

FEST-Advanced team prepares for deployment



Members of the 542nd Engineer Detachment pack their equipment May 24 at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., in preparation for a deployment to Iraq.
Photos by Tracy Robillard

The 542nd Engineer Detachment, known as a Forward Engineer Support Team – Advanced, or FEST-A, is a mobile, rapid-response team that deploys with Army ground units to solve technical engineering problems. The detachment is one of eight active-duty FEST-A teams in the country. One of this team’s most critical missions is to assist with the transition as the U.S. military leaves Iraq and turns over continuing operations to the State Department. Stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., the team consists of an officer-in-charge and a non-commissioned officer, along with six civilians who specialize in mechanical, civil, electrical and environmental engineering, cartography (map making) and contracting.

While deployed to southern Iraq, the team will provide engineering, contracting, and quality assurance support to construct the largest consulate in the world, which will house 1,600 employees. The team will focus on expansion of the base camp, as well as advise and assist the private contractor working on the site.

Read more about the 542nd Engineer Detachment in the next issue of the Desert Times, also available online at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/DesertTimes/index.html>

The 542nd Engineer Detachment team members are:(from left to right)

- Sgt. 1st Class Jason Stover**, non-commissioned officer-in-charge
- Alonzo Lyford**, civilian team leader and mechanical engineer
- Terry McFarland**, contracting specialist
- Ivelisse Alvarez**, electrical engineer
- Joel Fuchs**, cartographer
- Bruce Myhre**, environmental engineer
- Jeremy Miller**, civil engineer
- Maj. Jared Runge**, commander

