

Situational training tests IA capabilities

By Pfc. Adam Halleck
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Strengthening the skills and core competencies of the Iraqi Security Forces is a vital mission for U.S. Soldiers, here.

After conducting their weeklong Tiger Academy, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, tested their Iraqi Army counterparts in a day long situational training exercise, focusing on all core aspects of the academy.

The purpose of the Tiger Academy is to further enable the Iraqi Army to better serve and secure the citizens of

Iraq. By focusing on adaptability, the Tiger Academy provides Iraqi Soldiers the basic skills and tactics they need in today’s urban combat environment.

“Being prepared for a wide range of situational outcomes is essential in combat,” explained Rochester, New York native, Sgt. 1st Class Ward Wright, the battalion operations sergeant major. “[U.S. troops] put great emphasis on planning, which is something we focused heavily on during Tiger Academy.”

To test the adaptability of the IA Soldiers, the Americans created a full scale training exercise; incorporating several difficult scenarios



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

Soldiers from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Division, move into position to clear a building during a simulated training exercise here, Oct. 15

that could occur at any given time while on a patrol. They

tested their counterparts on how to react to an improvised explosive device, knowledge of casualty evaluation procedures, close quarters combat, room clearing procedures, detainee operations and sensitive site exploitation.

“For only going through a week of training [the Iraqi Soldiers] grasped a good portion of the training,” said Sandy, Ore. native, Staff Sgt. James Lacapra, the battalion intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge. “Considering the amount of time they were given to learn the procedures, they were pretty effective.”

The U.S. troops trained their counterparts to become a more versatile security force but they understand there is still work to be done.

“This training is a step in the right direction for the ISF,” said Wright.



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

Staff Sgt. Joseph Metz (foreground), a squad leader assigned to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, watches as Soldiers of the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division plan their mission during a simulated training exercise here, Oct. 15.

Operation Proper Exit visits 1st ACB

Photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq — During a return trip to Iraq as a part of Operation Proper Exit, Sgt. John Hyland (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Olson, get a tour of a CH-47F Chinook helicopter by Josia Ortiz (right), a crew chief in Company B, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, here, Oct. 13. The military personnel participating in Operation Proper Exit had been wounded previously in combat and have made the trip to Iraq to face the places they were wounded in order to gain closure on that part of their lives



Living with partial blindness from a road side bomb, retired Cpl. Graig Chavez talks with Soldiers of the 1st ACB about his recovery process and what has driven him to move forward with his life, during a visit to Camp Taji, Iraq, Oct. 13. Chavez has an emblem of the Purple Heart Medal – an award he received for his injuries – embedded into his glass eye. At one time a ground trooper, Chavez was offered a desk job upon his recovery, but decided against it. To him, his options were to be on the ground – in the fight – or not at all, he said.



During a visit to Camp Taji, Iraq, Oct. 13, servicemembers participating in Operation Proper Exit, talk with Soldiers of the 1st ACB in a town hall forum about injuries they sustained in combat, the recovery process and organizations that have helped them and others who were wounded in combat. One question fielded by the wounded warriors was whether or not they were forced to retire after their initial recovery. To which the answer was an overwhelming no.



To show appreciation for his sacrifices, Col. Douglas Gabram, from Cleveland Ohio, commander of the 1st ACB, presents a flag which was flown over Baghdad in an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter, to retired Sgt. Ethan Payton. Payton, along with other wounded servicemembers got to tour the 1st ACB's aircraft, watch videos and talk to Soldiers as a part of Operation Proper Exit. Gabram was in awe of their dedication to their country.

Soldier in Focus – Pfc. Andrea Miedzionoski

By Staff Sgt. April Mota
101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD — Less than one year ago, Pfc. Andrea Miedzionoski, of Forward Support Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, found herself signing on the dotted line at her local military entrance pro-

cessing station.

Miedzionoski, 30, from Peabody, Mass., now serves as a signal support systems specialist, working on the company's convoy support team and helping maintain their radios.

"I'm happy to be doing my job, it suits me," she said of work-

ing with the team.

Miedzionoski was inspired by her cousin, an Army Ranger, to join the Massachusetts Army National Guard. She saw the sense of pride he had for himself and his country.

"I was looking to have that same pride in myself as my cousin had. I was looking for some meaning in my life," stated Miedzionoski.

Miedzionoski, attended basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., then went on to her Military Occupational Specialty school at Fort Gordon, Ga. She graduated and immediately reported to her home station with the 101st Eng. Bn., in Whitinsville, Mass. One day later, the unit departed for their mobilization station at Ft. McCoy, Wis., to begin the train up for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Reporting to a unit that was leaving the next day was a little

nerve wracking; it definitely had its ups and downs. Ultimately, I think it was the best situation though. I was still focused on my military training I had just received," Miedzionoski explained.

Her main concern with deploying so soon after graduating was she knew no one in the unit. But as soon as she arrived, she was welcomed with open arms.

"I came into a tight knit group and was instantly taken in and warmly welcomed. I've quickly created a very strong bond with everyone here. We've got a great team."

After the deployment is over, Miedzionoski is interested in going back to school. She's leaning toward the medical field and would like to try to reclassify as a combat medic.

"I'll possibly go on Active duty, but I wanted to try the National Guard first to get my feet wet," Miedzionoski said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

Pfc. Andrea Miedzionoski of Peabody, Mass., gathers the tools needed to install radio mounts in the company's vehicles.

Old Hickory troops awarded CIB

By Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD — For U.S. Army infantrymen, all of their training comes to task when faced with the realities of combat.

Emerging from that crucible, they are set apart from all others. It is in that spirit that the Army recognizes infantrymen with the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Soldiers of Company B, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, received the prestigious award at a ceremony on Forward Operating Base Falcon, south of Baghdad, Oct. 8.

The 13 Soldiers earned the honor, only awarded to infantry Soldiers, after an explosive formed projectile attack hit their seven-vehicle convoy in June 2009.

"There are 300 million Americans, only a few serve, of those only a few have what it takes to be infantry and close with the enemy in battle," said Cpt. Benjamin Wynn, Co. B commander, from Raleigh, N.C.

The Soldiers recognized were Sgt. Nicholas Gonzalez, of Raleigh, N.C.; Spc. Timothy Aycock, of Wilson, N.C.; Sgt. Elgin Cofield, of Rocky Mount; Pfc. Joshua Forbes, of Wilson, N.C.; Sgt. Josh McGarity, of Winston-Salem, N.C.; Pfc. Aaron Milan, of Sacrin, Ohio; Spc. Michael Cortes, of Wilson, N.C.; 2nd Lt. Matthew Taylor, of Fayetteville, N.C.; 1st Lt. Bruce Riggins, of Fayetteville, N.C.; Spc. Patrick Schmeltzer, of Salisbury, N.C.; Pfc. Kevin Shinn, of Wilson, N.C.; Pfc. Brenden Briggs, of Gastonia, N.C. and Spc. Brenden Martin

of Gastonia, N.C.

The badge, a rifle on an infantry blue background ringed by an oak wreath, began in WWII as recognition of Soldiers who had been direct battle with the enemy as an infantry Soldier.

The award can only be earned by infantry Soldiers in combat.

"It distinguishes you from everybody in the Army, this is what every (infantry) Soldier wants," said McGarity.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

Spc. Michael Cortes (left), of Wilson, N.C., receives congratulations from 2nd Lt. Matthew Taylor after receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 8

On This Day In History

October 17, 1835

The first resolution formally creating the Texas Rangers is approved

On this day in 1835, Texans approve a resolution to create the Texas Rangers, a corps of armed and mounted lawmen designed to "range and guard the frontier between the Brazos and Trinity Rivers."

In the midst of their revolt against Mexico, Texan leaders felt they needed a semi-official force of armed men who would defend the isolated frontier settlers of the Lone Star Republic against both Santa Ana's soldiers and hostile Indians; the Texas Rangers filled this role. But after winning their revolutionary war with Mexico the following year, Texans decided to keep the Rangers, both to defend against Indian and Mexican raiders and to serve as the principal law enforcement authority along the sparsely populated Texan frontier.

Although created and sanctioned by the Texas government, the Rangers was an irregular body made up of civilians who furnished their own horses and weapons. Given the vast expanse of territory they patrolled and the difficulty of communicating with the central government, the government gave the men of the Rangers considerable independence to act as they saw fit. Sometimes the Rangers served as a military force, taking on the role of fighting the Indians that in the U.S. was largely the responsibility of the Army. At other times the Rangers mainly served as the principal law enforcement power in many frontier regions of Texas, earning lasting fame for their ability to track down and eliminate outlaws, cattle thieves, train robbers, and murderers, including such notorious bandits as John Wesley Hardin and King Fisher.

Even as late as the first two decades of the 20th century, the state of Texas continued to rely on the Rangers to enforce order in the wilder regions of the state, like the oil towns along the Rio Grande.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

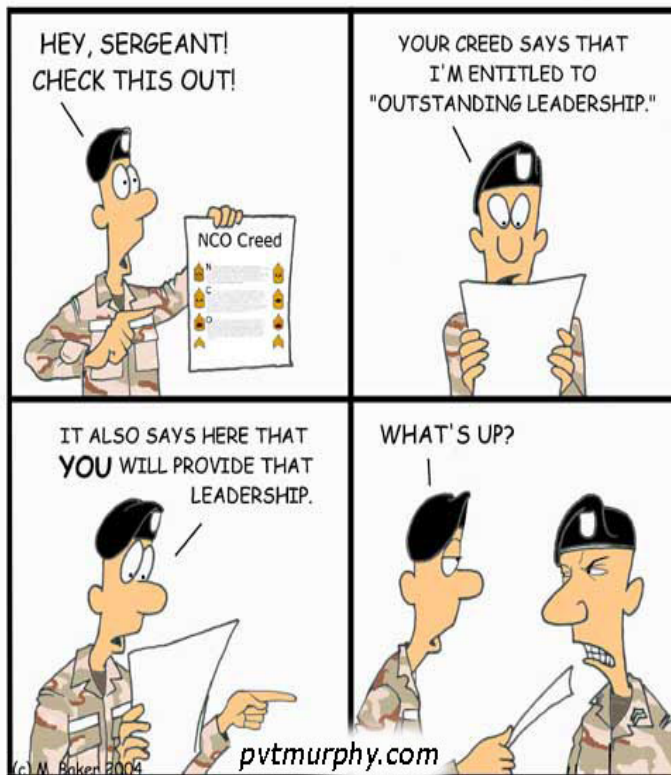
Thousands of years ago Chuck Norris came across a bear. It was so terrified that it fled north into the arctic. It was also so terrified that all of its decendents now have white hair.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips, 30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD - Cpl. Marc Strickland, a medic with Company D, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, carries boxes of medical supplies into the clinic at the Radwaniyah Community Center, south of Baghdad, Oct. 8.



pvtmurphy.com

Quote For Today

“For everything you have missed you have gained something else.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Monday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What beverage that many people enjoy drinking today was a popular drink among the Aztecs in the 15th Century?

Last Issue's Answer: JAPAN followed by UK, Canada

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division patrol the streets in rural Iraq with their Iraqi counterparts for several lasting reasons. SGT Ashley Anderson, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, PAO.

2. Iron Horse Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division check out the medial fa-

cility at a clinic north of Sadr City. CPT Brandon Ward, the brigade medical operations officer from Corpus Christi, Texas, tells us about it. The facility is doing well but could use a little assistance.

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

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

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



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

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