



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command  
16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs Office**

Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq  
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101  
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104  
[adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3rd ESC Release # 20081106-1

7 November 2008

**Indiana, Washington guardsman bring desks to Zalila school  
children**

SCHOOL

by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Adam V. Shaw

16<sup>th</sup> SB Public Affairs

ZALILA, Iraq — Indiana and Washington guardsmen from Contingency Operating Base Q-West brought desks, chairs and school supplies to the Zalila Elementary School here Nov. 5.

Soldiers from the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and 76th BSTB, 16th SB, brought nearly 50 desks to the school that sits in a the small town of Zalila, just a few miles outside of Q-West.

The school's principal said that many of her students had quit because there were not enough seats and was happy to receive the new desks.

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“We are very thankful for the desks,” said Nada Hamed Mohamed, principal, Zalila elementary school, through an interpreter. “But, we wish you could bring more supplies.”

The school has no air-conditioning or heating, only four teachers for the nearly 650 students, and lacks many supplies.

“We have requested more supplies from the government in Mosul,” said Mohamed. “We never get anything from them because we are too far away.”

Although the school is in dire need of more supplies, the desks will help keep some students off the floor and in school.

“I wanted to quit because I didn’t have a seat,” said 6<sup>th</sup>-grader Ahmed. “Thank you very much for your support and I hope that you can bring more things.”

The guardsman spent nearly an hour at the school handing out toys and meeting the children.

“If we can change someone’s life,” said Sgt. Chris Addington, team leader, Alpha Co., 76<sup>th</sup> BSTB. “It makes me feel like I accomplished something.”

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Addington, a Union City, Ind., native who is in the final month of his 15-month deployment, said it's important for Iraqis to have an understanding of what the Soldiers are doing here.

"The next generation will have a better idea of what we are like and what we stand for," said Addington.



SCHOOL.JPG

Sgt. Chris Addington, team leader, Alpha Co., 76<sup>th</sup> Brigade Special Troops Battalion, hands out desks to school children. Soldiers from the 81st BSTB, 16th Sustainment Brigade, and 76th BSTB, 16th SB, brought nearly 50 desks to the school that sits in the small town of Zalila, just a few miles outside of Contingency Operating Base Q-West. Addington, a Union City, Ind., native who is in the final month of his 15-month deployment, said it's important for Iraqis to have an understanding of what the Soldiers are doing here. "The next generation will have a better idea of what we are like and what we stand for," he said.