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Public Affairs Office**

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Alabama Guardsmen take on maintenance mission

By Capt. Henry J. Aguigui

18th CSSB

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE DIAMONDBACK, Iraq — Soldiers from the 632nd Maintenance Co., based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., transferred authority to the 158th Maintenance Co., an Alabama Army National Guard unit at the Marez-East Theater here Jan 13.

The Soldiers of the 632nd Maint. Co., a company of the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, completed a 15-month rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 originally under the 3rd Sust. Bde. and then the 16th Sustainment Brigade.

“Phenomenal performance,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Roscoe, commander, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sust. Bde. “In my opinion this company’s recovery mission was the most dangerous mission within the battalion. They were not restricted to the MSR (main supply routes) or ASRs (alternate supply routes) within the area of operations, but were expected to go anywhere, at anytime they were needed.”

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The 632nd Maintenance Co. conducted over 85 recovery missions in the Multi-National Division – North area of operations with no incidents. The maintenance company was also responsible for organizational maintenance support and provided force protection for Contingency Operating Site Diamondback.

In his farewell speech, Capt. Toby R. Mackall, commander, 632nd Maint. Co., thanked his Soldiers for their steadfastness and leadership.

“We lost no Soldiers during this deployment, and I believe it is because of the Soldiers and leaders who stayed engaged at every level,” Mackall said. “I stand before some of the finest Soldiers in the Army, job well-done.”

Mackall and 1st Sgt. Hector Rivera, first sergeant, 632nd Maint. Co., relinquished authority to Capt. Robert Schodorf, commander, 158th Maint. Co., and 1st Sgt. Robert Nichols, first sergeant, 158th Maint. Co.

“Soldiers throughout the state (of Alabama) volunteered for this opportunity” Schodorf told his Soldiers. “We trained long and hard for this deployment.”



Capt. Toby R. Mackall, commander, and 1st Sgt. Hector Rivera, first sergeant, 632nd Maintenance Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, case the company's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Marez-East Theater at Contingency Operating Site Diamondback Jan. 13. Soldiers from the 632nd Maintenance Co., based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., transferred authority to the 158th Maintenance Co., an Alabama Army National Guard unit. (Photo by Sgt 1st Class Patrice K. Elmes)