



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command  
16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs Office**

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“Knights” talk with provincial leaders over lunch, soccer

SOUQ

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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade leaders met with area sheikhs, municipal leaders, Iraqi Police officials, Iraqi Army leaders and others from the Ninawa Province at a “Souq” here Dec. 13.

In Arabic, a Souq is a marketplace or bazaar, but it is also used as a time where US military leaders can discuss issues with local Iraqi leaders.

“These Souqs are very valuable for relationship building,” said Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade. “It also gives us an opportunity to look at improving the situation in Qayarrah and at the Tigris.”

During the meeting, leaders discussed the security situation, on and off the COB and water issues.

Col. Pitts said that the water situation on Q-West has improved over the past month and said the brigade will continue to find ways to improve the water situation in the local Iraqi communities.

After the two-hour discussion, participants watched an exhibition soccer match put on by the Alhood village soccer team.

Col. Pitts and his command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer handed out new soccer balls to the team in appreciation of the match.

“We look forward to the monthly Souq,” said Pitts. “We will continue to build our relationship and friendship for the future.”

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Col. Martin Pitts, commander, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, hands a player from the Alhood village soccer team a ball after an exhibition match at Q-West Dec. 13. The match was part of the Souq, where brigade leaders meet with leaders from the Ninawa province to discuss a variety of issues such as water and security. (Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Adam V. Shaw)