

1st ACB assists in joint air assault

By Sgt. Alun Thomas

1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The realization of a fully independent Iraqi Army came one step nearer with a joint air assault between U.S. and IA Soldiers here, Oct. 26.

American and Iraqi ground Soldiers participated in the air assault, with both sides flying in their respective aircrafts, UH-60 Black Hawks and MI-17 Hip helicopters.

The mission was a significant occasion because of the involvement of the Iraqi Air Force, said 1st Lt. Bradley Whitnell, from Chicago, executive officer, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“This is a pretty important event because we’ve managed to partner ourselves with the Iraqi Air Force,” he said. “This makes it the first truly joint American/Iraqi air assault across the board, from aviation all the way down to the ground units.”

The air assault was the result of extensive training between both sides.

“It’s a unique experience for us because at the ground level we’ve been integrated the entire time we’ve been out here,” Whitnell said. “But in terms of across the spectrum, combined arms, this is the first real culminating event of the joint experience that we’ve seen.”

Whitnell said the Iraqi ground forces have come a long way from slow beginnings.

“They’re at the point now where the intelligence driving the operation is Iraqi intelligence. We



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

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Iraqi Army Soldiers from 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 37 IA Brigade, line up to load onto aircraft for a joint air assault mission, Oct. 26.

did a combined rehearsal with American and Iraqi aviation and ground forces, so in terms of their sophistication and capabilities it’s really been impressive.”

The aviation support from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade was outstanding, Whitnell said.

“They have been great help for us and are really surging to support this operation, with the birds and the Blues Platoon. They’ve given us everything they’ve got this morning and have been a big help in the planning process. The mission definitely couldn’t have happened without them.”

The air assault was a major first for the 1st Cav. Div. in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Metzger, commander, 3rd Battalion, 227th

Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB.

“Today we have an assault battalion working with the Iraqi’s for the first time,” Metzger said. “We had a couple of training exercises, but this is the first time we’ll do a real world mission with them.”

“Hopefully this will get both countries working better for future missions so they can continue to expand their role on how they provide security for the Iraqi people,” he said.

Metzger said the Iraqi’s have steadily developed during the first half of the current 1st ACB deployment.

“The (Iraqi) pilots are super pilots, but then again we have to remember they’re Iraqi Air Force, which is just like [U.S.] Air Force

and Army learning to work together,” Metzger said. “Here we have two different worlds. These guys are experienced pilots but they just haven’t done a lot of air assault stuff in the last five to 10 years.”

The air assault exercise would be a learning curve for the Iraqi pilots, Metzger said.

“It’s something very new for them to experience air assaults into a [landing zone], so I think it will be a great capability for them to add to their arsenal,” he said.

The training had taken a crawl, walk, run approach, Metzger said, but the air assault is definitely the run stage for the Iraqi’s. They are now running pretty fast,” Metzger said.

LIVESTRONG 10K run honors cancer victims

*Photo by Sgt Tracy Knowles,
101 Eng. Bn, 225th Eng Bde.*



BAGHDAD - From left to right, Sgt. Piotr Szczepaniak, Sgt. Steven Lohmeyer and Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Vargas, all of San Antonio, Texas, with the 227th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, listen intently to a cancer survivor's emotional testimony of his fight against the deadly disease. Soldiers lined up early, Oct. 25, on Victory Base Complex, here, to run the LIVESTRONG 10K shadow run in honor of those affected by cancer. LIVESTRONG is a worldwide fundraiser founded by Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong.



LIVESTRONG 10K shadow run, held Oct. 25 on Victory Base Complex, here, proves to be a fast and strong race for Spc. Sandrae Band, of Lynn, Mass. Band, with the 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, finished strong in 6th place.



Spc. Nicole Lane, of Lynn, Mass., 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, fastens her race card while preparing for the 10K LIVESTRONG Challenge shadow run on Victory Base, Oct. 25. Lane dedicated the race to her grandmother Eunice Brown, who was a cancer survivor.

Refresher training aids Iraqis to take lead

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — After a ten-day re-familiarization academy, 16 Iraqi Army Soldiers assigned to 43rd IA Brigade, 11th IA Division, graduated at Joint Security Station Shield, Oct. 20, here.

The third iteration of the academy focused on skills that the IA Soldiers had, but sought to perfect, said Staff Sgt. Kirk High, one of the course instructors assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“This course was familiarization for most of them to be able to keep the IA’s skills sharper,” said High, a native of Fort Worth, Texas.

The course covered a wide array of topics – vehicle maintenance and recovery; tactical medical care; weapons tactics; traffic control points; reacting to enemy

contact and to improvised explosive devices; a shoot house where Soldiers practiced room-clearing procedures; with all training culminating in a combined exercise before graduation.

“This training was good for our experience,” said Spc. Rida Kireem Abdul-Ameer, assigned to 2nd Bn., 43rd Bde., 11th IA Div. “For example, when we go to detain someone, we know the appropriate steps. So now, we’re able to detain anyone we need to.”

Sgt. Christopher Bane, a tanker squad leader from Shreveport, La., agreed that these classes are valuable and have real-world applications, especially since the students and instructors work hand-in-hand for combat operations.

“With us training them, then we feel comfortable giving them the lead out in sector,” explained Bane. “During a raid once, they

kicked down the door and we followed them in.”

Giving the Iraqis the lead for security in Iraq means that they are going to find their own way of doing things. There isn’t one right or one wrong way to accomplish the mission, said Staff Sgt. Dustin Rice, a tanker platoon sergeant from St. Paul, Neb.

“They know what to do for the most part, but everybody’s not going to do it like us. They have their own way that works for them and we respect that,” added Rice. “For the most part, these guys are pretty good at [doing their jobs]. This is supposed to be a train-the-trainer type academy.”

The experience and the knowledge learned at the academy will be passed from these Soldiers to other IA Soldiers back at their bases, continued Rice.

“When I go back to my unit, my friends will ask what I learned,” said Rida. “I will share

my experiences with them.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
Staff Sgt. Kirk High, an academy instructor, observes Iraqi Army Soldiers clearing a room during an IA re-familiarization academy at Joint Security Station Shield, here, Oct. 19.

Kosovo vets reunite for Iraq tour

By 1st Lt. Michael Lind
101st Eng. Bn., 225th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The close bonds Soldiers share during a deployment can last a lifetime.

Spcs. Nathan Doyle, Bruce Nicely, James Perrone, Sean Thibedeau and Eric Varela, all of the Headquarters Support Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade are grateful for a second opportunity to spend a year deployment together. These five Soldiers have learned that the bonds they forged while in Kosovo may serve them well throughout the challenges of any deployment.

Having met in the months leading up to their departure, Doyle, Nicely, Perrone, Thibedeau and Varela arrived at

Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, as part of the American NATO Force, in Nov. 2006.

While in Kosovo, the five Soldiers were together most of the time. They shared diverse and ever-changing missions involving anything from personal security details and supply escorts to steady state patrols within the local communities to ensure no crimes were committed.

“We did some anti-smuggling operations to prevent human trafficking and drug-smuggling,” said Varela. Even though the Soldiers were in different squads, they went out on convoys together.

Barbeques were the Soldiers’ attempt to turn Camp Bondsteel into a home away from home and, aside from

softball, volleyball and football, were the most common way to rest and recuperate after a long day of work.

“We actually set up between the buildings a grill area called the ‘Cobra Cabana.’ We had grills, plants, umbrellas, where we would chill out, eat, and smoke cigars,” exclaimed Perrone.

Whether out on a mission or enjoying camaraderie during some good rest and recuperation, these five Soldiers forged great new friendships. When faced with the opportunity to deploy again in June 2009, it was not a difficult decision for the five of them to volunteer to go together.

Certainly deploying with familiar faces has its benefits too. Kosovo established camaraderie amongst the group

which helps the Iraq mission progress without problems.

“It makes things easier because we know each other’s tendencies, attitudes, and moods. It helps to create a better working environment,” remarked Thibedeau.

“Working as a unit, we are cohesive, smart, and can depend on each other,” added Doyle.

At day’s end, the five gather to let off some steam by once again continuing the traditional activities started in Kosovo.

“We spend our down time playing video games, having cook-offs, and playing in volleyball tournaments,” Nicely explained.

“We offer an open challenge to anyone reading this.”

Quote For Today

“A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success.”

— Anonymous —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Friday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

In 1774 Rhode Island was the first U.S. state to ban something which is now illegal in all States. What was it?

Last Issue's Answer: BOB HOPE

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 # 184 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Paratroopers team up with their Iraqi counterparts in Salmon Pak to help the local populace. Interview with 1LT Jeffery Wismann

During the combined mission Soldiers, along with thier Iraqi counterparts were able to hand out school and recreational supplies.

2. 1st Air Cav. Brigade troops train IA counterparts on the impor-

tance of battlefield medical evacuations by helicopter. Story by SGT Ashley Anderson.

The Soldiers underwent real life sernerios, to test their ability in leading a Soldier to safety.

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

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

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



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