



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Spc. Travis Akina, Co. B, 1-3rd Avn. Regt., assists in launching an aircraft Jan. 28 at the CAB flight line.

Apache crew chiefs perform on-the-spot troubleshooting

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — With tight timeframes to meet mission requirements, aviators do not always have the luxury of completely shutting down aircraft when technical problems arise.

To maintain the safety of pilots and meet mission requirements, Apache crew chiefs stand by at each launch ensuring the aircraft is airworthy. They also perform on-the-spot troubleshooting.

“Getting the birds out means you have to fix a problem on the spot,” said Sgt. Troy Estell, crew chief and maintenance supervisor in Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “You have to be able to troubleshoot, to find and fix the minor faults and give a diagnosis.”

The crew chiefs check every-

“You have to be able to troubleshoot, to find and fix the minor faults and give a diagnosis.”

— Sgt. Troy Estell
Co. B, 1-3rd Avn. Regt. crew chief

thing they can before launching an aircraft.

During the launching and recovering of aircraft, two crew chiefs are present to act as fireguards and maintainers for on-the-spot troubleshooting.

“The pilots conduct a pre-flight check which is a general inspection, a walk around to make sure everything is good

See APACHES, Page 3

State Dept. reps examine power station

SPC. BEN HUTTO
3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Representatives from the State Department toured an electric substation in Al Ma’amil, the primary source of electricity for residents of Narhwan, Jan. 29.

The representatives examined the three main generators, of which two do not currently function, and gave recommendations to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery representatives and workers at the substation.

“Power is a big issue in Narhwan,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Dehart, from Owensboro, Ky., with 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Nashville, Tenn., currently attached to 1-10th FA. “It is essential to get the substation up and running efficiently because we are working to get more heavy oil to the brick factory. The factory will require much more power to operate after that.”

Power generation is a key part in helping the local brick factory (the largest employer in Narhwan) provide 10,000 future jobs to the people in the area.

Without steady power, workers cannot bake bricks properly due to fluctuations in the temperature of the kilns.

“We currently only have one of the three transformers at the substation working and if we do not work to maintain it, it will be dead within a year,” Dehart said. “We have talked with the Ministry of Electricity to send a qualified technician to maintain the generator.”

“They have already agreed to send supplies such as lines and oil. We are also trying to create a project that will teach locals how to do electrical repairs so they can do the maintenance for the long term. In the long run, it will help the people there solve many of their own problems.”

Even if the transformers are working properly, Dehart said, Narhwan is still dependant on the Min-

See SUBSTATION, Page 3

'Fred' takes one in the chest for training

PFC. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — The best way to learn any task involves actually performing it. However, when the task involves inserting a needle into the chest of another person, a training manual is a Soldier's best bet. Fortunately for the members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Brigade, a MEDEVAC company stationed at Camp Taji, a volunteer surfaced. His name is Fred.

"The real name for 'Fred' is Vital Sim," said Staff Sgt. Paul McQuown, Co. C, 2-3rd Avn. Regt. "It's the best realistic depiction of a person in trauma and medical scenarios."

Fred, a medical training aid dummy, allows medics to simulate various trauma situations. Fred can make sounds similar to coughing, breathing and even vomiting. He comes with multiple interchangeable parts. Some of the interchangeable parts allow the medics to apply a burnt face to simulate burn victims.

"This is the best feeling (dummy) I've used for replicating a real IV," said Staff Sgt. Robert Congdon, Co. C, 2-3rd Avn. Regt. "If you do the IV correctly you can see the flash and even turn the IV on."

Fred cost \$8,000 for the dummy itself and accessories averaged around \$700, said McQuown. The medics practice procedures and brush up on their skills, with help from their training buddy.

Formal classes are given once or twice a month by medics to ensure procedures not often used are still fresh in their minds.

"Skills are perishable if you don't get



Pfc. Monica K. Smith

Staff Sgt. Paul McQuown, Co. C, 2-3rd Avn. Regt., uses a remote to make Fred, a Vital Sim dummy, breathe, while demonstrating the various abilities and compartments of the dummy Feb. 1 at Camp Taji.

to practice," said 1st Sgt. Todd Burke, Co. C, 2-3rd Avn. Regt. "And for a new medic that just got here, they can fly with us and they see what happens but they don't get to do the procedures on the people we pick up because we're dealing with someone's life - It's a life or death situation. But they can practice it on Fred. It's just like another training scenario."

The Soldiers also built a model complete with two litters. The structure replicates the environment a medic would find on a Black Hawk and helps them practice working on patients in a confined space.

"All of the medics here at Taji use it, plus some of the crew chiefs and pilots that want to know more about what we do in the aircraft," said McQuown. "We

get to use it anytime there is down time when everyone is not so busy.

McQuown says the Vital Sim is a great piece of equipment to MEDEVAC Soldiers.

"We conduct training on some of our equipment that you wouldn't be able to use on a real person unless they needed it," McQuown said. "No one is going to volunteer to have a King tube put down their throat, or have a trachea put in their neck. And as hard as we try, no one wants to get a needle decompression in their chest. As medics we still need to practice just like everyone else in the military. But sometimes we just can't try to use things for the first time on a person that is hoping you can save their life. That's where Fred is invaluable."

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720th Military Police Battalion
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APACHES: *Combat Aviation Brigade crew chiefs keep aircraft safe*

From Page 1

and ready to go," Estell said. "Then they jump in and start the bird. The crew chief is there the whole time because some stuff you don't find out is wrong till they start it up and then the crew chief has to be able to troubleshoot very quickly."

In line companies, sergeants are generally made crew chief maintenance supervisors, mentoring junior enlisted crew chiefs.

They typically have more experience and Soldiers on the airfield are expected to be knowledgeable, said Estell.

The maintenance supervisors run the auxiliary power unit and perform a check making sure the maintenance

work is performed correctly.

"We make sure the task is (up) to standard," Estell said. "We check to make sure (the mechanics) weren't skipping steps."

Before each mission, three aircraft are prepared, two for the mission and one serves as a back up.

If the crew chief is unable to troubleshoot a problem or if the pilot feels uncomfortable with an aircraft, they take the back-up aircraft.

Unlike crew chiefs of Black Hawks or Chinooks, Apache crew chiefs are unable to fly in the aircraft they maintain. Though some may find it disappointing to work on an aircraft they never fly, Sgt. Joshua Miller, Co. B, 1-3rd Avn. Regt., says not flying is an advantage.

"We as a whole probably have more time to work on downed aircraft," Miller said. "We have that many more people to perform aircraft maintenance so we never miss a mission. Our Apaches are the ones that go out there and pull security and it makes me feel good because I'm working on that helicopter."

Not flying allows the crew chiefs to keep the birds mission-capable and help the ground troops, Estell said.

"I'm helping the pilot get out there," Estell said. "I'm mainly supporting ground troops. I'm just a part of the chain. I'm a link in the chain to make mission to support ground troops otherwise those guys would be without cover. Supporting ground troops — it's my job."

SUBSTATION: *State Dept. examines Al Ma'amil substation*

From Page 1

istry of Electricity for all of its power.

"Basically, Narhwan does not produce its own power," Dehart said. "It all comes from Baghdad and the citizens in the area only have it for a limited amount of time per day."

Leaders from 1-10th FA plan on dialogue and coordination with the Ministry of Electricity to facilitate the acquisition of updated equipment and to conduct necessary repairs.



Representatives from the State Department and Soldiers from the 1-10th FA Regt. tour an electric substation in Al Ma'amil, the primary source of electricity for the residents of Narhwan, Jan. 29.

Spc. Ben Hutto

Safety Thought of the Day

Slip, Trip and Fall Hazards

- Inspect areas where Soldiers will work at elevations to identify fall hazards and develop controls.
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing ladders, stairs, or vehicles.
- Ensure holes are identified and marked or fenced off to ensure personnel do not step or fall in them.
- Ensure high traffic areas are well marked, free of debris and graveled/concreted to reduce accumulation of mud.
- Use flashlights at night when the tactical situation allows.



No three points of contact

Uncovered hole



Common Hazards

Protruding pipes or tent pegs; wires and cables

Headline Highlights

Rambo movie controversy; ‘mouth-to muzzle’

Junta takes aim at latest Rambo movie

BANGKOK (Reuters) — Police in Myanmar have given DVD hawkers strict orders not to stock the new Rambo movie, which features the Vietnam War veteran taking on the former Burma’s ruling military junta, a Yangon resident told Reuters on Friday.

Despite the prohibition, pirated copies of the movie are widely available on the streets of the former capital, where it is fast becoming a talking point among a population eager to shake off 45 years of military rule.

“People are going crazy with the quote ‘Live for nothing, die for something,’” one resident said, referring to the tagline of the fourth Rambo installment, which opened in the United States this week. Even though it received lukewarm reviews, it is likely to be a sure-fire hit with opponents of the junta, with some even hoping it could spur a change of regime in the impoverished southeast Asian nation.

“This movie could fuel the sentiment of Myanmar people to invite American troops to help save them from the junta,” one Yangon resident told Reuters.

In the movie, John Rambo, played by Hollywood superstar Sylvester Stallone, comes out of retirement in Bangkok to save a group of Christian missionaries taken captive by troops in the jungles of eastern Myanmar.

As with previous Rambo films, it is short on plot and long on blood and guts — although viewers appear to think it is all relative.

“Rambo acted very cruelly, but his cruelty is nothing compared to that of

the military junta,” a Myanmar student in Thailand, who did not wish to be named, told Reuters.

Man arrested in sale of historic documents

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A New York state employee who had access to government-owned archives has been arrested on suspicion of stealing hundreds of historic documents, many of which he sold on eBay, authorities said on Monday.

Among the missing documents were an 1823 letter by U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun and copies of the Davy Crockett Almanacs, pamphlets written by the frontiersman who died at the Alamo in Texas.

Daniel Lorello, 54, of Rensselaer, New York, was charged with grand larceny, possession of stolen property and fraud. He pleaded innocent in Albany City Court on Monday. He was found out by an alert history buff who saw the items posted on the online auction site and alerted authorities, the state attorney general’s office said in a statement.

Lorello, a department of education archivist, pleaded not guilty to the charges although he previously admitted in a written statement to stealing documents and artifacts since 2002. The attorney general’s office released a copy of his statement.

In 2007 alone, Lorello stated he took 300 to 400 items, including the four-page Calhoun letter, which drew bids of more than \$1,700 while investigators were monitoring the sale.

Officials recovered some 400 items from his upstate New York home, which

Lorello estimated was 90 percent of everything he had taken, but they have yet to determine how many items were sold online. The state library’s extensive collection includes an original first draft of Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation and complete set of autographs from the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

EBay auctions posted by Lorello included a Currier & Ives lithograph that he described as “in excellent condition.” The Calhoun letter auction said “100 percent satisfaction is guaranteed.”

EBay was cooperating with state officials in the probe.

‘Mouth-to-muzzle’ saves tiger

BERLIN (Reuters) — A German medical student got some unexpected practical experience at the zoo when she gave the kiss of life to a baby tiger choking on a piece of meat, the zoo director said Friday.

The student was passing the enclosure with her toddler son on a visit several weeks ago when she noticed the 4-month-old tiger choking and offered her assistance to the helpless keeper, said Andreas Jacob, director of the zoo in the eastern German city of Halle.

“The tiger tried to eat a piece of meat that was too big and started choking and shaking and then fell over,” the student, Janine Bauer, told MDR radio.

“We got the piece out but he wasn’t breathing so I tried mouth-to-mouth and heart massage,” she added. “After 3-5 minutes he came to, thank God.”

The zoo, which held a ceremony to thank Bauer, has decided to call the tiger Johann, after her one-year-old son.

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from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday’s puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Saturday

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