

Engineer call with a spicy hot twist

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles
101st Eng. Bn., PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—Wetness on the tips of eyelashes, the strong aroma of chili peppers, music, laughter and heat. Lots and lots of heat.

These were just a few ingredients added to craft the 225th Engineer Brigade’s Engineer Call Chili Cook-Off, here, Sept. 26.

Every month brings a new theme to the social gathering for the engineers of Multi-National Division—Baghdad, and this month’s theme was a tailgate party and chili competition.

The chili cook off was a near epic battle between seven teams, representing Louisiana, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Michigan, that included members from sergeants major with over 100 years of cooking experience to three specialists with over 1000 minutes of cooking experience.

Capt. Steven Belford, of Pineville, La. explained that the International Chili Society, sponsors of this month’s theme, all started with Lt. Col. Vincent Tallo, of 225th Eng. Bde., from Ball, La.

The International Chili Society, who wanted to sponsor

a chili cook off for troops in Iraq, contacted his wife, a member of a nonprofit organization called “Soldiers Angels”. Both groups partnered together and worked with folks from around the country, to include California, Washington, D.C., and Texas.

Each team received a box of supplies from the International Chili Society. The supplies included aprons, decorations, recipes and hints for making each team’s chili the best that it could be.

Participants were asked to vote for their favorite chili based on color, aroma, con-



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Capt. Michael McDevitt, of Sutton Mass., with the 101st Engineer Battalion, shows off the secret ingredient to his team’s chili.

sistency, taste, and after taste. The 1st Cavalry Division’s band’s “Tuff Box and the Baghdad Horns” provided the day’s acoustical after burn.

The surprise upset of the night went to Team XXX Chili, from Michigan, winner of the chili cook-off. Spc. Steven Plesko, of Hale, Mich., Spc. Pete Bice, of Big Rapids, Mich., and Spc. Steve Rich, from Mancelona, Mich, all part of the 1434th Engineer Company, said their secret to winning had more to do with ingredients outside of the pot.

“We have the voice, looks, and brains. What more do we need?” Rich explained.



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Team XXX Chili, from left to right, Spc. Steve Pleske of Hale, Mich., Spc. Pete Bice of Big Rapids, Mich., and Spc. Steve Rich of Mancelona, Mich., all Soldiers from the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, take home the win during the 225th Eng. Brigade’s Engineer Call Chili Cook-Off, here, Sept. 26. The chili contest was sponsored by the Soldiers Angels and the International Chili Society.

Troopers offer Iraqi Soldiers combat skills

Photos by Sgt. Joshua Risner MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Spc. Adam Lowe (center), from Oklahoma City, Okla., with D Troop, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, gives pointers about room clearing to Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Army Division at Combat Outpost 402, here, Sept. 28. The IAs drilled to improve their skills as part of a larger training mission designed to give the IAs a strengthened skill set which they can impart to their fellow Soldiers.



An Iraqi Soldier with the 6th IA Division gets advice about his marksmanship from Spc. Joseph Salinas, from Queens, N.Y., at a machine gun range at Combat Outpost 402, here, Sept. 28. Everything the IA Soldiers are being taught will further their readiness in the future, according to Salinas.



An Iraqi Soldier shoots orders during a movement under fire exercise at Combat Outpost 402, here, Sept. 28.



Iraqi Army Soldiers with the 6th IA Division practice room clearing techniques as Spc. Adam Lowe (left background), from Oklahoma City, Okla., looks on at Combat Outpost 402, here, Sept. 28. Lowe is assigned to D Troop, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

Moroccan-born Soldier serves as communicator

By Pvt. Jared Gehmann
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — It's not difficult to find a service member who can speak two or possibly even three languages, but it's nearly impossible to find one who speaks five different ones, and fluently.

For Moroccan-born Spc. Ikram Mansori, who now calls San Francisco home, being fluent in Arabic, French, Spanish, Moroccan, and English has served her well during her 12-month deployment to Iraq.

When Mansori enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2007, she committed herself to be a truck driver. However, because of her language skills, senior leaders of her unit felt she would be a valued asset serving as a linguist. Mansori currently serves with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Growing up in the town of Youssoufia, Morocco, Mansori thrived as a student learning several languages while living with her father.

When she became a junior in high school, Mansori put a lot of thought into her future and what colleges would best suit her. Feeling that the U.S. offered her the best opportunity, Mansori moved in with her mother in San Francisco in the summer of 2004. Despite that fact that she did not speak English very well, Mansori pushed herself to learn the language and fulfill her goal of attending an American university.

"At that time I knew very little English, but I wanted to finish high school in the U.S. in order to go to a four-year university where I could get a degree" said Mansori. "After a year of being in the U.S., I could speak English well."

Mansori went on to graduate high school and attended college at the University of California, Davis for her freshman year. In order to support herself, Mansori said she worked as a waitress at

an Italian restaurant. While Mansori was working on her degree, her mother introduced her to a friend who just so happened to be an Army recruiter. Meeting the recruiter started to make her think about military service.

"The recruiter was a friend of my mom's and they were both encouraging me to join. I saw it as a great opportunity," she said.

With that encouragement, Mansori decided to take a break from her studies and enlist in the Army as a truck driver. Despite her language skills, becoming a truck driver offered her an immediate incentive.

"I became a truck driver because the job came with such a large sign-on-bonus," she said. "However, I still planned on taking the DLPT (Defense Language Proficiency Test) and becoming a qualified linguist."

After finishing her individual training, Mansori obtained her Army Linguist Certification and attended the Army's Airborne School. Jumping out of a plane was something that intrigued her.

"I went airborne because I wanted to serve with the 82nd Airborne Division," she said. "I knew how often the 82nd gets deployed and I wanted to go to another country and experience new things."

Being deployed since December 2008 with the 3rd Brigade in Baghdad, Mansori has been able to see much of the change in the country. She says that she will never forget the people or the places she has seen while deployed. Because of her ability to speak Arabic she's had the chance to communicate with the Iraqi people.

"It's amazing that people on the other side of the world are just like everyone else. The Iraqi people just want a better place to live and work. I believe the majority of the Iraqi people want us around to help," said Mansori.



Photo by Pvt. Jared Gehmann, 3rd BCT PAO

Spc. Ikram Mansori, of San Francisco, Calif., smiles as she is greeted by a group of Iraqi girls at an elementary school during a recent combined humanitarian assistance mission in the town of Salman Pak, Iraq.

Mansori currently serves in the brigade's command group as a linguist to the command sergeant major for the brigade.

"When I'm not working in the office or assisting the command team, I'm usually out on patrols and humanitarian missions helping the paratroopers communicate with the Iraqi people. I don't have one favorite experience in Iraq because every time I dismount on a patrol I know I'm going to have the best experience," she said.

With her deployment coming to an end, Mansori is excited to re-

turn home and see her family especially her 11-year-old brother.

"My little brother is recovering from an incident that happened earlier this year, I miss him and can't wait to go home and take him snowboarding once he's better," she said.

In the future Mansori would like to become an officer in the Army where she hopes to serve as a language cultural advisor or to go back to school and eventually choose a career. Mansori looks forward to becoming a U.S. citizen later this fall.

On This Day In History

September 30, 1889

Wyoming legislators write the first state constitution to grant women the vote

On this day in 1889, the Wyoming state convention approves a constitution that includes a provision granting women the right to vote. Formally admitted into the union the following year, Wyoming thus became the first state in the history of the nation to allow its female citizens to vote.

That the isolated western state of Wyoming should be the first to accept women's suffrage was a surprise. Leading suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were Easterners, and they assumed that their own more progressive home states would be among the first to respond to the campaign for women's suffrage. Yet the people and politicians of the growing number of new Western states proved far more supportive than those in the East.

In 1848, the legislature in Washington Territory became the first to introduce a women's suffrage bill. Though the Washington bill was narrowly defeated, similar legislation succeeded elsewhere, and Wyoming Territory was the first to give women the vote in 1869, quickly followed by Utah Territory (1870) and Washington Territory (1883). As with Wyoming, when these territories became states they preserved women's suffrage.

By 1914, the contrast between East and West had become striking. All of the states west of the Rockies had women's suffrage, while no state did east of the Rockies, except Kansas. Why the regional distinction? Some historians suggest western men may have been rewarding pioneer women for their critical role in settling the West. Others argue the West had a more egalitarian spirit, or that the scarcity of women in some western regions made men more appreciative of the women who were there while hoping the vote might attract more.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Simply by pulling on both ends, Chuck Norris can stretch diamonds back into coal.

MND-B Pic of the day!



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

BAGHDAD — First Lt. Will Hargis (right), a platoon leader from Huntington, W. Va., uses a stick to dig a hole with Iraqi Army Pvt. Mohammed Ishmael Khalil, after a metal detector indicated buried metal in a mound of dirt in southwestern Baghdad, Sept. 21. The Soldiers only uncovered a piece of rusted metal, but were still optimistic about the operation to disrupt enemy activity in the area.



COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN-OVERSEAS

2009

Your choice. Your opportunity.
MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The 2009 CFC-O is your opportunity to support the charities most important to you and to improve the quality of life in overseas military communities, our nation and around the world.

It's easy!
Find out more at
www.cfcoverseas.org
or through your
CFC-O representative.



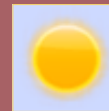
Make a
WORLD
of Difference

CFC-O dates are 5 Oct - 4 Nov 09

Quote For Today

“Better three hours too early, than one hour too late.”
 — William Shakespeare —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
93° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
93° F | 73° F



Friday
93° F | 69° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

The British Union Jack can be found in the flag of which US state?

Last Issue's Answer: Love Me Tender

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Two newly refurbished schools in the Taji area, north of Baghdad, give over 1200 kids the chance at a proper education and new employment to 50 local residents.

The Ministry of Education visited the schools and gave them his seal of approval. Local Iraqi leaders and security forces will join U.S. troops for the schools opening

2. Soldiers of Alpha Company,

Division Special Troops Bn., 1st Cavalry Division get high tech training that prepares them for the challenges they face every day. SSG Robert Zulch from Dickinson, TX explains.

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 Teaser

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

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



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