



**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 #
January 3, 2009

Human resource Soldiers make second Christmas in Iraq special

HRXMAS

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JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Soldiers of the 101st Human Resources Co., 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, found a way to enjoy the festivities of the season despite serving their second consecutive Christmas downrange.

The HR Soldiers day began with a 5-km “jingle bell” run and a Christmas parade.

Sgt. Brenda Allen, postal plans and operations sergeant, 502nd Postal Plans and Operations, took her time to coordinate with various agencies on Joint Base Balad to donate games and prizes to the unit for entertainment and morale. She also put together activities ranging from indoor bowling to a white elephant Christmas gift exchange.

“Even though I had [duty] the day prior, I stayed because of the atmosphere — it was joyful and beats staying in my room,” said Spc. Ronnie Bizzell, clerk, 502nd Postal Plans and Operations. “I played video games, dominoes, bowling and ate lunch with my platoon. I had a great time filled with lots of laughter and fun.”

Another Soldier said she wasn’t expecting the activities that were planned.

“I thought some of the Soldiers would be a bit down due to it being their second Christmas in theater away from their families,” Sgt. 1st Class Dionne Alexander, 101st Human Resource Co. “But thanks to Sgt. Allen’s thoughtfulness, the day was wonderful. There was no differentiation between ranks; the highest to the lowest all had a great time especially during the bingo and bowling games.”

(courtesy photo)



Sgt. Joshua Hornbeck, postal non-commissioned officer, opens his prize after winning a round of Bingo, while Sgt. Brenda Allen, postal plans and operations sergeant, 502nd Postal Plans and Operations waits to call off the next round of Bingo numbers, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Dec. 25. Soldiers of the 101st Human Resources Co., 16th Special

Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, began the day with a 5-km “jingle bell” run and a Christmas parade, and then participated in activities ranging from indoor bowling to a “white elephant” Christmas gift exchange.