



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3rd ESC Release #
March 1, 2009

Mexican Soldier serves to keep his family safe

By 1st Lt. Charles Miller
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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Spc. Daniel Arrieta wants to help his country and be there for his battle buddies while his company is conducting convoy missions in Iraq. He wants to continue to provide a good life for his family, but first he has to become a U.S. citizen.

The 22-year-old from Cathedral City, Calif., originally from Mexico, will become a U.S. citizen, along with many other Soldiers, during an upcoming naturalization ceremony at Joint Base Balad.

Arrieta came to the U.S. as a child, and he joined the Army to give something back to the country that has helped him and his family to achieve a higher standard of living.

“By helping my country I am helping my family stay safe,” Arrieta said.

Arrieta is a mortarman, but on this deployment he is helping to conduct convoy security operations. He drives heavily armored vehicles for the California Army National Guard with the “Black Jacks” of Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade. The “Black Jacks” are a National Guard unit from Riverside, Calif.