



POWER LINE



Battalion cases colors, marches into history

Story and photos by Pamela Proper
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait -- The 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq cased its colors in an inactivation and transfer of authority ceremony here Oct. 5.

The unit was activated on June 8, 2006, at Camp Anaconda, Iraq to support the transfer of property between units moving into and out of theater.

Col. John S. Laskodi, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, said for its short time in existence, the battalion had an impressive history. At the height of the surge in 2008, the unit signed for more than 550,000 pieces of equipment in excess of \$18 billion. And, as the drawdown began in Iraq, it moved equipment out.

“During the most recent drawdown of forces, the battalion retrograded more than 23,000 vehicles and 290,000 other items out of Iraq,” said Laskodi.

In parting comments, Lt. Col. Matthew Houser, commander, 402nd AFSBn-Iraq, welcomed the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion which assumed responsibility for the mission.

“The mighty 541st CSSB from Fort Riley [Kansas], you bring so much power and energy to the fight. And like the cavalry, you are rushing in at just the right moment to save the day,” Houser said.

“The 541st CSSB is extremely excited about the challenges that are headed our way over the next 90 days and beyond,” said Lt. Col. William Cain, commander 541st CSSB. “We are ready and we will not disappoint.”

And the mission is massive. All self-redeploying units from Iraq will pass through Camp Virginia and hand off vehicles and equipment to the 541st CSSB.



Lt. Col. Matthew Houser, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Iraq and Sgt. Maj. Ralph O. Hernandez case the battalion colors at a ceremony at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, marking the end of a brief but highly productive piece of history.

Lt. Col. William Cain, commander, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 1st Sgt. Harold Haack, acting sergeant major, receive the transfer of authority for the mission of the 402nd AFSBn-Iraq. The 541st CSSB, has a long history that dates back to 1942 when the unit was activated in World War II. The “Pacesetters” come to Kuwait from Fort Riley, Kan., in support of Operation New Dawn.



From the CSM

Combined Federal Campaign: Your chance to be a battle buddy

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Combined Federal Campaign and for the past 25 years I have made it my personal commitment to contribute to this wonderful program that helps so many people.

In the Army we have a battle buddy and that is a system and tradition that serves a purpose beyond personal protection. A battle buddy is a safety net when the going gets tough and that is how I see the CFC.

When you contribute to the CFC you are someone's battle buddy when they need it most. You are a silent hand when someone is grasping for a strong arm for support.

I spent ten years of my life in the Special Operations community and gained a lot of respect for it, so every year I



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Robert A. Canterbury**

support a fund that awards scholarships to the children of fallen Special Operations Soldiers. You too can find your own personal connection to a

group or a cause.

There are 2,400 national and international organizations to select from and many of them support causes that serve fellow Soldiers and their families. Whether it's protecting the environment, animals, children, or giving to medical research, or aiding in a natural disaster, the list is extensive and the need is great.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to discover what means the most to you and go for it.

The CFC coordinator for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is Cindy Nielsen. The campaign runs from Oct. 3, to Dec. 2nd. Stop by the brigade headquarters and she will give you a pledge card and answer your questions. This is an excellent opportunity to go above and beyond.

402nd AFSB

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Units in Iraq pick up the pace to turn in property

Story and photos by Pamela Proper
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CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq -- At the Victory Base Complex in Iraq, a place that is beginning to feel empty, there is one place that is filling up fast, the RPAT yard at Camp Liberty.

The Redistribution Property Assistance Team is working hard for the long haul out of Iraq. Convoy after convoy, container upon container, tactical vehicles and combat equipment get sorted, documented and pushed out as fast as they come in from the forward operating bases around Baghdad.

1st. Lt. Michael Saslo is the officer-in-charge of the RPAT.

“Getting units to turn in their equipment was the challenge. Until recently, they were hanging on to it. Now, we are getting between 25 and 50 vehicles each day and about 300 to 500 other pieces of equipment daily. So now it’s the velocity of turn-in and pushing it out that is the challenge,” said Saslo.

The team is an assembly of Soldiers from the National Guard, Reserve, active duty and civilians all working under the banner of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade. It receives and ships out a steady stream of rolling stock (vehicles), and non-rolling stock, which is mostly communication and test equipment, power generators and other combat gear.

The team processes a mountain of paperwork in which every number has to be correct or the item cannot be shipped.

Pfc. Charlie Moore is a supply specialist who tends to the paperwork 12 hours daily, seven days a week.

“I am happy to be here in this job. The work is good. It’s interesting and I get a feeling of



Sgt. Darryl Frees, 227th Quartermaster Company, loads an excavator onto a flatbed truck at Camp Liberty, Iraq, one of the seven facilities run by the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade to receive equipment turned in by Soldiers departing theater.

accomplishment from helping other Soldiers relieve their property so they can go home,” said Moore.

There are seven RPATs in Iraq. The operation at Victory Base Complex is the largest by a wide

margin, averaging about 327 vehicle turn-ins and 10,000 other items weekly. And, in the coming weeks this pace is expected to be the norm.

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402nd AFSB RPAT Operations, Victory Base Complex, Iraq



(Above) Pfc. Andrew Coffman, 227th Quartermaster Co., inspects a load of heavy equipment on a flatbed truck at Camp Liberty, Iraq, prior to shipping it out of the country. (Below) Nothing leaves without a label. Spc. Chakyla Ritter, 227th Quartermaster Co., places the AMC sticker on a container of non-rolling stock items prior to shipment.



(Right) Pfc. Jakeish Keys, 227th Quartermaster Co., accepts turn-in items from a Soldier at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.



(Above) 1st. Lt. Michael Saslo, RPAT officer-in-charge, tracks paperwork trail on vehicles prior to shipment. (Below) Pfc. Xavier Mills, 227th Quartermaster Co., finalizes documentation on turn-in items.

