

**Grammy-winning
Zac Brown Band
'Rocks the Marne'
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**'Sentinel' celebrates 'brats'
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**Army Chief of Staff
visits 1st HBCF
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Hunter servicemembers golf
with Legends, See Page 9B



3rd SB moves out

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Approximately 200 Soldiers from 3rd Sustainment Brigade deployed to Iraq, April 24. Their mission is to plan, coordinate and execute the movement of equipments from Iraq during the next 12 months.

"The challenges these Soldiers will face will undoubtedly be among the most formidable any logisticians have faced in the history of warfare," said Capt. Christopher Yeazel, S3 officer in charge, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade.

Prior to boarding the aircraft, Col. Shawn Morrissey, 3rd Sustainment Brigade commander, once again thanked the Soldiers.

"What you do for this nation is remarkable," he said. "For you all to volunteer to do what you do for this great nation is beyond my comprehension. I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you do. We are going to do an historical mission and Command Sgt. Maj. [Clifton] Johnson and I are very proud to be your command team."

Command Sergeant Major Johnson, 3rd Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, reiterated the importance of safety in his speech to the Soldiers.

"Safety from the time we cross the border of Iraq (to the) time we get back to our loved ones safety," he said. "This is going to be a great tour, and my battle buddy and I are excited about it. We've got a great team, we trained well and we are ready to go execute the mission."

He concluded by asking the Soldiers if they were motivated, and with a thunderous response that shook the building, they said "HOOAH" and headed to the flight line to board the plane for Iraq.



G. Diane Johnson, DPTMS-M/MSG

Stewart Families Walk to Iraq/Afghanistan in support of deployed Soldiers
Despite the rain, hundreds of Family Members came together at Cottrell Field to show their love and support for their deployed Soldiers during the 3rd ID Yellow Ribbon Run/Walk, April 24. The event marked the half-way point of the division program Walk to Iraq/Afghanistan program with the theme "Walking for Our Heroes" which was launched in January as a way for those on the homefront to honor and remember those deployed. See story Page 3A

NEWS BRIEFS

Marne Lecture Series continues, May 3

The Marne Lecture Series presents a free forum featuring Michael E. Donnelly, Ph.D. CEO and President of M&M, at Moon Theater, building 704 next to Rocky's off of Vanguard Road, at 3 p.m., May 3. Dr. Donnelly is the only American graduate of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts and serves as its impresario in the United States. Information includes culture, architecture, history, art, and more. He will display Russian Applied Art to include pastels and oil paintings. For more information, call 912-435-9757.

Expect delays at Wilson Gate

Construction work will be ongoing at Wilson Gate, Hunter Army Airfield, May 3-July 16. Expect delays and intermittent lane closures. For more information, contact Calvin V. Shipman at 912-315-2351.

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4th IBCT trains alongside State Department officials

Pfc. Dan Rangel
27th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — State Department officials who are scheduled to provide diplomatic and legal expertise to Iraq's Provincial Reconstruction Teams later this year participated in pre-deployment exercises alongside their 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division counterparts at the National Training Center, April 24.

"It's been a really good exercise," said Tim Eyaelnant, a State Department officer who is training with the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th IBCT in the staged town of Abar Layla.

"We are learning how to meet with the local officials, what kind of message to take to them and how to listen to them," Eyaelnant said. "It really prepares us well for what's going to happen in real life."

Training at the Fort Irwin, Calif.-based installation helps the State Department officials work with Afghans and Iraqis, and with their American counterparts.

"We learn to work together with our military counterparts so that we understand each other's culture and to be

more effective once we get to Iraq and Afghanistan," Eyaelnant said.

The PRT model has been one of the key means for providing assistance to countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan for some time, but it wasn't until recently that the State Department and the Army decided to join forces during training at the NTC.

"The State Department has been doing training at NTC for the last six to eight months," Eyaelnant said. "PRTs are a fairly old concept, but it's much more developed now. I think as the military is getting ready to leave Iraq it becomes more important to build the long-term stability on the civilian side, which will help Iraqis to be there and construct the country as we leave."

Other State Department officials expressed what they believe will be the PRT's biggest challenges in Iraq.

"Obviously, Iraq is a post-conflict environment," said David Cauvill. "It's still got a lot of fractures in the society itself. Its culture by its very nature is different than our culture. Dealing with that and communicating our goals and objectives in a way that's meaningful to them, in their language and their culture is (I think) the biggest challenge of all."

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260th QM HHD returns from Iraq

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu
3rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Eighty Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, landed at the Truscott Air Terminal at Hunter Army Airfield in the early morning hours of April 26.

The 260th Quartermaster Battalion, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Robert J. Dixon, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dwight H. Williams, deployed last year to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

09-11. From June 9, 2009 to April 22, 2010, they served as a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion whose function is very different from that of a functional Quartermaster Battalion. The Battalion delivered 30,856 Bottled Water pallets (23.7 million bottles) and 9,988 tons of ice to four different locations in United States Division Central; they completed 2,001 convoys totaling 1,683,214 miles. The Battalion averaged eight convoys every night with 31 vehicles and 280 personnel (Soldiers and Civilian contractors).



Sgt. Patience Okhuofu

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Wells hugs his mother upon returning from a year-long deployment in Iraq.

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HELPING THE ARMY TAKE CARE OF ITS OWN

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Support the Stewart-Hunter AER campaign through May 15.
Help us reach our goal of raising \$125,000

Soldiers and civilians may contact their key representative in the unit or office, or call ACS at 912-767-5058.

From the Senior Commander

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillips

3rd ID Deputy Commanding General-Rear

Printed on a bag of peanuts I got on the airline from Fort Irwin Tuesday:

"Ingredients: Peanuts Roasted in Peanut and/or Canola Oil, Salt. Produced in a facility that processes peanuts and other nuts."

No kidding.

It would not be unreasonable to question what on earth was going through the mind of the person who directed that a bag of nuts carry a warning that the nuts came from a facility that, well, processed nuts.

I don't know.

But I do know what goes through my mind when I hear the seasonal warnings that, once again, with summer's onset, summer safety should be on our minds. It should. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are in the process of reaching 200 days free of accident fatalities. That means no children have lost a mom or a dad; no mom or dad has lost a son or daughter to a car wreck or something similarly tragic and presumably preventable.

Summer brings its own special challenges — water and balmy weather that invites socializing over a pitcher of ritas or a well-stocked cooler. And then perhaps a long drive home. All fine, but, please take it easy and remember that there are people all

around you who love you or who depend on you as a member of their team.

Even if you actually read the labels on peanut packages...

Command Sergeant Major Ashmen and I just returned from several days with Vanguard at the National Training Center, as it undergoes its final and ultimate training before deploying in July. Here's what we saw: Soldiers incredibly motivated to do the jobs for which they've been training for months. The NTC provides an opposing force that uses authentic tactics and techniques. Actors portray Iraqi security force counterparts who Vanguard will advise and assist. Some of the Iraqi security force officers actually served in the Iraqi forces and thus bring great realism to the interactions. Many of the non-combatant townspeople in the mock villages are Iraqi-Americans, completing the realism.

The NTC presents the final and most demanding training opportunity; across the board, Vanguard is showing that it has taken full advantage of the comprehensive preparation completed here at Fort Stewart. I was particularly impressed with the



engagement of first-line leaders, particularly (E-5) sergeants. Everywhere we went, sergeants were focusing on the training and performance of their Soldiers. That's exactly as it should be!

By one up armored Humvee, a sergeant had given his gunner a list of tough questions to answer on the specs of the old-faithful M2 .50 caliber machine gun.

Inside the battalion tactical operations center, another was teaching Soldiers how to integrate new tech Blue Force Tracker, CPOF (Command Post of the Future), CIDNE (Coalition Information Dissemination Net-centric Environment) and TIGRnet (Tactical Ground Reporting Network) — all situational awareness systems that help us manage crucial information. Beside these Soldiers, another was using the nearly ubiquitous, secure Jabber chat program to share critical information throughout the brigade.

Nearby in a company TOC, a sergeant explained his role as the leader of the company intelligence support team — he'd been an infantryman until a few months

ago, but now as COIST lead, he was the company's intelligence specialist and an invaluable extension of the battalion intelligence officer.

Think about the range of knowledge, skills and responsibilities represented by the activities of these sergeants (and their Soldiers). They are truly at the heart of our Army's ability to accomplish the complex operations that characterize the advise and assist missions in Iraq, and those in Afghanistan.

We are super-confident in their success on these missions — and they must have the same confidence in our support of their Families back here, while they're deployed. That's a top priority.

We are working with our excellent school superintendents and teachers, for example, to enhance the educational experience of our kids. We're looking at ways to help military parents get time in the duty day to attend parent-teacher councils. A team is working on developing a music camp this summer, and we will energize the Adopt-a-School program this fall.

We're asking everyone to take advantage of the Family activities offered at both Fort Stewart and Hunter, the wonderful Georgia coast — and to thoroughly enjoy a safe summer.

And that's not peanuts.

Army Chief of Staff visits 1st HBC

Pvt. Emily V. Knitter

1st BCT-A, 3rd ID, USD-C Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Chief of Staff of the Army, General George Casey, visited 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, on Contingency Operating Station Falcon, April 28. The visit was part of his brief tour of Iraq to discuss the progress and future of the country with the units key to its future in the upcoming months.

"General Casey is travelling around Iraq, and one of the things he wanted to do was visit an advise and assist brigade," said Col. Roger Cloutier, the 1/3 AAB commander. "We will be the only brigade in Baghdad province, and will be partnered with six [Iraqi] divisions and three operational commands. He wanted to come and discuss how we task organized and how we are accomplishing the mission."

His visit not only provided the commanders with in the brigade an opportunity to discuss the successes and the future of their mission in Iraq with the CSA, it also provided the Soldiers of COS Falcon a chance to see and interact with the highest ranking

Soldier in the Army.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the Soldiers in our brigade to see the senior leader of the Army," said Col. Cloutier. "They don't get to see him very often. The fact that he would travel all this way and we would get an hour of his time is flattering; it makes the Soldiers feel good."

During the brief meeting with Gen. Casey, the key leaders and commanders also had the chance to hear his opinion on the mission progress to this point.

"The benefit [of Gen. Casey's visit] is perspective," said Col. Cloutier. "He has seen the changes, and we had a great discussion about how things have evolved over time, the way ahead, and where we think Iraq is going. It gives you a good feeling when the Chief of Staff of the Army says, 'Hey, I think you guys are right on track; you understand this complex problem.' And his perspective is that we are doing it right."

General Casey, who is in charge of the overall training, shaping, and equipping of the Army, spent time discussing the direction the Army as a whole will be taking in the future.

"We have increased the size of the Army almost 90,000 Soldiers since 2007," said Gen. Casey. "That enabled us to meet the plus up in Afghanistan without having to go to 15-month deployments, and still come off of stop lost. I used to see the divisions that were 12 to 13 months at home, but when



Photos by Pvt. Emily V. Knitter

General George Casey talks to Soldiers of 1st AAB, 3rd ID, during his visit to COS Falcon, April 28.

I go around the Army now I'm seeing 17 to 18 months as the normal. And that is going to continue. It's going to continue to the point by the end of 2011, we are going to have 70 percent of the active force at one year out, two years back, and 80 percent of the guard and reserve at one year out, four years back."

As Casey flew off after his whirlwind visit, the Soldiers of COS Falcon were left with the right to feel good about his trip, and themselves.

"[General Casey] came down to see how we're doing," said Col. Cloutier. "He understands how we're accomplishing our mission. He said 'You guys have got it, and I think you are on track.' Folks back home should be proud of their sons and daughters. The men and women of this brigade are doing a phenomenal job here. They are far from home, but they understand what we are trying to achieve and they are putting it on the line every day."



General George Casey gives a coin to Pfc. Mitchell Robertson, 3/69 Armor, 1st AAB, 3rd ID, one of five Soldiers to receive a coin from the Chief of Staff of the Army during his visit to COS Falcon, April 28.

HHD

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"The best thing about the deployment was seeing our Soldiers that had trained so hard in garrison and at the National Training Center, come together and truly perform at the highest levels. The active, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers that made up our Logistics Task Force provided not just daily sustainment to the Soldiers in Baghdad but also were instrumental to the Strategic movement of Equipment and Personnel from Iraq," said Lt. Col. Dixon. "In 12 months...we saw a lot of positive

change in Iraq as we prepare to Transition to Stability Operations."

Lieutenant Colonel Lillard D. Evans, 260th Quartermaster Bn. and 3rd Sustainment brigade rear commander, along with Soldiers of 260th Quartermaster Battalion, was at the Terminal to greet their fellow Soldiers as they disembarked. Members of the USO were also there to welcome them home. After listening to the Welcome Home brief by Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, 3rd Infantry Division and Task Force Marne commanding general, and

Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, they boarded the buses provided and were taken to their Welcome Home Ceremony at the Tominac Fitness Center, where they were greeted with screams, clapping of hands and stomping of feet by friends and Family Members waiting to see them.

Colonel Stuart J. McRae, 3rd ID rear detachment commander, spoke at the Welcome Home Ceremony. He thanked the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company for a job well done and

welcomed them as new members of "an exclusive club."

"In a few months, the number of combat Soldiers in Iraq, which is (more than) 100,000 right now, will be cut down to 50,000," he said. "(In the) coming year, it is going to be down to the last Soldiers finally coming home, and then the exclusive club membership will come to an end. You are all members of an elite group of people who have served in Iraq, and that is no small thing. The division is very proud of you."

4th IBCT

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Cauvill also explained what he believes the PRT's role will be during the upcoming deployment.

"We're here to be a force multiplier," he said. "[We're here] to take the groundwork that has been laid with the space that has been created by 'the surge,' to get behind and assist the locals to increase their capacity to govern and to sustain their society."

Both officials expressed the need for Iraqis to take the lead in redeveloping their nation.

"They're masters of their own universe," Eyaenant said. "This is their country. We're here to help, we're here to assist as much as possible, but in the long run, they'll be here. They're the ones who will need to build their own country."

The training is both realistic and challenging

at the National Training Center. The actors only speak Arabic and the interpreters are few.

The authenticity, however, is designed to help prepare the PRTs and servicemembers for success.

Pfc. Dan Rangel

Tim Eyaenant (right), a State Department official who will provide diplomatic expertise to Iraq's PRTs, participates in exercises at the National Training Center, April 24. Eyaenant is led by Soldiers through a crowded street after meeting with local officials in the notional town of Abar Layla, Iraq.

