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April 27, 2009

IA Soldiers learn welding skills



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Pvt. Hussam Kaidair Abdulhadi, 8th Motor Transport Regiment, practices arc welding during the six-day welding course at Forward Operating Base Delta recently. After the students are proficient at arc welding, they advance to metal inert gas welding, more commonly referred to as mig welding.

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
41st FB



FOB DELTA – The heat was on a group of Iraqi Army Soldiers, so to speak, as they learned the basics of welding from U.S. Soldiers here recently.

The goal of the training was to provide Iraqi Army Soldiers with a sustainable skill set they can use and pass on to their fellow Soldiers, helping their unit become self-sufficient before the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

“All of the training is very good right now and we are getting good experience from the U.S. Soldiers,” said Pvt. Hussam Kaidair Abdulhadi, 8th Motor Transport Regiment.

“We can teach the other Soldiers who are working at the 8th MTR, using the training and the new welding techniques and methods we’ve learned here,” added Hussam, one of three IA Soldiers in the class.

The six-day welding course started with a heavy emphasis on shop safety then progressed to oxy-acetylene welding.

“They are doing outstanding,” said Sgt. Richard Fierro, shop foreman, service and repair section, Company B, 589th Brigade Support Battalion. “They’re really motivated and ready to learn the welding techniques we’re trying to teach them.”

“They’re giving us feedback and asking a lot of questions, which is outstanding,” said Fierro, a resident of El Paso, Texas.

Welding skills not only benefit the 8th MTR. They may also provide job opportunities for the Soldiers attend-

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2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. bids farewell to Diwaniya shaykhs



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

Col. Butch Kievenaar (left), commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, presents brigade coins and certificates of appreciation to local Diwaniya shaykhs at Camp Echo recently. The Warhorse Brigade said farewell to the shaykhs before its move to Basra. The 172nd Infantry Brigade's 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, will soon take over responsibility for the area from the 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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Service members run Boston Marathon in Iraq

SPC. TERENCE EWINGS
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – More than 200 Service members and Department of Defense civilians from various bases in Iraq, competed in a challenging 26.2-mile race recognized as the 5th Annual Boston Marathon held here April 18.

The event was celebrated in unison with the 113th Boston Marathon, which is held annually in the United States and viewed worldwide.

Many participants had their eyes set on winning the race and receiving awards and acknowledgment that come with being in first place, but Maj. Curtis Perkins had something different in mind.

"This is a crowning achievement, being able to accomplish this here in Iraq," said Perkins, who is on his third deployment to Iraq. "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to do something like this during a deployment."

Perkins, a financial resource manager assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Long Knives,' simply wanted to commit to his new year's resolution by completing his first marathon.

The Denmark, SC native started a 10-week training program in early January to condition his body for the race. Although the training helped him finish the race, it didn't give him the extra edge he needed to win.

"I felt the training paid off today," he said. "I look forward to competing in similar events."

Sgt. Mayra Montelongo, a supply sergeant for the 4th Special Troops Battalion in the Long Knife Brigade, placed second in the women's category.

"When I first heard people talking about the (marathon) I was hesitant in participating in the event," said Montelongo, who hails from Woodlake, CA. "But after finding out more about the race I decided I wanted to participate."

Not only did Montelongo participate, but she also encouraged Soldiers from her supply section to run, and show support for the runners representing the brigade.

"After competing in this event, next year I probably might try the Boston Marathon back in the United States," said Montelongo.

This athletic event was a special accomplishment for the runners; with a majority of them running a marathon for the first time. Individuals who completed the race were awarded the Boston Athletic Association medal.



Photos by Spc. Terence Ewings

(Far Left) Maj. Harland Peelle, an Air Force participant stationed at FOB Delta, raises his arms in victory as he crosses the finish line. Peelle took first place in the 5th Annual Boston Marathon held in COB Adder April 18. (Above) Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Eger, senior enlisted Soldier of 4th BSTB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., awards Sgt. Mayra Montelongo, supply sergeant, 4th BSTB, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., with a certificate of achievement for finishing second in the women's category. (Left) Maj. Curtis Perkins, financial resource manager, 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div., grabs a cup of water to rehydrate himself during the 5th Annual Boston Marathon.

WELDING

From page 1

ing the training.

"I hope to pass on these skills to the Soldiers at the 8th MTR, but I can also use these skills in the future for a job outside of the Iraqi Army," said Sgt. Rahim Taraq, 8th MTR.

This is the third group of Iraqi Soldiers to participate in the course and they have been the quickest to pick up the techniques.


"Compared to all our training groups this is the best group we've had," said Staff Sgt. Philip Daniels, section chief, S and R section, Co. B, 589th BSB. "They're keying in on what we're saying. They're staying focused and motivated through all the training."

"It's been a great experience working with these guys, giving them hands on training, and working with the Iraqi Army is a great experience for both of us," said Daniels, of Greenville, S.C. "It's really rewarding."




Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Pvt. Hussam Kaidair Abdulhadi, 8th IA MTR, practices oxy-acetylene welding as other members of the class watch his technique. The skills learned in oxy-acetylene welding are the fundamental building blocks for the rest of the welding techniques learned during the six-day course at FOB Delta recently.



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Right now the Army is experiencing an unacceptable level of sexual assaults against female Soldiers. For me, one sexual assault is unacceptable - but what is going on here? How do we reduce this trend?

To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at:

www.taskforcemountain.com

Headline Round-up

World News:

MEXICO CITY - Mexican and U.S. health officials searched on April 25 for signs an outbreak of a new flu strain is spreading further, after it killed up to 68 people in Mexico and infected eight in the United States. As Mexico shut schools and museums and axed public events, global health officials stopped short of declaring a pandemic. But they warned more cases could come to light as the flu spreads between people and infected some individuals who had no contact with one another. The World Health Organization said the virus from 12 of the Mexican patients was the same genetically as a new strain of swine flu, designated H1N1, seen in eight people in California and Texas who later recovered.

U.S. News:

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Thousands of veterans were at first shocked to learn they should get blood tests for HIV and hepatitis because three hospitals might have treated them with unsterile equipment. Now, just a couple of months after the Department of Veterans Affairs issued the dire warnings, veterans are growing frustrated by the lack of information from the tightlipped federal agency. Nearly 11,000 former Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines could have been exposed to infectious diseases because three VA hospitals in the Southeast did not properly clean endoscopic equipment between patients. On April 24, the VA revealed that another patient had tested positive for HIV, bringing the total to four such cases among patients who got endoscope procedures at hospitals in Miami, Murfreesboro, Tenn. and Augusta, Ga. The agency also said a new hepatitis case had been discovered, increasing the number of positive tests to 26. More than 4,270 veterans still have yet to get test results.

Sports News:

DETROIT - The Detroit Lions hope Matthew Stafford ends their decades-long search for a star quarterback. Stafford and the Lions agreed on a six-year contract, agent Tom Condon told The Associated Press on April 24. Condon and Ben Dogra, who also represents Stafford, negotiated the deal with \$41.7 million in guarantees and a maximum value of \$78 million. The Lions will formally take Stafford with the No. 1 pick in the draft April 25. They have five of the first 82 picks to help the NFL's first 0-16 team bounce back to respectability. Detroit hasn't had a quarterback play in the Pro Bowl since Greg Landry in 1971.

Quote of the Day

A man's country is not a certain area of land, of mountains, rivers, and woods, but it is a principle and patriotism is loyalty to that principle. – George William Curtis

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Open: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday

Open: 9 a.m. - noon

DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday

Roman Catholic Mass, UK

led @ 9:30 a.m.

General Protestant @ 11 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-
ter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.

General Protestant @ 6:30
p.m.

DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday

Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

DFAC 4 Worship

Monday - Saturday

Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.

Sunday

Protestant Contemporary
Worship @ 10 a.m.

Holy communion, Protestant
(UK) @ 11:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass, UK
led @ 8:30 p.m.

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