commander of the 60th Ord. Co., and a Bozeman, Mont., native said he thought an organizational day would boost the Soldiers' morale, build esprit de corps, and ease Soldiers' stress.

"We are at a halfway point in our deployment, and this is definitely something worth

celebrating," Hankins said.

The event included games such as volleyball, basketball, horseshoes and dominos. The maintenance team organized a "CrossFit" challenge dubbed the "House of Shame Challenge"—named after the gym at the 60th Ord. Co.'s headquarters.

Sgt. Luis A. Soto, supply sergeant with the 60th Ord. Co. and a Los Angeles native, said the event was a great success.

"The organizational day definitely eased the stress of the Soldiers," he said.

The winning team of the event was comprised of Pfc. James A. Love, a Los Angeles native, and Spc. Brian T. Sheppard, a Phoenix, Ariz., native, both mechanics with the 60th Ord. Co.

"The event was fun and it gave us something to look forward to," Love said.

Love and Sheppard were rewarded with the opportunity to sleep in during one of the commander's weekly runs.



Soldiers with the 60th Ordnance Company, 110th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) play basketball during an organizational day May 22 at the "House of Shame" gym at the company headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Deployed Soldier witnesses daughter's birth from Iraq

STORY BY
STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE
278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATION BASE TAJI, Iraq

Staff Sgt. Michael Mulligan, a truck commander with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Trezevant, Tenn., native, said when his wife found out she was pregnant, he knew he was going to miss the birth.

After determining that he would definitely be in Iraq when the baby was due, Lorrie, his wife, asked her doctor if he would allow her to share the birth with her husband via video chat on the Internet.

"Our doctor said it went against hospital policy," Mulligan said. "He had never done

this before, but he thought this was a perfect opportunity to do it."

Mulligan, was able to monitor the progress of the birth on the Internet March 10 from Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, but the doctor put the chat on hold when Lorrie received epidural anesthesia.

"I was going crazy for 40 minutes, wondering what was going on," Mulligan said.

When they turned the video back on, Mulligan said his sister appeared on his computer screen: "Get ready," she said, "the doctor said she (Lorrie) is going to deliver in 10 minutes."

Ten minutes later Mulligan's daughter, Candyce, was born.

"The doctor held her up for me to see," he said.

Mulligan said the doctor checked on the baby, checked on Lorrie, walked by the camera, looked down and thanked him for

being in Iraq and congratulated him on a new baby girl.

The baby was named Candyce Brianna, after Mulligan's mother, who died in 2003.

Mulligan said he talked about his wife's pregnancy with Capt. Patrick Carneal, commander of A Troop, last September.

The commander of the Tennessee Army National Guard unit based out of Huntington and Waynesboro, Tenn., "was very upfront about it," said Mulligan.

"I understood that I wasn't going to be able to come home from the deployment for the birth," he said. "But the captain assured me that he would do everything in his power to see that I was in front of my computer when the baby was born."

The night Candyce was born, Carneal allowed Mulligan to stay back from the mission he was scheduled to be on.

Michael and Lorrie Mulligan now have three children.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shannon Gregory

Staff Sgt. Michael S. Mulligan, a truck commander with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Trezevant, Tenn., native, communicates with his wife Lorrie March 10 during the birth of his daughter, Candyce.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chad Menegay

Soldiers tour historic monastery, experience Iraqi culture

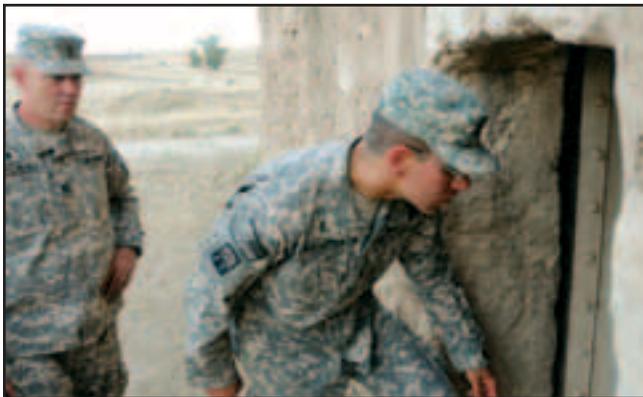
1st. Lt. Brandt Klawitter, chaplain with the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hermann, Mo., native, listens to a lecture during a tour at St. Elijah's Monastery June 11 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Full story on next page 



Army 1st Lt. Brandt Klawitter, chaplain with the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hermann, Mo., native, listens to a lecture while on tour at St. Elijah's monastery June 11 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

Old classmates, chaplains tour historic monastery



1st Lt. Brandt Klawitter (right), chaplain with the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hermann, Mo., native, and Capt. Matthew Christensen, chaplain with the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment and a Kalispell, Mont., native, enter St. Elijah's monastery June 11 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—

The abandoned, sixth century St. Elijah's Monastery of Ninawa province, Iraq, once a center for the regional Christian populace, served the Army chaplain community June 11 and brought two old friends back together in study and prayer.

Seven years prior, 1st Lt. Brandt Klawitter, chaplain with the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hermann, Mo., native, and Capt. Matthew Christensen, chaplain with the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment and a Kalispell, Mont., native, studied biblical archaeology together, but never imagined that one day they would walk within the deteriorating walls of a possible archeological cache and pray at its altar.

It seemingly happened by chance.

As Klawitter scanned his ID card at the entrance to the dining facility at Contingency Operating Base Diamondback, Iraq, he looked up to see his friend, Christensen, wandering around looking for coffee.

The two had no idea they would be visiting troops at COB Diamondback at the same time. Klawitter's office of operations is at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and Christensen's at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

They caught up over breakfast.

Klawitter and Christensen met during postgraduate work in 2001 at Concordia University in Seward, Neb. They had Greek and Hebrew classes together. They continued studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

They also started Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course together.

"We were friends so we signed up for the same summer," Klawitter said. "We rode down together in his minivan to Fort Jackson, S.C. I babysat his kids before. His Family came out to my Family's house. He helped my dad and I put in a rail fence."

Klawitter described Christensen, who was previously a diesel mechanic in the Army, as accomplished and squared away.

"He grew up in the mountains of Montana," Klawitter said. "His dad runs mules and horses up at Glacier National Park."

Christensen described Klawitter as both a people person and an intellectual.

"If you have any kind of issue, he's one of the guys you could call at anytime," Christensen said.

Klawitter said it is a real blessing to have a good friend in Iraq.

"He's one of those friends you trust in, you depend on, you've been through different life experiences with," Klawitter said. "I give him a call every once in a while just to say 'hi.' When we get together, we compare notes about what's worked and what's not."

Of course, this time around, the chaplains did more than just catch up; they visited a 1,500 to 1,700-year-old building together, the oldest, still standing Assyrian monastery in Iraq.

1st Lt. Geoffrey Whitaker, garrison chaplain for Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Murphy, N.C., native, leads weekly St. Elijah's monastery tours at the southwest corner of COB Marez, a base connected to COB Diamondback.

He put together a VIP tour for Klawitter, Christensen and their chaplain assistants.

"The tours boost interest in spirituality," Whitaker said.

Whitaker has been working to build interest in stabilizing

the monastery to preserve the building and the Christian heritage it holds.

Recently, the RFS mayor's cell's coordination with Iraqi and U.S. agencies has paid off, as St. Elijah's has made an Iraqi government list of sites to be preserved.

"The Iraqi facilities engineering team is working on a full-blown plan with diagrams, a timeline and cost of materials," Whitaker said.

Whitaker said the monastery is Iraqi history. As such, the Iraqis should lead the process of preservation, with Americans only helping.

"In this day and age, you don't think of Iraq as having much to do with Christianity," Klawitter said, "but there actually is a history over here, just like in Turkey there is a ton of Christian history."

Klawitter said St. Elijah's was something adventurous to check out.

"A lot of Soldiers now don't go outside the wire and see much of the Iraqi culture and history," he said. "To see something of cultural value, of religious significance, it reminds you of another side of this land that doesn't have to do with the present war."

Klawitter and Christensen said during the visit they felt tied historically to the Christians who came before them to the monastery.

They said they thought back to their biblical archaeology class and wondered what they might dig up if they actually had the chance to excavate.



A chaplain's assistant reads while Soldiers tour St. Elijah's Monastery June 11 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

159th SOC shoe drive to help Iraqi workers

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Finding work can be difficult for many Iraqi citizens so, for some workers, making a paycheck comes before personal safety.

Soldiers with the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in the container repair yard at Joint Base Balad, Iraq recognize this feeling and are taking steps to ensure their workers' safety.

Sgt. 1st Class Andre Wills, CRY noncommissioned officer with the 159th SOC and a Indianapolis native, and Sgt. 1st Class Shelly Brewer, motor sergeant with the 159th SOC and Virginia Beach, Va., native, took it upon themselves to improve the safety of the Iraqi workers by holding a weeklong shoe drive June 19-26.

"I have 450 Iraqi workers here in the CRY and a lot of them come to work in sandals," Wills said. "It's a hazard and very dangerous."

Most of the workers weld and use large machinery like forklifts, or work with heavy equipment like sledgehammers, Brewer said.

"We want to make a safe environment for them," she said. "Any type of accident could happen down here, and it would be beneficial to them if they could start off with the proper footing. The Iraqis come to work without protective gear because they are happy to just be making a paycheck."

Because a lot of units are leaving and throwing away old pairs of shoes and boots, they decided to collect those items and pass them out to the workers. They hope to collect more than 400 pairs, Wills said.

"Soldiers are the biggest contributors of old shoes, especially units transitioning out of Iraq," he said. "Instead of throwing their old boots and shoes away, the Soldiers can



A young Iraqi worker bends supports of a container in place, wearing tattered shoes, June 21 at the Container Repair Yard on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. To improve safety and the lives of the workers in the yard, the 159th Seaport Operations Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) decided to hold a shoe drive June 19-26.

bring them to the 159th SOC area or the 13th CSSB consolidated motor pool to donate them."

There will be a celebration for the workers who have earned their certificate for welding or another job, and at that time the unit will pass out the shoes, he said.

"It shows the Iraqis that we really care about them, that we're not out here just using them for labor, but we really care and

are trying to make a difference for them," he said.

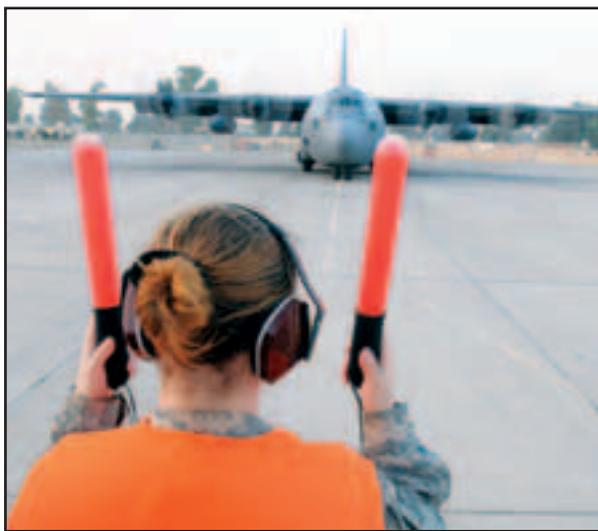
Hashim Abd al-Amir Mahdi, manager and director of the Miran Villiage Co., which employs all of the Iraqi workers at the CRY, said the shoe drive was bigger than just providing workers a safer environment; it was building a relationship with Iraq and the United States.

"All the units here care about our workers,"

he said. "It's not just that the Soldiers give them shoes. There is an additional thing from this project; the gifts themselves. Sometimes it's small, sometimes it's big, but the meaning of them is very big outside (the base)."

Brewer said although the shoe drive was scheduled to end June 26, they will not turn away shoes or other items donated at any time.

596th MCT mission builds momentum



Pfc. Elizabeth Good, a personnel accountability specialist with the 596th Transportation Detachment, 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Labson, S.C., native, flags in an aircraft June 12 at the Mosul Airfield on Contingency Operating Base Diamondback, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq— The 596th Transportation Detachment, 14th Transportation Battalion (Movement

Control), 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) continues to fuel Operation Iraqi Freedom while, at the same time, moving and tracking Soldiers and equipment out of Iraq for the upcoming responsible drawdown.

"On a daily basis, our mission here ramps up," said 1st. Lt. David Strickland, commander of the 596th MCT and an Atlanta native.

Strickland said even back before the 596th arrived, his unit and its predecessors, the 561st MCT, picked up the trans-

portation movement release mission for several bases.

The unit is already experiencing the demands of the drawdown and the requirements of the reducing troop strength in Iraq, he said.

"Their (redeploying Soldiers) vehicles, gear, equipment, personal effects and war fighting materials all have to leave," he said. "That's what transportation does. We're responsible for moving their gear and moving the American Soldier out of this theater as directed by our president."

The 596th MCT is responsible for all movement of troops and equipment in northern Iraq, Strickland said.

The unit is the only Army MCT that runs an airport, said Sgt. Darren Singleton, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the airfield and movement with the 596th MCT, and a Charleston, S.C., native.

"It's quite an honor to be the only Army unit running a whole airfield," he

said.

"When we first got here it was quite difficult, being that we didn't understand all of the Air Force jargon or procedures, but since then I think we've perfected our system," Singleton said.

The 596th works on a customer service basis, Strickland said.

"You come to me with a transportation movement request to move Soldiers, equipment, rolling or non-rolling stock from point A to point B," Strickland said. "My team prepares the request and submits it to the theater (level administrators). Movement assets are allocated and a date is set. Equipment is loaded and it moves. My team is responsible for tracking it on its way through the system. Once it's arrived, my team will reach out to the customer and confirm that it's arrived."

"Then you've gone from customer service request to customer service fulfillment," he said.



Capt. Tara Opielowski, with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, reads to an Iraqi girl June 19 during Kids Day at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members entertained 77 children, ages 6-14, with American games, food and music.

Iraqi kids play American games at JBB



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Service members threw an American-style party June 19 with swimming, movies, video games, board games, burgers, potato chips and ice cream for 77 Iraqi children at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-East center here.

Defense Department personnel, who work with locals in the villages that surround JBB to build communities and help the sick and injured, have gained enough trust with parents to gather children from Albu Hassan, Albu Abbas and Al Bakir for the Kids Day.

Capt. Tara Opielowski, with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, coordinated the event and said she filled her quota of one volunteer for each child within two minutes of her request. She still had to turn away about 400 people.

Opielowski said she kept the itinerary very generic.

"I wanted them to come here and interact with service members," she said. "We told the volunteers to stay with (their respective) child, but to let them do what they want and have fun."

Air Force Maj. Eric Christensen, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Support Squadron and a Miami native, watches an Iraqi boy color June 19 during Kids Day at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Service members entertained 77 children, ages 6-14, with American games, food and music.

Most of the children started their day outside, playing in an above-ground pool and kicking around a soccer ball. Boys wrestled around and girls drew with chalk on the sidewalk. Service members demonstrated how to hula hoop and skip rope. Inside kids listened to music, took pictures, blew bubbles, played billiards, cards, table tennis and video games.

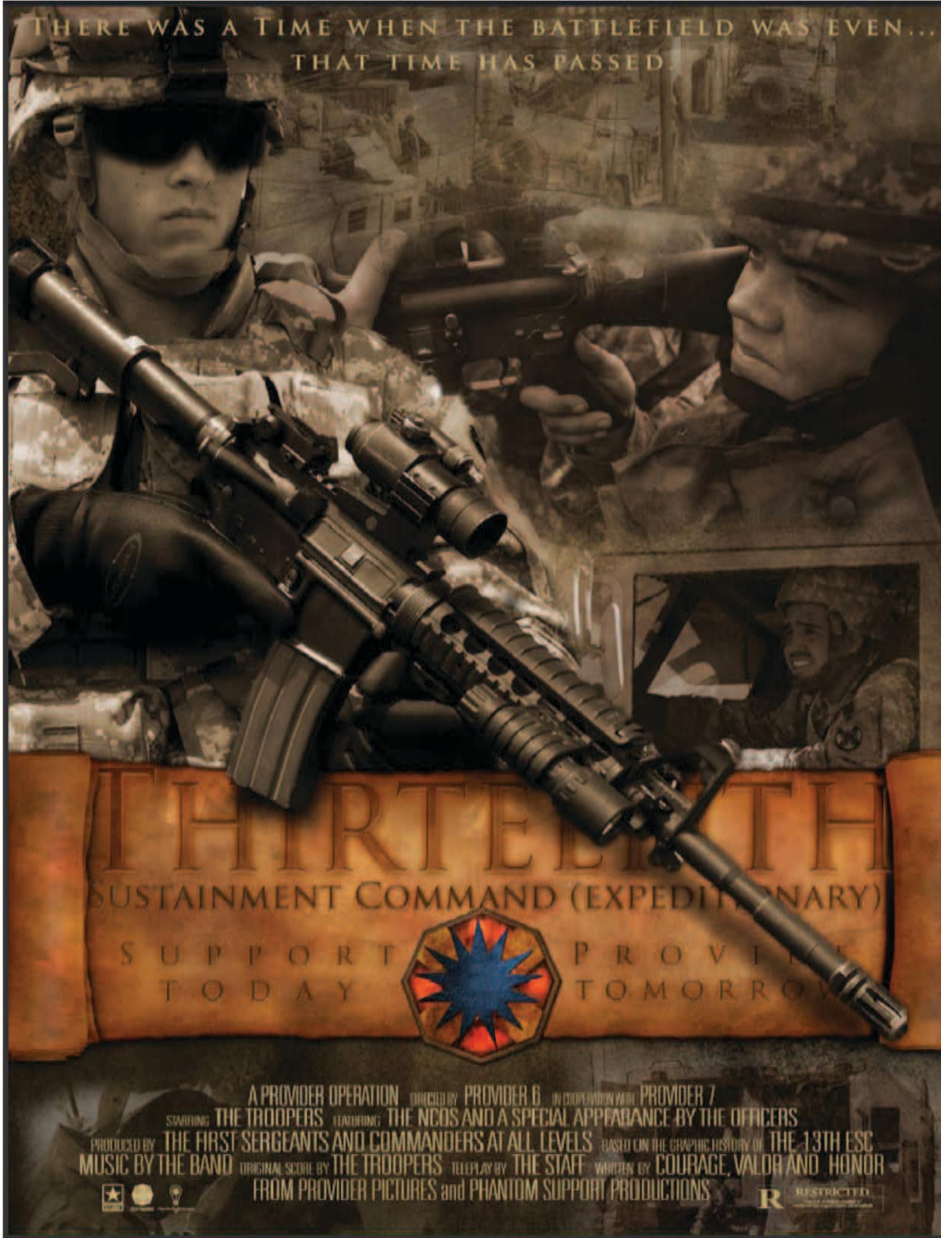
"I love seeing them getting so excited and happy to get into the base," said Spc. Nazha Likrik, a translator with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and an Essouira, Morocco, native.

DoD personnel said since Kids Day began in 2008 at JBB, the concept has spread to other bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. A previous event at JBB drew 219 kids.

"Some (children) have been here six or seven times already," Likrik said. "They already know the place and what to do. They already know the processing at the gate."

Opielowski said the main reason for the event was for the children and service members to have fun, but it was also to build a positive relationship with the Iraqi communities that surround JBB.

"The kids are the future," she said. "This is when it's important to make the impact on them, and show we're here to help not hurt. I think it's good for the parents to see that we're good people, and we want to do good things."



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BATTLEFIELD WAS EVEN...
 THAT TIME HAS PASSED.

THIRTEENTH
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A Day in the life of a convoy security team

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. 1ST CLASS RHONDA M. LAWSON
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Four a.m. comes quickly and early June 18.



Staff Sgt. Michael Paulk slowly opens his eyes. He wishes for more sleep, but that wish won't come true today. He has only 45 minutes to get dressed and make it to the motor pool to prepare for the day's convoy mission.

The mission brief was given the night before, so all that is left to do is perform preventive maintenance checks and services on the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles that will provide security to civilian trucks delivering supplies to another base.

Paulk, a vehicle commander with F Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Deville, La., native, will fill in as the vehicle's gunner for this mission while Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Parm takes the command role.

Parm, a 16-year Army Veteran and Hubbard, Ohio, native, is no stranger to Paulk's team; he's filled in with them before. As the convoy commander for this mission, he wastes no time, ensuring the team and vehicles are ready to go. With three other deployments under his belt, he is well experienced with adapting to changes.

Although Paulk is technically not in charge, he still can't shed his command responsibilities. He walks around his MRAP, ensuring all PMCS measures have been performed. He ensures that his team arrives on time, meaning 15 minutes prior to work call.

"It's such a routine that it's second nature," Paulk said. "There's very little downtime. Everybody knows their job, and

they come out and do it. You don't really have to dictate or tell anybody to put this on the truck or put that on the truck. They do it every day."

Paulk has been in the Army for 11 years—two of them with the Louisiana National Guard—and is serving his third tour in Iraq, although this is his first deployment conducting convoy security. Since arriving in country only a few months ago, he and his team have completed more than 60 security missions, he said.

"Convoy security is like herding cats," Paulk said. "You have so many different moving pieces and other people to worry about other than yourself. You can't stray from your mission at all. You can't deviate in any way."

Keeping this in mind helps the team to avoid complacency, a despised enemy in the world of convoy security.

"If you get complacent, your Soldiers are going to follow your lead," Paulk said. "They're going to get (relaxed). They're going to get comfortable. As long as you're on your 'Ps and Qs,' as long as you're doing everything by the book, your Soldiers are going to do the same thing."

Parm said he wholeheartedly agrees. He explained that complacency is one of the most important things he warns his Soldiers about when preparing for a mission. Although the basic mission of moving convoys from one point to another is the same, no two missions are ever alike.

"They need to remain alert and focused on the mission," he said. "It is hard to do when the threat is so sporadic and hidden."

The time is nearing 6 a.m. and Parm informs the team they have just enough time to drive to the dining facility to pick up "grab n' go" meals before meeting with the movement control team. After their short breakfast, they join the MCT, where they await confirmation of their movement time and the arrival of the trucks they are

"There's very little downtime. Everybody knows their job, and they come out and do it."

— Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Parm

to escort.

As they wait, Spc. Ashley Phillips, the driver in Paulk's vehicle and a Jonesville, Mich., native, finishes her checks on the MRAP and washes the windows.

Once she finishes her checks, she brushes her teeth and washes her face, a routine she performs before driving to keep herself alert while on the road, she said.

The 24-year-old is on her second tour of Iraq in her five-year Army career. A military policeman by trade, this deployment marks her first time driving for a convoy security mission.

Finally, the time has come. As they drive toward the gate, they prepare for one of their main threats—rock throwers. The situation is so serious that, during a prior mission, a MRAP's window was shattered from a thrown rock.

Fortunately, the ride goes relatively smoothly. The team converses with each other while heavy metal music plays to keep them entertained. They pass a patch of farms, palm trees and sunflowers.

"The sunflowers are happy today," Parm said to the team. "They're all perked up. It might be a good day."

Although the scenery and music keep them engaged, security is never far from their minds. Parm and Paulk actively point out potential threats as they ride along. Phillips' eyes scan back and forth, up and down the road.

"You're not going to get hit (every time

you go out)," she said. "It's going to take you getting hit one time, and you don't know if you're going to make it through. When I go outside the wire, I act like it's the first mission."

Finally, they reach their destination, and aside from two civilian trucks getting flat tires along the way, the trip is relatively eventless. The 199th BSB Soldiers stage near the MCT to rest and get lunch, while the civilian trucks separate from the convoy to drop off their deliveries. Some Soldiers even play soccer and throw around the football to relieve some of the stress. But for Parm, it's still all business. He heads straight for the MCT to get the new return time and brief them on the trip.

As the return time approaches, the Soldiers each load into their MRAPs and head to the fuel point to prepare for the ride back. Returning can sometimes be the hardest part of the trip, Paulk said.

"That's usually where you start taking things for granted and you start relaxing," he said. "You can lose your focus just because you're on the way back."

Fortunately, the convoy gets back to base with no flat tires or shattered windows. However, the job isn't over for the Soldiers with the convoy security team. They must now wait for each civilian driver to get cleared to enter the base. Once everyone is through, they must escort them to the convoy yard and then head to the motor pool to finish their post-mission checks and prepare for the next convoy. The mission is a success Parm said.

"The mission went very well," he said. "(There were) no injuries, and everyone came home safe."





HVAC repair

Keeping Soldiers' cool is hard labor

PAGE 14



ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Michael Paulk (left), a gunner with F Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Deville, La., native, receives assistance donning his gunner's restraint system harness before departing on a convoy mission out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

“It’s going to take you getting hit one time, and you don’t know if you’re going to make it through. When I go outside the wire, I act like it’s the first mission.”

— Spc. Ashley Phillips



LEFT: Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles are staged in preparation for a convoy security mission June 18 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

ABOVE: Sgt 1st Class Derrick Parm (left), a convoy commander with F Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hubbard, Ohio, native, gives instructions to one of his Soldiers June 18 after a convoy security mission out of Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



Spc. Isaac Fussell (left), a utility equipment repair technician with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Conroe, Texas, native, and Spc. William McCoy, a utility equipment repair technician with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Detroit native, repair an air conditioning component in a vehicle June 15 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

HVAC repair team helps Soldiers maintain cool

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE



ADDER, Iraq—A team of Soldiers here stays busy keeping air conditioning systems working for fellow service members who travel throughout theater.

Heating ventilation and air conditioning repair Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are responsible for fixing air conditioning units in a variety of vehicles ranging from humvees and Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles to Heavy Equipment Transporters.

“We have a lot of vehicles that come through the shop needing anything from just recharging the (air conditioning) system, to replacing parts,” said Spc. William McCoy, a utility equipment repair technician with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Detroit native. “We do a lot of trouble shooting.”

The HVAC repair team most commonly fixes air conditioning units that have lost

their Freon charge, making the system unable to cool the vehicles effectively, said Sgt. Richard Maday, a utility equipment repair technician and team chief with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Buffalo, N.Y., native.

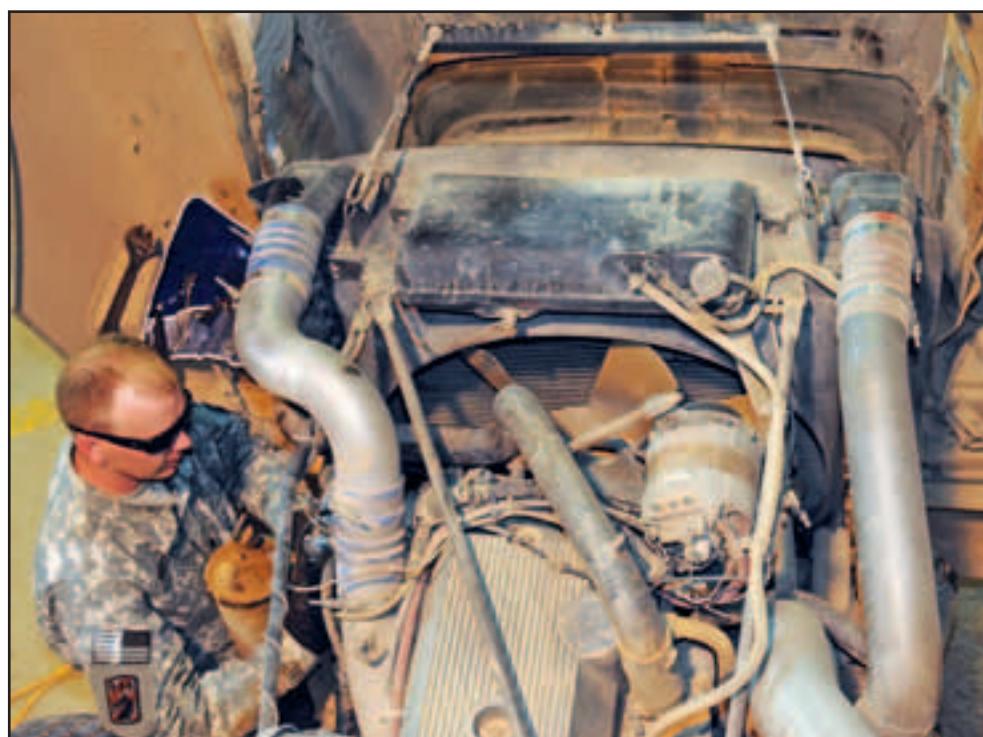
“Almost every vehicle we repair is a convoy vehicle, so it is rewarding for us that we are helping them by giving them the air conditioning they need to survive out on the road,” Maday said.

Due to the upcoming responsible draw-down of troops and equipment in Iraq, there are more miles and hours put on the convoy vehicles, said Staff Sgt. Sean Thompson, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the HVAC team with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a New York City native.

The systems are working overtime, so the HVAC team works long hours to keep up with the repairs, he said.

“We have really made a big difference since we’ve been here,” Thompson said. “The Soldiers are really dedicated to their work because they know they affect these convoy patrols. My team knows the Soldiers out on the road have a very important job so they try and make it as comfortable as possible for them.”

As convoys continue to rely on their HVAC units, Soldiers with the 632nd Maint. Co.’s HVAC team will continue to work to



meet the needs for cool air in the heat of the desert.

“My favorite part of this job is the happiness I see in other Soldiers when they come in here and their humvee is steaming hot, and then they leave and it’s an icebox,” McCoy said.

Spc. Isaac Fussell, a utility equipment repair technician with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Conroe, Texas, native, repairs a vehicle June 15 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Convoy maintenance team keeps vehicles rolling

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

ADDER, Iraq— Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq help fellow service members maintain their ability to support the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq by servicing their tactical vehicles between missions.

Wheeled vehicle mechanics with the 632nd Maint. Co. maintain a variety of vehicles and their associated trailers and equipment systems, sometimes having just a few hours to diagnose and fix problems. The maintenance support team with the company most often maintains humvees, Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles and Heavy Equipment Transporters.

"The importance of our MST here is we work on convoy vehicles and support convoy operations," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Carson, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic and section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Buckhannon W.Va., native. "When trucks come in, they have to be back out of our shop in a couple of hours; definitely less than 12 hours."

Pfc. David Cardamone, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Virginia Beach, Va., native, fixes a fuel pump on a humvee June 14 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

If a vehicle breaks down and a convoy has to leave within a few hours, the team has to diagnose the symptoms, troubleshoot the problem, replace the parts and return the vehicle to the unit, in order for Soldiers to complete their mission, Carson said.

Although the service team works to beat the clock, they also work to the Army standard of fixing wheeled vehicles.

"(Mechanics) have to have a lot of on-the-job experience already," Carson said. "They've seen most of the problems numerous times and they know exactly what to do. My whole team impresses me. They are learning every day, but also have a strong knowledge of their jobs to begin with."

Carson said some of the common problems they see here are fuel pumps and clogged filters, as well as conventional service issues such as changing the motor oil and filter, changing the transmission fluid and replacing batteries.

Due to the upcoming responsible drawdown of forces and equipment in Iraq, there is more equipment moving out of theater, creating more convoy missions and taxing the vehicles even more than before, he said.

"The more equipment that is rolling, the more chances of a vehicle breakdown," said Pfc. David Cardamone, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Virginia Beach, Va., native.

Although the 632nd Maint. Co. arrived in theater in April, the Soldiers say they already feel they are contributing a great deal to the ever-changing mission in Iraq, Cardamone said.



512th Soldiers prep to take over FARP mission

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. GAELLEN LOWERS
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Soldiers with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are training here and at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in preparation for taking over the forward arming and refueling point July 1 at Forward Operating Base Cobra, Iraq.

The group of more than 10 Soldiers is being trained by E Company, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) which is responsible for refueling operations at JBB.

"We went through a lot of good training here," said Spc. Bobby McKisset, a fuel specialist with the 512th Quartermaster Co. and a Washington, D.C., native. "They were very knowledgeable and taught us everything we need to know to keep the birds (helicopters) up."

"The aircraft we refuel are Apache, Black Hawk, Kiowa and Chinook helicopters," said Sgt. John Brown, noncommissioned

officer-in-charge of the refueling operation with the 512th Quartermaster Co. and Mobile, Ala. native. "They are teaching us a lot of good stuff that we need to accomplish our mission. We're having a lot of fun out there."

Although the mission is fun, it is not to be taken lightly. The lives of personnel using the FARP depend on the 512th Quartermaster Co. Soldiers' safe and proper performance of their jobs, Brown said.

"It's very important," he said. "We have to refuel the medevac (aircraft) ... and all other birds that fly. Without us, they cannot do their missions."

McKisset said he agreed with his NCOIC. "You have to test the fuel and make sure it's clean for the birds," he said. "We test it to make sure there is no water in the fuel and that it is clean. The birds need the best quality fuel that we can give them. We make sure everyone gets to where they need to go safely."

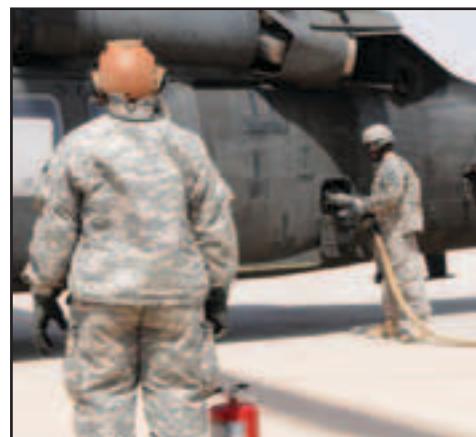
Given the importance of their jobs and the frequency of incoming aircraft, his Soldiers must always be ready, Brown said.

"It takes about 10 minutes or so to refuel an aircraft, but it's a 24-hour operation," he said. "You are always on call. You always have to be ready and prepared to go and refuel the aircraft at any moment."

Pfc. Harith Walli, a fuel specialist for with E Co., 3rd Bn., 158th Aviation. Regt.

and St. Paul, Minn., native, said the FARP at FOB Cobra will be in good hands. He believes his company has given them all the skills needed to perform all necessary operations at the facility.

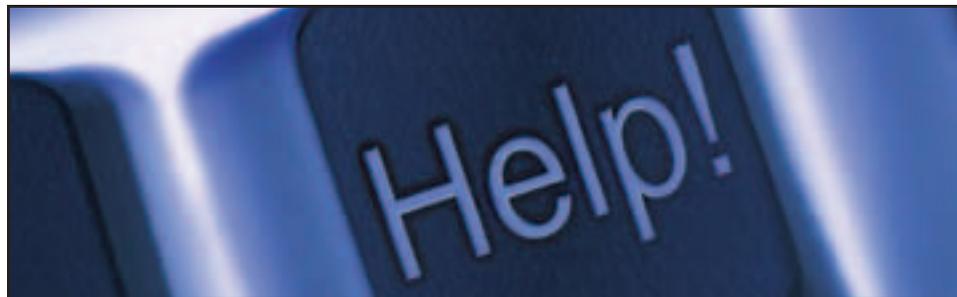
"My Soldiers are good Soldiers," Brown said. "They are motivated and always happy to be here. We are ready for this mission."



ABOVE: Sgt. John Brown (right), noncommissioned officer-in-charge of refueling operations with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), refuels an aircraft June 12 at Joint Base Balad while Spc. Bobby McKisset (left), a fuel specialist with the 512th Quartermaster Co., over watches for safety.



ABOVE: Sgt. John Brown (right), noncommissioned officer-in-charge of refueling operations with the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), refuels an aircraft June 12 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq during his training before moving to Forward Operating Base Cobra, Iraq to take over the forward arming and refueling point at the base.



Taking care of your tech

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Deploying to the desert, one of the harshest environments on earth, can wreak havoc on personnel, vehicles and equipment. The military spends millions of dollars a year to prevent and minimize the effects of the desert on its electronic systems. Yet too often, Soldiers pay no mind to the effects of sand and heat to their own personal electronic devices. Basic precautions and services can keep your personal gear working at its peak, despite the rugged conditions.

The first thing to keep in mind is overheating. While space may be at a premium, giving televisions, computers and video game systems adequate space around them is very important. Computers and video game systems both have fans inside to keep air circulating and to keep the system from overheating, which can lead to system failure. By cluttering the area around them, you block the air flow, setting the entire system up for failure. Even televisions, which traditionally run much cooler, need space around them. A good general rule is the width of your palm between the back and sides of your television or computer and the case around it.

Another often overlooked issue that can lead to system failure is dust. Items with an electronic charge gather dust faster than items that don't, due to the magnetic forces inherent in electricity. The abundant sand and dust in Iraq is a constant threat. Regular cleanings of vents and fan ducts will keep fans from being clogged and breaking down. Weekly wipe downs with a damp cloth and clearing out fan vents with an air duster will keep dust and sand from building up and breaking your system.

Sun, particularly direct sunlight, can damage televisions and other types of displays. Keeping them inside and not pointed towards windows can help prevent the sun's rays from breaking down the components in the screen, which causes hotspots that distort the display.

Personal electronic devices, such as MP3 players and digital cameras, are carried by Soldiers almost everywhere. These useful devices are designed to handle more wear and tear than items that are intended to stay on a desk like a television. Though more rugged by design, simple precautionary measures can keep them working. The single most effective thing to protect a digital camera or MP3 player is to get a hard case. Cases come in a variety of sizes and materials, from hard plastic cases with a lanyard to cloth covered pouches that attach to a belt. Cases help protect screens and lens from being scratched or broken while also providing safe storage to help prevent crushing the item.

Soldiers expect much of themselves and each other. They also expect much from their electronics. The few minutes it takes to maintain and clean their personal electronics is a small price to pay for the hours of enjoyment they can bring.

CBCA cont. from page 1

with the 13th ESC and a Natchez, Miss., native, spoke at the conclusion of the seminar.

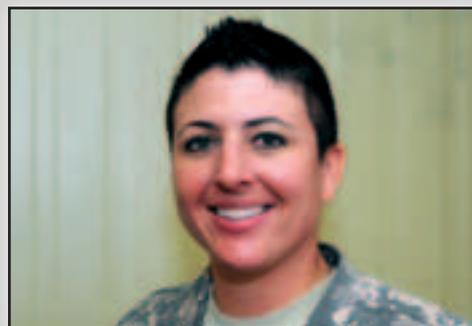
Brown said he expects each graduate of the course to do the right thing and enforce the standards of the CBCA program, which are based upon federal law and military regulations.

"By utilizing this program, we can pre-clear personnel, cargo and equipment for entry back to the United States," said Marvin Walker, civilian program manager with the Department of Defense customs program. "It is a win-win situation for the DoD and for the two participating agencies here."



Word on the street

What kind of music helps you unwind from the workday?



"Down-tempo and lounge music"

1st Lt. Christina Castellano, deputy protocol officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New York City native.



"Hard rock and metal"

1st Lt. Sean Devine, mobility plans officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Geneva, Ill. native.



"Classic rock, because I'm old"

Master Sgt. Warren Lyddon battle noncommissioned officer, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Deep River, Iowa native.



"'80s and '90s rock"

Staff Sgt. Alfred Salazar force protection noncommissioned officer, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Houston native.



"Anything but country"

Staff Sgt. Clifford Demaris intelligence analyst, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Des Moines, Iowa native.

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

“We very much believe that education is at the core of prosperity, and we’re happy to be involved in an initiative that looks beyond stability in Iraq to moving the country forward.”

University of Kentucky Provost Kumble Subbaswamy on a \$1 million grant given to the school by the U.S. Department of State to help “modernize the curriculum” at the University of Kufa in Najaf, Iraq and rebuild the Iraqi school’s educational infrastructure

“Many have been living in limbo for years. This will increasingly be the case if states don’t continue to welcome Iraqi refugees for resettlement.”

Antonio Guterres, United Nations high commissioner for refugees on the state of Iraqis displaced due to conflict in the country

“The devil is increasingly in the detail when it comes to Iraqi security, creating competitive opportunities for those prepared to dig a little deeper than their competitors.”

Dr. Michael Knights, vice president of the private security firm, Olive Group, on investment in Iraq

“If you look at the situation now, security has improved. So now people of course are looking at the next thing, services, jobs and being able to have education, health and so forth.”

Hussein al-Uzri, chairman of the Trade Bank of Iraq, on the upcoming phase of progress and success in Iraq

“Deaths of Iraqi Security Forces members and Iraqi civilians from attacks have decreased in the last year as the Iraqi Security Forces continue to build their capabilities and professionalism and provide better security for the people of Iraq.”

A United States Forces – Iraq press release reporting findings supporting improved and successful autonomous security efforts by Iraqi forces

KING DAVID

Gen. David H. Petraeus was selected June 23 to take over command of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. According to civilian media personalities like NBC’s Brian Williams, with this move, he is argued to have surpassed the prominence of Gens. Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell, and nominally reached the level of a five-star general. Petraeus graduated in the top 5 percent of his class at the U.S. Military Academy, earned both a master’s degree and doctorate in international relations from Princeton University, and graduated at the top of his class at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He has served as the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), commander of Multi-National Force–Iraq, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and U.S. Central Command. He is renowned for being an expert in counterinsurgency and is widely credited as being the architect of the successful “surge” strategy in Iraq. See how Petraeus compares with the general elite before they received their highest military promotions.



Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing served with the 10th Cavalry at San Juan Hill, attended the Army War College, was an instructor in tactics at the U.S. Military Academy, commanded the 8th Infantry Brigade at the Presidio and commanded all American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower graduated in the top third of his class at the U.S. Military Academy, graduated at the top of his class at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, attended the Army War College, served as a lieutenant colonel in the United States during World War I, commanded the invasions of North Africa and France during World War II and served as the supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe and Army chief of staff.

Gen. Omar N. Bradley graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, served as a professor of military science at South Dakota State College, attended the Army War College, commanded the 82nd Infantry Division, the 28th Inf. Div., II Corps, First Army, 12th Army Group, served as the director of Veterans Administration, Army chief of staff and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. Bradley was the first chairman of the joint chiefs and the last five-star general.

FITNESS CORNER

Box Jumps Week

Fitness Myths

The world of fitness flourishes with myths, fables and “do this, not that” sayings. There is so much information about exercise, diet and fitness that it is hard to decipher what is truth and what is fiction. One reason myths get started in the first place is because everyone’s body reacts differently to exercises. So what’s true for one person may not be true for another. The best way to find out if the myth is true is to try it yourself. Here’s the lowdown on what’s true and what’s not when it comes to exercise techniques.

1. If you don’t sweat, you’re not working hard enough.

Sweat, as stinky and uncomfortable as it can be, is a natural and healthy part of life. It helps to cool your body. There is a gland in your brain called the hypothalamus that controls your internal temperature. When your body is too hot, the hypothalamus sends a message to your nerve cells to contact your sweat glands. When these glands are stimulated, they secrete sweat. The amount of sweat considered normal is quite variable and depends on the demands of the body. Don’t feel intimidated if you walk out of the gym with your shirt a different color because it is soaked with sweat. Remember that everyone is unique, just because the person beside you on the bicycle begins to sweat within five minutes, does not necessarily mean that he is working harder than you. To make sure you are getting a good workout, you need to push yourself at a level appropriate for you.

2. A longer workout equals better workouts.

With most exercise goals, quality is more important than quantity. Each of your workouts should contain two components: duration and intensity. Intensity is how hard you are working compared to duration is how long you workout. If you do not limit your duration of your exercise session, it most likely lacked in intensity. The people that spend countless hours at the gym every night are just comical. Do your workout and leave. Three 10-minute cardio stints offer the same healthy payback as a single 30-minute one. If you are trying to peel off pounds, of course, the more you do, the faster you’ll succeed. But don’t feel guilty if all you can squeeze in is a few minutes here and a few minutes there—it all adds up.

3. Muscle can turn into fat.

Muscle doesn’t turn to fat—ever. Muscle and fat are two completely different tissues that have different functions. It is physiologically impossible for muscle to turn to fat and vice versa. If you stop training, your lean muscle mass will reduce, which ultimately lowers your metabolism, thus contributing to more fat accumulating on your body. We lose fat by burning more energy than we put into our bodies. We lose muscle by giving our muscles less stress. The more stress muscles have, the more they grow; the less stress they have, the less they grow. It’s that simple. So keep exercising and enjoy it.

4. Machines are safer than free weights

While machines are a safe start for beginners to weight lifting, you still must ensure you adjust the settings to properly fit your body. Machines are limiting because of the rigidity and the movement is along a fixed plane, therefore limiting your natural movements. When you use free weights your body naturally makes adjustments throughout the exercise’s range of motion according to your strength level, speed of movement and proficiency at executing your repetitions. Both types of equipment are important to include in your workout routine.



Frog Jumps

Start facing the box with your feet on the ground. Bend your knees and jump up, landing with your feet on the box. Simultaneously squat down and touch your hands to the ground. Be sure to keep your butt back and ensure your knees do not exceed your toes. Perform three sets of 20 repetitions.



Lateral Jumps

Start with your left foot on the step (box or ledge, like in the photos) keep your right foot on the ground. Bend your knees and jump up and over the box, landing with your right foot on the box and your left foot on the ground. Repeat on the right side. This is one repetition. Perform three sets of 20 repetitions.



Switch Foot Jumps

Start with your right foot on the box, facing the box. Bend your knees and jump up in the air switching feet midair. Land with you left foot on the box. Perform this exercise quickly switching feet back and forth, staying on your toes. Every time your right foot lands on the box, this counts as one repetition. Perform three sets of 20 repetitions.

Try performing the exercises as a circuit. Perform each exercise once, then cycle through them two more times.



Capt. Sarah Baumgardner is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where she majored in exercise physiology. She is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) as a Health Fitness Specialist (HFS). She has worked as a personal trainer and nutritional consultant, training a wide range of demographics. She brings enthusiasm and motivation to inspiring, coaching and increasing Soldiers’ fitness levels.

Sudoku

Level: Hard

The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Last week's answers

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

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Janet Jackson is the youngest of how many Jacksons?
2. Which member of the Monkees came from Houston?
3. Who was the first female to register 30 top ten hits?
4. At which LA hotel was Bobby Kennedy shot?
5. Which London theater used to claim that "we never closed?"
6. Which musical featured the song "Food, Glorious Food"?

1. Nine 2. Mike Nesmith 3. Madonna 4. Ambassador 5. Windmill 6. Oliver

JBB Worship Services

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)

Wednesday 8 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

GENERAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Freedom Chapel
9 a.m. Provider Chapel

GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
12 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
12:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)

Sunday 5 p.m. Provider Chapel

TRADITIONAL

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Sunday 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**Current as of June 2, 2010*

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
12:30 p.m. Air Force Provider Chapel

Thursday 11 a.m. Air Force Provider Chapel
Wednesday, Friday 5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Saturday 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
Confessions: Saturday 4-4:45 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 6 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Provider Annex
Saturday 7 p.m. The Shack (Bldg 7556)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel 443-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m. Aqua Training: Tue., Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m. EAST REC- REATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday 8 p.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m.	Caribbean Night: Friday 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday 7:30 p.m. H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2 a.m., 8 a.m. Tue., Thu., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu.,	8 p.m. Friday 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Mon, Saturday 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Mon., Sat. 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight Soccer: Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday 8 p.m. H6 RECRE- ATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday 8 p.m. Texas	Hold'em: Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday 8:30 p.m. P90x: 9-ball: Thursday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday 8:30 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday 7 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m. WEST FIT- NESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8-10 p.m.	7 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat. 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m. CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m.
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UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



Wednesday 06/30/10

TENNIS: 2010 Wimbledon, The Championships, Gentlemen's Quarterfinals Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: New York Mets @ Florida Marlins, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra

Thursday 07/01/10

TENNIS: 2010 Wimbledon, The Championships: Ladies Semifinals, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Houston Astros @ San Diego Padres, Live 7 p.m. AFN Xtra

Friday 07/02/10

SOCCER: 2010 FIFA World Cup Quarterfinals, Teams TBD, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN Sports

TENNIS: 2010 Wimbledon, The Championships: Gentlemen's Semifinals, Live 9 a.m. AFN Xtra

SOCCER: 2010 FIFA World Cup Quarterfinals, Teams TBD, Live 11 a.m. AFN Sports
NASCAR: NationwideSeries, Jalapeno 250, Live 5 p.m. AFN Xtra
BASEBALL: "This One's For You" Military Appreciation Day, Milwaukee Brewers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 5 p.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 07/03/10

SOCCER: 2010 FIFA World Cup, Teams TBD, Live 9 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Toronto Blue Jays @ New York Yankees, Live 10 a.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 1 p.m. AFN Prime Atlantic

Sunday 07/04/10

MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Detroit Tigers, Live 10 a.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
MLB: **July 4th For The Troops**, Cincinnati Reds @ Chicago Cubs, Live 11 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Kansas City Royals @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 p.m. AFN Sports

Monday 07/05/10

MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ Detroit Tigers, Live 10 a.m. AFN Sports
BASEBALL: Military Appreciation Day, Cincinnati Reds @ New York Mets, Live 4 p.m. AFN Xtra

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'A Team' completes mission on big screen

BY STAFF SGT. RANDALL P. CAREY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“The A Team” was a hot show back in the day. But to recreate the idea in 2010 had the potential for major failure. Film techniques and acting standards have changed quite a bit over the course of a few decades. However, director Joe

Carnahan (Smokin’ Aces) pulled off the merger between loyalty to vintage identities and employment of modern cinema expectations with star skill.

The film begins with lots of amusement and lots of action—which doesn’t stop until the credits roll—in an introduction sequence bringing the A Team together and explaining their personalities: Col. John “Hannibal” Smith (Liam Neeson, “Taken”), the tactical mastermind, always with a plan; Lt. Templeton “Faceman” Peck (Bradley Cooper, “The Hangover”), the pretty boy infiltrator ... always with a witty comment; B.A. Baracus (Quinton “Rampage” Jackson, Ultimate Fighting Championship), the muscle (B.A. should say enough) and Murdock (Sharlto Copely, “District 9”),

the whack-job pilot who is by far my favorite and, aside from Alan in “The Hangover,” quite possibly the funniest character I’ve seen in a movie in years.

With the team involuntarily assembled after a high-octane chase out of Mexico, leaving the famous A Team van demolished as a result of Murdock’s antics, we find them helping our own war effort here in Iraq. Hannibal is offered a mission by CIA agent “Lynch” (Patrick Wilson, “Watchmen”) that is too irresistible to pass up. This is at the same time Face’s love-interest investigator, Capt. Charisa Sosa (Jessica Biel, “Stealth”) warns the team to stay away from the mission and out of Baghdad. The mission?

Here’s the plan: Steal back treasury plates and billions of dollars in counterfeit cash from Iraqi insurgents, then get back to base. Easy enough right?

Well it is, all until the A Team’s rival private security company throws a wrench in the works and the commanding general’s humvee is blown up.

The team is blamed for the general’s murder and for conducting an illegal mission in Baghdad. With the general gone, the CIA keeping quiet and no order for their mission, Hannibal, Face, Baracus and Murdock are shipped off to

prison—well not Murdock, he’s sent to a psych ward, which is both fitting and hilarious. But what is always in the works? Another plan.

The gang breaks out of their cells, a cinematic adventure itself given that they’re all in different prisons, and regroup to clear their names. They figure out who they’re after and mount a successful campaign that leads to a massively entertaining climax at the end of the movie.

It seems that every character grows throughout the movie and comes to a point of true self-discovery by the end—expect for Murdock, which is humorously appropriate.

There is a lot of action in this movie and a lot of computer-generated imagery. I’m sure many viewers will probably think it is too unrealistic and that they went overboard. If it were any other movie I would say the same thing. But come on ... This is the A Team. I definitely recommend this movie to anyone that has any interest in action movies, the military (it has strong relatable references to current military units and themes), the A Team or even a good laugh. Knowing what I know now, I would probably watch it just to laugh at Murdock. Fortunately, the film offers a lot more, in addition. My verdict: A (No pun intended)

'The Great Misdirect': album runs long, but rocks hard

BY CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Between the Buried and Me is not an easy band to listen to. Formed in 2000, the Raleigh, N.C.-based quintet has previously released four studio albums, one cover album and one live DVD of their unique brand of highly technical and

increasingly progressive metal. Their latest record, “The Great Misdirect,” ups the ante again, showing that Between the Buried and Me is not only the best band to take its name from a Counting Crows song, but the best band in heavy music, period.

Musically, “The Great Misdirect” is all over the map. As with previous releases, BTBAM showcases its ability to change direction at the drop of a hat, seamlessly blending

styles and tempos. Track two, “Obfuscations,” moves from an all-out thrasher, to a ‘70s-style funk sound, back to more shredding, then a soaring, Pink Floyd-esque guitar solo, all over the course of nine epic minutes. The song also features a chorus that actually sticks in your head, which may be a first for this band (it should be said again that this is their fifth album).

With a 59-minute running time, and only six tracks, “The Great Misdirect” has some lengthy songs, with the final song, “Swim to the Moon,” clocking in at an impressive 18 minutes. I typically get bored with a tune after about three minutes, but BTBAM keeps things interesting throughout.

The album is best appreciated when listened to from beginning to end, as a complete work—and a complete work it is. Gone are the heavy-handed transitions and Faith No More rip-off’s that bogged down their last record. “The Great Misdirect” is not BTBAM reinventing its sound so

much as sharpening and refining it.

The songwriting feels natural, despite the complexity of the songs. The musicianship, like always, is top notch. It’s worth buying the record just to hear guitarist Paul Waggoner and drummer Blake Richardson.

But this is, first and foremost, a metal record. There is a lot of screaming, which may be tough for some to listen to, but vocalist Tommy Rogers sounds better than ever, and there is a surprising amount of clean singing. Still, this is not music for everyone. Those with an interest in the heavier side of things owe it to themselves to check it out. Any fan of rock music, especially musicians, should take a chance on it, too.

This is the sound of a band with limitless potential performing at what is the (current) highpoint of their careers. “The Great Misdirect” is a phenomenal work of art, and I give it 10/10.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Wednesday June 30

6 p.m. Toy story 3 (G)
9 p.m. Robin Hood (PG-13)

8 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13)
Midnight Knight And Day (PG-13)

Thursday July 1

6 p.m. Toy story 3 (G)
9 p.m. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)

Sunday July 4

2 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13)
5 p.m. Just Wright (PG)
8 p.m. Knight And Day (PG-13)

Friday July 2

6 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13) (1st Run)
9 p.m. Knight And Day (PG-13) (1st Run)

Monday July 5

THEATER RESERVED FOR CONCERT
(ALL DAY)

Saturday July 3

2 p.m. Macgruber (R)
5 p.m. Knight And Day (PG-13)

Tuesday July 5

6 p.m. Macgruber (R)
9 p.m. Grown Ups (PG-13)

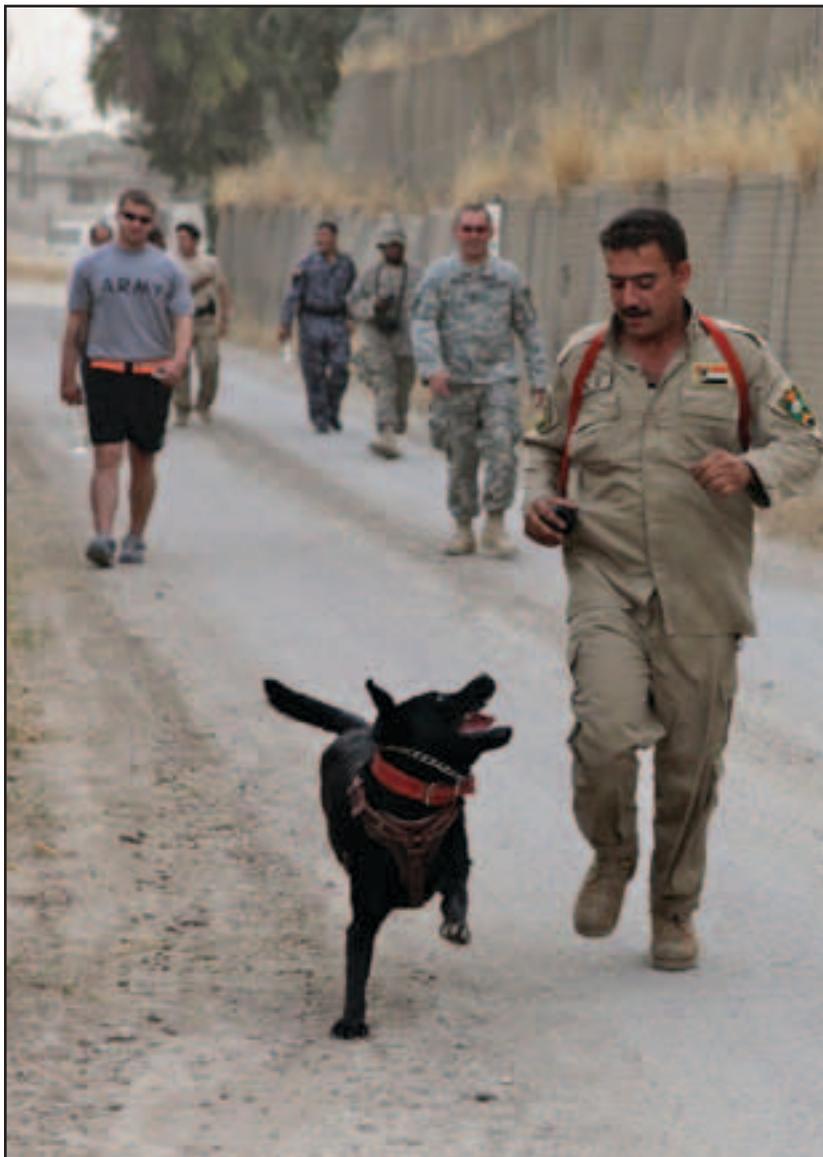
Movie times are subject to change. Verify showings at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/balad.htm>



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jason Stewart

U.S. Soldiers from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division arrive at the derailment site of an Iraqi Republic Railway locomotive five miles south of Bayji, Iraq, June 5, 2010. U.S. Soldiers arrived to offer assistance to Iraqi police and Oil Security Force already at the site.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jillian Munyon



ABOVE: U.S. Soldiers of the 3-29 Bravo Battery, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, speak with local Iraqis June 13 in Dhi Qar Province, Iraq. To ensure the Kaffa'at Electrical project is progressing, U.S. Soldiers on the Provincial Reconstruction Teams go on reconnaissance missions to assess each phase of the project.

LEFT: An Iraqi Police Officer, Ahsan Rasoul from Mosul, works with a K-9 during patrol training June 7 in Forward Operating Base (FOB) Diamondback, near Mosul, Iraq. Iraqi Police have been training with K-9s for about one year with U.S. Soldiers from 114th Military Police Company, 3-17th Military Police Battalion, 49th Military Police Brigade in FOB Diamondback.

NEWS AROUND

Northern Iraq operation nets 2 suspected AQI associates

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associates during a joint security operation conducted approximately 110 kilometers northeast of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected AQI member allegedly responsible for conducting attacks on ISF and U.S. forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected AQI criminal associates.

All joint operations are in pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces apprehend suspected AQI terrorist, associates

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member and four alleged criminal associates during two joint security operations conducted in central and northern Iraq today.

In southern Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected AQI leader who is believed to be involved in high profile vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks and has ties to senior AQI leadership.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected AQI criminal associates.

During another operation in east Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisors searched a building for a suspected AQI member who allegedly has ties to senior AQI leadership.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual and two suspected criminal associates.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Baghdad's Directorate of Relief launches use of mobile computing to back up security practices

BAGHDAD— Detachments of the Directorate of Relief in Baghdad have launched the use of a mobile computing system, which contains information on arrest warrants issued by judicial authorities against wanted persons and database for stolen cars.

General director of the directorate, Brig. Gen. Sabah Hasan al-Shabli, said the technique has been introduced to enhance the performance of relief forces. It will help them find wanted people through the use of information provided by the mobile computing network.

He said 30 mobile computers have been distributed in the first batch, 15 for each of al-Karkh and al-Rasafah. The computers come with information database, weekly updated.

The relief forces are deployed in all areas of Baghdad. Their work is no longer limited to public service for citizens who are in need of help, it goes beyond that to strengthen the security side. The work expanded to support efforts of other

security agencies to find stolen cars and arrest wanted people, especially those accused of terrorism.

Two new departments have also been established to back up the directorate—Department of Electronic Archiving for employees database and Department of Justice for recording employees' violations.

In addition, the directorate issued new performance measures. Officers of various ranks have been assigned to work in vital locations in Baghdad. Their work schedule ensures 24/7 shift coverage.

Operations net 4 suspected AQI associates in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested four suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associates during two separate joint security operations in northern Iraq.

About 108 kilometers northeast of Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected AQI leader believed to be responsible for attacks on ISF and U.S. forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected AQI criminal associates.

During another operation approximately 90 km southwest of Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisors searched a building for a suspected AQI leader allegedly responsible for the terrorist organization's operations.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected AQI criminal associates.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

ISF arrest suspected AQI criminal associates in central Iraq

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested one suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associate during a joint security operation approximately 10 kilometers west of Baghdad today.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings in separate locations for a suspected AQI leader who is allegedly involved in vehicle-borne improvised explosive device and IED attacks against ISF and coalition forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest one AQI criminal associate.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Maliki accepts to withdraw his nomination as prime minister

BAGHDAD— Newspaper sources in London, noted that Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki accepted to withdraw his nomination as prime minister, under the condition that Iraqi National Alliance will accept another candidate from Da'awa Party specifically.

Al Hayat Newspaper reported from sources inside the two coalitions that Maliki presented Haidar al-Obeidi, leader in the Da'awa Party as a candidate from State of Law Coalition,

but it was rejected by the Sadrist Bloc and some other sides from Iraqi National Alliance. Maliki called on them saying that they have to choose between either him or another candidate from Da'awa Party or State of Law Coalition will withdraw from this alliance.

Bulani and Lanza comment on the readiness of the Iraqi security forces

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bulani said the Iraqi Security Forces are able to maintain the security and stability in the country. The Iraqi Security Forces are able also to conduct preventive operations against the armed cells whose leaders were either arrested or killed.

Maj. Gen. Steve Lanza, USF-I Spokesperson, renewed his country and military command's trust in the ability of the ISF, Army and Police to control the security in all the provinces in the country.

Lanza said the Iraqi Forces have become professionally competent in their work. The United States is committed to supporting the Iraqi forces even in the period after the withdrawal. The U.S. will remain true partners to Iraq.

New assurances were given on the readiness of the Iraqi security forces to take over its full responsibility in the country with the withdrawal of the U.S. combat units, according to interior minister Jawad al-Bulani.

Bulani stated the coordination and work between his ministry and the defense ministry will allow them to fill in the gaps that might occur after the expected withdrawal of the U.S. forces at the scheduled dates in the agreement between Baghdad and Washington.

Bulani praised at the same time the capability of the interior ministry to receive the interior security handover in all areas.

Bulani said, "The Iraqi security services are ready to take over their full security responsibility in Iraq. I think with the accumulated expertise over the past four years and our capabilities, the Iraqi security services will be the Iraqi forces responsible for the internal security in Iraq."

Al-Qaeda's Iraqi affiliate claims responsibility for a bomb assault

BAGHDAD— In a recent statement posted on Islamist websites, the Islamic State of Iraq said it was behind twin suicide car-bomb attack on the Trade Bank of Iraq, according to the U.S. monitoring group SITE.

The bombers struck outside the facility in a major thoroughfare in Baghdad's Mansur district, that is a gateway to the fortified Green Zone housing government and embassy buildings.

"Two knights from Baghdad launched a new charge to attack another stronghold of evil in the heart of Baghdad," the Islamic State of Iraq statement said.

The attacks killed 26 people and wounded another 53. Five bank guards were among the victims, according to Hussein al-Uzri, the Trade Bank of Iraq's chairman.

The bank is the conduit for much of the government's foreign-exchange transactions and its dealings with investors.

It is one of the public sector's most active financial institutions and has been working to encourage foreign investment in Iraq.

But the Islamic State of Iraq claimed the Trade Bank of Iraq was involved in "the robbery of the country's oil revenues and overseas funds" that were then transferred "to the pockets of senior government officials" and Shia Muslim parties.

The group had earlier claimed responsibility for a highly coordinated assault on Iraq's central bank by armed men and

IRAQ

suicide bombers on June 13, the eve of the first session of Iraq's new parliament.

Eighteen people died in that attack.

Banks have become frequent targets for both criminals and fighters in recent months.

Armed men stole \$6.5m from a Baghdad bank last summer.

ISF arrest 3 suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi criminal associates

BAGHDAD—Iraqi Security Forces arrested three suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi (JAM) criminal associates during a joint security operation in northwest Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched two buildings for a suspected JAM leader who is allegedly involved in improvised explosive device attacks against ISF and U.S. forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest three suspected JAM criminal associates.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Vehicle collision in Ninewa results in 3 deaths, 3 injuries

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq—Three Iraqi civilians were killed and three others injured, when their car collided with a combined Iraqi and U.S. Army military patrol, near the town of Zumar in Ninewah province.

The civilian car moved into the oncoming lane to pass another Iraqi vehicle on the road, resulting in the car colliding head-on with a U.S. military vehicle in the convoy.

The convoy stopped to render aid to the occupants of the car. Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers searching the area discovered the bodies of two females who appeared to have been ejected from the car. An Iraqi military ambulance was dispatched to the scene and transported the injured to a nearby medical facility. Iraqi Army Soldiers, who were part of the convoy, evacuated the deceased.

The military vehicle sustained minimal damage and no Soldiers were injured in the accident. The accident is currently under investigation by Iraqi Police, unit safety personnel and command leadership.

ISF arrest alleged AQI member, 5 suspected criminal associates

BAGHDAD—Iraqi Security Forces arrested one alleged al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member and five suspected criminal associates during two separate joint security operations in Iraq.

In west Mosul, ISF and U.S. advisors searched several buildings for a suspected AQI member allegedly involved in the facilitation of foreign fighters.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual and one suspected AQI criminal associate.

During another operation approximately 34 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, ISF and U.S. advisors searched two buildings for a suspected AQI leader allegedly involved in improvised explosive device production.

The security force searched two buildings approximately

330m apart leading to the discovery of machine gun ammunition and several assault vests with full weapon magazines.

The information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest four suspected AQI criminal associates.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Qomi says the new consulate will contribute to increasing the investments of Iranian companies in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Hasan Kazemi-Qomi, the Iranian ambassador in Baghdad, has announced the opening of a new consulate in Al-Najaf will contribute to increasing the investments of Iranian companies in the governorate and helping them implement several projects in the fields of services, tourism, and others.

While attending the opening ceremony of the Iranian consulate in Al-Najaf, he said that the new consulate inaugurated in Al-Najaf today is the fifth Iranian consulate in Iraq, adding that other consulates were opened in Basra, Karbala, Arbil, and Al-Sulaymaniyah.

He noted that this is the first time in the history of modern Iraq since its inception in 1921, that a foreign state had this number of consulates.

On the incidents in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region of the Iraq-Iran border and Iran's continued air and land shelling of Kurdish villages in the region, Qomi said that the presence of terrorist groups inside the Iraqi territories in the Kurdistan Region must be confronted with joint coordination between the Iraqi and Iranian and regional governments.

President Obama nominates James Jeffrey new Ambassador to Iraq

WASHINGTON—U.S. President Barack Obama has nominated career diplomat James Jeffrey the new Ambassador to Iraq, successor to Christopher Hill. The assignment awaits the Senate's approval.

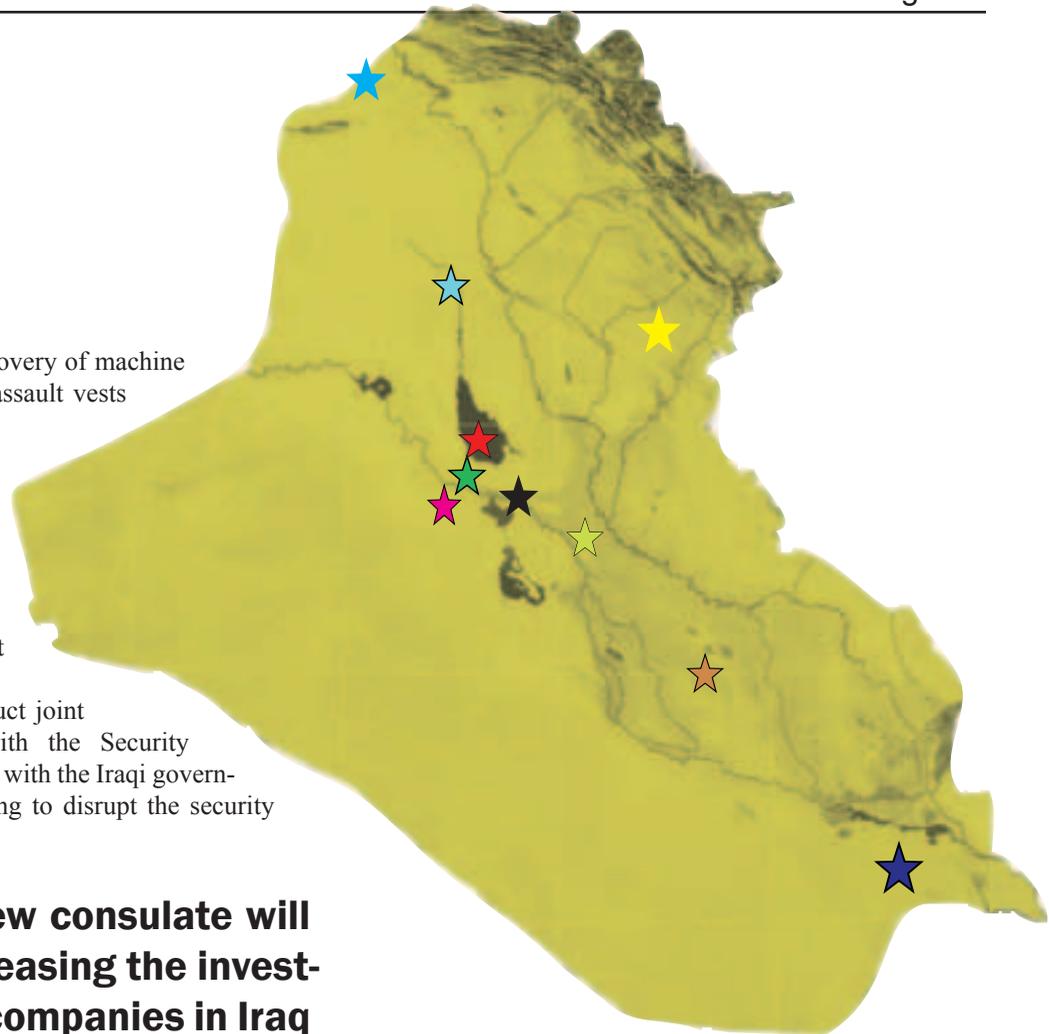
Jeffrey serves as the current Ambassador to Turkey. He has wide experience in the Middle Eastern affairs.

Jeffrey was the special advisor to the secretary of state for Iraq and deputy chief of mission in Baghdad from June 2004 and March 2005, before being assigned the charge d'affaires in Iraq.

ISF arrest 2 suspected JAM criminal associates

BAGHDAD—Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi (JAM) criminal associates during a joint security operation approximately 53 kilometers north of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisors searched two buildings for a suspected JAM member who is allegedly involved in impro-



vised explosive device and indirect fire attacks against ISF and U.S. forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two JAM criminal associates.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

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story
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Phantom Support

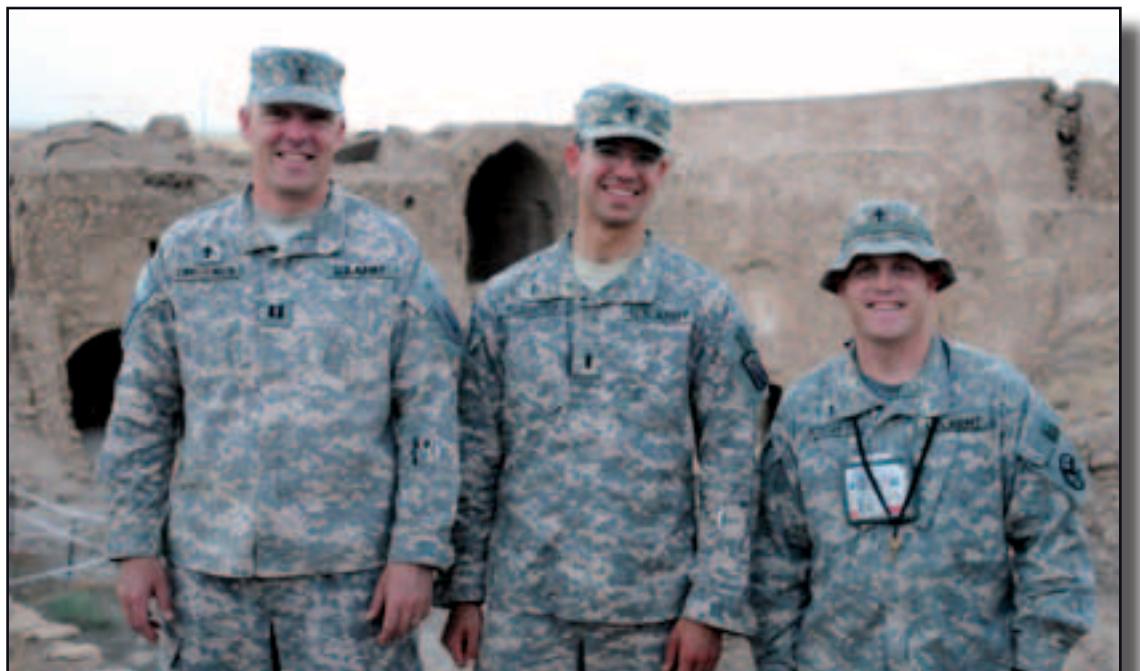


U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David A. Scott

ABOVE: Staff Sgt. Jeremy Burkett, motor vehicle operator, 2101st Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Brundidge, Ala., native, adjusts chains used to fasten cargo to a truck June 17 in the motor pool at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Johnson



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chad Menegay

ABOVE: Capt. Matthew Christensen (from left), chaplain with the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, and a Kalispell, Mont., native; 1st Lt. Brandt Klawitter, Chaplain with the 14th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Hermann, Mo., native; and 1st Lt. Geoffrey Whitaker, garrison chaplain with Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 13th ESC and a Murphy, N.C., native, enjoy a tour of St. Elijah's monastery June 11 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

LEFT: Soldiers with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) repair equipment in the test measure diagnostic equipment lab at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.