

# The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 3 Issue 14

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<http://www.hood.army.mil/13sce/>

## Pit stop



Soldiers travel miles for students' smiles

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## Mud flaps



Mississippi Guardsman uses ingenuity to protect convoying Soldiers

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## Election prep



New entry control point to ease congestion in Baghdad area

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# 107 Soldiers become US citizens at Al-Faw Palace



One hundred and seven Soldiers raise their right hand as they take the oath of citizenship in a ceremony Feb. 15 in Al-Faw Palace at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. Soldiers representing 44 countries became citizens in the 16th United States Forces – Iraq naturalization ceremony.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – The United States Forces – Iraq command staff held its 16th naturalization ceremony Feb. 15,

welcoming 107 new U.S. citizens in Al-Faw Palace at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., the deputy commanding general for operations with USF-I and a Detroit native, presided over the ceremony and gave a coin to each Soldier.

In his speech, Jacoby said he was proud to go through this process with the candidates and told them they demonstrated their patriotism by serving in the U.S. military before they gained citizenship.

“I am tremendously proud of you for the contributions you have made,” he said. “Congratulations on achieving a significant milestone.”

Maj. Robert Baker, officer in charge of plans and policies with USF-I and a Cincinnati native, said coordinating the event was no easy task.

“It starts out eight to nine

weeks prior, and I couldn't do it without the help of the professional (noncommissioned officers) that I have working with me,” he said.

Baker said new citizens tell him their naturalization ceremony marks the best day of their life, and he is proud to be a part of that.

“We had 107 Soldiers that we naturalized today, from 44 different countries,” he said. “Today, we had 12 Iraqi citizens serving in the Army become U.S. citizens. I think it adds special meaning for all the Soldiers to do this in a combat zone.”

Pfc. Edilma Martinez, a transportation logistics specialist with the 612th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was born in Guatemala and has lived in the U.S. since she was three years old.

“I thought this was a great opportunity for me,” she said. “This means a lot to me. I never had the chance to vote in the last election and now I can.”

Martinez, an Inglewood, Calif., native, said her family came to the United States with hope  
**SEE CITIZEN ON PAGE 4**

# Provider command staff briefs incoming replacements

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Command staff and leaders with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 15th Sustainment Brigade, met with their replacement counterparts, the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 3rd Sustainment Brigade Feb. 13 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, during their initial pre-deployment site survey.

Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, the commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Maryville, Mo., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, the senior enlisted adviser with the 103rd ESC and a Cresco, Iowa, native, attend a command staff meeting for the 13th ESC and the 103rd ESC Feb. 13 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The 103rd is scheduled to take over sustainment command operations in July.

The four commands addressed operations and the adaptation of their mission during the upcoming drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment,  
**SEE BRIEF ON PAGE 4**





## Balad Blotter February 12 - February 18

### **STRAY ROUND:**

A complainant entered the Joint Defense Operations Center Feb. 11 and reported a stray round at H8 housing. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. The complainant said, after returning to his room after work, he found a small hole in the ceiling and drywall dust on his bed. Upon further investigation, he located a stray round that was protruding from his mattress. The room was unoccupied at the time of the incident. No injuries were reported.

### **PATROL RESPONSE:**

A complainant entered the Law Enforcement Desk Feb. 11 and said he has not been receiving payment for his work and that his employer owed him \$7,000. Officers initiated an Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Complainant and the Turkish complainant used an interpreter to say he and five other employees have not been receiving payment for work from AZ Trade. The complainant said he was supposed to be paid \$1,000 a month and has only received payments of \$1,500 in June 2009, \$1,700 in September 2009 and \$4,000 in November 2009. The complainant's temporary ID card will expire Feb. 12. This complaint is under investigation.

### **PHYSICAL ASSAULT:**

A complainant telephoned the Law Enforcement Desk Feb. 14 and reported an assault had occurred at the H-1 housing bathroom. A patrol was briefed and dispatched. The victim said, via Air Force IMT 1168/Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant, she heard the individual, described as a Caucasian male, enter the lock code to the female bathroom and enter the bathroom. He approached her and slapped her in the face before running out. All posts and patrols were told to look for a Caucasian male wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and black Army physical training shorts. The patrols conducted a sweep of H-1 housing but found nobody. The victim received aid and the emergency medical personnel said she had slight bruising to her face. They provided her with an ice pack, terminating medical response. She was released to her supervisor and provided with a Department of Defense Form 2701/Victim/Witness Assistance Program pamphlet. KBR, Inc. personnel were contacted to change the combination to female bathrooms in H-1 housing.

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# Chaplain's Corner: learn to respect

By LT. COL. GARRY W. LOSEY  
13TH ESC CHAPLAIN



Respect should be a big part of our lives.

Not just respect others because we feel they deserve it, but respect others because that is who we are. Respect them in spite of their differences.

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Learning to respect others is one of the first lessons my parents taught me and I am sure they were not alone.

This is a story that I found in Grimm's fairy tales that I thought might give us some insight into the true meaning of respect.

"One of Grimm's fairy tales is about a little boy who lived with his father, his mother and his elderly grandfather. The grandfather was feeble and his hands shook. When he ate, the silverware rattled against the plate, and he often missed his mouth. Then the food would dribble onto the tablecloth. This upset the young mother because she didn't want to have to deal with the extra mess and hassle of taking care of the old man. But he had nowhere else to live.

So the young parents decided to move him away from the table, into a corner, where he could sit on a stool and eat from a bowl. The young mother said, 'From now on, you eat over there.' And so he did, always looking at the table and wanting to be with his family but having to sit alone in the corner.

One day his hands trembled more than usual. He dropped his bowl and broke it. The young father yelled, 'If you're going to eat like a pig, you're going to eat out of a pig's trough.' So they made the old man a wooden trough, put his meals in it, and told him to eat out of it. And he did.

Not long after that, the couple came upon their four-year-old son playing out in the yard with some scraps of wood. His father asked him what he was doing. The little boy looked up, smiled, and said, 'I'm making a trough, to feed you and Mamma out of when I get big.' The next day, the old man was back at the table eating with the family from a plate, and no one ever scolded him or mistreated him again."

I believe that this quote by Jackie Robinson might be something we want to take to heart.

"I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me ... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being," he said.

It is not that we have to be best friends with everyone, but we do have to give people respect.

Some say, "If you want to get my respect, you must first give me a reason to respect you."

The golden rule in Matthew 7:12 says, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Do you want others to treat you with respect? Then it has to start somewhere with someone. That somewhere is now and that someone is you and me.

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155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team  
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194th Engineer Brigade

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

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

# The Weekly Standard: inspector general system

By Lt. Col. Reginald Howard  
13th ESC Command Inspector General



Inspectors general extend the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the commander by executing the four IG functions – assistance, inspections, investigations, and teaching and training – to enhance the command's discipline, readiness and operational war fighting capability.

IGs use these functions to seek out sys-

temic issues that affect the command and the Army.

The IG has a duty to protect an individual's confidentiality to the maximum extent possible, particularly when the individual specifically requests confidentiality. Although confidentiality and the measures necessary to protect it will vary from circumstance to circumstance, the IG always treats confidentiality carefully and as a priority.

Before contacting the IG, consider this:

- Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.

• Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.

• Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.

• Be honest and don't provide misleading information.

• Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, and not order, a resolution.

• Don't expect instant action on your request. Be patient.

• Be prepared to take "no" for an answer.

Some complaints are simply not IG appropriate and have to be addressed

by other agencies or through the individual's chain of command. Whenever possible, we refer Soldiers back to their chain of command to address the issue first.

We want to make commanders successful and assist them in taking care of their organization and resolving their Soldiers' issues. Ultimately, your IG team will continue to provide the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) with the best possible support keeping the entire team mission-focused and in the fight.

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Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)  
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.): DSN 827-6115  
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Maj. Jeffrey Copek - DSN 833-5915  
Master Sgt. Marta Cruz - DSN 883-1710

Al Asad (96th Sust. Bde.): DSN 440-7049  
Sgt. 1st class Alexander Arce  
Master Sgt. Richard Faust

## Combat Stress: help vs harm

By Navy Capt. Steve J. Brasington  
Combat Stress Control Psychiatrist



After completing a new combat stress evaluation, a Soldier might ask me the following question, "Will this hurt my career?"

Taking a little more time to understand the concern, I learned Soldiers were simply worried about having a mental health entry in their treatment record. They feared a documented mental health record would follow them, forever casting a shadow over their military career.

Importantly, military members must realize privileged medical information is not used for promotion selection. Performance in positions of increasing responsibility and complexity with comparison against peers is the usual basis for advancement.

Accepting new challenges may require a security clearance and prior mental health care potentially plays a role in the screening process. When you apply for a security clearance, you are permitted to answer "no" regarding ever having mental health treatment if the care you received was connected to a family or deployment issue.

Receiving mental health care for other reasons is not a show stopper for individuals applying for a clearance. If a question exists about an applicant's mental reliability, a special evaluation may be needed. A common example

would be a Soldier with a history of an alcohol related charge, such as driving under the influence. This Soldier would be asked to report for an exam to ensure he or she did not continue to show signs or symptoms of an alcohol disorder.

Understandably, individuals coming to combat stress think of potential negative consequences. Naturally, no one would want to add to his or her troubles. People come seeking relief, wanting to feel better and function better.

Ideally, Soldiers would come for evaluation early, after symptoms first appeared. By intervening early, combat stress control can prevent problems or progression of illness.

Ideally, brief intervention by Combat Stress Control will help Soldiers grow from adverse, overwhelming or challenging experiences. Getting through a tough time can imbue a person with a sense of strength and confidence called resilience. Coming to Combat Stress Control can enhance resilience by giving you professional coaching and guidance.

One of the best reasons that I can think of for consulting Combat Stress Control is to stay in control. Too often, I speak to military members, who do not feel in control of their tempers. They feel on edge or ready to snap at the slightest provocation. These same Soldiers are reluctant to go home, fearing that they will yell at a young child or explode at a lover. They do not want to push loved ones away, but they fear losing control.

Unfortunately, many Soldiers dealing with high levels of irritability, including

trouble sleeping, wait until redeployment to manage the problem.

However, these Soldiers choose alcohol to calm their nerves and help them fall asleep. Self medicating with alcohol contributes to additional problems like assault, highway mishaps and suicide.

Returning Soldiers are showing higher rates of substance abuse, which I personally believe could be reduced if Soldiers accepted professional help at the first sign of emotional distress rather than waiting until alcohol was readily available and then drinking on a regular basis to reduce symptoms.

In my personal experience, the majority of Soldiers who voluntarily sought services at Combat Stress Control come back. They return because they find the services beneficial.

Appointments can be scheduled to accommodate work requirements. Typically, co-workers know when the Soldier has an appointment due to accountability in the unit. Nevertheless, my patients have been encouraged by colleagues who tell them that they look better, sound better or perform better.

In these supportive circumstances, I believe intervention did not hurt the Soldier's reputation or career. I encourage those who have benefitted from stress intervention to let others know that the right intervention at the right time will not hurt.

Prevent future problems and get the help you need and deserve. Combat Stress Control is forward deployed to keep you resilient and mission ready.

## Correction

In the Feb. 17 edition of the Expeditionary Times, the article titled, "Previously injured Vets return to JBB" should have said, "Capt. Ferris W. Butler, former platoon leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York." The Expeditionary Times regrets this error.

Oasis dining facility  
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12:30 a.m. - 3:30 a.m.

Breakfast hours:

5:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch hours:

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner hours:

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.





# CITIZEN: Soldiers served in Army before they gained citizenship

## CITIZEN FROM PAGE 1

that she would become a U.S. citizen.

"So far, I have lived up to their expectations," she said. "I plan to be a sponsor for my mom now, so that she can become a citizen."

All of these Soldiers had a sponsor assigned to them as a mentor and to help them with their paperwork, interview and citizenship exam.

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Thomas, a supply NCO with the 612 MCT at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, and a 13th ESC sponsor, said she does exactly that for the Soldiers she sponsors.

"It's a lengthy process," she said. "We send the Soldier's paperwork to the battalion, then it goes to USF-I to get approved. From there it is approved or denied."

Thomas, a Bronx, N.Y., native, said she brings the Soldier to the interview and makes sure he or she understands the process.

"Pfc. Martinez was in my unit and I was nominated to sponsor her," she said. "Becoming a citizen is very important, and having someone there for them helps them out a lot."

Spc. Ivan Granja, a fuel specialist with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th ESC and a Brea, Calif., native, said he is the second person in his family to become a U.S. citizen. His father was the first.

"Once I get back home to the states, I plan on sponsoring my wife," he said.

Granja said he originally started the process to become a citizen when he was 13, and the military helped to expedite the process.

"After the interview, I found out in a few hours that I had been granted U.S. citizenship," he said. "It means a lot to me and a lot to my family, now I can do things that I could not do before becoming a citizen."

**Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, command sergeant major for 1st Corps, congratulates Pfc. Edilma Martinez, a transportation logistics specialist with the 612th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Inglewood, Calif., native, after the United States Forces – Iraq naturalization ceremony Feb. 15 in Al-Faw Palace at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.**



## BRIEF: meeting held for smooth transition

### BRIEF FROM PAGE 1

said Maj. Kevin Baird, plans officer with the 13th ESC.

"This is an operational overview for the commanders, to give them a picture of the environment they will come into when they arrive," said Baird, a Nashville, Tenn., native.

The 103rd ESC, out of Des Moines, Iowa, is scheduled to conduct its relief-in-place and transfer of authority in July, when it takes over as the Iraqi Joint Operation Area's sustainment command, Baird said. The 3rd Sust. Bde., out of Fort Stewart, Ga., is slated to take over the 15th Sust. Bde.'s area of responsibility when the unit redeploys in May, he said.

With the total amount of U.S. forces in Iraq slated to decrease to no more than 50,000 troops, the 103rd ESC's mission comes at a crucial time in the drawdown, said Baird.

Infantry units in place during the drawdown will act as advise-and-assist brigades, he said. The AABs will

work with the Iraqi government and military to help the country continue its operations and expand its capabilities.

"Our focus will be on sustaining the ongoing operations and retrograde of equipment," he said. "Through our sustainment operations, we're going to allow the supported forces to (have) those partnerships with the Iraqis."

Baird said the logistics training and advisory teams with the 13th ESC, originally embedded with the Iraqi Army, were pulled from their day-to-day partnerships to oversee Iraqi operations. By doing this, the Iraqi Soldiers operate unaided and the LTATs only assist when required, he said.

The briefings between the 13th and 103rd ESCs have provided helpful oversight and up-to-date mission information since the 13th ESC's arrival in Iraq, said Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, senior enlisted ad-

viser with the 103rd ESC.

"It gives us situational awareness now as to what the current status is and what the anticipated status will be when we actually get here, and the plan beyond our RIP/TOA," said Haugland, a Cresco, Iowa, native.

The 103rd will assume command of sustainment operations while the drawdown is in full effect, said Haugland. With thousands of troops and pieces of equipment slated to be moved out of Iraq, the 103rd ESC needs to be ready, he said.

This will be the 103rd's first overseas deployment as an ESC, said Haugland. The 103rd ESC has existed, in some form of operation, since 1942, starting as an infantry division. As the Army adjusted, so did the unit, he said.

As Iraq awaits its upcoming national elections, the 13th ESC is dedicated to preparing the 103rd ESC for its support mission in Iraq, said Baird.

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# Soldiers travel miles for students' smiles

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. ANITA VANDERMOLEN  
41ST IBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION SCANIA, Iraq –

Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) loaded their rucksacks for a special mission Jan. 27 near Scania, Iraq.

The rucksacks were full of school supplies for the students of a nearby village school. The pens, colored pencils, notebooks and crayons were donated by friends and families in Oregon.

“Soldiers from each of the platoons helped to put together each of the bags that were donated by TD Foundation – an organization whose purpose is to help needy families and children na-

tionally and internationally with basic needs – and from supporting friends and families back home,” said Sgt. Julie Cavinee, the human resources noncommissioned officer with A Co. and a Creswell, Ore., native.

The Soldiers have made 10 of these trips out to the villages, said Capt. Charles Ellis, the commander of A Co. and an Alvadore, Ore., native.

“The kids get really excited,” Ellis said. “They said we are the first Americans they have seen in a long time. They know my face.”

The company distributed more than 400 bags of school supplies during this visit, he said.

Staff Sgt. Eric McGinnis, an infantryman with A Co. and a Springfield, Ore., native, said, “It was nice to be able to help the local community and to put a smile on a little child's face, to give them something that they might not be able to have or get. It just makes good sense to help out the local community.”



Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hand out school supplies to students Jan. 27 in a village near Scania, Iraq. The Soldiers delivered more than 400 bags to the students.

# Providers walk to raise awareness of sexual assault

By SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Soldiers within installations throughout Iraq took part in the first Iraq-wide Sexual Assault Prevention and Response walk, sponsored by United States Forces – Iraq Feb. 12.

The walk served as an example of the military community's stand against sexual assault in Iraq and in the military, said Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie Mitchell, the equal opportunity adviser and deployed sexual assault response coordinator with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“It's about awareness for sexual assaults,” said Mitchell, a Sylvania, Ga., native. “It lets the predators know that Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will not accept any sex-

ual assaults in our ranks.”

The walk demonstrated the support of the installation communities, both civilian and military, for the prevention of sexual assault and the lasting psychological damage it creates, she said.

Mitchell said every base under USF-I held a walk after sunset Feb. 12. Base leadership decided on the details and exact time of the event, she said.

Roughly 300 service members and civilians attended the Feb. 12 SAPR walk at Joint Base Balad. The two-mile walk started at Sapper Circle and went around the theater and Morale, Welfare and Recreation center.

Mitchell said the JBB community always responds well and supports such events.

“We can come together when we need to come together, to make a stand and prove a point about something we believe in,” she said.

Since arriving in Iraq, the 13th ESC has held three SAPR walks at JBB to

raise awareness about sexual assault prevention, taking a strong stance against the problem, said Mitchell.

“As leaders, we're talking about preventive measures and this was something different,” she said. “We're doing a walk and we're doing it at night time, because most sexual assaults take place during the night time.”

Master Sgt. Rita Cossio, the previous DSARC with the 13th ESC, started the walks, said Mitchell. USF-I noticed their success and subsequently decided to host the theater-wide walk, she said.

In addition to the walks, DSARCs train Soldiers to be unit victim advocates, said Mitchell.

Instructors go to bases and speak to Soldiers about the importance of sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention. The emphasis of this training is to ensure leaders know that their Soldiers understand what is right or wrong, she said.

USF-I did not require Airmen to at-

tend the SAPR walk, said Capt. Alicia Thompson, a SARC with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and a Milwaukee native. She coordinated with Mitchell to involve Airmen at JBB and Air Base Ali, Iraq, to send a military-wide prevention message.

“We want to stop it. It's not allowed in our military,” she said.

Service members of all branches volunteered to support the walk, and Airmen acted as volunteer road guards to manage traffic, said Thompson.

Mitchell said attendance showed the military's dedication to eliminating sexual assault.

“As leaders, we need to push it down to Soldiers that sexual assault will not be tolerated,” she said. “It is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It degrades the Army mission; it degrades the Army values, the warrior ethos. It's something Soldiers need to understand, that we will not tolerate this within our ranks.”

**Where are my photos?**  
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OP

--Select "PAO" from the JBB homepage

--Select "Provider Common" in the left hand column



# 90th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers awarded for service

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As its deployment quickly draws to a close, the 90th Sustainment Brigade out of Little Rock, Ark., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held an end-of-tour award ceremony Feb. 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Roughly 200 Soldiers earned awards, including Army Achievement Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Bronze Star Medals and a Combat Medical Badge.

Spc. David White, a combat medic with the 90th Sust. Bde., was the only Soldier awarded the Combat Medical Badge, for his actions in the wake of an explosively formed projectile attack on a convoy while he was supporting D Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Combined Arms, 13th ESC.

“It’s an honor to get it, but the way you get it is bittersweet,” said White, an Anchorage, Ala., native. “Somebody has to get hurt.”

Three Soldiers suffered shrapnel wounds and White treated them all. He said all three have returned to duty.

Other special awards presented included three Order of St. Martin



Col. Gary Spry, commander of the 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fishers, Ind., native, pins a Combat Medical Badge on Spc. David White, a combat medic with the 90th Sust. Bde. and an Anchorage, Alaska, native, at the 90th’s end-of-tour award ceremony Feb. 15 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

awards, which recognize those who have rendered conspicuous, long-term service to the Quartermaster Corps, and the 900-plus mile awards, which two Soldiers received for running,

walking and biking more than 900 miles.

“I want to personally and publicly thank everyone here for your service,” said Col. Gary Spry, commander of the

90th Sust. Bde. and a Fishers, Ind., native.

At the end of the ceremony, Spry shared a story about his service during the Gulf War. The ground war lasted only 100 hours, after which Spry and his comrades received awards, he said. At the time, he and his fellow Soldiers believed some of their awards had not been earned in such a short battle, but he said his commander set them straight.

Similar thoughts may have been in the minds of the 90th Soldiers at the ceremony, said Spry.

“We were supposed to be here a year,” he said. “We were only here seven months. It doesn’t matter how long you were here, you still answered the call.”

Spry said one of his Soldier’s proudest moments came in the wake of a tragedy at JBB.

In September, a helicopter trying to land in inclement weather crashed near the unit’s housing block. Spry said his Soldiers were likely the first to hear the crash, and his medics were the first responders on the scene. They had only been in country for a few weeks, Spry said.

“I’m convinced they saved at least one life,” he said.

Spry said that kind of bravery and readiness was common among his Soldiers throughout their deployment.

“I’m very proud of our Soldiers,” he said.

## Soldiers compete for spot on firing team

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TAD BROWNING  
36TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met at Lightning Range Feb. 8 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, to test their marksmanship skills by competing in a small arms and rifle competition.

The competition was to determine who would make up a four-man team to compete in an overall competition involving units assigned to COB Adder.

Command Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Shockley, senior enlisted adviser with the 36th Sust. Bde. and a Granger, Texas, native, planned the event, which involved more than a dozen shooters with 9mm pistols and their assigned rifles, competing for a spot on the brigade team.

Shockley said she came up with the idea to give Soldiers a way to continue building

their warrior skills, while mixing it up with a different firing table than the normal qualification range.

“It builds confidence in our Soldiers,” she said. “A lot of the Soldiers, when they went out to the range, they hadn’t shot the 9mm pistol before. We offered them a full primary marksmanship instruction and qualification before they fired in the competition.”

The competition allowed Soldiers an opportunity to get out from behind the sandbags and test their skills in a variety of simulated situations, said Staff Sgt. Rolando Diaz, the coordinator of the competition with the 732nd Combat Service Support Battalion and a San Diego native.

“What we’re trying to do here is be more proficient with our weapon systems,” said Diaz. “Everybody is kind of bored with just going to the range and shooting behind some sandbags. We want to run through, maybe shoot behind barriers, under overhead cover ... it makes it a lot more fun.”

Sgt. Jason Dilger, the 36th Sust. Bde. armorer and an Austin, Texas, native, said it took about three to four hours to set up the course.

The course featured five stations where Soldiers shot standing, kneeling or laying down, using their 9mm pistol and assigned rifle. They were timed during the event in case there was a tie.

“We have to shoot through a window, shoot over an obstruction standing, shoot over an obstruction kneeling and at a simulated rooftop at 45 degrees,” said Dilger.

Dilger said many of the Soldiers were challenged by being required to wear heavy protective gear during the competition.

“It’s like a lot of the competitions back home, except we’ve got all this gear,” he said. “It will take some getting used to. I’ve never shot in a competition with all this extra weight.”

Diaz praised the training’s primary lesson, that firing is not always behind sandbags on a qualification range.

“This training is a little bit out of the box,” said Diaz. “It’s trying to simulate actual combat situations. It’s very important. It’s what we do as Soldiers. This course allows us to shoot our weapons systems better.”

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4. Smoke detector is operational.
5. Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
6. Room is neat and orderly



# Guardisman recognized for personal courage

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS  
2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier received a command sergeant major certificate during a ceremony Feb. 1 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Sgt. James C. Haycraft, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the mayor cell water operations off post, a combat medic with 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Senatobia, Miss., and a Brandon, Miss., native, was acknowledged for embodying personal courage, one of the seven Army values.

To honor outstanding service at the end of the deployment, the senior noncommissioned officers of the battalion recognized seven Soldiers from throughout the unit who embody one of the Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, said Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell, a Senatobia, Miss., native.

"This is an NCO-driven effort to honor Soldiers who stood out during the deployment," said Campbell. "The NCOs wanted to remind every Soldier in the battalion that outstanding service is not always the result of a single act. It is the everyday practice of upholding the Army values."

First Sgt. Carl Hunt, mayor cell NCO-IC and a Louisville, Miss., native, said Haycraft shows both physical and moral courage.

"Sgt. Haycraft has physical courage," said Hunt. "He's been on more than 50 missions off the base, patrolling the water pipeline or supervising work projects at the pump house on the Tigris River. I know of two incidents when he risked bodily harm from improvised explosive devices, but he never complained and kept going on those missions, even when he could have passed the responsibility off to fellow Soldiers."

"Beyond physical courage, Sgt. Haycraft has strong moral convictions. I've never heard him say a bad word about anyone, and I've seen him walk away from gossiping Soldiers so as not to say anything bad about someone behind their back. That's an example of moral courage, to always do what's right, even if it makes people uncomfortable. Sgt. Haycraft is a Soldier that other young enlisted Soldiers should mold themselves after."

Capt. John E. Satterfield, director of public works and a Midway, Ga., native, shared Hunt's assessment.

"Sgt. Haycraft shows personnel courage by being the first to be ready to go on any mission," said Satterfield. "As a medic, he is always ready to assist anyone, anytime or anyplace. As NCOIC for off-post missions, he faced personal harm on every mission to the pump house and along the pipeline, but he never complained or tried to get out of that duty. Stonewall Jackson once said, 'Never take counsel of your fears.' And Sgt. Haycraft shows no fear, no matter what the mission or obstacle that needs to be faced and overcome. His refusal to quit in the face of danger and can-do attitude epitomize the Army value of personal courage."

Sgt. Eric S. Pettis, the noncommissioned officer in charge of water-mission



Sgt. James C. Haycraft (left), the noncommissioned officer in charge of the mayor cell water operations off post, a combat medic and a Brandon, Miss., native, stands with Command Sgt. Maj. Perry Campbell, a Senatobia, Miss., native, during a ceremony at the battalion operations center Feb. 1. Haycraft was acknowledged for embodying personal courage, one of the seven Army values. To honor outstanding service at the end of the deployment, the senior NCOs with 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) out of Senatobia, Miss., recognized seven Soldiers from throughout the battalion who embody one of the Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

planning and container management, and an Oxford, Miss., native, said he, too, would have chosen Haycraft as the Soldier who most epitomized personal courage.

"Sgt. Haycraft demonstrated personal courage when he volunteered for the off-the-base responsibilities for the water team," said Pettis. "He knew this would mean spending numerous days and nights at the Tigris River pump house with the local nationals and just a small security element. He never complained or showed any fear. On one operation

and maintenance mission, the convoy was stopped by an unexploded IED. Instead of ending the mission, Sgt. Haycraft proceeded on to the pump house and carried out his mission."

Haycraft was self-effacing about the honor.

"There are other Soldiers who I view as more deserving, as having a tremendous amount of personal courage," said Haycraft. "It makes me feel honored that the command sergeant major chose me from all of those Soldiers. Really, though, I've just been doing my job."

## 546th Maintenance Company builds relationships

BY 1ST LT. WAI ELLISON  
36TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – First Lt. Nicholas R. Blair and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey L. King, pump mission officer in charge and noncommissioned officer in charge, respectively, with the 546th Maintenance Company, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), lead a team on bi-weekly missions to ensure water is supplied to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, and its smaller partner bases, Cedar I and II, while building relationships with local Iraqis.

While on missions, the team interacts with locals, exchanges ideas, eats Iraqi cuisine and learns about Iraqi culture.

Spc. James A. Saucier, a gunner with the 546th and a Boyce, La., native, said,

"Being a part of the team that helps to provide water for the base and our surrounding communities is a rewarding feeling. I also love the chance to get to interact with the local people of Iraq."

Blair, a Norton, Mass., native, said the team is enthusiastic about helping the locals and building strong, lasting relationships. The locals have grown accustomed to seeing the U.S. military and enjoy the company of Americans, he said.

Staff Sgt. Vernon T. Powell, assistant convoy commander and an Oklahoma City native, said the Soldiers on the pump team do their best to make every encounter a good one.

"We put on our friendly faces each time we get the opportunity to speak to a needy child or a local shaykh," said Powell. "We immerse ourselves in their culture and also imprint a piece of the American culture in the locals' minds. I enjoy seeing the smiles on the children's faces. I feel like we made a difference in their lives."



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Lisa Cope

Staff Sgt. Sean Davis, a vehicle commander with the 546th Maintenance Company, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Atlanta native, dismounts his Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle to interact with children from a village near the Euphrates River during a Jan. 11 pump mission.

In the last eight months, the pump team received more than 300 boxes of donations – including school supplies, clothing, sports equipment and candy – from charity groups in the United States,

said King, an East Orange, N.J., native.

"Without a doubt, our lives and the locals' lives have been significantly changed by our presence, in a constructive and positive way," he said.



# Mississippi Guardsman uses ingenuity to protect convoying Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS  
2/198TH CAB

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

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

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

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

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Cullom, Boucher's



Spc. Michael A. Boucher, a gun truck driver and a Batesville, Miss., native, explains how he made additional mud flaps for the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit, which absorbs bomb damage and shields the vehicle and crew, in his company motor pool Feb. 4 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Boucher serves with 1st Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Greenwood, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

platoon sergeant, agreed.

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

Sgt. Edwin L. Pauley, Boucher's gun truck commander, said Boucher's efforts have also helped the convoy avoid accidents.

"We can see much better, and the extra mud flaps have definitely de-

creased our risk of accidents," said Pauley, a Salisbury, Md., native.

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

"Mud covered my blast-resistant windows, my goggles and my weapon and ammunition," said Lacey, a Houston, Miss., native. "That reduced my effectiveness a good deal. For instance, if the truck is near something, I've got to be able to look down through my turret windows. Also, if my weapon and ammunition get fouled in mud, the gun could malfunction. Since Boucher made those mud flaps, I haven't had any issues with mud. It's easier for me to scan through my windows so I don't have to stick my head above them, which puts me at risk."

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

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

After he collected the necessary mate-

rials, Boucher mounted the mud flaps.

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

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

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

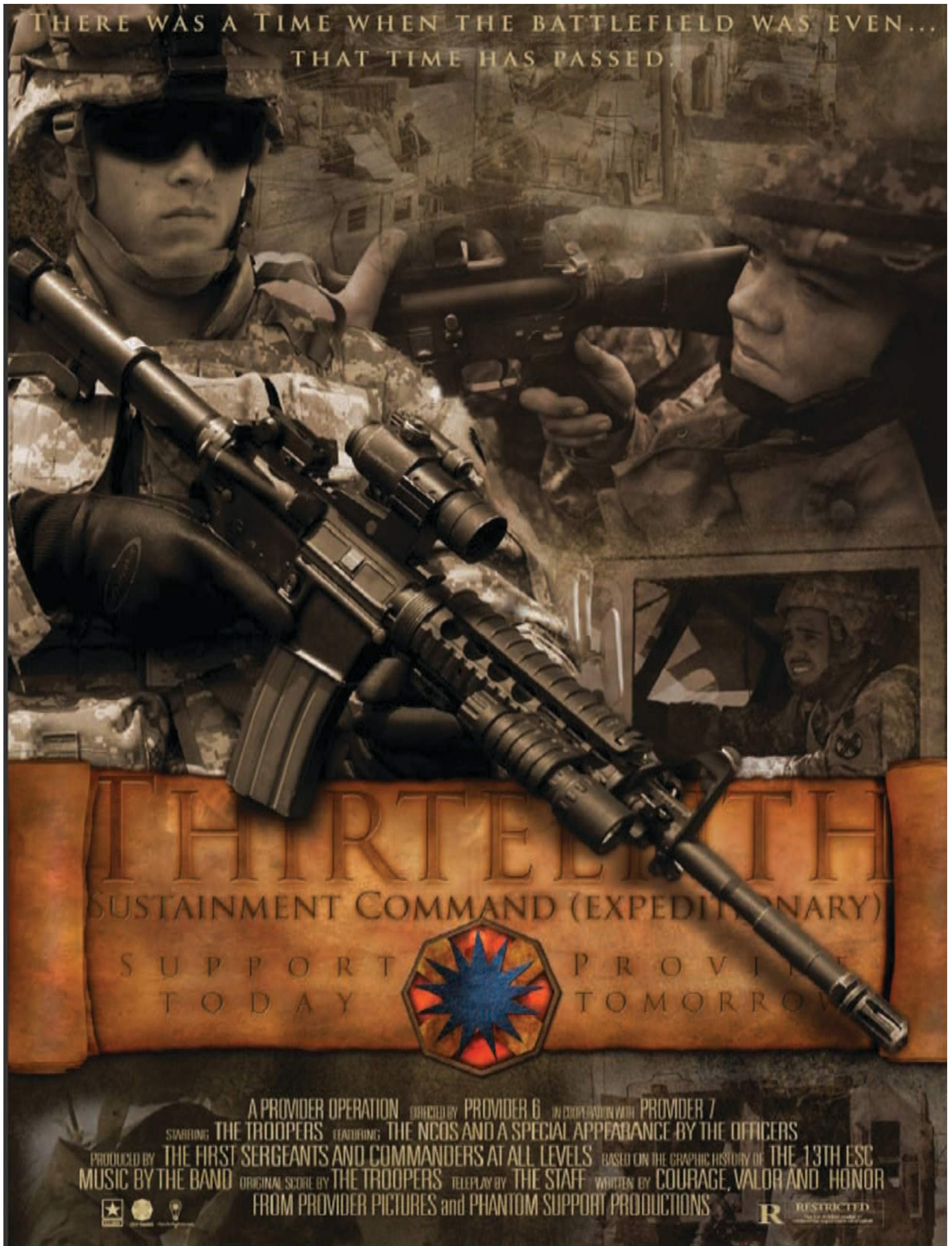
Boucher said he enjoyed fixing the problem.

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



Sgt. Edwin L. Pauley (left), a scout truck commander and a Salisbury, Md., native, and Spc. Michael A. Boucher, a scout truck driver and a Batesville, Miss., native, examine the mud caked beneath the mud flaps of the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit in their company motor pool Feb. 4 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq. Boucher made additional mud flaps for the SPARKs – which absorbs bomb damage and shields the vehicle and crew – to increase the safety, security and efficiency of the scout truck, said Pauley.





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# THIRTEENTH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

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# Commercial Movement Division manages Iraqi transportation companies

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – In the past seven months, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has aided in the expansion of Al Sequir's Iraqi Transportation Network and other companies that support the movement of equipment and supplies throughout Iraq.



The ITN has become a conduit for business relations between roughly 42 tribes throughout Iraq, said Capt. Christopher Pruitt, commander of the 969th Movement Control Team and the Commercial Movement Division, and a St. Louis native. These tribes are all part of the ITN's \$78 million three-year contract with the U.S. military, signed in March 2009, to provide transportation support for U.S. forces stationed in Iraq, he said.

The CMD at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, manages the transportation and security operations of the local trucking companies, including the ITN and Kuwaiti Global Logistics – a branch of Theater Wide Trucking Company – with support from two international private security companies, Hart and ArmorGroup International, said Pruitt.

The CMD operates under the 969th MCT, 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 13th ESC. In 2008, when the Logistics Management Center at Victory Base Complex in Baghdad dissolved, the CMD at JBB was formed, but remained in the early stages of development until seven months ago, said Pruitt.

The CMD saw an increase in transportation movements in May 2009 and grew accordingly, but remained loosely organized until the 969th MCT took over in August 2009, he said.

Pruitt said success and expansion were the result of cooperation between U.S. military forces and Iraqi truckers, two very different groups.

"The friendships we've developed with our (liaisons) through the sub-contractors have improved," he said.

The 969th MCT created a common ground of understanding through stan-



A convoy of Al Sequir Iraqi Transportation Network trucks are parked in the Central Receiving and Shipping Point Oct. 7 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The ITN is an Iraqi company that unites Iraqi tribes through business while helping to improve the Iraqi infrastructure.

dard operating procedures, between it and the civilian organizations it works with, said Pruitt.

A normal MCT uses military assets with similar standard operating procedures, but the CMD faced a challenge in its operations with local civilian groups, he said.

"The CMD here deals with another country," said Pruitt. "We're dealing with their work ethics, their equipment, their scheduling. There are lots more parameters that we have to deal with than what a typical MCT would."

The concept for the Iraq Transportation Network was presented in 2008, in Al Anbar province with the local tribes' shaykhs, said Pruitt.

"The CMD was brought about to bring some sort of economic stimulus to the Iraqi people through transportation and logistics," he said.

KGL, out of Kuwait, is older than the ITN and operates in a smaller area. ITN is Iraq-wide, said Pruitt. KGL transports supplies to JBB, Contingency Operating Base Taji, VBC and the other forward operating bases within that area, he said.

The CMD operates like a movement

control team when it receives a transportation movement request from the Highway Traffic Division, 49th Trans. Bn., said Spc. Miranda Mossberger, transportation movement request manager with the 969th MCT CMD.

CMD Soldiers verify points of contact on the TMR, ensure the cargo listed on that TMR is the same cargo being transported, and confirm that the local company is authorized to move that cargo according to its contract, said Mossberger, a St. Charles, Mo., native.

On the other end of the process, the local transportation companies can confirm or deny a mission based on available resources, said Spc. Jessica Stumpe, an Al Sequir scheduling assistant and TMR processor with the 969th MCT CMD and a Belleville, Ill., native.

The ITN has 48 hours to accept a mission, said Kah Ahamd, the senior planner with the Al Sequir CMD liaison office. Once accepted, ITN sends a driver manifest to the CMD with a safe passage memorandum, days prior to the mission start date, he said. Safe pass memos are military-endorsed

documents that grant local convoys quick passage through Iraqi Army checkpoints, said Ahamd, a Baghdad native.

"This is to avoid any problems at the Iraqi (Army) checkpoints – asking 'What is that? What is this cargo?'" he said.

If any complications occur and a convoy is delayed at a checkpoint, the liaisons verify the convoy information through the proper channels, said Ahamd.

Having the material handling equipment and escorts ready makes the overall missions more efficient, said Randall Witt, the operations planning and development liaison with Al Sequir and an Edgewood, N.M., native.

"Both the offload end and the up-load end have to be in sync," said Witt. "They have to know what's coming, when it's coming."

The U.S. works with the local companies in an effort to leave behind a system beneficial to the Iraqi infrastructure after U.S. military forces withdraw from Iraq, said Pruitt. It takes military assets off the road and puts money back into Iraq, he said.

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# Treat lasers as weapons, experts say

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Safety and medical officials say the use of lasers in the escalation of force process is decreasing in Iraq due to the eye injuries they have caused Soldiers.

The Army uses lasers for target acquisition, fire control, training and often as a nonlethal step in the EOF, but units have begun to put the EOF lasers away, said Staff Sgt. Robert Young, the safety noncommissioned officer in charge with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“Our commanders figured out it wasn’t working that well,” said Young, an Inverness, Fla., native.

Soldiers were sustaining injuries as a result of eye-contact with the lasers, he said.

Capt. Steve Schlegel, the officer in charge of optometry with the 19th Medical Detachment, Task Force 61 Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade, said he treats roughly three laser injuries a month, but has yet to see any that show the full capability of the lasers in theater.

A report from the 13th ESC safety office said superficial injuries to the

cornea often result in irritability lasting 48 hours or less, but damage to the lens or retina could be instant, severe and irreversible.

“A common symptom is headache or blurred vision,” said Schlegel, a Mitchell, Ind., native.

The report said the lasers should be used as a way to get attention and not to blind anyone, but Young said those lasers are generally not needed for convoys.

Schlegel said lately he has had to treat fewer laser-related eye injuries than when he arrived in theater in October.

Although there have been fewer injuries since convoys stopped using lasers, they could still be useful to Soldiers who know how to use them properly, said Young.

“It was a good tool, but as with anything, people need to be trained on how to use it,” he said.

Schlegel said before using lasers, Soldiers should be trained on their capabilities. Many types of lasers are powerful enough to cause instant and permanent eye damage and should be treated as weapons, he said.

“You don’t play with your M-16 (rifle) ... and you shouldn’t play with a laser,” he said.

Though fewer Soldiers are carry-



Courtesy photo

ing lasers, injuries are still occurring because Soldiers are not the only ones using them, said Young.

“We have Soldiers all the time whose vehicles get lased on the road,” he said.

Although training can prevent Soldiers from inadvertently lasing one another, they should be cautious and avoid being lased themselves, Schlegel said.

“You can’t prevent the guy on the other side of the laser (from lasing you) ... but you can look away,” said Schlegel. “Most individuals report contact from three to 10 seconds, but 10 seconds is a long time.”

The best action a Soldier can take is to simply deflect the beam with their hand or turn their head, said Schlegel.

“Whatever you are doing, do your best to shield your eyes,” he said.

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# New entry control point to ease congestion in Baghdad area

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. JOHN STIMAC  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – A new entry control point is scheduled to open no later than March 7, in time for the Iraqi elections, at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

ECP 14 was a contracted military project funded in fiscal year 2007 for \$4.83 million, designed to ease the traffic and tension of the other ECP's at VBC, said Col. Eric C. Bush, the VBC base defense commander with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Prineville, Ore., native.

Bush said ECP 14 is a major entry control point, built from the ground up, to allow access to VBC to virtually anyone who needs to come on base.

"This will be the largest and most modern ECP in the Iraq Joint Operations Area," he said.

Bush said it will significantly enhance the base's ability to provide protection, not only to service members and civilians working on base, but for those traveling on and off the base.

"The ECP ... is certainly the longest ECP that we have," he said. "More than 100 people will be manning this checkpoint and that will include U.S. forces and contracted security."

Capt. Mark T. Schlosser, the base de-



Soldiers get familiar with their surroundings at entry control point 14, Feb. 15 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. The new ECP, which has been under construction since 2007, is scheduled to open in time for the upcoming Iraqi elections, March 7, to ease the flow of traffic during that time.

fense operations center engineer and a Gresham, Ore., native, said the linear way the ECP is constructed only allows potential insurgents to come from one direction, allowing the military the opportunity to spread its forces over a larger distance and better guarantee their safety in the event of an attack.

"When it's all spread out, there is no

soft target out there," he said. "It's also going to take more pressure off ECP 2 and 13, by lifting some traffic off them."

Schlosser said they had to implement a few minor changes and make some tough decisions in the last year, which caused slight delays in opening the ECP.

"The ECP used to be a swamp, so

we had to work through those issues," he said. "We also had some issues with the number of signs to be used on the checkpoint and communications equipment, but those are all resolved now."

Schlosser said the last three weeks have been well choreographed between five local national contractors and military engineers. When the ECP opens, a whole military convoy, because of the ECP's length, would be entirely off of the road and inside of the ECP, which makes it safer for the Soldiers, he said.

"We're making sure they are safe before they come in," said Schlosser. "There is a much greater chance of that happening with the opening of ECP 14, especially when it gives the badge inspectors more time to focus on doing their job at the gate and letting people and vehicles in."

Bush said he hopes phase one of the ECP 14 opening lasts roughly 30 days.

"Phase one is open to inbound U.S. military traffic only, but the plan is to have it open to all traffic – military, contractors and pedestrians – that need access to VBC," he said.

Schlosser said the changing environment in Iraq makes opening the ECP even more important, especially as the drawdown of U.S. forces draws near. This, he said, is key to responsibly drawing down.

"We plan on becoming more and more of a hub here at VBC, and the new and improved ECP 14 will facilitate those needs," said Bush.

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# Deployed Soldiers train incoming troops

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

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

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

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

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

He said the instructors also showed the Soldiers how to prepare their vehicles for convoy missions.

First Lt. John A. Wasik, an executive officer with Headquarter and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Cookeville, Tenn., said when a unit goes into theater, the incoming and outgoing units usually do a relief in place/transfer of authority, which takes anywhere from two weeks to a month. Wasik, a Cookeville, Tenn., native, said the training the 155th provided allowed his unit to speed up that process.

“We don’t have to worry about going outside the wire in country (Iraq) and



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

learn on the fly,” he said. “By doing this, it will help us establish any (standard operating procedures) here in country (Kuwait) before we go up north. It’s going to help our guys tremendously.”

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

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

He said the instructors answered all of the questions the Soldiers asked and, in turn, asked their trainees about their concerns and needs.

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

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

In Kuwait, there is time to train on the MRAP and its equipment but in Iraq, there is less time to focus directly on training as Soldiers perform their mission, said Brown. The convoy security mission comes first and on-the-job training comes second, but this training removes such issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Soldiers absorbed the training well, said Wasik.

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

## Incoming Soldiers receive counter-improvised explosive device training

BY SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment received counter-improvised explosive device level two training, in preparation for their upcoming mission in Iraq Feb. 13 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Soldiers with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), stationed throughout Iraq, traveled to Kuwait to train roughly 2,400 incoming Soldiers on the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, as well as finding and reacting to IEDs, Feb. 9 through Feb. 24.

Lt. Col. Edwin N. Gomez, the C-IED officer in charge with the 13th ESC, said this training is normally taught in Iraq.

Gomez, a Ceiba, Puerto Rico, native, said the training gives Soldiers the skills to identify and react to IEDs. The instructors also reviewed the most recent patterns and techniques used by insurgents in Iraq.

All Soldiers who will be regularly exposed to IEDs during their deployment must be level-two certified, he said.

“Everybody that’s going to be working outside the wire will be going through the training,” he said. “We’re starting now. This is the first unit coming up north that will be trained here in Kuwait on (C-IED) level 2. We’re training all the ESC companies and force protection companies.”

The training occurs in three phases, said Gomez. Students begin with classroom instruction. Then they participate in a static lane training exercise, in which instructors walk Soldiers through a training ground filled with mock IEDs. After that, Soldiers drive MRAPs to find training IEDs and learn how to react to them.

“We integrate the classroom environment with a static lane, where they go and identify the indicators, and then they actually go out and drive and react to those IEDs,” he said.

Gomez said the 278th Soldiers picked up the training quickly and communicated very well throughout. They clearly wanted to learn from ex-

perienced Soldiers, he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul L. Collier, an instructor with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms out of Senatobia, Miss., 155th HBCT, 13th ESC, said the trainers have recent experience with operations in Iraq and readily gave their time and knowledge to ensure the safety of incoming Soldiers.

“(The incoming Soldiers) find it a little more interesting when they hear firsthand accounts and the things we’ve actually witnessed,” he said.

Collier said the training gives younger, newer Soldiers a better understanding of Iraq, from the mouths of Veterans with experience, than a lecture or slides would.

“I think it’s great,” he said. “I think that it’s helping to save lives.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Asberry, a platoon sergeant with E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th ACR out of Jamestown, Tenn., said the instructors were professional and understood the enemy tactics, techniques and procedures in Iraq.

Asberry, a Jamestown, Tenn., native, used a coaching reference to explain the situation at hand. He said knowing the opponent’s ballgame, their plan and their playbook would definitely help the 278th Soldiers.

“I deployed last time during Operation Iraqi Freedom,” he said. “This level of training is much better than I received back then, so these guys are more prepared than we were the last time.”

The training improvements and the instructors’ knowledge and understanding of the enemy and IEDs were remarkable, said Asberry.

“I have talked to several of the 155th Soldiers and they all seem very familiar with their (area of operations) ... and have passed on a lot of good information to us,” he said.

Asberry said when he was deployed the first time, he and his fellow Soldiers learned on the job. Now, Soldiers training in Kuwait can prepare mentally and tactically for their mission.

“It’s allowed us to prepare a lot more in depth,” he said.



# Iraqi, US leaders exchange farewell gifts

By Cpl. Richmond Barkemeyer  
96th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Members of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met with Iraqi Army Soldiers Feb. 3 in the Cantigny Dining Facility at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, to exchange gifts and share lunch.

“I appreciate the 96th and everything you have done for us,” said Col. Nile, commander of the Iraqi Army’s medium workshop at Taji. “I know you will be going to Al Asad, and you will be missed.”

Nile presented plaques to senior members of the 96th Sust. Bde., including Col. C.J. Read, a Layton, Utah, native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs, a Roy, Utah, native, the commander and senior enlisted adviser, respectively, with the 96th Sust. Bde. Nile also gave gifts to members of support operations, Iraqi Security Forces cell and the Logistic Training Advisory Team.

The 96th Sust. Bde. showed their ap-



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony John

Col. Nile, commander of the Iraqi Army’s medium workshop at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, presents Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs, senior enlisted adviser with the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Roy, Utah, native, with a souvenir box of coins showing Iraqi historical locations, during a gift exchange Feb. 3 at COB Taji.

preciation by presenting the Iraqi Army with a planter, handmade by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Keel, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 96th Sust. Bde.’s woodshop and a Herriman, Utah, na-

tive. On each side, the planter features the 96th Sust. Bde.’s double-diamond insignia. On the bottom, Keel included a representation of Read’s commander’s coin, which Read presented to Nile.

As a symbol of good luck, the bottom of the planter also featured an elephant with a raised trunk, said Keel, who has been collecting elephants since he was 8 years old.

The plant itself was also symbolic.

“This is a legacy of the 10th Sustainment Brigade,” said Lt. Col. Harry Kim, officer in charge of the 96th Sust. Bde.’s Iraqi Security Forces cell and an Agoura Hills, Calif., native. “It started with one leaf, and now it has grown. This symbolizes our friendship with the Iraqi Army.”

The relationship between the Iraqi Army and the 96th Sust. Bde. has strengthened since the 96th took control Oct. 15, and now each side trusts and respects the other, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Souvanno Phetchanpheng, officer in charge of the Logistics Training Advisory Team with the 96th Sust. Bde. and a Fountain Valley, Calif., native.

“This was a brand new mission for me,” said Phetchanpheng. “It was completely different from my previous experience. I wanted to go in with an open mind as friends instead of Soldiers. It’s important that we carry on this relationship.”

## JBB celebrates Black History Month



Maj. Bernard Brogan, the operations officer with the 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, gives the keynote address at the Black History Month observance luncheon Feb. 19, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Brogan, a Muscle Shoals, Ala., native and a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, spoke about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black unit that later became the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, and its contribution to the de-segregation of the U.S. military.

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. KEITH S. VANKLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Service members and civilians reflected on the accomplishments of blacks in the military during a Black History Month luncheon Feb. 19 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The theme for the event was Heritage and Horizons: The Legacy Of the Tuskegee Airmen, which originally began as an all black unit.

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, whose equal opportunity office hosted the event, has a lineage that began with the Tuskegee Airmen, more specifically the 332nd Fighter Group during World War II.

“The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is an important part of American History,” said Maj. Bernard Brogan, the operations officer with the 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command and a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American fighter pilots in the Air Force and played an integral role in the de-segregation of the U.S. military, said Brogan, the keynote speaker for the event and a Muscle Shoals, Ala., native.

In addition to Brogan’s speech on the history of African-American military aviators, guests at the luncheon were treated to a poetry reading and a performance by the H-6 Jazz Trio.

“That jazz was definitely on point,” said 1st Lt. Kyle Frazer, the aide de camp with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bloomfield, Conn., native.

The band played an improvised blues and jazz piece, giving the audience a taste of traditional African-American music.

Frazer said he believes it is important for the military to hold observance events, not just for Black History Month, but for all minority groups because of their many contributions to America.





“Going into the future, we’ve got to keep having these events,” he said. “We’re here, able to do the things we’re doing because of the work they did in the past.”

At the end of the luncheon, Brig. Gen. Robert Harris, commanding general of the 194th Engineer Brigade, 416th Engineer Command and a Hixon, Tenn., native, shared with the audience a quotation he said brought meaning not only to this Black History Month observance, but to the observance of all Americans’ contributions to their military and their country.

“A man can’t know where he’s going until he has learned where he’s been,” he said.



# Force protection uniform postures

	IBA	Kevlar	Uniform	Conduct PT
<b>U1</b> 	<p>Accessible within 10 minutes.</p>	<p>Accessible within 10 minutes.</p>	<p>DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT or off duty and can be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>No restrictions.</p>
<b>U2</b> 	<p>Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.</p>	<p>Worn when outdoors for specified time or event.</p>	<p>DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.</p>
<b>U3</b> 	<p>Worn outside hardened facility.</p>	<p>Worn outside hardened facility.</p>	<p>Same as U2. DCU/ACU/ service equivalent. PT uniform allowed for PT only and cannot be worn in DFAC/PX.</p>	<p>Restriction: PT only in hardened facilities. Can run with IBA and Kevlar.</p>
<b>U4</b> 	<p>Worn.</p>	<p>Worn.</p>	<p>Same as U3, but with ballistic goggles and combat earplugs.</p>	<p>Not authorized.</p>



# Arizona National Guard sergeant earns club membership

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
STAFF SGT. ROB STRAIN  
15TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq – An Arizona National Guard noncommissioned officer competed and outperformed his peers during a Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board Feb. 5 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Sgt. Scott Todd, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 3666th Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Pacesetter Retrograde Yard, at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, displayed exemplary bearing and an in-depth knowledge of the required topics, said Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Bartee Sr., the 15th Sust. Bde. senior NCO, the president of the board, and a Greenville, Ala., native.

Bartee said Todd's engaged leadership, especially his knowledge of each Soldier, made him stand out. Todd, a 16-year Veteran and a Florence, Ariz., na-

tive, said his Soldiers are what the job is all about.

"I lead my Soldiers; I train my Soldiers," he said. "Cut and dry."

Todd said he provides the tools his Soldiers need to succeed, and they have grown leaps and bounds in the past several months. Competing in the board was more important to them than it was to him, he said.

"I take the time and effort to teach them the right thing," he said. "I can't expect them to replace me if they don't know what I do."

Todd said he was most proud of his Soldiers during a Jan. 29 visit by Col. Larry Phelps, the 15th Sust. Bde. commander and a Greenville, Ala., native, to the retrograde yard. During the visit, the Soldiers briefed the colonel completely, knowing their mission exactly and why it was important, he said.

That's the kind of leadership that puts Todd above the rest, said Bartee.

"For a young sergeant to attend the Audie Murphy board, he has demonstrated himself as a senior NCO, way above his pay grade," he said. "He is the leader we are looking for to lead our Soldiers in today's Army."



Sgt. Scott Todd, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Pacesetter Retrograde Yard with the 3666th Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), answers questions in front of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board Feb. 5 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

# Soldier teaches combat skills at home, in Iraq

BY SGT. MATTHEW COOLEY  
15TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A North Carolina Soldier accomplished a rare feat among service members – he is one of a select few who is certified as a level-three combatant – and passed his skills along to service members at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in late January and early February.

Spc. Jeffery Putnam, an ammunition specialist with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Wash., 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Raleigh, N.C., native, completed the modern Army combatives level three course in May.

The four-week course was designed to build on the skills Soldiers learned in levels one and two.

Putnam and Spc. Ryan Miklos, an ammunition specialist with the company and a Tampa, Fla., native, waited nearly two months to enroll in level three after completing levels one and two, to prepare their bodies and minds, said Putnam. After hours of CrossFit training, boxing combination drills and practicing their grappling fundamen-



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Kao

Spc. Jeffery Putnam, an ammunition specialist with the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a combatives level-one instructor and a Raleigh, N.C., native, teaches a level-one class to his company Jan. 20 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

tals, the two were ready, he said.

After four weeks of training, Putnam and Miklos graduated as level-three certified instructors, which means they can officially certify level-one students under the Modern Army Combatives Program.

Before deploying, Putnam and Miklos passed their skills on to fellow Soldiers during an internal company combatives level-one course in August.

Pfc. Nikita Prosin, a company orderly room representative with the 63rd Ord. Co. and an Akron, Ohio, na-

tive, said, "It was neat to learn from a Soldier within the company and see how he took on the role of an instructor. I'm used to seeing Putnam as just one of the regular guys, but he did a great job being in charge and teaching us the moves."

Putnam emphasized the importance of having support in his pursuit, especially his wife, who he said always supports him, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rich Mantooth, the 63rd Ord. Co.'s resident level-four certified instructor, and a Biloxi, Miss., native.

"I don't consider myself a naturally gifted fighter, but I really enjoy teaching and coaching others," he said. "I think that most people can become decent at fighting if they choose to push themselves."

Putnam completed the level-one certification of more than 40 Soldiers from Joint Base Balad, Victory Base Camp, and Contingency Operating Site Warhorse, Iraq, during the winter combatives course.

He said he relished the opportunity to take a break from his primary job at the Joint Base Balad Corps Storage Area, and teach and mentor his fellow Soldiers.

First Lt. Aaron Kao contributed to this report.



# Disarm workplace blowhards, bullies



**"The Stress Doc"  
Mark Gorkin**

*Editor's Note: This is the first piece in a two-part series about handling bullies in the workplace*

When it comes to defining and dealing with the variety of braggarts and bullies in

the workplace, the phrase "so much to do, so little time" comes to mind.

Let me sketch some classic ego-driven personality types along with some brief disarming or counterpunching strategies. Learn to play constructive mind games and deflate or detach yourself from that office intimidator.

Five infuriating and intimidating personalities and some antitoxins

1. Mr. The World Revolves Around Me. "You know what I mean." It's a favorite refrain that's never asked as a question because this individual is too busy with his next rapid-fire pronouncement to really care if you know what he, or she, means. Did you also pick up the subtle dig to your intelligence? Of course, this egotist would never ask, "Am I being clear?" And don't hold your breath waiting for him to ask for and truly listen to your ideas apart from his issues. This is the pompous boor who, after endless self-talk, in so many words says, "Well, enough about me. Now, tell me what you think about me."

The above reminds me of a female comic's realization upon finally meeting Mr. Right.

"I had no idea his first name would be 'Always,'" she said.

Or consider French novelist, Andre Gide's pitch perfect response. It will make your day whether you say it aloud or keep it covert as a slight knowing smile barely hides the fact that you have just skewered an ego balloon.

"One must allow others to be right," he said. "It consoles them for not being anything else."

Finally, sometimes a touch of absurdity hits the spot. Here's my lyric, "Tenaci-Tea for Two: The Narcissist's Version."

You for me and me for me

Oh how nurturing you will be.

Forget to be or not to be

Just simply think of me, me, me!

One administrative aide asked me if she could tape the words to her door. Go for it.

2. The Retaliator. Nothing motivates this individual more than fantasizing about revenge. Endorphins have nothing on the biochemical rush from spawning a fiendish scheme. When these people believe they have been unfairly treated or criticized, their eyes widen. Perhaps, you'll see a ghoulish grin. Sometimes simple and stealthy retaliation through gossip and innuendo will do. These plotters are often into prevention, harming others before they themselves are harmed.

If former President Richard Nixon is the prototype for a retaliator with a highly suspicious bent, removal may be the only remedy. Sometimes, you need to help senior partners or managers realize how much money they are losing having to replace the various professionals who have been infected by this organizational virus. While with gossipers, giving them a chance to more directly express their frustration or anger, of course, not tolerating abuse, sometimes will dismantle the virus-rumor mill before it starts spreading.

3. The Intellectual Intimidator. "Oh, you don't really believe that, do you?" "What's wrong with you?" "You should have done it this way." "You are so disappointing to me." Restrain me, please. The intellectual bully's techniques range from finely judgmental observations to condescending characterizations. Alas, these days verbal intimidation can all too easily occur in an e-mail. Probably a graduate from The Institute for the Compassion Impaired, there's a competitive edge to the aggressor that's often a cover for self-doubt or a win-lose, dominant-submissive survival strategy. As I once penned:

When battling for position you won't stop

Cause you know your place -- you're always on top!

Competition versus compassion reminds me of a dueling egos exchange with my younger brother, a research psychologist, not a therapist. One day, I was telling Larry about some difficult work I had done with a family, some family interventions that I thought were

both creative and effective. Upon hearing my description, my brother pipes in, "You should have said such and such to the father." I was struck by the witty but pretty insensitive suggestion and grimaced. Seeing my expression, my brother quickly pounced, "What's the matter, you afraid the father would punch you out?" At this point I counterpunched. "No, I have a higher standard of plagiarism."

4. The Frequent Flasher. This reactive individual is a fiery flame thrower who's quick to be triggered. The flasher doesn't just expose himself, not a pretty sight, but he often feels exposed as well. I've labeled this explosive type the "he man." Driving this aggressive, impatient, hyper person are two underlying complexes, which are thinly disguised with sparks and smoke: "H" stands for humiliation due to oft perceived rejection, feeling shown up and deep-seated unworthiness. And "E" is for emptiness brought on by separation anxiety and feelings of abandonment. Please, I don't discriminate. A he man can be either male or female.

Please don't let these intimidators plead having a fiery temper gene and therefore claim they can't help themselves. I recall a U.S. State Department manager who, threatened with a demotion, finally realized he had to control his temper tantrum throwing inner child. He came up with this strategy. In the middle of a typical, increasingly heated blood starting to boil meeting, the manager would suddenly announce, "Excuse me, I just remembered, I need to photocopy some documents. I'll be back in five minutes." He'd leave his startled antagonist, walk outside or find a deserted office or bathroom, shout some expletives and then return. Now he could deliver his anger in an adult manner. You might want to slip this article under the door of some of those Type A plus tyrants in the office.

5. The Silent Smolder and Then. Some people try holding back their anger because they are aware of the Mount St. Helens potential. Others feel a show of anger is a weakness: Either they have allowed others to get to them or it's a sign of being out of control. Or suffering in silence is a sign of their self-righteousness. So, they smolder away until they implode – high blood pressure, depressive episodes – or explode

– what I call Volcanus Eruptus Syndrome. The latency between eruptions invariably decreases. Not surprisingly, the tension in the office may build to such levels while anxiously awaiting the next eruption that you and colleagues almost wish for the explosion.

The susceptible blower here, actually, may be a she man, the psychic partner to the he man. The "S" stands for savior. This individual isn't much of an individual, more one who blindly and smugly upholds "the one right way." This savior style reflects or rewards servility more than civility. Always ready to sacrifice or give advice – at a price, your unquestioning loyalty and everlasting appreciation – that you are expected to pay. Of course, the she man can be a nice guy as well a good girl. Like the he man, the she man's overdependence upon or need to control others has a covert purpose: to distract from feelings of humiliation and emptiness.

So set boundaries or keep your distance from those who silently smolder and then shoot flames. Don't let them help you make an ash of yourself.

Closing

Of course, sometimes the determining factor for tolerating or handling a blowhard or bully is whether the executive/management team address the stress carrier, the person who doesn't get ulcers, but gives them.

Part II will provide three vignettes that clarify handling a hostile intimidators.

**Mark Gorkin, LICSW, "The Stress Doc"™**, is an acclaimed keynote and kick-off speaker, training/organizational development and team building consultant, psychotherapist and "motivational humorist." He is the author of "Practice Safe Stress: Healing and Laughing in the Face of Stress, Burnout & Depression" and "The Four Faces of Anger: Transforming Anger, Rage, and Conflict into Inspiring Attitude & Behavior." A kickoff speaker for Estrin Legal Education Conferences, Gorkin is America Online's online psychohumorist™ and pioneer of a USA Today Online "HotSite" – <http://www.stressdoc.com> – recognized as a workplace resource by National Public Radio. For more info on Gorkin's speaking and training programs and products, e-mail [stressdoc@aol.com](mailto:stressdoc@aol.com) or call 301-875-2567.

This issue of the Expeditionary Times contains a reader submitted article written by Mark Gorkin, also known as "The Stress Doc." Gorkin's views are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense and the inclusion of his submission is not meant in any way as an endorsement of his services.



**Give a Shout Out!**  
Tell your family and friends how much you miss them.  
Send a brief message to: [expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil) Subject line: "Shout Out"



# Service members, civilians sweat for love in V-Day 5K

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SPC. MICHAEL V. CAMACHO  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – More than 400 service members and civilians participated in the Valentine's Day 5K run Feb. 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.



The run, sponsored by the 63rd Ordnance Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), offered service members a way to celebrate the holiday despite separation from loved ones, said 1st Lt. Shawn Green a platoon leader with the 63rd Ord. Co.

Green, a Graham, Wash., native, said it is important to remember family and loved ones, and look forward to seeing them after deployment. His valentine is his wife of 11 years, Crystal Green.

"(Valentine's Day) is a day my wife and I usually go out to dinner and have fun," he said.

Being away from family is always



Service members and civilians stand during a moment of prayer prior to the Valentine's Day 5K run at Holt Stadium Feb. 14 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

difficult, said Spc. Anthony Zavala, an ammunition specialist with the 63rd Ord. Co. This is Zavala's second deployment, but his first while having his own family. His valentine is his one

year old daughter, Julia Zavala.

A good relationship with coworkers and battle buddies makes the deployment, and the separation, less stressful, he said.

"It helps through all the tough times," said Zavala, a New York native. "Even though it's sad to be away from our families, we're doing good things for our country and we'll be back with them soon."

The Army has a tradition of recognizing holidays with runs and competitive events geared toward camaraderie and morale, he said.

An event as simple as a run allows Soldiers to relax and enjoy the bonds between coworkers in the Army family, said Capt. Sharron Williams, the officer in charge of the brigade human resource branch with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Sust. Bde., 13th ESC.

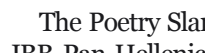
William's valentine is her husband of 15 years, Capt. Derrick Williams.

"Not being with families but being able to be with friends was a good opportunity to build morale," said Williams, a Los Angeles native. "It allows us to enjoy a deployment and be able to tell our children, family and friends that we were able to get out and celebrate (Valentine's Day) as well."

# Greek societies host poetry slam at JBB

STORY AND PHOTO BY  
SGT. RYAN TWIST  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The lights dimmed and music played as poets and actors performed on stage during the Joint Base Balad Poetry Slam Feb. 11 at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east.



The Poetry Slam was sponsored by the JBB Pan-Hellenic Council, known as the Divine Nine in the United States, which consists of nine historically black Greek fraternal and sorority societies.

Thomas D. Battle, the battalion adjutant with 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade out of Rock Island, Ill., headed the committee for the event.

"We wanted to introduce poetry to JBB," said Battle, a Portsmouth, Va., native.

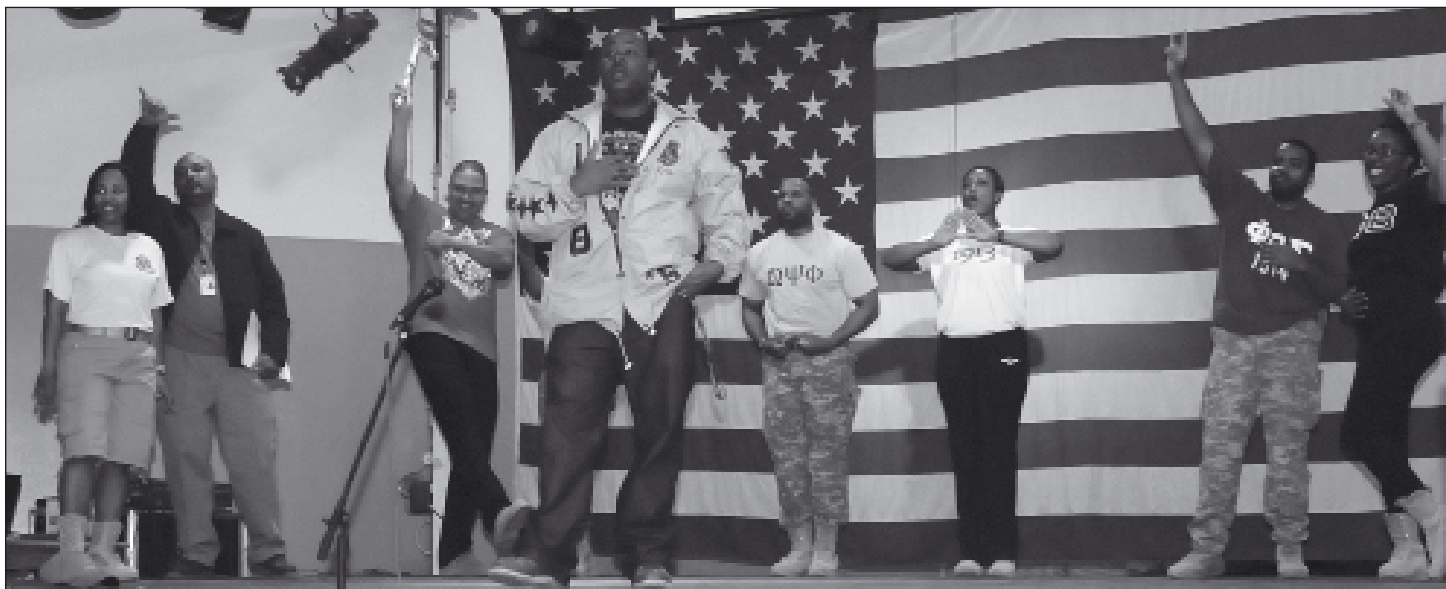
Spoken word poetry is an art form that uses memory, he said. Service members may have read poetry in books or heard it read aloud, but they rarely witness the art form performed from memory on stage, said Battle.

"We had a few people tonight, including myself, who practice spoken word," he said.

Battle said he earned the nickname Lyric because he tells his stories through spoken word poetry.

Spoken word is a large part of African history, which was captured by poets who traveled from village to village telling stories through poetry, he said.

The Poetry Slam began with a Greek dance demonstration, and a telling of each



Thomas D. Battle, the battalion adjutant with 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade out of Rock Island, Ill., performs a Greek dance to kick off the Joint Base Balad Poetry Slam at Morale, Welfare and Recreation east Feb. 11 at JBB, Iraq. Battle, a Portsmouth, Va., native and a member of Iota Phi Theta Inc., chaired the committee for the poetry slam, which was sponsored by the JBB Pan-Hellenic Council, called the Divine Nine in the United States, which consists of the nine historically black Greek fraternal and sorority societies.

society's history. Then the performers told their stories through poetry.

An open microphone option allowed service members who were not on the original performance roster to tell their stories on stage.

Emotions played a big role during the entertainment, said Battle, as performers mixed happiness, anger, sadness, friendship, love and lust during role play and storytelling. He said service members encounter these emotions daily, so watching them put it on paper and share it was therapeutic.

Poetry can include topics ranging from love and religion to politics and sports, said Battle.

Maj. Robert W. Catlin, the 90th Sustainment Brigade's Iraqi Security Forces project manager of a Logistics Training and Advisory Team, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said he has been a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. for 21 years.

Catlin, a Nashville, Tenn., native, said the event was a tribute to Black History Month, with a college campus atmosphere that enabled service members to relax and tell their stories to the audience.

"I think it was good timing for the event," he said. "It was a great time. (It referenced) black history, culture and intelligence. It's always good to celebrate and explore different cultural heritages."

Battle, an Iota Phi Theta member, said all ages, genders and social backgrounds were represented at the event.

The MWR east had seating capacity for about 200, but much of the audience stood along the walls, said Battle. He attributed this to the resurgence of spoken word art.

"People are more interested once they've seen the spoken word artist, and they want to get everyone's point of view," he said. "It's very interesting to see people express their point of view in different ways. Some people use anger, some people use humor, some people use facts, some people use fiction, but it all ties into an emotion."



# Sudoku

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.

**Level: Hard**

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

Last week's answers

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

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What U.S. athlete was "about a week" pregnant when she broke the world 200-meter record at the 1984 Olympics?
2. What U.S. team did 59 percent of American viewers root against during the 1996 Olympics, according to an ESPN poll?
3. What Soviet gymnast performed the first back somersault on a balance beam?
4. What sport is played with stones and brooms?
5. What contest of team strength was an official Olympic event from 1900 to 1920?

1. Evelyn Ashford 2. The Dream Team 3. Olga Korbut 4. Curling 5. Tug of War

## JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

**TRADITIONAL - Sunday**

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel 0930 Provider Chapel  
 1030 Freedom Chapel (West side) 1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)  
 1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel 1730 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

**GOSPEL - Sunday**

1100 MWR East Building 1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side)  
 1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**CONTEMPORARY - Sunday**

0900 Chapel- Next Iraq/MWR East  
 1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 1400 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562) 1900 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

**Wednesday**

2000 Gilbert Memorial Chapel

**LITURGICAL (Episcopal, Anglican, Presbyterian) - Sunday**

1700 Provider Chapel

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST - Saturday**

1000 Provider Chapel

**CHURCH OF CHRIST - Sunday**

1530 Castle Heights (Bldg. 7562)

**LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)- Sunday**

1300 Provider Chapel 1530 Freedom Chapel (West side)  
 1900 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**MASS - Saturday**

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)  
 2000 Freedom Chapel (West Side)

**Sunday**

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**Thursday**

1100 Air Force Hospital

**Mon., Wed., Fri.**

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**Monday-Friday**

1130 555th Engineer Bde. (Bldg. 7200)

**JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday**

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**Saturday**

0930 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

**ISLAMIC PRAYER - Friday**

1230 Provider Chapel

**PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday**

1900 The Shack

**Saturday**

1900 The Shack

**GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday**

0900 Provider Annex

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:**

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 433-2430

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

## JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

<b>INDOOR POOL</b> 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.	a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.	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.	CC Cross Fit: Monday- Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m.	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- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MACP Level 1: Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 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. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, 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.
<b>EAST FIT-NESS CENTER</b> Open Court Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Fri., - 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 7:15-8 p.m. Brazilian Jui-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7	<b>EAST REC-REATION CENTER</b> 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Sunday- 8 p.m. Monday- 8 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m. 9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8	<b>H6 FITNESS CENTER</b> Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Monday, Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 5:45 a.m., 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.	<b>H6 RECREATION CENTER</b> Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas	<b>WEST REC-REATION CENTER</b> Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m.	<b>WEST FIT-NESS CENTER</b> 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m. 6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Fri., - 8:10 p.m.	<b>CIRCUIT GYM</b> Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8:10 p.m.

## UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN



**Thursday 02/25/10**

2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Curling-Tiebreaker Match, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Wednesday Night Hoops: Florida State @ North Carolina, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Wednesday Night Hoops: Pittsburgh @ Notre Dame, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Boston Celtics, Live 5 p.m. AFN/ xtra

**Friday 02/26/10**

Thursday Night Showcase: Iowa @ Northwestern, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Thursday Night Showcase: Tulsa @ Duke, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Thursday Night Showcase: Arizona @ California, Tape Delayed 6 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Ice Hockey-Semifinal, Live 12 p.m. AFN/ prime atlantic

**Saturday 02/27/10**

2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Curling-Semifinal Match, Live 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Toronto Raptors, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Curling-Bronze Medal Match, Live 9 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Arizona State @ California, Live 12 a.m. AFN/ sports

**Sunday 02/28/10**

Chicago Bulls @ Indiana Pacers, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 NASCAR Nationwide Series: Sam's Town 300, Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Texas @ Texas A&M, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Ice Hockey-Gold Medal Final, Live 9 a.m. AFN/prime pacific

**Monday 03/01/10**

2010 Waste Management Phoenix Open: Final Round, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Men's Ice Hockey-Gold Medal Game, Tape Delayed 3 a.m. AFN/sports  
 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games: Closing Ceremony, Tape Delayed 7:30 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 Georgetown @ West Virginia, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ sports

**Tuesday 03/02/10**

Orlando Magic @ Philadelphia 76ers, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Atlanta Hawks @ Chicago Bulls, Tape Delayed 4 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 NHL on VERSUS: Philadelphia Flyers @ Tampa Bay Lightning, Live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

**Wednesday 03/03/10**

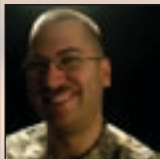
Villanova @ Cincinnati, Tape Delayed 12 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Sacramento Kings @ Oklahoma City Thunder, Tape Delayed 7:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Soccer: U.S. Men vs Netherlands, Live 11:30 a.m. AFN/ sports  
 Wednesday Night Hoops: Wake Forest @ Florida State, Live 4 p.m. AFN/ xtra



# Arts & Entertainment

## “Public Enemies,” offers shades of Pearl Harbor

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



I started viewing this John Dillinger dramatization with the understanding that movies about larger than life, iconic characters are nearly always heavily rife with exaggeration and a fair amount of creative license, but “Public Enemies” went overboard.

The obligatory, contrived love story arc brought “Pearl Harbor” to mind. I think a lot of the story of Dillinger’s life was sacrificed for the benefit of an awkward, underdeveloped love interest that was only present to fit into a formulaic design to construct the movie.

The cinematography was nice. The mix of wide angle shots and shaky first-person shooting immersed me in the action scenes.

One of the more innovative scenes used an effect of transitioning to antique video-camera-type quality in the presence of period news crews. Another great scene started at FBI headquarters and

seamlessly turned into Dillinger watching a newsreel of the headquarters.

Johnny Depp was perfectly cast in the role of Dillinger in that he does over the top very well, and the role called for that kind of acting.

Any time a movie is done in a historical setting, I usually try to suspend disbelief and not really worry about historical accuracy. I understand that, for a movie designed to make money, historical accuracy will always be thrown out in favor of making the movie more marketable and appealing.

However, there are some blatant historical inaccuracies that can trigger me to go on a hunt to look for all the problems with the film. In “Public Enemies,” this blatant disregard for fact happened when Dillinger accompanied a girlfriend to the Chicago Police headquarters while she was getting a waitressing license.

I was able to suspend disbelief that America’s most wanted criminal would willingly go into a police station at the center of the investigation to bring him to custody. I was also willing to believe that someone might need a waitressing

license to work at a restaurant in 1930s Chicago.

What positively killed the movie for me was when Depp, as Dillinger, approached a group of detectives crowded around a radio listening to a baseball game. Dillinger casually asked the score.

“Cubs 3-2 top of the 7th,” the detective answers just as casually. As the camera zooms in on the radio, the radio announcer reports, “Leading off for the Yankees...” at which point, the scene ends. This was supposedly the day Dillinger died, July 22, 1934. Are the majority of viewers so ignorant as to believe the Cubs were playing the Yankees at Wrigley Field in July 1934?

This is not just a little mix-up, I could understand if the people who put the scene together didn’t research for two minutes to find out the Cubs lost to the Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 July 22, 1934. The two minutes was no exaggeration, by the way, that’s how long it took me to dig up that little nugget.

The primary sin here is that the movie introduces interleague play 63 years before its time. The Cubs and Yankees

didn’t play against each other in 1934, and the only occasion they would have had to do so would have been the World Series, which doesn’t take place in July.

For me, this historical inaccuracy made the rest, which I’d stomached fairly well to that point, pretty much unbearable. I think what truly bothered me about the interleague play gaffe was that it was not creative license but sheer, unbridled laziness.

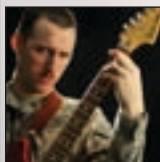
For instance, the film portrayed Baby Face Nelson being gunned down at the famous shootout in Little Bohemia in a really well done scene.

The main problem with this, of course, is that Nelson didn’t actually die until 4 months after Dillinger. At first, I assumed it was just a plot ripple designed to make Special Agent Melvin Purvis a bit more interesting as a character, but after seeing the baseball scene, I think it could just be another mistake in the film.

“Public Enemies” was just OK as a work of pure fiction. It was enjoyable, but not thoroughly re-watchable. I give it a 5.5 out of 10.

## Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros: a sonic road trip

BY SGT. KEITH S. VAN KLOMPENBERG  
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



“Up from Below,” the debut album from Los Angeles indie-rockers Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros, is the most retro-sounding album I have heard in a long time, and I love it.

My sister was kind enough to mail me some music last week in a care package. I asked her to send me one of my favorite albums, “The Elected,” which I had lost, and she took it upon herself to send a few extras.

One of the extra albums she sent was “Up from Below.” They have been around for less time than I have been deployed, so the first listen was a completely new experience for me. I had no idea what to expect based on the name, but the album cover gave me a few hints.

The cover art is a washed-out photograph of a large group standing in the rocks, looking like folkies or perhaps hippies. It really looks like it was taken in the ‘60s, and it can’t be a coincidence.

The 10-piece band, fronted by Alex Ebert, not Edward Sharpe, uses jangly acoustic guitars, dry piano and cutesy harmonies with absolute perfection. Ebert’s voice at times sounds shockingly like the

artist formerly known as Cat Stevens. At other times his crooner-esque sound is uniquely his own. Jade Castrinos, Ebert’s female counterpart, adds a modern touch with her gritty, slightly Southern vocals.

Many critics will no doubt assert the band is trying too hard to sound old fashioned, but I don’t care. They do it too well to not like.

The band adds a few modern touches that give away their age. There is a line in the opening track, “40 Day Dream,” that I can’t print here, that was clearly not written in the ‘60s. The ambient swirls in “Desert Song” are another hint of modern indie-rock hiding under beards and vintage clothing.

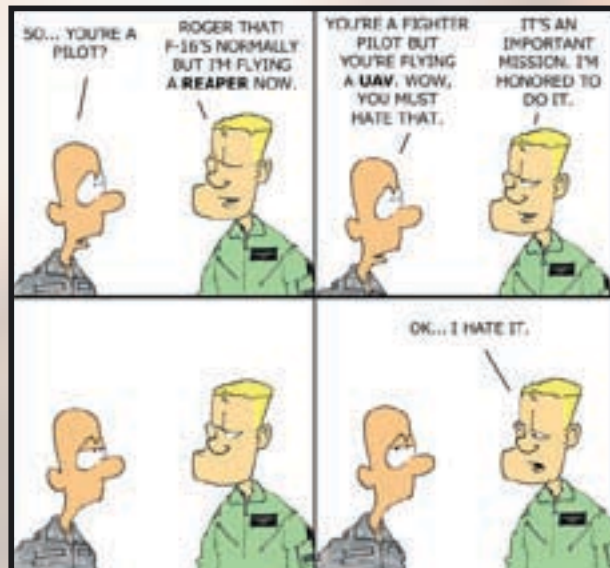
“40 Day Dream,” “Home” and the eerie “Black Water” stand out as the strongest tracks, but the entire album is pretty fantastic.

There are more than a few comparisons I could make here. Beirut meets Cat Stevens. Blitzen Trapper meets The Byrds.

Basically, you get the hippest of the folk side of indie-rock and the hippiest of the folk side of Woodstock.

I’m nearing the end of my deployment and planning a road trip from my home in Michigan to Portland, Ore., to visit my brother and his wife. “Up from Below” will definitely make the soundtrack of that vacation. It may be the perfect soundtrack to a summer drive out West.

### PVF MURPHY



### Sustainer Reel Time Theater

#### Wednesday, Feb. 24

5 p.m. Leap Year  
8 p.m. Valentine's Day

#### Thursday, Feb. 25

5 p.m. Valentine's Day  
8 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks

#### Friday, Feb. 26

2 p.m. Day Breakers  
5 p.m. Avatar  
8 p.m. Shutter Island  
12 a.m. Shutter Island

#### Saturday, Feb. 27

2 p.m. Avatar  
5 p.m. Shutter Island  
8 p.m. Alvin and the Chipmunks  
12 a.m. Shutter Island

#### Sunday, Feb. 28

2 p.m. TBA  
5 p.m. TBA  
8 p.m. TBA

#### Monday, March 1

5 p.m. TBA  
8 p.m. TBA

#### Tuesday, March 2

5 p.m. TBA  
8 p.m. TBA

#### Wednesday, March 3

5 p.m. TBA  
8 p.m. TBA





# PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Becky Bort



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Advin Ila-Medina

(Above) Spc. Owen Luong, with A Company, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, uses a metal detector to search for unexploded ordnance that may be hidden underground Feb. 11 on a farm near Baghdad.

Local children wave Feb. 11 in Khadimiya, Baghdad.



(Right) First Lt. Ben Robinson, platoon leader with 4th Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, conducts an initial survey of his vehicle before the door opens and members of the Combined Security Force begin their validation patrol Feb. 10 in New Dibaghtapa, Iraq. CSF conducted the validation patrol to gain confidence as the unit prepares to begin official operations throughout the Combined Security Area.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew D. Leistikow

A Soldier with B Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division calls information up to higher command at an observation point during a cordon and search operation Feb. 12 near Kirkuk, Iraq. This search revealed several improvised explosive devices, as well as weapons and an explosive cache.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joel LeMaistre



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew D. Leistikow

(Above) A member of the Combined Security Force waits to collect ammunition for a validation patrol Feb. 10 in New Dibaghtapa, Iraq.



# NEWS AROUND IRAQ

## Engineers complete school project in Sadr City

**★** SADR CITY, Iraq – More than 500 elementary school students in Mahalla neighborhood in Sadr City were given the gift of a better educational environment following the completion of the 12-room Al Adalaa Elementary School.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region District, Loyalty Resident Office served as the managing construction partner for the 11-month, \$816,000 project. The school was funded through the Iraq Transition Assistance Office Economic Support Fund.

The school project included the construction of a two-story classroom building, an administration building and a playground. The administration building contains office spaces, a first aid room and a food service area. The site also included the construction of a three-meter high security wall surrounding the school, a guard house with a steel entry gate and a maintenance building.

Inez Bergerson, the Loyalty Office project engineer, said the Sadr City school project posed some unique challenges for project engineers.

"Because this school is located in Sadr City, where violence can be expected at any time, our office managed the construction by relying heavily on our local national engineers for updates and quality assurance," Bergerson said.

"Of all the projects I have had the pleasure of working on while in Iraq, schools remain my favourite. A new school can provide the opportunity for hundreds of children who have so little to receive a quality education, to become productive citizens and share in the growth of this emerging country."

The Iraqi-owned Al Sald Company was the general contractor for the school construction project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. Government and the Government of Iraq. Since 2004, USACE has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$9.1 billion, and has more than 350 projects ongoing. The overall reconstruction effort in Iraq provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

## Top Anbar security officials graduate 45 policemen from civil disturbance course

**★** CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE RAMADI, Iraq – Top American and Iraqi security officials presided over the graduation of 45 Iraqi policemen Jan. 28 from a civil disturbance course taught by partnered American and Iraqi instructors at the Ramadi Training Center.

Brig. Gen. Kenneth Tovo, deputy commanding general of the west for U.S. Division – Center, and



staff Maj. Gen. Baha Husayn Abd Hassan, provincial director of police for Al Anbar, presented diplomas to the Ramadi-area policemen who completed the five-day course.

"Today's graduation event is just another of the many indicators of the continued progress of Iraqi Security Forces," said Tovo, the highest ranking U.S. military leader in Al Anbar. "These Iraqi policemen have acquired a new set of critical skills to prepare them to provide security for the local populace and to enforce the rule of law."

Tovo said the training was entirely initiated by Hassan, who assessed the force's strengths and weaknesses after becoming the new provincial director of police.

"It's just one of many significant improvements that the new (director) has made in his short tenure, and I think that it bodes well for the increased professionalization of the police forces in Anbar province," said Tovo.

The National Guard instructors who developed the course belong to 585th Military Police Company out of Ohio, with the 151st Military Police Battalion of the West Virginia National Guard.

The Guardsmen trained Iraqi policemen, who in turn trained the rest of the policemen, said Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Hillis, noncommissioned officer in charge of operations for the company and an instructor at the MP Regional Training Institute in Ohio.

The course included instruction on the use of shields, riot batons and formations to intercept and disperse riots, said Hillis. In addition, 12 students with prior commercial driving experience were selected to be trained to operate fire engine-like anti-riot vehicles purchased by the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior.

The 30,000 lb vehicles feature two remotely operated water cannons for pushing back rioters, as well as spotlights, digital cameras, fire-suppression sprinklers, front and rear blades to clear road debris, and tanks for additives that include fire fighting foam, paint for marking rioters and a tear gas compound to drive away rioters.

Lacking a manual for the vehicle, the Guardsmen assembled a team of three firefighters, a commercial driving license instructor and Hillis, already an instructor, to learn how to use it before teaching it to the Iraqi instructors.

"That's the beauty of the Guard," said Sgt. 1st Class

Benjamin Lovell, one of the firefighters.

Sgt. Chris Smith, the CDL instructor who taught much of the driving, said high motivation among the Iraqi students allowed him to teach an eight-day driving course in just two days.

Students were taught vehicle maintenance, water pump operations, targeting – "throwing water," as firemen call it – and driving skills, such as backing and negotiating obstacles, said Smith.

"The students were very intelligent and highly motivated," he said.

Hassan said he was pleased with the training and looked forward to doing more with the Guardsmen, so do the Iraqi police officers, said 2nd Lt. John Bibler, platoon leader of the instructors.

Iraqi 1st Lt. Mohammed Abdulla Jasim, a Ramadi-area police officer of five years, said he and his men are now fully capable of responding to civil disturbances.

"With this powerful vehicle and the training, we can disperse violence," said Jasim. "I am ready to give a training course like this to my own students."

Although riots are uncommon in Iraq, newly won freedoms of expression and the right to assemble could change all that, said Sgt. Mike Barnes, a military policeman with the Guard.

"In the Saddam era, there was no backtalk," said Barnes. "Now, they have the right to assemble. (The police may) have to use these new skills."

## US continues to return camps to Iraqi control

**★** BASRAH PROVINCE, Iraq – U.S. military leaders returned four camps to the Government of Iraq in the country's southern region Jan 30.

In a second round of camp closures in Basra province in the last month, U.S. Forces and their Iraqi Army counterparts held symbolic ceremonies signifying progress of the Iraqi Security Forces ability to provide security to the region during the drawdown of U.S. combat troops in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

All four of the ceremonies were attended by Col. Steven L. Bullimore, commander of the 17th Fires Brigade, Sameer Alhaddad, a representative of the chief of staff of the prime minister, and Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Noor Swady al Dalmy, commander of the 14th Iraqi Army Division.

The Iraqi government official expressed the significance of the events and what it means to the Iraqi people, their government and their partners, the United States.

"These events show that democracy is being improved, the security issue is being improved, and government is moving forward," Alhaddad said. "It shows that the Army is stronger and is capable of handling our security, capable to move forward against terrorism."

The U.S. military leader talked about the impact the ceremonies will have to the partnership between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

"These ceremonies are the official start of a significant change in day-to-day operations and a public demonstration of our transition with the Iraqi military," Bullimore said. "This transition to tenancy on these four



bases sets the conditions for physical moves after the elections."

The ceremonies were held at military sites known as Naval Base, Al Hindiyah, Camp Sa'ad and Camp Wessam, where American military transition teams are housed as they train, advise and conduct joint military operations with ISF. Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, with 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th Field Artillery, 17th Fires Brigade, provide security, enablers and support services such as food, vehicles and maintenance for both the MTT and its Iraqi partners.

The ceremonies began mid-morning at the Naval Base, headquarters of the 50th Brigade, 14th IA Div., which is responsible for the security in the eastern part of Basra City.

Afterward, leaders walked to Al Hindiyah, where the 53rd Brigade headquarters is located, about three city blocks from Naval Base. Sameer and the military leaders walked along the city streets as ISF provided security.

"Basra is proof that the Iraqi Army is strong enough to take over security and we will show the people that the government can protect them," Alhaddad said. "Today, we walked down the street with a few American military and we proved we could provide for their security. The American Army can walk down the street ... and walk with the Iraqi people."

The troops at the final two locations, Camp Sa'ad, the 52nd Brigade headquarters and Camp Wessam, the home of the 14th IA Div., headquarters held ceremonies in the same fashion as the others. Each ceremony involved a platoon of USF and ISF Soldiers positioned next to one another, representing the partnership the two militaries have shared for years.

Before the ceremonies, the government official greeted Soldiers. He talked about the mood of the event.

"You can see the happiness in the eyes of the American Army; they did a great job in Iraq helping the people stand up," Alhaddad said. "At the same time we see the happiness in the Iraqi Army eyes as they receive the property and continue to prove they are capable to secure the area."

Bullimore said the relocation of USF would not deteriorate the working relationship of the armies.


"While our partnership will remain strong, it is not necessary that we literally live on site at all of these locations," Bullimore said.

Maj. Kevin Jackson, 17th Fires Bde. operations officer, said the Soldiers who lived and worked at three of the four camps will now leave from a U.S. base to meet with their ISF partners to continue to train and advise.

Jackson said the small number of USF at camp Wessam will continue to live and work at the 14th IA Div. headquarters for the duration of the brigade's time in country.

Earlier this year, U.S. Division – South returned Camps Hutch and Area 51, both in the Shaibah Training Center, to the Government of Iraq. Until recently, a platoon of Soldiers with 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th Field Artillery remained at Area 51 after their ceremony. Now only IA Soldiers remain.

## Iraqi corrections officer tactical operation center opened

 CAMP CROPPER, Iraq – Members of United States Forces – Iraq and the Iraq Ministry of Justice opened a tactical operation center for Iraqi corrections officers during a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 2 at Camp Cropper.

The construction of the three-building facility began in June 2009 and was completed one month early in preparation to receive Iraqi stu-

dents, said 1st Lt. Daniel Barnhart, 89th Military Police Brigade engineer officer in charge.

The estimated cost of the facility is about \$1.3 million, which includes the construction and all amenities and equipment inside, Barnhart said.

"What we see today is the completion of a \$1 million facility that will deliver a world class detainee command and control capability to the Government of Iraq," said the first guest speaker, Maj. Gen. David Quantock, USF-I provost marshal general.

Quantock recognized the importance of supplying the Iraqi corrections system with top-of-the-line facilities to match the task ahead of them.

"Not only is it important that we release or transfer detainees in a safe and orderly manner, but it is also equally important that we assist the Government of Iraq by transferring world class facilities to the Iraqi corrections service to properly execute its responsibilities for taking care of the detainees under their charge," Quantock said.

With this new TOC, ICOs will be able to oversee and track everything that happens in their area of operations.

"A functioning TOC provides the necessary glue to manage and oversee all facility operations," said Lt. Col. Eric Mullai, 192nd Military Police Battalion and Cropper theater internment facility commander. "This includes visitation, medical services, programs and rehabilitation services.

"They will also be able to ensure that the detainee population is housed, cared and accounted for in accordance with international standards for detention."

ICOs who have been trained at the Iraqi Central Training Center for detainee operations will receive further training to enhance their skills inside the TOC.

"The 192nd MP Battalion along with the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program advisers will be the primary trainers for the Iraqi corrections personnel," Mullai said. "The prime focus is to train the leadership to manage the day-to-day operations through management of daily status reports, facility population counts, processing of incidents and disciplinary reports and management of detainee schedule of calls.

"Management of emergency situations and incidents, which is critical in maintaining control, is built off the successful management of these fundamental tasks."

Beginning in October 2009, ICOs began taking the lead in detention operations here by increasing responsibility and taking the lead inside of the compounds.

A one-for-one ratio of Soldiers to ICOs was implemented in compound II of the theater internment facility.

"We are looking forward to the ICOs being able to take over the camp and the compounds, have the capabilities and the training that they can do their job in a perfect way," said Capt. Omar, the ICO warden.

Mullai said, "The ICOs are well on their way to managing the TIF. The Iraqi leadership under warden Omar has been very receptive of learning the management aspects of facility operations."

Ra'ad Jader Khalaf, Iraq Ministry of Justice deputy director general and second guest speaker, recognized the work U.S. and Iraqi forces have done to get them to a higher standard of detention operations.

"Today represents the cooperation of American and Iraqi forces working together to achieve the transfer of correctional facilities whether they be in the middle, south or north Iraq," Ra'ad said.


"We appreciate the training and support the Americans provided to develop the experience

of Iraqi correction officers," Ra'ad said. "Today's transfer of the Iraqi corrections tactical operation center to the Ministry of Justice is a result of the American sustainment and support, and as a representative of the Ministry of Justice, I would like to thank all of you."

Before concluding his speech, Quantock promised a long lasting relationship between the U.S. and the GoI.

"We will continue to work in partnership, not only until we turn over this facility, but into the future as we build on a long-term partnership between the United States government and the Iraqi Ministry of Justice," Quantock said.

## Newest Iraqi pilots earn wings, strengthen force

 KIRKUK, Iraq – The Iraqi Air Force marked another milestone as new Iraqi pilots graduated from the second rotary wing and fifth-fixed wing classes at the Iraqi Flight Training School Feb. 1 in Kirkuk.

The 17 new pilots completed training that included classroom time, simulator sorties and practical exercises in flying training devices. Four of the fixed wing graduates also qualified for T-6 training because they scored higher than 80 percent on the American Language Course Placement Test.

"These outstanding young officers will have wings pinned to their chests and will make the transition from student to operational pilot," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott M. Hanson, Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission – Air Force and 321st Air Expeditionary Wing commanding general. "These new Airmen will arrive at their units at a time of rapid growth as the Iraqi Air Force increases operations across the country in support of all Iraqi Security Forces, taking full responsibility for the protection of the Iraqi people."

The Iraqi Air Force began with five Iraqi pilots who trained in Britain in 1931, and grew to what was once the sixth largest Air Force in the world. It was nearly depleted during the 1991 Gulf War, and was grounded after the United States, Britain and France seized control of Iraq's airspace in the 1990s.

With every graduation of newly trained pilots, Iraq's Air Force takes a step forward in the rebuilding process.

"After years of drought, we joined hands and exchanged common goals for the sake of rebuilding the Air Force and a free, democratic and unified Iraq," said Staff Brig. Gen. Ali, commander of the Iraqi Air Force College.

Ali reminded the audience to remember the initial five pilots of the Iraqi Air Force and the others who followed, sacrificing their lives for their country.

"We remember them as role models and heroes," he said.

Including these graduating students, 65 pilots have graduated from the Iraqi Flight Training School, logging more than 9,000 hours of training since it opened Oct. 1, 2007.

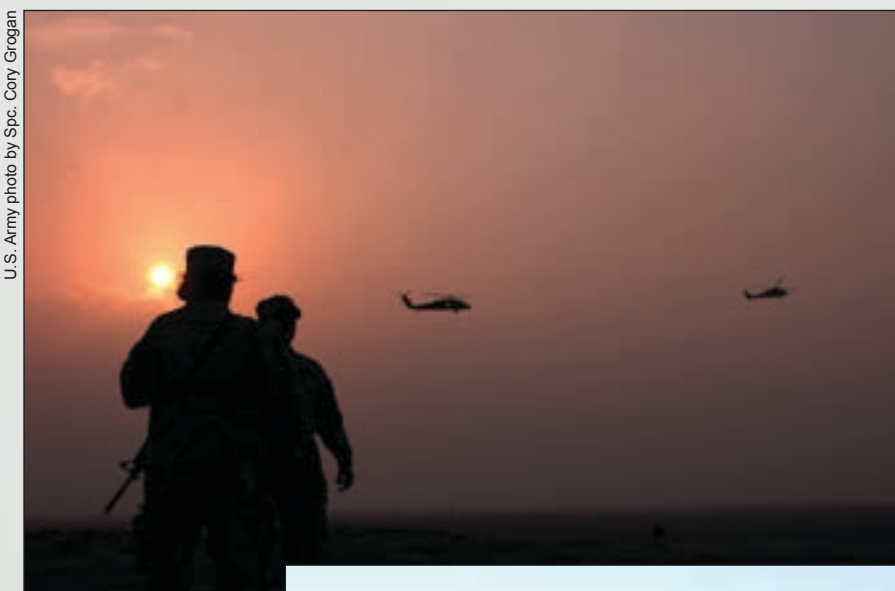
"It's no secret that the Iraqi people love the Air Force – especially its pilots – and have been wondering when the Iraqi falcons would be in the sky again, carrying the flag and rebuilding confidence in the armed forces," said Ali. "This will lead to a more secure country, the defeat of terrorists, bringing peace to Iraq."



# Phantom Support



Soldiers with the New Mexico National Guard's 1115th Transportation Company converse as UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters fly by Feb. 3 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Richmond Baikenmeyer

(Right) Soldiers with the 396th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prepare a load on a palletized loading system for their move to Contingency Operating Base Adder. The 396th Trans. Co. out of Fort Stewart, Ga., is being re-assigned to COB Adder as a part of the movement of equipment and personnel and downsizing of U.S. Forces in Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Capt. Vincent Cerchione



(Above) First Lt. Alesia Hughes, executive officer with E Company, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and an Orangeburg, S.C., native, receives a commanders coin of excellence from Col. C.J. Read, commander of the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Layton, Utah, native, Feb. 2 for the support she provided to the 96th Sustainment Brigade.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tad Browning



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan

A Soldier with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team stands patrol outside the Ziggurat of Ur, Feb. 3, atop what is believed by many to have once been the Prophet Abraham's kitchen.

Staff Sgt. Demetro Ochoa, 36th Sustainment Brigade noncommissioned officer in charge of Heroes dining facility, fires his M4 rifle during a small arms competition Feb. 8 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq