

U.S., IA take part in historic air assault

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

TAJI, Iraq — After hours of swift and rigorous searching in a small village, here, north of Baghdad, Iraqi and American Soldiers hustled to a small field to meet helicopters from the Iraqi Air Force and 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

Within minutes of locating the Soldiers on the ground, the helicopter pilots picked up the ground troops and lifted back into the air, en route to Camp Taji.

American Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, combined with their counterparts assigned to the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division to execute the historic air assault mission, Oct. 26.

With transportation provided by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the Iraqi Air Force, the combined air assault mission is the first to use pilots and helicopters from American and Iraqi Forces.

“The Iraqi Security Forces are expanding their repertoire of tactics and the local people are seeing it,” said Houston native, Maj. Lee Overby, the battalion’s operations officer. “A lot of the local leaders were enthusiastic about the mission; they feel that it will keep al-Qaeda out of their area knowing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.”

The mission went off without a hitch. It only took a couple of hours for the Iraqi and American forces to search through roughly 4 square miles. The search yield-

ed valuable information about the local area and afforded local residents an opportunity to see their security forces at work.

The purpose of the mission was for Iraqi and American ground forces to patrol the rural area searching for weapons caches and remnants of insurgency.

“As we walked through the villages, the locals were very willing to talk to us,” said Killeen, Texas native, 2nd Lt. Robert Coombs. “The Iraqi Soldiers took the lead when it came to asking the local people about security and insurgency in the area, it definitely gives the locals the right impression.”

The joint mission breeds

confidence in the Iraqi Security Forces not only for the local population, but for the Iraqi troops themselves.

“The [Iraqi] Soldiers seemed to enjoy partnering with the [Iraqi] Air Force during this mission,” said Coombs. “It’s great to see the amount of growth that the security forces have gone through since when we first arrived this tour.”

The Iraqi Air Force and Iraqi Army learned from each other during the mission and definitely gained confidence in the abilities of each security force, added Overby.

Once the area was completely searched the American and Iraqi

Soldiers hurriedly ran to a rally point to meet their air transportation. Within minutes an MI-17 Hip helicopter from the Iraqi Air Force and a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade had arrived and gathered the ground forces for return to Camp Taji.

“The air assault mission sent a real strong message to the local people to see their own aircraft flying in the skies and it advertised the capabilities of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Air Force,” said Overby. “It’s a baby step, but it’s definitely a step in the right direction.”



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck

Spc. Timothy Tanner, an armor crewman attached to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, patrols with his squad through a field during a combined air assault mission, here, Oct. 26.

Soldiers conduct training to become certified

Photos by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Holding a hoist cable up, multiple Soldiers from the 615th Aviation Support Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, both of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, wait for a CH-47F Chinook helicopter from Company B, 2-227th, to drop low enough to attach the hoist, Oct. 27. The 1st ACB Soldiers conducted the training to become certified on sling load operations.



A CH-47F Chinook helicopter from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, moves into position over a mobile communications truck during a sling load training session, here, Oct. 27.



After hooking a cable system up to a CH-47F Chinook helicopter, a Soldier from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, watches the aircraft lift the communications truck off the ground, Oct. 27. The sling load was conducted as training to teach and certify Soldiers on proper sling load procedures.

Celebration marks girls' summer school end

By Sgt. Jon Soles

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The future of Iraq was on display at the al-Huda Girls School in Tarmiyah, here, as young girls sang, acted and displayed artwork to celebrate the end of a summer program made possible with help from the U.S. Army and U.S. Department of State.

Officials from the Baghdad embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team North and Soldiers from the Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were honored at the program's grand finale, here, Oct. 22, which gave high-school girls the chance to participate in the performing arts for the first time in their lives.

The school was built as a Commanders Emergency Relief Program, started under the Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The seeds planted by the 56th SBCT were nourished by the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. to help

make the summer program possible.

According to Eric Shutler, a member of the ePRT and a representative from the U.S. Agency for International Development, there was good reason to celebrate the summer program as a victory over violence and insurgents.

"This has been a troubled school," said Shutler, a retired Navy fighter pilot. "When it was constructed, it was built with explosives in the walls."

Insurgents' plans to use a school building as a weapon were discovered two years ago and the building was safely demolished by U.S. forces. Today, the year-old school building stands as a modern facility for girls in grades 7-12 in the town of Tarmiyah.

Mary-Denise Tabar of Tampa, Fla., the public diplomacy advisor for the Camp Taji-based ePRT, worked with local leaders and school officials to start the program. An Iraqi non-governmental agency called Nusku also

helped.

"We engage the local educators, local councils, key leaders and find out what they need or like," said Tabar.

In the past, girls did not participate in the performing arts in school and the ePRT team met some resistance in the community for a program that allowed girls to engage in the arts. But when the girls watched video tapes of performances by girls in other schools in the Baghdad area, they demanded the same opportunity, according to Tabar.

"These girls in the beginning were not allowed to do drama, music and plays," said Tabar. "But they agitated for [arts education] on their own. Never underestimate the power of upset teenage girls."

The themes of the performances were peace, education, exercising the right to vote, honesty and Iraqi unity. Tabar was the guest of honor and was presented with a portrait and a plaque of appreciation.

"It was very touching considering two years ago, that school was rigged up with explosives," said Tabar. "I think [the students] were the driving force behind the project."

The Soldiers pulling security at the school seemed impressed by the artistic talents of the girls.

"This is awesome. This is the first school I've seen with all the pictures and artwork they have been doing," said 1st Lt. Lacey Rector, of Wilmoughby, Ohio, a military police platoon leader. "The kids all have smiling faces and the teachers seem happy we are here."

Sgt. Rayman Atienza, walked the halls of the school pulling security, but also took time to admire the paintings

and drawings on the walls.

"I'm impressed and I'm happy for the kids around here," said Atienza, a San Diego native.

Tabar said spending money on programs for youth seem to pay the highest dividends in contributing to education and building confidence in young people. The program cost about \$87,000.

"I think the money you spend on youth programs gives you more bang for the buck," said Tabar. "Whatever they get, whether its knowledge or self-esteem, they take it and run with it."

Tabar said the entire program was not possible without the help of the 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers.

"Their support was transportation and movement because if we can't get out and meet these officials, we can't do our work," said Tabar.

Another way the Soldiers helped was to find female Soldiers to accompany Tabar on trips to the school. The cultural sensitivity of working with an all-girls school meant that the presence of male Soldiers was discouraged, and could have hindered the program.

"They [1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.] have been particularly helpful in finding female Soldiers to go with me," said Tabar. "They have been good about trying to find those extra females to ride out with us."

The two months of summer school gave the students at al-Huda Girls School the opportunity to explore artistic talents. If future artists, singers or other achievers contribute to Iraq's future, they may be able to trace their roots to a small school in Tarimiyah.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles

Sgt. Rayman Atienza, of San Diego, admires artwork done by students at the al-Huda Girls School in Tarmiyah, here, Oct. 22.

On This Day In History

October 29, 1929

Stock market crashes

Black Tuesday hits Wall Street as investors trade 16,410,030 shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. Billions of dollars were lost, wiping out thousands of investors. In the aftermath of Black Tuesday, America and the rest of the industrialized world spiraled downward into the Great Depression.

During the 1920s, the U.S. stock market underwent rapid expansion, reaching its peak in August 1929, a period of wild speculation. By then, production had already declined and unemployment had risen, leaving stocks in great excess of their real value. Among the other causes of the eventual market collapse were low wages, the proliferation of debt, a weak agriculture, and an excess of large bank loans that could not be liquidated.

Stock prices began to decline in September and early October 1929, and on October 18 the fall began. Panic set in, and on October 24--Black Thursday--a record 12,894,650 shares were traded. Investment companies and leading bankers attempted to stabilize the market by buying up great blocks of stock, producing a moderate rally on Friday. On Monday, however, the storm broke anew, and the market went into free fall. Black Monday was followed by Black Tuesday, in which stock prices collapsed completely.

After October 29, 1929, stock prices had nowhere to go but up, so there was considerable recovery during succeeding weeks. Overall, however, prices continued to drop as the United States slumped into the Great Depression, and by 1932 stocks were worth only about 20 percent of their value in the summer of 1929. The stock market crash of 1929 was not the sole cause of the Great Depression, but it did act to accelerate the global economic collapse of which it was also a symptom. By 1933, nearly half of America's banks had failed, and unemployment was approaching 15 million people, or 30 percent of the workforce.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

The chief export of Chuck Norris is Pain.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Dustin Rice (left), from St. Paul, Neb., and Staff Sgt. Kirk High (background right), from Fort Worth, Texas, both course instructors, watch Iraqi Army Soldiers enter a doorway during a mock-room clearing exercise at Joint Security Station Shield, here, Oct. 19.

Aviation Branch Assumes Proponency for UAV Systems



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Quote For Today

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

— Thomas Edison —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
86° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
86° F | 71° F



Thursday
80° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Possibly the most common last name in the Baseball Hall of Fame is Robinson: can you give the four first names of the people named Robinson?

Last Issue's Answer: SLAVERY

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

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. 3rd BCT 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers find ways to show the Iraqi people their country is coming back to normalcy.

2. 1st ACB armament crew keeps Apaches flying..

Although the Apache can be a deadly match for any objective its success wouldn’t be possible without the armament crew making sure

they’re safe to fly.

3. Army talks of painting Stryker vehicles desert tan to fit in with combat environment.

Units deploying to Afghanistan will be the first to see the change.

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

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



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