



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

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Washington Guardsmen sharpen skills with vehicle interdiction training

VIT

By Capt. Jacqueline Baird

UPAR, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq —Washington Guardsmen trained to stop and search suspicious vehicles during vehicle interdiction training here Jan. 31.

The Everett, Wash.-based Soldiers of the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, are responsible for force protection at the base, and regularly conduct convoys with Iraqi Security Forces in the Ninawa Province.

Because the Guardsmen regularly conduct mounted and dismounted patrols of the area surrounding the base, it is essential for them to train in many infantry tactics, techniques, and procedures, said Capt. Forrest Horan, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 81st BSTB. Force Protection Soldiers have a critical mission on the base.

“Squads were trained to stop vehicles, force the enemy from their vehicle, eliminate immediate threats and search vehicles according to both Army and police SWAT (special weapons and tactics) standards.” said Horan. “The training focused on identification of suspicious vehicles, sensitive site exploitation and detainee operations. The training will

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culminate in a squad live fire exercise.”

This kind of exercise keeps complacency down and offers the force protection Soldiers realistic training to accomplish their mission, Horan said.

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Pfc. Coye Underwood, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, apprehends and searches Staff Sgt. John Bryant, 81st BSTB, during vehicle interdiction training at contingency operating base Q-West, Jan. 31. The Everett, Wash.-based Soldiers are responsible for force protection at the base, and regularly conduct convoys with Iraqi Security Forces in the Ninawa Province.