



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command  
16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:keith.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3rd ESC Release #20081113-2

## **Colorado students speak with Soldiers in Iraq for Veteran's Day**

SCHOOLVTC

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Zachary L. Pfannenstiel  
391<sup>st</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — The 7th-graders in Ms. Martina Garcia-Maldonado's class at Longs Peak middle school, Longmont, Colo., had a lot of questions for the Soldiers in Iraq that were on their television screen this Veteran's Day.

“What kind of food do they [Iraqis] eat there?” asked one student.

Lt. Col. Ronald Pacheco Jr, commander, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, fielded the question himself, and described the chicken and rice that he ate with local Iraqis, and added, “It is very good.”

Children followed with a variety of questions ranging from how Soldiers take showers to what they do in their free time.

The students, who are studying the "cradle of civilization," were able to speak with

-more-

SCHOOLVTC/2-2-2

Soldiers at COB Speicher, a base near Tikrit, Iraq, over a video tele-conference Nov. 11. The Soldiers were able to give real-time answers to the questions they had about the region, people, climate and wildlife.

“Students wish to honor our servicemen and women on Veterans Day, and are learning about the cost of war on human emotions and global resources,” Garcia-Maldonado said.

For two Soldiers in the 233rd Transportation Co., both from Colorado, the video tele-conference had special significance.

“It was nice to talk to somebody from our state on Veteran’s Day instead of someone we can’t identify with — overall I think it was great,” said Spc. Jeremy Ulhorn, a 24-year-old wheeled vehicle mechanic from Colorado Springs, Colo.. “It made me feel great because it let me know that someone does appreciate the fact that we’re out here.”

The Longs Peak classroom wasn’t far from home for the other Soldier.

“It was a great thing to do, due to the fact that they are so close to my home town,” said Spc. Jarrod Feldman, a 25-year-old wheeled vehicle mechanic from Broomfield, Colo.. “It’s kind of breathtaking, a really good feeling.”

Longs Peak Middle School also hosted a panel of guest speakers from other major wars.

“We will raise a flag that has flown over Iraq, a gift from a former student who has since returned from his tour there,” said Garcia-Maldonado.

As the school bell rang and the students headed to their next class, the sustainment Soldiers felt a little more pride in their own service.

-more-

SCHOOLVTC/3-3-3

“It was a unique and encouraging experience,” said 1st Lt. Hallie Becker, operations officer, 391st CSSB. “To have been given the opportunity to talk to some of the nation's youth and see them interacting with the Soldiers — it was a decidedly memorable Veteran's Day.”



schoolvtc

Lt. Col. Ronald Pacheco Jr, commander, 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, answers questions from 7th-grade students in Ms. Martina Garcia-Maldonado's class at Longs Peak middle school, Longmont, Colo., during a video tele-conference Nov. 11 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, for Veteran's Day. (courtesy photo)