



3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command  
16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs Office  
Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq  
DSN (NIPR) 318-827-6101  
DSN (SIPR) 302-243-5104  
[adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:adam.shaw@iraq.centcom.mil)

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## Mississippi golfers sink “Iraq Desert Open”

by Maj. John B. Herd  
2-198<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Battalion, Q-West Mayor Cell

Q-West, Iraq – Thirteen two-man teams braved the heat and harsh course conditions to compete in the Q-West Iraq Desert Open here August 23.

Far from the rolling hills of St. Andrews and the lush fairways of Augusta National, the course presented a variety of unique challenges such as rock hard putting surfaces and fairways that Tiger Woods would have trouble with due to the lack of grass. The nine-hole course is distinguished by tee boxes lined with sand bags and the use of t-walls and HESCO barriers as out of bounds markers.

Despite the rugged course conditions all of the competitors enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity to put their skills to the test.

"This was the first course I played on that had a brown "green." It was interesting to play xeroscape golf in Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Raymund Begaye, a native of Farmington, N.M. "Overall I had fun on the course and am ready to play again".

The top three teams all hailed from the Mississippi Army National Guard's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 198<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms, headquartered in Senatobia, Miss.

The first place team consisted of Lt. Col. Kerry W. Goodman, commander, 2-198<sup>th</sup> CAB and native of Meridian, Miss., and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class D. Patrick Carr, communications non-commissioned officer, and native of Coldwater, Miss., taking home \$75 each, and the championship trophy. Tied for second place were Staff Sgt. Guy E. Bounds of Philadelphia, Miss., and Staff Sgt. William H. McDavid of Tuscaloosa, Ala., both members of Golf Co., 106<sup>th</sup> Support Battalion, attached to 2-198<sup>th</sup> CAB, and Maj. John B. Herd, Director of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, and native of Florence, Miss., and Capt. William D. Waldrop, Battalion Supply Officer from Cleveland.

“It could have gone either way for us at the last hole” said Capt. Dirk Waldrop of Cleveland, Miss. “Our commander’s words of encouragement really put us over the top, the event was a big morale boost and makes life on Q-West a lot better”.

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Ivory Kiser (middle), presents the first place trophy to Lt. Col. Kerry Goodman (left), commander, 2-198<sup>th</sup> Combined Arms Battalion and native of Meridian, Miss., and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patrick Carr (right), communications non-commissioned officer, 2-198 CAB, and native of Coldwater, Miss., after the two-man team won the Q-West Iraq Desert Open August 23. (Photos by Maj. John B. Herd)