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Public Affairs Office**

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## **Soldier spends holiday with parents in Iraq**

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

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

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — While some Soldiers went home to the states for Christmas or New Year's, Spc. Christopher Jackson, petroleum supply specialist, Alpha Co., 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Taji, Iraq, spent the holidays with his parents in Iraq.

Of course, his parents are both sergeants major stationed at Q-West.

His father, Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, supply and services sergeant major, support operations, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, and his step-mother, Sgt. Maj. Eulalia Jackson, distribution sergeant major, support operations, 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde., said they hadn't seen him for two years, so they were very happy to see him.

"I was their Christmas present," said Christopher, a 24-year-old native of Goldsboro, N.C.

His father said the family spent time together conducting physical training, playing

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games, watching movies and going to church, but one of their favorite activities was singing.

“We brought him in and introduced him to the karaoke crowd at the dining facility,” Richard Jackson said. “We sang a couple of songs together, like ‘She thinks my MRAP’s sexy.’”

This isn’t the first time this family has been together in Iraq.

“I promoted him to specialist in November 2004 at COB Speicher, which was a highlight for me,” said Richard Jackson. They were all stationed at Speicher at the time.

Christopher said he was able to return the favor in March 2006, when he promoted his father to sergeant major in Kitzingen, Germany.

Christopher, who wants to someday be a sergeant major or chief warrant officer, said he nearly called it quits after he was injured in-between deployments.

“I’ll be honest, it’s been rough,” Christopher said. “I didn’t think I’d make it with some of the ups and downs I’ve had.”

Christopher said it is sometimes difficult to be stationed with his parents, because of everyone’s expectations.

“Everyone in Kitzingen knew who I was because of Dad,” Christopher said. “It was a good thing, but also it was difficult because I had to live up to his standards.”

Christopher said his father never pushed the Army on him, but he’s always looked up to

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his father.

“Dad’s been my hero ever since I was a kid,” Christopher said. “No, I just called him up one day and asked, ‘What can the military offer me?’ He said it’ll teach me discipline, make me more mature, and it’s a good career and will pay off in the end.”



Spc. Christopher Jackson, petroleum supply specialist, Alpha Co., 64<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Taji, Iraq, spent the holidays with his his father, Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, supply and services sergeant major, support operations, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, and his step-mother, Sgt. Maj. Eulalia Jackson, distribution sergeant major, support operations, 16<sup>th</sup> SB, at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq from Dec. 26 to Jan. 3. (Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)