



## **13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)**

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# **Class I yard accepts Iraq-wide mass turn in**

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

**CAMP STRYKER**, Iraq – The Class I yard, run by the 639th Quartermaster Co., 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, has been tasked for another extremely important mission: the mass turn-in of food rations from all corners of Iraq.

The job is simple: take all expired food rations from all over Iraq, organize them, sort them, and either have the food inspectors extend the shelf life of them and issue them to soldiers or condemn them and burn them. It may sound simple, but the quantities involved in a process like this can be mind boggling, not to mention the nine years the military has maintained operations in Iraq.

The yard receives food operational rations from areas such as Forward Operating Bases Falcon, Hammer, Prosperity, Al Asad, Mahmudiya, and even from the camps here on the Victory Base Complex. This will be a project that is so big it will continue beyond the 639th's deployment to our replacements. This

will allow for an important and incremental step in turning Iraq back over to the Iraqi people.

According to Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bedwell, the noncommissioned officer in charge for the Class I yard and a Kalispell, Mont. native, the 639th handled over 3.2 million dollars of expired rations and have saved the government over 1.8 million dollars by re-issuing expired rations cleared by the food inspectors. This is all in addition to the normal day-to-day operations the company is dedicated to. “We take great pride in the unique position of tackling such a daunting task,” said Bedwell.



The Class I yard managed by the 639th Combat Sustainment Support Company, 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade is being organized by lot number and type of ration. Shown above is a consolidation of expired operational rations just from Forward Operating Base Falcon; the entire Class I yard is a 2 acre lot.



Spc. Matthew Joy and Pfc. Justin Long, both Kalispell, Mont. natives, and order specialists with the 639th Combat Sustainment Support Company, 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade are working on organizing and getting accountability of meals-ready to eat in order to get them ready for pickup from another unit. "I know it makes a difference," said Joy. The Class I yard has recovered over 3.2 million dollars of operational rations, according to the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Class I yard, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Bedwell, from Kalispell, Mont.

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