



**21st Theater Sustainment Command
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NIGHTHAWKS

1st ICTC 'Nighthawks' deploy Soldiers of 1st platoon to Iraq

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrz
18th CSSB Public Affairs

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Family and friends of the 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion , 16th Sustainment Brigade, were on hand Jan. 18 at the 1st ICTC motor pool here to bid final farewells to Soldiers of 1st Platoon, 1st ICTC as they departed for a 12-month rotation in Iraq.

The Nighthawks of 1st ICTC conducted 18 inspections in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Hohenfels, Bamberg and Ansbach, certified over 150 containers and 200 pieces of rolling stock and trained on convoy and recovery operations in Schweinfurt. You also inspected 550 containers in four days during round-the-clock training at Miesau Army Depot and executed your road-to-war training while simultaneously conducting more than 90 support missions for units and organizations within the Bavarian footprint, said Capt. Jason Oradat, the 1st ICTC commander.

While in Iraq, the Soldiers will be conducting cargo transfer operations in a central receiving and shipping point yard. For many of the Soldiers it will be their first deployment.

“I’m extremely excited and ready to go,” said Pfc. Ashliegh Wilkerson, a human resources specialist with the 1st ICTC and a native of Middletown, Ohio.

Pvt. Zachery Klippstein, a cargo specialist with the 1st ICTC and a native of Lawton, Okla., kissed his wife Katiria and his week-old son Trevyn goodbye.

“While my husband is away I do feel secure in knowing my family has the support of the company and battalion,” said Katiria Klippstein.

However, not all Soldiers will be deploying for the very first time.

“This is all part of the job. It is Army life,” said Spc. Eric Noveda, who has been deployed three times. His wife Sharon and two sons, 11-year-old Adrian and 7-year-old Mark, were with their father to see him off as well as his platoon.

As always with the 18th CSSB, the company- and battalion-level family readiness groups are in place to support the military families both in Germany and in the United States.

“You are the ones with the hard job ahead,” said Lt. Col. Reed Hudgins, the 18th CSSB commander, to the families of 1st Platoon, 1st ICTC . “The deploying Soldiers are able to go downrange and do their jobs knowing the full support of their company and battalion is behind them, but it is you, here behind, who are the ones with the worry and fear. You support your Soldier, and we will support you.”



Col. Keith Sledd, the 16th Sustainment Brigade commander (foreground) and Lt. Col. Reed Hudgins, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander (background) individually bid farewell to the Soldiers of 1st Platoon, 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 18th CSSB, 16th Sust. Bde, during a deployment ceremony Jan. 18 . (U.S. Army photo)



Private Zachery Klippstein with wife Katiria and son Trevyon pose for a family photo during a deployment ceremony for 1st Platoon, 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Jan. 18. (U.S. Army photo)



(From left to right) Mark Noveda, Spc. Eric Noveda, Sharon Noveda and Adrian Noveda say their last goodbyes during a deployment ceremony for 1st Platoon, 1st Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Jan. 18. (U.S. Army photo)