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Col. Gregory Robinette and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga case the brigade colors during a transfer of authority ceremony on Feb. 18, 2014 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

371 Transfers Authority

Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Hill

The 371st Sustainment Brigade transferred authority of support operations in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to the 108th Sustainment Brigade during a transfer of authority ceremony on Feb. 18, 2014 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"I have to say how proud I am of a group of soldiers and leaders who helped foster an atmosphere and a culture of success," said Col. Gregory W. Robinette, a Bowling Green, Ohio native and the commander of the 371st Sus. Bde.

The transfer of authority process began when the 108th Sus. Bde., based out of Chicago, arrived at Camp Arifjan to replace the 371st Sus. Bde. in the beginning of

February, 2014. The 371st Sus. Bde., based out of Springfield, Ohio, was in charge of support operations since June, 2013

"I'm here today a better commander, a better officer and a better soldier because of the members of the 371st Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sus. Bde.," said Lt. Col. Mark A. Raaker, the commander of the 371st STB, 371st Sus. Bde.

The Ohio unit was responsible for support operations in Southwest Asia, a region that includes 8 countries with units operating throughout the area, said Col. Thomas E. Haidet, a Westerville, Ohio native and the deputy commander of the 371st Sus. Bde.

The soldiers of the 108th Sus. Bde. shadowed their 371st Sus. Bde. counterparts for two weeks to learn their daily tasks and responsibilities, to include

logistical, administrative and operational support during the deployment.

"The shadowing was helpful, I've never worked in joint visitor's bureau before this deployment and it was an eye-opening experience," said Capt. Michael Davidson, a Park Forest, Illinois native and the joint visitor's bureau officer in charge with the 108th Sus. Bde.

The 371st Sus. Bde. has deployed in support of WWI, WWII and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their current deployment to Kuwait marks the brigade's third deployment in 10 years.

"At our peak the 371st Sus. Bde. had soldiers executing operations in eight countries, at sea and at every port in the theater, and while executing those missions, we stood ready to support a number of contingency missions," said Robinette. "So be proud of what you've accomplished and when you go home proudly tell your stories to your families, friends and your communities."





Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga receives a tour of the motor pool from Sgt. Johnathan Casto at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on Feb. 1, 2014.

Command Sgt. Maj. Barga of the 371st Sus. Bde. tours cargo operations in Southwest Asia.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Hill

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Barga, a Versailles, Ohio native and the command sergeant major for the 371st Sustainment Brigade visited three soldiers with the 371st Sus. Bde. currently deployed to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on Jan. 29-31.

“I’m impressed by our three non-commissioned officers and how well they’ve worked with the Air Force to try and solve problems and fix issues,” said Barga.

The soldiers are tasked with cargo operations in Oman, which includes hauling equipment on and off of aircraft and supporting unit movement

teams that are escorting their unit’s cargo.

The three soldiers have been separated from the majority of the 371st Sus. Bde., which deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in June, 2013.

“It’s good to have a visitor, it’s been a while since I’ve seen anyone from the 371st and I’m glad to hear everyone’s doing well,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joel A. Capell, a Woodstock, Ohio native and an Army liaison officer for an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia with the 371st Sus. Bde.

The visit also included a trip to the port, where Barga met with the crew of the M.G. Charles P. Gross, Logistical Support Vessel 5 (LSV-5), where the crew was unloading cargo as part

of their current mission at sea.

It was a great opportunity to meet the command sergeant major of the brigade while at sea, said Pfc. Dylan Carter, a watercraft operator attached to the LSV-5.

The 371st Sus. Bde., based out of Springfield, Ohio has deployed in support of WWI, WWII and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their current deployment to Kuwait marks the brigade’s third deployment in 10 years.

“Like all 371st soldiers they are performing their jobs admirably, and with little to no supervision from the brigade headquarters,” said Barga.



Command Sgt. maj. Scott M. Barga watches cargo operations at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on Feb. 1, 2014.



Command Sgt Maj. Scott M. Barga, the command sergeant major for the 371st Sustainment Brigade, speaks with Pfc. Dylan Carter, a watercraft operator attached to the M.G. Charles P. Gross, Logistical Support Vessel 5, at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on Jan. 30, 2013.

YEAR IN REVIEW THROUGH PHOTOS

