

Did you know

The first 'Exchange' in Iraq was housed in a Toyota Land Cruiser?



April 3, 2003

Exchange Associates Craig Sewell, left, and Dennis Hatcher, above, set up the first "Exchange" in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom—a Toyota Land Cruiser at Tallil south of Baghdad. They made five stops between Logistical Support Areas Adder and Tallil to provide troops with badly needed merchandise.

April 9, 2003

A week later, a team led by Rich Pickering, Marie Clift and George Ricker opened an outside Exchange (lower left). In June, the Exchange fashioned a PX out of an old 10,000-square-foot gym.



Sept. 22, 2013

The Exchange closes its last facilities in Iraq as remaining American troops leave the country.

(Hatcher, Sewell and Clift have since retired. Pickering is vice president with the Services and Food Directorate; Ricker is general manager at Fort Stewart, Ga.)

Curious about Exchange history? Contact Steve Smith, smithstev@aafes.com.