

‘Operation Proper Exit’ gives Soldiers closure

By Sgt. Jennie Burrett
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.

BAGHDAD – In past wars, wounded warriors, especially those recovering from severe injuries, were never afforded the opportunity to re-visit the locations where they had been injured, or the hospitals in theater where they had been treated.

Five wounded warriors returned to visit with Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, through “Operation Proper Exit”, Dec. 30, at Contingency Operating Post Carver.

Some wounded Soldiers have said that when they left the combat zone, they had left their unit behind and they had left something unfinished. The program, in essence, gives the Soldier a sense of closure, allowing them to “leave the battlefield the right way.”

“There are several steps towards your recovery and this is just one more step to help come full circle with accepting your injury,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schlitz, of Moline, Ill., a former 4th Bn., 31st Inf. Regt. Soldier. Schlitz was injured during his unit’s last deployment when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device resulting in him being a double arm amputee, being

burnt over 85 percent of his body, and losing some of his vision.

“It is very important for me to show guys that if they get hurt, they can come back; there is still life after an injury. Two or three years ago I would have never thought I would have come back to this place and here I am now healthy. I am doing a lot more than I ever thought I was going to do and now I can show it to them and give them a little bit of support.”

During the day’s events at COP Carver, the wounded warriors took time to visit with the Soldiers, letting them ask questions and took a look at the new equipment the U.S. troops have now compared to when they were in a theater of operation.

“I think for [the wounded warriors] they get the reassurance that the things that they have done and the effort they have put into it isn’t going to waste,” said Cpl. Ryan Clark, of Phoenix, Az., an infantry team leader. “And it lets us know, even for some of the younger Soldiers, that you should never give up and always put forth the effort in whatever you do.”

This is the third time Multi-National Division—Baghdad has conducted Operation Proper Exit for the wounded warriors to return to Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Jennie Burrett

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schlitz (center), of Moline, Ill., a former Soldier with 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, shows off his mechanical arms during a visit to Contingency Operating Post Carver, Dec. 30.

“Younger Soldiers are learning that bad things do happen sometimes, but it is possible to continue on and carry on with a productive life in the future,” said 1st Sgt. Chris McMillian, of Hoyleton, Ill., Schlitz’s

former platoon sergeant.

“Seeing Sgt. Schlitz again is always fun. He hasn’t changed since his injuries. He always has a smile, always has a joke; makes me laugh. It is nice to see my friend again.”

New Year's Powder Puff Tournament

Photos by Sgt. Jessica Reaves
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Pago Pago, American Samoa native, Spc. Shusila Savae, a supply clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, blocks for Pfc. Jessica Cisero, a Tampa, Fla., native as she races towards the end zone for a touchdown against “Sweet Guns”, the female Powder Puff Team from 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div. The 1st BSTB Powder Puff Team won the game by seven points, Jan. 1.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION

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Air Cav brings in New Year with a Diamond Club run

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – For the most senior non-commissioned officers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, the New Year was brought in with a sweat as they participated in a fun run, here, Dec. 31.

The run saw all 1st ACB first sergeants and sergeants major join together in a motivational run organized by Command Sgt. Maj. Glen Vela, from Dallas, the brigade's command sergeant major, who said there were several factors for having the run.

One was having the "Diamond Club," the brigade first sergeants, bringing a potential first sergeant to accompany them on the run – ushering in new leadership with the New Year, Vela said.

Vela said the potential first sergeants were identified as su-

perior NCO's by their leaders and added they would one day be replacing the current leadership, including himself.

The run also symbolized the tone and pace with which the 1st ACB have to finish the deployment, Vela said, which means running to the finish line, not walking.

Finishing the deployment strongly also means increasing physical fitness, which Vela said was another aspect of the run he was trying to emphasize.

The run started at brigade headquarters and made its way through the headquarters of each battalion to ring in the New Year, he added.

"The Soldiers were motivated – it was a great feeling," Vela said. "The finish line was the new year."

Vela explained that whereas 2009 was the year of the NCO, 2010 would be the year of the



Photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas

As part of a run to see in the New Year, both sergeants major and first sergeants of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, make their way through the flight line, here, Dec. 31. The run included stops at every battalion headquarters building and concluded just before midnight.

Air Cav. – the year the brigade returns home.

"We weren't there when our kids started the school year, but we'll be there when they

get out," Vela said. "For young Soldiers that is a big deal."

"We're going to have a good summer," he said. "2010 is our year."

Diplomacy takes precedence in East Rashid

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – Military operations are not always focused on combat; sometimes they are all about diplomacy.

Such was the case in the East Rashid district, Dec. 28, when members of 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team met with key Iraqi government leaders to discuss matters of shared interest.

Capt. Christian Smith, commander of Company A, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th HBCT, visited the District Area Council, here, to speak with local leaders about past successes, current issues and future projects.

Smith reestablished communications with Hashim Mahemoud Dahash, deputy councilman of the East Rashid district area council and a member of the Baghdad city council.

Smith said Hashim has been a major asset in improving living conditions for the population there.

"He's like a father figure to everyone around here," said Smith, referencing Hashim's recent work with youth soccer leagues and kidnapping victims.

Smith, a native of Wake Forest, N.C., also wanted to ensure that his replacement would get a chance to meet with key leaders during the trip to the council.

Capt. Evan Davies, a com-

pany commander with the 3rd Infantry Division, got a chance to build rapport with Hashim and other local leaders, where he took the opportunity to discuss his plans for joint operations in the area.

"We are here to facilitate the Iraqi Federal Police in their mission to better secure [East Rashid] by conducting training, joint operations and the like. We've seen what the 252nd [Combined Arms Battalion] has done here and hope to keep up their traditions," said Davies.

Hashim agreed the 252nd did a great job keeping the area outside of Joint Security Station Doura safer for the people, calling the Soldiers his second

family. He said he felt the Iraqi Federal Police and Iraqi Security Forces have greatly improved with their help and hopes the incoming U.S. Soldiers will continue that kind of great work.

During Smith's trip to the council, Jaber akol Khamis al-Hadar, the manager of the East Rashid council, visited his American guests. He wanted to meet Davies and express his gratitude to the 252nd Soldiers for their hard work and achievements during their deployment.

Smith said his working relationship with the Iraqi government officials has been very positive in the past, and he hopes the coming year will remain the same.

On This Day In History

January 4, 1965

L.B.J. envisions a “Great Society” in his State of the Union address

On this day in 1965, in his State of the Union address, President Lyndon Baines Johnson lays out for Congress a laundry list of legislation needed to achieve his plan for a “Great Society.” On the heels of John F. Kennedy’s tragic death, Americans had elected Johnson, his vice president, to the presidency by the largest popular vote in the nation’s history. Johnson used this mandate to push for improvements he believed would better Americans’ quality of life.

Following Johnson’s lead, Congress enacted sweeping legislation in the areas of civil rights, health care, education and the environment. The 1965 State of the Union address heralded the creation of Medicare/Medicaid, Head Start, the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the White House Conference on Natural Beauty. Johnson also signed the National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Act, out of which emerged the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through the Economic Opportunity Act, Johnson fought a “War on Poverty” by implementing improvements in early childhood education and fair employment policies. He was also a strong advocate for conservation, proposing the creation of a “green legacy” through preserving natural areas, open spaces and shorelines and building more urban parks. In addition, Johnson stepped up research and legislation regarding air- and water-pollution control measures.

Under Kennedy, then-Vice President Johnson led the government’s quest to develop American excellence in the sciences. As president, the ongoing technology race with the Soviet Union spurred Johnson to continue the vigorous national program of space exploration begun by Kennedy. During Johnson’s presidency, the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) achieved the extraordinary and unprecedented accomplishment of orbiting a man around the moon.

Though many of Johnson’s programs remain in place today, his legacy of a “Great Society” has been largely overshadowed by his decision to involve greater numbers of American soldiers in the controversial Vietnam War.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD – Spc. Nathaneal Meade (left), of Elizabeth, Colo., and Spc. Frank Walker, of Wilmington, N.C., hang balloons in front of a dart board, Dec. 31; hoping to send one dart through all of them at midnight to pop-in the New Year. Meade came up with the idea when he found leftover balloons from a previous birthday celebration.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

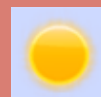
There is endless debate about the existence of the human soul. Well it does exist, and Chuck Norris finds it delicious.

Quote For Today

“History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid.”

-Dwight D. Eisenhower-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 49° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 50° F



Wednesday
66° F | 46° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the name of General Robert E. Lee's horse which he used throughout the Civil War?

Last Issue's Answer: MAJOR WALTER REED

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.

2. The fuel lab from the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division tests 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

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

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

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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