



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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[09 18, 2009] Medical clinic dedicated to fallen Soldier

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION- Q-West, Iraq – The Troop Medical Clinic at Q-West was dedicated and re-named the Cpl. Christopher J. West TMC in a ceremony held here Sept. 17. at 10 a.m.

West, known as C.J. to his friends and family was a medic assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division died Feb. 4. 2008 of wounds suffered during combat operations in Muqdadiyah, Iraq.

Lt. Col. Noel Cardenas, commander, 421st Multifunctional Battalion, who was not able to attend because of inclement weather said he wanted to highlight the collaborative effort that it took to get the Cpl. West TMC where it is today.

“The clinic went through a \$1 million dollar renovation just a few months ago,” said Cardenas. “The clinic increased from zero fixed treatment rooms to six and increased the emergency response and medical evacuation capacity by 100 percent.

Cardenas said the staffing is a mutual effort between Soldiers from the 16th Sustainment Brigade and TF 1st Medical Brigade.

“The mutual efforts between our units increased the clinical capability of this clinic from a Level I to a Level II health clinic,” said Cardenas.

Lt. Col. Christopher Chun, commander, 16th Special Troops Battalion said the 16th SB completed the renovation which took six months to complete.

“Overall, the project was a great success due to the efforts of all involved,” said Chun.

Capt. Avery Carney, commander, 601st Area Support Medical Company and Orland Hills, Ill. native said the process to rename the clinic started in July.

“We submitted a point paper, which is a justification on who he was and then it had to go up the chain to Multi-National Corps-Iraq and was approved in a month said Carney. “We also had to contact his family for their blessing.”

Carney said the West family will be having a gathering at a local restaurant the same day as the dedication in honor of their son.

“We are proud that this facility is named after him,” said Carney. “We are putting together a care package with a DVD of the ceremony to send to his family.

Chun said the ceremony was very well done and that it had a positive affect on morale of the clinic staff; especially because they were able to name it after a medic that some of them knew.

“It provides a sense of permanence to the clinic and reminds us all of the importance in remembering the sacrifices that our fellow Soldiers make every

day,” said Chun. “It was also important to the Soldier’s family that they were made a part of the process, and not just a formality to the approval process.”

Sgt. Patrick Lucas, team chief, command post node, A company, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, who is assigned to COL Bernstein, Iraq and West’s best friend was able to attend the ceremony.

Lucas, an Arlington, Texas native said that everybody did a wonderful job here today and C.J. would have been proud.

“His family wanted me to be here today and I’m glad it was able to happen” said Lucas. “C.J. was a great guy, everybody wanted to be around him and I know he is looking down and would be proud of this day.”

Sgt. Jerry Jacob, medic, 601st Area Support Medical Company, assigned here said West and he went through basic training, AIT, and Airborne School together.

West said the 421st MMB was looking to name some of the medical facilities and he brought up West’s name to be nominated.

“The clinic had no name so I thought it was appropriate to nominate C.J. and honor him that way,” said Jacob.

Jacob said it was a perfect fit.

“Our mission here is to serve others and help them feel better and that is exactly what kind of person C.J. was,” said Jacob. “During the deployment his picture will be right here looking over me which will remind me of why I am here. It’s more than just a name it is an inspiration to do your best everyday.”



Sgt. Jerry Jacob, medic, 601st Area Support Medical Company and Sgt. Patrick Lucas, team chief, command post node, A company, 72nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion stand in front of a mural outside the newly dedicated Cpl. Christopher J. West troop medical clinic at Contingency Operating Location Q-West, Iraq Sept.17.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. John Stimac)



Same as above