

U.S. EOD, IA build the ‘perfect shot’

By Spc. Phillip Turner
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Handling live grenades, directing your team’s movement, prepping blast caps, and wiring up a detonator, all while standing a few feet from one ton of unexploded ordinance and 300 pounds of plastic explosive.

This is the definition of multi-tasking, and it also makes Pontiac, Mich. native, Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Bartley, the only person you should trust to drive through rush hour traffic while texting.

Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division backed

three flat bed trucks up to the blast site, on the outskirts of eastern Baghdad, shortly after dawn, Oct. 26, and three hours later, finished unloading what 704th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team non-commissioned officer in charge Bartley dotingly calls “a nice bang.”

Hundreds of mortar shells lay about a sea of mortar tubes, rocket propelled grenades, Russian made anti-tank grenades to form a piece of abstract art made waiting for destruction.

“Number one, less [improvised explosives devices],” said Bartley.



Photo by Spc. Phillip Turner

The culmination of the 9th Iraqi Army Division, and the 704th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team’s partnership mission, Oct. 26. The 704th EODT helped their Iraqi counterparts destroy nearly 3,000 pounds of explosives collected over the past few months.



Photo by Spc. Phillip Turner

A sea of mortar rounds wait to be wired for explosion by the 704th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team at the Besmiyah Range Complex, just outside of Baghdad, Oct. 26

“The terrorist will use anything to hurt us; if it can explode they will find a way to use against us.

That’s why getting out here and putting a charge through it is important and, lucky for me, that means we get to blow something up.”

Blowing it up is the collective goal of every Soldier present on Besmiyah Range Complex, and with the ordinance stacked and organized, Bartley and his team call for the placement of C-4 charges to cover the bed of ordinance.

Once the ordinance is wired all personnel are moved well out of harm’s way.

This is the culmination of what EOD does, explained Bartley.

“This is what it’s all about. Five... Four... Three... Two... One... Fire in the hole!”

Construction at JSS Istiqlal

*Photos by Tracy Knowles,
101st Eng. Bn, 225th Eng. Bn.*

BAGHDAD –Spc. Joshua Baker (right), from Davids-son, Mich., measures the dimensions for roofs to B-huts at Joint Security Station Istiqlal, Oct. 31. Soldiers of the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, construct low pitch roofs, using a homemade template, to correct leakage problems from the older, flat roofs.



Pfc. Michael Miller, of Bay City, Mich., 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, works to complete a wall, Oct. 31, at Joint Security Station Istiqlal, on the northern edge of Baghdad.



Climbing the walls at COP Meade

By Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD — Some Soldiers just hang around when off duty, while others feel like climbing the walls; Soldiers at Combat Outpost Meade, south of the city, do both.

Sgt. Derek Taussig, Sgt. Heath Alexander and Spc. Daniel Mahadeen, all of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 113th Field Artillery, built an outdoor rock climbing wall, here, for morale and exercise.

“We love to climb and a lot of people could use it. It’s a community thing,” said Alexander.

The three used plywood

sheets and bolted artificial climbing rocks across the structure to create the 12-foot-high by 45-foot-wide wall. Camouflage netting shades the wall, situated between concrete blast barriers, inside the compound.

“Everyone joked that we were building a house,” said Mahadeen

Taussig, from Winston-Salem, N.C., who worked as a contractor before the deployment, had the building skills. Charlotte, N.C. natives, Alexander, an experienced climber, and Mahadeen, who worked as a climbing instructor, had the knowledge to plan a challenging wall. Their

greatest obstacle to overcome was getting the materials for the wall and the time in which to build it.

“We collected wood here and after a supply run to other [forward operating bases] we would bring back more,” said Sgt. Jose Ramirez, one of the first climbers to use the wall.

The Soldiers scrounged for the tools, wood, and other essential building materials for two months. All that was missing now was the rocks.

“Chaplain Thomas Watson’s home church helped out covering the cost of the rocks”, said Alexander. The rocks were shipped

by a climbing supply company at cost.

“When the rocks arrived it was like Christmas,” said Ramirez.

Several nights of off duty labor, sometimes lasting until 3 a.m., and the wall was finished.

“It was easier than it looked and worked out better than we thought it would,” said Taussig.

Soon the builders were climbing every day and several other Soldiers wanted to learn how as well.

“About 30 Soldiers have climbed,” said Mahadeen. “Everyone loves it; you can exercise and have fun.”

The “Pegasus Pursuit” is here

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MND-B’s OIF 09-10 print, “Pegasus Pursuit” is being completed by Mr. Ronald Constantine, a retired art teacher and friend of the First Cavalry Division. He has volunteered to draw Pegasus Pursuit as a token of his appreciation for your service to our country.

Inside this trifold is an artist concept sketch. This sketch, drawn by PFC Juan Franco, was provided to Mr. Constantine and reflects a fairly accurate rendition of the content of the final print. The print attempts to capture a single scene that might feel real to you. A combined U.S. and ISF patrol on the outskirts of Baghdad reacting to a single shot directed at them. You’ll note a few familiar Baghdad skyline points of reference, familiar vehicles, Soldiers you may recognize as yourself. The unit patches of the those BCTs and other assigned, attached, or OPCON units that comprised the MND-B team are found across the bottom of the print. The final print will be approximately 16” X 22”.

All proceeds will be donated to the First Team Memorial fund to help pay for the cost of adding the names of our MND-B and 1st Cavalry Division Fallen to the Memorial that sits on the west end of Cooper Field in front of the 1st Cavalry Division HQs at Fort Hood. Payments may be made by cash or check or money order made out to “1CD Events Fund”.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these prints, please reserve it/them by filling out the form and turn it and your payment in to your unit representative by 12 DEC 09. They will see to it that the payments are delivered to the Division Representative.

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Multi-National Division-Baghdad OIF 09-10 Print



“Pegasus Pursuit”

On This Day In History

November 2, 1982

Truck explosion kills 3,000 in Afghanistan

On this day in 1982, a truck explodes in the Salang Tunnel in Afghanistan, killing an estimated 3,000 people, mostly Soviet soldiers traveling to Kabul.

The Soviet Union's military foray into Afghanistan was disastrous by nearly every measure, but perhaps the worst single incident was the Salang Tunnel explosion in 1982. A long army convoy was traveling from Russia to Kabul through the border city of Hairotum. The route took the convoy through the Salang Tunnel, which is 1.7 miles long, 25 feet high and approximately 17 feet wide. The tunnel, one of the world's highest at an altitude of 11,000 feet, was built by the Soviets in the 1970s.

The Soviet army kept a tight lid on the story, but it is believed that an army vehicle collided with a fuel truck midway through the long tunnel. About 30 buses carrying soldiers were immediately blown up in the resulting explosion. Fire in the tunnel spread quickly as survivors began to panic. Believing the explosion to be part of an attack, the military stationed at both ends of the tunnel stopped traffic from exiting. As cars idled in the tunnel, the levels of carbon monoxide in the air increased drastically and the fire continued to spread. Exacerbating the situation, the tunnel's ventilation system had broken down a couple of days earlier, resulting in further casualties from burns and carbon monoxide poisoning.

It took several days for workers to reach all the bodies in the tunnel. Because the Soviet army limited the information released about the disaster, the full extent of the tragedy may never be known.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

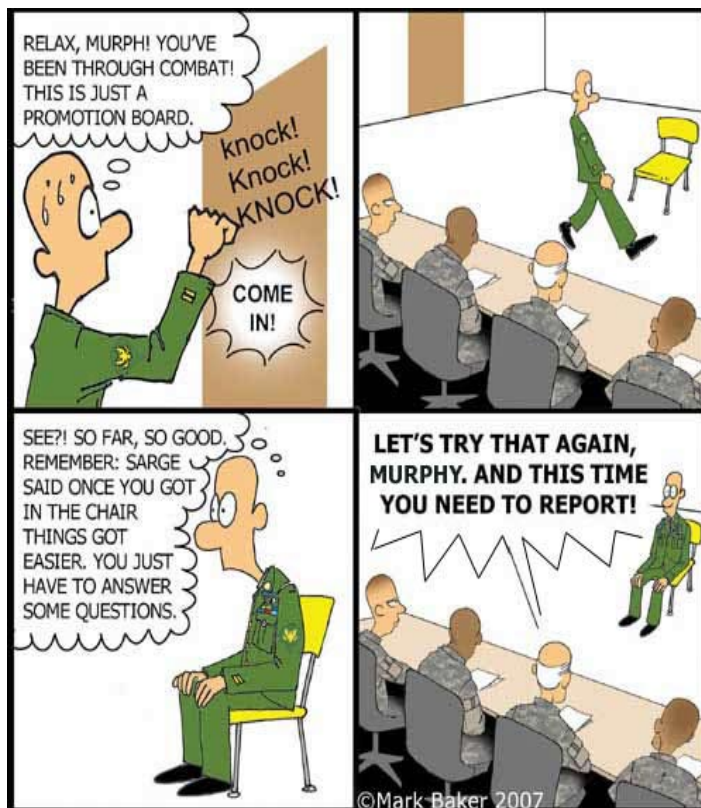
There is no theory of evolution, just a list of creatures Chuck Norris allows to live.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone, 225 Eng Bde

BAGHDAD – Spc. Eric Bones (center), from Pipestone, Minn., assists an Iraqi Soldier with B-hut construction during one of many partnership efforts between U.S. and Iraqi forces.



RELAX, MURPH! YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH COMBAT! THIS IS JUST A PROMOTION BOARD.

knock! Knock! KNOCK!

COME IN!

SEE?! SO FAR, SO GOOD. REMEMBER: SARGE SAID ONCE YOU GOT IN THE CHAIR THINGS GOT EASIER. YOU JUST HAVE TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS.

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, MURPHY. AND THIS TIME YOU NEED TO REPORT!

Quote For Today

“The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed.”

— Richard B. Sheridan —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
87° F | 64° F



Tuesday
71° F | 59° F



Wednesday
77° F | 60° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What did Presidents John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton have seven of, that Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter had six of, that George Bush only had four of?

Last Issue's Answer: EARVIN

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/

Trigger's Teasers

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

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

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



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