



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3rd ESC Release 20081220-2
December 20, 2008

FAREWELL TO THE 3/444TH POSTAL PLATOON WARRIORS!

By 1LT Lianna Scharff and SSG Rene Williams

101st Human Resource Company

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --- Soldiers of 3/444 Postal Plt. recently transferred authority to the 4/18 Postal Plt. after completing an eight-month deployment supporting postal operations on Joint Base Balad, Forward Operating Bases Paliwoda & Grizzly.

The 3/444th was recognized for their hard work and dedication during their award ceremony held on 2 December 2008.

Attached to the 101st HR Company, 3/444 Postal Soldiers were responsible for ensuring over 13,000,000lbs of mail safely arrived at its final destination. During their tenure over 15,000 absentee ballots combined were delivered or processed for return to the United States for counting. As they prepare to leave they will also see the ground breaking for a new East Side Post Office. Additionally they provided Soldiers for processing personnel in and out of the JBB PAX terminal as well as real time casualty reporting at the JBB hospital.

3/444th Soldiers touched the lives of all personnel on JBB by providing outstanding Postal training to over 1,000 mail clerks and conducting unit mail room inspections for all units assigned to JBB.

“I am proud to have served with the 101st HR Company in its postal operations mission,” said Sergeant 1st Class Kevin Johnson, platoon sergeant. “I am leaving with a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as knowing that I have positively affected the morale of thousands Soldiers on Joint Base Balad.”

Another Soldier talked about her deployment experience as the contracting officer representative.

“It was a good learning experience in comparison to my last deployment. I was able to see as well as be a part of the mail process from the US to the Joint Military Mail Terminal and throughout MND-N,” said Staff Sgt. Tracy Snow, postal operations. “I am also proud to have been a part of the life support for FOB Paliwoda, Grizzly, Normandy and Caldwell by sending the necessary supplies as well as coordinating with the Red Cross in getting the Soldiers Starbucks coffee and other amenities that were not available at their location. Overall, my ability to help service members as well as all DoD/DA civilians in reception of their organizations mail and seeing the effect that it had on their morale made my job worthwhile.”

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Platoon Leader, 1LT Jesse Rosser (left) and Platoon Sergeant Sgt. First Class Kevin Johnson (right) show off their awards and 101st Screaming Eagle plaques for their after the 3/444 Postal Platoons awards ceremony, Dec 2.

