



**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
Adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil

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Infantry helps local man, opens roadway

By Sgt. Justin Cruz
Echo Co., 1-185 Armor

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from 1st platoon, Easy Co., 1-185 Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, assisted a local man with his broke down dump truck while on mission.

While on mission, the lead scout vehicle discovered a suspicious red dump truck blocking the number two lane.

During the investigation into the suspicious truck, the driver was discovered sleeping on the side of the road. No interpreter was available, so a Soldier from the patrol, who had a previous deployment with the Iraqi commandos and studied Arabic at UCLA, talked to the driver.

The driver, Hashem, said his vehicle battery was dead and another truck was towing him using the steel cable attached to the front of his truck. The truck's air brakes locked up and the cable broke leaving him stranded on the road. The other vehicle left him there.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Vaughn, convoy commander, Easy Co., 1-185 Armor, decided to tow the truck to a nearby service station and provided the driver with food and water for

the evening. The wrecker operators assisted the driver with his brakes and towed the vehicle to a nearby service station.

Hashem is a father of four, two girls and two boys. He was on his way home at the time of the break down.

Since the vehicle was off the road, it could no longer impede other convoys from passing through.

-30-



Spc. Luis Valdivida (left) of Easy Co., 1-185th Armor, 16th Sustainment Brigade, assisted a local man with a wrecker recovery while Capt. Robert D'Andrea (right), commander, Easy Co., translated for the convoy commander and wrecker crew after coming across a broke down vehicle during a mission. The Soldiers towed the truck to a nearby service

station and provided the driver with food and water for the evening. Since the vehicle was off the road, it could no longer impede other convoys from passing through.