

Fuel tests keep Air Cav operational

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski
1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – In a mobile lab filled with graduated cylinders, beakers, filtration systems and various other tools – the life blood of military vehicles is tested.

The fuel sample tests performed by the petroleum specialists of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, are an important step before the fuel is distributed for use.

The fuel lab is responsible for testing fuel used by the 1st ACB, the Iraqi Air Force and civilian contractors, here, and at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, said Sgt. Anthony

Adame, from Lubbock, Texas, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the fuel lab.

“We average around five to seven samples a day; on peak days we have gone as high as 16 samples,” said Adame. Spending an average of two hours for each sample, Spc. Juan Rodriguez-Cano, from Edinburg, Texas, a petroleum lab technician, will run one gallon of fuel through different instruments to determine its quality.

“We test all types of fuel, anything from ground fuel to aviation-type fuel,” said Rodriguez-Cano.

The fuel sample requires multiple tests such as checking for contaminants, water and sediments. The fuel’s flash point



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

To collect any forms of contaminants and sediment, Spc. Juan Rodriguez-Cano, a petroleum lab technician, in Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, slowly pours fuel through a filtration system, here, Dec. 29.

is tested – the temperature at which the fuel ignites – and the density of it is also tested to be sure it is the correct type of fuel, said Rodriguez-Cano.

“If a sample comes back bad, the submitting unit will be notified and the fuel will have to be run back through the filters before it can be tested again,” said Rodriguez-Cano. “Sometimes it is just bad filters and the unit will have to replace them before running the test again.”

Keeping a steady pace from the beginning of the deployment, the petroleum lab has completed its 1,000th test.

“Forty-four million gallons is the amount represented of the samples we have done.

When [the previous unit] left they were at 30 million (gallons); and with four months left on this deployment, it just shows how much work we have done,” said Adame.

“To us it is a big deal ... we don’t go outside the wire, but those guys that are out there flying 24/7, we want them to stay in the air, we want their mission to keep on going,” said Adame. “That is what we are here for.”

“If that fuel [doesn’t meet the specifications] or there are contaminants or water inside of it, the birds (helicopters) are going to fall from the sky and our primary job is to prevent that from happening,” said Adame.



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

After stirring up the fuel, Pfc. Cindy Crain, from Kokomo, Ind., a fuel handler in Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls a fuel sample for testing in the petroleum lab, here, Dec. 29.

U.S., FP conduct patrol, search

By Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Scott
MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Members of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Federal Police move toward a housing compound in an effort to question a resident, and possibly confiscate contraband, Dec. 29.



BAGHDAD – Brightly painted blue and white humvees used by the Iraqi Federal Police, line the road at the entrance to the Abid Allha ibn al-Khabib graveyard, here, Dec. 29.

Old Hickory Soldiers pause for a “Night of Praise”

By Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD – A gospel program targeting Congregational and Baptist enthusiasts was offered at Falcon to give Soldiers a chance to continue praise and worship while deployed.

North Carolina National Guard Soldiers performed praise and worship songs during the “Night of Praise” at the Steel Chapel on Forward Operating Base Falcon, here, Dec. 28.

“Don’t worry about who is sitting beside you or what is going on outside,” said Spc. Talisa Cooper, as she addressed the congregation. “This night was set aside just to allow God to have His way.” The group, which usually performs one song during the Protestant service on Sundays, organized its first gospel service at the chapel; hosting the event to embrace the style of music and service they remember from home.

Group members, including Spc. Cooper, of Clinton,

N.C.; Master Sgt. Anita Wyatt, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Sgt. 1st Class Barry Oxendine, of Raeford, N.C.; Staff Sgt. Iraina Witherspoon, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Sgt. Ronald Trainer, of Fayetteville, N.C.; along with musicians Spc. John Riggs, of Kinston, N.C., and civilian contractor, Mike Taylor; practiced for about two weeks to prepare for the performance.

“Master Sgt. Wyatt asked me to play tonight,” said Riggs, of 230th Brigade Support Battalion. “I loved it; it’s a different style of worship and it’s more of what I’m used to, more gospel than Pentecostal.”

“Anytime I can be where I can play music for the Lord, I’m happy,” he added.

Trainer was the mastermind behind the scene; getting the singers on board, and finalizing the date. Wyatt determined the flow of the schedule, posted flyers and designed the programs. Capt. Wayne Lehto, the battalion chaplain, sponsored and emceed the program.

Lehto opened up the service by asking everyone in the



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Miami, Fla., native, Staff Sgt. Charlotte Horton, with 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, reads a passage from the New Testament during a gospel program at the Steel Chapel, on Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 28.

congregation why they came. Most of them said Wyatt asked them to come. It became the running joke as each person found a way to connect their presence there to Wyatt.

“I was charged to tell people to come,” said Wyatt. “It really took me out of my comfort zone to do so. I sent out emails to the leadership and told people that I have cordial relationships with, but God ordained this night. It was really all God.”

Five voices echoed through the church, with the strength of a full choir, as onlookers jumped to their feet, clapped their hands and sang along in approval. Group members said they were happy with the success of the event and felt a great sense of accomplishment. “I think it was wonderful,” said Trainer. “It gave people a chance to have church and release some stuff they had pinned up in them.”

“It felt good to see other people, who love to worship Christ, fellowship and be led by the Spirit,” said Witherspoon,

of 1472nd Civil Affairs Team attached to the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. “I found it encouraging and uplifting to partake in the gospel celebration,” said Staff Sgt. Harold Faison, of Roseboro, N.C. “And I can go on and on and on and on and...”, as he broke into song, sculpting his words to the last song performed.

“It was a joyous occasion, a real blessing from God and I’m glad I had a chance to be a part of this event before leaving the base en-route to my home church,” said Melinda Gosa, of Fort Hood, Texas, a civilian member of the congregation.

The congregation huddled around the singers after the service, congratulating them on a job well done. Thirty minutes later the last of the group emptied the church, singing some of the songs and discussing how the program reminded them of services back home.

“Just like at home, you can’t get the people out of the church,” said Trainer.



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary

Sgt. Ronald Trainer (far left), of Fayetteville, N.C., leads a song during a “Night of Praise” gospel celebration; targeting Congregational and Baptist enthusiast at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 28.

On This Day In History

January 1, 1959

Batista forced out by Castro-led revolution

On this day in 1959, facing a popular revolution spearheaded by Fidel Castro's 26th of July Movement, Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista flees the island nation. Amid celebration and chaos in the Cuban capitol of Havana, the U.S. debated how best to deal with the radical Castro and the ominous rumblings of anti-Americanism in Cuba.

The U.S. government had supported Batista, a former soldier and Cuban dictator from 1933 to 1944, who seized power for a second time in a 1952 coup. After Castro and a group of followers, including the South American revolutionary Che Guevara (1928-1967), landed in Cuba to unseat the dictator in December 1956, the U.S. continued to back Batista. Suspicious of what they believed to be Castro's leftist ideology and worried that his ultimate goals might include attacks on the U.S.'s significant investments and property in Cuba, American officials were nearly unanimous in opposing his revolutionary movement.

Cuban support for Castro's revolution, however, grew in the late 1950s, partially due to his charisma and nationalistic rhetoric, but also because of increasingly rampant corruption, greed, brutality and inefficiency within the Batista government. This reality forced the U.S. to slowly withdraw its support from Batista and begin a search in Cuba for an alternative to both the dictator and Castro; these efforts failed.

On January 1, 1959, Batista and a number of his supporters fled Cuba for the Dominican Republic. Tens of thousands of Cubans (and thousands of Cuban Americans in the U.S.) celebrated the end of the dictator's regime. Castro's supporters moved quickly to establish their power. Judge Manuel Urrutia was named as provisional president. Castro and his band of guerrilla fighters triumphantly entered Havana on January 7.

Fulgencio Batista died in Spain at age 72 on August 6, 1973.

In late July 2006, an unwell Fidel Castro temporarily ceded power to his younger brother Raul. Fidel Castro officially stepped down in February 2008.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Brian Moore, 317th Eng. Co. UPAR, 101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde, MND-B

BAGHDAD – Soldiers of the 317th Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion work on improvements to an entry control point, here, on Victory Base Complex, Dec. 28. The upgrades to the ECP will make the entry point safer for those who use it, as well as those who guard it.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

The phrase 'dead ringer' refers to someone who sits behind Chuck Norris in a movie theater and forgets to turn their cell phone off.

Quote For Today

“Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.”

- Arnold Schwarzenegger -

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
64° F | 48° F



Tomorrow
66° F | 50° F



Sunday
68° F | 51° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the total number of fatalities at the end of WWI?

Last Issue's Answer: U.S. COAST GUARD

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.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 232 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division put their boxing skills over the Holi-

days. Interview with Staff Sgt. Taylor Donohoe, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division

2. Engineers from the 317th Engineer Company, 16th Engineer Brigade work to improve the drainage system at the ammunition point on Victory Base Camp. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/generalsearch/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type>

Check out other MND-B products, such as the weekly First Team Update video news program, and the latest print stories at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage: www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Tease

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

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

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



Multi-National Division-Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

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Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger

Public Affairs Officer:

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Editor:

Pfc. Debrah Sanders

Staff Writers:

1st Lt. Josh Risher

Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Scott

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