



**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
keith.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3rd ESC Release # 20090218-02
February 18, 2009

Sustainment Soldiers thank contractors with barbeque

By Capt. Natalia Mercedes-Williams
18TH CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq — Sustainment Soldiers here thanked their civilian counterparts for their hard work with a cookout of burgers, chicken breasts and pastries at the “Class I” yard here Feb. 1.

Soldiers from 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion cooked for more than 60 contractors from many nations who work at the logistics distribution center here.

“It was excellent!” said Mahendra Ranaweera, a contractor from Colombo, Sri Lanka. “Everyone enjoyed the function and we really appreciate the opportunity given by the 18th CSSB to consider us part of the battalion.”

Ranaweera, who has worked at the Class I yard for six months, said the event was a morale booster, and gave workers and Soldiers time to interact and to get to know each other better.

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The workers, who hold numerous positions within the yards, represent nations such as the United States, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

“It brings the Corps Logistic Service Support (CLSS) family closer and on a more personal level, instead of only seeing each other in a working environment,” said Kimberly Keen, a native of North Augusta, S.C., and Class I site manager.

Keen has been working in Iraq for five years and was recently awarded the “Class I Yard of the Week” recognition award by the Defense Contract Management Agency, in February 2009.



Contractors grab some grub at the Contingency Operating Site Marez Class I yard Feb.1. Soldiers from 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, cooked for more than 60 contractors from many nations who work at the logistics distribution center here. “It was excellent!” said Mahendra Ranaweera, a contractor from Colombo, Sri Lanka. “Everyone enjoyed the function and we really appreciate the opportunity given by the 18th CSSB to consider us part of the battalion.” (Photo by Capt. Natalia Mercedes-Williams)