



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

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Soldiers partner with Iraqi Forces, share cookies and goodwill

By Capt. Matt Davis
51st Transportation Co., 30th CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — The Transportation Soldiers here that often escort convoys of supplies throughout northern Iraq have learned to work closely with Iraqi Security Forces, and it's paid off.

The Soldiers of the 51st Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, say they often stop to coordinate information with ISF and to share goodwill, sometimes by sharing Gatorade, Mountain Dew, cookies and muffins.

“To step down from one of the large vehicles driving by and say, ‘we appreciate what you’re doing for us, and you are doing your country a great service,’ gives Iraqi Soldiers and Police a sense of pride in their job,” said 1st Lt. Adam Moore, platoon leader, 51st Transportation Co.

Since arriving at Q-West, the Soldiers going out on missions realized the importance of these Iraqis and the impact they had on their everyday lives during this deployment.

First Lt. James Correa, platoon leader, 51st Transportation Co., was leading a convoy of U.S. military and Iraqi commercial trucks when one of the Iraqi trucks broke down. The

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convoy was on a very narrow road, used heavily by both civilian and military vehicles, and the broken vehicle froze traffic in both directions.

While the maintenance personnel assessed the situation, a group of Iraqi Army Soldiers approached, their officer spoke English, and offered assistance. They provided chains to hook the truck up to another commercial truck so it could be towed out of the chokepoint to a place where it could easily be fixed. This saved time that would have had to be spent maneuvering the proper recovery vehicles through the tight spot to get the broken truck out of there, time anti-Iraqi forces could have spent plotting to attack a frozen convoy.

First Lt. Adam Moore, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, 51st TC, was waved down twice by the Iraqi Security Forces; both times they were warning the convoy about possible IEDs in the road ahead. The first time it turned out to be nothing. The second time the convoy was stopped the Iraqis used their own route clearance to investigate a suspicious pothole that was in the direct path of the platoon's moving vehicles. Inside this pothole, probably placed during a limited visibility dust-storm, they found a buried IED.

Taking the time to stop, make friends, and build upon the solid foundation between American and Iraqi Forces has empowered the ISF to do a better job securing the routes that U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi civilians travel on, said Capt. Joshua Kerton, commander, 51st Transportation Co.

“This will ultimately lead to the ISF taking a bigger role in the security of their country, and will allow American troops to get home that much sooner,” Kerton said.

(courtesy photos)



First Lt. Adam C. Moore, platoon leader, 51st Transportation Co., 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, stops briefly while on a mission to offer gifts of appreciation to the grateful Iraqi Security Forces at the checkpoints along his route. The Soldiers of the 51st Transportation Co., say they often stop to coordinate information with ISF and to share goodwill, sometimes by sharing Gatorade, Mountain Dew, cookies and muffins.

