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April 29, 2009

IA mechanics learn generator basics

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – Mechanics from the Iraqi Army's 8th Motor Transport Regiment attended a six-day generator maintenance course here recently to improve their self-sufficiency and sustainability.

The Iraqi Army is not staffed with generator mechanics, even though a lot of their units rely on generators to supply their electricity demands. The Soldiers who attended the course are vehicle mechanics who can directly apply the skills learned in the course to help maintain generators in the 8th Iraqi Army Division.

"We want to learn as much information from the U.S. mechanics as we can and gain the experience to maintain the generators," said 1st. Sgt. Ali Mahdi Jassim, 8th MTR.

The mechanics who attended the course are part of the 8th MTR's maintenance company. The original responsibility of the company was service and maintenance of humvees and trucks, but now includes generators.

"We have a big generator at 8th MTR and each company has a small generator," said Jassim. "Everything we learn here, we will go back to 8th MTR to teach the other Soldiers...how to fix and maintain the generators."

The course focused on correct start-up and shutdown procedures, proper phase for the electrical current, preventive maintenance checks and services and changing main generator components.

"This class is going well," said Spc. Patrick Armstrong, generator mechanic, Company B, 589th Brigade Support Battalion. "This is actually the third



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Mechanics of 8th Motor Transport Regiment listen to Spc. Patrick Armstrong, generator mechanic, Co. B, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, explain the possible deficiencies to look for while conducting preventive maintenance checks and services during the six-day generator maintenance class at FOB Delta.

set of Iraqis I trained, and they comprehend this stuff a lot easier than the other groups."

The Soldiers who attended the class have prior vehicle maintenance experience helping them to understand the basics of generator maintenance, according to Armstrong.

"I think coming from an MTR has a major effect on how easily they understand it, because they know they are going to use it and they have some basic knowledge of how maintenance

goes," said Armstrong. "I'm just helping them to understand generator maintenance."

The training 8th MTR Soldiers received gives them a skill that will make sure they can operate and maintain the generators they have for a long time, said Armstrong.

"I think this actually goes a lot towards helping them get on their feet and being able to take care of their own equipment, which helps them to be self-sufficient."

Dining facilities undergo transformation

SPC. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY
MND-S



COB BASRA – As more Soldiers arrive here, crews are working hard to ensure the dining facilities are ready for the larger population.

Dining facility one closed April 14 to begin its transformation into a gym. The new gym is expected to open around May 20 according to Capt. Robert McTighe, 10th Mtn. Div., Headquarters Support Company commander.

Dining facility two reopened to replace DFAC three April 15, after being closed for renovations, according to Sgt. Maj. Richard Bennett, 10th Mtn. Div., senior food operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

All the DFACs had dividers in them. The walls are being removed to create more room to accommodate more diners.

DFAC four will eventually be transformed into a larger Post Exchange, according to Capt. Douglas Ingold, G1 Plans and Operations officer from Pittsburgh.

"The DFAC will remain on-line through May and possibly June," Ingold said. "It depends on the population of the COB and the necessity of it."

The PX is slated to be complete August 1, Ingold said, but that date could change according to need.

The crews working in the DFACs are trying to create a more comfortable environment. Williams said they want Soldiers to be able to come in to the dining facilities and relax for the time they are there.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey McKinney, 4th ID, Headquarters and Headquar-

ters Troop Battalion, brigade senior food operations management non-commissioned officer, said he has been deployed four times and knows how tough deployments can be. He wants to create an environment that will make Soldiers feel more at home and forget about their day for a short while.

"This should be the one place they can come to get the burden off their shoulders," said McKinney. "This is probably the number one morale booster the Army has. If you have a bad DFAC, morale among Soldiers will most likely be down."

"Our main goal here is to consistently improve the quality of life for Soldiers,"



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

Sp. Wesley Gatson, a supply specialist with the 4th ID, A 204 BSB, from Detroit, Mich., stirs soup, preparing it for the lunch rush on COB Basra recently. Gatson, whose secondary MOS is food specialist, is referred to by his co-workers as the Soldier that can get anything accomplished in the kitchen.

McKinney said. "I want them to know they can come here and relax."

With each passing day, Williams said, progress is being made to improve the DFACs even more. Work on the facilities has been a total effort by the command and everyone to make them better.

"Soldiers working here are of mixed military occupation specialties," he added. "I have mechanics, military policemen, ammunition handlers and Soldiers of other fields all in here getting this done. Everyone is coming together to get this mission accomplished."

"The Soldiers are taking a personal interest in the dining facility," he continued. "They can have pride to know they helped build this to what it is today."

Williams said he has met with KBR supervisors to discuss bringing in more televisions for Soldiers to catch up on recent news and sports, as well as adding some greenery to the environment. He also wants to add a Mongolian stir fry to the menu because it has proven to be a popular menu item among Soldiers.

"I want to add something different every day," said McKinney. "I want Soldiers to come in here and be wondering what the new thing for the day is."

"There are a lot of things on the way," Williams said, "so, everyone be patient and it will all be here in due time."

The DFACs on COB Basra all have the same operating hours. Breakfast is served from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For the time being, he said for Soldiers to "come in and enjoy yourself; have a good meal and relax."

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



MND-S Aviators take to the skies

PHOTOS BY PFC. TYLER MAULDING, MND-S



Headline Round-up

World News:

LONDON - Britain has proposed an affirmative action bill meant to tackle thorny class divisions and encourage equal opportunities for women and minorities — a proposal already causing an uproar in some circles. Under the proposed act, white male job applicants could lose out to women and minorities with equal qualifications, while private companies with 250 employees or more would be required to disclose salary discrepancies between male and female employees. Although no date has been set for parliamentary debate, the Labour-led government hopes to push the bill through before next year's general election. The bill, which would collect a raft of anti-discrimination provisions in a single act, would likely fail under a Conservative-led government.

U.S. News:

NEW YORK - A middle-school teacher suspended for reportedly hitting a student barricaded himself in his classroom April 24 for several hours and claimed he had turned his computers into weapons. Francisco Garabitos, 55, surrendered peacefully to police after about three hours. He was being held pending a psychiatric evaluation and charges were possible, said New York Police Department Commissioner Ray Kelly. No weapons were found and no injuries were reported. The teacher was being investigated for reportedly hitting a student April 23 at the New Millennium Business Academy Middle School in the Bronx. Garabitos, a computer teacher, arrived around 8:30 a.m. April 24. He locked himself inside his empty classroom, shoved a desk in front of the doors and claimed his computers were weapons, police said. He demanded the principal be removed and wanted teachers to be treated better, Kelly said.

Odd News:

TALLADEGA, Ala. - Brad Keselowski isn't running a full-time NASCAR Sprint Cup schedule. His car owner brings his team to the race track when he can. They're the perfect combination at Talladega, a track known for rewarding underdogs. April 26, Keselowski charged toward the front and, after a bump with Carl Edwards, took the lead for the first time seconds before crossing the finish line. Edwards, meanwhile, flew into the catchfence, injuring seven fans. Sunday was Keselowski's fifth career Cup start. "Can you believe that!" he shouted when he entered the media center after the race. Car owner James Finch, who is in the construction business in Panama City, Fla., has a Nationwide team and runs a partial schedule in Cup. Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s runner-up finish was his second top-10 finish in the past four races.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

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Finance

Monday - Saturday

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

Latter 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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