



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

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## **Tennessee Guardsmen hand reins to Connecticut Reservists**

By Staff Sgt. Keith M. Anderson  
16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers of the 30<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, wrapped up a 12-month deployment cycle here and welcomed Soldiers of the 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB, an Army Reserve unit based out of New Haven, Conn., during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation base complex July 11.

The “Conquer” Soldiers of the 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, based out of Humbolt, Tenn., fall under the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade in Iraq. The 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde., an active duty unit based out of Bamberg, Germany, is responsible for logistics operations in northern Iraq.

“This transfer of authority demonstrates the continuing commitment of the United States to achieve a free, democratic and secure Iraq,” said Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde. “Command Sgt. Maj. (James E.) Spencer, (command sergeant major, 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde.), our ‘Knight’ Warriors and I are honored to have had the opportunity to serve with the ‘Conquer’ Soldiers. We welcomed you into our brigade last October, and it is our pleasure to be able to see you off.”

“Your battalion’s achievements during this rotation have been absolutely remarkable,”

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CONQUERTO/2-2-2

Pitts said. "I would just like to say, 'job exceedingly well done!'"

Lt. Col. Tommy H. Baker, commander, 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, thanked his Soldiers for the work they'd done during the deployment.

"Providing command and control for the largest battalion within the 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde., and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command, has been both tough and challenging," Baker said. "We have conducted over 1,000 convoys spanning more than 2.9 million miles and stretching from Habur Gate (on the Turkish border in northern Iraq) all the way to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. We have sustained the entire Multi-National Division – North with vital logistics for the past ten months. We could not have done this without the dedication of all the Soldiers standing here today."

Sgt. Don Burkeen, driver, 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, and native of Sharon, Tenn., received a combat action badge during the deployment after a convoy he was in came under fire from rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire in January, 2009.

The 36-year-old, married father of four daughters, said that he was proud of all he'd learned during the deployment, but he was proudest that all his Soldiers and members of his team were coming home.

"I'm going home, my gunner is going home, and the two Soldiers we were tasked to carry are going home," Burkeen said.

Burkeen's gunner, Staff Sgt. Patrick Reilly, a native of Clarkesville, Tenn., agreed with Burkeen.

"It means we did our job," Reilly said.

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Baker and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry L. Tidwell, command sergeant major, 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, cased their battalion colors during the ceremony and formally relinquished authority to Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander, 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, command sergeant major, 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB.

“30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, you have left us big shoes to fill, and we are honored to step into them as your successors,” said Dockery. “When each of us took our oath to join the Army, we started on an individual course, a course that has led us here, to Q-West, as a family, an Army of one. We have been called upon to complete the next part of our nation’s mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB’s mission is complete and their footprints will guide us and allow us to improve upon the foundation they’ve built.”

The “Rock Steady, Support Ready,” Soldiers of the 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB are on a 12-month deployment cycle to Q-West.

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Lt. Col. Tommy H. Baker and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry L. Tidwell, command sergeant major, 30<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, case their battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, July 11, and formally relinquish authority to Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander, 395<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Army Reserve, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, command sergeant major, 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB. “Providing command and control for the largest battalion within the 16<sup>th</sup> Sust. Bde., and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command, has been both tough and challenging,” Baker said. “We have conducted over 1,000 convoys spanning more than

2.9 million miles and stretching from Habur Gate (on the Turkish border in northern Iraq) all the way to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. We have sustained the entire Multi-National Division – North with vital logistics for the past ten months. We could not have done this without the dedication of all the Soldiers standing here today.” (Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith M. Anderson)



The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 30<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, present their guidon for the last time, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, July 11, and formally relinquish authority to the Soldiers of the 395<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit based out of New Haven, Conn. The Soldiers of the 30<sup>th</sup> CSSB, based out of Humbolt, Tenn., wrapped up a 12-month deployment cycle at the ceremony. Soldiers in the unit conducted over 1,000 convoys spanning more than 2.9 million miles and stretching from Habur Gate (on the Turkish border in northern Iraq) all the way to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Lt. Col. Dennis Dockery, commander, 395<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerry-Jay James, command sergeant major, 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB, uncase the battalion colors during transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, July 11. The Soldiers of the 395<sup>th</sup> CSSB,

based out of New Haven, Conn., will take over operations from the 30<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard.