



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
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Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104
Adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil

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Old soldiers learn a new trade

TRADE

By Sgt. 1st Class Ken Mattingly
Bravo Co. 1-184th Infantry

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from Bravo Co., 1-184th Infantry, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are preparing for convoy security missions in Northern Iraq. This is a new concept for the light infantry unit that is equipped to handle movement the old fashion way.

“It’s challenging, doing a mission we don’t normally train for back home in the States,” said Sgt. Jurell Snyder, battle sergeant, Bravo Co., 1-184th IN. “But it does make us better soldiers because we cross train in many different areas.”

This deployment marks the second time that Bravo Co. has been in Iraq. The first time the company conducted check point security in and around the International Zone.

“It’s ok, but I would rather be doing an infantryman’s job,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Schmehl, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, Bravo Co. “It’s a challenge learning to prepare for a different type mission.”

“It has definitely helped my military career,” said Staff Sgt. Omar Tejada, assistant operations non-commissioned officer, Bravo Co. “It is more mental than physical.”

For many of the soldiers in the unit, this is a new mission. The unit is a traditional light infantry maneuver unit. In the past their training had consisted of dismounted combat patrols and dismounted combat operations.

The company has rapidly adapted to the new mission, new equipment and new operational procedures. The unit is now currently conducting combat logistical patrols throughout Northern Iraq until the middle of next year.



Pfc. Mitchel Miller, gunner, Bravo Co., 1-184th Infantry, 16th Sustainment Brigade conducts final inspections on his vehicle during motor pool operations before moving to the staging area prior to a mission. (Photo by Sgt. William Gospodnetich)