

U.S. mechanics help IA maintain vehicles

By Sgt. Joshua Risner
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Iraqi mechanics are getting the chance to work and train alongside their U.S. counterparts during a hum-

vee maintenance course at Camp Stryker, here, Sept. 23.

The course is run by Soldiers of D Troop, 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat

Team, and has thus far trained five Iraqi Army units, according to Sgt. Frank Smith, assigned to D Troop.

“They usually only work on their vehicles when they break down,” said Smith, a native of St. Augustine, Fla. “We’re teaching them scheduled maintenance which will hopefully further the life of their vehicles.”

The two-week course teaches the Iraqi mechanics the ins and outs of maintenance for the humvee, which includes primary maintenance and service checks, wiring schematics and troubleshooting problems, said Smith.

“We set up faults in our vehicles and have them find and repair them,” he said. “We also go through service checks on their own vehicles and we’ll help them repair any safety issues that we find.”

For the Iraqis, a chance to work with the American mechanics is a valuable educational experience,

according to 1st Sgt. Mohammed Hamza, of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division.

“I’m learning things I didn’t know about fixing humvees,” he said. “These new things I am learning I will teach to my crew when I get back to them so when we encounter problems, we can fix them.”

In addition to training, the Iraqi mechanics are given copies of the U.S. humvee maintenance manuals, written in Arabic for them to distribute back at their units.

“Now, the American Soldiers can show me something in their manual and I can find it in mine,” said Mohammed.

All in all, the Iraqi mechanics received a new way of looking at maintenance and repair for their vehicles.

The Americans may not speak Arabic, the Iraqis may not speak English, but they both know how to speak machine.

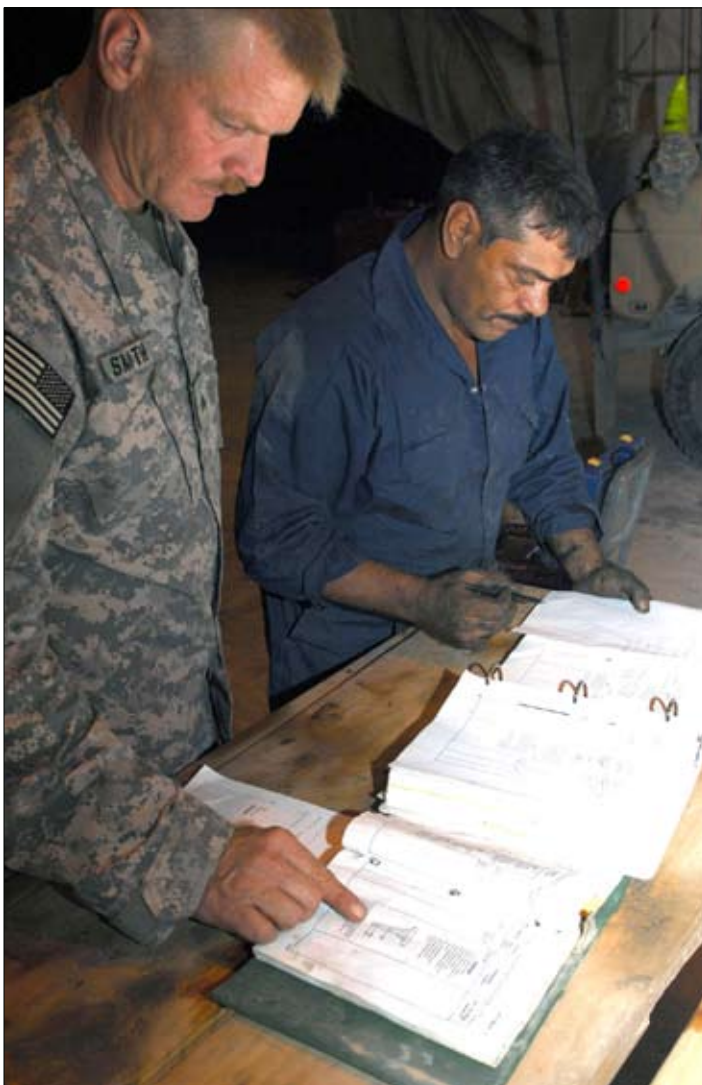


Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO

Sgt. Frank Smith (left), assigned to D Troop, 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and 1st Sgt. Mohammed Hamza, 2nd Bn., 23rd Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, consult their technical manuals during a maintenance class, here, Sept. 23.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO

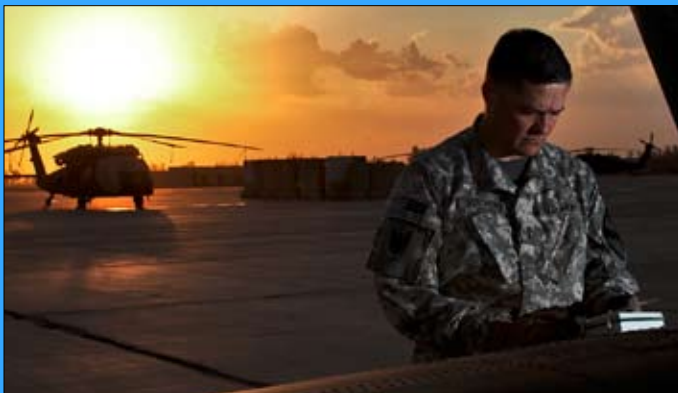
Spc. Stephen Smith, from Pineville, W.V., assigned to D Troop, 1st Bn, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th HBCT, observes as an Iraqi mechanic perform hub service on a humvee, here, Sept. 23.

First Air Cavalry prepares for flight

Photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO



CAMP TAJI, Iraq — As part of a preflight inspection, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Terry Polwort (left), from Enid, Okla., an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter instructor pilot in Company A, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Edgar Lovitt (right), from Ashland, Ky., also an Apache pilot in Co. A, inspect the main rotor head components for any faults, here, Sept. 24.



Chief Warrant Officer 4, Terry Polwort, from Enid, Okla., an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter instructor pilot in Company A, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, reads through his checklist during a preflight inspection of an Apache, here, Sept. 24.



Under the morning sun, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew chief from 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, starts to remove the fly away gear from a helicopter during a preflight inspection, here, Sept. 24.

Combat training takes skills to next level

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Simulated machine gun fire blares over loudspeakers, Soldiers yell out commands and the opposition force attacks with RKG-3 grenades and small-arms fire.

Confusion reigns on the lanes at Camp Slayer, here, where instructors recreated a chaotic battlefield for Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers to train on different combat scenarios, Sept. 19-22, during a three-day exercise.

“There are many things that can happen on the battlefield and that can be perplexing for any leader,” said Maj. Don Bottorff, the battalion operations officer who organized the training. “There’s going to be hesitancy and some mistakes, but that’s what this training is for.”

Two different scenarios were created for the exercise. One

simulated an explosively formed projectile attack and the other combined an RKG-3 grenade attack with an ambush.

“It becomes muscle memory reflex when you do something over and over again; it becomes second nature,” added Bottorff. “Those precious few minutes [after the initial attack] could actually save Soldiers lives...If they’re trained to do something then they’re more apt to fight fluidly.”

For Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Graham Rooney, a squad leader assigned to Battery E, 3rd Bn., 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, DSTB, 1st Cav. Div., the training is about being able to control initial reactions.

“The biggest thing is to take a breath and calm down,” said Rooney, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla. “That’s the hardest thing to train on – calming down and taking it one step at a time.”

Though these Soldiers fre-

quently travel the roads of Baghdad providing personal security escorts, they aren’t engaged in combat every time, explained Rooney.

“It’s not something that happens every day,” said Rooney. “Doing operations and taking fire builds on our framework, which helps our proficiency.”

Experiencing a complex attack from an insurgent force is something that these Soldiers have to be prepared for every time they leave the wire, said Sgt. Adam Nelson, a personal security detail member from Lansing, Mich., assigned to D Troop, DSTB, 1st Cav. Div.

“This training helps mental preparation for real-world events,” added Nelson. “Confusion does set in for a minute. You gotta mentally prepare yourself before missions.”

In preparation for every mission, Soldiers run through battle drills ensuring every member

knows the location of the closest hospital, who is providing air security and what are the different radio frequencies of quick reaction forces in the area.

“When something goes down, it’s kind of confusing,” admitted Nelson. “I set a priority list...Security is number one and then I just go down my list.”

“Tasks are multi-layered and there’s a flow to them to get safely in and out of the kill zone,” agreed Bottorff. “If mistakes are made in training, they can do it over again...before it becomes a crisis on the battlefield.”

The concept behind putting more than 90 Soldiers through the training who have already been running combat missions in Iraq for more than six months is to take their abilities to the next level, added Bottorff.

“You have core individual skills and team skills that all come together in this training,” said Bottorff, commenting on the teamwork and flexibility necessary to stay alive in dangerous circumstances.

“You’re always adapting to the situation and tweaking things, you know, exchanging notes and seeing what works and what doesn’t,” said Rooney after he successfully navigated his convoy through an unfriendly mob of Soldiers posing as Iraqis.

After each scenario, the observers and controllers administered an after-action review of what went well and what could be improved.

“There are definitely things I’ll take out of this training that I’ll refine,” said Nelson. “I’ll take this training and go back and talk to my team leaders about what we can improve.”

Most of the Soldiers agreed that the training succeeded in recreating chaos inherent in combat and that the experience helped them take their skills to the next level.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

After popping a smoke grenade to signal where medevac helicopters should land, Sgt. James Wendling, a team leader from Mansfield, Ohio, assigned to D Troop, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, runs to re-assure a simulated casualty during training at Camp Slayer, here, Sept. 22. The DSTB Soldiers, who are frequently outside the wire, were offered an opportunity to hone their skills by running through two different combat scenarios with their squads.

On This Day In History

September 26, 1945

First American soldier killed in Vietnam

Lt. Col. Peter Dewey, a U.S. Army officer with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Vietnam, is shot and killed in Saigon. Dewey was the head of a seven-man team sent to Vietnam to search for missing American pilots and to gather information on the situation in the country after the surrender of the Japanese.

According to the provisions of the Potsdam Conference, the British were assigned the responsibility of disarming Japanese soldiers south of the 16th parallel. However, with the surrender of the Japanese, Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh declared themselves the rightful government of Vietnam. This angered the French colonial officials and the remaining French soldiers who had been disarmed and imprisoned by the Japanese. They urged British Maj. Gen. Douglas D. Gracey to help them regain control. Gracey, not fond of the Viet Minh or their cause, rearmed 1,400 French soldiers to help his troops maintain order. The next day these forces ousted the Viet Minh from the offices that they had only recently occupied. Dewey's sympathies lay with the Viet Minh, many of whom were nationalists who did not want a return to French colonial rule. The American officer was an outspoken man who soon angered Gracey, eventually resulting in the British general ordering him to leave Indochina. On the way to the airport, accompanied by another OSS officer, Capt. Henry Bluechel, Dewey refused to stop at a roadblock manned by three Viet Minh soldiers. He yelled back at them in French and they opened fire, killing Dewey instantly. Bluechel was unhurt and escaped on foot. It was later determined that the Viet Minh had fired on Dewey thinking he was French. He would prove to be the first of nearly 59,000 Americans killed in Vietnam.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Staff Sgt. Graham Rooney, a squad leader assigned to Battery E, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, calls for a medevac helicopter after a simulated explosion during a training exercise at Camp Slayer, Sept. 22, here.

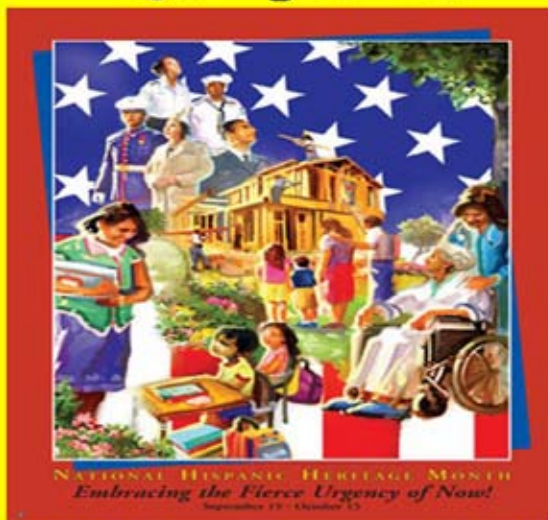
FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

In the beginning there was nothing...then Chuck Norris Roundhouse kicked that nothing in the face and said "Get a job". That is the story of the universe.

Embrace the Fierce Urgency of Now



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now!
September 17 - October 15

MND-B Hispanic Heritage Month
Date: 9 Oct 09
Location: MWR Field House
Time: 1900 hrs

Quote For Today

“Minds are like parachutes— they only function when open.”
 — Thomas Dewar —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
95° F | 66° F



Tomorrow
95° F | 66° F



Monday
96° F | 69° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

According to a recent report by the Census bureau, when people move to California from other states, over the past 5 years which state has provided the most newcomers to California?

Last Issue's Answer: Affect/Effect

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 # 164 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers of the 1472 Civil Affairs Company bring food and goodwill to Iraqi families to help celebrate the end of Ramadan. SGT Stephanie Logue, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, PAO.

Food was given to some of the families in rural Baghdad to celebrate the end of fasting.

2. Soldiers of C Troop, 5th Squadron, 73rd Airborne Recon-

naissance Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and the Iraqi Federal Police deliver much needed water filters to families in the village of al-Tameem.

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

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

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

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



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