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Bidding farewell to Bus Operator Carlo Cabrera are (from left) Lorraine Fierro, division stenographer; Novel Semerdjian, transit operations supervisor; Bill Hesser, assistant transportation manager; Cabrera; Maria Reynolds, transportation manager; and Joana Salazar, transit operations supervisor. Cabrera dropped by Division 8 on August 21, the day he left for a year's deployment in Iraq.

Eleven-Year Metro Veteran Changes Uniform for Duty in Iraq

(Aug. 26, 2008) Wearing a different sort of uniform, Bus Operator Carlo Cabrera dropped by West Valley Division 8 on August 21 to say goodbye to his co-workers. Later that day, Cabrera flew to a year's deployment in Iraq and a different transportation responsibility.

A part-time bus operator for 11 years, Cabrera is also a reserve petty officer with the U.S. Navy. He is assigned to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command and is expected to serve in Iraq until July 2009.

Given Cabrera's Metro driving experience, perhaps it is no surprise that he was selected to be the lead Humvee vehicle operator in his new unit.

The Northridge resident began working for Metro in May 1997 and has spent most of his time at Divisions 8 and 15.

"I felt like I was losing a child to war, for the time being anyway," said Maria Reynolds, Division 8 transportation manager. "We'll be praying for his safe return back home."