

Air tower crew essential to aviation mission

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Day and night, the flight line at Camp Taji is bustling with a slew of aircraft coming and going; performing missions that are the key to the success of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

This means maintaining pre-

cise control of an area large in scale.

The control tower is in charge of the surface 3000 feet above the tower and five nautical miles from the center point of the airfield, said Staff Sgt. Alfredo Rivera, from Fort Knox, Ky., the facility chief with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment.

When his Soldiers are on shift they separate sequenced aircraft based on known and observed traffic, Rivera said, so they know exactly where everything is.

“We know where the traffic’s at, we observe where it’s at and we can sequence the aircraft behind each other or in front of each other,” Rivera said. “We separate them via those same means, to get them on the ground, in the air and transitioning through the air-space.”

Rivera said there is an extensive training program that must be taken before someone can be qualified to work in the control tower.

“For the initial guys, the training program is 154 days long, so it’s almost a six month program,” Rivera said. “The more experienced guys can get certified within five to six days and mid-experience guys take 10 to 14 days.”

Working in the evenings is where experience pays off, with more traffic on the airfield, Rivera said, which means making the right decisions.

“In a two hour period at night we can have between 400 to 800 movements on the airfield,” Rivera said. “The biggest thing is sequencing aircraft based on their lights. At night it’s more of a positional thing.”

“We have radar here, but we don’t use it,” Rivera added. “Everything is based off what we see and what we know. So if I have a guy on three mile final and another on two mile final, depending on where they’re at, I have to sequence them behind each other.”

Assisting Rivera with these

decisions is Pfc. Dennis Dickerson Jr., from Dallas, who is almost at the end of his initial training period and said his responsibilities in the tower vary every day.

“I’m responsible for all the aircraft in the air, on the ground ... de-conflicting and sequencing aircraft to keep them from interfering with each other,” Dickerson said.

Dickerson said the six months of training were necessary for him to be in charge of such operations.

“I had to take a lot of tests and do a lot of bookwork,” Dickerson said. “You have to study the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) manual and there’s a lot of evaluation.”

This is usually done with the trainer sitting behind you to make sure there are no mistakes, Dickerson said, with the 1st ACB having to comply with the same FAA rules as other aviation towers.

“Not all rules and regulations are the same, but very similar,” Dickerson said.

Dickerson, who works a twelve hour shift from noon to midnight, said the main difference between night and day is being able to see everything in the sky during the day.

“In the day you can see all your aircraft and that helps out knowing who is who, because you tell what kind of aircraft it is,” Dickerson said. “At night you have to rely on pilot’s reports more, but sometimes it’s better because you can see their lights. That makes it easier to spot them.”

Which is why, Dickerson said his job gives him tremendous sat-



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO

After clearing an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter for launch, Pfc. Dennis Dickerson, from Dallas, an air traffic controller in Company F, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, observes an Apache as it clears the runway, here, Sept. 26.

Hispanic-American medic cares for children

By Pvt. Jared Gehmann
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — During the months of September and October, the U.S. military honors the thousands of Hispanic military personnel that serve in uniform in order to protect the American way of life.

As a daughter to an Ecuadorian mother and a Columbian father, Spc. Jessica Velasquez left her home in Gardena, Calif. to join the Army in order to serve her country and hone her skills in her dream profession of becoming a nurse.

Today, Velasquez is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and serves as a medic assigned to Company C, 82nd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Multi-National Division- Baghdad. For the 24-year-old Paratrooper, joining the military had always been in the back of her mind.

“I was in Junior Recruit Officer Training School in high school and had always thought about joining the Army, but never had the guts to actually do it,” said Velasquez.

After high school, Velasquez wanted to go to college, pursue a degree in nursing and go straight into the career field. But after three years of school and completing all of her basic undergraduate classes the then 21-year-old, decided she wanted something more.

One day while shopping in Hollywood, Calif., with a friend, Velasquez said she finally mustered the bravery to walk into a nearby military recruiting office where she was offered benefits that were too good to refuse.

“It all worked out perfectly,” said Velasquez. “I needed a way to pay for college so I could get my nursing degree and the Army would provide

that. I chose to be a medic so I could carry some of the experience and training I received in the Army back over to my career field.”

Even with all the benefits and guarantees the Army offered her for a chance at a promising future, she said her family wasn’t as supportive as she had hoped they would be.

“At first they tried to discourage me because they were afraid for my safety, but eventually they gave in and now that I have been in [U.S. Army] for over two years they are very supportive and proud of me,” she said.

Velasquez has been in the “Panther” brigade for more than a year now and has been deployed to Iraq since December 2008. As a medic, Velasquez can serve in a number of different roles. Whether it’s serving as a line medic during a combat logistics patrol in east Baghdad or working at a health clinic inside her operating base, Velasquez is always ready to provide medical assistance to her fellow Paratroopers.

When not helping her fellow service members, Velasquez is assisting the citizens of Iraq. During a recent combined humanitarian mission in the Baghdad suburb of Salman Pak, Iraq, Velasquez was one of six female medics who visited an all-girl elementary school where they gave out several school supplies and assisted Iraqi medical personnel conducting medical screenings.

“The humanitarian mission was my favorite experience in Iraq so far because we got to help out the young girls, and it felt like we were making such a huge difference. It surprised me how friendly the Iraqi people were toward us,” said Velasquez. “The news always shows bombings and attacks

that are happening in Iraq. You never see the good things we are doing here,” she added.

During her spare time Velasquez likes to work out at the gym, watch movies, keep in touch with her family and boyfriend, and cross-stitch.

With her deployment winding down and the 3rd BCT preparing to head home to Fort Bragg, N.C., Velasquez said her

service in Iraq has been fulfilling.

“The whole experience has been surreal. The deployment has moved by much faster than I expected and I’m excited to go home,” she said.

Velasquez hopes to finish college and one day find a job in the medical field doing what she has always loved to do, which is to help people.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Alex Licea, 3rd BCT PAO

Spc. Jessica Velasquez, of Gardena, Calif., makes a balloon animal out of a surgical glove and hands it off to a group of excited Iraqi girls at an elementary school during a recent combined humanitarian assistance mission in the town of Salman Pak, Iraq. Velasquez was one of six U.S. medics on hand to assist Iraqi medical personnel during the recent mission.

Soldier serves second tour after call to duty

By Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD — As a special operations police officer in Puerto Rico, chasing bad guys is nothing new for Sgt. Samuel Silva, of Troop A, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

Now the chase has expanded to include terrorists in Iraq.

The native of Guayama, Puerto Rico has prior deployment experience with the 101st Airborne Division and after four years in the inactive reserve, deployed with this squadron to Iraq.

“At first I was a little sad when I received a phone call telling me to report,” said Silva. “I was thinking I finished my time; I’m out.”

The sadness dissolved as

Silva stepped right into a junior leadership role with detainee operations and vehicle search guidance to U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers.

“We check to make sure Iraqi Soldiers do search and seizure correctly and we give them pointers,” said Silva.

Special operations police officers work in hostile and dangerous environments, the highest risk unit in the Puerto Rico police department. Silva combines his civilian and military training for missions here.

“He has an uncanny ability to draw from his civilian life and military experience to accomplish missions,” said Sgt. Donna Smith, of Williamson, W. Va.

Whether he is working with Iraqi Soldiers or going out on route clearance mis-

sions, Silva knows this it is risky business and he reacts accordingly.

“We trust the Iraqi Soldiers, but at the same time we have to keep our guard up,” said Silva.

After missions Silva works out with his roommate in his spare time.

“I go to the gym to keep in shape so if I need to run or carry someone out of battle, I have to be physically fit,” said Silva.

Silva might stay in the military if he could obtain an airborne position but not without considering his family and consulting his wife.

“My wife doesn’t like the risks, but she knows me,” said Silva.

“The adrenaline rush from chase to capture is what drives me.”



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Sgt. Samuel Silva was called in from the individual ready reserve to deploy for a second tour after four years of inactive duty.

Twin Schools receive passing grade

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1st BCT PAO

TAJI, Iraq — It has been two weeks since U.S. Soldiers assessed two neighboring schools that will educate over 1200 students north of Baghdad.

The last time the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment visited the al-Doha and Malik Ibn Anas Schools, known to the American troops as the Twin Schools, they discovered the schools needed a list of improvements in order to meet an Oct. 1 deadline for the upcoming school year.

Walking the school grounds, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lien, the battalion’s civil capacity and essential services officer, and construction site manager, Kaiser Abid, discussed the construction requirements.

“There were a lot of things wrong with the schools during our last visit,” explained Lien, from Whitewater, Wis. “I honestly didn’t anticipate the schools being completed from my previous interactions with the contractors.”

To the surprise of Lien, the construction of the schools was complete and only in need of minor cosmetic work.

“It was definitely a dramatic improvement considering that nine days ago the electricity didn’t even work [in the schools],” added Lien. “They’ve gone from rubble filled buildings to fully functional schools.”

As a result, the Ministry of Education representative visited the school and conducted an inspection; giving the project his seal of approval.

The MoE representative

will now provide his superiors with his full assessment and approval to ensure that the Twin Schools are properly certified.

With the MoE and Government of Iraq supporting the schools, children from up to six kilometers away can receive a proper education at the Twin Schools, which the Americans believe is a triumph for this area.

“The education system in Iraq is much different than back in the states and not a lot of children have been able to receive proper schooling,” said Lien, who added that he expects children from ages six to sixteen to attend the schools. “The Twin Schools offer a major necessity this area hasn’t had before.”

“The local leaders and residents understand that the chil-

dren of this area are the future of Iraq, so there’s a lot of excitement about the opening,” said Lien, who added he expects the MoE, GoI, and local Iraqi Security Forces to join U.S. troops when they open the school sometime in the next week.

The schools will not only offer an education to the children, but it will provide over fifty jobs to local residents, which the Americans hope will help revitalize the economic infrastructure within the area.

“The local Nahia and Qada councils are excited about this project,” said Lien. “Residents drive by and ask questions and tell their friends. An excitement has grown around the Twin Schools. The residents understand that their children are the future for a brighter Iraq and want this to happen.”

On This Day In History

September 29, 1969

Charges dropped against Green Berets

Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor announces that the U.S. Army, conceding that it is helpless to enlist the cooperation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is dropping the murder charges (of August 6) against eight Special Forces accused of killing a Vietnamese national.

Col. Robert B. Rheault, Commander of the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam, and seven other Green Berets had been charged with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the summary execution of Thai Khac Chuyen, who had served as an agent for Detachment B-57. Chuyen was reportedly summarily executed for being a double agent who had compromised a secret mission. The case against the Green Berets was ultimately dismissed for reasons of national security when the CIA refused to release highly classified information about the operations in which Detachment B-57 had been involved. Colonel Rheault subsequently retired from the Army.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris once sued the Houghton-Mifflin textbook company when it became apparent that their account of the war of 1812 was plagiarized from his autobiography.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Jon Soles, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Pfc. Dan Cesiastis, an infantryman from Worcester, Mass., takes up a spot between cinder block walls to pull security while on a joint patrol with Iraqi Army Soldiers of the 44th Brigade, 11th Division, in Sadr City, here, Sept. 16. Cesiastis is assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Come Join Us for a celebration
of Hispanic Cultures...



Date: 9 Oct 09

Location: MWR Field House

Time: 1900 hrs

Quote For Today

“Action without study is fatal. Study without action is futile.”

— Mary Beard —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
87° F | 62° F



Tomorrow
91° F | 66° F



Thursday
95° F | 73° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Elvis Presley's first film, in 1956, was also the title of one of his first big musical hits. What was it??

Last Issue's Answer: Chicago

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. MSG Humberto Flores, Senior Retention NCO for the Iron Horse Brigade talks to SGT Nathan Jones, 1st BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, PAO about the upcoming ten-miler at Camp Taji and what it takes to be successful at running ten miles. Running can relieve stress and help some relax.

2. Soldiers of Soldiers of D Troop, 1st Battalion, 150th Ar-

mored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team at Camp Striker, offer training classes to train Iraqi soldiers, teaching them to care for and maintain their vehicles.

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

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

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



Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Philip Smith

Public Affairs Chief:

Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner

Editor:

Staff Sgt. Peter Ford

Staff Writers:

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp

Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Sgt. Joshua Risner

Sgt. Jon Soles

Spc. Laura Johnson

Spc. Phillip Adam Turner

Spc. Howard Alperin

of the U.S. Army. Contents of The **Daily Charge** are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry, or The **Daily Charge** of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The **Daily Charge** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share?

The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor at peter.ford9@mnd-b.army.mil