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December 28, 2009

"Throughout the United States Army's history, noncommissioned officers have trained and taught not only their Soldiers, but Soldiers in foreign militaries, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

— Staff Sgt. Daniel Salazar



Photos by Spc. Mitchell Gregorski

Scouts from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, and the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade Commandos come together for a picture after some physical training. The U.S. battalion is deployed with the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, to advise and assist Iraqi security forces in Maysan province.

U.S. SCOUTS ADVISE, ASSIST IRAQI COMMANDOS

By Capt. Rafael Acevedo
4th BCT, 6th Inf. Reg.



COS GARRYOWEN – The citizens of Iraq took a more independent role in securing their country beginning with the Security Agreement signed June 30, 2009. In support of this goal, the Scout platoon from Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 4th Bat., 6th Inf. Reg., is conducting joint operations and training with the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade Commandos.

The Scout platoon is developing the commando leadership with instruction on how to be more effective trainers for their jundee (Soldiers). This will help

the Iraqis to continue quality training after the drawdown of U.S. forces.

"I believe this is a great opportunity to develop our Soldiers by allowing them to instruct and mentor their Iraqi counterparts," said Staff Sgt. Adam Wilson, section sergeant from San Antonio, Texas.

The noncommissioned officers of the Scout platoon take great pride in this mission and know the importance of the training.

"Throughout the United States Army's history, noncommissioned



Staff Sgt. Patrick Williams, a senior scout assigned to HHC, 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., receives instructions from Iraqi Army Commandos on the AK-47.

SCOUTS
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1-10 Field Artillery Soldiers build wheelchairs

By Capt. Christopher Aeillo
3rd HBCT, 3rd ID



FOB DELTA – Although the mission has changed during this deployment to Iraq for Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., those assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, still have an important job to do.

In addition to running a myriad of systems within Forward Operating Base Delta, the artillerymen are partnered with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team. Both the Soldiers and the Wasit PRT work with the Iraqi populace to identify, build or repair various economic systems that increase stability and growth within the province. The projects range from entire farming enterprises to water pumping stations and micro-grants.

Soldiers and PRT members receive positive return measured in electrical current available or gallons of drinkable water to villages where these amenities were lacking. Recently Soldiers got a different positive feedback measured by gigantic smiles from children.

In a recent mission to assist the Government of Iraq build civil capacity and essential services, the 1st Bn. 10 FA assembled wheelchairs Dec. 3, that were distributed to the local children's hospital in Al Kut.

The urban-style wheel chairs are specifically designed for use on rough terrain and are each delivered to previously chosen recipients in the area.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Brien Vorhees

Pfc. Shane Dunningham, 1st Bn., 10th FA, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., supervises as a wheel is fixed on a wheelchair Dec. 3, at FOB Delta. The wheelchairs were later distributed to the local Children's Hospital in Al Kut.



Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 10th FA, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., assemble wheelchairs. These wheelchairs are designed to travel over rough terrain.

For more of Capt. Aeillo's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Aiello

THE RED BULL REPORT

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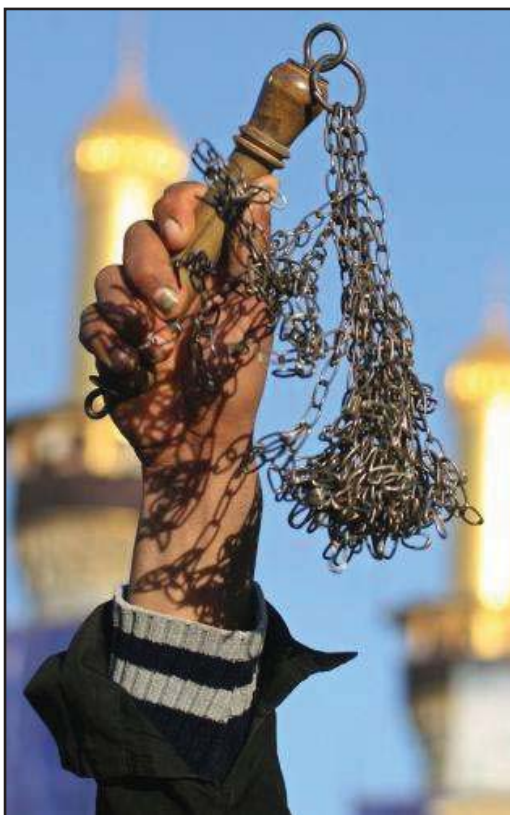
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-  17th Fires Brigade
-  4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
-  28th Combat Aviation Brigade
-  367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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THE DAY OF ASHURA



AP Photo/Alaa al-Marjani

A Shi'ite Iraqi takes part in the self-flagellation ritual, outside the shrine of Imam Hussein, during an Ashura mourning ceremony in Karbala, Iraq Jan. 5, 2009. Hundreds of thousands of Shiites will visit the holy city of Karbala throughout the Ashura week to mark the death of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Mohammad.

Compiled by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
367th MPAD



Day of Ashura falls on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, which this year was Dec 27.

It is commemorated by the Shi'a as a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala on 10 Muharram in the year 61 AH (October 10, 680 AD).

Sunni Muslims however do not hold this day in significance for that reason, but rather they believe that Moses fasted on that day to express gratitude to God for liberation of the Israelites from Egypt. According to Sunni Muslim tradition, Muhammad fasted on this day and asked other

people to fast as well.

The principles of fighting back against oppression therefore figure heavily into traditions surrounding Ashura.

Last year, Ashura saw tens of thousands of mourners travel between the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf and the Imam Hussein and Imam Al Abbas shrines in Karbala.

Not a celebration, but a remembrance, Ashura is a time for Shi'ites to re-live and express extreme grief and mourning for Hussein and his family. They have passion plays, they march, they chant and they beat their chests. They flail themselves until they bleed. Their actions sometimes reach a trance-like fervor.

ASHURA
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AP Photo/Alaa al-Marjani

Iraqi Shiites mark Ashura in Karbala, Jan. 6, 2009. Ashura falls on the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar and marks the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, who was killed in 680 A.D.

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OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2009-2010

From Page 1
SCOUTS

officers have trained and taught not only their Soldiers, but Soldiers in foreign militaries, and I'm glad to be a part of it," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Salazar, section sergeant from Downey, Calif.

The Iraqi commandos are not the only ones learning. In turn, they teach classes to the scouts on Iraqi Army-related subjects, such as the capabilities of the AK-47 -- the commandos' primary weapon.

The knowledge obtained from the training is put to the test when the commandos and scouts conduct counter-indirect fire patrols.

They move in formations across the Maysan Province in order to identify rocket launch sites and to deter any insurgent indirect fire operations. Between the classes and patrols the commandos and scouts have developed a strong relationship.

"I enjoy going over there, they always seem so happy and eager to see us," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Williams, a senior Scout from **San Antonio**, Texas.

Together, the commandos and scouts have taught and conducted more than 10 classes.

Their partnership and training continues to flourish, and, as a result, the 38th Iraqi Army Commandos are able to secure their province with minimum assistance from U.S. Forces.


For more of Capt. Acevedo stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Acevedo



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ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Pardon me -
Samehni (m) Samehini (f)



HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

James Robert Cade the primary inventor of Gatorade was born in San Antonio, Texas. Gatorade is sold in some eighty countries in various flavors. The development of Gatorade triggered great interest in sports beverages in the decades that followed.



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From Page 3**ASHURA**

The most visible and evocative sign of Ashura is the procession by men and boys, stripped to the waist or wearing black robes, and flailing or scourging themselves with sticks, whips, chains, and swords until their backs and foreheads bleed. Some cut themselves with knives and razors.

While in other countries these displays are much more ritualized, one observing Ashura rites in Iraq should expect to see men – and even young boys -- drenched in their own blood.

Then, on the 11th day, the faithful return to their homes for a period of mourning lasting 40 days. The mourning period ends with the observance of Arba'een, when many Shi'a gather in Karbala to assert their Shi'a identity. The next Arba'een, is Feb. 4.

In some Shi'ite countries and regions such as Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon and Bahrain, commemoration of Hussein ibn Ali has become a national holiday, and most ethnic and religious communities participate.

For more of Sgt. Kibbey's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Kibbey



Courtesy photo from Payvand News

Shia Muslims mourn for Imam Hussein, the third Imam of the prophet Muhammad, all around the world on the day of Ashura, the tenth day of Moharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. This day is a symbol of the fight against cruelty and injustice by all means and devoting one's life to lofty human values. Shi'a Muslims call Imam Hussein 'Lord of Martyrs' and remember him in the days of Moharram in special ceremonies.

Visiting general pins new captain



Maj. Gen. Joseph Reynes, director of the Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force-Iraq, pins newly-promoted Capt. Brandon Bryan, of Langley Air Force Base, Va., attached to 486 Civil Affairs Battalion, with the help of Lt. Col. Larry Johnson, 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, from Montgomery, N.Y., Dec. 26, at Contingency Operating Base Basra. Reynes was at COB Basra visiting Air Force personnel deployed in support of Multi-National Division South.

Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey



Photo by Spc. Francesca Stanchi

A Black Hawk waits at dusk

A Task Force Panther Black Hawk prepares to set out for an evening mission at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

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Around the world in 34 seconds



VATICAN CITY - The Vatican said on Saturday it had not yet decided whether to take legal action against the woman who lunged at Pope Benedict while calls grew for more efficient security to protect the pontiff. The pope appeared fit as he made his usual appearance on Saturday at noon from his window overlooking St Peter's Square to address the faithful on the day after Christmas, a national holiday in Italy. The Vatican said its justice officials would decide over the next few days what steps to take against Susanna Maiolo, 25, an Italian-Swiss national. Maiolo shocked the Catholic world and Vatican security when she jumped over a barricade in the basilica, lunged at Pope Benedict, grabbed his vestments and knocked him to the floor. Usually those who commit offences in the Vatican, which is a sovereign state surrounded by Rome, are handed over to the Italian justice system for prosecution and eventual trial. But Maiolo is said to have a history of mental illness and it is still not clear if she had any intention of harming the Pope. While Maiolo may not face trial, Vatican security is already being tried by the media and privately in the Vatican itself. Vatican sources said a number of top level officials have privately called for what one called "a detailed review" of security procedures that would allow the pope to maintain contact with the public but reduce risk.



DETROIT - A Nigerian man believed to be linked to al Qaeda militants was in custody on Saturday after he tried to ignite an explosive device on a U.S. passenger plane as it approached Detroit, U.S. officials said. The suspect, who suffered extensive burns, was overpowered by passengers and crew on the Christmas Day flight from Amsterdam. The passengers, two of whom suffered minor injuries, disembarked safely from the Delta Air Lines plane. "We believe this was an attempted act of terrorism," a White House official told Reuters. European airports meanwhile tightened security checks on U.S.-bound flights in response to the failed attack. Northwest Airlines flight 253 had left Amsterdam airport on Friday with 278 passengers onboard and was approaching its destination Detroit when the man tried to ignite the device or mixture, U.S. officials said. Federal officials identified him as Abdul Farouk Abdulmutallab, according to U.S. newspapers. ABC News and NBC News reported that he attends University College London, where he studied engineering.



TOKYO - Tokyo, which lost out to Rio de Janeiro in October's International Olympic Committee (IOC) vote for the 2016 Games, faces a proposed joint bid from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "We will look at what's happening world-wide and devise a strategy," Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) president Tsunekazu Takeda was quoted as saying in Friday's Nikkan Sports. "It's possible we'll postpone the decision until the spring of 2011. Obviously we would like to decide quickly but this time it's a different situation so there's no need to rush it." Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara has said the Japanese capital, Asia's first Olympic host city 45 years ago, has a "civic duty" to dust itself down from the failed 2016 bid and reapply to host the 2020 Games. The city secured a contingency fund of \$4 billion for the 2016 Games, although JOC officials were said to have favored a bid for 2020 from the start.



SYDNEY - An Australian man has embraced the spirit of the season, taking on the role of a real-life Santa and giving away his possessions as gifts for the second Christmas in a row. Last Christmas, Dennis Stevenson opened his home and gave away all his belongings. This year, he opened a makeshift shop in the Gold Coast in Queensland to again distribute seasonal cheer and invited others to donate as well. "It's a lovely thing to do to continue the spirit of Christmas" Stevenson told Reuters on Thursday. Stevenson opened The Spirit of Christmas shop on December 22 and says that 90 percent of his goods had been taken.