

IA learn the ropes on crane ops

By Spc. Heather Todd

101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD – As a way to help reduce the role of the U.S. military in Iraq, Soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion trained Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Army, Nov. 11-13, at Joint Security Station Constitution, near the Baghdad International Airport.

The Iraqi Soldiers learned how to operate and maintain one of their own 50-ton cranes, used for construction missions around Iraq. The class covered safety, hand signals, preventive maintenance and operation.

“The 6th [Field Engineering Regiment’s] missions typically include mine detection, service work, and construction work,” said Iraqi Lt. Ammar, of the 6th FER. “This training is very useful for us. We now have two operators who have become excellent [because of the] training.”

Sgt. Steve Cyr, of Uxbridge, Mass., taught the Soldiers how to do perform the correct maintenance steps for the crane. This way, Iraqi Soldiers would know how to fix any problems that might occur.

“They want to learn. They want to make sure they learn how to maintain and repair the equipment,” said Staff Sgt. Frank Lopez, of Webster, Mass., the senior instructor for the course.

After the instruction the Soldiers practiced what they learned by operating the

crane.

Sgt. Mumfrey, from Cincinnati, Ohio, has been a crane operator for six years. Together with Sgt. Zach Caudill, from Plymouth, Ohio, the two Soldiers taught the Iraqis different riggings and chains that are used when operating the crane.

“They are willing to learn, they had a positive attitude,” said Sgt. Kenny Mumfrey.

They started off with practical exercises; moving con-

crete t-wall barriers around in different ways. This helped them get used to operating with a load on the crane.

“It was good training; we were given a lot of information. I now have a better understanding of the equipment and a better technical understanding,” said Iraqi Pfc. Hayder Teama.

On the third day of class the Iraqi Soldiers, using the knowledge they had learned over the previous two days,

conducted a mission to set up barriers.

Besides learning to set up barriers, the Iraqis also learned how important it is to work together as a team when operating a crane.

With the help of high quality training provided by U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Army engineers continue to increase their knowledge, gaining more confidence in the equipment, themselves and each other.



Photo by Spc. Heather Todd

After completing their mission to reinforce a building with t-wall barriers, Sgt. Kenny Mumfrey (left), of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Iraqi Pfc. Hayder Teama unhook the chains from the crane during training at Joint Security Station Constitution.

Engineers improve Old MoD

Photos by 1st Lt. Aaron Testa, 16th Eng. Bde



BAGHDAD – Spc. Chris Yurgaites (left) a carpenter with the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, 16th Eng. Brigade, from Midland, Mich., nears completion on a wall that is part of the brand new billets at the Old Ministry of Defense.

Spc. William Barnett (left) an electrician with the 1434th Engineer Company, installs new lighting in the new billets at the Old Ministry of Defense. The Soldiers feel a sense of pride knowing that their work will improve the quality of life for American and Iraqi Soldiers



Soldier in focus: Never give up

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – More than most, Soldiers know about never quitting, it is in their ethos and creed – a code they have embedded in their hearts from the beginning of their military careers.

Sgt. 1st Class Pierce Williams, once a young infantry staff sergeant, has had moments in his life where quitting was given as an option, but instead, he chose the ethos.

Williams, a native of Sturgis, S.D., an intelligence noncommissioned officer for future operations for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, now on his third deployment to Iraq, never thought he would be shuffling through intelligence reports—not after one fateful day in 2006.

He joined the Army in May 2002, six days after he graduated high school; following in his older brother's footsteps.

In February 2003, less than four months after arriving to his first duty assignment with the 82nd Airborne Div. in Fort Bragg, N.C., he deployed to Iraq.

"I was 19 years old and coming over here to Iraq was crazy. You're shooting at people, you're getting shot at," he said. "It was nothing that you'd experience back in the States."

With one deployment behind him and after a year-long training period with his new unit, the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, he was on his way back to Iraq.

For the first 65 days of his new deployment, he wasn't very impressed with the amount of enemy action. It was a welcome lull in fire fights and daily rocket attacks of his last deployment.

That all changed the night of Dec. 10, 2006 – day 66.

Williams volunteered his Soldiers to go on a patrol so that his comrades could get some much needed rest.

But his decision to do so almost immediately brought on uneasy feelings. What made it worse was his Soldiers had the same premonition.

"I had quite a few Soldiers coming up to tell me that they didn't feel comfortable going out on this patrol," said Williams.

As a leader, you have to show that you have no fear and that everything will be okay, he said.

"That part was probably a little difficult for me because I was such a young staff sergeant," said Williams.

But none of that mattered; Soldiers have to put their feelings aside to accomplish their mission, said Williams.

Night fell and the convoy set out.

While on the road, Williams was constantly trying to radio his headquarters for an updated status of his route in regards to improvised explosive devices, but to no avail.

"After I made my last radio call, I kind of looked over at my driver and team leader, who was also in my vehicle, and was getting ready to say, 'I can't get a hold of these [guys]!'"

But before he uttered those words in frustration, he was blasted in the face by a giant fireball that slammed him violently against his door.

"My initial thought was, 'I've just been blown up by an IED,'" Williams said.

As the daze from the blast began to clear, his brain started processing information normally. This brought into view the rest of his Soldiers still inside the vehicle.

Only Williams and his driver made it out alive.

After other Soldiers pulled his door off using another vehicle, his medic approached him and asked if he was okay.

At the time he could not feel his left ear and thought his left

shoulder was dislocated.

"That was the first time, as soon as I stepped out of the vehicle, that I felt pain," said Williams.

The medic pulled down on his arm, which caused a stream of profanity to flow from Williams's mouth, but his shoulder was not separated.

"I kept asking if my ear was still there and he said, 'yeah,' and kept wrapping," said Williams.

Shortly thereafter he was medically evacuated by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, the very unit he now serves with, he said.

It turned out that he did still have his left ear; it had been filleted from his scalp by a piece of shrapnel.

The left side of his upper torso was pelted with numerous entrance wounds from the explosion and debris.

The list of injuries goes on: second degree burns to his face, neck and hands, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and bi-lateral hearing loss. He even has a couple dozen pieces of shrapnel inside his body – some the size of quarters..

Like many Soldiers in his place, he felt the pang of fear and pain, a reminder that it would be so much easier to relent, but he pushed back. Williams was not going to let anything stop him.

The IED did not take his life, so he had a heightened fervor to become the best Soldier he could in lieu of his injuries. His goal was to come back stronger than ever and continue to fight as an infantryman.

It took 22 months of surgeries, physical therapy and counseling for him to finally go before a medical board which held his military career in its hands.

They then handed down an opportunity which was, to him at the time, a devastating ultimatum.

He could medically retire or stay in the Army, but he could no



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins

Sgt. 1st Class Pierce Williams an intelligence sergeant of future operations, recovered from injuries—reminders of his days as a battle-hardened infantryman

longer be an infantryman.

"After 22 months of healing and fighting to get better [only] for them to tell me that I can't live my dream of being an infantryman was absolutely crushing," said Williams.

"I was contemplating on whether or not I was just going to get medically retired or if I actually wanted to continue on [with] active duty," he said.

But his wife reminded him of his ultimate goal to become a sergeant major—something he would be giving up on if he chose to get out.

Instead of quitting, he became an intelligence sergeant. "Little did I know, at that time, that I was doing an intelligence job," he said.

While in training, he passed along his personal story to other Soldiers – a story about never quitting and never leaving a fallen comrade.

Many of the Soldiers he came in contact with during his time at school still keep in contact with him as he helps motivate and mentor them through their Army careers.

On This Day In History

November 19, 1863

Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address

On November 19, 1863, at the dedication of a military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln delivers one of the most memorable speeches in American history. The Battle of Gettysburg, fought some four months earlier, was the single bloodiest battle of the Civil War. Over the course of three days, more than 45,000 men were killed, injured, captured or went missing. The battle also proved to be the turning point of the war: General Robert E. Lee's defeat and retreat from Gettysburg marked the last Confederate invasion of Northern territory and the beginning of the Southern army's ultimate decline. Charged by Pennsylvania's governor, Andrew Curtin, to care for the Gettysburg dead, an attorney named David Wills bought 17 acres of pasture to turn into a cemetery for the more than 7,500 who fell in battle.

At the dedication, the crowd listened for two hours to Everett before Lincoln spoke. Lincoln's address lasted just two or three minutes. The speech reflected his redefined belief that the Civil War was not just a fight to save the Union, but a struggle for freedom and equality for all, an idea Lincoln had not championed in the years leading up to the war. This was his stirring conclusion: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom--and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

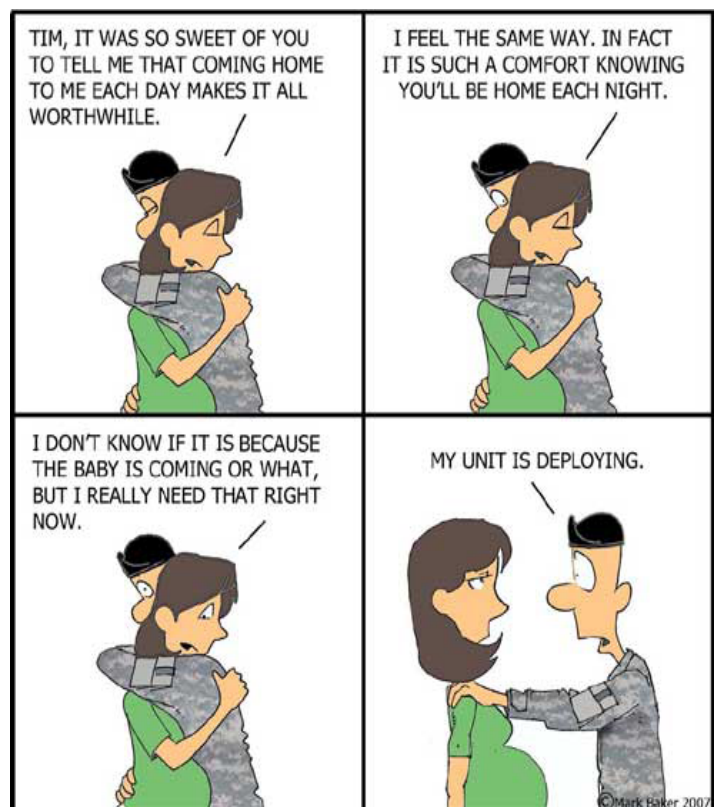
Chuck Norris doesn't stub his toes. He accidentally destroys chairs, bed-frames, and sidewalks.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester, 1BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

BAGHDAD – Austin, Texas native, Sgt. Joel Nicholson, an infantryman assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, talks to a local boy during a patrol, in Tarmiyah.



News Bulletin

Effective Tuesday 17NOV09, the DSTB aid station will be changing hours from 0700-1800 hrs. The only exception is the days that we will be giving flu shots. Sick Call still remains: Monday-Fridays 0800-1000 hrs and 1300-1400 hrs, Saturdays 0800-1000 hrs, and Sundays 1330-1430 hrs.

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
64° F | 48° F



Tomorrow
66° F | 48° F



Saturday
69° F | 46° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Two of the first presidents died on what day?

Last Issue's Answer: The Baltimore Ravens

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 201 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Soldiers of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team are helping the Iraqi people with the poultry industry. Story from the field by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

They are trying to provide direction, education, and funding in order to stabilize the poultry industry.

2. A southern neighborhood in

Baghdad is seeing signs of normalcy. Interview with CPT Benjamin Wynn, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th HBCT.

It is important for people continue to feel the area is safe.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

	9	3		6	4
3	6		1		2
4		7	6		8
5	4	8		7	1
	6				8
	2	9		4	5
7			2	9	
	2	8		9	4
1	3		5	8	

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

6	9	2	4	1	7	8	5	3
7	4	5	8	3	9	2	1	6
3	8	1	2	5	6	4	7	9
5	6	4	7	2	8	3	9	1
2	7	3	1	9	5	6	8	4
9	1	8	6	4	3	5	2	7
8	5	6	3	7	1	9	4	2
1	2	9	5	6	4	7	3	8
4	3	7	9	8	2	1	6	5



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