

# Air Cavalry maintains ground equipment

By Sgt. Alun Thomas  
1st ACB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — In the farthest recesses of this sprawling base there is an area where, night and day, the sound of hammers smashing metal mix with the deafening

tones of engines revving.

Throw in the heat, grease, oil and sweat and you have a typical day at the motor pool.

For Soldiers of Company E, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division,

this environment is what they call home, as they constantly repair damaged vehicles in order for the battalion’s aviation mission to move forward.

The mission of the motor pool however is to support the aircraft and subsequent vehicles used to help keep the ‘birds’ in the air, said Staff Sgt. Erica Raby, from Brooklyn, N.Y., shop foreman with Co. E.

“It’s usually very busy here, we’re working a lot on Polaris’, Gators and generators, things that run 24 hour ops,” she said. “Some of the things we work on like the Polaris’ are outside of our [Military Occupational Specialty] and it’s usually little things, like broken tires and engines we’re fixing.”

Raby said the motor pool is still fixing some of the equipment left by the previous unit five months ago, which has been time consuming.

“The old unit left some stuff which was messed up and we’re still trying to get through all that before we can move to our own vehicles,” Raby said.

A lot of the damage to the vehicles repaired in the motor pool is usually due to operator error, Raby said.

“Usually the damage is minor and we fix a lot of vehicles that have been in accidents,” Raby said. “But mostly it’s due to operator error.”

Spc. Charles Booth, from Long Branch, N.J., a quarter-master and chemical equipment repairer, said his main

job is working on the Polaris’, used primarily for transportation around the airfield.

“The Polaris’ bring equipment to and from the aircraft on the flight line to the pilots,” he said. “They also help bridge the communication and distance between the battalions.”

Some of the main problems with the Polaris’ are screws in the tires from the flight line and those which are in need of regular service.

“Today we have a Polaris that we’re changing the half-shaft on because the u-joint was worn,” Booth said. “That’s a common problem with these vehicles.”

Most problems with the Polaris’ can be attributed to general wear and tear.

“It’s mainly because of the heat and environment and the amount of abuse they get,” Booth said. “That makes it easier for them to break down.”

Other types of vehicles are bought to the motor pool in larger numbers than the Polaris.

“Vehicles like re-fueling trucks require a lot more attention than a Polaris which usually just needs servicing,” Booth said. “Usually it’s not that bad, just a lot of problems with shifting.”

But one thing is certain; there is never a shortage of vehicles waiting to be repaired.

“It’s not very often that there’ll be nothing in the bay to work on,” Booth said. “It’s a rare occasion indeed.”



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

Spc. Lee Benjamin, from Batson, Texas, a light wheeled vehicle mechanic in Company E, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, checks the adjustment of the injectors on an old engine, here, Sept 28.

# Engineers train to combat IEDs

Photos by Sgt. Joshua Risner MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Capt. Darby Boudreaux, from St. Martinville, La., assigned to 225th Engineer Brigade, simulates the mechanical interrogating arm of a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle investigating an improvised explosive device during a training lane at Camp Slayer, Sept. 26. Boudreaux and his fellow engineers are training Soldiers of 38th Engineer Company, on the ins and outs of route clearance.



Engineers with the 38th Engineer Company, 223rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Inf. Division, move their convoy down an improvised explosive device training lane at Camp Slayer, here, Sept. 26. The IED lane is part of Task Force Iron Claw Academy, which trains Soldiers in the aspects of route clearance.



Soldiers of 38th Engineer Company, 223rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Inf. Division, use a robot to investigate a possible improvised explosive device during training at Camp Slayer, here, Sept. 26. The exercise is part of Task Force Iron Claw Academy, a route clearance training program put together and run by the 225th Engineer Bde.

# Junior enlisted Soldier fills leadership void

By Spc. Ruth McClary  
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD — Being an executive has its privileges, but when a junior enlisted assumes the position of a military executive officer for a month, that privilege equates to more responsibility and less sleep.

Spc. John Provins, of Troop C, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, volunteered to assume the responsibilities of the troop's executive officer at Camp Stryker, despite the position being well above his pay grade.

An Army specialist is considered a junior enlisted, with most leadership responsibility starting with a sergeant. Provins got to jump directly into the shoes of a first lieutenant; do not pass "Go," do not collect \$200.

"When the troop's executive officer, 1st Lt. Adam Penfold, took his allotted leave, the void had to be filled by a motivated individual willing to take on a great deal of additional duties," said Capt. Thomas Mills, Troop C commander.

"Due to a shortage of available personnel, Provins stepped up to the plate, volunteering to accept the responsibility," he added.

"Last year for National Guard annual training I worked as acting executive officer," said Provins. "Sometimes you butt heads over rank issues but generally it's not a problem."

Provins, of Fairmont, W. Va., usually works in the tactical operations center tracking patrols, monitoring radios and vehicle tracking devices. In the executive officers position, he is in charge of Troop

logistics operations.

"Spc. Provins has accomplished his assigned tasks with surprising efficiency and competence while maintaining a great attitude," said Mills, of Winfield, W. Va. "He has earned praise from the squadron battle captain for attention to detail with required reports and dissemination of information."

Provins was a cadet in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of West Virginia University in Morgantown before coming on this deployment. The program gives future Army leaders experience as platoon leaders before transitioning into the actual position.

"I would have been a second lieutenant by now," said Provins. "I worked with the ROTC to get released from the program for this deployment. A contracted cadet is non-deployable even if you are a member of a National Guard unit that is scheduled to deploy."

The acting executive officer has been very busy this month managing supplies, filing daily tracker reports, transferring equipment needed by other units and turning in vehicles in preparation for re-deployment.

"Provins had some pretty big shoes to fill," said 1st Lt. Shawn McGlothlin, of Bluefield, W. Va. "There haven't been any challenges to his position and everything has worked out fine."

This ex-cadet walked off the training field onto the battlefield; assumed the task, accepted the challenges and volunteered to serve in the role that ROTC equipped him for — leadership.

"When the executive officer returns, the troop com-

mander is scheduled to take his leave," said Provins. "First Lt. Penfold will be-

come acting commander and I will continue on as acting executive officer."



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Spc. Johnny Provins, of Troop C, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, assumes the troop's executive officers responsibilities during the month of Sept. Provins, of Fairmont, W.Va., continued his normal duties, adding on managing and tracking the movement of the troop's supplies. Troop C is based out of Glen Jean, W. Va.

# On This Day In History

## Yosemite National Park established

On this day in 1890, an act of Congress creates Yosemite National Park, home of such natural wonders as Half Dome and the giant sequoia trees. Environmental trailblazer John Muir (1838-1914) and his colleagues campaigned for the congressional action, which was signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison and paved the way for generations of hikers, campers and nature lovers, along with countless "Don't Feed the Bears" signs.

Native Americans were the main residents of the Yosemite Valley, located in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range, until the 1849 gold rush brought thousands of non-Indian miners and settlers to the region. Tourists and damage to Yosemite Valley's ecosystem followed. In 1864, to ward off further commercial exploitation, conservationists convinced President Abraham Lincoln to declare Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias a public trust of California. This marked the first time the U.S. government protected land for public enjoyment and it laid the foundation for the establishment of the national and state park systems. Yellowstone became America's first national park in 1872.

In 1889, John Muir discovered that the vast meadows surrounding Yosemite Valley, which lacked government protection, were being overrun and destroyed by domestic sheep grazing. Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, a fellow environmentalist and influential magazine editor, lobbied for national park status for the large wilderness area around Yosemite Valley. On October 1 of the following year, Congress set aside over 1,500 square miles of land (about the size of Rhode Island) for what would become Yosemite National Park, America's third national park. In 1906, the state-controlled Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove came under federal jurisdiction with the rest of the park.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

There are no races, only countries of people Chuck Norris has beaten to different shades of black and blue.

## MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — After replacing a half shaft, Spc. Brian Frye, from Fredericksburg, Va., a light wheel mechanic in Company E, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, begins a tire change on a Polaris, here, Sept. 28.



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## Quote For Today

“Wisdom is to the mind what health is to the body.”

— Francois La Rouchefouchald —

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today**  
93° F | 69° F



**Tomorrow**  
93° F | 68° F



**Saturday**  
95° F | 68° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

What country has a cross and a bible displayed on its national flag?

Last Issue's Answer: Hawaii

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Patrolling the rural areas of south of Baghdad has many positive affects explains CPT Matthew Pleasant, B CO, 1/120th Combined Arms Bn., 30th HBCT.

Patrols demonstrates to the local population the involvement the Coalition forces has in the area.

2. Soldiers of Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, 1st Cavalry Division maintain

the AH-64D Apache Helicopters with 500 hour phase maintenance to keep them mission ready Running missions in Iraq causes a lot of wear and tear on the aircraft. Two teams keep the aircraft serviceable.

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/](http://www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/)

## Trigger's Teasers

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

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



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