



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

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## **Soldiers share Christmas cheer with Iraqi children in border town**

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By Spc. Sean Dillard  
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HABUR GATE, Iraq — Soldiers from Logistics Task Force — Alpha, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, gave Iraqi children in nearby village of Zakho, Iraq, stuffed animals and school supplies, and received in return a Christmas performance Dec. 27.

“This a unique experience,” said Capt. Charles Ausman, commanding officer, LTF-A, and 27-year-old native of Cincinnati, Ohio. “The Soldiers will take this with them wherever they go.”

The Iraqi children put on a morality play for the U.S. troops in the village’s Catholic church. The church provides services to more than 600 families in the region along the Turkey-Iraq border. Twenty families live inside the village of Zakho.

Soldiers appreciated the opportunity to do something meaningful for the holidays.

“It’s always better to give than to receive,” said Spc. Andrew Hinshaw, satellite operator, Bravo Co., 16th STB, and 37-year-old native of Dallas, Texas. “Christmas is a perfect time for that.”

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(Photo by Spc. Sean Dillard)



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Nathan Lewis, executive officer, Logistics Task Force-Alpha, 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, gives a slinky to a young Iraqi boy in Zakho, Iraq, Dec. 27. “I’m just happy to give back to a community of people that have given so much to us,” said Lewis, a 23-year-old native of Burke, Va.