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February 18, 2009

Thunder Horse improves Iraqi airwaves



Photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

Cpt. Matt Prescott, commander of Co. A., 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, puts on a microphone for his T.V. interview with the An-Nasr television and radio station in the Dhi Qar province Feb 11. The station underwent reconstruction using the Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

SPC. REBEKAH LAMPMAN
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB Adder – Building hospitals, improving schools and establishing water treatment plants are just a few of the civil and economic enhancement projects in the works in southern Iraq. Recently, the 1st Cavalry Division has added a radio station to that list.

The 4th Brigade Combat Team's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment "Thunder Horse" Soldiers put the finishing

touches on the An-Nasr television and radio station in the Dhi Qar province recently.

"It was very good working with the (American Forces); I can't believe how nice everyone was," said Naceem Naseer Hussaid, Engineer of the An-Nasr television and radio station. "I had other engineers visit this station, and they were very impressed with the equipment and improvements that were made to the station."

When the Thunder Horse Battalion assumed duty in Dhi

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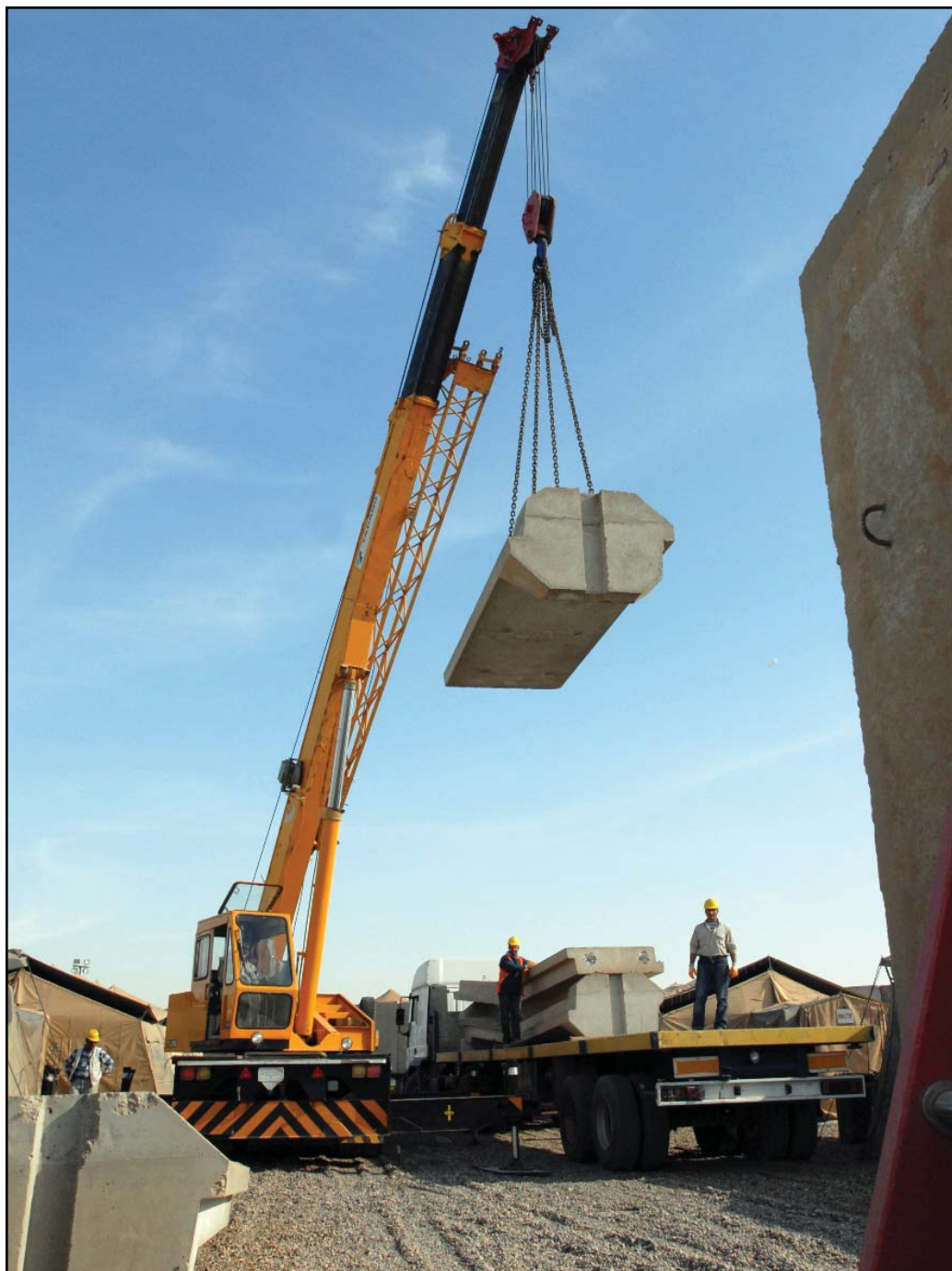


Photo by Spc. Darryl Montgomery

RADIO

From previous page

Qar in July of 2008, the Soldiers visited the Iraqi media site to find a leaky roof and multiple electrical problems. The unit's leaders immediately started the process to enroll the station in the Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP).

"I think it's something positive for these people here in An-Nasr," said Capt. Matthew Guevara, the Civil Military Operations officer for the Thunder Horse Battalion. "Our guys have helped (local reporters) since we got here and we always invite them to our missions."

The An-Nasr station provides regional news from Baghdad to the Dhi Qar province, and also distributes daily local news to its Iraqi audience.

Guevara and Lt. Col. Scott Kendrick, commander of the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., took note of how much the station had benefited from the CERP program during the final inspection of the building.

The employees moved their equipment into a refurbished room, which will help improve daily operations. According to Hussaid, the improvements will help the station deliver news more efficiently to the citizens of Dhi Qar.

(Left) Workers remove sandbags from around tents at the transient housing area here to put up T-Walls. The walls will increase protection from indirect fire for Soldiers transitioning to and from Victory Base Complex.

THE Mountain View

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Iraqi Army provides security for road improvement project

PFC. BETHANY LITTLE
172ND INF. BDE.



ALBU HASSAN – Soldiers of A Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, performed much needed maintenance on an Iraqi road outside of Albu Hassan while Iraqi Army Soldiers provided security here recently.

The road is a shortcut for Iraqi citizens to travel from various villages to bigger cities like al-Hillah and Karbala.

The 9th Eng. Bn. coordinated the project and contacted the IA to provide security for U.S. Soldiers on the ground.

IA Soldiers secured the surrounding area while Cpl. Bracy L. Bahm, a heavy construction equipment operator from Company A, filled in holes, graded mud and smoothed out the road with a D7 Dozer.

“The IA know what they are doing, and they are always monitoring their sectors,” said Bahm. “This is my second mission with the IA, and I trust them to protect me while I am working out here.”

The road is located next to a heavily-used railroad track, which is potentially dangerous for the citizens who travel along the route.

“Many of the bad areas on the road forced local nationals to walk around, leading them close to the dangerous railroad tracks,” said Bahm, a resident of Havelock, N.C.

“The Iraqi citizens are now able to walk back and forth to the villages and



Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

Staff Sgt. Ricardo J. Gomez watches over Cpl. Bracy L. Bahm, a heavy construction equipment operator for Co. A, 9th Eng. Bn., as he uses a D7 Dozer to fill in holes, grade mud, and smooth out a three-mile segment of road in Albu Hassan Feb. 3.

cities while they maintain a safe distance from the railroad tracks.”

The road provides an easier route to the various markets within the province, which encourages economic activity.

“Citizens can bring their goods to the markets using this road, rather than taking the long drive around other cities and towns,” said Sheik Abas Sabur al-Sultani, a student at the Democratic Religious University in al-Hillah. “Approximately two million Shiite citizens

will also utilize this route for the annual Arba’een pilgrimage.”

The improvements were completed and all the Soldiers safely left the area.

Iraqi pedestrians and motorists started using the freshly graded road to travel between the towns and cities immediately.

“It may not seem like much,” said Bahm. “But we fixed three miles on this road and provided an easier means of travel for the Iraqi citizens.”

MOUNTAIN SOUND OFF BLOG RESPOND TO THE CG’S QUESTION:

Would you support Congress changing the current law to permit gay Soldiers to serve openly in the Army? What are the benefits/challenges if this occurs and how would you recommend we implement the change in a professional manner if required?

How?

- Go to www.taskforcemountain.com
- Click on *Mountain Sound Off Blog* (right sidebar)
- Click on the *Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell*

Staff Section Round-up

Keeping Your Focus

CHAPLAIN (MAJOR) PAUL RAMSEY
MND - C



Sometimes in life, it is difficult to maintain our focus on what matters. Whether it is goals in life or just plain making something significant happen for ourselves, keeping our heads in the game is not easy all of the time. As time continues to grow shorter in the moving and redeploying process, it is essential that we keep our focus.

What can cause us to be distracted from the vital task of keeping our focus? Sometimes we can get caught up in the excitement of an event or events that we see in our future. Some of us may be PCSing upon our return.

Others may be receiving promotions, and others may have a brand new blessed event waiting on them when they get back.

Some may have had negative events occur in their lives while deployed that skew their ability to maintain focus. Some may be going through a rocky divorce. Others

may have had a death in the family. Still, others may be facing the consequences of UCMJ action. Nonetheless, we must maintain our focus.

The Bible quotes Jesus as saying "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62) My father grew up in a time and place that plowing the field required use of a mule to pull the plow while he walked behind it. In order to ensure that the rows in the field were straight, he had to look forward, and guide the plow and the mule to ensure success for that mission.

Jesus' quote indicates that there must be a focus, undistracted, in order to accomplish the mission at hand. Paying attention to the details that matter is, at times, the hardest thing in the world. However, it must be done.

As we live from day to day and find ourselves carrying out our tasks, no matter how significant or insignificant they may seem to us, we must complete each one with all of the heart that you can muster. Find it within yourself to maintain the discipline that it takes to successfully accomplish your mission without distraction. Keep your focus.

The Meaning of Life



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Mullett

Headline Round-up

World News:

LONDON - Nuclear-armed submarines from Britain and France collided deep under the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, causing damage to both vessels but releasing no radioactivity, a British official said Monday. The HMS Vanguard, Britain's first Trident class nuclear-armed submarine, and the French Le Triomphant submarine, which also was carrying nuclear missiles, both suffered minor damage. The British official said the Vanguard's "deterrent capability remained unaffected and there was no compromise to nuclear safety." No members of the crew were injured. France's Defense Ministry said in a brief statement Feb. 6 that the Le Triomphant had struck "a submerged object (probably a container)" during a return from a patrol, damaging the sonar dome on the front of the submarine. The French ministry did not confirm the date of the collision, nor did it make any mention of a British submarine. It said in the statement that no crewmembers were injured and confirmed that the nuclear security of the submarine was not compromised.

U.S. News:

HARTFORD, Conn. - A 200-pound pet chimpanzee once seen in TV commercials mauled a woman visiting its owner Feb. 16 and cornered a police officer in his cruiser before being shot and killed, authorities said. Stamford police Capt. Richard Conklin said the injured woman was hospitalized late Monday in "very serious" condition at Stamford Hospital; her identity was not immediately released. Conklin said she suffered "a tremendous loss of blood" from serious facial injuries. The 15-year-old chimpanzee's owner and two officers also were hurt, though police said the extent of their injuries was not immediately known. Police said they had no idea why the chimpanzee, named Travis, attacked the woman as she got out of her car to visit the animal's owner, Sandra Herold. Conklin said Herold wrestled with the animal, then ran inside to call emergency services.

Entertainment:

Friday the 13th scared up the largest debut on record for a horror film, taking in \$42.4 million this weekend, according to studio estimates from box office tracking firm Media By Numbers. The debut was \$17 million more than many analysts projected and trounced the record held by 2004's The Grudge, the previous highest-opening horror film with \$39 million.

Quote of the Day

"Gentlemen, You can't fight in here! This is the War Room!"
 – President Merkin Muffley (Peter Sellers) in 'Dr. Strangelove'

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For the
answer to
today's puzzle,
go to:



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lion's Den

Feb. 17

Ping Pong @ 8 p.m.

Texas Hold 'em @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

Feb. 17

Full body aerobics @ 6 a.m.

Abs Class @ 7:30 p.m.

March 27

Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony
@ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk
run. Free t-shirt and
continental breakfast. Race
begins @ 7 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Violin teacher needed. Contact
Col. Andrew Baan (Andrew
baan@iraq.centcom.mil) for
more information.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @
7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar lessons @ 4 p.m.

Fridays

Catholic Hour @ 6:30 p.m.

Liberty

Feb. 19

Salsa Band MWR C-10 @ 9 p.m.

Feb. 22

Sweet 16 5 K Run. Race begins
at "Z" Lake @ 7 a.m. FREE
T-shirts to the top 115
finishers. POC: Spc. Daniel
Balderas 485-0411 or
daniel.balderas@iraq.cent-
com.mil

Feb. 23

Black History Month Observance
at Aw Faw Palace @ 7 p.m.
POC: Maj. Monique Compere-
Anderson 835-2057.

Babylon Theatre

Feb. 18

Notorious @ 4 p.m.

Soul Men @ 7 p.m.

Role Models @ 9:30p.m.

Fire Extinguisher Class @ 1 p.m.

Feb. 20

Town hall meeting @ 1 p.m.