



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3rd ESC Release # 20090108-3  
January 9, 2009

## **Washington Guardsmen conduct live fire exercise**

16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-West, Iraq – Washington Guardsmen followed up earlier dismounted patrol training with a live fire exercise at the explosive ordnance disposal range here Dec. 30.

“One of the biggest dangers Soldiers face during a mobilization to Iraq is complacency,” said Lt. Col. Kenneth Garrison, commander, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion. “After months of patrolling the same roads and villages, it is difficult to maintain the focus that is required of combat.”

The Everett, Wash.-based Soldiers of the 81<sup>st</sup> BSTB, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, assumed base defense responsibilities from Task Force 113, Indiana Army National Guard, on Nov. 16, 2008. The battalion’s force protection company, the “Crushers,” regularly conduct base defense operations, counter-IED (improvised explosive device) patrols, counter-indirect fire patrols, non-lethal engagements, and QRF (quick reaction force) operations in support of base defense operations at COB Q-West.

“The Soldiers conduct regular training in order to sharpen their skills and keep their fighting edge,” said Garrison.

Guardsmen rehearsed several combat tasks during the exercise.

The squads reacted to a detonated IED, employed a smoke screen for dismounted movement, utilized grenades to capture fighting positions, reacted to a mobile, vehicle-borne IED utilizing escalation of force (EOF) guidelines and destroyed a vehicle using an AT-4, said Capt. Forrest Horan, commander, Force Protection.



A Washington Guardsmen prepares to fire as the unit followed up earlier dismounted patrol training with a live fire exercise at the explosive ordnance disposal range here Dec. 30.