

# U.S. NCOs develop their Iraqi counterparts

**By Spc. Phillip Turner**  
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — A dedication to leading and training Soldiers sets a non-commissioned officer apart from all other ranks of military service, but in order to lead, a good NCO knows you must first learn to follow.

This lesson could not be stressed enough to a group of NCOs from the 9th Iraqi Army Division taking part in a program to develop leadership skills. The program, which mirrors the standard Warrior Leader Course taught to U.S. Army NCOs, is a building block to helping Iraqi NCOs realize their potential to train Soldiers and establish a leadership role for themselves in the

Iraqi Army. “We want [Iraqi NCOs] to realize they are more than just *jundis* (Arabic for Soldier), said Palm Springs, Calif. native, Staff Sgt. Chris Howard, the medical advisor with the 9th IA Military Transition Team. “We want to see them turn around that stereotype that the Iraqi officers are the ones who execute the orders in the unit. We are showing them how to stand up and be effective like the officers are in leading troops.”

For the American trainers, setting a pattern of learning for these students is paramount for them to pass along the knowledge gained during this three week course. U.S. instructors touched on physical train-

ing, map reading, buddy-aid, weapons, and operations; returning all of these seasoned Iraqi Soldiers to a ‘basic training mentality.’

“At the start of this course we could not do PT, or read maps, we didn’t know how to perform first aid. But because of this class we have developed ourselves to be able to be leaders within our units, and we have the confidence in ourselves to have others learn from us,” said Cpl. Salam, from the 9th IA Div. “Now I can do 50 push-ups, I am more efficient with my weapon and I know I am a better Soldier because of this opportunity,” he added.

Along with learning from their American counterparts, the IA also taught classes during the course to help them gain the confidence needed to teach their newly acquired skills to fellow Soldiers once they graduate from the course.

“At first they were not comfortable teaching, but now at the completion of this course we can see the time we have spent with them is enabling them. Giving them the keys to be a successful leader, capable to stand next to one of our instructors and hold their own,” said Howard.

Teaching these Iraqi NCOs to develop standards, honor traditions and values, and giving them the confidence to be strong NCOs who can develop their young troops, is the driving focus of MiTT members. The willingness to learn and carry on training and mentoring their brothers in arms is still

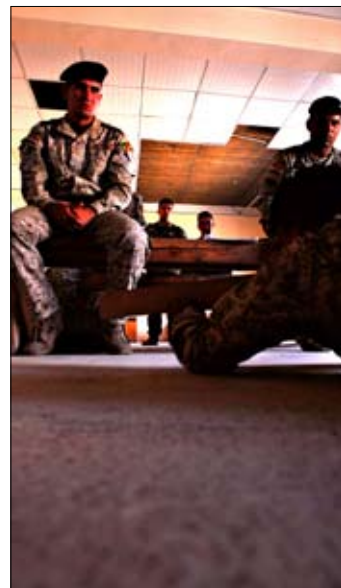


Photo by Spc. Adam Turner

While their American counterparts look on from the back of the room, Iraqi Army NCOs receive a block of rifle marksman-ship training from classmates during a NCO development course at Forward Operating Base al-Rasheed, Oct. 28.

an idea for the future direction of the Iraqi Army. However, the instructors and students of this course alike feel it is a great step in the right direction toward a more capable fighting force here in Iraq.

“This is not a change the Iraqis are going to make over night, and we know that,” Howard said.

“But we are confident we have given them the skills to make changes in themselves and their fellow Soldiers and we know it will eventually happen.”



Photo by Spc. Adam Turner

Map reading is just one of many skills 9th Iraq Army Division non-commissioned officers taught by their American counterparts of the 9th IA Div. military transition team. The course is taught with the hopes that the participants will take what they have learned back to their units to train more Iraqi Soldiers.

# 30th HBCT on track to return home

Photos by Staff Sgt. Peter Ford, MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Spc. Rusty Clark, a native of New Bern, N.C., a member of Company A, 1st Squadron, 120th Combat Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, prepares a Bradley Fighting vehicle for shipment to the states for refurbishment. According to Clark, preparing things to be shipped home is one step closer to making the voyage back home.



Spc. Colin Snyder, a mechanized infantryman from Leland N.C., who is assigned to the Company A, 1st Squadron, 120th Combat Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, inspects the engine of an armored personnel carrier as the unit prepares to return home. Snyder is part of a reset team that prepares vehicles for shipment back to the states.

# The value of vehicle maintenance

**By Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth**  
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD — Logistical training and advisory team Soldiers from 702nd Brigade Support Battalion taught a preventative maintenance checks and services class to Iraqi Army Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Constitution, here, Oct. 21.

The hour-long class provided guidance on topics such as maintenance of the engine compartment, vehicle interior and exterior, batteries and electrical pieces, and tires of an M1151 humvee.

Sgt. 1st Class James Denison, had his own reasons why knowing how to repair and keep a vehicle in good condition is important.

“When you go out, it’s good to know that your vehicle works well. That way you know you’re coming back safely,” said Denison, a native of Martin, S.D.

Denison gladly volunteered to

continually help teach the PMCS class to the IA and was excited about the new challenge.

He and his Soldiers would have to get past an additional aspect of teaching that most people don’t deal with.

“It’s challenging getting through the language barrier, but with the translators, that made it a lot easier,” said Denison.

The trainer-to-student ratio was well-balanced to provide quality hands-on training for the IA Soldiers.

“Having a small class was ideal because you can give more attention to each individual [IA] Soldier,” said Denison. “We only had 2-3 Soldiers per trainer so they could ask questions and not be pushed on the backburner. They’d all have the same knowledge.”

Spc. Jason Arnold, a native of Lebanon, Ohio, used his Army

training as a mechanic to teach the IA Soldiers.

“They didn’t know exactly what everything was and they were taught different ways, so I just taught them the way that I was trained,” said Arnold. “They’re pretty happy with what I taught them.”

Most of the IA Soldiers had some sort of mechanical training when they joined the Iraqi Army, but they all agreed that they appreciated the training nonetheless and enjoyed working with their American counterparts.

The Americans look forward to follow-up training, which will include train-the-trainer, so these IA Soldiers can educate ones who didn’t attend the training.

Even if it was PMCS training that brought these two groups together, it was partnership that helped them bond and be able to work together successfully.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

Spc. Jason Arnold, a mechanic explains how to perform proper preventative maintenance checks on the engine of an to Iraqi Army Soldiers during a class at Forward Operating Base Constitution, here, Oct. 21

# Infantryman prefers dirt to desk

**By Spc. Kelly LeCompte**  
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – Working in a tactical operations center is an important part of maintaining a unit’s area of responsibility during a deployment in a combat zone, but for Sgt. Brian Kuntzman, a grunt at heart, being outside and sweating it out sounded much more fun.

“I’ve never been the kind of guy that worked indoors or had an office job before in my life. I’m more of an outside kind of guy,” said Kuntzman, a painting contractor from Charlotte, N.C. “I just like to be outside doing missions. The TOC is a vital role of the mission, but it’s just not my make up.”

Kuntzman joined North Carolina’s National Guard two years ago as an infantryman, after having been out of the service for 13 years.

“It’s just being around it,” Kuntzman said of his reason for re-enlisting. “I just missed the Army. I felt like something was missing.”

Eight months after signing up, Kuntzman deployed with the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

“My name was on the list to deploy with the 30th,” he said. “They put me in the headquarters platoon, and that has to do with the TOC, and that’s something I wasn’t really familiar with.”

Kuntzman said he started learning how to use the equipment in the operations center, but even as he learned more, it just didn’t peak his interests.

“They started introducing me to the job in the TOC, with the communications and the computers,” Kuntzman said. “I just wasn’t very interested in it and I asked if I could get into a line

unit...They knew my heart just wasn’t in it.”

Kuntzman said he came to Joint Security Station Doura,

south of Baghdad, about a month into the deployment to help set up the company’s tactical operations center.



Photo by Spc. Kelly LeCompte

Sgt. Brian Kuntzman, an infantryman with Company A, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, steps out of a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle at Joint Security Station Doura, south of Baghdad, Oct. 20.

# On This Day In History

October 31, 1950

## Earl Lloyd becomes the first African-American to play in an NBA game

Lloyd grew up in Jim Crow Virginia and went to West Virginia State, where he was the star of the school's championship basketball team. He didn't know he'd been drafted by the NBA until he ran into a friend on campus who told him she'd heard a rumor that he'd be moving to Washington. It turned out that the Capitols had picked him in the ninth round of the draft. Two other black players joined the NBA that season--the Celtics drafted Chuck Cooper in the second round and the New York Knicks got Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton from the Harlem Globetrotters--but the Knicks and the Celts didn't start their seasons until November. As a result, Lloyd became a coincidental pioneer: the first black player to make his debut in the NBA.

Joining an all-white team was intimidating, Lloyd remembered, but his teammates--most of whom had played on integrated college teams--were immediately welcoming. Some fans, however, were less kind. As the announcer read the Capitols' lineup on that first night of the season.

After seven games with the Capitols, Lloyd was drafted into the military and sent to Korea for two years. When he returned to the United States, the Capitols had gone out of business, and so he went to play for the Syracuse Nationals (who later became the Philadelphia 76ers). After he retired from playing, he stayed in the Motor City, serving as a scout and then as an assistant coach for the Pistons. In 1970, he became the first full-time black head coach in the league. He coached the Detroit team for a year, He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

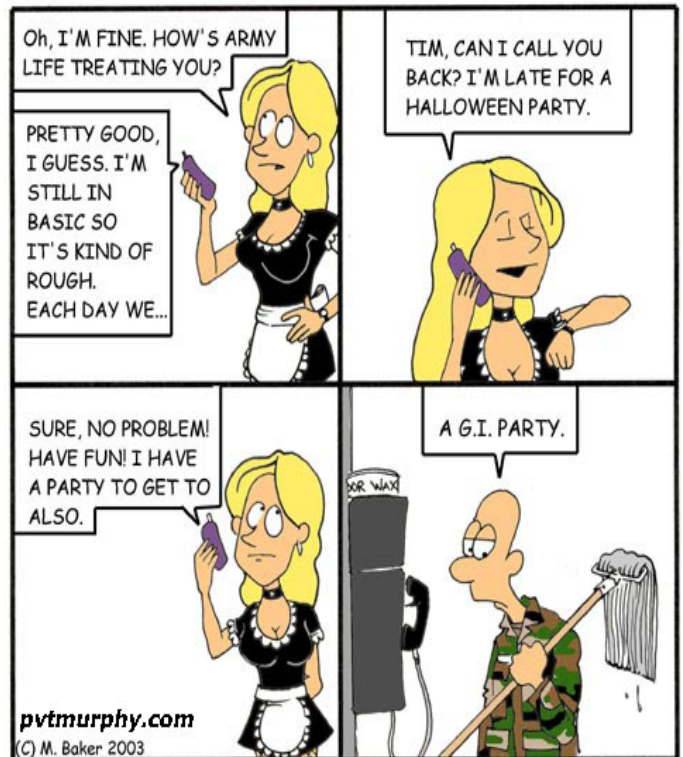
Chuck Norris is ten feet tall, weighs two-tons, breathes fire, and could eat a hammer and take a shotgun blast standing

# MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

TAJI, Iraq- Killeen, Texas native, Sgt. John Goldey, an armor crewman attached searches for weapons in a stack of blankets during a combined air assault mission, here, Oct. 26.



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## Quote For Today

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.”

— Margaret Thatcher —

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow  
87° F | 62° F



Sunday  
91° F | 66° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

What is “Magic” Johnson’s first name?

Last Issue’s Answer: American Professional Football Association

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

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. 1st Cav soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces make history in first joint air assault mission. Interview with CPT Adam Pooley, D CO. 1st Bn., 5th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT.

The operation marks the first ever joint American and Iraqi air assault, and both aviation and ground troops. A successful completion of this mission provides reality to how

far Iraqi security forces have come.

2. 9th IA MiTT teach Iraqi NCO’s the importance of leadership.

They touched on several training skills.

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

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

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

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



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