

The Expeditionary Times

Proudly serving the finest Expeditionary service members throughout Iraq

Vol. 3 Issue 16

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

On the fly



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Master Sergeant
spends 26 years with
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Providers pay final respect to Soldier

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. LISA A. COPE
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

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

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

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

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

Spc. Quentin K. Schul, the

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

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

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

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

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

Spencer will not be forgotten, said Atchison.



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

Operations center tracks convoys and entry control points

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE LIBERTY, Iraq – Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command

(Expeditionary) are making sure Contingency Operating Base Liberty is safe and secure, by monitoring and tracking personnel and equipment that come on and off the COB.

The Area Defense Operations Center is manned 24 hours a day to track any significant events on or around the base's entry-control points, and convoys coming in and out of the base.

Staff Sgt. Chatch Revenge,

a current operations assistant from HHT and a Portland, Ore., native, said she assists with all facets of daytime operations.

"We track all of the unit's tasks," she said. "We oversee the ECPs and respond if anything happens. It's very reactionary, almost like a dispatch job."

Revenge said the unit has its own quick reaction force team that responds if there are any issues around the gates. This is

especially important at times when the equipment used to check in and badge local nationals malfunctions.

"Sometimes things can get a little testy, so we might have to send a QRF team to assess the situation," she said.

The ADOC uses a system called Command Post of the Future to track all incidents and events around the base, said Revenge.

SEE ECP ON PAGE 4

Balad Blotter February 26 - March 4

LARCENY:

The complainant entered the law enforcement desk to report unauthorized charges to her debit card. The complainant said she had discovered numerous unauthorized charges originating from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service over several days, totaling \$2264.09. Management personnel from AAFES gave the complainant transaction records of all charges made to her account along with closed-circuit television of a subject utilizing the complainant's debit card.

HUFFING RELATED INCIDENT:

The complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported that a subject was suspected of huffing inhalants in his room. Patrols were briefed and dispatched. The patrols arrived on scene and made contact with the subject. The patrols apprehended the subject who consented to search. The patrol seized one compressed aerosol can, one WD-40 aerosol can, and one weapons-lubricant aerosol can. The complainant stated that the witness informed him of the subject huffing inhalants in their room. The complainant stated that he instructed his operations noncommissioned officer to contact the law enforcement desk and told the witness to standby until further notice. The witness stated he was asleep in bed at approximately 6:25 p.m. when he heard air coming out of a can from the subject's side of the room. The witness heard a sigh from the subject and stated this action went on five to six more times. The witness said he quietly got out of bed and peaked at the subject and saw him lying in bed under the covers with a can of cheese and had it to his mouth. The witness stated that once he saw that he left the room and went to report this to the complainant. During questioning the witness stated he was not exactly sure the can was a can of cheese. The subject was advised of and acknowledged his rights, declined legal counsel, and completed a written statement. The subject initially stated he had not abused any inhalants but during a question and answer session, the subject recanted his statement and admitted to inhaling a three to four second spray of the inhalant with the intent of getting high. The subject was released to his first sergeant.

NIPR: 443-8602
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Combat stress: sleep trouble? We can help...

BY CAPT. MIKE KNIGHT
1908TH MED. DET.



Do you find yourself tossing and turning while waiting to fall asleep? Do you wake up in the morning feeling more tired than when you had lain down the night before? If so, you are experiencing a common problem with deployed soldiers and that is inadequate sleep. There are many reasons why sleep problems develop, whether they are things out of your control, such as mission requirements or working the night shift, or are things that you can directly influence such as caffeine intake and time management. Regardless of the factors that cause your sleepless nights, there are things you can do to increase your chances of getting a good night's sleep.

Practice good stress-management techniques. Managing your stress levels helps your brain "power down" at the end of the day. It is very difficult to fall asleep and stay asleep when your brain is still trying to solve the day's problems. Find something that works for you in managing your stress before bed. Writing in a journal is a great way of getting your stressful thoughts out of your head and down on paper. Other stress-management techniques include talking to your buddies, finding some quiet time to yourself, listening to music or exercising.

Avoid caffeine intake and nicotine. We live in the age of energy drinks and although they may help you get going in the morning, they may also prevent you

from winding down at the end of the day. Avoid caffeinated drinks at least 4 hours prior to your bedtime. This includes energy drinks, coffee, and soda. Also, avoid smoking prior to going to bed. This may be a tough habit for you to break, but it could also be the reason why you don't sleep well. Nicotine is a stimulant your body has to overcome before it can rest.

Exercise regularly and avoid strenuous activity prior to bedtime. Exercising increases levels of adrenaline and other chemicals that keep you going. Exercising later in the evening prevents these chemicals from returning to normal levels before you want to turn out the lights. If you do choose to exercise after work, keep your workout times consistent, allowing your body to adjust to the workout over time.

Establish a good sleep routine. Go to bed at the same time every day. With mission requirements, this may not always be easy but work within your constraints. Getting your body set to a routine sleep time can help you fall asleep faster. Practice using the same rituals before bed every night, such as reading a book or journaling to let your brain know it's time to go to bed.

If you try these things and still struggle, try one of the 1908th Combat Stress Control Detachment's classes at the Patriot Clinic. Sleep-enhancement classes are offered Monday through Friday at various times. Call the Patriot Clinic at 318-433-2402 to find out when a class is available.



EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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36th Sustainment Brigade
90th Sustainment Brigade
96th Sustainment Brigade
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team
155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
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: Soldier evaluations

By SGT. 1ST. CLASS ROBERT CHRISTIAN
13TH ESC ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL



Soldiers often take issue with bad ratings they receive on their noncommissioned officer and officer evaluation reports.

Army evaluation reports are meant to be honest assessments of how well Soldiers perform their duties and adhere to professional standards. Performance is evaluated through direct observation, taking note of the activities executed, and followed up with quarterly counseling.

The evaluation process may start before the rating period, when the rated Soldier's rating chain is being established, but only the rated period may be documented.

Counseling is required to be conducted within 30 days after the beginning of the rating period and quarterly thereafter for NCOs, warrant officers, chief warrant officers 2, lieutenants and captains.

Quarterly counseling for all other ranks will be on an as-needed basis.

A duty description is developed for the Soldier with major performance objectives to accomplish during the

rating period. Counseling is meant to steer the Soldier toward excellence in the early stages of the rated period.

As a rated Soldier, one should always approach evaluation counseling with an open mind and listen attentively to the duty description and guidance of the counselor. Reviewing the counseling form during and afterward is a must.

If a new rater is designated, one should discuss what your previous responsibilities were, what they will be now, and how you can go about assisting in section goals. Once your rater has explained to you what his or her

expectations are, it is now your turn to follow and work along those guidelines.

Attention to the details the rater has set out for you will almost guarantee you will know what your NCOER will look like months before the final copy is signed.

The basic foundation of the evaluation system is consistent – evaluate today's Soldier to select and develop tomorrow's leaders. For further guidance and reference on this issue see Army Regulation 623-3, Department of the Army Pamphlet 623-3, and FM 6-22 Appendix B.

Joint Base Balad (13th ESC): DSN 433-2125
Lt. Col. Reginald Howard (Command Inspector General)
Maj. Christopher Minor (Deputy)
Master Sgt. Roy Thacker (NCOIC)

Q-West (15th Sust. Bde.): DSN 827-6115
Lt. Col. Gary Davis

Adder/Tallil (36th Sust. Bde./41st IBCT):
Maj. Andrea Shealy - DSN 833-1710
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

Taji (155 HBCT): DSN 834-3079
Lt. Col. Paul Bird

Sergeant's time: comprehensive Soldier fitness

By SGT. CHRISTOPHER ISAAC
158TH SOC



Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is a relatively new assessment tool that was introduced to the United States

Army Oct. 1, 2008.

This program allows the Army to go in depth with today's Soldiers as well as initial entry training service members to prepare them for the physical demands of war, as well as the different types of stress involved with theater and garrison environments.

One of the biggest problems we face today in the Army as leaders is helping our subordinates understand how to handle combat stress and use a logical and rational thought process to overcome adversity.

We often teach Soldiers how to become proficient at their military occupational specialties, assigned weapons and

physical fitness, but may overlook that Soldier's fitness level mentally, socially and spiritually. Comprehensive Soldier Fitness has the potential and ability to prepare Soldiers for combat environments and teach them to communicate with family members and friends while deployed.

There are Soldiers and noncommissioned officers who have completed anywhere from one to five deployments to combat environments. Particular situations and scenarios they have faced can be hard to convey to younger Soldiers to help them understand potential deployment stressors.

The CSF program can help mitigate stress, post traumatic stress disorder and potential suicide. For younger Soldiers, assessments done at appropriate intervals can detect and potentially eliminate future behavioral issues and prepare Soldiers for pre-deployment, combat and post-deployment stages.

CSF integrates a crawl, walk, run phase

system into Soldiers' careers, allowing them to adapt to the stress before bigger issues arise.

CSF can improve Soldiers' spiritual fitness, as well as social and family fitness. For example, a Soldier may lose sight of his faith and everything that once gave him encouragement and confidence during a deployment. CSF, along with additional assessment programs such as Global Assessment Tool, can strengthen and increase a Soldier's religious practices, as well as teach that Soldier how to maintain communication with a loved one.

With the success of CSF assessments done at an individual level, this program can be implemented into training posts and eventually every installation in the Army.

I believe this assessment tool can succeed as NCOs spread the knowledge of this program at unit level. When performing a monthly counseling session on a subordinate, NCOs can apply CSF to the counseling, showing Soldiers that their

NCOs care and understand what they are going through, in garrison and during deployments.

If Soldiers understand what challenges they may face and know there is someone there to help and teach them, their overall fitness level will help them overcome that challenge.

Not only can CSF be used to help a Soldier, it can be used to help prepare a family or spouse for the stress they may face on the other end of the spectrum. It helps family members adapt to having a service member in their family deployed on a consistent basis. The success of CSF can also be improved at the family level when spouses introduce this tool in family readiness groups meetings, and when communicating with other families of deployed loved ones.

By supporting the development and awareness of CSF, Soldiers and families can be better prepared to meet deployment challenges and improve the overall strength and fitness of the Army.

Where are my photos?
You can find them on Provider Common!

Start ---> Run
Type: \\balafsv11zn03\PROVIDER_COMMON

Run
Type the name of a program, folder, document, or Internet resource, and Windows will open it for you.
Open: \\balafsv11zn03\PROVIDER_COMMON

--Select "PAO" from the JBB homepage
--Select "Provider Common" in the left hand column

ECP: ‘If we see an issue, we quickly try to see what the problem is’

ECP FROM PAGE 1

“Using the CPOF, we can plot points where shots were fired and then zoom in on the grid with our cameras and look for anything suspicious,” she said.

Spc. Ernesto Sanchez, a radio-transmitter operator with HHT and a Dallas native, said he logs information on the convoys that roll out at night and uses the CPOF system to track them.

“I track all the convoy’s movements and make sure they go where they need to be,” he said. “I stay in constant communications with my battle

noncommissioned officer in charge and inform them what is going on.”

Sanchez said he also informs the convoy of any possible improvised explosive devices that may have been detected on the route.

“This job keeps me very busy,” he said. “The shift goes by really fast.”

First Lt. Mathew H. Lawson, the COB Liberty ADOC battle captain and a Johnson City, Texas, native, said his Soldiers are the central dispatch for emergency events and routine force protection issues.

“At night we deal with convoys primarily,” he said. “We are battle

tracking the convoy’s common operating picture and also tracking any additional assets the convoy is providing.”

Lawson said they track anywhere from four to six convoys each night, and also focus on tracking the medical evacuation status on trips to COB Taji and Contingency Operating Location Kalsu.

“If we see an issue, we quickly try to see what the problem is,” he said.

Lawson said their busier nights are caused by red air, which means that no air support is available for the convoys.

“The convoys can still go out but we need a red air memorandum signed by higher to be able to do that,” he said. “Red air adds a little more stress to the job, but we have been relatively lucky and our convoys have rarely gotten hit with anything.”

Lawson said he has enjoyed his deployment and the time he gets to spend working with his crew.

“It’s nice to interact with all the different personalities of the guys on shift,” he said. “It’s fun to talk with everyone, maintain a good work ethic, and it makes the days go by a lot faster.”

JOINT BASE BALAD EASTER/PASSOVER SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Penance/Confessions

March 5	1900-1945	Provider Chapel
March 12	1600-1645	Gilbert Chapel
March 20	1900-1945	Freedom Chapel

Holy Thursday

April 1	1900	Provider Chapel
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Good Friday

April 2	1900 1930	Stations of the Cross/Provider Chapel Liturgy/Provider Chapel
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Holy Saturday

April 3	1900	Provider
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Easter Sunday

April 4	1100 1230 2030	Provider Chapel Hospital Freedom Chapel
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Protestant

Good Friday

April 2	1900	Gilbert Chapel
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Easter Sunday

April 4	0530 1030	Holt Stadium [Sunrise service] Gilbert Chapel [Baptism Celebration]*
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* Anyone wishing to be baptized may contact a Protestant Chaplain at 433-7703.

Jewish

Passover

March 28 & March 29	1900	Passover Seder/DFAC 2, Tuskegee Rm.
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For Further Information Please Call:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703
Provider Chapel: 483-4107
Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

Providers support Sherpa operations for Iraq, Kuwait

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Army-specific C-23 Sherpa is the primary mode of transportation for time-sensitive cargo to small or remote locations, and those with limited landing areas in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

The 56th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) oversees the movement of supplies on Sherpas to approximately 15 bases in Iraq and one in Kuwait, said Capt. Luke Davis, commander of the 56th MCT.

Because of its small size, the Sherpa's ability to land on improved and unimproved landing surfaces makes it an agile tool for military units in Iraq, said Davis, an Anchorage, Alaska, native.

"It allows us to get (supplies) to the Warfighter in hostile conditions," he said.

Davis said Sherpas move high-priority items that are needed within a short timeframe and cannot wait in a storage

yard for a larger aircraft.

Medical supplies, repair parts and supplies related to force protection can be transported between bases overnight, he said. With supplies that are important to the safety of service members, time is a major priority, said Davis.

"In a situation where it's very time dependent ... we utilize the Sherpa," he said. "It provides the command the ability to get parts to the right place in a relatively short amount of time."

The Sherpa is able to move a maximum load of roughly 3,500 pounds, said Air Force Airman 1st Class Brett Lambert, an air transportation and Sherpa operations coordinator with the 56th MCT. Cargo is loaded onto metal reinforced pallets that weigh roughly 150 pounds, he said.

Sherpas make shorter trips than their larger counterparts, who are better suited for long-distance missions, said Lambert, a San Jose, Calif., native. The Sherpas hop from base to base, dropping off cargo in a significantly shorter amount of time than a convoy could, he said.

While the Sherpa serves mainly as a cargo aircraft, it can also carry passengers, said Davis.

The Sherpa is a much smaller ver-



Air Force Airman 1st class Brett Lambert, an air transport and Sherpa operations coordinator with the 56th Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a San Jose, Calif., native, tightens the straps to secure a pallet of cargo March 1 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

sion of the C-17 Globemaster, and can hold up to four pallets, or a maximum of 18 personnel and their baggage, said Lambert.

In 2009, Sherpa operations moved 7,121 passengers and 1,996 pallets of cargo to various destinations through-

out theater, said Davis. In January 2010 alone, Sherpas moved 332 passengers and 176 pallets of cargo, he said.

"When it absolutely, positively has to be there overnight, you can really depend on (the) Sherpa to get it there," he said.

Hands-on experience helps Soldiers build for others

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers at the Allied Trades shop with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, use skills honed through years

of training to keep operations running smoothly and safely at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

The unit, made up of skilled wood and metalworkers, has provided COB Taji with the services that keep equipment and facilities mission capable.

Spc. Samuel Valencia, a welder with the 3666th SMC, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said his shop upgraded the guard towers at Camp Taji to provide extra security for the base.

The Soldiers of the Allied Trades shop added armor to the towers and fabricated tables inside for radio equip-

ment and surveillance cameras, said Valencia, a Chandler, Ariz., native.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raymond L. Baxter, the Allied Trades supervisor with the 3666th, said his Soldiers have also fabricated components of the base's water-purification and life-support systems.

"We've actually helped those guys out, just building things to keep them running," said Baxter, an Apache Junction, Ariz., native.

The Allied Trades shop can work on anything, from up-armored vehicles, to gates for the Iraqi Army and everything in between, said Valencia.

"We've been busy since the first day we got here," he said. "I love it."

Often times, in order to build or repair a specific part, the shop will first have to build the tools needed for the job, said Sgt. Dale S. Parrish, a machinist with Allied Trades and a Phoenix, native.



Sgt. Dale S. Parrish, a machinist with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Phoenix, native, assembles the mill so he can begin cutting metal for a project at the Allied Trades shop Feb. 27 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

"It's not like you can run down to a local store and pick up the items you need to build something," said Parrish. "That gets to be interesting."

When they don't have mission-essential projects to work on, the Soldiers at Allied Trades put their skills to work making celebratory items for units.

"We're in the process of making a few different types of trophies for a couple units," said Baxter. "A lot of the stuff we make, we try to add a little art and pizzazz to it."

Baxter and his team built a large crest for the 541st CSSB and a rotating crest for birthday celebrations.

Standards are high for everything that comes in or out of the Allied Trades shop, said Baxter.

"If it doesn't look good and doesn't pass my judgment, it doesn't go," he said. "We do it all over again. Sometimes it takes us a little longer to do things, but if it's not a mission, (doesn't have to) get out the door right now, it's going to be 100 percent, nice-looking, grade-A quality material."

Though they take pride in every project, Parrish said the most rewarding part of the job has been working on mission-essential equipment.

"It feels good to know that you're making someone else safer out on the road, or you're helping them get a vehicle back up that is really needed to get a mission accomplished, he said. "You actually had a hand in it."

Quartermaster Soldiers preserve Iraqi environment

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JORGE ANAYA
36TH SUST. BDE.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers with the 40th Quartermaster Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), take steps to care for the environment during their sustainment operations in Iraq.

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

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

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

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

Aubut said used oil is taken to industrial plants where it is heated and separated from water, solids and other im-

purities, and then filtered and refined. Benefits of recycled oil include additives for manufactured products mainly used for mechanical engines, hydraulic fluid and even fuel for industrial burners, he said.

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

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

“We receive plenty of hazardous waste from the surrounding units,” he said. “At times, we receive up to 4,000 gallons of waste and maybe up to 19,000 pounds of vehicle batteries. We are inspected to ensure compliance, and my Soldiers are trained to know their purpose in the HAZMAT Yard and how much their contribution is helping.”

Spc. Raymond Palardy, the 40th QM Co. HAZMAT team clerk and an Ash Way, R.I., native, said paperwork helps them keep track of the contam-



Pfc. Sontonyio Neely, an Augusta, Ga., native, Pfc. Ryan Grissom, a Denton, Texas, native, and Spc. Ahkeem Benton, a Como, N.C., native, all Hazardous Materials Yard clerks with the 40th Quartermaster Company out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, 732nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), place batteries on a pallet for transportation Feb. 8 in the HAZMAT Yard at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

inants each unit turns in.

The job requires at least 40 hours of HAZMAT management and knowledge of EPA standards and regulations training, said Palardy. Paperwork proves that units are following these standards, he said.

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

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

Mississippi Guardsman honored for sense of duty

BY CAPT. MURRAY SHUGARS
2/198TH CAB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
Q-WEST, Iraq – A Mississippi Army National Guard Soldier received a command sergeant major's award for embodying duty, one of the seven Army values, during a ceremony Feb. 15 at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

Spc. James B. McMinn, a gunner serving with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team out of Greenwood, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Lake Village, Ark., native, was acknowledged for embodying duty, but was not present for the ceremony because he had re-deployed to attend a stateside military school.

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

“This is an NCO-driven effort to honor Soldiers who stood out during the deployment,” said Campbell, a Senatobia, Miss., native. “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. Michael A. Ginn, an Itabena, Miss., native, said McMinn is among the most dependable Soldiers in his company.

“The Army defines duty as acting in the absence of orders or direction,

based on an inner sense of what is morally and professionally right,” said Ginn. “Spc. McMinn sets the standard for duty in B Co. He always fulfills his obligations, and takes responsibility for his actions and the actions of those under his care. He has a sound character for excellence. He’s always on time, in the right uniform, never complaining and always accomplishes the mission.”

Staff Sgt. Wesley N. Page, McMinn’s squad leader, said McMinn exhibits duty in everything he does.

“He is a gunner in second platoon and serves as the communications specialist during missions,” said Page. “He has spent many hours training on various radios to ensure that our platoon can communicate on the road. He is one of the first Soldiers to show up on mission day and one of the last to leave after the mission is complete. His (M249 Squad Automatic Weapon) and shotgun are always properly cleaned and

mission-capable. He always completes tasks with the utmost professionalism and in a timely manner. Spc. McMinn is always willing to help with any duty that the platoon has to do.”

McMinn said he was surprised by the recognition.

“I didn’t expect this, and it’s a great honor to be one of the few Soldiers chosen for this recognition,” he said. “They could have chosen any number of Soldiers who work just as hard to get the job done.”

McMinn defined duty as the effort to always do one’s best, in any task.

“A Soldier should always give the best effort at everything because doing something half-way is sometimes worse than not doing anything at all,” he said. “Half-efforts don’t get the job done. Like it or not, you do the job because you have to and there’s no point in complaining.”

Inland Container Transfer Company looks ahead to drawdown

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

MAREZ, Iraq – The 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, has taken over the Central Receiving and Shipping Point at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq, to assist with the upcoming drawdown of troops and equipment from theater.

“Our mission is to deploy and re-deploy units,” said Sgt. 1st Class Waldeemar Paoli, the first sergeant of the 1st ICTC, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Paoli, a Yauco, Puerto Rico, native, said his unit, which took control of the CRSP yard Jan. 29, will act as the middleman between Contingency Operating Base Q-West and bases in central and southern Iraq, working 24 hours a day to process all incoming and outgoing cargo.

“We are still the gateway for the

small (bases),” he said.

As the responsible drawdown of personnel and equipment draws nearer, the 1st ICTC’s mission will intensify.

“It’s definitely going to get busier for us,” said Spc. Richard Rymer, a cargo specialist with the 1st ICTC and a Visalia, Calif., native.

Rymer said he looks forward to completing the mission and participating in the drawdown.

“It feels good being a part of history,” he said.

Both Rymer and Paoli are on their third deployment.

Paoli said he came to Iraq in 2003, moving the first assets from Kuwait to Camp Cedar, Iraq, and has now come full circle, moving assets out of the country.

“I see the big picture now,” he said. “I’m proud knowing, somehow, I was part of the changes for this country.”

In addition to the CRSP yard, Paoli and his Soldiers run the Empty Container Control Point, where units drop off unused containers and pick up extra containers when it comes time to redeploy.

They also assist the movement control teams in the area by man-



The 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) took command of the Central Receiving and Shipping Point Jan. 29 at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq. The Marez CRSP yard controls all incoming and outgoing cargo in the Mosul area.

aging transportation movement requests on base.

Dealing with a variety of missions and the uncertainty of their future is a challenge, said Paoli.

“We don’t know if we’re going to be here in six months; the mission

could change,” he said.

Paoli said his Soldiers understand the need for adaptability during this time of change for the country.

“Whatever mission we might be challenged with, we are trained for,” he said.

Quartermaster company adapts to changing mission

BY CAPT. CHARLES C. ALLEN
15TH SUST. BDE.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Under

pending deactivation orders, the 102nd Quartermaster Company out of Fort Campbell, Ky., deployed a second time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This time, however, the unit was tasked with a water purification mission supporting Warfighters located throughout Iraq.

Equipped with the experience and the capability to receive, store, issue and distribute fuel, the transition to water purification was not an overwhelming challenge for the unit, said 1st Sgt. Johnny Ford, the senior non-commissioned officer of the 102nd QM Co., 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“We simply sent roughly 25% of our force to a water operations course at Fort Story, Va., and cross trained the remainder of the unit during several

week-long exercises at Fort Campbell’s Kyle Lake prior to deployment,” said Ford, a Homedale, Idaho, native.

The company significantly enhanced their training exercises by constantly rotating their water teams to the training location, averaging three to four combat logistic patrols each day, said Ford. The unit’s CLP training placed equally heavy emphasis on convoy planning, tracking and security, he said.

“Although we had no requirement to internally move our water teams to the mission sites in Iraq, we wanted to possess those critical skill sets in case we were called upon to do so,” he said.

Additional CLP training included driver’s training, weapons training, live fire exercises, counter-improvised explosive device lanes, vehicle rollover training and global-positioning system training.

When the unit arrived in Iraq, the water purification mission succeeded with no issues, said Ford. For the first six months, air travel was utilized to rotate water teams to various bases and to conduct site surveys and leader

visits. This often proved to be a limited and unreliable means of travel, he said.

Midway through the deployment, the 80th Ordnance Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Wash., acquired a fleet of Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles and tasked the company’s third platoon as the battalion’s personnel security detachment.

Challenged with its own equipment-retrograde mission in support of the upcoming drawdown of forces, the PSD instantly provided the 80th Ord. Bn. with the flexibility to efficiently and effectively move its assets around the battlefield with minimal external support, said Ford.

The MRAPs also enhanced battlefield circulation capabilities, by enabling the PSD to safely escort key leaders throughout their areas of responsibility in order to conduct troop morale visits, site survey analysis, and attend special events. The PSD and MRAP package will be another important capability the 80th Ord. Bn. will hand over to its replacement unit, he said.

“This is exactly what we trained for

... (the) PSD mission has proven to be a huge morale boost for the Soldiers, and the constant training and mission execution has dramatically increased individual leadership development as well as technical and tactical proficiency throughout the platoon,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Morey, a platoon sergeant with the 102nd and an Adrian, Mich., native.

Though initially reluctant to perform mission tasks outside their scope of familiarity and occupational specialty, the Soldiers of the 102nd QM Co. have proven themselves to be flexible, multi-functional logisticians, said Ford.

Expanding their mission has helped the company see the big picture of their command’s mission in Iraq.

“Our Soldiers now have a much broader perspective of the Battalion’s overall mission,” said First Lt. Daniel Tuoti, a platoon leader with the 102nd and a Buffalo, N.Y., native. “Being on the PSD allows for us to interact more with other elements within the battalion, while continuing to directly support our own unit’s water purification platoon.”

Resource management office preps for drawdown

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

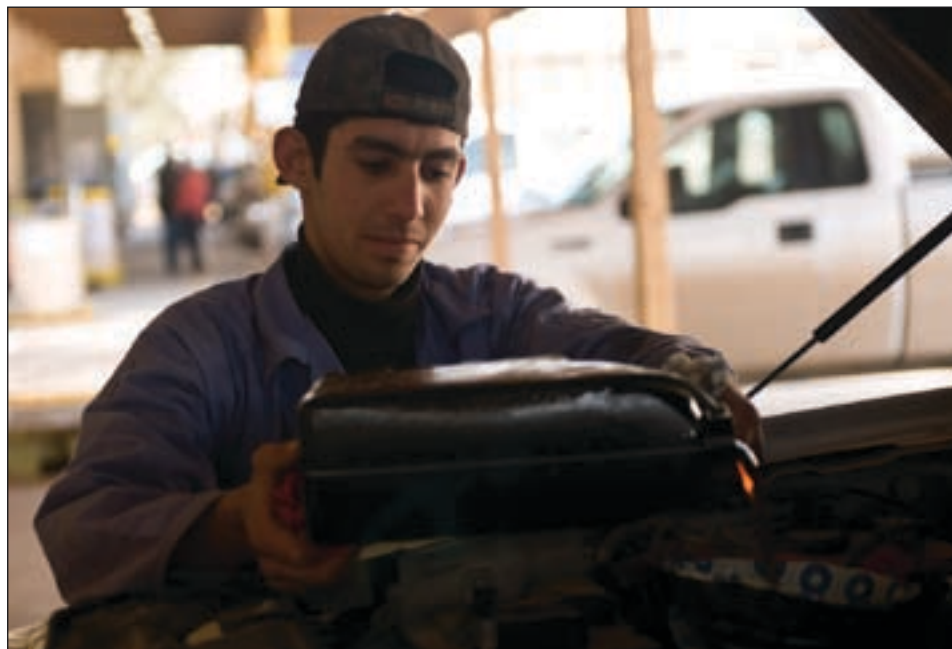
JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – As the U.S. military prepares for the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment from Iraq, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) resource management office is preparing the drawdown of funds and government contracts to safeguard taxpayer money.

“We take U.S. dollars off the battlefield,” said Sgt. Shavokia Jamison, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the resource management office with the 13th ESC and a Philadelphia native.

Jamison said her team’s mission is to meet the command’s intent of saving government and taxpayer funds, by limiting the amount of new supplies coming into Iraq and monitoring government contracts for any unnecessary spending.

Spc. Juan Maldonado, a budget analyst with the resource management office and a Luquillo, Puerto Rico, native, said he oversees unit spending to ensure money and supplies are not wasted.

“We make sure they’re asking for the



Mohammed Hassan Kadem, an oil-service center employee, changes a vehicle's oil Feb. 12 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The oil-service center is an Iraqi-owned business contracted to work at JBB.

right thing and the right amount,” he said. “If you need two ink cartridges, don’t ask for 10 or 15.”

Instead of ordering new supplies, units can also use the lateral transfer system to get equipment from other units who have extra, Maldonado said.

While limiting the amount of new

supplies coming into Iraq undoubtedly saves money, the big savings come from ending unnecessary government contracts, said Maj. Brian Steele, the assistant chief of staff comptroller for the 13th ESC and a Pittsfield, Mass., native.

“What we have tried to do is establish

a culture where we don’t spend money just to spend money,” he said.

As the responsible drawdown of troops and equipment draws near and bases close, the resource management office ensures base services end appropriately, said Steele. His team has done a good job at syncing the drawdown of contracts with base closures, he said.

“I have to say that the shifting ... and closing of (bases) has gone well,” he said.

In addition to saving taxpayer money, the resource management office works to boost the local economy in Iraq, said Spc. Rowena Smith, a budget analyst with the resource management office and a Philadelphia native.

Smith said Iraqi companies get local contracts before American companies, if they have the capabilities. The goal is to help the Iraqis get back on their feet financially with a sense of independence.

“Everyone wants to make something in Iraq,” she said.

The Iraqi people have proven themselves to be fully capable, said Smith, and the 13th ESC will continue assisting them until they leave the country.

“They can survive on their own, but they do have us as backup if need be,” she said.

Brigade commander connects with Soldiers across Iraq

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

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq—Col.

Daniel Hokanson, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), made his way across

Iraq in February to brief Soldiers on their upcoming redeployment events and issues.

Making stops at Contingency Operating Base Tallil, Victory Base Complex, Liberty Base, Al Asad Air Base, Camp Korean Village and Contingency Operating Location Scania, all places where 41st Soldiers are located, Col. Hokanson, a Keizer, Ore., native, discussed what his Soldiers could expect from now until their welcome-home celebration.

The key point of discussion was the handing over of the 41st mission to Louisiana’s 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, including the relief-in-

place/transfer of authority process, helping their replacements be successful and continuing safety measures.

“It was good, valuable information about benefits, the demobilization process and timeline,” said Sgt. Benjamin Standley, a force protection team member with C Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st IBCT, 13th ESC and a Portland, Ore., native.

Hokanson also spoke about schools – like the Warrior Leader Course – being offered to the Soldiers, as well as attending Yellow Ribbon Program seminars, which focus on Soldier reintegration and occur 30, 60 and 90 days after returning home.

With five companies from other states attached to the brigade, Hokanson addressed issues that affected all companies, such as drill dates, transition issues, employment and deployment extensions.

“It helped us understand the benefits and to know who to talk to for them,” said Cpl. Ramon Bearse, a security force team leader with C Co. and




Col. Dan Hokanson, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Keizer, Ore., native, briefs Soldiers on end-of-tour issues Feb. 19 at Liberty Base, Iraq.

a Detroit, Mich., native.


The 41st IBCT is scheduled to greet

the 256th this month in preparation for the transfer of authority.



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Nebraska Guardsmen perform convoy security in Baghdad

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Baghdad – Soldiers from the 1195th Transportation Company, 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) performed a convoy security mission March 2 to Contingency Operating Location Shield to deliver much-needed supplies to the base.

Due to the upcoming elections, convoys to smaller COLs around Baghdad will be scarce, so supplies needed to be delivered on time so COL Shield could sustain its mission through the Iraqi elections period.

The 1195th Trans. Co. out of Kearney, Neb., provides convoy security primarily in the Baghdad area and must travel at night due to the Security Agreement.

Staff Sgt. Nathan Reicks, the convoy commander for the re-supply mission and a McCook, Neb., native, said they were hauling basic supplies, fuel and ammunition to COL Shield to last them through the elections.

"If the mission doesn't get there, they can't sustain and might have to close down," he said. "A lot of these smaller COLs are helping in the training of the Iraqi's and they need all the supplies they can get."

Reicks said being a convoy commander takes a lot of responsibility.

"You have to be willing to put your neck out there for the guys," he said. "You are in charge and if anything goes wrong, you are the guy that has to have an answer for it."

Sgt. Clint L. Hay, a gunner and truck commander for the mission, said he has not seen many problems

with the people in Baghdad.

"Most of our problems are due to the weather," he said. "A lot of vehicles we escort can't really take the mud like the military vehicles we have, so we are always there to help them out the best way we can."

Hay, a Lexington, Neb., native, said the deployment has gone by fast.

"I think most of us would rather be out on the road staying busy," he said.

Hay said he has enjoyed his time in Iraq and working with the Soldiers in the unit.

"Through the good times and bad times, my fellow Soldiers and squad leaders have been there for me," he said. "They are a great bunch of guys."

Spc. Tyler Lauer, a driver with the 1195th Trans. Co. and a McCook, Neb. native, said he was a food service specialist before the deployment and volunteered for any position on the convoy security team, so certain slots could be filled.

Besides driving, Lauer said he is always checking the roads, looking for possible improvised explosive devices, suspicious people and making sure it is a safe ride for the gunner and the tactical commander of the truck.

"Tonight was busy, so we had to be on top of our game," he said. "There was a lot of activity, so I was watching out for people, but mainly watching the other vehicles on the road."

He said the main thing he does while driving in downtown Baghdad is to keep focused on his mission and report anything suspicious to his truck commander.

The group has grown together as a team, said Reicks.

"That's very important," he said. "These guys understand each other's strengths and weaknesses."

Reicks is proud that everyone's position is interchangeable.

"We have multiple people that can

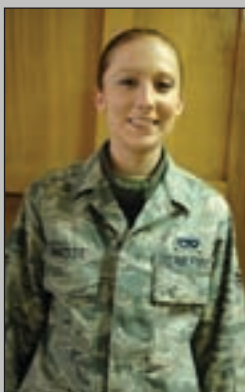


Sgt. Jason Delancey, the assistant convoy commander and a Columbus, Neb., native, Spc. Seth A. Weyeneth, a gunner and a McCook, Neb., native, and Sgt. Clint L. Hay, a truck commander and a Lexington, Neb., native, with the 1195th Transportation company, 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), perform preventive-maintenance checks and services on a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle March 2 at Contingency Operating Base Liberty in Baghdad. The Kearney, Neb., unit later went on a convoy security mission to Forward Operating Base Shield to deliver much-needed supplies.

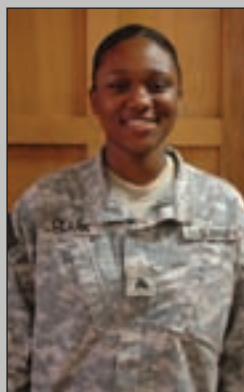
lead a convoy and could jump up in the gunner spot or be a driver" he said. "We trained people to work around

anything; we don't have set people at any one position. Everyone knows how to do the other's job."

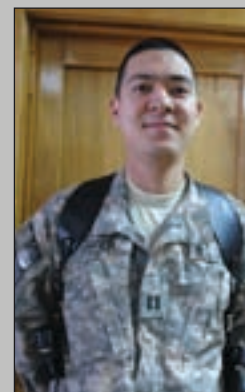
What's your favorite Olympic sport and why?



Airman 1st Class Michelle Busse, yard report manager, 49th Movement Control Battalion, St. Louis, Mo., native, said, "Snowboarding, because I wish I could snowboard like them."



Sgt. Lashunda Clark, transportation movement request manager, 49th Movement Control Battalion, Crestview, Fla., native, said, "Hockey, because its physical."



Capt. Richard Javier, intelligence day shift battle captain, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Phoenix, native, said, "Curling, because it seems like a sport that would be a lot of fun in the JOC."

Battle drill hones response techniques

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
ALLISON M. BOEHM
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Airmen littered the stretch of road, sprawled out in the gravel and dirt as if they had been hit by a mortar blast – awaiting first responders to assess them and take them to safety.

The sound of sirens and approaching vehicles was heard as medical personnel arrived and quickly began evaluating the staged victims during the Red Tail Battle Drill 10-01, recently.

The drill served as an opportunity for units to review tactics, techniques and procedures for a specific scenario and allowed for critical training in a defined battle space.

"Personnel deployed to Joint Base Balad are experts in employment at home stations," said Maj. Karl Koch, 332nd AEW Plans and Programs deputy and Exercise Evaluation chief. "The battle drill allows them and their respective units to assess local procedures and interagency coordination unique to combat operations at JBB."

The 332nd and 532nd Expeditionary Security Forces Groups, along with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and Army Emergency

Response Center Army Medics were able to serve as key players as they responded on-scene and to the Joint Emergency Operations Center.

"Although this is a situation we hope we will never have to respond to, these drills give us confidence that if it does occur, we will be able to react seamlessly," said Army Specialist Adam Perkins, 332nd ECES firefighter.

The battle drill served as a chance for all involved to strengthen their response to a crisis situation. Drills like this are vital to operational readiness, said Major Koch.

"The battle drill was successful in allowing individuals to practice their tasks and in assessing coordination between specialties," said Major Koch. "Minor shortfalls existed in certain pro-



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Linda C. Miller

Combat medics from the 248th Air Support Medical Company's ambulance platoon emergency response center lift a casualty into an ambulance during a joint battle drill exercise Feb. 12 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The exercise consisted of twelve simulated casualties and was conducted to evaluate the performance of first responders.

cesses; the battle drill was an excellent opportunity to identify or confirm those areas. With the essential response agencies prepared and in-place, Joint Base Balad is ready for any contingency."

The Dirty Dozen

- ✦ Lack of Crew Coordination
- ✦ Complacency
- ✦ Distraction
- ✦ Exceeding Your Limitations/Abilities
- ✦ Indiscipline
- ✦ Fatigue
- ✦ Stress
- ✦ Peer Pressure
- ✦ Lack of Knowledge
- ✦ Lack of Training
- ✦ Lack of Leader Involvement
- ✦ Lack of Pre-mission Planning

Two Wagonmasters reflect on becoming U.S. citizens

BY CAPT. THEODORE HOLLOWAY
15TH SUST. BDE. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
SPEICHER, Iraq – Two Soldiers from the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) completed the naturalization process and were sworn in as United States citizens Feb. 15, during a ceremony at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad.

Cpl. Pramote Karnkarn, a mechanic with the 724th Transportation Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit out of Bartonville, Ill., was born in 1976 in Bangkok, and in 1994, at the age of 18, was adopted by his aunt and uncle.

He lived in Maryland with his new adoptive parents until they moved to Kentucky, which he now calls home.

"I came to America for better education opportunities, and the economy is better," he said.

Karnkarn said his inspirations for becoming a citizen were his uncle

and stepfather. His uncle was a citizen when he was adopted.

"I feel honored to become a citizen," he said. "It is an amazing feeling that now I get to serve my country as a citizen."

In addition to his educational goal of graduating from college, Karnkarn said joining the Army has been a long-time dream of his.

"I enlisted in the Army when I saw the story in the news on Spc. Pat Tillman," he said. "His story inspired me to go and pursue my dream."

Karnkarn expressed his deepest appreciation for everyone who helped make his journey to becoming a citizen a memorable event.

His fellow Soldier, Spc. Erwin Atmosfera, a mechanic with the 611th Seaport Operations Company out of Fort Eustis, Va., attended some college in the Philippines, but soon followed his family to the United States.

Atmosfera was born in the town of Lagangilang in Abra, Philippines, in 1972. He worked there as a truck driver from 1995 to 2005.

"I came to the United States in 2005 to be with my mother in Manteca, Calif., to have a better quality of life and

to live the American dream," he said.

Between 2006 and 2007, he worked as a machine operator in Lathrop, Calif. Atmosfera said he enjoyed his job, but decided to enlist in the Army on May 30, 2007.

"I decided to enlist in the Army because I believe that it's part of the American dream," he said. "I enlisted so I could become a citizen, for job security and to see the world. When my family moves to the United States, I know the Army will take care of them."

Atmosfera's wife and two children, ages seven and 11, still live in the Philippines.

"My wife was worried when I came to America because she didn't know what to expect," he said.

Atmosfera said he plans to make the Army a career and continue to travel the world.

"I (got) to swear in while defending my country and that makes me proud," he said. "I want to thank everyone that



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Brown

Cpl. Pramote Karnkarn, a mechanic with the 724th Transportation Company, 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Bangkok native, and Spc. Erwin Atmosfera, a mechanic with the 611th Seaport Operations Company, also of the 264th CSSB, and a Lagangilang in Abra, Philippines, native, pose after their naturalization ceremony with Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, command sergeant major of 1st Corps, Feb. 15 at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad.

helped me get on this deployment so the process of becoming a U.S. citizen could be faster. Not only is this a great experience, it has helped me grow and become a better person."

Upon completion of his deployment, Atmosfera said he plans to move to Hawaii to be closer to the Philippines.

Tax center helps deployed service members file income taxes

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Joint Base Balad Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center opened Feb. 24 at JBB, Iraq, to aid deployed service members file their taxes while overseas.

The VITA center held tax assistance classes in January to prepare volunteers to assist fellow service members with filing, said Sherry Bowes, the law office superintendent for JBB with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

Though deployed service member are given a 180-day extension starting the day they leave a combat zone, said Bowes, a Tampa, Fla., native, the VITA center offers the chance to get it done overseas during tax season, in order to receive financial benefits.

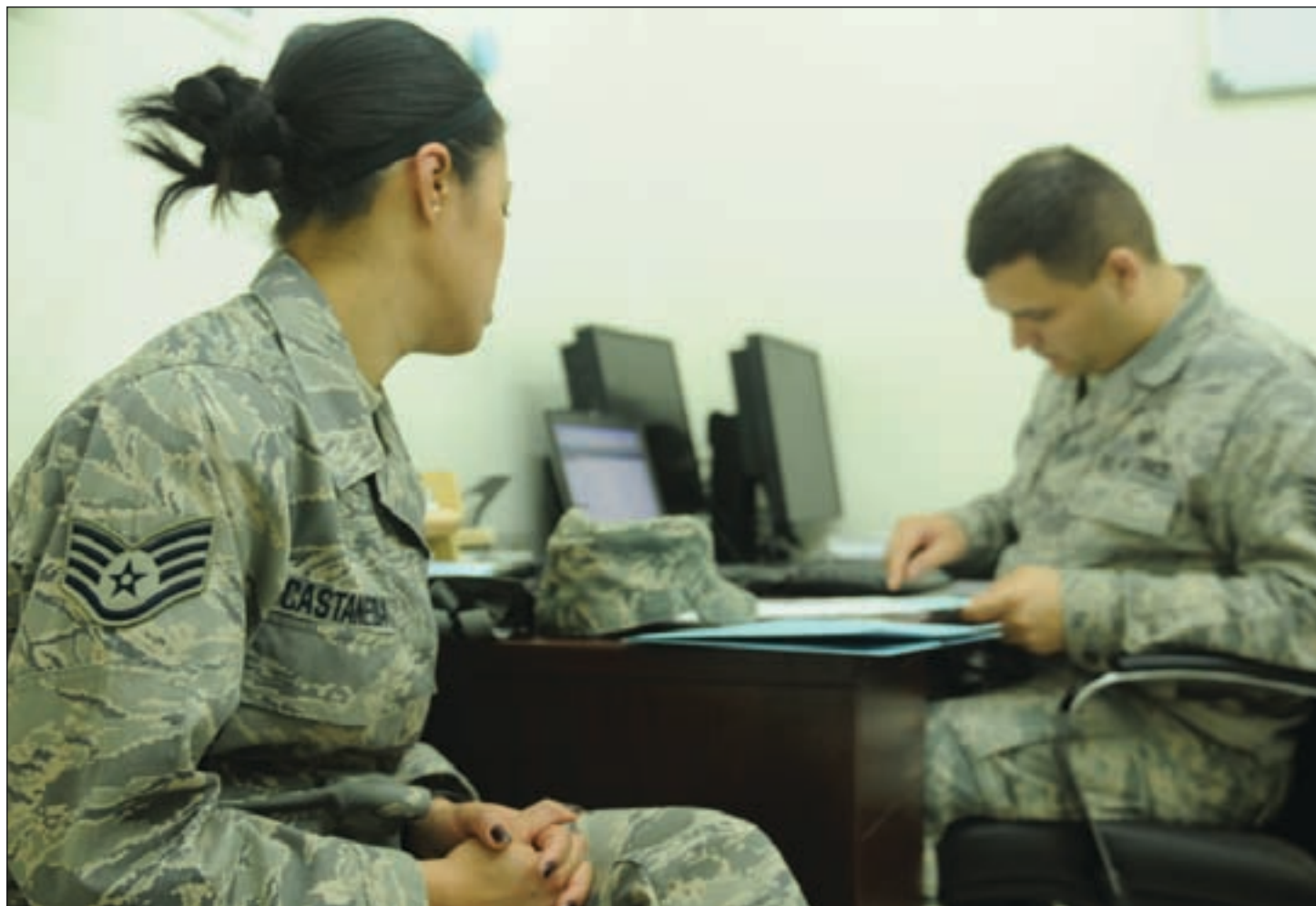
Bowes said there has been a large response from the JBB community since the center has been in operation. VITA focuses on assisting enlisted service members equivalent to the rank of Army staff sergeant and below, and officers equivalent to the rank of Army captain and below.

"If they have an income of \$40,000 or less we can assist them," she said. "The program is geared toward those with lower incomes and junior-ranking (service members)."

The tax center provides an array of services and options tailored to service members' personal situations, said Bowes.

"They can file a joint return over here, single, head of household, whatever their case may be, if they have education expenses, if they purchased a new vehicle this year or purchased a home," she said.

Service members can contact the tax center via email to schedule appointments for tax assistance, said Bowes.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Myreen Castaneda, a laboratory technician with the Medical Support Squadron, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and a San Diego, Calif., native, looks on as Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joseph Derr, a volunteer tax assistant, reviews her tax paperwork at the Joint Base Balad Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center March 3 at JBB, Iraq.

"Come over and meet with one of our volunteer preparers," she said. "They will assess your situation and prepare your taxes for you."

The center uses an Internet-based program that walks the volunteers through the process, said Bowes. They input the service member's wages and personal information to properly assess their tax filing.

Personal information is kept confidential and secure from identify theft, said Bowes.

"Only the preparers and the site co-

ordinator ... are authorized to see their returns," she said. "I have no worries or fears that personal information would be compromised."

The Internal Revenue Service will receive the information and complete the tax return process. Service members can expect to see their refunds in their direct-deposit accounts within seven to ten days, said Bowes.

On top of redeployment and reintegration, making time to file taxes is just one more step in the process of getting settled back home, said Pfc. Mark Ross,

a reverse osmosis water purification unit operator with the 102nd Quartermaster Company, 80th Ordnance Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Ross, a Hastings, Neb., native, said getting his taxes done while deployed gives him one less thing to deal with upon returning home later this year.

"It's quick, simple and I don't have to worry about the hassle," he said.

Service members wanting more information can contact the VITA center at 332AEW.TaxCenter@blab.afcent.af.mil.

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Crew chiefs keep 'em in the air

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALLISON M. BOEHM
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Turning wrenches, fixing leaks and replacing tires—no maintenance issue goes overlooked when the performance of a multi-million fighter jet is at stake.

The nonstop tasks of a crew chief help ensure the safety and mission readiness of each aircraft on JBB. Whether an aircraft requires refueling, a tire change or a precise inspection, crew chiefs are specially trained to tackle any problem so the jet remains secure and reliable.

"We have to ensure our jets are mission ready," said Senior Airman Travis Franklin, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "There are troops on the ground depending on our air support—we have to be able to fix these jets efficiently and effectively so we can get the F-16s back off the ground and meeting mission requirements."

Although the crew chiefs are responsible for the overall maintenance of the jets, a lot more goes into guaranteeing that the F-16s are operational for every mission.

"Crew Chiefs are an integral part of our day-to-day operation," said Capt. Danny Hull, 121st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot. "They ensure the jets are in perfect working order before each and every mission, giving us pilots the ability to concentrate on the task at hand. Because of their expertise and dedication to the mission, we entrust our lives to them every day. Without them the

A crew chief from the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron marshals a jet to the runway Feb. 10 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Crew chiefs are responsible for the daily maintenance of aircraft in the Air Force. Two teams of crew chiefs inspect the aircraft before every take-off to make sure the jet is good to fly.

mission wouldn't get done, period."

With more than 100 technical orders to follow, crew chiefs must know their aircraft inside out. Whether the maintenance requires servicing, fuel checks or inspections, they know how to fix the problem or what specialty shop to bring in to get the aircraft ready to fly at any time. Regardless of who does the actual work, a crew chief is responsible for the finished product.

With the success of each aircraft's mission on the line, crew chiefs must operate proficiently and in a timely manner. Depending on the problem, maintenance can range from 30 minutes to several hours, however, they must operate by the books regardless of time constraints.

"We don't want to put a time limit on any maintenance—it could be very dangerous," said Tech. Sgt. Juan Carlos Rodriguez, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "We have to make sure we don't get in a hurry. The repairs need to be fast, but we must take the time to do it right and by the (technical order). It is critical to the safety of the aircraft and the pilot."

Still, the work completed by these jack-of-all-trades Airmen provide mission capable aircraft for pilots so they can provide air support, serving as a vital role in the overall JBB mission.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Y. Bateman

3666th Soldiers keep weapons mission ready

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company Armament shop fix weapons of all sizes, from rifles to tanks, at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Leon, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the armament shop with the 3666th SMC, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said if it fires and it is not aircraft mounted, they can fix it.

"Our mission here is ... (to) support anyone in this area for armament," said Leon, a Phoenix, Ariz., native.

Leon said his team regularly repairs everything from pellet rifles, used for marksmanship training, to sniper rifles and machine guns.

Spc. Anthony J. Makar, a small arms and artillery repairer with the 3666th SMC, said units wanting to turn their weapons in for repairs must fill out a request for maintenance form and an inspection and faults worksheet, which can be obtained through unit supply.



Spc. Anthony J. Makar, a small arms and artillery repairer with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company's Armament Shop, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Norfolk, Va., native, takes apart a .50-Caliber machine gun at the 3666th's armament shop Feb. 28 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Makar, a Norfolk, Va., native, said after the worksheets are filled out the weapons are brought to the armament shop. A job order is generated and each weapon is visually inspected for serial numbers, and to make sure it is something the shop can fix.

"Our work load varies," he said. "Certain days we'll have a large amount of weapons that need to be gauged or worked on."

If the weapons are able to be fixed at the armament shop, they will work to complete the job the same day, said Makar.

Leon said each weapon is gauged to make sure they are put together correctly.

He said sometimes weapons will have missing or broken parts that have to be replaced.

After the weapon is fixed, it is test-

ed to make sure it fires accurately.

"Having a weapon down in a combat zone is a no go," said Leon. "We provide service while you wait. You come in with a broken weapon ... we'll have it repaired within the hour."

Leon said they have also done repair work for the Iraqi Army.

"We were just doing some minor repairs," he said. "We were getting parts for the Iraqi's and showing them a few tricks."

Spc. Jamison Thomas, a fire control systems repairman with the 3666th, said he is trained to work on the electrical systems of tanks and other track vehicles, but also helps out with any weapons that need fixed in the armament shop.

Thomas, a Mesa, Ariz., native, said he is not able to do his primary job at home because his unit does not have tanks, so he has cross trained while being deployed.

"I've learned a lot about small arms," he said.

Thomas said he wants to be well-rounded in the armament shop, so he can do any job.

"I think everybody needs to know a little bit of everything," he said. "It's always good to help these guys out whenever I get a chance."

The hands-on experience he is receiving on a variety of weapons is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, he said.

Master Sergeant spends 26 years with maintenance company

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. RYAN TWIST
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE
TAJI, Iraq – Throughout their careers, Soldiers make difficult decisions whether to go to college, re-enlist, switch units or stay in long enough to retire.

Master Sgt. Clarence L. Mooi, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the maintenance control shop with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), made the decision to spend 26 of his 30 military years with the same maintenance company.

Mooi, a Mesa, Ariz., native, who supervises 14 maintenance shops while deployed, said after leaving active-duty service, a young recruiter convinced him there was still a place for him in the Arizona National Guard.

"When she told me that she had a unit for me ... I came in and looked at it and became a part of it," he said. "I really enjoyed it. I was born there and figure I'll retire there."

Mooi said his experience and knowledge has helped him lead and mentor Soldiers.

"They look up to me a lot," he said. "They take the experience I've got and use it. It's a challenge ... because some of them are headstrong like I was when I came in. We're all headstrong as young kids, thinking we can do it all. I look at it and say, 'if I don't (teach them) some of the stuff I know, then I'm holding them back.'"

Second Lt. Kelly D. Milner, the maintenance control officer with the 3666th SMC, said Mooi has helped him throughout the deployment.

"He's a good mentor," said Milner, a Yuma, Ariz., native. "He would always brief me on what he was doing and, like any mentor, he just kind of slid things onto my plate, slowly made sure I had a grasp. He was always there to answer my questions."

Milner said this is his first deployment and with the help of Mooi, it has gone smoothly.

"He is great; he doesn't have an 'I am better than you' attitude," he said. "He is really good with his Soldiers. After 20 some-odd years in, he's done it all, been

there, so he understands what it's like to be a specialist, or corporal or sergeant ... I don't know anybody in the company who doesn't enjoy working with him."

Cpl. Justin L. Dudley, an automotive logistics clerk with the 3666th and a Victorville, Calif., native, said Mooi is full of information.

"He has all the answers to anything I have about parts, or just requests from customers needing extra information that I can't give them," he said.

Dudley has worked with Mooi for five years, and said he has not changed.

"I look up to Master Sgt. Mooi," he said. "He's always there when I need him. If I have a question or even if I have any personal issues, I can go to him and talk to him about it and he helps me out. It's very motivating to have someone like him."

Mooi said no matter what career path Soldiers decide to follow, he makes sure to let them know there is no easy road. Whether a Soldier chooses a military career or an alternate lifestyle, they will come in contact with many individuals. Some they will like or dislike, he said. There will be many changes throughout their lives, and they have to find ways to accept them, said Mooi.

"The people that seem to like you the most, (sometimes) move the fastest out of your life," he said. "You can either accept that and stay doing what you're doing, or you've got the opportunity to move on too."

Mooi said there are many different personalities within the company and it makes for an interesting dynamic.

"I like to do things the old way, but the more I look at it the more I understand where they're coming from," he said.

Milner said the master sergeant's knowledge and skill as a mechanic is what the company needs in a supervisor. He knows all the equipment, and the tricks to get the job done successfully and in a timely manner.

"We're as successful as we are today because of his actions," he said. "It's very comforting."

Milner also said Mooi's physical training regimen has been motivating for everyone in the unit.

Mooi challenged himself to run 100 miles with some of the other Soldiers in the month of February. He surpassed that mark with a week left in the month.

"I tell them ... PT is always going to be there," he said. "You need to make sure you're physically fit at all times. It's tiring



Master Sgt. Clarence L. Mooi, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the maintenance control shop with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company out of Phoenix, Ariz., 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), uses a wrench to tighten up a container at the maintenance control shop Feb. 26 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

after a while, but my brain starts to function better. I feel like I've got more energy after doing a healthy PT (session)."

Milner said Mooi is an inspiration to him and all the Soldiers. He motivates everyone to run, to stay in shape and be proud of what they can accomplish, he said.

"It just can't help but inspire you to go





those couple extra miles," said Milner. "If a Soldier with his seniority can do it, why can't a 20-year-old Soldier do it? I think he is definitely an asset. I think his presence and experience will be missed (if he leaves the military), because physically and mentally he's just the total package as far as what you're looking for in a Soldier and an NCO."

SHOUT OUT!!!

Contact the Expeditionary Times for more information.

E-mail: escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

Force protection uniform postures

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

Service members compete in 'Phoenix Support' combatives tournament

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 63rd Ordnance Company out of Fort Lewis, Wash., sponsored the 80th Ordnance Battalion's 'Phoenix Support' Combatives Tournament Feb. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Roughly 55 service members signed up for the battalion's second tournament, open to all service members at JBB, said 1st Lt. Aaron Kao, executive officer with the 63rd Ord. Co., 80th Ord. Bn., 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Service members who competed have fighting experience from both military training and martial arts studies, said Kao, a Los Alamos, N.M., native.

The tournament used standard Army combatives competition rules, which allow grappling techniques but no strikes, said Kao. Strikes were prohibited to promote safety, he said.

Fighters began standing up and were only allowed to use grapples, trips and throws to take their opponent down and finish the fight on the ground, said Kao.

In the Modern Army Combatives Program level-one training, Soldiers learn the basics of grapples and escapes, said Kao. As they advance in levels, Soldiers learn more about strikes and upright combat. Level 2 expands on grapples and fighting techniques, and strikes are taught in level 3, where stand-up combat becomes a focus, he said.

"Once the fighter becomes more advanced, we can incorporate how to box, how to kick and how to strike," he said.

Army combatives teaches Soldiers hand-to-hand tactics while instilling the combat-ready mindset, said Kao. The tournament provided a regulated environment for service members to compete against one another. It is the spirit of competition that drives troops



Air Force Airman 1st Class Raymond Elizalde, a force protection escort with the 332nd Expeditionary Force Protection Squadron and an Imperial, Calif., native, puts his opponent into an arm bar during a match at 80th Ordnance Battalion's 'Phoenix Support' Combatives Tournament Feb. 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Elizalde won the welterweight (141 pounds to 150 pounds) championship.

to hone their physical fitness and combat readiness, Kao said.

"When somebody's got you in a choke or ... an arm bar, you're going to fight hard to escape that," he said.

The competition was a good demonstration of hand-to-hand combat from MACP and martial arts training, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Mantooth, the corps storage area accountability officer and a level-4 combatives certified instructor with the 63rd Ord. Co.

"We were very impressed," said Mantooth, a Biloxi, Miss., native. "We saw a lot of technique and the fighters seem to come here well trained."

Unarmed combatives has become an important tool in the battle mindset for service members, said Mantooth. The Army and the Marine Corps have

incorporated their own unarmed combatives training for years, he said. The Air Force is currently developing their own combatives program, as the needs of combat readiness have evolved. They currently use MACP, he said.

Unlike traditional martial arts and boxing, MACP is designed for the battlefield, said Mantooth. MACP has three major principals: to close the distance and move forward, to gain and maintain dominant position and to finish the fight. The techniques taught are meant to overcome a non-compliant, unarmed enemy and detain them without the use of deadly force, he said.

"In every one of our fights today, they have to do that," said Mantooth. "If they're willing to move forward with their battle buddy, then they're definitely willing to go forward with the enemy."

The tournament awarded champions in six different weight classes.

Spc. Jaime Velez, a light wheel mechanic with 514th Support Maintenance Company and a Jayuya, Puerto Rico, native, won the lightweight (126

pounds to 140 pounds) championship.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Raymond Elizalde, a force protection escort with the 332nd Expeditionary Force Protection Squadron and an Imperial, Calif., native, won the welterweight (141 pounds to 150 pounds) championship.

Pfc. James Williamson, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response specialist with the 51st Medical Logistics Company and a Virginia Beach, Va., native, won the middleweight (156 to 170 pounds) championship.

Spc. Lionel Sierra, a special electronics repair specialist with E Company, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment and a Reedley, Calif., native, won the cruiserweight (171 pounds to 185) championship.

Air Force Senior Airman Andre Lewis, a C-130 Hercules crew chief with the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit and a Winamac, Ind., native, won the light-heavyweight (186 pounds to 205 pounds) championship.

Capt. Jason Norwood, commander of C Battery (Target Acquisition), 26th Field Artillery Regiment and a Morristown, N.J., native, won the heavyweight (205 or more pounds) championship.

The tournament also brought awareness to the 80th Ord. Bn. combatives classes, said Mantooth. The MACP level-one classes are open to all service members at JBB, and level-two classes are slated for later in the year, he said.

Kao said the 80th Ord. Bn. plans on holding a third tournament before they redeploy later this year.



Disarming workplace blowhards, bullies



"The Stress Doc"
Mark Gorkin

Editor's note: This is the second article in a two-part series about disarming workplace bullies. The first article ran in the March 3 edition of the Expeditionary Times.

Part one of this two-part series examined five infuriating and intimidating personalities and some antitoxins.

Part two focuses on my role as a consultant in both challenging the bullying individual and in mobilizing the relevant authorities to fulfill their roles and obligations. And depending on the scenario, I either: challenged team members to assist in setting limits on the stress carrier or helped a team finally deal with Post-Transition Team Disorder – that is, emotionally and interpersonally engage with the aftereffects of a former authority figure's abuse of her power.

A. When top management chaos and disinterest breeds rogue bullying. Here's a tale of a troubled individual, a 30 something male whose behavior was allowed to fairly rage out of control due to the dysfunction of his division's management team. He displayed an actively harassing manner – from being loud and argumentative to periodically scratching scarily on a colleague's cubicle. He also was in a position to monitor other employees' Web site searches. Some people claimed he would occasionally threaten to expose their search patterns to the authorities.

Not surprisingly, a disintegration of branch and division leadership as well as this field division being disconnected from headquarters allowed this hostile employee to experience minimal supervision and few consequences for his frighteningly unpredictable and threatening behavior. This individual may well have had some manic-depressive tendencies.

Fortunately, a new division head was finally brought in to set limits both on the individual and on the systemic disorganization, if not chaos. He invited my assistance. Interventions included:

a) My having several meetings with the supervisor of this employee, and also meeting with the supervisor and the new division head and later with the employee,

to ensure his commitment to supervise this harassing employee.

b) This troubled employee now had to report to the new division head twice a week. The latter would listen to employee grievances, but this leader also set clear limits, with consequences, for any acting out behavior by the employee.

c) A heated meeting and confrontation were held between the supervisor and the employee to iron out mutual resentments and rejections. These two had once been close. Now the employee believed he had been abandoned by the supervisor. In turn, the supervisor placed some of the blame for fulfilling his supervisory role to employee defiance. The supervisor also complained about a lack of top management support when he did report the employee. This troubled employee had been a favorite of the equally troubled former division head, who had left the division under questionable circumstances.

d) I held individual interviews with all team members of the employee. Some of the males were buddies of this employee, having worked with him for a number of years. These colleagues eventually admitted this problematic individual could get loud and become disruptive. However, a woman team member tearfully admitted being quite afraid of this employee's behavior and mannerisms. She had been reluctant to go public for fear of retribution. By challenging the male colleagues and supporting the female, all were able to speak frankly of their concerns when we finally held a team meeting.

Not surprisingly, the employee had denied the disruptive nature of his actions or cited others as provocateurs. The break in his armor of denial finally occurred at the team meeting when the female colleague, with some trepidation, admitted how frightened she was. At times she felt terrified that this employee might become violent and lose it.

With the new division head's active support, the interventions helped the employee and the supervisor regain more professional role behaviors and relationships. Our work began to resurrect a team building process in a once dangerously disorganized work environment.

B. Management avoidance in the face of scapegoats. Let's use another scenario involving four postal service team members – two carriers and two mail sorters. The in-house sorters believed the two carriers were slackers who were not carrying their load.

While I don't know how objective the slacker label, I do know the remedy was much worse than the alleged problematic behavior. In this scenario, getting even didn't stop with incessant ragging. Because of the repetitive nature and close quarters of much postal processing facilities, a fairly high degree of razzing to break the monotony is often the norm in this locker room-like ambiance and culture. Clearly, this yields a potentially combustible set and setting.

One of the angry mail sorters, a former Army green beret, told his psychiatrist that one day he was going to "blow away" (shoot) the lazy carriers. He was reported and placed on administrative leave while police were stationed around the postal facility.

I was called in to deal with the aftermath: confusion and heightened tension among all employees. Individual grief meetings and a collective focus group began to restore a sense of normalcy to the facility.

Now, one might ask where the supervisor or manager was during all of these escalating antagonisms. My sense was that he too had issues with the "slackers," but was not confronting them directly. He seemed to allow the in-house aggressors to act out some of his frustration with the carriers.

In an individual interview, the manager revealed having made half-hearted attempts at a performance review. He rationalized not involving the Employee Assistance Program because of previous experience with an EAP that "didn't accomplish anything." I'll simply note that this so-called ineffective experience occurred more than six years before this recent crisis, and was played out in another state.

The two case examples clearly demonstrate that a dysfunctional, if not dangerous, team environment may emerge when a manager abandons his roles and responsibilities. Even when a formal authority has solid intentions and skills, there are still environments and workplace scenarios that may prove daunting.

C. Post-traumatic transition – danger and opportunity: when and how to reach out for help. Even when immersed in a tension-filled team or organizational tempest, if a new leader possesses sufficient maturity and ego strength, then a crisis state may provide not just danger but also opportunity.

Let me illustrate. In the mid-90s, I received a call from an experienced manager. He had transitioned from a major federal government agency to the private sector. After six weeks in charge, he realized that serious interpersonal issues and conflicts were consuming his team of senior analysts.

This manager, I'll call him Rich, had replaced a long-time manager. Upper management believed the previous leader had been cruising more than providing active leadership. Considering that the division was also moving from a non-profit to a for-profit mode of operation, cruising would not cut it.

Also, the former head had allowed his female administrative assistant to assume an inappropriate number of his roles and responsibilities, along with his mantle of power.

Some in the senior analyst group had perceived this assistant as demanding, but they also believed she wanted to get people up to speed with the company's new philosophy and direction.

However, many in this team had been intimidated, experiencing this "dragon lady" as manipulative, power-driven and vindictive.

Adding to this complex mix was the recent arrival of a new female analyst. I'll call her Sue. A number of Sue's colleagues were beginning to see her as a threatening figure. Sue was ambitious and was getting close to Rich, the new manager. Not surprisingly, some analysts were comparing her to the former administrative assistant who had finally been reassigned because of her *modus operandi*.

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 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.

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
"Phantom Support"

ON THE WEB



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

Oregon Guardsmen provide five-star service to distinguished visitors

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. JOHN STIMAC
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Baghdad – When a distinguished visitor comes to the Joint Visitors Bureau at Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) make sure whatever needs they have are met.

From cooking five-star meals to assisting with their accommodations, Soldiers who work at the JVB Hotel enjoy their deployment working in a palace and meeting high-ranking officials like Vice President Joe Biden, four-star generals and even some celebrities.

Sgt. Justin Moore, head cook at the JVB Hotel with C Troop and a Hood River, Ore., native, said he went to culinary school as a civilian and was a cook for almost six years before opening up his own business.

“When I first got here, I was a gunner,” he said. “When they found out about my cooking abilities they moved me over here about a month later.”

Moore said he faces some obstacles cooking the meals, such as the lack of fresh produce and trying to come up with new and innovative meal presentations.

“We are trying to come up with nice meals,” he said. “(But,) Some of it depends on the types of meat we can and can’t get from the Oasis dining facility.”

Moore said he has cooked for many four-star generals and celebrities, including Vince McMahon of the World Wrestling Entertainment Corporation.

“It is interesting to see what people like and don’t like to eat,” he said.

Moore said he enjoys preparing meals on his deployment and is glad he is doing something he likes.

“What we’re doing here is putting five-star meals together in Iraq,” he said. “With a lot of cooks throughout Iraq, (they) are just putting out chow and counting heads and you can’t get the experience of how to plate properly and do different plate designs.”

He said he thinks the JVB Hotel mission helps a lot of younger Soldiers, and even some of the older cooks who have never prepared a fine dining meal in the Army.

Sgt. Joshua Mosley, the front desk noncommissioned officer in charge with C Troop and a Bend, Ore., native, said he manages four front-desk personnel and his main responsibility is guest relations.

“I manage a spreadsheet and track people coming and going from the JVB,” he said. “I also have to provide accommodations for the distinguished visitor’s support staff.”

Mosley said distinguished visitors stay at the main hotel and the staff stays



Soldiers staying at the Joint Visitors Bureau Hotel take some time to relax after checking into the hotel March 3 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. Guests can spend free time enjoying free internet, visiting the driving range by the palace and fishing.

in containerized housing units across the street from the JVB Hotel.

“The CHU’s are for the guests of the DV and the palace is for general officers or equivalent,” he said.

Staff Sgt. Jason Bryan, the personal security detail team leader with C Troop and an Ottawa, Kan., native, said his team’s mission is to provide security and transportation to any visiting dignitaries or celebrities that come through the Iraq Joint Operation Area.

“It makes them feel a lot safer, especially if they have never been here before,” he said.

Bryan said most people are impressed with the size and amount of people at VBC.

“We pick them up and, depending on their itinerary, we’ll take them from one place to another,” he said. “Meanwhile there are some behind-the-scenes actions (necessary) to make sure that those places are safe prior to our arrival.”

The visitors’ safety is the team’s highest priority.

“We make sure all the proper coordinations are made to ensure a smooth delivery of the individuals,” he said.

601st assists cargo movement through Basra

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. LISA A. COPE
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq – Three Soldiers with the 601st Movement Control Team out of Santa Fe, N.M., supervise all movement control functions on Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, as Contingency Operating Location Adder becomes the central hub for transportation in United States Division-South.

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Deisch, the transportation management supervisor for the Division Support Team, with the 601st MCT, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Minneapolis, Minn., native, said the main mission of the MCT is to process movement requests for units that need to ship cargo within the Iraq Joint Operations Area, or to Kuwait for re-deployment.

The 601st MCT has 23 Soldiers total, with 20 Soldiers residing in Contingency Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, and the three Soldiers that make up the DST in COB Basra, said Deisch.

The DST only assists with movements that have already been processed, and tracks cargo as it moves through their area of operation; they no longer have the capabilities to begin a movement request, said Deisch.

“We actually don’t process any (transfer movement requests) here,” he said. “The MCT that runs operations in (COL) Adder, they are actually now responsible for processing TMRs for all of (COL) Adder, COB Basra, and (Contingency Operating Site) Bucca.”

The DST tries to remain flexible and assist with any transportation issues that may arise to the best of their ability, said Deisch.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan N. Romero, the DST central receiving and shipping point noncommissioned officer for the 601st MCT and an Espanola, N.M., native, said one of his main missions is to supply in-

formation to the radio frequency identification tags that help track cargo as it is moved throughout Iraq.

Romero said much of his job is centered around loss prevention. The RFI tags electronically track the cargo as it moves, so Romero can see where it is at any point.

He said maintaining morale can be difficult when working such long hours, but the three Soldiers make it a point to meet at least once a day to relax and vent.

“The whole group in (Contingency Operating Location) Kalsu is able to interact with each other,” said Romero. “The only time we meet up, all three of us, is at dinner chow.”

Deisch said meeting as a group is important for team cohesion, especially in such a small group.

“All three of us work in separate locations, so even just feeling disconnected from the members of your team sometimes can be frustrating,” he said. “But we do make it a point to try to go the gym together in the morning or to (eat) one or two meals together during the day.”



Staff Sgt. Jonathan N. Romero, the Division Support Team central receiving and shipping point noncommissioned officer for the 601st Movement Control Team, 49th Transportation Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Espanola, N.M., native, assists a unit over the phone March 3, at the central receiving and shipping point at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq.

Sudoku

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

Last week's answers

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

Level: Hard

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Who set a record for most points in a NBA season in 1961-62 season?
- Which team in the 80s won the Super Bowl by the biggest margin?
- What pro athlete is nicknamed “The Dream?”
- What Giant’s bone-crushing 1985 tackle ended Joe Theismann’s career?
- How many of the five boroughs does the New York City marathon run through?

1. Wilt Chamberlain 2. Chicago Bears 3. Hakeem Olajuwon 4. Lawrence Taylor 5. Five

JB BALAD WORSHIP SERVICES

TRADITIONAL - Sunday

0200 Air Force Hospital Chapel
1030 Freedom Chapel (West side)
1400 Air Force Hospital Chapel
2000 Air Force Hospital Chapel

GOSPEL - Sunday

1100 MWR East Building 1200 Freedom Chapel (West Side)
1230 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
1900 Provider Chapel

CONTEMPORARY - Sunday

1030 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
1100 Castle Heights (Bldg. 4155)
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. 4155)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)- Sunday

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

MASS - Sunday

0830 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

1100 Provider Chapel

1100 Air Force Hospital

Thursday

1100 Air Force Hospital

Wed., Fri.

1700 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

*Saturday

1600-1645 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) Confessions or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES- Friday

1800 Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP - Thursday

1900 Provider Annex

Saturday

1900 The Bat Cave

GREEK ORTHODOX - Sunday

0900 Provider Annex

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel: 443-7703

Provider Chapel: 483-4107

Freedom Chapel: 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m.

Tue., Thu.,

Sat., - 6:30 p.m.

AquaTraining: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

5-6 p.m.

Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting

Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m

Monday- 8 p.m

Karaoke: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Monday- 8 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 Jiu-Jitsu: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-9 p.m.

Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7

5-6 p.m.

Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.

Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

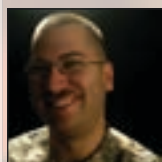
Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

4-ball

Arts & Entertainment

'Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2' most fun I've had since 'Goldeneye'

BY STAFF SGT. JOEL F. GIBSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



I received "Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2" as a Christmas gift this year and didn't really get around to playing it until recently; that was a mis-

take.

I'm normally not a huge fan of first person shooters, I never understood the whole "Halo" obsession; it always just seemed like mindless running around and blasting.

"Modern Warfare 2" is so much more. The game makes you think about cover and concealment, ammo discipline, and the importance of a secondary weapon. The gameplay is smooth and intuitive, and the graphics, as to be expected, are spectacular.

Where "Modern Warfare 2" really shines though is the storyline. The idea of a U.S. war against Russia seems incredibly farfetched initially, but an interesting twist on an old terrorist concept makes it feasible.

Much like the first installment of the Modern Warfare franchise, players switch back and forth between British Special Air Service Soldiers, commanded by the newly promoted Capt. "Soap" MacTavish, and U.S. military members, though this time Activision went with Army Rangers instead of the Marine Corps for their focus.

The playable character in the SAS portion of the game is nicknamed "Roach," which makes me think that if these games accurately reflect British nicknames, they definitely go about the whole nickname business a lot differently than Americans.

"Soap" and "Roach," I mean, those are odd nicknames.

After a few missions in campaign mode, Russia attacks the United States and a vicious ground battle ensues, all "Red Dawn" style. In fact, the first mission on U.S. soil is appropriately called "Wolverines!"

A discussion about this mission in our office led to the infeasibility of fighting against Russians on American soil. We determined that it would be too difficult to coordinate, because every resistance group would call themselves the Wolverines. The counterpoint to this was that the groups would have their cities tagged after the name of their unit, which would eventually lead to them just being referred to by their city, but I digress.

Single player mode is great, and I only review features Soldiers have regular access to while deployed, so I won't get into

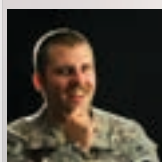
online play, which I've heard is incredible, but split screen multiplayer is really fun.

There's a special operations mode, where players can either attempt to complete missions by themselves or go split screen with a buddy. These missions are usually fairly short and action packed. They also tend to use a lot of the more fun aspects of campaign mode like Predator unmanned-aerial vehicle control, Specter gunships, and thermal-scoped sniper rifles. Split-screen multiplayer is tons of fun.

Based on the content I have access to while deployed, I give "Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2" a solid 9 out of 10. Though I haven't played the game online, from what I've been told, that alone should bump it up to a 10. It's a great game, and I thoroughly recommend it for any deployed gamer.

A quirky film about a lying 'Informant'

BY SGT. JAYSON A. HOFFMAN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



"The Informant's" solid dialogue and espionage music make this would-be business drama more of a light-hearted dram-

edy. This film is smart and funny, and should have been Matt Damon's Academy Award nomination instead of his role in "Invictus."

Mark Whitacre (Damon) was a business executive for a major agriculture

business in central Illinois. He joins forces with the FBI to reveal that the company he is working for is involved in an international price-fixing ring. At the same time that he is ratting out his business pals, he is working on setting himself for life after the company goes down.

The story is solid, but it helps that it is based on real events. The movie is a little confusing in the beginning, but after watching patiently all of the pieces fell into place.

As I mentioned before, Damon was very good in this movie. He pulls off a

compulsive lying business man very well. He also had the early 1990's look down. His inner monologues are insightful and very funny. My favorite parts of the movie are when he is teaching the audience life lessons through these monologues.

He made me like and eventually hate this character because as the film rolled on he become a more and more despicable person.

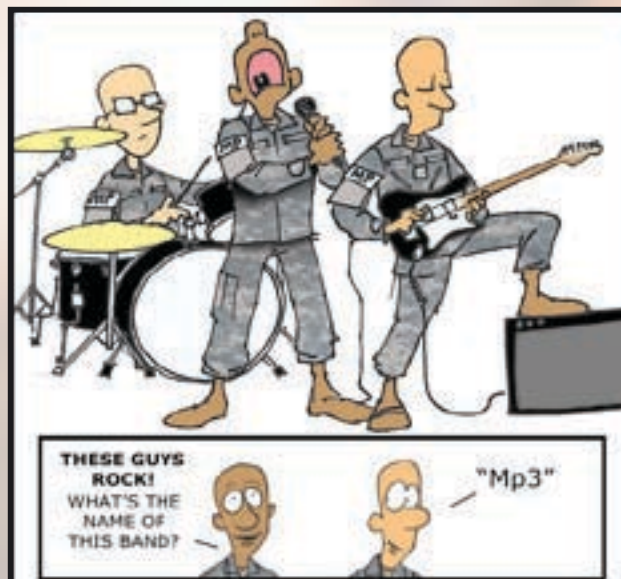
Damon was supported by a cast full of comedians playing straight roles, and Joel McHale ("Community") and Scott Bakula ("Quantum Leap") played the FBI agents guiding Mark to become

their informant. They were solid, but the movie belonged to Damon.

The music was great. It sounded like it was straight out of the Peter Sellers "Pink Panther" movies. The scenes where Damon is acting like a full-fledged spy are very funny especially when the music cues. The music was a major part of the movie's humor.

"The Informant" is an intelligent, quirky movie that is definitely worth a watch. The dialogue is great and the movie is worth a watch just to see Matt Damon. I definitely suggest picking this one up at the Post Exchange.

PVT MURPHY



Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Wednesday, March 10

5 p.m. Cop Out
8 p.m. Nine

Thursday, March 11

5 p.m. The Book of Eli
8 p.m. Cop Out

Friday, March 12

2 p.m. Legion
5 p.m. When In Rome
8:30 p.m. Alice In Wonderland

Saturday, March 13

2 p.m. When In Rome
5 p.m. Alice In Wonderland
8 p.m. Legion

Sunday, March 14

2 p.m. Alice In Wonderland
5 p.m. Legion
8 p.m. When In Rome

Monday, March 15

5 p.m. When In Rome
8 p.m. Alice In Wonderland

Tuesday, March 16

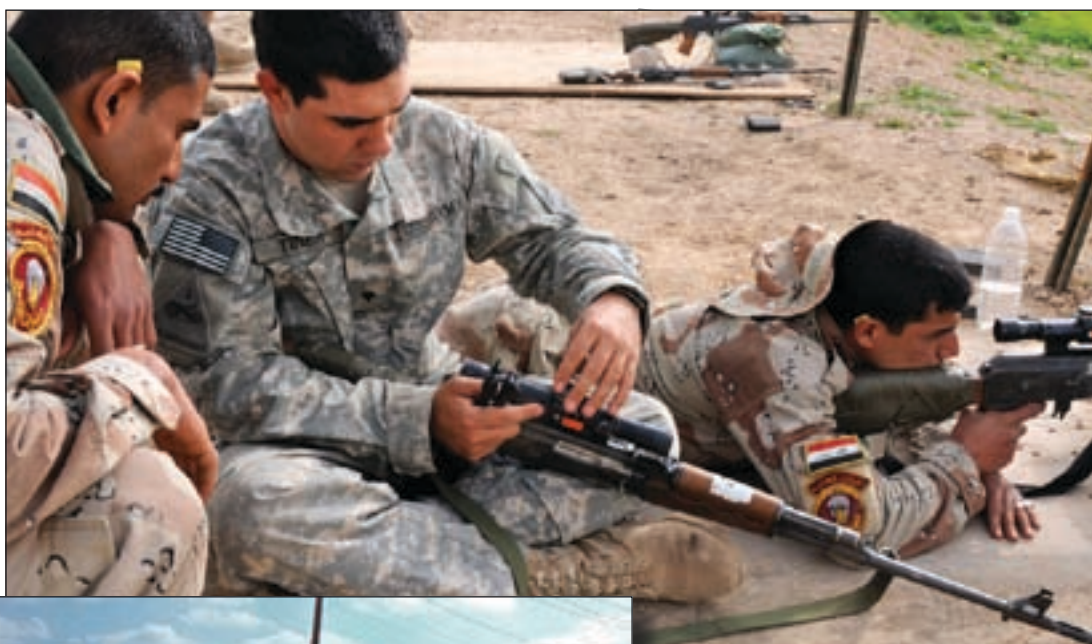
5 p.m. Alice In Wonderland
8 p.m. Legion

Wednesday, March 17

5 p.m. Legion
8 p.m. When In Rome



PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Rufus Hucks



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Landon Stephenson



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Venessa Hernandez

An Iraqi boy leads his donkey pulling a cart of oranges Feb. 20 in Baghdad.

(Above) Spc. Aaron Tiner, a Soldier with 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, shows an Iraqi Soldier how to perform remedial action on his rifle during sniper training Feb. 20 at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq. The training was designed to teach the Iraqi Army sniper fundamentals in order to increase their capability to protect Iraq's citizens.

(Right) An Iraqi man pushes a cart of rice with his son Feb. 10 through the Jalula market. Iraqi Police joined forces with U.S. Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry, 2nd Infantry Division to patrol Jalula Market in efforts to secure an area where coalition forces were once not welcome.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anderson Savoy



(Above) A young Iraqi boy observes the Iraqi Federal Police while they hand out food and supplies during a humanitarian aid drop Feb. 17 in Hadar, Iraq. The Federal Police conduct aid drops to provide the local population with a better quality of life.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha R. Ciaramitaro

An Iraqi child watches U.S. Soldiers with the 17th Fires Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and Iraqi Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 52nd Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Division conduct a joint patrol Feb. 19 in Qarmat Ali, Iraq. The joint patrol was conducted to talk to the local population about the indirect fire that has come from their district.

NEWS AROUND IRAQ

Female Iraqi Soldiers explore roles, ethics at seminar

BAGHDAD – More than 60 Iraqi basic combat trainees attended a seminar Feb. 21 and Feb. 22 in the Ethics Center in Baghdad.

Topics included women's initiatives, professional military values, human rights and the role of the military in a democracy.

"It is important for us to professionalize women in the Army," said Brig. Gen. Suad Isa Omran, Ministry of Defence deputy of Health Affairs, as she addressed the trainees.

Women have served in the Iraqi Army since former Dictator Saddam Hussein's administration. One trainee who attended the seminar said she has been serving since 1986.

"The Army has changed since then," said Omran. "Women must accept the important responsibilities given to them. (Your) duty is looking for better ways to do your job."

Women still strive for equal status in the Iraqi Army in many areas but Omran highlighted one in particular. Female Iraqi officers are not saluted.

"There is a rumor that women are paid more money because men do not salute us," Omran said. "We are not paid any additional money. Men want to believe this so that they have a reason not to salute."

Women play an important role in the transition of Iraq's Army.

"Females are the hub of the community," said Lt. Gen. Hussein, deputy chief of staff of training. "Now we are looking for women to prove their roles in the Iraqi Army."

Following the guest speakers' comments, all males in the audience left the seminar so the female Soldiers could participate in discussions with the panelists. The panelists, all female Soldiers assigned to United States Forces – Iraq, deputy commanding general of advising and training, had military experience levels that ranged from as few as three years to more than 30 years of service.

"Your service in the Army is historic," said senior panelist, Col. Peggy Combs.

She encouraged the group to see that it is possible to balance the needs of the Army as well as those of their families.

US Forces transfer 3 bases to Iraqis in Ninawa province

NINAWA PROVINCE, Iraq – United States Forces transferred three bases to the Government of Iraq in Ninawa province Feb. 9, signaling a ready, secure and stable Iraq.

In three separate ceremonies, Joint Security Sites Iraqi Turkey Pipeline 2, Badoush and Scorpion were officially transferred to the Government of Iraq.

The closures began at JSS Scorpion, where members of the Iraqi forces gathered alongside Soldiers



with 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and watched as the bases were transferred with a few quick signatures.

The Soldiers in attendance, Iraqi and American, have a history together, said Capt. Aaron Vevasis, commander of C Company, 1/64 AR.

"We worked directly with their battalion headquarters and conducted patrols together," Vevasis said. "The base transfer was made possible because of the Iraqi Army's success."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dozier, an infantryman and platoon sergeant with 1st Platoon, B Company, 1/64 AR, said, "We're one step closer to the Iraqis being able to establish their own security and maintain their own country by themselves."

Dozier's platoon was stationed at JSS Scorpion for the last three months, and worked with and trained the Iraqis.

Shortly after the transfer of authority for Scorpion was complete, the transfer of Badoush took place. Lt. Col. Thomas Williams, commander of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., sat with Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Daham Ibrahim Qader, the Badoush prison warden with the Ministry of Justice, and Sameer Alhaddad, who handles all official base transfers.

"I am greatly honored to receive this facility from the American forces today," said Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Daham.

Williams said, "On behalf of all the Americans that have served here in Badoush – over the past several months and years – I want to thank you for the partnership and allowing our Soldiers to train and work alongside the police here at the prison as well as the people in the city here at Badoush."

"This is just another positive step forward in the relationship for the country of Iraq."

The three representatives then signed the papers officially finalizing the transfer of Badoush to the Government of Iraq.

Later, the Iraqi and U.S. Forces representatives arrived at ITP2, to transfer the last of the three bases.

"I am thrilled, and I think it's a great day," said Capt. Thomas Carroll, commander of B Company, 1/64 AR. "It shows that Americans are true to their word. It's a good day for the Iraqis and Americans together."

Carroll's unit, which has worked at ITP2 for a more

than three months, conducted counter-improvised explosive device patrols with Iraqi forces during its stay. The unit is being replaced by a reconnaissance platoon from the 352nd Iraqi Army Battalion.

"We will continue to be close," said Carroll. "The Iraqi people are in good hands with this unit."

Continuing the relationship between the Iraqis and the U.S. Forces was also re-iterated by a member of the Iraqi prime minister's staff.

"I can see the relationship between the two armies, and it's amazing," said Alhaddad. "They work together as partners and support each other. I'm really happy about it."

First instructors graduate from Iraqi War College

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi War College held its first graduation of instructor officers at the National Defense University Feb. 22 in Baghdad.

The 15 new instructors will teach the one-year course that colonels and lieutenant colonels must take as a pre-requisite for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

NATO Training Mission – Iraq has helped the war college become a key constituent in the education of future senior Iraqi military officers, preparing them for senior leadership and strategic military positions.

Among the distinguished guests attending were Mohammed Abdul Al Qader Al Obeidi, Iraqi minister of defense, Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, NTM-I commander, and Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli, deputy commander of NTM-I.

"It is entirely right that such a prestigious college should once again take its place at the cultural and intellectual heart of the Middle East – Baghdad," said Barbero. "As a renewed institution, the war college is set to become an essential step for all officers with the ability, drive and leadership to help Iraq as it continues on its journey toward a true democracy supported by a modern Army."

In his speech, the defense minister stressed the importance of this course to form well-rounded commanders with broad professional knowledge in many military fields and thanked NTM-I for its role in helping build the new Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Air Force receives four new aircraft

TIKRIT, Iraq – With the addition of four new T-6A Texan II aircraft at Tikrit Air Base, Iraq, the Iraqi Air Force is ready to begin its advanced pilot training program.

The Feb. 14 delivery brings the Tikrit Air Base T-6A population to eight of the 15 total aircraft with the remaining seven to arrive at the end of the year.

The T-6A Texan II is a single-engine, two-seat training aircraft designed for providing instruction in advanced flying skills required of military pilots. The Texan II is used as the primary training aircraft for


the U.S. Air Force pilot training program and will play a significant role in the Iraqi Air Force advanced pilot training program scheduled to begin March 1.

The director of the Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission – Air Force, Brig. Gen. Scott M. Hanson, led the four-ship T-6A delivery from Amman, Jordan. Following the aircrafts' transatlantic crossing, Hanson handed the keys to all four T-6s to Staff Lt. Gen. Anwar, Iraqi Air Force commander.

"We're very excited by the work accomplished with our Iraqi counterparts thus far," said Hanson. "Now the right equipment, facilities and manpower are in place to build a team of world class pilots who will protect the people of Iraq from above."

Anwar expressed his appreciation for the continued support he has received from the U.S. Air Force with regards to the T-6A program and the Iraqi Air Force.

Wedding Island placed back in Iraqi hands

 BAGHDAD – In a late afternoon meeting, Feb. 10, members the Joint Area Support Group – Central met with Sameer Al-Haddad, receivership secretariat for the Prime Minister's office, to officially transfer the Wedding Island property inside Baghdad's International Zone back to the Iraqi government.

As U.S. forces continue to drawdown in Iraq, Wedding Island is part in a long list of properties the JASG-C is transferring to the Iraqi government as the drawdown of U.S. forces and equipment approaches.

The 41.9-acre Wedding Island property was used by members of the ruling party during former dictator Saddam Hussein's reign, when official ceremonies and weddings were performed there.

"This was a challenging transfer as environmental hazards and contractor problems have delayed the handover of Wedding Island for months," said Maj. Miguel Torres, JASG-C installations director.

Essentially a large vacant lot, the Wedding Island site was recently a lay down yard for the construction of the 104-acre New Embassy Complex, completed Jan. 5, 2009. Materials for the NEC project were stored on the property during construction.

"It was exciting to work together with our Iraqi partners to forge a new future for the Iraqi people," Torres said. "We look forward to continuing this relationship."

The Wedding Island property is expected to be turned over to Iraq's Ministry of Tourism, which plans to transform the area into a public golf course and garden area.

Since the Soldiers with the 72nd JASG arrived in Baghdad in late December, they have worked the logistics for this turn over with key players in the United States Forces – Iraq command team and the Department of State.


In the upcoming months, the JASG-C is scheduled to transfer, or assist in transferring, 13 additional properties from the Department of Defense and the Department of State to the Iraqi government. Six entry control points in the IZ will also be turned over to the Iraqis this year.

The JASG-C is for responsible securing and administering the IZ, and for transferring most of the U.S. controlled IZ properties back to the Government of Iraq.

The JASG-C is made up of Texas Army National

Guard Soldiers from the headquarters of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, along with a small number of active duty U.S. Navy and Air Force personnel.

Army engineers revitalize historic Iraqi Army base

 AL ANBAR, Iraq – New life is being restored into a historic Army base in Habbaniyah as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region District, oversees the final stages of construction for a \$22 million Army base support unit facility in central Iraq.

The base was originally established as Royal Air Force Station Habbaniyah in 1936 as a flight training school and transport staging area for British troops.

The base gained prominence during World War II when Iraqi forces attacked the base during the Rashid Ali rebellion in 1941. British forces repelled the invasion and the base became a vital link on the southern route between the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

After the war, the British air station was used by the U.S. Air Force as a stopover point for aircraft. British troops abandoned the base following the July 1958 Iraqi Revolution and subsequently reclaimed the base, along with U.S. troops, following the overthrow of former Dictator Saddam Hussein.

It has since become the Iraqi Army Training and Regional Support Center and headquarters for the Iraqi Army 1st Division.

The USACE project is split among three sites, said Kenneth Rimmey, the project engineer from the Corps' Al Anbar Resident Office. The first site is designed for billeting, administration support and a morale, welfare and recreation facility. The project also calls for the installation of utilities – such as electricity, water and force protection measures, which includes guard towers and security fencing. The second site is a petroleum, oil and lubricant area with storage facilities for benzene, kerosene, diesel fuel, oil drums and flammable materials storage. Site three is more of a warehousing site and food production facility. This site has three cold storage warehouses – from cold storage to freezing, a dry storage warehouse for goods and spices, a bread bakery and an ice factory.

Rimmey said the Army base will provide housing for 200 Soldiers and have the capacity to feed more than 1,000 troops every day in its dining facility.

The automated bakery can churn out 1,500 Iraqi breads per hour.

"The base will provide logistical support for all the Iraqi Soldiers in the Al Anbar province," said Rimmey. "This facility will bring the resources closer to the troops in this area instead of having to transport them from Baghdad."


Rimmey said the 18-month project is nearly complete with all three sites scheduled to be operational by April. The contractor, Areeb East Trading Company, will provide training for the Iraqis on the new equipment and warranty all repairs and maintenance of the facility for one full year. Although the project has had its share of challenges, Rimmey said he credits the support he's received from the Iraqi Army units as the key to keeping the project on track.

Funding for the \$22 million project was provided by the Iraqi Security Forces Fund.

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 currently provides jobs for more than 20,000 Iraqis.

US Army engineers build air traffic control tower for Iraqi Air Force

 TIKRIT, Iraq – In a country with no discernible skyscrapers and few tall buildings, the 10-story air traffic control tower under construction at the Contingency Operating Base Speicher flight line in Tikrit, Iraq, will be one of the tallest structures in Salah ad Din province.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region District is the managing construction partner for the \$2.7 million tower project, designed to provide state-of-the-art air traffic control capabilities to the Iraqi Air Force units based at the Tikrit airfield.

Dan Kornblum, a construction representative with the Tikrit Resident Office, said the tower will provide the necessary tools for the Iraqi Air Force to keep current with modern technology.

"The new air traffic control tower will provide modern communications equipment for air traffic controllers," said Kornblum. "The tower is also more adjacent to the flight-line than the existing tower and this will provide better visibility for controllers. The proximity of the tower also translates to faster response times in getting planes in the air."

The tower specifications follow the U.S. Air Force Design Guide for Air Traffic Control Towers. The scope of work calls for the construction of a 10-story tower, with 720 square feet of floor space on each floor.

Electrical equipment rooms will occupy the sixth, seventh and eighth floors with the air traffic control tower cab on the 10th floor. The ATC is a pre-engineered room that contains all of the air traffic control operator equipment. The weather room and kitchenette/break room will be on the fourth floor of the tower, the chief controller's office is on the third floor and the training department is on the second floor.

The first floor of the tower will house the visual flight rules tower simulator that will be used to train Iraqi military air traffic controllers. The trainer has a three-person training console and an instructor console. The instrument flight rules trainer will be on the fifth floor and consists of a two-person trainee console and an instructor console. The third and fourth floors are designed to house administrative offices.

The EMTA Company is the general contractor for the tower project. The air traffic control tower is scheduled to be completed in late summer 2010. Funding for the project is being provided by the Iraqi Security Forces Fund.

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Phantom Support



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

(Above) Staff Sgt. Benjamin P. Wills, a squad leader with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Southaven, Miss., native, scans the rooftops and back alleys of Al Qayarah Feb. 20 from the water filtration plant that serves Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq during a routine patrol to the Tigris River pump house.



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Renaldo Grovenor

Sgt. Lyle Thurmond, a Washington D.C., native, and Spc. Harold James a Savannah, Ga., native, secure the loading ramp of a heavy equipment transporter after unloading a vehicle while on mission. The HET operators are from the 296th Transportation Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).



Sgt. Kory Smith, a Charleston, S.C., native, clears Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 260th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) after conducting a qualification range at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Vogler



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

Lt. Col. Kerry Goodman (left), a Meridian, Miss., resident and commander of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team out of Senatobia, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) receives a certificate of appreciation from Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, a Bloomfield, Conn., native and commander of the Army Reserve's 395th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, headquartered at Fort Devens, Mass., during a ceremony Feb. 25. Goodman's battalion is preparing to redeploy.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Murray Shugars

First Sgt. John L. Beasley, a Hernando, Miss., native, poses with Muhammed Abraham, the youngest child of Khalil Abraham, a wheat and sheep farmer near Al Qayarah, when Beasley and other members of his unit brought clothing and toys to the farmer during a security escort mission to the Tigris River pump house that supplies water to Q-West, Feb. 5. Beasley serves with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms, 155th Brigade Combat Team out of Hernando, Miss., 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) as the Q-West force protection company that provides security to all missions to the pump house or along the water pipeline.