

# The Sustainment Times

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER ISSUE

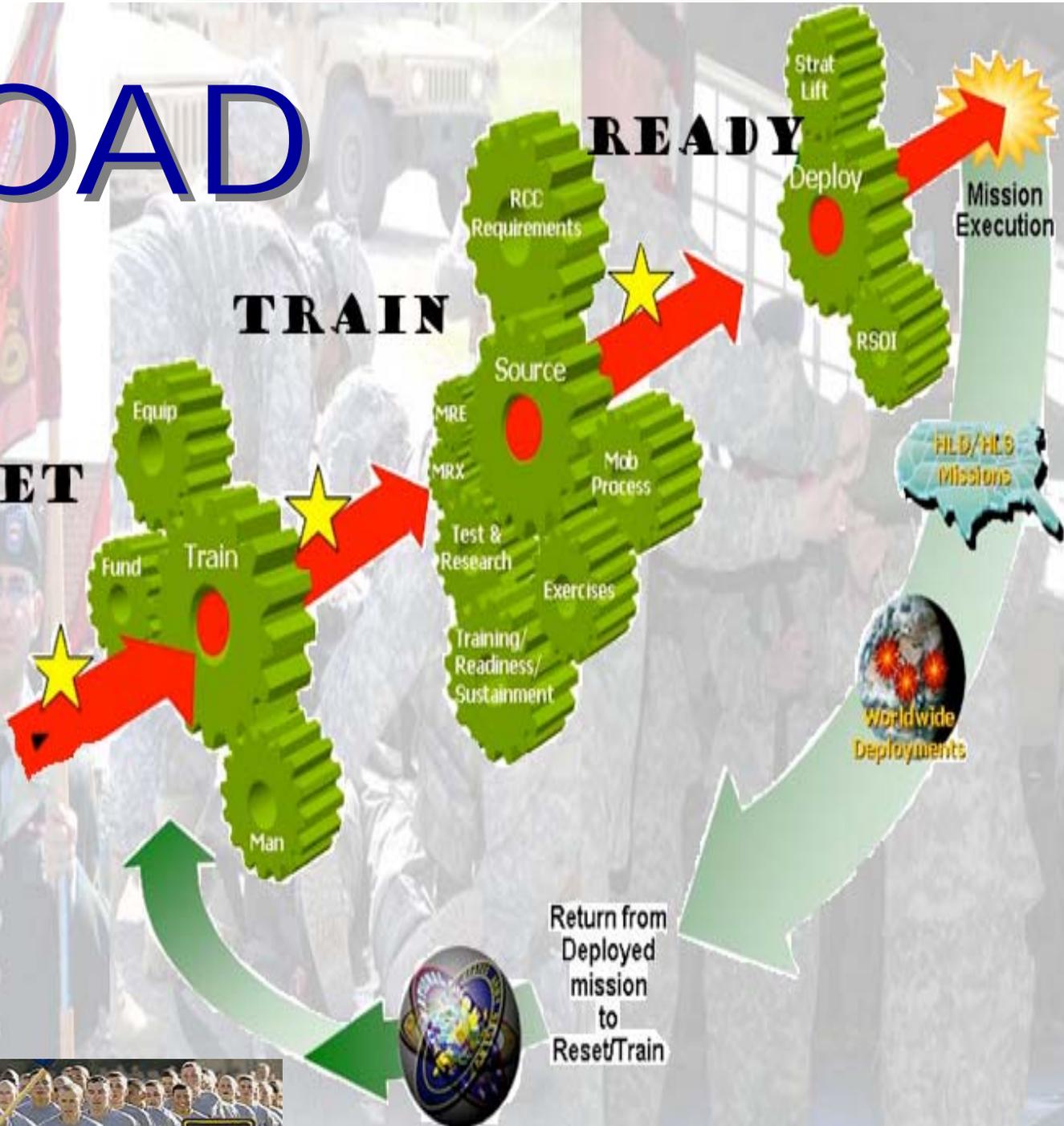
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## ROAD

## READY

## TRAIN

## RESET



## TO WAR

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

*Col. Donnie Walker*

*Dear 1st Sustainment Brigade  
Soldiers and Families:*

Despite the very demanding OPTEMPO of our Army, our Soldiers and their Families continue to thrive. Unlike the days when the Global War on Terrorism first began, people now think of deployment in the aspect of "when" instead of "if." As our units proceed through various stages of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process, it is ultimately our goal to attain a state of combat readiness as we journey down our certain future road to deployment.

In the six months since returning from a 15-month rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Brigade headquarters and its Special Troops Battalion (STB) have been actively engaged in the RESET phase of ARFORGEN. During this stage, the unit has successfully repaired or replaced approximately 4,000 pieces of equipment to include weapons, vehicles, CBRN equipment, and other types of communications and electronic devices.

With the STB nearing the end of the RESET, they will soon enter into the Train / Ready phase of ARFORGEN. During this cycle, the Brigade HQs and STB will focus on collective training in the form of field training exercises (FTXs), tactical operations exercises (TOCEXs), command post exercises (CPXs), and communication exercises (COMMEXs).

The Train / Ready phase will take the STB from mid-July 2009 through the end of the calendar year. Families can expect longer hours during the work week as Soldiers train with 1st SB equipment and personnel on scenarios and training events that they will face during deployment. By the end of the Train / Ready phase, we expect to have a majority of our personnel shortfalls filled and be well prepared for the final



Available phase of ARFORGEN where we will conduct our Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) for deployment certification in February 2009.

For the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, many of its subordinate units are already in both the Train / Ready and Available phase of ARFORGEN and have conducted training in preparation for rapidly approaching deployments. The 1st Maintenance Company recently completed a major field training exercise certifying them for a July 2009 deployment where they embodied the principle of realistic training.

HHC, 541st just completed its MRX certification at Fort Hood, Texas and will complete equipment-turn in, Soldier Readiness Processing, and block leave in the coming months in preparation for a September 2009 deployment.

We also have several formations that are already deployed. The Alpha Detachment, 126th Financial Management Company, deployed in early June and will begin conducting

finance operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The headquarters element of the 84th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Battalion also deployed in May and assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force Troy. They are now responsible for EOD operations in Multi-National Division – South.

As all of our units, whether attached or under administrative control, continue an arduous journey in ARFORGEN and deployed, I ask that you not forget about them and do what you can to help take care of any needs they or their Family members may encounter. By lending a helping hand or offering a few encouraging words to show your support, you will not only ease their minds but more importantly help keep our Soldiers' focus where it needs to be – in the fight taking care of the task or mission at hand.

**Duty First!  
Sustain to Victory!**

*Durable 6  
Col. Donnie B. Walker  
Commander, 1st Sustainment Brigade*

# CSM TIME

*Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera*



*Dear 1st Sustainment Brigade Soldiers and Families,*

It is definitely starting to get warmer, but this is not affecting our Soldiers determination to make it happen every day. Your Soldiers are working very hard and doing an outstanding job. In a short period of time, since their return from Iraq, they have implemented systems and processes to better support the Division and our units. Our units are in various phases of the ARFORGEN cycle which will gear them to get ready for when the next call to serve comes in.

The phases of the ARFORGEN cycle will focus us on our war time mission and prepare our Soldiers to face some of the challenges they may face downrange. Rigorous and realistic training are key for the success of any unit, and although this Brigade has been proven to be the best at its business, we need to continue to sharpen our skills, both tactical and technical. During this cycle, we must also focus on our Families and ensure they are taken care of and prepared for potential deployments. FRGs continue to hold their meetings and provide good and useful information / training for our Families. They also schedule great activities which allow Families to get together and get to know each other better.

“Always Ready” is our new challenge to our unit motto “Sustain to Victory”. Our Soldiers sound off with this when saluting any officer on the installation. “Always Ready” stands for the attitude, energy, enthusiasm, and more importantly, the resilience our Soldiers have in everything they do and overcome. I believe life or work challenges shape us to who we are, and I have seen many Soldiers overcome these challenges and become great leaders in their units. “Always Ready” also stands for the resilience of our Families and their great devotion to support their Soldiers and units.

Our Army is still going through many changes and doing a superb job at taking care of Families. Fort Riley is a great example of changes as we see the new construction of facilities to improve our quality of life. Enjoy your time off and make it quality time with your loved ones.

The ARFORGEN cycle will test and challenge us in many ways. I know we are ready for these challenges and will succeed at our mission. Strive for excellence in everything you do; our ultimate goal is to exceed standards. We are the 1st Sustainment Brigade, the best in our Army. Our Soldiers got us here and our Soldiers will maintain that reputation.

Duty First!  
Sustain to Victory!

*Durable 7*  
*Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera*  
*CSM, 1st Sustainment Brigade*

# 3rd Quarter 2009



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As smoke filled the air, Soldiers from the 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, moved quickly to respond to the danger that was unleashed onto their convoy.

## 9 84th EOD embarks on new journey

The 84th Ordnance Battalion, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force Troy in Multi-National Division – South during a transfer of authority ceremony May 9.

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Cover photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer



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# HET DRIVERS PROVE TO

Story By: Sgt. Andrea Merritt

# BE SMOOTH OPERATORS



1st Sust. Bde. / Merritt

Armed with nine heavy equipment transport vehicles, 27 Soldiers from the 2nd Platoon, 2nd Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, began a mission May 19 to move 44 M1 Abrams tanks from a motor pool on Custer Hill to the rail head on Camp Funston.

Although the unit was responsible for moving the tanks to the rail head, civilian contractors were responsible for loading and unloading the tanks from the HETs and staging them in preparation for movement to an armor unit in Germany.

With team work between the Soldiers and contractors, the mission was successful and the operation ran smoothly.

“Everything is going pretty smooth so far. The civilians were here ready to go when we got here this morning, and they were waiting down at the rail head to unload the tanks when we arrived,” said Sgt. Jeremiah Smith, a driver with the 2nd Plt., 2nd HET, 24th Transportation Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

Even though the mission was estimated to take about three days, the platoon exceeded all expectations and completed the movement in one.

“Looking at the unit and the experience they have is just amazing,” said Richard Rodriguez, a field service representative with General Dynamics Land Systems, the company responsible for maintaining the tanks.

“Good team work and leadership are making this happen. Between us contractors and the unit, this mission is getting accomplished,” Rodriguez added.

While transporting the tanks to the rail head, the main concern was safety. The HET is a large vehicle in itself, but becomes even more challenging to drive with another 70

tons loaded onto it.

“When you have over 100 tons of equipment there running up and down these roads, anything small that goes wrong can lead to a big disaster and become a very big event. People can get hurt seriously,” said Spc. James Lewis, a driver with the 2nd Plt., 2nd HET.

Since the roads on base are not conducive to travel with such wide loads, the HET platoon maneuvered carefully along the tank trail to transport the M1 Abrams to Camp Funston.

To include the loading and unloading process, each round trip from the motor pool to the rail head took about an hour. With nine HETs on hand and 44 tanks to move, each driver had five tanks to transport.

Throughout most of the day, Soldiers worked non-stop to complete the mission. The only break they took was a 15-minute rest break to eat food prepared for them on a grill at their stop near the rail head.

Due to their tireless efforts, the HET platoon accomplished the mission ahead of schedule, and more importantly, they completed it safely, without any incidents.

“For everything to go smooth is a big sigh of relief. It’s not that it’s not expected to (go smooth), but you always have to expect the unexpected,” Lewis said.

Although the “Pacesetters” are proud of themselves for exceeding the standard that was set, the mission was just all part of a day’s work for them.

“In garrison, there really aren’t a whole lot of missions for the HET, so the ones that do come down, we’re all over it. It just gives us a chance to actually do our job,” Lewis concluded. **ST**



1st Sust. Bde./ Merritt

# FAMILY AFFAIR

## Finance Soldier prepares Family for deployment

Story by Sgt. Andrea Merritt

When Detachment A, 126th Financial Management Company, cased its colors during a deployment ceremony June 6, it marked a new chapter for the unit, its Soldiers, and their Family members.

From the time the detachment stood up last fall, it was on an accelerated timeline to prepare for deployment, which required Soldiers to train longer and harder for the mission ahead.

While the unit focused on preparing Soldiers through training, a few Soldiers had to focus on preparing their Families for the deployment.

"It's not just me in the Army. They are too. They have to pay a price also," said Spc. Emilio Silva, a financial management technician with Det. A, 126th FM Co.

Silva, a father of three, arrived to the unit fresh out of Advanced Individual Training and is facing his first deployment.

With a limited amount of time before his departure, Silva and his wife, Yanira, began making plans to help ease some of the burdens they may experience while he is gone.



"We try to be ready for any scenario that could happen like if the car breaks down, I gave her some phone numbers so that she can reach somebody to help them," Silva said.

"For emergencies like if one of the kids gets sick, we know already who will take the kids so that she can take the other one to the doctor. I also organized all of the finance information, that way she could handle it over here," Silva added.

Although nothing can prepare the Family for the emotional void they may feel in his absence, they feel more prepared for other everyday battles that may come their way.

"Everything will be alright. It's going to be hard, but not impossible. I feel proud of my husband and the job of my husband. He's my hero," Yanira said.

Det. A, 126th FM Co., deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in mid-June. **ST**



# EQUIPMENT RESET



## PAVES WAY FOR TRAINING

*Story by Sgt. Andrea Merritt*

Since redeploying from Iraq six months ago, the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, has been focused on restoring the unit to a state of combat readiness through a process known as RESET.

During RESET, STB units were required to repair or replace all the equipment they used downrange. As a result of this process, the Battalion will be able to move into the train-ready phase of the Army Force Generation cycle with functional, up-to-date equipment.

“This is probably the most crucial thing we have to do because without our RESET equipment, we couldn’t move out into our new phase. We can’t really train without any of this equipment,” said 1st Lt. Yutaro Hosaka, the executive officer for Signal Company, STB, 1st SB.

In the last six months, STB has successfully reset approximately 4,000 individual pieces of equipment, to include weapons, radios, vehicles, chemical equipment, and different types of communications and electronic devices.

During the RESET process, STB worked closely with the Chemical Biological Equipment Repair Team, Small Arms Readiness Evaluation Team, and the Communications Electronics Evaluation Repair Team.

The unit also worked with the Directorate of Logistics, Communications Security, the Vehicle / Radio Reintegration Team, and the United States Army Medical Materiel Agency.

With the coordination between STB units and the different agencies involved, RESET has been a smooth process thus far.

“All the organizations that we worked with have been really helpful to us throughout this whole process,” Hosaka said.

Although STB has until August to complete the RESET phase, the unit expects to finish by early July, said Maj. Twylla Henry, the Brigade logistics operations officer who spear-headed the RESET mission.

“The companies, Battalion, and the Brigade worked as a team to ensure RESET was completed in a timely manner. This is why reset has been so successful,” Henry stated.

“If anything, a good communication flow from higher to lower was critical in ensuring messages got out so that people could move to locations and obtain the support necessary ... They were synergized,” said Capt. Brian Hetzel, the STB officer in charge of logistics. **ST**

Special Troops Battalion, Lt. Col. Marvin M. Thornton, Jr., Commanding



## MAINTENANCE SOLDIERS IN ACTION

*Story by Sgt. Andrea Merritt*

As smoke filled the air, Soldiers from the 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, moved quickly to respond to the danger that was unleashed onto their convoy.

While traveling along a main supply route, the convoy drove unsuspectingly past an improvised explosive device hidden on the side of the road, and the device detonated.

Before their minds could even wrap around the event that just took place, the maintenance Soldiers leaped into action. As gunners pulled security, other Soldiers exited the vehicles to assess the damage and render aid to casualties.

With one Soldier severely injured in the blast, they worked swiftly to get the casualty to the designated landing zone for medical evacuation.

Once the UH-60 Black Hawk touched down, there was a long sigh of relief. It not only signified one Soldier's chance at survival, but also the conclusion of a two-week field

training exercise at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex on Fort Riley.

Throughout the FTX, the 1st Maint. Co. Soldiers trained on a number of warrior tasks in preparation for their upcoming deployment. The convoy, IED, and MEDEVAC were all a portion of a scenario for their training.

During the exercise, Soldiers completed both classroom and hands-on instruction for convoy training, land navigation, IED recognition training, various weapons ranges, and urban combat training.

Although the FTX was mainly an avenue to certify the 1st Maint. Co. Soldiers on their warrior skills before deployment, it also served as an opportunity to exercise other staff sections and elements within the 541st CSSB.

For example, the Battalion's information technology, intelligence, and operations sections worked to set up the unit's tactical operations center. They also coordinated with the support operations transportation section to generate convoy briefings.

Since the 2nd Platoon, 2nd Heavy Equipment Transportation Company, is scheduled to deploy as well, they also conducted convoy training during the exercise.

For training during the FTX, the 266th Movement Control Team, 541st CSSB, practiced coordinating convoys for the 1st Maint. Co. and the 2nd Plt., 2nd HET.

Throughout the exercise, Soldiers trained in phases. During the "crawl" phase, leaders explained and demonstrated the tasks the Soldiers were required to perform. It was during this phase that leaders described the standards for each training event.

During the "walk" phase, Soldiers practiced the events at a slow, step-by-step pace as leaders guided them through the exercises.

For the "run" phase, Soldiers performed their tasks at full speed, as if in a combat environment. By the time the Soldiers conducted their training in the "run" phase, they were able to perform each task above standard. >> Pg. 13



Photo provided by: MND – South

## 84TH EOD EMBARKS ON NEW JOURNEY

Story by Staff Sgt. Derek Smith

The 84th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, assumed authority of Combined Joint Task Force Troy in Multi-National Division – South during a transfer of authority ceremony May 9.

Lt. Col. Marty Muchow, commander of the 63rd Ordnance Battalion EOD relinquished authority of CJTF Troy in MND-S to Lt. Col. Marty Weber, 84th EOD commander.

Muchow said the EOD mission in Iraq is one of transformation. In addition to identification and disposal of improvised explosive devices and counteracting insurgent IED production, service members of TF Troy train Iraqi security forces to take the lead in protecting Iraqi citizens from explosive threats.

“When we got here about a year ago, we had one official partnership (with ISF),” explained Muchow, a Hartford, S.D. native.

“At last count, we’re up to 21



*“The torch of responsibility has now been passed to Lt. Col. Marty Weber and the brave men and women of the 84th.”*

partnerships with various Iraqi Army, police, civil defense force, and defense border enforcement agencies.”

To put the 63rd EOD’s accomplishments into perspective, Col. Patrick J. Kelly, CJTF Troy commander, decided numbers could speak volumes.

“They operated over 64,000 square miles of battle space,” said Kelly. “They completed over 4,000 missions to conduct post-blast assessments. They supported ten brigade combat teams, two non-standing brigades and 21 battalions on over 400 pre-planned missions.”

“The 63rd distinguished themselves by executing dangerous missions to defeat the device and defeat the (insurgent IED) network,” Kelly continued. “The torch of responsibility has now been passed to Lt. Col. Marty Weber and the brave men and women of the 84th.”

Muchow welcomed Weber and the 84th EOD, based out of Fort Riley, Kan., and encouraged them to embrace their mission during this “critical time in Iraq”. >> Pg. 13

# AROUND THE BRIGADE







# Chaplain's Corner

CHAPLAIN (MAJ) RICHARD BROWN

## TRANSITION

When seeing the term “transition”, it can mean different things for different people. Transition can mean a new, fresh start while others may see it as the loss of relationships and pain. Whatever it means to you, the fact is we are transitioning all the time; we grow older, receive new assignments, new friends, new homes, and change rank or positions.

Recently, the Brigades Unit Ministry Team went to Branson, Mo., for training. While there, much talk was given to the transition throughout the Army - more specifically of the Chaplain Corps.

The United States Army Chaplain Center and School is in the midst of their own transition. Fort Jackson will soon be the home for the training of all military chaplains. Here, chaplains and assistants will come to learn how to take care of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

As someone once told me, the only thing constant in life is change. In my 25 years of service, I have continued to see truth in that statement. Not only does transition happen in everyday life, but in the Army as well. I have seen countless transitions through uniforms, combat tactics, vehicles, and the list goes on.

In Ecclesiastes 1:9 it says, “Whatever has happened before will happen [again]. Whatever has been done before will be done [again]. There is nothing new under the sun.” (Gods’ Word version, 1995)

I have pondered this excerpt for some time and have wondered, if change is constant, how can there be nothing new under the sun?

I realized of all the changes I have seen, both in the Army and in my personal life, some things remain the same while others are being done again, just in different form.

During the time of transition in life, whatever form it may be, ask yourself, these simple questions:

What is the constant in my life?  
 What keeps me grounded in the time of great stress of transition?  
 How can I face the challenges of transitions and come out the other side better, stronger, and happier?

For me, it is my faith. Throughout the years of constant transition from child to adult, enlisted to officer, military police to Chaplain, single to married; one thing has kept me from losing it. My faith has allowed me to face these challenges head on and come out the other side a better person.

You must determine what’s inside of you is that constant in the midst of change that will let you come out on the other side a better, stronger individual. **ST**





>> **Pg. 8** “They definitely progressed. They took four or five hours on the convoy the first day and by the last day, we actually had to slow them down because they were getting through it so fast,” said Capt. Eric Shockley, the operations officer for the 541st CSSB.

To keep the training from becoming routine and predictable, leaders added additional sniper attacks and more intense civilians on the battlefield for the convoy scenarios.

“Yesterday was the ‘run’ phase and they switched everything up on us, but I think we handled everything pretty well,” said Spc. James Rowe, a generator mechanic with the 1st Maint. Co. “We’ve done it so many times it became second-nature after a while.”

Another instrument that made the training so effective was the opposing forces provided by the 2nd Plt., 2nd HET and the 24th Transportation Company.

With their vast experience in convoy operations, they were able to brainstorm scenarios derived from their own experiences, offering mentorship to Soldiers participating in the exercise.

“We just went off of our Battalion Commander’s and Brigade Commander’s guidance to make the training as realistic as possible. We came up with a forward operating base standing operating procedure to reflect what it’s going to be like where they are going,” Shockley explained.

Due to the realistic scenarios and the repetitiveness of the training, the FTX proved to be an invaluable training event for the 1st Maint. Co. and other 541st CSSB elements that participated.

Although two weeks in the field may not sound exciting to some individuals, the 1st Maint. Co. Soldiers didn’t mind as they knew how important it was to conduct this training before they deployed.

Simply stated, “The more training we can get, the better,” Rowe concluded. **ST**

>> **Pg. 9** “The 63rd has done a great job of getting (ISF partnerships) established,” answered Weber, a native of Salina, Kan. “We just want to take it to the next level.”

The 84th EOD is now responsible for all EOD operations in MND-S, explained Weber, who is on his sixth deployment. The responsibility to ensure the safety and education of service members against IEDs is not one he or his Soldiers take lightly.

“I just want to take care of my Soldiers, my Sailors and my Airmen,” continued Weber. “The Iraqis are making very good progress. I don’t think that gets out enough.”

“If there is one word that describes Iraq today, it is ‘Hope,’” said Muchow in parting. “You are all playing a vital role in giving Iraq the opportunity to succeed as a nation.” **ST**



# FRSA



Dear Soldiers and Family members,

School is out and summer is here again! There are many fun activities that Fort Riley and surrounding communities have to offer, whether it is hanging out at the pool, walking or biking the river walk trail, swimming or boating at the Milford Lake, or even golfing. Our Fort Riley Community has a lot to offer, so please explore!



During this down time from school, please consider volunteering as an opportunity for your Family to spend some quality time together. Volunteering, whether it is for the community organization, your church, school, or our Army Community Service (ACS), can be very fun and rewarding. Also, volunteer work counts as work experience for those Family members preparing for employment. It may help determine whether you get the job, or not. There are many volunteer positions available within the 1st Sustainment Brigade. They vary in the extent of involvement and time availability which include: Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader, key caller, newsletter editor, funds custodian (primary or alternate), and many more. Please contact your company's FRG leader for more information on available positions.



For additional volunteer and FRG information you can go on-line to [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org). Please log in and register for 1st Sustainment Brigade's virtual FRG (vFRG). Additional helpful information can be found on [www.myarmyonesource.com](http://www.myarmyonesource.com). There is endless information at your finger tips. You can find information on deployments for parents, helping your children through deployments, handbooks, articles, FRG training, and much more.

Stay safe through the summer and please be an active member of our Sustainment Family!

Sincerely,  
Anna Hurning  
Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)  
785-240-2506  
[anna.hurning@us.army.mil](mailto:anna.hurning@us.army.mil)



## CANTIGNY Dining Facility

**Open**

*A la Carte*

# Meal Hours

Weekday Meal Hours		Weekend Meal Hours	
Breakfast	0630-0900	Brunch	0930-1300
Lunch	1130-1300	Supper	1700-1830
Dinner	1630-1830		

*Bldg 7673 Estes*