

The Sustainment Times

FORWARD Camp Taji, Iraq

Published by the 1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office

The 1st Sustainment Brigade gets their Combat Patch



In this issue...
Cub Scouts
send "battle flag"
Ford Mustang
reviewed
CRSP Yard
Around VBC
...and much more!



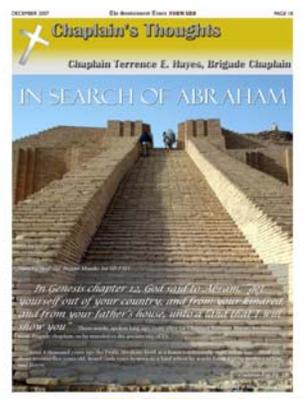
A Thanksgiving Day Feast
By Ft. Andrew Morris
The 1st Sustainment Brigade...
...to give thanks...

Pause to give thanks. Pg. 5



Life in Taji
1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery
Lt. Col. Ken Cobb, Commander
...life in Taji...

Life on Taji. Pg. 9



Chaplain's Thoughts
Chaplain Terrence E. Hayes, Brigade Chaplain
IN SEARCH OF ABRAHAM
...in search of Abraham...

In search of Abraham. Pg. 18

Commander's Corner

Col. Kevin G. O'Connell, Commander



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Col. Kevin O'Connell, 1st Sustainment Brigade commander (center), receives his combat patch from Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

1SB dons combat patch

Story by Pfc. Andrea

Merritt, 1st SB PAO

Veteran's day commemorates the signing of the armistice that ended World War I and is a day to honor the service members who fought and died defending freedom and the American way of life.

The 1st Sustainment Brigade, which deployed in September, observed the holiday with a combat patch ceremony Nov. 11.

Since its arrival to Camp Taji, Iraq, the 1st SB has assumed responsibility of sustainment operations throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad and earned the right to wear the highly-respected patch, which signifies wartime service.

combat helmets, interceptor body armor, and ballistic eyewear as commanders and leaders in the brigade placed the patches on their right shoulder.

"Many already have a combat patch from one or multiple tours with previous units," said Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1st SB. "Be proud of this patch because you are the 1st Sustainment Brigade."

The units that participated in the ceremony were HHC and Signal Company, both of the Special Troops Battalion, 1st SB, and the 15th Transportation Company and 377th Transportation Company, of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316th

Dear 1st SB,

Another month has flown by and we fast approach the holidays. It would be great to be with our Families, but we have a very important mission here in Iraq. Success is a word I would use to describe the 1st Sustainment Brigade mission here. We support central Iraq with food, water, ice, fuel, ammunition, medical supplies, repair parts, maintenance, transportation, convoy security, and force protection. We come from all over the United States as well as nationalities, but we're working together. I am very proud of the Soldiers of the brigade and all our attached battalions.

A recent highlight was the 1SB Patch Ceremony. Many within the brigade have already deployed, but a number of new Soldiers joined the ranks with their new combat patch.

To top that off, our unit cooks prepared a Thanksgiving meal with all the traditional side dishes. Our unit cooks did a fabulous job decorating the Cantigny Dining Facility, and were recognized by the Multi-National Division Baghdad and 1st Cavalry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Fil and Division Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Johndrow. We'll spend Thanksgiving 2008 here before returning to Fort Riley.

A special, recent visitor was our honorary Colonel of the Brigade, Maj. Gen. (R) Robert Shadley. We used that time to dedicate the Shadley Room in the Cantigny Dining Facility. The room features pictures highlighting his life and service.

So until next month, many thanks to our Family and friends for all the wonderful care packages to remind us of home and prepare us for the holiday season. Your love, thoughts, and prayers are felt. We deeply appreciate it.

The Soldiers stood under the

Continued on Pg. 3

COL Kevin O'Connell



Sustain to Victory





Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

2nd Lt. Cory Burnett, the strength manager for the 1st SB, places a combat patch onto Spc. Sean Stamps, a Soldier with the 1st SB, during a combat patch ceremony Nov. 11. After all the brigade, battalion and company commanders received their patches, the squad leaders placed one on each of the Soldiers in their squad.



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Expeditionary Sustainment Command, was the guest speaker during the event.

“Although the Army has taken the 1st SB away from the 1st Infantry Division, it is great that they get to keep all the lineage and honors,” said Couch.

“They did a great job designing the patch,” Couch said of the shoulder sleeve insignia, which was designed by O’Connell; Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, 1st SB command sergeant major; Lt. Col. Heilke Welling, the support operations officer; and Maj. Lowell Howard, executive officer of the STB.

“Be proud to wear the 1SB patch on both

sleeves because the best unit you’ve been in should be the unit you are in now - because you make this unit the best,” said O’Connell.

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Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, provides remarks during the 1st Sustainment Brigade’s patch ceremony Nov. 11. “What better place to be than in Iraq supporting the (Multi-National Corps-Iraq),” Couch said.



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion (left) and 15th Transportation Company, 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (right) stand ready to receive their combat patch at the 1st Sustainment Brigade patch ceremony, Nov 11.



Sustain to Victory



The Sustainment Times

FORWARD

The Sustainment Times Forward is a monthly newsletter produced by the 1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office.

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We are looking for content, so please submit letters, articles, photos, drawings, comics, etc. to:

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On the cover:

Capt. John Bezou, a plans officer for the 1st Sustainment Brigade gets his combat patch.

(Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt)

CSM Time

CSM Frank G. Cardoza



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Command Sgt. Major Frank Cardoza (center), command sergeant major for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, is flanked by Staff Sgt. Cesar Cobena (left) and Sgt. Salvador Ramirez (right) both members of the 1SB honor guard at the 1SB Patch Ceremony held at Camp Taji, Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, command sergeant major for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, congratulates Spc. Beau Hardy, machinist with the 512th Maintenance Company out of Manheim, Germany, on the creation of a custom flag stand.



Sustain to Victory



A Thanksgiving Day

Feast



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Civilian contractors prepare the turkey for the Thanksgiving Day feast at the Cantigny Dining Facility on Nov. 22. The line was out the door during lunch and almost 9,000 meals were served to servicemembers and civilians before the day was over.

Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, with their peers on Nov. 22.

1st SB PAO

The line was out the door at the Cantigny Dining Facility on Thanksgiving Day as Soldiers and civilians on Camp Taji gathered together to enjoy a holiday meal

As soon as the patrons walked into the dining facility, they were faced with the impressive displays the staff spent about eight hours a day for the past week working on.

“I like it all,” said Spc. Gerald Medford, a cook in the 1st Sustainment Brigade who, along with five

other people, worked on the displays. “I put my heart and soul into it. I think everything looks pretty good.”

The displays included cornucopias, ice sculptures, fruits carvings, gingerbread houses and styrofoam sculptures, which were made by

Story continues on Pg. 6





Soldiers and civilian contractors who work in the DFAC.

Continued from Pg. 5

“I was surprised they went through all this effort for us,” said Spc. Steve Guerrero, a force protection specialist in 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, when he saw the decorations.

During the meal, patrons had their choice of turkey, prime rib, Cornish hen, ham, green beans, mashed potatoes and various other foods during lunch and dinner hours at the DFAC that day.

“(Thanksgiving Day) is where we get to showcase our talents and skills and put on a great meal,” said Chief Warrant Officer Russell Campbell, the brigade’s food service technician. “It means even more when we’re deployed, because we want to give the Soldiers things they would eat at home,” said Campbell.

For some Soldiers, it was their first Thanksgiving away from home and although they missed being with their loved ones, they enjoyed their holiday feast. “The food is good and the decorations are nice,” said Guerrero, who is deployed for the first time.

“I miss being with my Family and kids, but these guys make it feel good, easier,” Guerrero added as he pointed to his colleagues.

In keeping with a long, withstanding Army tradition, leaders in the 1st Sustainment Brigade and its subordinate battalions served the Soldiers their Thanksgiving Day meals.

At the end of the day, almost 9,000 meals had been served, and the servicemembers and contractors on Camp Taji were able to get a little taste of a traditional Thanksgiving, although they were thousands of miles from home.

A group of Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, enjoy their Thanksgiving Day meal with each other at the Cantigny Dining Facility Nov. 22. “I miss being with my Family and my kids,” said Spc. Steve Guerrero, a force protection specialist with the 1-143rd FA. “These guys make it feel good, easier.”



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt





Special Troops Battalion

Lt. Col. Robert D. Brem, Commander

A Family Affair

Story by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1st SB PAO

Spc. Ralph Egbert, an information systems analyst for the Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, said "I promise" and added six years to his current enlistment as his Family looked on from Ft. Riley, Kan., via the internet Nov. 6.

Egbert is deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq, for 15 months and decided he'd like to continue his career in the Army, but really wanted his Family to be part of it.

"My wife didn't get to see me when I got promoted, so this gives her a chance to see me," said Egbert.

The ceremony took place at the Freedom Call Center on Camp Taji. The FCC provides Video Teleconferencing for Soldiers and their Families free of charge. As a result, Tracy, Maggie and Karli Egbert were able to watch.

In addition to his Family, several dozen of his fellow signal Soldiers witnessed the administering of the oath by their company commander, Capt. Rubin Neypes. "I am grateful to know that there are Soldiers, like Spc. Egbert, that maintain a passion to serve his country, this Army. I am honored to share this experience with him, and I am even more pleased that his Family can be apart of his reenlistment ceremony," stated Neypes.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant

(Left to right) Capt. Rubin Neypes, Signal Company commander, administers the enlistment oath to Spc. Ralph Egbert of the Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion. "I am grateful to know that there are Soldiers, like Spc. Egbert, that maintain a passion to serve his country, this Army. I am honored to share this experience with him, and I am even more pleased that his Family can be apart of his reenlistment ceremony," stated Neypes.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant

Spc. Edgardo Vazquez works feverishly from inside the shed of his team's Ku Satellite Terminal Trailer to bring the system back online following the company's first scheduled outage. The communications link his Ku Satellite provides hundreds of users the ability to connect their computers and phones to either SIPR or NIPR networks. Users are able to talk internally to each other or externally across the internet to access their AKO or similar services. Additionally, this month, Vazquez was promoted from private first class to specialist, continuing to show his hard work and dedication through the Army's ranks. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Justin D. Haug)



Information Systems Analyst, Spc. Ralph Egbert, of the Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, visits with his wife Tracy and daughters Maggie and Karli at the Camp Taji, Freedom Call Center shortly after he re-enlisted in the Army for another six years. "My wife didn't get to see me when I got promoted so this gives her a chance to see me," said Egbert.



Maintenance Soldiers help the Marines

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Jarvis, 1SB

damaged the steering gear box and that there was a second vehicle with

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, and asked her to take the lead. Spain took the M1151 into the shop, removed the damaged part and proceeded to fix the dead-lined vehicle. It took Spain a little while to find the right pitman arm, but we had a new one on stock and she was able to change it out.

The day started out like any other Camp Taji day; that is, until we arrived at work. Waiting on our doorstep were a group of Marines, a vehicle being pulled by a HEMTT wrecker and Sgt. 1st Class McDaniel from the Military Police. McDaniel



Sgt. Summer Spain, senior mechanic for HHC, 1SB holds up the much needed replacement part.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Jarvis

started to tell the story of how the Marines had just arrived on Taji when their vehicle broke down. He wanted to know if we could help them out. I asked what the problem was, and they told me that they had

a bad alternator.

I checked the part numbers and found out that we had the parts on hand, so I turned to Sgt. Summer Spain, senior mechanic with

Meanwhile Spc. Jarrett Stebbins and Spc. John Brian Hughes, both wheeled vehicle mechanics, troubleshot the second downed vehicle and discovered a bad external voltage regulator. The Soldiers went to work and in about 30 minutes changed the broken parts and had the truck on its way. Thanks to the professionalism and skill of these mechanics, the vehicles were finished in time for the Marines to complete their mission on schedule.



A simple reminder from Maj. Jason Coster "Freedom isn't free!" The photo above was taken at Normandy, France in May 2005.



Looking for Soldiers' mail at the Camp Taji postal warehouse is Sgt. Corey Wood, acting postal clerk for the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. (Photo on left by Maj. Jason Coster)

(Photo above by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude)





1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery

Lt. Col. Ian Falk, Commander

Life in Taji

Story by Staff Sgt. James

Dokken, 1-143rd FA

Located on the outskirts of Baghdad lies a sprawling forward operating base known as Camp Taji. "Al Taji," as the Iraqis called it, was once a very important military base for Saddam Hussein. Today, it has become an important base for Coalition Forces, as well as the new Iraqi Army. The 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery has been tasked to protect a portion of the Coalition Forces operating out of Camp Taji, as well as a portion of the Iraqi Army forces stationed here. It is precisely the type of mission that several units of 1-143 FA are doing at several forward operating bases in Iraq. 1-143rd FA Soldiers are well trained and ever vigilant, manning guard towers and gates to keep Camp Taji and other bases safe from a possible insurgent attack.

Camp Taji, in some places, is nothing more than an abandoned military base with numerous dilapidated structures scattered across a somewhat arid landscape of loose gravel, dirt roads, and a small variety of trees.

A rather large population of birds has seemingly taken residence amidst the trees here. A species resembling a finch seems to be most prevalent.

They flock together taking up every possible spot in each tree, and then dart among the trees in a strange rotation of hundreds, yet the purpose of such movement continually eludes me. Apparently that's not the only oddity of it all; instead of cooing, the pigeons here "caw" like crows.

There is ample protection from indirect fire with massive barriers in one form or another protecting all the buildings. Still, the overall atmosphere of the area lends the effect of a desolate border town.

As we take on responsibility for both living space and office buildings, we tenaciously strive to improve them. We pull together, examining

our structures from every angle. From force protection to area beautification, our buildings receive an overhaul as if each machination or improvement was orchestrated by a mad scientist with a Home Depot fetish. At the height of a feverish series of improvements, our operations center was born. The ideas and sweat of many came together as one to create a beautiful, Frankenstein akin to sort of establishment, the

Continued on Pg.10



Photo by Spc. Stewart Brown

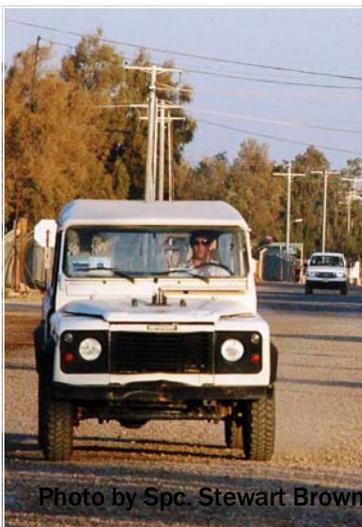


Photo by Spc. Stewart Brown



Photo by Maj. Terrence Hayes



Continued from Pg. 9

likes of which could bring a tear even to the eye of Mary Shelley. Some painted, while others filled sandbags to reinforce windows. Some helped by acquiring supplies, while others built and fabricated things from wood and steel. The overall ingenuity of it all made for quite an amazing transformation.

The only quandary thus far is that many Soldiers here are, oddly enough, surprised by their force protection role, genuinely expecting more action in this environment of unconventional warfare. The younger Soldiers came here with certain perceptions and expectations in mind, but the reality reflects in the face of the more experienced non-commissioned officers and senior leaders. There will be no great battles, no rumble of artillery or rattle of musketry, just moments of excitement, and terror,

in long days directed toward the goal of an Iraqi democracy. The reality is that we must stay and see the Iraqi forces through their struggle. The stakes are high. Gen Petraeus teaches us that the best way to accomplish this goal is to train, while simultaneously protecting, the forces of Iraq, and to earn the trust of the people.

Every day, the Iraqi Security Forces grow stronger and the terrorists lose momentum. This shift makes force protection one of the largest remaining missions for Coalition Forces in Iraq. The challenge of commanders and non-commissioned officers alike will be to levy that

importance, and instill that sense of purpose to the troops, so they are not disappointed by this important, but perhaps unsung, role. The Soldiers of the 1-143rd FA understand this dilemma. There is

Soldiers of the 1-143rd FA hang out near their rooms.



Photo by Spc. Stewart Brown

Camp Taji fuel farm.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude



A Soldier makes her way down a street on Camp Taji, Iraq.

Photo by Spc. Stewart Brown





1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, Commander

Pack 236

sends Den 5 "battle flag" to be flown over Iraq, signed by 1103rd CSSB Soldiers and returned.

Story by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1st SB PAO

The Soldiers of 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion received numerous cards and treats from some youngsters in Atlanta recently. The



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant

(Left to right) Cpt. Melvin Tucker, chaplain for the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd CSSB hold up the "battle flag" of Cub Scout Den 5 from Atlanta. The flag was mailed by Josh Moreland, a friend and neighbor of Ellis in hopes of having the flag flown over Iraq, signed by Soldiers of the 1103rd CSSB and mailed back to Georgia.

messages were assembled and mailed by Cub Scout Pack 236 led by Josh Moreland, a friend and neighbor of Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd CSSB.

"This is all the stuff we collected from ten Cub Scout dens at three different elementary schools over the past two weeks," wrote Moreland in a letter to Ellis.

Along with the cards and treats came a large "battle flag" belonging to Den 5. The boys mailed the flag in hopes of it being flown over Iraq, lowered and signed by the Soldiers of 1103rd and mailed back.

"We raised the flag and it's being signed and then we'll send it back to the Scouts," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Hagler, command sergeant major for the 1103rd CSSB.

The 1103rd CSSB is an Alabama National Guard unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I want to thank you and your Soldiers in the 1103rd for your sacrifice and commitment to our country," wrote Moreland.



Command Sgt. Maj. John Hagler, command sergeant major for the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Command, 1st Sustainment Brigade raises the Den 5 "battle flag" sent to Iraq by Josh Moreland, a resident of Atlanta and neighbor of Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd CSSB. Moreland is the scout master for Cub Scout Pack 236. (Photo by Spc. Lashunda Powell)



Den 5 "battle flag" flies high above Camp Taji, Iraq. Sent by Josh Moreland of Atlanta; the flag was signed and mailed back home. (Photo by Spc. Lashunda Powell)



Around Camp Taji

HIP HOP ABS
 aerobics designed with you in mind
 Beginning Nov. 7, 2007
 Every Tuesday and Thursday
 @ 0600-0700Hrs.
 Cinema Bldg#93
 Across DFAC 2
 For more info contact:
 Yolanda.carrillo@iraq.centcom.mil

Ladies Table Tennis Tournament
 Bldg 544
 Dec. 9
 @ 1700 Hrs
 Sign up sheet only in Bldg 544
 kuni.koguchi@iraq.com

Special Troop Battalion's Christmas Party
 You are invited to join in the fun!
 Date: 14 Dec 2007
 Time: 1900
 Place: Bldg 93

Coming events on Camp Taji in December 2007

Hip Hop ABS classes are held each Tuesday and Thursday 06:00—07:00 at Building 93 across from DFAC 2.

COUNTRY LINE DANCE
 COME ONE COME ALL!!!
 EVERY FRIDAY
 BLDG 680
 @ 1900

Come one, come all to the Special Troop Battalion Christmas Party at Bldg. 93. The fun begins at 19:00 on Dec 14.

Have
 A
 Merry Christmas

And
 A
 Happy New Year

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Merry Christmas
 Join us for our Christmas Meal
 Breakfast (continental) 0630-0800
 Lunch (Main meal) 1100-1530
 Dinner 1700-2000
 Midnight 2330-0100
 Cantigny

Christmas Extravaganza
 Auditions
 December 4, 6, 8, 2007
 Cinema
 @ 2000

31 DEC
 LAUGH IN THE NEW YEAR
 COMEDY MOVIE MARATHON
 Internet Cafe @ 2000
 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
 Cinema @ 2100 - 0100

MENU
 • SHRIMP COCKTAIL
 • ROASTED TURKEY
 • BAKED HAM
 • PRIME RIB
 • STEAMSHIP ROUND
 • SAVORY BREAD DRESSING
 • MASHED POTATODES
 • BUTTERED CORN
 • ASST SALADS
 • FRESH FRUIT
 • CHRISTMAS CAKE
 Cantigny
 • CANDIED YAMS
 • GREEN BEAN ALMONDINE
 • TURNIP GREENS
 • COLLARD GREENS
 • CRANBERRY SAUCE
 • HOT ROLLS
 • TURKEY, BROWN, GIBLET GRAVY
 • FRUIT SALAD
 • EGG NOG
 • ASST PIES, PECAN, SWEET POTATO, PUMPKIN, & ASST CAKES

25 DEC
 CHRISTMAS INTO KWANZAA
 8 BALL TOURNAMENT
 Internet Cafe @ 2300
 SPADE AND DOMINO
 Bldg 732 @ 2200
 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA
 Cinema @ 2000



Hot Wheels



Base price \$19K
Convertible \$24K
Shelby GT 500 \$42K

FORD MUSTANG

No sooner did I mention the idea of writing a review of the Corvette for the November issue of the 1SB Newsletter than I got my first protest. That's right, I got flack! Some unnamed Hater Aid Vette Fan, SPO SGM thought I should have talked about the Mustang. So here I go.

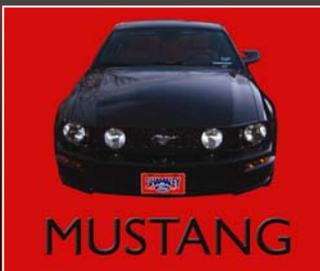
(Photos from SGM Hill)

“Some unnamed Hater Aid Vette Fan, SPO SGM, thought I should have talked about the Mustang.”

Master Sgt. Benjamin Wingfield

The Mustang is a sports car icon that debuted back in 1964, creating a new market segment, known as the “Pony Cars.” The current model Mustangs draw their inspiration from the mid 1960’s brand. Base model Mustangs will set you back \$19 to \$25K. Not bad for 210 Horses pushing you

For more excitement, look to the Mustang GT. This high-performance machine features a more robust transmission, 300Hp, 4.6L, V8 engine that will run a quarter-mile in 13.5 seconds. Your third option will set you back a cool \$42K, but will give you a little closer look at the designer license plate on my triple-black Chevy Corvette! Next month, I’ll be talking Foreign cars. Until then, this is MSG Wingfield saying “Roll Fast!”



MUSTANG



Soldier on the Street

We asked Soldiers the following question: "What will you miss most about Christmas away from home?"



"Not being able to see my Family and my husband."

(Left) Spc. Vanessa Wright, satellite systems communications operator/maintainer, Signal Company, Special Troop Battalion.

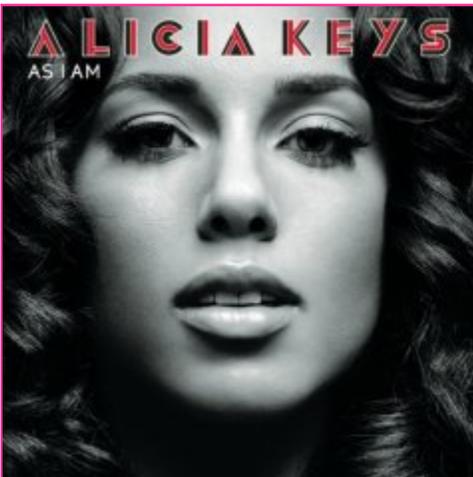


"I won't miss anything. I will be home. I'm just going to enjoy spending time with my Family."

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Emanuel Miles, supplies and services NCOIC, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

"My mom makes waffles Christmas morning, every Christmas since I was four."

(Right) Capt. Tara West, assistant S2, 1st Sustainment Brigade.



Hot Tracks

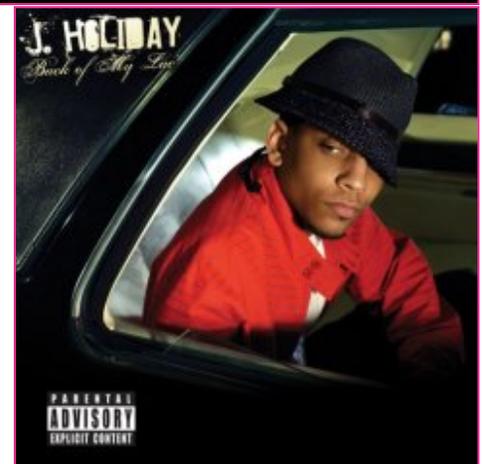
By Pvt. Rashi Bailey

Top 3 in the U.S.

- 1. Alicia Keys - No One
- 2. Timberland F/ One Republic - Apologize
- 3. Chris Brown - Kiss Kiss

My Top 3

- 1. J. Holiday - Put you to bed
- 2. Dream - She a ten
- 3. Kanye West - Can't tell me nothing





15th Personnel Services Battalion

Lt. Col. Angela Odom, Commander

Mail Call

Story by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1st SB PAO

Mail; it's been around for hundreds of years. The Babylonians wrapped their message in thin sheets of clay that were then baked. In 1653, Frenchman, De Valayer established a postal system in Paris. He set up mail boxes and delivered any letters placed in them if they used envelopes that only he sold. And in 1872, Aaron Montgomery Ward sent out his first mail order catalog for his Montgomery Ward mail order business located at Clark and Kinzie Streets in Chicago.

In Camp Taji, Iraq, mail is a lifeline to the friends and Families of Soldiers and civilians deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It takes the expertise of several organizations to move mail in and out of the camp as quickly and efficiently as it does.

For Sgt. Eva Bryant, a Soldier with the 115th Base Support Battalion, she made a visit to the post office as part of her preparation for redeployment to the states. "This is my

personal stuff that I didn't want to put in the conex, and I didn't want to wait for when I arrive home," said Bryant.

A large metal building serves as the main post office on Camp Taji, and starting in October of 2007, the customer service tasks were transferred from the 4th Platoon, 111th Postal Company, 15th Personnel Services Battalion to Kellogg, Brown, and Root.

"Since KBR came in, we work in the warehouse and pitch mail, and KBR maintains the customer service," said Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Acevedoalvarez, platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon, 111th Postal Company out of Bamberg, Germany. "We're more like augmenters now," stated Acevedoalvarez.

The 111th Postal Co. started working at Camp Taji a few months prior to the handover and are on their way back to Germany now that the 4th Platoon, 461st Postal Company, a National Guard unit out of Decatur, Georgia, has arrived.

"It's hard work, but fun," said Spc. James Pulliam, postal clerk with 4th Plt, 461st Postal Co. Pulliam was referring to the task of sorting boxes



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Sorting mail is a part of Spc. James Pulliam, postal clerk with 4th Platoon, 461st Postal Company; a National Guard unit out of Decatur, Georgia. "It's hard work, but fun," said Pulliam.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

(Left to right) Spc. Andrew Harron, postal clerk with 4th Platoon, 461st Postal Company a Georgia National Guard unit from Decatur, Georgia and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Franklin, platoon sergeant from Gallatin, TN sort's packages in preparation for units pick up.

upon boxes at the central warehouse. On the day I visited, they were in the process of separating two tractor trailer containers worth of mail. Once the mail is separated, it's the job of each unit's mail clerk to pick up the mail and take it back to their area.

"We didn't have a whole lot of mail today," said Sgt. Corey Wood, acting mail clerk for the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. Wood volunteered to assist with mail upon his arrival to Iraq, and is making improvements. "We have a way to go, but it's looking good," said Wood.

Wouldn't it be great if hundreds of years from now people read about how many hands and many organizations came together and ensured that Soldiers and civilians stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq had mail?





168th Base Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Todd Heussner, Commander

INDIANA GUARD UNIT ACCEPTS MISSION

Story by Pfc. Marcus Johnson, 168th BSB

I'd imagine if you asked most Soldiers at Camp Liberty if they remembered Veterans' Day, they'd say they did, but for the Soldiers of Fox Company, 151st Infantry, November 11th was more than a holiday, it marked the three-month anniversary of our arrival into theater.

Fox Co. arrived in Camp Liberty, Iraq in late August, under the leadership of Capt. Steven Bell, company commander, and 1st Sgt. Walter Kuzmin, company first sergeant. "We secure logistics convoys in order to sustain Coalition Force operations throughout the area of operations of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and Multi-National Division-Central," said Bell.

More than half of the unit has already been deployed before, so the shift from home station drills to full-time active service was a familiar process for most of the company. The real challenge, however, was to transition an infantry company, comprised of Soldiers with varying combat experiences, into a cohesive unit capable of accepting the task of convoy security missions. Several Soldiers, including Bell, have run convoy security missions on past deployments, but a significant number within the unit had little or no experience in this field of military operations prior to this deployment.

Fox Co. spent several weeks in training—at Fort Dix, New Jersey; Camp Buehring,



Photo by Spc. David Bonnell

(from bottom left to top right) Sgt. Sean Raby, Pfc. Joshua Denney, and Spc. Daniel Miller from Fox Company, 151st Infantry return to Camp Liberty at dawn after providing a night convoy security mission.

Kuwait; and finally at our current duty station in Camp Liberty, Iraq, where in a true "crawl-walk-run" fashion, we learned the ins and outs of convoy security operations.

In less than two months, the convoy security teams of Fox Company have driven over 144,000 miles through and around Baghdad. They have spotted two improvised explosive devices, and engaged in three separate escalation-of-force incidents, one of which required the convoy to engaged local insurgents with an armed response, all without the loss of personnel or damage to equipment.



Photo by Spc. David Bonnell

Fox Company, 151st Infantry, poses for a company photo shortly after arriving into theater. A company-sized element of nearly 200 Soldiers, F-151 IN will be performing convoy security operations throughout the duration of their one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.





68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Darrell Duckworth, Commander

Life inside the

CRSP YARD



Photo by SGT. Reynaldo Luna

(Left to right) Spc. Rusty Boggs, from the 169th Cargo Transportation Company, clarifies for Spc. Jarrod Meyer, from the 297th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, the process for palletizing cargo at the Central Receiving and Shipping Point Yard in Victory Base Complex, Iraq.



Photo by SGT. Reynaldo Luna

(Left to right) SPC Cristal Jackson and SPC Jarrod Mayer, from the 297th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Iraq, look over the palletized check list. Once the equipment is palletized, it will be transported to Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group at the Baghdad International Airport.



Photo by SGT. Reynaldo Luna

Spc. Alisia Johnson, from the 297th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, conducts routine preventative maintenance checks and services on a M1114. The 297th ICTC is located at the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group, Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.



Photo by SGT. Reynaldo Luna

Spc. Aron Villafranca (left), from 169th Cargo Transportation Company, receives a battalion coin of excellence from the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Darrell Duckworth (right). Villafranca was the 169th CTC commander's driver during his 15-month deployment.



Sustain to Victory





Chaplain's Thoughts

Chaplain Terrence E. Hayes, Brigade Chaplain

IN SEARCH OF ABRAHAM



Story by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1st SB PAO

In Genesis chapter 12, God said to Abram, "get yourself out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you"

These words, spoken long ago, came alive for Chaplain Terrence Hayes, 1st Sustainment Brigade chaplain, as he traveled to the ancient city of Ur.

"About four thousand years ago, the Prophet Abraham lived in a house traditionally right behind us... Abraham, about 75 years old, heard God's voice to move to a land where he would fulfill a great promise to him," said Hayes.

Continued on Pg. 19

Photo courtesy of Maj. Terrence Hayes



Sustain to Victory



Continued from Pg. 18

As he made his way through the ancient ruins, the guide, Dhief Muhsen, an Iraqi citizen, who lives next to the site with his wife and seven children, spoke of the people who lived there many thousands of years ago. "They found the name Abram. A name that had some root of Abraham in there," said Muhsen.

If Abraham lived in the 27-room house, he was quite a wealthy man. For him to leave that lifestyle was quite an act of faith, said Hayes.

A few hundred meters down a narrow, dusty trail stands the Ziggurat. The ancient Assyrians and Babylonians built the terraced-pyramid temple more than 4,000 years ago. The temple has slanting walls with steps and rises some 50 feet above the surrounding desert; a site that was of great interest to the chaplain.

"I do a seminar called "Walk through the Bible" and it traces all the major people, places and events of the entire Bible," said Hayes. "One of the scenes is the beginning of the call of Abraham at Ur," continued Hayes.

The Army has allowed Hayes to travel a bit and, as a result, has been able to visit historical sites like Ur. "This is the first Old Testament site I can think of visiting," said Hayes. "When we were stationed in Germany, we visited Ephesus and Miletus which are New Testament sites," continued Hayes.

From the top of the Ziggurat, you can see remnants of the entire ancient city; a city that Muhsen says, at one time was the largest city in the world. You can't help but think, that so much of it is still covered by thousands of years of dust and dirt.

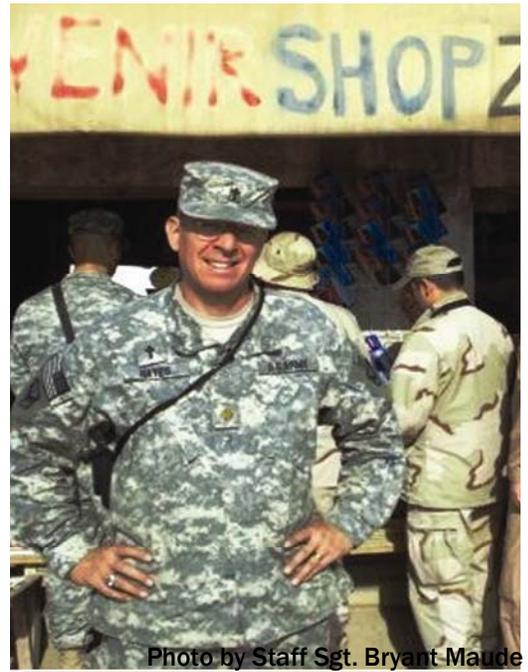


Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Maj. Terrence Hayes, 1 SB chaplain, stands at the Ziggurat Gift Shop.

Maj. Terrence Hayes (right) listens to Dhief Muhsen (center), the Iraqi guide, talk.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude



ZIGGURAT AT UR

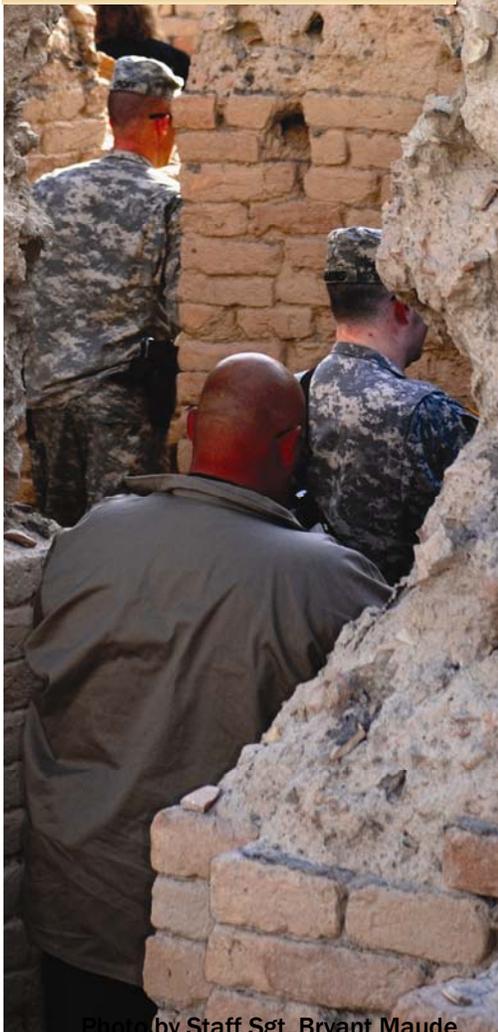


Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude



Around VBC

Durable 6 visits Victory Base, Iraq



Stop taking pictures in the helicopter!

One morning in late Fall, the 1st Sustainment Brigade commander and his entourage took a little trip.

His first stop was the finance office for some much needed Soldier support.



Sir, my Soldiers are ready to support you.

In a meeting at the 389th Finance Detachment back office...



Sergeant, this is an original memo from the CS for a personal loan.

Durable 6 takes a trip to Victory Base Complex by Maj. Thomas Buchholz

...and then to the vault...

Sir, here is your \$100,000 loan



Etie, darling, now we can retire to Brazil and do the Samba.

...they rendezvoused before conducting the next mission.

Guys, it is time to hit the PX!



Reconnaissance at PX

Mayor's Cell, see? Other PX's have shaving creams. Why doesn't the Taji PX ever have it?



Camp Striker PX

Nice shirts and sweatshirts!



More reconnaissance at the PX...

Sir, they even have deodorants on sale



...returning to Camp Taji.

We need to show the Mayor's Cell the truth about their PX.



GET INVOLVED

STAY INFORMED



KARAOKE NIGHT TUESDAY



SCORPION MWR Every Tuesday @ 2000



HALO 2 TOURNAMENT SCORPION MWR Thursday @ 2000



Sustain to Victory

