

Incoming Soldiers learn features of MRAP

By Spc. Howard Alperin
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Soldiers received hands-on training on an MRAP vehicle. During the 40 hours of instructional time, they learn how to perform preventative maintenance checks and services, recognize warnings, cautions and controls of the vehicle, egress and roll-over drills, operate the gunner’s point kit, ground-guide procedures, and day and night-time driving.

“The vehicle will take care of you, but respect the vehicle,” declared Frank Davis, the civilian instructor at the Regional Support Area on Camp Liberty, to Soldiers attending the Operators New Equipment Training class.

These knowledgeable instructors don’t hold back when guiding their students. It’s their job to train Soldiers to standard so when they are out on mission they know how to use their MRAP vehicle safely.

“We learned that the seatbelts are a five-point harness, that the windows are able to withstand a .50 cal [round], how to get in and out of the hatches, the driver’s control, how to turn the vehicle on and off, releasing and applying the brakes, and making sure things are locked up when we’re done,” said Spc. Chase James, from Newark, Del.

As supply and logistics specialists, these Soldiers of the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division will travel often to forward operating bases in the Baghdad area. Many of the Soldiers taking the class have recently arrived in country and most have never driven an MRAP vehicle.

“I’m pretty excited about getting on the road. I want to get my license so I can go outside the wire and support everybody through re-supply missions,” said James.

In order to learn how to operate these vehicles, Soldiers must get to know their characteristics.

“We went over all the controls and control panel,” said Spc. Josh Overton, a personal security detachment team member, from West Liberty, Ohio. “Also, we went over switches for the AC, heat, power doors, and how to properly open and close the doors without making them malfunction.”

The Soldiers learned how to properly control the MRAPs and

how you do your egress from the vehicle in case of emergency. “It’s practice for when you’re outside doing the real thing. That way, when something happens, we’re able to perform better and possibly save lives.”

Soldiers take what they are taught about the vehicle’s physical features and capabilities, and apply it to daytime and night-time drives.

“For someone who is used to humvees, it’s a step up regarding space, equipment and gadgets,” said Spc. Mike Demma, an electrician from Traverse City, Mich., who recently completed the driving portion and test for the class. “There are quite a few blind spots. It’s important to readjust your mir-

rors and utilize them. You’ve got to make sure you can see around your vehicle.”

“You have to watch for the edges of the shoulder and look for potholes or anything that might cause the vehicle to rock because this multiplies the possibility of a rollover. The vehicle is top-heavy. In making turns, you have to be cautious.”

During the two days of driving, Soldiers learn to drive safely on a variety of surfaces and grades.

“They take you through different terrain features to become familiarized and comfortable with the vehicles,” said Demma. After graduating the class, Soldiers are able to use their knowledge in the role of train the trainer.



Photo by Spc. Howard Alperin

Soldiers gather under the belly of a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle, here, Oct. 6, as Frank Davis, from Killeen, Texas, points out different parts and how the vehicle is protected with armor against improvised explosive devices.

Knock, talk mission with Iraqi Army

Photos by Sgt. Jon Soles, MND-B PAO



TAJI, Iraq – Spc. Marcus Jeter, of Atlanta, walks through a sunflower field near Taji, Oct. 5, during a joint patrol with the Iraqi Army.



Sgt. Jhonny Beldor, an artilleryman from Fredericksburg, Pa., searches for weapons during a joint patrol with the Iraqi Army in the Taji area.



Staff Sgt. Shad Fowler, of Amarillo, Texas, looks inside a barrel while searching through a garbage pile on a joint patrol with the Iraqi Army .



Staff Sgt. William Cannon (left), of Taylor, Mich., and Sgt. Jhonny Beldor, of Fredericksburg, Pa., confer about directions during a patrol near Taji Oct. 5. Both non-commissioned officers are artillerymen assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division

Maintaining Sol security north of Baghdad

By Spc. Kelly LeCompte
30th HBCT PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Unmanned aerial systems operations are keeping Soldiers in the Baghdad area safe thanks to cooperation between four different brigades that have centered operations, here, north of Baghdad.

“The launch and recovery site for all of [Multi-National Division] Baghdad is at Camp Taji,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Darryl Della Rossa, the UAS officer with the 86th Military Intelligence Company B. “By consolidating, they can support four brigades in one place.”

The four U.S. brigades have pooled their UAVs at Camp Taji’s airfield, along with the maintenance personnel who launch and recovery the vehicles; while the vehicle operators are located wherever their respective units work from.

“The units share the birds, hanger space, personnel; it can all be shared at one place,” said Della

Rossa, from Pueblo, Colo. “It’s great because it keeps you flying all the time. It ensures all the brigades can have more coverage.”

“We service the birds, and we launch them,” said Sgt. Conrad Jahn, a maintenance shift lead with B Co. “We launch them and then we’ll hand them off to a control site that’s forward, so that the actual mission flying is done from the forward sites.”

“I think it works really well,” said Jahn. “We have a really good team here and we’re able to support each other... and we pool a lot more experience this way. Our standard of maintenance is a lot higher and our production is a lot better because we have such a large pool of materials and talent and experience. It’s a really good team. We’re like a big family here.”

Della Rossa, who works from Forward Operating Base Falcon, where Company B’s operators are, said he agreed the system works. The MI company has been



Photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte

Sgt. David Gomez, from Brooklyn, N.Y., prepares an unmanned aerial system for launch at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad, Oct 5.

serving in Iraq since April and has logged 2,500 flight hours so far; all accident free.

“That’s more than some companies fly in a whole year deployment,” Della Rossa said.

The Soldiers in B Co., whether serving at Camp Taji or FOB Falcon, work 12 hour days, seven days a week. Della Rossa said without the system at Camp Taji,

there would be days at the time when operations would have to stop for maintenance on the vehicles or for crew rest, and it would be unlikely to fly so many hours have they have so far, especially without incident.

“It’s a great system,” Della Rossa said. “Since a bird is always in the air, we can be always ready.”

Sheikh council meeting brings resolve

By Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth
4th SBCT PAO,

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi commanders, along with prominent members of the Abu Ghraib community, met Oct. 3 to discuss security gains as well as rebuilding dialogue in this western community of Baghdad.

Col. John Norris, commander of 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, suggested a representative from 24th Bde., 6th IA Div. attend the council meeting to help bridge the communication gap between Abu Ghraib sheikhs and the Iraqi Army since a recent rift.

At the meeting, Iraqi Lt. Col. Yaser assured council members that security in the past could not be compared to how

it is now. He pointed out that things are safer and more stable all over Baghdad, largely due to actions such as patrols and warrant-issued arrests made by the IA and Iraqi police.

“Every day is getting better,” Yaser said.

Yaser’s presence at the meeting opened ways of communication between the IA and the council members by allowing the two groups to share thoughts and opinions on issues in the area with little input from Norris.

“The Iraqi Army could receive their concerns about security and could, in fact, respond and resolve the issues and the concerns they had with security instead of me being the interface,” said Norris.

“That’s ultimately part of our strategy of irreversible momentum: to be able to ensure that the people trust the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Army support the people.”

Security was not the only issue brought up at the meeting.

Internally displaced persons are a growing concern for the Abu Ghraib council members. Yaser reassured the council members the Iraqi forces look to help the IDPs and want those people to live in peace with the rest of the populace.

One of the final topics discussed in the meeting was the need for people to go to the authorities if they had information about crimes committed. He explained to the council that one of the biggest reasons why

violence still existed in their areas was because people would not come forward with tips.

Overall, the meeting broke new ground for all members involved by repairing the partnership between the IA and the council member and allowing them to work together to try to make the area a safer place for the citizens.

“Just (Yaser’s) presence and his willingness to receive the information and the concern to discuss security-related issues and the issues within the communities with the sheikhs was a big victory for us in terms of improved security and immediate change in perception that the Iraqi army is, in fact, there for the people and supporting the people.”

On This Day In History

The Gashouse Gang wins the World Series

On October 9, 1934, the St. Louis Cardinals defeat the Detroit Tigers in the seventh game of the World Series. No one seems to know exactly who was the first to call that year's Cards the "Gashouse Gang," but everyone agrees that the nickname had to do with the team's close resemblance to the rowdy, dirt-streaked assemblage of thugs who hung around the Gashouse District on Manhattan's East Side. In any case, the matchup between St. Louis' disheveled, brawl-prone Gang and the ace Tigers remains, as legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice predicted it would, "one of the most interesting post-season championships ever played."

In 1919, St. Louis' general manager Branch Rickey (a teetotaling Methodist who refused to watch his own team play on the Sabbath) decided to build a team on the cheap. Instead of paying \$100,000 or more for already-established players, he decided to train them himself, building an elaborate farm system that would send top-notch kids to the big leagues once he'd gotten them good and ready to play there.

By 1934, Rickey's system had begun to pay off. His team had flashes of brilliance: Pitcher Dizzy Dean won 30 games that year, the last time any pitcher won 30 in a season until Denny McLain won 31 in 1968. Dean's brother Paul ("Daffy") won 19. (The rest of the team's pitchers, combined, won 46. As a result, the brothers Dean went on an unsuccessful weeklong strike at the end of the summer to protest their inadequate paychecks.) Rickey's scrappy, short-tempered bunch of country boys won 20 of their last 25 regular-season games, and they took the league pennant from the Giants--who'd squandered a seven-game lead going into September--at the last minute.

And so it was that Rickey's Gashouse Gang faced the Tigers in a riveting seven-game Series. They won the game 11-0, and with it the World Series.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Newton's Third Law is wrong: Although it states that for each action, there is an equal and opposite reaction, there is no force equal in reaction to a Chuck Norris roundhouse kick.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Johnjames Miller

Baghdad — Staff Sgt. John Snyder (left), of Swanton, Ohio, receives his baptism in the Tigris River along the outskirts of southeastern Baghdad from Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Smith, of Tampa, Fla., Oct. 6. Four Paratroopers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, were baptized during the ceremony. They chose the location because the Tigris River is believed to be a spiritual location according to the Bible.

Come Join MND-B for a
celebration of Hispanic
Cultures...



Date: 9 Oct 09
Location: MWR Field House
Time: 1900 hrs

Quote For Today

“If you can’t control the wind, adjust your sail.”

— Unknown —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
98° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
98° F | 68° F



Sunday
95° F | 68° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

These animals reach lengths of up to 7 feet, have about 100 teeth, emit sounds when moving to help them navigate, and reach travelling speeds of about 35 miles per hour. What kind of animals are they?

Last Issue’s Answer: LINCOLN, nebraska / MADISON, wisconsin / JEFFERSON CITY, mo. / JACKSON, mississippi

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. SGT Christopher Baine talks about the difference in Iraq since 2004 when he was last here. SGT Nathan Jones, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division PAO.

The Iraqi Army are now taking more control of situations, with American Soldiers support.

2. Micro-grants get give Iraqi business men a way to improve their lives, the lives of the people

in their community and their local economy

The money can be used for hiring new employees, renovations, purchasing equipment, and new merchandise.

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

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

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



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