

Shadow program creates experienced ISF

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – American officers at Joint Security Station Doura have been working diligently to assist the Iraqi Security Forces in their training, operational planning and leadership skills.

As part of the transition, ISF officers work alongside U.S. Army officers during patrols and day-to-day operations to observe and interpret U.S. operations.

Second Lt. Sam Burrow, a platoon leader assigned 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, has been part of the Iraqi officer shadow program for more than two months now. He said he

is impressed with the way the program has been working.

“We teach them our way of doing things. It gives them the option to use our techniques in their day-to-day operations,” said Burrow, a native of Edenton, N.C. He added that several Iraqi junior officers have taken part in this program.

Iraqi 1st Lt. Abbas Lateef, a platoon leader assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Security Brigade, 2nd Federal Police Division, shadowed Burrow during a security patrol outside of JSS Doura, Dec. 29.

Lateef was part of the planning process, mission execution and after-action review, which Burrow said is essential to junior officers’ experience. He stated the best way for ISF junior lead-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen

1st Lt. Abaas Lateef (right), a platoon leader assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Security Brigade, 2nd Federal Police Division, discusses matters of local security with a member of the Kurdish Specialized Presidential Guard during a patrol in the East Rashid district, Dec. 29.

ers to become more efficient is to be hands-on with operations.

“Prior to going out, we discuss operational security, establishing 360-degree [security] perimeters and targeting high-value individuals,” explained Burrow.

Burrow added that this is the most efficient way for junior officers to learn, as only so much can be absorbed from a classroom environment. In this one-on-one situation, ISF officers have plenty of opportunities to ask any questions as they arise.

During the patrol, Burrow and Lateef met with leaders of the Kurdish Specialized Presidential Guard, whose area of operations is in the vicinity of JSS Doura. Local leaders provided informa-

tion on water points in the area and advised the junior officers how to utilize those points for future joint operations.

Spc. John Stricklin said most of his unit’s missions are focused on improving the quality of life for the Iraqi people.

“That’s what we’re here for, to help the populace establish a good infrastructure,” said Stricklin, a native of Laurinburg, N.C.

Burrow said his ISF counterpart gained leadership experience and established rapport with local military leaders. He also stated that the experience goes both ways.

“I’ve learned a lot from the Iraqis, and I hope they’ve learned a lot from me,” Burrow said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen

Spc. Jose Perez (front), an infantryman, patrols the East Rashid district, Dec. 29. Utilizing the Iraqi Officer Shadow program, 1st Lt. Abbas Lateef observes the techniques of U.S. troops as unit members search for a water point.

Camp Taji New Year's Eve celebration

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A fake camel covered in lights was lowered during the countdown to midnight during a New Year's Eve celebration organized by the 115th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, here, Dec. 31.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – As the last minutes of 2009 tick away, Soldiers gathered into the street to watch a fake camel covered in Christmas lights drop to bring in the New Year, here, Dec. 31.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – During a New Year's Eve talent show, Cpl. Joshua Moore, played guitar while singing "You're the One" by Olivia Newton John, here, Dec. 31.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Spc. Ryan Durmisevich (right), and Spc. Jason Honore, performed a comedy skit during a New Year's Eve talent show, here, Dec. 31.

Air Cav crew chief returns home after 20 years

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – After the U.S. Army invaded Panama in 1989 to oust the dictator Manuel Noriega, the country's people went on to rebuild their lives after "Operation Just Cause".

It would be 20 years before one citizen, who left before the war began to live in the U.S., would return.

The road back to Panama for Sgt. Nicanor Garcia, from Killeen, Texas, a crew chief with 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, was worth the long wait, despite being gone for two decades and starting his life over elsewhere.

Garcia, 34, said growing up in Panama was mostly pleasant with little to worry about in his early years.

"I was living in Panama City in a decent neighborhood. It wasn't middle class, but it wasn't lower class, it was something in between," Garcia said. "Economically, it wasn't so good, but I had the love of my mother and I had a lot of friends, so it wasn't that bad." Garcia said things remained calm until the stronghold of Noriega began to take hold during the course of the 1980's.

"We had an elected president, things were going well, but slowly it started deteriorating and a dictatorship was established by General Noriega," Garcia said. "Suddenly there would be no buses to take us to school ... so I couldn't go to school because it was too far to walk."

As the move towards war intensified, Garcia said Noriega began to resort to desperate measures to recruit

for his army, which his mother would have none of.

"It got to the point where Noriega was recruiting kids between the ages of 11 and (13)," Garcia said. "I was 13 at that point so my mom said 'No, you're not going to be in Noriega's army to defend him.' She wanted to get me out of the country, so we went and applied for a visa and thankfully I got approved."

In April 1989, at the age of 13, Garcia went to live with his grandmother in Brooklyn, N.Y., avoiding the war that would destroy his country.

"God knows what could have happened if I'd stayed. Back then there was so much confusion in the country during the hours of the invasion that anything could have happened," Garcia said. "Shots fired could have gone through our window or doors, things like that. It could have gone bad. So I'm glad my mother got me out of the country."

Joining the Army was an easy decision after seeing the destruction of the twin towers on 9-11, said Garcia.

"I love New York City and I used to see the towers every day. When they came down I said to myself 'I have to do something,'" Garcia continued. "Another reason I joined is this country has given me so much ... in Panama I would never be working on Apaches and I would never have the lifestyle the U.S. offered me."

After joining the 1st ACB, he dreamed of returning to Panama.

"I had to delay going back to Panama in part because of my Army career. Also I wanted to take my mom,



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Sgt. Nicanor Garcia, from Killeen, Texas, an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter crew chief in Company B, 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, left his native Panama in 1989 before the invasion by the U.S. Army and didn't return until 20 years later.

who eventually came to the states and became a citizen," he said. "I wanted to take my family with me so we could experience it together because I hadn't been back there for so long."

Garcia took his mother, wife and five-year-old daughter back to Panama while on leave from Iraq earlier this year and found himself reliving his childhood.

"From the moment I landed, memories started coming back ... I remembered leaving that airport and it looked pretty much the same," Garcia said. "I saw the rest of my family that were to greet me at the airport. A lot of them were older of course and I met brand new cousins that I had never seen before."

Garcia visited his former neighborhood and said although Panama City has become modernized, the people remain the same.

"I went back to my old neighborhood where

I grew up and it had totally changed," Garcia said. "There were still a few buildings that were there from when I was young; a mechanic and car repair shop with the same owner."

"I went in and said hello to the owner and he actually remembered me ... It was funny and interesting because the country has changed so much, but the people haven't," he added.

The experience left Garcia realizing things have improved significantly in Panama.

"It has changed for the better definitely, because if it wasn't for the invasion there wouldn't be democracy in Panama," Garcia said. "I liked the whole experience because it brought me back to when I was a kid but at the same time reminded me where I came from."

"I wanted to stay, but I had to come back and complete the mission," Garcia said with a laugh.

On This Day In History

January 2, 1980

Carter reacts to Soviet intervention in Afghanistan

In a very strong reaction to the December 1979 Soviet military intervention into Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter requests that the Senate postpone action on the SALT-II nuclear weapons treaty and recalls the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union. These actions indicated that the U.S.-Soviet relationship had been severely damaged by the Russian action in Afghanistan and that the age of detente had ended.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the establishment by the Soviets of a puppet government in that nation, brought U.S. relations with the Soviet Union to the breaking point. Carter's press secretary, Jodie Powell, called the Russian action "a serious threat to peace." On January 2, he announced that the Carter administration had asked the Senate to postpone deliberations on SALT-II, the complicated treaty dealing with nuclear arms. Carter also recalled U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Thomas J. Watson, Jr. home, ostensibly for "consultation." As Carter administration officials made clear, however, this action was intended to send a very strong message to the Soviets that military intervention in Afghanistan was unacceptable. In addition, the Carter administration was thinking about new trade restrictions against the Soviets and a boycott of the 1980 summer Olympics, which were to be held in Moscow.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan marked a critical turning point in U.S.-Soviet relations. With the action, the age of détente and the closer diplomatic and economic relations that were established during the presidency of Richard Nixon came to an end. Carter lost the election of 1980 to Ronald Reagan, who promised-and delivered-an even more vigorous anticommunist foreign policy.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – In a mobile petroleum testing lab, Spc. Juan Rodriguez-Cano, from Edinburg, Texas, a petroleum lab technician in Company A, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, sets up his equipment to perform the required test on a fuel sample, here, Dec. 29.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

It is scientifically impossible for Chuck Norris to have had a mortal father. The most popular theory is that he went back in time and fathered himself.

Quote For Today

“An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness.

-Elbert Hubbard-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 50° F



Tomorrow
68° F | 51° F



Monday
68° F | 48° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Who was the US Army physician who headed the “Yellow Fever” research project in the 1890s?

Last Issue’s Answer: 9 MILION

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 # 233 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers deliver the basics, food, water and fuel to units in eastern Iraq. Interviews with Spc. Andrew Jones, 4th Battalion, 31st

Infantry Regiment and 1st Lt. Ira Watkins, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment

2. The fuel lab from the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division test fuel samples on a regular basis to ensure it is ready for use.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type

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Trigger's Tease

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

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



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