

# The Sustainment Time

**FORWARD**  
Camp Taji, Iraq

Published by the 1st Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office

## “DURABLE’S” DAY

In this issue...

1SB Sustains Iraqi Drivers

There's Fast and then there's "Army Fast"

Spur Ride

Moving Ammunition

Thanksgiving menu

...and much more!



November 2007



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One Hot Ride on Pg. 12

# Commander's Corner

Col. Kevin G. O'Connell, Commander

Dear 1<sup>st</sup> SB,

Well, we've come a long way since our last newsletter – about 8,000 miles. Most of the main body left Fort Riley on Sep. 18 and we haven't slowed down yet. Settling into our new accommodations in Camp Taji, Iraq, we overcame the initial shock and are now hard at work. We had excellent training in sandy Kuwait and a seamless transition with the 15<sup>th</sup> SB out of Fort Hood. It's our show now.

It's been a long road for the brigade. It all started with our move from Germany in 2006, then our build toward reorganization as the 1<sup>st</sup> SB, culminating with our deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Right now we're supporting 100,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians in the Baghdad area. That support includes food, water, ice, fuel, ammo, weapons systems, repair parts, general supplies, transportation, maintenance, mail, personnel support, financial and religious support. That's quite a list and I am personally very proud of all the men and women who are making this support possible. The days are long, but the mission is being accomplished.

That kind of support, however, had been going on a long time. Our lineage goes back 90 years to 1917 as the 1<sup>st</sup> ID Trains. That mission continued in WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm and OIF II as the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division DISCOM. It's what we do.

In closing, I'd like to say thanks to our rear detachment for preparing and sending out late deploying Soldiers. You're doing an important job. A special thanks for our many Ft. Riley friends and Family members who stand behind us with their thoughts and prayers during this 15-month deployment. We are counting on you too.

Sustain to Victory!

COL Kevin O'Connell



Col. Kevin O'Connell, 1<sup>st</sup> SB commander talks to a large crowd of Soldiers and civilian contractors at the transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade takes charge

Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, 1<sup>st</sup> SB PAO

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade "Durable" took official charge of support operations throughout Multi-National Division– Baghdad in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19 outside of the brigade's headquarters.

The 1<sup>st</sup> SB assumed the mission from the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, which deployed here from Fort Hood, Texas, August 2006.

While in theater, the 15<sup>th</sup> SB "Wagonmasters" supported 13 brigade combat teams, conducted more than 5,800 combat logistics patrols and drove over four million miles across an area the size of Kentucky. Now, it is the 1<sup>st</sup> SB's turn to make its mark.

The 1<sup>st</sup> SB has taken charge of seven battalions with more than 4,000 Soldiers serving throughout the greater MND-B area of operation.

They will perform personnel, human resources, financial management, force protection and other logistical operations while in Iraq.

"I know the 1<sup>st</sup> SB will continue to build on the 15<sup>th</sup> SB's past successes as well as create new ones," said Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Before the 1<sup>st</sup> SB arrived in Camp Taji, they kept in close contact with the 15<sup>th</sup> SB through phone calls and video teleconferences so that their transition would be easier. "Our transition has been flawless

See Takes charge on Pg. 3



Sustain to Victory



# 1ST SB TAKES OVER...

*"I like to say we are the 1SB of the 1<sup>st</sup> ID, in its first year, on its first deployment, supporting the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division"*

*Col Kevin O'Connell*

*Camp Tagi, Iraq, October 19, 2007*



*Takes charge continued from Pg. 2*

because of your support of us. Ever since we got our deployment orders ... it's just been first-class operations dealing with a first-class organization," said O'Connell of the 15<sup>th</sup> SB.

"To the Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, look back on the giants that have gone before us, stand on their shoulders, both from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade. They've set the foundation, now it's our turn to keep improving," O'Connell said.

"Look back at the motto of the Big Red One, "No mission too difficult. No sacrifice too great. Duty first and sustain to victory," O'Connell concluded.



*Sustain to Victory*



The Sustainment Times

**FORWARD**

The Sustainment Times Forward is a monthly publication produced by the First Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office.

1<sup>st</sup> SB Commander

Col. Kevin G. O'Connell

1<sup>st</sup> SB Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank

Cardoza

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

@iraq.centcom.mil

# CSM Time

CSM Frank G. Cardoza



Command Sgt. Major Frank Cardoza has a new Hooah Card he's passing out to Soldiers he sees performing above the standard. "If you get three of these cards you can trade it in for a Commander & CSM Coin" said Cardoza.

## 1st SB Patch Ceremony

Nov 11, 2007



**"Be there or be bare"**



**Support Army Recruiting**



*Sustain to Victory*



## *1<sup>st</sup> SB Soldiers sustain Iraqi drivers*



*Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, 1<sup>st</sup> SB PAO*

Soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade helped sustain an Iraqi fuel convoy during its stop at Camp Taji by bringing food, water and ice to the drivers Oct. 19 and Oct 22.

The convoy was a joint effort between the U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, Iraqi army and local nationals.

The Marines provided route clearance and the Iraqi army pulled security as the drivers, who are local nationals, transported fuel to different locations throughout Iraq.

It was the Army's job to handle lodging for the Marines and Iraqi soldiers and to provide food for the local nationals driving the fuel trucks the day they left for the convoy and the day they returned.

After their mission, which lasted about three days, the drivers lined the fuel trucks along the side of the road and rested.

Some of the drivers could be seen lying in a bed hanging above the seats in the cabs of their trucks.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> SB Soldiers pulled up in a 5-ton truck filled with boxed meals, bags of ice and water, the drivers climbed out of their beds to collect their share.

The Soldiers rode down a line of 120 trucks, which was about a mile long, and handed out the goods with the help of two Iraqi soldiers.

"We had to feed close to 300 people," said Master Sgt. Oscar Bonilla, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> SB Iraqi Security Forces section. "We handed out six pallets of water, 62 boxes of meals and 300 bags of ice."

"Missions like this greatly improve American-Iraqi relationships. It changes the overall vision of the Iraqis toward the U.S. Army," Bonilla concluded.



*Sustain to Victory*





# Special Troops Battalion

Lt. Col. Robert D. Brem, Commander



through video teleconferences and phone calls prior to the STB's deployment, which was originally planned for July. Due to the deployment extensions, the 15<sup>th</sup> BTB was extended and the STB's deployment was pushed back three months.

"We were trained and ready to come back in July, but we're more ready and better trained now. We're excited to be here ... It's going to be a busy 15 months and we're going to do everything we can to improve on the foundation that they built. We're looking forward to that challenge and can't wait to get started," Brem said.

The brigades are scheduled to conduct their transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 19 at brigade headquarters.

Lt. Col. Brem, commander of the Special Troops Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade addresses a large crowd of Soldiers and civilians at the recent change of command ceremony on Camp Taji, Iraq.

## Special Troops Battalion arrives in Taji

Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, 1<sup>st</sup> SB PAO

The Special Troops Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, took the reigns and accepted the mission from the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade Troops Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, in a battalion transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 13 at the MWR Community Center and Theater.

The 15<sup>th</sup> BTB cased its colors and the STB uncased theirs, signifying the change of responsibility between battalions. Now that their mission is complete, the 15<sup>th</sup> BTB can focus on returning home to Fort Hood, Texas.

Col. Aundre Piggee, commander of the 15<sup>th</sup> SB. "I know Robert and his family personally. I know this battalion is in great hands, they're well trained and more than capable of conducting combat operations."

The STB is now responsible for providing logistical support, human resources, personnel and financial management operations throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

"They did an absolutely outstanding job in receiving us and setting the conditions for us to be able to rapidly step in and take over the missions here on Camp Taji and that didn't just start when we hit the ground here," said Lt. Col. Robert Brem, commander of the STB.



(Left to right) Lt. Col Robert Brem, STB commander, and Command Sgt. Major Eugene Thomas STB command Sgt. Major, uncase the STB, 1<sup>st</sup> SB, colors.

"15<sup>th</sup> BTB, job well done," said

The two units corresponded





# 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery

Lt. Col. Ian Falk, Commander



Sgt. Dominic Cooper a tower guard with Det. 1 of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery keeps an eye out for suspicious activity. Cooper is deployed for one year with the California National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo's courteous of Spc. Stewart Brown, 1-143rd FA)

## California Guard on guard 24/7

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

When Lt. Col. Ian Falk, commander of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery gathered his team for deployment, it would require some Soldiers to travel from the southern to northern most parts of California; a distance of over 900 miles.

"I have Soldiers cross leveled into my battalion from all over the state. From El Centro near the Mexican border all the way to Crescent City on the Oregon Border," said Falk.

The 1-143 FA mobilization called for more than twice the number of Soldiers than authorized for their artillery mission, and for that reason Falk had to cross level a larger number of additional Soldiers than originally anticipated.

The California Soldiers came well prepared. "We did a month of pre-mobilization training at Camp

See On guard Pg. 18





# 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, Commander



## There's fast and then there's "Army Fast" 15<sup>th</sup> Trans gets a new commander

*Story by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, 1<sup>st</sup> SB PAO*

The other day, Capt. Stephen Kildow, the former assistant operations officer for the Special Troops Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, was minding his own business when word came down from higher he would be interviewing for a new company commander's job.

The interview would be with Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, the battalion commander for the 1103<sup>rd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion the very next day.

"I had about a day and a half notice. Once selected, I had about eight days to complete inventories and a change of command ceremony," said Kildow.

There was little time for Kildow to transition between his role as an assistant S-3 and company commander and a number of thoughts went through his mind as he took the lead of the 15<sup>th</sup> Trans.

"Property accountability and personnel issues are two big ones that are affecting me right now." "Anytime there is a quick change of leadership there will always be challenges."

Kildow looks forward to learning something new and working with the great Soldiers of the 15<sup>th</sup> Trans. "Getting to know the Soldiers; learning what motivates them to excel in life, learning about their Families, learning what normal looks like so I am able to recognize when they are having issues and help them work through whatever that might be....it's an awesome opportunity," said Kildow.



Capt. Stephen Kildow (right) takes charge of the 15<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company in Camp Taji, Iraq. "It's an awesome opportunity," said Kildow.



(left to right) Lt. Col Robert Brem, Col Kevin O'Connell, Capt. Stephen Kildow and Lt. Col Lee Ellis pose for a command photo after the ceremony.

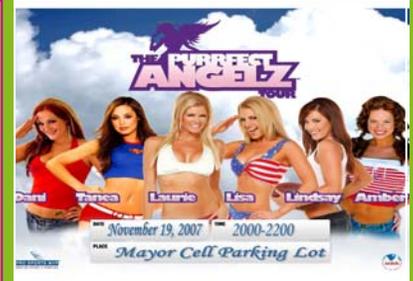


# Around Camp Taji

November 6<sup>th</sup>: The Freedom Call Center is conducting Video Tele-Conference sessions between Soldiers at Camp Taji and their Families in the Ft. Riley area. Contact Sgt. Angela Younger-Embree at the FCC at 834-1352

**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

November 15<sup>th</sup>: MWR is hosting the Estonian sensation "Vanilla Ninja" in the Mayor's Cell parking lot. Concert starts at 20:00.



## Coming events on Camp Taji in November 2007



November 7<sup>th</sup>: Come one, come all to the new Hip Hop ABS class beginning the first week in November. The classes are held each Tuesday and Thursday 06:00—07:00 at Building 93 across from DFAC 2.



November 19<sup>th</sup>: The Purfect Angelz are a group of dancers and singers who will be performing in the Mayor's Cell parking lot starting at 20:00. The show is sponsored by MWR and will last two hours.

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Join the Cantigny Dining Facility for our **Traditional Thanksgiving Meal**  
 22 November 2007

**Turkey Day Meal Hours**  
 Breakfast 0630-0800  
 Lunch (main meal) 1100-1430  
 Dinner 1700-2000  
 Midnight 2330-0100

Happy Thanksgiving

November 25<sup>th</sup>: A true hero. A Vietnam veteran, who survived a white phosphorus grenade exploding inches from his face and left him severely burned. Find out what changed his life and what keeps him going.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade Volleyball League**

Who: 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade Soldiers  
 What: Outdoor Volleyball League  
 Where: Volleyball court behind the Brigade Headquarters  
 When: Sunday's beginning in December  
 Why: Provide an outlet to increase individual and Soldier morale, display competitive spirit, or join your fellow team-mates and socialize on or socialize with your comrades in arms in a relaxed setting

## STAY INFORMED

November 22<sup>nd</sup>: CW3 Campbell and his crew are putting on a large Thanksgiving spread that you will not want to miss. The main event will take place at DFAC #2 starting at 11:00 and will run until 14:30. Turn to Pg 19 for a full menu.

### Hear the Dave Roeber Story!

In 1968, DAVE ROEBER found himself in Vietnam for the first time serving with the United States Navy as a member of the elite Brown Water Black Beret. He served in the Mekong Delta area until July 26, 1969 when he was severely wounded. A white phosphorus grenade exploded six inches from his face leaving his body severely damaged, but not his spirit. Hear the amazing story of his recovery and the changed life that has brought him to Iraq.

Dave's appearances on Sunday, Nov 25 at:

- Contemporary Service, MWR THEATER by DFAC#2, 0930
- Protestant Service, DURABLE CHAPEL BLD#97, 1100
- The Mudhouse (coffee shop), 1800 with music



November: A new outdoor Volleyball League will begin soon. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade is interested in finding players to join this exciting league. If you like competition, this may be for you.



# HHC, 1st Sustainment Brigade

**Capt. Adena J. Weiser, Company Commander**



(Left to right) Capt. Adena Weiser and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. James Snowden pose outside the 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainment Brigade, Company Headquarters building on Camp Taji, Iraq.

Hello Family and friends! Finally, after all our hard work and training back at Fort Riley and down in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, here we are in Camp Taji, Iraq doing our part to serve and protect our country. Many of us have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom before—some of us even, specifically, to Camp Taji. Some of us were deployed in of Operation Desert Storm. Those of us who've only recently become Soldiers have heard so much about deploying that we could hardly imagine an Army where going "downrange" wasn't routine, even as we wondered what "downrange" was really like. Whatever experience each of us brings to this fight, we've all been working hard adjusting to our new surroundings and carrying out our vital support mission.

We thank the Soldiers of 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade Troops Battalion for their patience and diligent assistance during the Relief in Place and Transition of Authority (RIP/TOA). Although eager to go home, the "Wranglers" made certain that all of

us were well acclimated to life here and thoroughly capable of performing our new duties. We wish them a safe trip home and good luck in the future!

In our efforts to stay connected to the Fort Riley community and our Families, Mrs. Melanie North keeps us informed of the goings on back at home station as our HHC Family Readiness Group Leader. We plan to continue communication and coordination weekly to keep our loved ones informed of events and happenings. We will work toward having our own HHC link on the Virtual FRG website in order to share pictures and close the distance between us "virtually" during the deployment. Please continue to support the Family Readiness Group by volunteering, participating in events and keeping the rumor mill closed. We all appreciate our Families and friends support back home and miss you all. Please contact the FRG if there are any issues or concerns.

Amidst the busy deployment tempo, Knights continue to advance their careers. Congratulations to MSG Wingfield, SFC Sasser, and SSG Sprague on their recent promotions! Their hard work and dedication is a model for us all. Our battalion reenlistment NCO, SSG Wechsler, has led from the front by staying in boots for

four more years. He is joined by SSG May, SSG Morehead, SSG Tapia, SGT Anderson, SGT McQueen, SGT Dover, SPC Cameron, SPC Norval, SPC Lucas and SPC Woods. Think about it: these Soldiers chose to reenlist in a combat zone. Good luck to these exemplary leaders! On the plus side, we're happy to welcome three new Knights and their families: CPT Smith, who works in Brigade S-4 shop, MSG Knox, who works in SPO Plans and LTC Barrontine who works in the BDE S3 shop.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who received well deserved awards recently: The Army Commendation Medal was presented to CPT Kildow, CW2 Johnson, SFC Johnson, T, and SSG Thatcher; the Army Achievement Medal was presented to WO1 Harris, WO1 Toledo, SPC Rivera, SPC Leitsch, SPC Low, PFC Merritt, and PFC Cline; Brigade Coins were presented to LTC Barrontine and SGT Robson.



# Family Readiness Group Update

Melanie North, HHC Family Readiness Group Leader



*FRG holds a Halloween Party*



## Happy Birthday

- SGT BALLESTEROS, MARCELO JAVIER
- SFC DEWITT, MICHAEL LYNDAL
- SPC DUNLAP, MICHAEL DEVALE
- SGM HILL, MARK RAY
- SFC KNOX, MICHAEL WILLIAM, JR
- SGT MASSEY, JONATHAN NEIL
- SGT POE, ERIC STEVEN
- SSG REED, JASON DALE
- SPC SAVAGEAU, VANESSA
- SFC SMITH, DEWAYNE HENRY
- WO1 TOLEDOVERA, ANDRES FELIPE
- CPT WEISER, RANDALL TIMOTHY



# Hot Wheels



Base price 43k to 55k  
Convertible 57K to 65K  
Z06 70K to 80K

## CHEVY C6 CORVETTE

**T**here are few things that will spark a conversation at the Shoppette gas station, PX parking lot or holiday house party faster than rolling up in a Chevy C6 Corvette. So if your looking for somewhere to part with all this deployment money, I recommend buying one.

**“Here’s how it really is. Those who have a Vette, Those who hate on the ones with a Vette, and everything between.”**

Master Sgt. Benjamin Wingfield

**T**he base coupe and convertible are powered by a 400 horsepower, 6.0L V8 engine, 0-60 mph in about 4.2 seconds. While the Z06 receives a more powerful 7.0L V8 engine that generates 505 hp and 470 lb-ft of torque, 0-60 Mph in about 3.7 seconds.

**T**he coupe Vette is a hatchback with a lift-off roof panel. Convertibles have a manual-folding fabric top and heated glass rear window; a power folding top is optional. All Corvettes have ABS, traction/antiskid control, and run-flat tires. Side airbags are standard on convertibles, optional on coupes.





# 15th Finance Battalion

Lt. Col. Kevin Gentzler, Commander



## 15th Finance BN Update



### "Show Me The Money"





# 15th Personnel Services Battalion

Lt. Col. Angela Odom, Commander

## Spur Ride

### Cav troopers earn the gold

Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, 1<sup>st</sup> SB PAO

Approximately 40 Soldiers from the 15<sup>th</sup> Personnel Services Battalion endured one of the hardest tests of time Oct. 28 to join the ranks of their fellow Cavalry troopers.

To join the Order of the Spur, Soldiers had to undergo a Spur Ride, a grueling 13-hour event that required completing a series of physically and mentally challenging tasks set by their command, in order to earn their golden spurs.

A traditional Spur Ride is done in a garrison environment and at the end of the event troopers would receive silver spurs.

"Usually, Soldiers would be awarded golden spurs just for being in a combat environment, but I wanted to do things the traditional way," said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood, 15<sup>th</sup> PSB command sergeant major.



There were four squads, which had ten people each. Everyone had to take off their rank and get a new one assigned to them for the purposes of the exercise. There were privates parading as staff sergeants and vice versa.

The Soldiers were up and ready to begin the challenge by 5 a.m. and even before the first task began, they caught a glimpse of what was in store for them that day.

"We started off by getting accountability and doing pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections.



If they didn't do something right, they would get 'punished.' They spent the first hour doing push-ups, rifle PT ... and after all that they had to march a half mile to the first station," said Livengood.

The first station the Soldiers completed was the obstacle course, then they marched a half-mile to the second station, which was the vehicle station.

The squads had to conduct preventative maintenance checks and services on the vehicle, change a tire and recover the vehicle, which involved pushing it.



The first two stations had taken a toll on the Soldiers' upper body, but the task that claimed their lower halves were Signal Hill.

At the hill, each Soldier in the squad had to carry their 15-pound rucksack and run .06 miles to the top of the hill and back as a team within seven minutes.

Since no one made it in the time allotted, they took a five minute break and tried it again. On the second try, the teams had ten minutes to run the hill.

"The second time everybody made it in less than ten minutes," said Livengood.

"I was in a lot of pain due to the fact that half way through the ride I developed blisters on the back of both of my feet," said Spc. Yvonne Adams, a training clerk for Detachment C, 15<sup>th</sup> PSB.

The obstacle course, vehicle station and Single Hill were only a few of the tasks completed that day, but the memories will remain with the Soldiers a lifetime.

"I can honestly say this was the best team-building and physical training exercise I have ever completed," said Adams.

"The minutes seemed like

*See Spur Ride on Pg. 18*



Sustain to Victory





# 168th Base Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Todd Heussner, Commander

## 151<sup>st</sup> Inf. Maintains equip.

## South Bend Indiana Company gets started

*Story by Spc. Marcus Johnson*

*Fox Company, 151<sup>st</sup> Inf.*

The actual event took less than ten minutes, but for the Soldiers and leadership of Bravo Company, 1-34 Armor from Ft. Riley, Kansas, and Fox Company, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry of South Bend, Indiana; the transfer of authority ceremony was a landmark ritual, signifying the passage of one company's mission to another.

Over the past couple of weeks, Fox Company has had the opportunity to work side-by-side with their predecessors in Bravo Company—learning about everything from running convoy security missions to maneuvering through the complicated support elements that keep an element the size of Fox Company mission-ready. It has been a heavy load to carry for the new guys in town, but over the past couple of weeks, Fox Company has shown that they are more than willing to rise to the occasion.

The ceremony then, served as a testament to that will. Standing in 103 degree weather, Capt. Steven Bell and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Walter Kuzmin, senior leaders for Fox Company, unfurled the flag for their unit, while Capt. Ethan Diven and 1<sup>st</sup>

Sgt. Robert Hobson rolled up the flag for theirs. Standing before battalion leaders, and the veterans of Bravo Company, both Bell and Kuzmin demonstrated their willingness to prove themselves.

Looking back over the past twelve months, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hobson had nothing but good comments on his service and the accomplishments of his fellow Soldiers. "I think we did good," Hobson says, adding, "We helped push the battalion to higher standards. We performed to the standards we set for ourselves during training."

Now that the ceremony is over, Soldiers from both companies have plans to make. Many of them are already making plans on how they intend to spend their leave. Hobson is no different. With a little over twenty years of service, he plans to take some well-deserved quality time with his Family and of course, his 1969 Mustang.

And as for the Soldiers of Fox Company? Mission always comes first, so the pause to recognize the burden of their new mission was followed by an immediate return to work, preparing for a year's worth of missions, and a year's worth of service to their country.



Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Justin Gunn, guidon bearer for Fox Company, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry out of South Bend, Indiana holds the recently unfurled guidon.



Spc. Robert Lalone, a gunner in Company F, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Unit, inspects his vehicle and performs pre-combat checks on his Armored Security Vehicle before a mission Oct. 30.



Spc. Keith Knoll, an all-wheel mechanic with Company B, 168<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, installs spot lights on an Armored Security Vehicle Oct. 30. Knoll repairs and maintains vehicles for Company F, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry Unit, which pulls security for transportation units during combat logistic patrols.



Capt. Steven Bell, commander for Fox Company, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry, unfurls the flag for his unit at the transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 15.





## 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Lt. Col. Darrell Duckworth, Commander

# MOVING AMMUNITION

➤ *Story by Pfc. Andrea Merritt, 1st SB PAO*

With 13 months down and two months to go, the Soldiers of the 1st Modular Ammunition Lift Platoon, 63rd Ordnance Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, can look back with pride on all they have accomplished since their arrival in Camp Liberty, Iraq, last year.

The platoon, which consists of almost 50 Soldiers, has the important job of distributing ammunition to units, contractors and other Coalition Forces, including the British and Australian armies, in the Multi-National Division-Baghdad area of operations.

While the Soldiers of the 1st MALP, 63rd Ord. Co., have been in Iraq, they successfully transformed the Liberty Ammunition Transfer Holding Point into the Liberty Ammunition Supply Point.

“An ASP has a bigger mission than an ATHP,” said 1st Lt. Jason Vivian, the platoon leader for the 1st MALP, 63rd Ord. Co.

The platoon is responsible for the receiving, combat configuring, in-

specting, managing, issuing, shipping and retrograding of all ammunition stocks.

“We’re a one-stop shop. The ammo comes here and then we ship it where it needs to go,” Vivian stated.

Since they have been in theater, the 1st MALP, 63rd Ord. Co., has demilitarized more than 4.5 million rounds of unserviceable ammunition and coordinated the destruction of more than 12,000 pounds of captured enemy ammunition, Vivian said.

The ammunition specialists are trained to handle different types of munitions such as antitank weapons and grenades. They had to re-warehouse almost 5 million rounds in order to bring the ASP into compliance with ammunition and explosive safety standards, said Vivian.

During an average work day, Soldiers of the platoon, which is comprised of ammunition special-

ists and vehicle mechanics, perform regular maintenance in their area of operation.

They replace pallets, make sure load plans are correct, conduct inventory and move loads of ammunition to a shipment lane with a forklift.

There have been times when a forklift would break down and the Soldiers would have to manually carry the ammunition to the shipment lanes, Vivian said.

“Our mechanics keep them running. If a forklift goes down they automatically get on it to get it back up,” said Vivian.

The platoon has accomplished many things during its time in theater. The Soldiers of the 1st MALP, 63rd Ord. Co., is scheduled to return to Fort Lewis, Wash., in December. They will soon hear the words “Mission Complete.”

“Our main mission was to push ammunition to the war fighters that took the fight to the enemy, and we did that very successfully,” Vivian said.



1st Lt. Jason Vivian watches more ammunition leave the Ammunition Supply Point.



Sustain to Victory





# Chaplain's Thoughts

## Chaplain Terrence E. Hayes, Brigade Chaplain



(Left to right) Chaplain Leo Moras, chaplain for the 68<sup>th</sup> CSSB, with Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> SB.

### *Psalm 27*

*"The Lord is my light  
and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?"*



Chaplain Terrence Hayes, 1<sup>st</sup> SB chaplain at Victory Base Complex.

Join Chaplain Hayes each week as he preaches through the book of Numbers.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jackie Hanson, 1SB



Sustain to Victory



*On guard continued from Pg. 7*

Roberts, Calif. and three months of post-mobilization training at Fort Dix, N.J.," said Falk.

With the exception of one company of Soldiers, 1-143 FA trained for force protection and convoy security missions. "The only difference was that C Company, 1-185 Infantry knew they were going to do a Military Police mission so they did MP training which the other units did not do," said Falk.

Falk is proud of the team he has gathered. "The majority were volunteers for this mission and many have been here before.....they have still managed to exceed my expectations," said Falk. "They are doing a difficult and dangerous job and doing it professionally with a positive attitude."

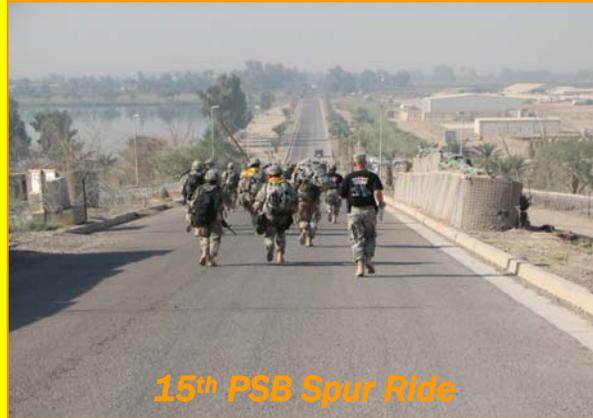
The 1-143 FA Soldiers have a

difficult job of 24-hour force protection, a job that includes convoy security and base security. "Success stories for us are when we safely escort a convoy or have a day with no successful attacks, and we have many success stories in that respect," said Falk. "It is truly a team effort over here.... I believe that we are making excellent progress every day towards a peaceful Iraq."

*Spur Ride continued from Pg. 14*

hours all through the day and as we went on to each station, they seemed to only get more intense," said Pvt. Nicole Behrens, a personnel clerk with the 15<sup>th</sup> PSB.

"It's three days later and my body is still aching from using all those muscles I never knew existed, but all in all every second was worth it," said Behrens. "I have hung my spurs on the wall and when I look at them I just smile remembering the accomplishments that my fellow comrades and I achieved together."



15<sup>th</sup> PSB Spur Ride

## Happy Thanksgiving

<p>Shrimp Cocktail                  Roast Turkey                  Baked Cornish Hens                  Baked Ham                  Prime Rib                  Steamship Round                  Mashed Potatoes                  Candied Sweet Yams                  Seasoned Green Beans                  Buttered Carrots                  Corn on the Cob</p>	<p>Cranberry Sauce                  Turkey Gravy                  Corn Bread Dressing                  Traditional Dressing                  Mixed Nuts                  Sparkling NA Wine                  Egg-Nog                  Assorted Breads &amp; Fresh Rolls                  Salad Bar                  Selection of Pies and Pastries</p>
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22 November 2006  
1100-1430



# Around VBC

Can you carry a tune? Test your skills at the Scorpion Recreation Center on Tuesday nights starting at 20:00 Hrs.



**SALSA NIGHT** every Thursday at the Division Recreation Center. Bring your best Rumba and have some fun!



## Coming events on VBC in November 2007



**Texas Hold EM** every Tuesday night at the Scorpion Recreation Center. Action starts at 20:00 Hrs.



**HALO 2** nights at the Scorpion Recreation Center. Every Thursday night at 20:00 Hrs.

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November 9: **Old School R & B** Night at the Division Recreation Center. Bring your best moves and have fun listening to the legends of R & B.



## STAY INFORMED

November 24: **Camp Slayer MWR** is holding a Turkey Trot Fun Run. The fun starts at 07:00. Come one, come all!!



November 25: There will be a **Pool Tournament** at the Division Recreation Center. If you have skills then take your best pool cue and see if you have what it takes to win!

