



**3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs Office**

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Lieutenant brings elementary school children special gift

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18th CSSB Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ-EAST, Iraq —For one Soldier of the Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade , going back to her hometown on a rest and recuperation break involved more than visiting family members and relaxing.

1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrzcz, communication officer, 18th CSSB, went to Rock Creek Elementary School in Ohio, where she was a former student, in order to give third-grade students and her fourth-grade teacher Brenda Headley a special American flag. The flag was flown for one day at Contingency Operating Site Marez-East.

The Rock Creek, Ohio, native's purpose was to thank all the students for sending care packages and correspondence during the holidays and for showing her and other Soldiers of her unit their support during the unit's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“It was heartwarming to see how interested the students were about me and my Soldiers,” said Dyrzcz. “I was able to give back to the students in the elementary school I attended when I was younger.”

The students were able to watch a slide show presentation depicting how Soldiers live, interact, and perform their duties and missions at Marez-East. The students also had the opportunity to interview Dyrzcz and ask questions about her experiences in Iraq. After the presentation, the third-graders followed Dyrzcz out to the flagpole to help raise the new flag.

“I was amazed how proud the students were of their country and the service members that protect our freedom. It is nice to see that there are people back home who care about Soldiers and who took interest in writing to us while deployed,” said Dyrzcz.



1st Lt. Jennifer Dyrzcz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, presents an American flag to the students at Rock Creek Elementary School students in Rock Creek, Ohio. The flag was flown over Contingency Operating Site Marez-East in Mosul, Iraq, May 27. (Photo provided by Bill West of the Star Beacon Newspaper)