

Soldiers prepare carriers for shipment home

By Sgt. Jon Soles
MND-B PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The sound of heavy steel treads clanking and the rumble of powerful diesel engines fill the air at the Four Corners staging area at Camp Taji.

The noise from the heavy artillery pieces means the vehicles are on the move – not on a combat mission – but on the way south, to Kuwait.

Artillery Soldiers of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, busily prepared tracked-ammunition carriers, here, Oct. 19, for inspection and shipment back to Fort Hood following the implementation of the Security Agreement.

The artillerymen drove ammunition carriers, which looked like howitzers without cannons, and carefully parked them in single file lines alongside M1A2 Abrams tanks and M3A3 Bradley armored personnel carriers. Soldiers have disarmed the vehicles and removed all sensitive electronic and radio equipment.

“The whole process with the vehicle turn-in is to help... when we move everything back a little easier,” said Staff Sgt. James Lacapra of Sandy, Ore. “It shows we are slowly moving equipment out and our [operation] tempo is slowing down.”

After parking the heavy vehicles, the artillerymen performed final checks for fluid leaks and cleanliness. Civil-

ian inspectors followed up to make sure the ammo carriers were ready to be shipped to Kuwait, where they would be washed once more and placed on ships bound for the United States.

“Obviously, on the outside you see dirt, but they get another spraying in Kuwait. That’s why they’re inspected here and put in line,” said Lacapra, an intelligence analyst assigned to 1st Bn., 82nd FA Regt., 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. “We basically get hold of what’s dirty and what has to be fixed before they can go home.”

Once the vehicles are back at Fort Hood, Texas, home station for the 1st Cavalry Division, they will be reset and refitted, according to Lacapra.

“They’re going back to Fort Hood, where they will be turned in and reset,” said Lacapra. “If there is any new technology updates and mechanical updates, that’s where the civilian companies update it.”

Even though the vehicles will soon be out of the regiment’s hands, it did not mean the artillerymen preparing them for shipment took any shortcuts in safety. As they moved hundreds of tons of equipment, they could not afford to be careless.

“Safety is our number one priority here,” said Lacapra. “When we’re moving the vehicles, we have a ground guide to watch all angles of the vehicles to make sure no personnel are in the direction

of the vehicle.”

If the artillerymen had a spring in their step and a smile on their faces as they worked, it was no coincidence that preparing artillery vehicles for shipment also meant they are closer to going home.

“It’s a good thing; I think it’s a morale booster,” said Lacapra.

“It shows we’re towards the end, we’re on the down slope.”

The steel sentinels moved one last time on their own power, their heavy tracks grinding the gravel and shaking the ground underneath them. After they are shipped home, only the tracks left behind on Camp Taji will remind everyone of the peace they helped build in Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles

Pfc. Daniel Garcia, of Los Angeles, attaches an identification tag on an ammunition carrier at Camp Taji, here, Oct. 19.

Quartermasters keep it clean

Photos by Pfc. Bailey Jester,
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.



BAGHDAD – Tampa, Fla. Native, Pfc. Phuoc Nguyen, a laundry maintenance specialist assigned to the 488th Quartermaster Company, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, sorts through clean laundry and prepares to fold clothes at Joint Security Station War Eagle, Oct. 18.



Greenwood, Miss. Native, Staff Sgt. Maurice Foreman, laundry maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge, assigned to the 488th Quartermaster Company, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, folds laundry at Joint Security Station War Eagle, Oct. 18.

U.S., IA provide aid to Mahmudiyah citizens

By Sgt. Mary Phillips
30th HBCT PAO,

BAGHDAD — A poor neighborhood near Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, was surprised with a much needed gift brought by U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers, Oct. 15.

Soldiers with the 120th Com-

bined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team and the Iraqi Army 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade provided humanitarian aid in the form of water and 275 bags of food; each containing cooking oil, sugar, tea, rice, lentils and evaporated milk to the Mur-

tada neighborhood.

"We utilized some of our assets and they utilized some of theirs," said Capt. Christopher Cooper, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 120th CAB, from Pittsboro, N.C.

"The Iraqi Army provided a tanker of drinking water and brought some of their Soldiers to help hand out the food and bottled water," said Winston-Salem native, 2nd Lt. Ryan Read, of Company D, 120th CAB.

This type of operation not only provides welcomed assistance to the families in the area, but also reminds them that they are not forgotten.

"The people see the Iraqi Army giving them the goods and are realizing that the IA takes care of their needs," said Cooper.

Read said the IA and the 120th CAB consider many factors when choosing where to execute these

kinds of missions.

"Murtada is a very poor neighborhood and it is the main reason this site was chosen," said Read. "We try to help out neighborhoods that are likely to be targeted by insurgent groups. The people there need money. The insurgents are recruiting their workers from neighborhoods like this one."

"Taking the people food and water shows them that the [U.S.] forces and the Iraqi Army care about them and they'll know we are thinking about them."

Company D conducts humanitarian aid drops about once a month, and the Soldiers welcome the change of pace and the chance to do something positive. Read said he looks forward to doing these type of missions.

"It's a good mission. It's a break from our regular missions and we get to do some good for the people of Iraq."



Photo by Sgt. Mary Phillips

Christopher Nekvapil, with Company D, 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, provides security in the Murtada neighborhood near Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, Oct. 15.

Organizational day for 1st Air Cav

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — As horseshoes and volleyballs flew through the air, the scent of fresh charcoal from a raging barbecue filtered around those who took part in the festivities.

Combined with booming music and laughter coming from every corner of the area, they formed the unmistakable sights and sounds of Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division enjoying some time away from the everyday routine, Oct. 16.

The day also gave everyone in the battalion a chance to unwind and forget the worries of their deployment, said Chaplain (Capt.) Chris Weinrich, from St. Louis, who helped set the event up.

"This gives Soldiers some much needed relief from all the

hard work that they've done on the first six months of this deployment," Weinrich said. "They've done a great job working on Apaches and all the buildings, so hopefully, today they have fun."

The day's activities included a volleyball tournament and a sumo wrestling contest.

"We're going to have some Iraqi cuisine as part of our barbecue, show a movie and have a hail and farewell for the leaving Soldiers and those coming in," Weinrich said.

Weinrich added that it was encouraging to see the Soldiers enjoying these activities and praised the battalion's positive atmosphere.

"I haven't talked to many Soldiers coming to me with problems," Weinrich said. "One of the things I'm happy with here are the battle buddies. They do a great job taking care of each other."

"Things come up back home and sometimes Soldiers feel isolated," he continued. "That's when the battle buddies have stepped up and I'm really proud of all our Soldiers and our leadership."

Sgt. 1st Class Alfonzo Branch, from Philadelphia, with Company

E, said that taking time to relax can be difficult during a deployment.

"A lot of them have different stresses so the best thing for them to do is get out here and forget all their troubles and have a good time."



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Reid, from Killeen, Texas, the first sergeant for Company A, plays a game of horseshoes with fellow Soldiers, Oct. 16

On This Day In History

October 21, 1921

Harding publicly condemns lynching

On this day in 1921, President Warren G. Harding delivers a speech in Alabama in which he condemns lynchings—illegal hangings committed primarily by white supremacists against African Americans in the Deep South.

Although his administration was much maligned for scandal and corruption, Harding was a progressive Republican politician who advocated full civil rights for African Americans and suffrage for women. He supported the Dyer Anti-lynching Bill in 1920. As a presidential candidate that year, he gained support for his views on women's suffrage, but faced intense opposition on civil rights for blacks. The 1920s was a period of intense racism in the American South, characterized by frequent lynchings. In fact, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) reported that, in 1920, lynching claimed, on average, the lives of two African Americans every week.

During the 1920 presidential campaign, Harding's ethnicity became a subject of debate and was used by his opponents to cast him in a negative light. Opponents claimed that one of Harding's great-great-grandfathers was a native of the West Indies. Harding rebuffed the rumors, saying he was from white "pioneer stock" and persisted in his support of anti-lynching laws. Although the anti-lynching bill made it through the House of Representatives, it died in the Senate. Several other attempts to pass similar laws in the first half of the 20th century failed. In fact, civil rights for blacks were not encoded into law until Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

Harding's public denunciation of lynching would appear insincere if one were to believe allegations that he had actually been inducted into the Ku Klux Klan while in office.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

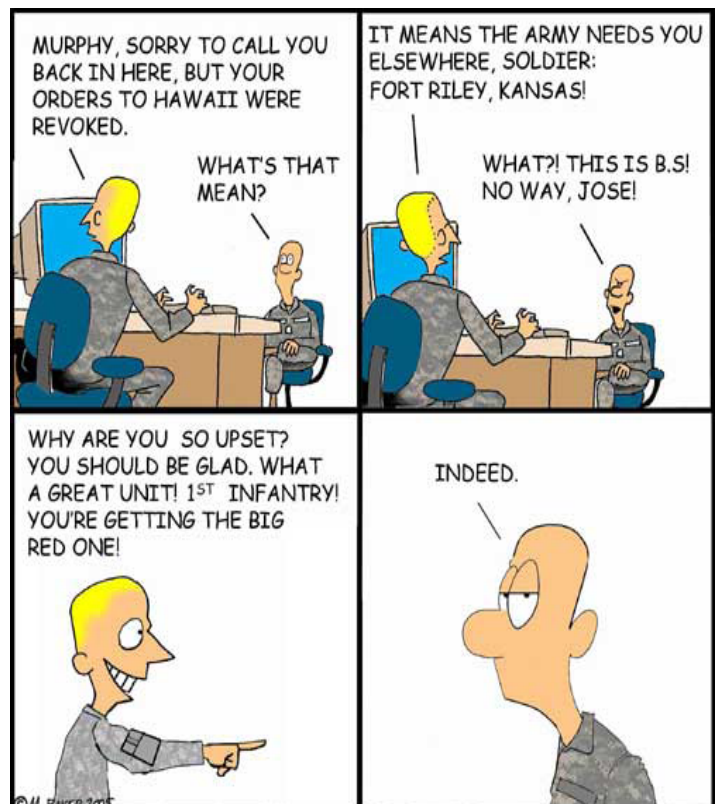
Chuck Norris keeps his friends close and his enemies closer. Close enough to drop them with one round house kick to the face.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by 1st Lt. Josh Risher, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment

BAGHDAD—Kericho, Kenya native, Spc. Lawrence Rotich (left), a combat medic with H Troop, 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, observes as an Iraqi policeman treats a fellow officer for simulated wounds during a training exercise, Oct. 15.



Quote For Today

"Genius is eternal patience."

— Michelangelo —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Friday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

? In which of these fields is a Nobel Prize not given: physics, mathematics, or literature?

Last Issue's Answer: DALLAS / 60 MINUTES / COSBY SHOW

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 180 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Getting the flu shot is no fun, but a necessary evil to keep soldiers up and on mission. SGT Erik Fardette, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, PAO.

At Division Special Troops Battalion Army medics will administer over three thousand flu shots. It is mandatory for all Soldiers and contracted civilians. It is your best defense against the flu virus.

2. Soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team pass out school supplies and build relationships in the Yusifiyah region.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

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

Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Philip Smith

Public Affairs Chief:

Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner

Editor:

Spc. Laura Johnson

Staff Writers:

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp

Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Staff Sgt. Peter Ford

Sgt. Joshua Risner

Sgt. Jon Soles

Spc. Howard Alperin

Spc. Phillip Adam Turner

The **Daily Charge** is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The **Daily Charge** are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry, or The **Daily Charge** of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The **Daily Charge** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share?

The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor at grace.johnson3@mnd-b.army.mil