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Puerto Rican cargo transfer company wraps up deployment

By Sgt. 1st Class JennyAnne Canlas
18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq — Soldiers from the 268th Cargo Transportation Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, wrapped up a successful ten-month deployment here during a transfer of authority ceremony April 1, 2009.

While in Iraq, the Soldiers of Ft. Buchanan, P.R.-based 268th CTC were located at Marez and Logistical Task Force (LTF) Sykes.

During their tenure, the unit provided numerous cargo transfer and line haul support to units throughout Multi-National Division – North. Cargo transfer Soldiers operated a central receiving shipping point (CRSP) yard, safely conducted escort missions of civilian fuel trucks from the movement control team (MCT) yard to the bulk fuel farm, and provided material handling equipment (MHE) in support of the redeployment of the South Korean Forces and Iraqi provincial elections.

“Without transporters, there are no bullets and beans for the combat Soldiers on the

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ground,” said 1st Lt. Joel Ayala, commander, 268th CTC. “We not only supported our own troops, but the unit also helped to rebuild the country of Iraq by moving essential equipment to the local communities.”

Ayala, a native of Bayamon, P.R., is very proud of his Soldiers’ accomplishments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 08-10.

“I am very satisfied and proud,” Ayala said. “The Soldiers safely moved over 20,000 pieces of equipment without a single accident.”

The proud commander commended his great non-commissioned officers and Soldiers on the success of the unit’s mission during his TOA speech.

The 18th CSSB welcomed the 359th Cargo Transportation Co., from Fort Eustis, Va. The Soldiers of the 359th CTC assumed responsibilities transferred to them in support of the ongoing logistical operations throughout MND-N.

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The 268th Cargo Transportation Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, conducts a transfer of authority ceremony at the Contingency Operating Site Marez-East gym on April 1, 2009. The 18th CSSB welcomed the 359th Cargo Transportation Co., from Fort Eustis, Va. The Soldiers of the 359th CTC assumed responsibilities transferred to them from the 268th CTC in support of the ongoing logistical operations throughout MND-N. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patrice Elmes)