



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Public Affairs Office, Joint Base Balad, Iraq
APO AE 09391

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE No. 20091109-003
November 2009

96th Sustainment Brigade visits Al Asad Airbase

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

AL ASAD AIRBASE, Iraq – The 96th Sustainment Brigade command team recently visited Al Asad Airbase after a change of command with the 10th Sustainment Brigade. During the visit, 96th SBDE Commander, Col. C.J. Read, from Layton, Utah, met with 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Jody Dew, from Dillon, S.C., to discuss areas of operation and the future missions related to the 96th SBDE on Al Asad Airbase. With the influx of military personnel of every branch of service, Al Asad Airbase will continue to have a dynamic presence in western Iraq. This presence is not only a logistical hub for theater operations but with future intent as an NTC-type training facility as well.

During the two day visit, Col. Read and 96th SBDE Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs, a Roy, Utah native, were able to see a variety of missions held under the 751st CSSB umbrella, from small to expansive missions. One remote mission conducted by the 263rd Quartermaster Company from El Paso, Texas is the

fabric repair shop, run by the 263rd QM Co. They provide uniform repairs for all military branches on Al Asad Airbase. Such repairs include replacement of zippers, buttons and Velcro. The four Soldier team has access to two sewing machines as well as completing mending by hand. This may be a small mission in terms of personnel but very significant for the military personnel who have daily wear and tear on uniforms. Additionally, there is the cost avoidance factor to consider.

With a great view of the Joint Distribution Center yard from the tower, the 96th SBDE command team was able to observe the large amounts of cargo and equipment which resides in the yard for 96 hours or less. The efficiency of the different lanes, layout and moving parts of the JDC culminates from the collaborative teamwork of Sgt. 1st Class Neil Brown, a native of Brazil, Ind., and noncommissioned officer in charge of the JDC, 138th Quartermaster Support Company, Brazil, Ind., and Kellogg Brown & Root Logistics Warehouse Foreman, Bernardo Moreno, a Yuma, Ariz., native.

Other collaborative missions on the tour included the Joint Air Cargo Operations Terminal. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Helderman, a Newberry, Ind., native and NCOIC of JACOT for the 138th QM Support Co., gave a tour of the operations describing the networking between Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines on this expansive mission. There was discussion of combining the Army cargo with Marine operations at the arrival/departure airfield control group in pursuit of efficiency. The future of this mission is being evaluated as the 96th SBDE takes command and as the future of Al Asad Airbase changes in order to meet future mission requirements.

At the end of the tour, after many briefings and operational visitations, Col. Read and Command Sgt. Maj. Briggs held an impromptu patch ceremony with Lt. Col. Dew and 751st CSSB Command Sgt. Maj. Chet Welch, from Eastover, S.C.

As the 751st CSSB realigns its mission under the 96th SBDE, Dew stated, “Col. Read and his staff have done an excellent job supporting the 751st CSSB with providing guidance and decisions for off-ramping units, as well as setting up our two transportation units for success in the way ahead. We look forward to the leadership of the 96th SBDE and the team effort they brought with them.” It is with this guidance and newly formed partnerships that Al Asad Airbase will continue to be a logistical force in western Iraq.



Sgt. Tammi Welton, a Barley, Neb., native, gives a tour of the Fabric Renovations shop to 96th Sustainment Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Vicki Briggs. As members of the 263rd Quartermaster Company, Welton and Spc. Katie Langley, also from Barley, Neb., provide uniform repairs for service members on Al Asad Airbase. The three Soldiers discussed the wear and tear of the flame-retardant ACUs. The 263rd QM CO is supported by the 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade.



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Helderman, Joint Air Cargo Operations Terminal noncommissioned officer in charge for the 138th Quartermaster Support Company and a Newberry, Ind., native, gives a guided tour to the command group of the 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the 96th Sustainment Brigade. During the tour, they discussed the operational requirements and the future collaboration with the Marines, who support the arrival/departure airfield control group facilities. The JACOT mission is supported by the 138th Quartermaster Support Co., 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade.



Kellogg Brown & Root Logistics Warehouse Foreman, Bernardo Moreno, a Yuma, Ariz., native, has a question-and-answer session with 96th Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. C.J. Read. As noncommissioned officer in charge of the Joint Distribution Center, Sgt. 1st Class Neil Brown, a Brazil, Ind., native, and member of the 138th Quartermaster Support Company, 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 96th Sustainment Brigade, works in partnership with Moreno. Together, they were able to give an informative and aerial view of the JDC yard.



Col. C.J. Read affixes the 96th Sustainment Brigade patch on the shoulder of 751st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Jody Dew. This moment took place during the two-day visit of the 96th SBDE command team to the Al Asad Airbase area of operations.

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Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Calkins, 138th QM, 751st CSSB, 96SBDE. For queries, contact 13th Sustainment Command Public Affairs at: ESCPAO@iraq.centcom.mil.

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