

Al-Muthana command center nears completion

By Spc. Brian Johnson
16th Eng. Bde, UPAR

BAGHDAD-After almost four months of work, thousands of construction man-hours, and many hours teaching and training, the Joint Operations Center at the al-Muthana Airfield, here, is nearly complete.

The airfield, currently home to the 6th IA Field Engineer Regiment, has been the site of a mammoth project undertaken by the 6th IA and U.S. engineers from the 16th Engineer Brigade. Soldiers from each of these units have been working side by side to build a first-class joint facility.

This operations center for the 6th IA brings the command and control elements together under one roof resulting in more effective planning, coordination and facilitation of the IA's missions.

“This was a joint construction project that involved not only the Iraqi engineers, but Iraqi products: wood, plumbing materials, electrical materials and furniture,” said Maj. Roger Lewis, from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, the brigade's partnership officer.

The goal of this joint construction project was to increase the Iraqi Engineer Soldiers' construction proficiency and ability to conduct their own independent operations as the U.S.

forces conduct a responsible draw down.

Staff Sgt. Mark Green, of Petoskey, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, explained that there were many trials and tribulations during the construction mission, but everything is now coming together nicely.

“At the start of the project, the communication gap between the Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers was a struggle; once it was overcome, everything started moving along,” said Green. “This was a chance not only for our Soldiers to teach the Iraqi's, but the Iraqi Soldiers to teach us.”

Sgt. Mark Gosbeth, of Monroe, Mich., also with the 1434th Eng. Co., said that this project has been a learning experience for all involved.

“For the younger Iraqis, this is on-the-job training for them to increase their carpentry skills,” said Gosbeth. “For the veteran Iraqi Soldiers, this mission was a chance for them to fine-tune their skills and leadership.”

Gosbeth, who has been with the project since it began, said that the Iraqis are very hard-working and eager to learn. Many of them have taken ownership of the project, to include site security.

One of these Iraqi Soldiers, a sergeant with the 6th IA who is known simply as Joe, helped provide



Photo by Spc. Brian Johnson

Staff Sgt. Joseph Pigeon, of St. Helen, Mich., uses a router on a piece of molding, Dec. 15, at the Joint Operations Center construction site at al-Muthana. When the JOC is complete, it will mark the end of a four month joint construction project.

security on the site for the Soldiers while they work. “All of the U.S. Soldiers that I have met have been very easy to get along with,” said Joe. “They are all my friends. I will be sad to see them go.”

“The experience of working with the Iraqi Army has been very educating,” said Pvt. Aaron Piggott, of Jackson, Mich. “We have been able to learn parts of their language, they have learned some of our language, and

we have been able to help teach construction techniques.”

This construction project brought together two distinct cultures, yet both managed to communicate and work well together regardless of the language barrier. Upon completion, both Iraqi and U.S. Forces will have a deepened relationship and a place to conduct operations that will work towards a safer and more peaceful Iraq.

Securing rural area for upcoming elections

By 1st Lt. Josh Risher

1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B



BAGHDAD- Morning light streams across a farm field in Fahama as Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division dismount from their vehicles to search the area for caches of weapons and explosive materials.



BAGHDAD- Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment conduct a search missions to secure the area prior to elections scheduled for early 2010.



BAGHDAD- Sgt. Chad Haynes (right), a cavalry scout from Austin, Texas, and an Iraqi policeman check a motorist's identification card at a traffic control point in North Rashidiyah.

Air Cav assists with civilian wounded after IED attack

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Medevac crews from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, lent urgent medical transportation and care to Iraqi civilians after an improvised explosive device detonated south of Baghdad, Dec. 11.

The IED, which exploded south-west of Baghdad, near the Euphrates River, injured multiple civilian Iraqis. For the air crews, the extreme nature of the attack and injuries prompted actions outside of normal protocols. Usually, Iraqi emergency services evacuate civilians to the nearest local hospital.

After the explosion, fellow Iraqis transported their severely wounded to nearby Forward Operating Base Yusafiyah with hopes of U.S. military medical aid.

The Soldiers who encountered the wounded quickly provided first aid and immediately called for air medevac assets stationed nearby, said Capt. Audrey Boenker, from Huntsville, Ala., operations officer with 2nd Battalion, 1st ACB.

“The crews launched to Yusufiya and once they arrived, there we received the initial [report] that three personnel were injured,” Boenker said.

The medevac teams flew to FOB Yusafiyah and found that there were more wounded than there were medics to treat them.

Flight medics quickly jumped off the aircraft, helped evaluate the injured Iraqis and loaded them up for the flight to the 28th Combat Support Hospital at Camp Sather in Baghdad, she said.

While en route to the 28th CSH, the medevac team

received an additional call for five more injured Iraqis at FOB Yusafiyah who needed to be evacuated to a CSH.

“We went through a quick course of action ... the clear answer at the time, given the position of the team that was out, was to give it to them as a secondary nine-line,” Boenker said. “They could handle the additional five patients that were being called in.”

Because of the massive influx of critically injured patients, the Kalsu medevac team communicated to their counterparts in Camp Taji that they may be called upon to transfer some of the wounded, whom they just dropped off at the 28th CSH, to another CSH in Balad.

“We informed Taji to let them know if for some reason there was a follow on from Sather to Balad then we would be passing it off to them,”

Boenker said. “That way we could do more turns going back to Yusufiya in order to pick up further patients.”

The air team returned to FOB Yusafiyah, picked up the remaining five patients.

“The crew then made a smart decision to re-direct to [another medical facility] where our crew dropped off their last two patients there before returning back,” Boenker said.

The air medevac team transported eight wounded Iraqis to the two hospitals between two trips in only 70 minutes.

“We haven’t had near the patient load or casualty load compared with previous rotations, so this was a great test of the systems we have in place,” Boenker said. “The systems we put in place worked. Everybody was able to do the critical thinking required to ensure the mission got done.”

Soldiers aim to be the best at pistol competition

By Sgt. Mary Phillips
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD - Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon held the first pistol competition using the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, here, Dec. 11.

The EST 2000 is a video based simulator that gives Soldier the opportunity to practice marksmanship without using any rounds. Weapons are wired into a computer and shots are fired at a large screen.

Twenty-eight competitors simulated having 30 rounds each to identify and engage ten human-sized targets. The competi-

tion called for two shots in the chest of the target and one in the head. Five points were given for each hit, but there had to be a head shot for the shooter to receive any points for that target.

“We wanted to do something different,” said Arthur Struck, the EST 2000 operator. “The bottom line is, I’m here for the guys [Soldiers], if they have an interest, I’m willing to put it on.”

Soldiers welcomed the opportunity to use the EST 2000 for a little enjoyment.

“It was fun,” said Spc.

Joshua Bigham, serving with the 230th Brigade Support Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. “You get to come out here with all these 30th Bde. folks, it’s something to get your mind off of everything else. It’s a little friendly competition.”

Bigham, of Carolina Beach, N.C., also thought the competition was a good chance to train.

“Any time you get the opportunity to shoot, regardless of what weapon system it is, you improve your skills as a Soldier,” said Bigham.

Final scores for the competition ranged from zero points to one-hundred points out of a possible 150 points. Maj. Kevin Ziegler, of Colorado Springs, Colo. serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th HBCT, received the highest score.

“I was never any good at golf, so instead of hitting the golf balls with a club, I’d shoot at them with a pistol,” said Ziegler after learning he had won the pistol match.

There are plans to have a similar competition monthly.

On This Day In History

December 19, 1998

President Clinton impeached

After nearly 14 hours of debate, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. Clinton, the second president in American history to be impeached, vowed to finish his term.

In November 1995, Clinton began an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a 21-year-old unpaid intern. Over the course of a year and a half, the president and Lewinsky had nearly a dozen sexual encounters in the White House.

In December, lawyers for Paula Jones, who was suing the president on sexual harassment charges, subpoenaed Lewinsky. In January 1998, allegedly under the recommendation of the president, Lewinsky filed an affidavit in which she denied ever having had a sexual relationship with him.

On August 6, Lewinsky appeared before the grand jury to begin her testimony, and on August 17 President Clinton testified. Contrary to his testimony in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case, President Clinton acknowledged to prosecutors from the office of the independent counsel that he had had an extramarital affair with Ms. Lewinsky.

Less than a month later, on September 9, Kenneth Starr submitted his report and 18 boxes of supporting documents to the House of Representatives. Released to the public two days later, the Starr Report outlined a case for impeaching Clinton on 11 grounds, including perjury, obstruction of justice, witness-tampering, and abuse of power, and also provided explicit details of the sexual relationship between the president and Ms. Lewinsky. On October 8, the House authorized a wide-ranging impeachment inquiry, and on December 11, the House Judiciary Committee approved three articles of impeachment. On December 19, the House impeached Clinton.

On January 7, 1999, in a congressional procedure not seen since the 1868 impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, the trial of President Clinton got underway in the Senate. As instructed in Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution, the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (William Rehnquist at this time) was sworn in to preside, and the senators were sworn in as jurors.

Five weeks later, on February 12, the Senate voted on whether to remove Clinton from office. The president was acquitted on both articles of impeachment. The prosecution needed a two-thirds majority to convict but failed to achieve even a bare majority. Rejecting the first charge of perjury, 45 Democrats and 10 Republicans voted "not guilty," and on the charge of obstruction of justice the Senate was split 50-50. After the trial concluded, President Clinton said he was "profoundly sorry" for the burden his behavior imposed on Congress and the American people.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Maj. Timothy Hyde 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div

BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Alexis Rodriguez, of Saginaw, Mich., a squad leader with C Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, observes his surroundings during a base defense patrol around Contingency Operating Post Carver, Dec. 16.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

MacGyver can build an airplane out of gum and paper clips, but Chuck Norris can roundhouse-kick his head through a wall and take it.

Quote For Today

“Think like a man of action, act like a man of thought.”

-Henri Bergson-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 50° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 50° F



Monday
71° F | 50° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the first war the U. S. took part in that was partially financed with lottery dollars?

Last Issue's Answer: GEORGIA

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. For this newscast, please contact the Media Relations Staff with DVIDS at 678-421-6612 or e-mail news@dvidshub.net.

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Today's Cav Round-Up # 221 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment teach combatives to their Iraqi

counterparts. Interview with 1st Lt. Nick Salinas, 3-4 ADAR and Sgt. Maj. Ka Dim, 6th Iraqi Army.
2. MEDEVAC crews from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division assist Iraqi civilians following an improvised explosive device attack south of Baghdad.
<http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/generalsearch/pphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type>

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Trigger's Tease

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

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. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



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