



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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[09 10, 2009] New businesses spark local economy and support Soldiers

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

Q-West, Iraq – A new Iraqi Based Industrial Zone supply shop is scheduled to officially open on Sept. 17. at contingency operating location Q-West.

The shop is an IBIZ and Army, Air Force Exchange Service supported vendor and will sell office supplies, furniture and other related items.

Capt. Allen Legere, 16th Sustainment Brigade, IBIZ and retail officer in charge, and a Gulfport, Miss. Native said that military units with field ordering

officer money and Department of Defense contractors will be the main customers.

“For some of these items it is easier to spend cash and getting the product right away instead of going through the supply chain,” said Legere.

Legere said the program is geared to assist Iraqi based companies in the start up of the economy.

“These businesses help the local economy grow and profit from the coalition forces that are here,” said Legere.

The process to open up a business starts with the potential owner presenting a business plan to IBIZ. Then the proposal goes to the base planning board for approval, if approved a memorandum of understanding and a 1 year land use agreement must be signed by the business owner said Legere.

Saban Kuc, owner of the supply shop and the Superior Shopping Center here said it took him about three months to get the shop built and up and running.

Kuc, also known as C.J. to the patrons of his businesses at Q-West said the plan for the supply store was approved in only one month by the IBIZ team.

“I have been here for five years and have opened the Superior Shopping Center in 2007,” said Kuc. Lots of customers were wanting supplies and they like my prices, so I decided to open up Yagiz,” (the supply store).

Legere said the store has already received an order from the mental health facility here who ordered everything from monitors to couches and chairs.

Kuc said even though the shop is not officially open customers are welcome to shop now.

Kuc also has plans to open up a bowling alley here in the near future.

“I like to take care of the Soldiers, doing business is all about trust and being honest with the Soldiers,” said Kuc.

He also said he wants to expand to other bases, including those in Afghanistan.

“I want to help the Americans have some of the same services and businesses that are offered on Q-West,” said Kuc.

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Pfc. Carla Clark and Spc. Antonio Johnson both from the 2/198th Armor CAB from company from Senatobia ,Miss. and Clarksdale, Miss. natives browse the new supply shop for supply items.