

mobilized in November to complete the inspection mission in Iraq. They will be looking for weapons, contraband, war souvenirs, insects and other pests that may pose a threat if transported back to the states.

"I'm proud to serve my country," said Agustin who is expected to return to DDPH this summer.



Agustin "gets into his work" at DDPH.

DDJC Reservist Returns after Activation

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

DDJC Information Technology Specialist Patrick O'Brien returned home after being activated for three years by the United States Air Force Reserves.

For the last three years TSgt O'Brien reported for duty at Travis Air Force Base where he worked on the flight line. As a hydraulics maintenance specialist, he was responsible for keeping C-5 planes, the Air Forces' largest aircraft, ready to fly.

"I saw a lot of supplies coming out of DDJC headed for Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait," he recalled.

O'Brien has served in each branch of the military except the Marines. He was in the Navy for four years as a shipboard electrician. He was in the Army

National Guard for 10 years performing aircraft maintenance, and he served nine years in the Air Force Reserves before his retirement.

"I was proud to do my part in the War on Terrorism as an active duty service member and now as a civil service employee."

Since his return to work, O'Brien is getting refreshed on the changes that occurred while he was gone. "It's great to be back," he said. "There are a lot of new faces."



DDJC IT Specialist Patrick O'Brien returned to DDJC after serving in the Air Force Reserves.

Utah Guardsman Returns from Deployment

By Leland Shumway, DDHU

Defense Distribution Depot Hill, UT (DDHU) welcomed back one of its own from a yearlong deployment in Iraq with the Utah National Guard's 116th Combat Support Equipment Company.

Sergeant First Class Flamino Montoya, USA, a forward signal support specialist, and DDHU stock-maintenance packer, returned with a number of impressions of Iraq, its people, and his mission there.

"It feels kind of Biblical" Montoya commented, "I stood in front of the ancient temple at Ur, the city Abraham left to found Israel thousands of years ago."

SFC Montoya explained that the unit's official mission was just the beginning of the work accomplished by the Soldiers of the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion based near Tikrit. "While we were there, we graded and paved Route 1 to Kuwait, and built an ammo storage area, but some of the guys took on extra projects. We teamed up with soldiers from Arizona and built some orphanages in the area. Some other people in the unit had family from home send supplies for the schools in town, and assisted in repairing school buildings. Occasionally we'd get a citizen that would come to the wire either hurt or sick requesting medical care. Our commander always allowed these."

Flam believes that Iraq's people were generally happy to see Americans. "I had contact with merchants, mostly. Although they don't want us here forever, the merchants tell me that they like Americans because they pay for what they get. These guys are glad just to be able to make a living."

He remembers the children with clear delight. "We used to box up small cartons with candy, toys, and drink powder from the MREs before we would go on convoy. As the trucks passed the little Iraqi kids waving like mad at the side of



SFC Flamino Montoya in foreground. Photo courtesy of Specialist Levi John.

the road, we'd roll off the cartons from the truck for them. By the time we were on our way back they would be chowing down and playing and wave at us even harder."

SFC Montoya summarizes his deployment to Iraq positively. "Most of the time it was pretty good. Sometimes convoy got to be pretty scary. Though I'd go back if they needed me."

DDYJ's Schneider Supports the Warfighter in Iraq

SKCM Danny J. Schneider, SW/AW, USN, has become the new DLA Contingency Support Team-Iraq (DCST-IZ) customer service representative to the U.S. Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq. In this vital role, SKCM Schneider acts as DLA-CENTCOM's "eyes and ears" on the ground, making sure that DLA's supplies and services enhance the Warfighter's combat capability.

SKCM Schneider, Command Master Chief at Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), volunteered to deploy to Iraq to relieve MAJ William T. Klaus, USAR, who recently received the Bronze Star award for his accomplishments as part of DCST-IZ.

"From my perspective as DCST-IZ Commander, DDC not only provides the Warfighter superior support but also provides highly motivated, outstanding professionals like SKCM Schneider to work Warfighter issues in our austere and challenging environment," praised DCST-IZ Commander Lt Col Tiger Hession, USAF.

Despite the harsh and dangerous conditions in Iraq, SKCM Schneider finds the job both challenging and rewarding. "It's great to be able to provide the customer service on expediting