



**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

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Q-West Mechanics get first crack at new MRAPs

MRAP

By Sgt. Keith M. Anderson, 16th SB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — The motorpool Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade got their first look at the new International Maxx Pro Plus Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle (MRAP) here Sept. 17.

After the sustainment brigade got its first two MRAPs in September, the mechanics began training on what the Army calls “20-level” maintenance, field-level scheduled services, on the MRAPs. Subordinate units of the brigade in Iraq have MRAPs, but these were the first the brigade received.

Anthony Evans, field service representative, Navistar, Int., led the Soldiers through familiarization and initial maintenance on the dual-wheel, more heavily-armored MRAPs. He said the MRAPs weren’t as difficult to work on as other Army vehicles.

“To me, I think it’s easier because everything isn’t crammed-in, but it’s heavier so you have to man-handle everything,” Evans said.

The MRAP is very similar to commercial vehicles in the U.S., so Soldiers gain useful job

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skills by learning to maintain and repair the vehicle, he said.

“This is a great vehicle for people to learn on if they are going to enter the civilian job market,” Evans said. “Other than the armor this is no different than any other commercial vehicle out there.”

Spc. Daniel Misch, all wheel vehicle mechanic, 16th SB, appreciated the chance to get away from repairing the humvees and learn something different.

“It’s something new, I’m tired of doing the same old stuff,” Misch said. “It’s something we need to know, even if we aren’t going to do the more difficult repair work, there are still different levels of maintenance.”

Evans showed the Soldiers how to remove the passenger side rear axle, and to check that the wheel bearings were correctly torqued and other basic tasks Sept. 17. The Soldiers will go through more in-depth training later this month.

Pfc. Jeramy Hammond, all wheel vehicle mechanic, 16th SB, said the training was very useful. The 24-year-old from Puyallup, Wash., said he has a small business installing “after-market mods” to import vehicles in Puyallup.

“It will advance my mechanical knowledge,” Hammond said. “It’ll prepare me more for the business I started.”

Sgt. 1st Class Liston Kelly, motorpool non-commissioned officer in charge, 16th SB, said his Soldiers would learn to maintain the new MRAPs easily.

“There’s no equipment that’s complicated; Soldiers just have to be trained,” Kelly said.



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Spc. Joseph Bridges and Pfc. Jeramy Hammond, both mechanics, 16th Sustainment Brigade, loosen the passenger rear axle on a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicle at the brigade motorpool here Sept. 17, while Anthony Evans, field service representative, Navistar International Corp., coaches them through the process. Motorpool Soldiers began training on what the Army calls “20-level” maintenance, field-level scheduled services, on the MRAPs after receiving two new International Maxx Pro Plus MRAPs in September. (Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)