

# Paratroopers hone trademark skills

**By Pfc. Jared Gehmann**  
3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD — U.S. Paratroopers honed their skills and remained battle ready during a mortar training exercise north of Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq, Sept 30.

For several indirect fire infantrymen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, this exercise allowed them the opportunity to train and fire 60mm, 80mm, and 120mm mortar rounds down-range.

“This is the first time since December that most of us have fired mortars and I’m glad to be getting back to it,” said Spc. Zach Smith, of Saltsburg, Pa., an indirect fire infantryman assigned to Company B.

As the Iraqi Security Forces secure Iraq’s capital, and the U.S. military’s role in shifts to one of assisting and advising their ISF partners, many U.S. servicemembers in the “Panther” brigade have had the chance to sharpen up on their primary duties.

During this exercise, Paratroopers fired at targets, which ranged from 500 to 700 meters away, while simultaneously attempting to increase their ability to work together as a group.

“The purpose of this exercise is to get the guys familiar with the equipment and teach them the fundamentals of teamwork while preparing them for the mortar range

qualification,” said Smith.

The indirect fire infantryman plays a key role in most combat operations, especially where fast-paced, supportive fire is imperative.

“In combat, we fire rounds over the heads of our own guys placing suppressive fire on the enemy [allowing] our infantrymen to push forward and gain ground,” said Smith.

Because they are transportable and can be set up and sighted in just a few minutes, having mortars on the battle-

field serves as a key tool in defeating the enemy.

“The most difficult part of setting the mortars up is sighting them. We can jump into combat with the disassembled pieces on our backs and quickly put them together once we land. During training, we ruck march with the pieces on our backs,” he said.

As the troopers began to fire, leaders and range safety officers stressed the importance of safety as the infantrymen handled these deadly

rounds. For many on the firing line, this message did not fall on deaf ears.

“It’s important we understand how to set up and fire these mortars properly,” said Pfc. Matt Miller, of Heyburn, Id., an indirect fire infantryman assigned Company C. “These 60mm mortars are the small ones and have a casualty radius of 30-35 meters, but they don’t know the difference between friends and enemies. It’s our job to direct them to their destination.”



Photo by Pfc. Jared Gehmann

Pfc. Gregory Conway (left), of Central Square, N.Y., prepares to drop a mortar into the tube during a live-fire training event, Sept. 30, at a range several miles north of Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq. Conway said it’s important that he drops the mortar into the tube correctly because one faulty move and everyone within 30 meters of the mortar could end up injured or dead

# Joint U.S., Iraqi military medical conference

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell  
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — For the first time at al-Muthana Military Hospital, the only Iraqi military hospital in Baghdad, U.S. and Iraqi Army doctors gathered for a joint medical conference to share knowledge and experience, Sept. 30.

“We hope to keep these medical lectures going,” said Lt. Col. Jeff Callin, the Multi-National Division – Baghdad surgeon. “We’re focusing on programs over projects...because in the long run you’ve educated a generation, instead of built a brick and mortar building.”

Callin, a native of Belton, Texas, emphasized the importance of doctors with different backgrounds and areas of expertise coming together to educate each other.

“We’re trying to get these guys doing what doctors do—go to medical conferences and talk to other doctors,” said Callin. “We’re trying to get referral networks going. Lots of people don’t know there are specialists out here that are available.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Definitely everyone has experience out in the field and they come together here because Iraqi Army and American doctors can exchange ideas,” said Maj. Gen. Samir Abdullah (center), the director of Iraqi military medical services during a joint conference at al-Muthana Military Hospital, Sept. 30.

One specialist attending the conference was Maj. Gen. Samir Abdullah Hassan, the director of Iraqi military medical services.

“This is a very important

conference,” he said. “Definitely everyone has experience out in the field and they come together here because Iraqi Army and American doctors can exchange ideas.”

Military doctors provided pertinent case-studies on civilians and Soldiers from around the area. An Iraqi Army doctor lectured about the effects of diabetes on a shoulder condition known as ‘frozen shoulder,’ and a U.S. Army doctor lectured on trauma airway management.

Samir added that the case studies were applicable because Iraqi Army doctors don’t always have the same tools to treat patients the same way U.S. Army doctors can.

“We’ve learned a lot from U.S. forces,” Samir said to the audience of military and civilian doctors. “Like how to give equal treatment to everybody – terrorists and innocents. The Americans have taught us to treat all

patients like people.”

Though there were a variety of doctors attending, the military doctors were at the forefront of the training process rather than an afterthought, added Callin.

“This used to be the place in the Middle East to come for medical care,” Callin explained about Iraq before the 1990s. “Hopefully, it becomes that way again...It takes some guts. As soon as you stand up around here, you have a target on you.”

According to Callin, the conference was geared for high-level, experienced military doctors that will hopefully bring their newfound knowledge back to their troops.

Samir said that he has high hopes for the future, eventually turning the conference into an international military conference inviting other Arab and European countries. But, he added, this first conference is the most important step.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Omaha, Neb. native, Lt. Col. Daniel Barnes (left), an MND-B medical operations officer, shares information prior to the start of a medical lecture with Iraqi Army Maj. Qaisar Abdul al-Shami (right), a rheumatologist, during a joint medical conference at al-Muthana Military Hospital, Sept. 30

# Engineers improve living conditions

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

BAGHDAD — At Joint Security Station Four-Corners, sunrise casted shadows on half built structures; structures that had little to no shape in the new light.

During the daytime, Sept. 24, engineer Soldiers are hard at work with one thing in mind; fellow Soldiers.

At the expanding JSS Four-Corners, the project to build more B-huts is right on schedule despite limited tools and only one generator. The Soldiers from the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, have already constructed five B-huts along with three foundations in less than two weeks. Some structures are being used for living quarters while others are to become supply and command posts.

“Less than a week ‘till done,”

boasted Sgt. Les Meyette, of Free-mont Mich., an engineer with the 1434th Eng. Co., 101st Eng. Bn.

Often called a “hooch”, the B-hut usually houses up to eight personnel. Made of plywood and built with local materials, these structures are adaptable and movable.

Since the typical Soldier serves a year’s duty at any given location, there is plenty of time to customize the 50 square feet space per Soldier to give it a homely feel. Inside, walls may offer visual privacy, but sometimes they are built to be open bays.

“We lost power and internet and we were running on generators but it’s nice to be able do our jobs and not be sitting back at base camp,” said Pfc. Willie James, of Escanaba, Mich., also with the 1434th Eng. Co., 101st Eng. Bn.

“The troops on the ground



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Making precise cuts using a skill saw, Sgt. Jerry Justice, of Cheboygan, Mich., 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, 225th Eng. Brigade, supports the B-hut mission to house U.S. military transition team Soldiers at al-Rasheed on Sept. 24. The B-huts will provide housing for 10 man teams who will train Iraqi Soldiers.

have been working from dawn to dusk every day,” said Spc. Brian Long, of Benzonia, Mich., of the

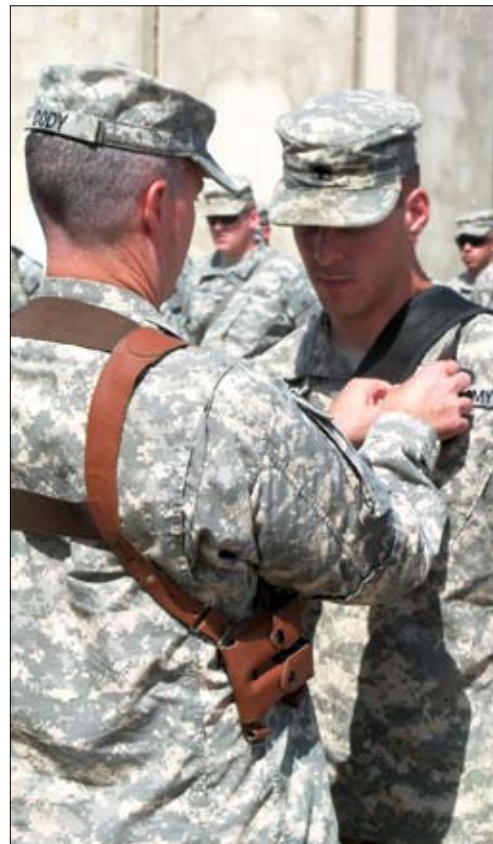
1434th Eng. Co. “Morale is up and... I have really enjoyed doing my job.”

## Engineer Soldiers receive Combat Action Badge

**Photos by Spc. Brian Johnson**  
101st Eng. Bn. PAO



BAGHDAD — Spc. Joshua Puckett (left), of Onstead, Mich., and Spc. Bradley Long, of Benzonia, Mich. stand at attention after receiving the Combat Action Badge at Camp Liberty, Sept. 27. Both Soldiers are wheeled vehicle mechanics with the Michigan Army National Guard’s 1434th Engineer Company.



Lt. Col. Charles Cody (left), 101st Engineer Battalion commander awards the Combat Action Badge to Spc. Joshua Puckett (right), of Onstead, Mich., at Camp Liberty, Sept. 27. Puckett was in a vehicle that was hit by an explosive device during a recent mission.

## On This Day In History

October 3, 1932

### Iraq wins independence

With the admission of Iraq into the League of Nations, Britain terminates its mandate over the Arab nation, making Iraq independent after 17 years of British rule and centuries of Ottoman rule.

Britain seized Iraq from Ottoman Turkey during World War I and was granted a mandate by the League of Nations to govern the nation in 1920. A Hashemite monarchy was organized under British protection in 1921, and on October 3, 1932, the kingdom of Iraq was granted independence. The Iraqi government maintained close economic and military ties with Britain, leading to several anti-British revolts. A pro-Axis revolt in 1941 led to a British military intervention, and the Iraqi government agreed to support the Allied war effort. In 1958, the monarchy was overthrown, and for the next two decades Iraq was ruled by a series of military and civilian governments. In 1979, General Saddam Hussein became Iraqi dictator; he held onto power with an iron fist, until disappearing in the face of an American-led coalition's invasion of Iraq in 2003.

## MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

TAJI, Iraq — Little Rock, Ark. Native, Capt. Alex Aquino, commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, and Hamamiyat Federal Police Station commander, Maj. Thamir, listen as the clinic manager explains the changes the clinic underwent in the past couple of years during a visit to the Taji Market Clinic, Sept. 27.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris has two speeds: Walk and Kill



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## Quote For Today

“A moments insight is sometimes worth a life’s experience”

— Oliver Wendall Holmes —

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
93° F | 66° F



Tomorrow  
96° F | 69° F



Monday  
95° F | 71° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

One played NFL football, the other NBA basketball; today they are congressmen; someday one of them could be President of the United States. Who are they?

Last Issue's Answer: Coca-Cola

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Traffic control points are still working to keep order in the streets of Iraq. 1LT Juan Zuluaga tells us about the checkpoint and how they're helping keep the streets safe.

The traffic control point is a good way to stop weapons and munitions smuggling.

2. Iraqi and U.S. Army doctors gathered at the al-Muthana Military

Hospital, the only Iraqi military hospital in Baghdad, for a joint medical conference. Lt. Col. Jeff Callin, MND-B Surgeon talks about it.

Bringing doctors together with different backgrounds helps Iraq.

.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	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

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



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

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