

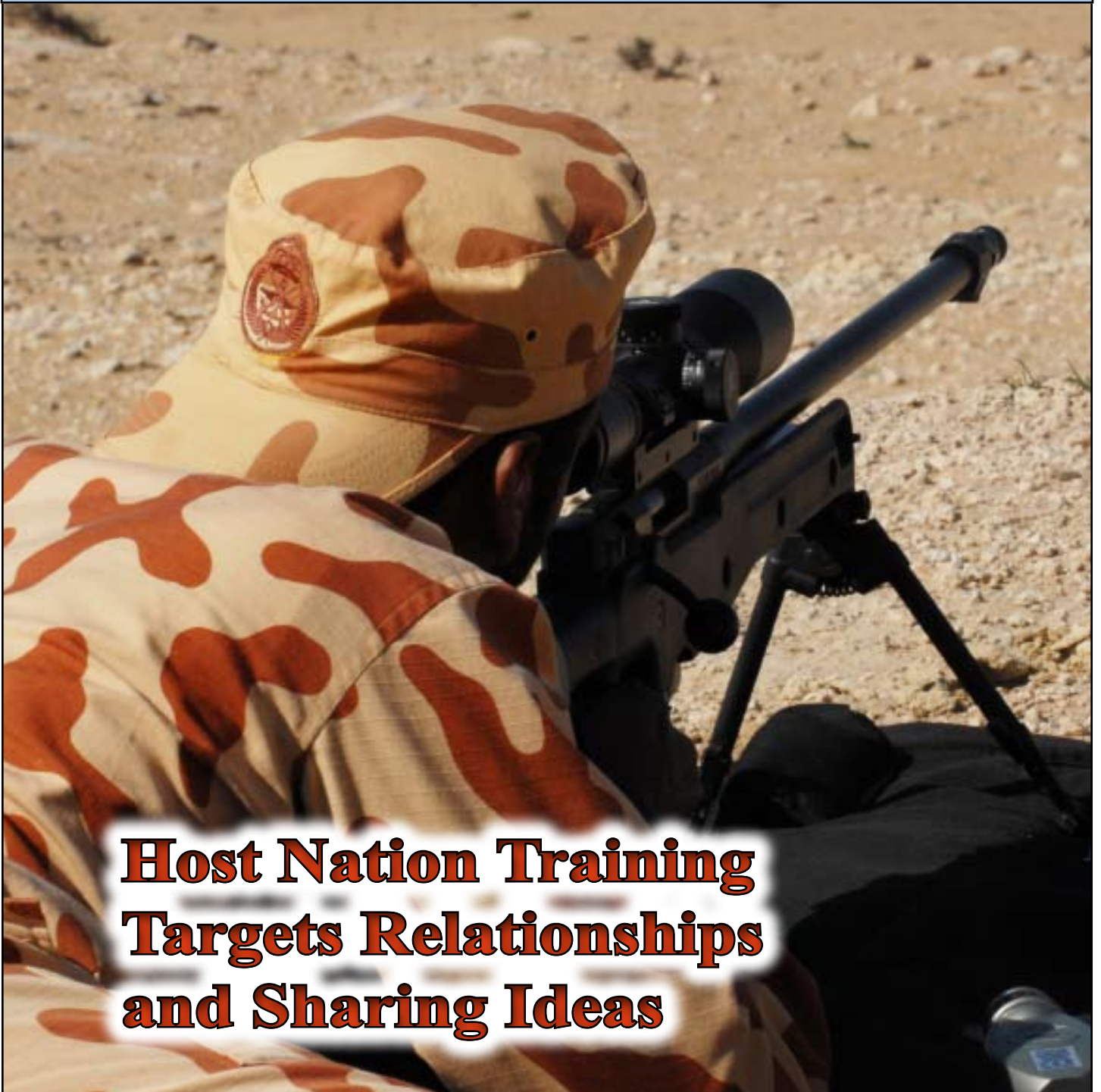
115th Fires Brigade



Cowboy Thunder

Special Edition Host Nation Training, Kuwait

July 2009 - March 2010



**Host Nation Training
Targets Relationships
and Sharing Ideas**

Commanders' Comments

Howdy from Cowboy 6.

One of the key missions the Brigade has been executing is Host Nation training. Host Nation training is a mission that is normally above and beyond what a Fires Brigade is expected to do; but that hasn't concerned the Soldiers, Sailors and Coastguardsmen of the Cowboy Thunder Brigade. The



Col. Richard C. Knowlton

old saying "If it's hard we'll take care of it right away. The impossible might take just a little longer" demonstrates the capability and commitment of all the organizations that form the Brigade.

As we are all well aware, the United States Armed Forces have the best leadership, training and equipment in the world. The 115th Fires Brigade is no exception. With that in mind, it should come as no surprise that foreign military services seek out training from the world's best. That has been the case here with the several branches of the Kuwaiti Military and the 115th Fires Brigade.

Our ability to conduct host nation training goes well beyond just providing information, teaching a class

or enhancing a skill set. The way we as American soldiers, sailors and coastguardsmen conduct ourselves and the professionalism we display in our duties set the example for host nation personnel.

This special edition contains several outstanding stories about the training we have conducted with our Kuwait counterparts. The accomplishments are truly astounding and the results speak for themselves. Our people continue to have a significant positive impact on the outcome of the Global War on Terrorism.

As we continue to close on mission completion, this is yet another example of the great work the Cowboy Thunder Brigade has accomplished during this deployment.

Happy Trails.

Cowboy 6 Out.

Command Sgt. Maj. Comments

Host Nation training here in Kuwait is a vital link to our National Security Objectives with Kuwait. Along with accomplishing our National Security Objectives, we also as Soldiers and Diplomats of the United States get a better understanding of the Arab Culture and more specific, a better understanding of the Identity of the People of Kuwait, or what makes a Kuwaiti different than other peoples of the world.

When looking at the Ends, Ways and Means of our relationship with Kuwait, our efforts over the past nine months with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense and Ministry of the Interior is vital to our overall National Objectives here in the Middle East.

One can deduce that our ends or strategic goals here in Kuwait are: 1. Having a staging area for operations in Iraq and other areas in the Middle East, and 2. Having good relations with the Kuwaiti Government for support of our National Objectives in the Middle East. One can also deduce that the Ends that the Kuwaiti Government has is: 1. A secure Kuwait from other countries here in the Middle East and, 2. Improving their Military so they can

better provide for their own security. Our Soldiers provide the ways as several courses of action that our Military can use on the ground here in Kuwait and the means which is the Soldiers, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen here on the ground that actually conduct the training and do the daily interaction with the Kuwaiti Military.

So what does all this Academic mumbo jumbo mean to the Soldiers, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen actually conducting the training here on the ground? It means that we have put a face on the big U.S. Military Machine here in Kuwait and it gives our Soldiers, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen an opportunity to learn the Culture and Identity of the people and



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenton Franklin

more specifically the members of the military here in Kuwait. Our Servicemembers need to take pride in what we have done in the Host Nation Training and our day to day interaction with the Kuwaitis. From the formal training we have conducted to the daily interaction our Personnel have in conducting several missions here in Kuwait, we have put a positive face on the United States Military. We have conducted well thought-out training that our Kuwaiti Counterparts have requested.

We have developed personal relationships with the members of the Kuwaiti Military which helps us understand their Country and Military and the Kuwaiti Military understand ours. Hopefully, the members of our Brigade who have conducted Host Nation Training have enjoyed the interaction and can reflect positively on what they have accomplished in the training.

We all need to remember that the training we accomplished may not seem like much, but the second and third order effects of our professionalism in dealing with the people and Military Members of Kuwait pay huge dividends in the overall accomplishment of the National Goals here in the Middle East and throughout the world.

115th Fires Brigade
Commander
Col. Richard Knowlton
Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Kenton Franklin

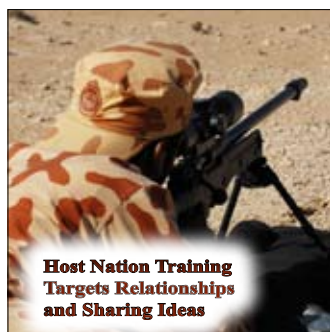
Cowboy Thunder Staff

Editor
Master Sgt. Dave Largent

Assistant Editor
Sgt. Robert Walden

Contributing Journalists
Sgt. Katie Gray
Spc. Matthew Oda

On the Cover:



Members of the 2nd Battalion 300th Field Artillery Advanced Marksmanship Team trained with rifles and pistols with a Kuwait Sniper Team. (pages 6-8)

The Cowboy Thunder is an authorized publication for and in the interest of the personnel of the 115th Fires Brigade and their Families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of *The Cowboy Thunder* staff and not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Army National Guard.

This is a Special Edition covering the training conducted between members of the 115th Fires Brigade and Kuwait military members.

©2009 Wyo.. National Guard
All Rights Reserved



Advanced Marksmanship Training Puts Rounds On Target 6-8



Navigational Hazard Cleared 9

86th Engineer Dive Team Trains with Kuwait Divers 14-15



Military Operations in Urban Terrain 16-17

Maintenance Training Shares Ideas.....4
Chemical Training Teaches Equipment Operations.....5
Oil Spill Response Exercise Conducted.....10-11
Navy PT Boat Operators Training.....12-13
Kuwaiti Policewomen Visit Female Officers.....18-19

Maintenance Personnel Share Techniques with Kuwait National Guard

**Story and Photos by
Master Sgt. David Largent**

Maintenance personnel from Kuwait National Guard and 115th Fires Brigade, met at Camp Virginia, Kuwait mid Oct. for a seminar designed to learn and share ideas with each other about vehicle maintenance processes and procedures.

Seeing how other units run their maintenance program helps both units streamline and improve their own processes.

The Kuwaitis brought about 30 Soldiers to participate in the joint training which included both classroom and a hands on portion. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy E. Chamberlain and Master Sgt. Mark E. Beyl from Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 115th FiB taught the classroom portion, and maintenance section Soldiers from the 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion, a Wyo.. unit assigned to the 115th FiB, conducted the hands on training.

Instructors discussed the function of software used to track repairs, the roles of vehicle operators, maintenance supervisors and personnel, and ordering and stocking spare parts.

After the classroom portion the participants headed to a maintenance tent where they viewed maintenance operations being conducted on Humvees and MRAPs.

It wasn't just the vehicles that caught the Kuwaitis attention.

Col. Hashem Al-Rafee, commander, Combat Service Support, Kuwait National Guard, walked through the 100 degree maintenance tent with a slight breeze blowing through it, observing as the mechanics described their maintenance process, checked out the temporary floor and eyed the tent itself.

"I think I need to check into getting one of these tents... maybe a

little smaller one," said Al-Rafee. "I'm amazed with the conditions here and how you keep it so clean. I want my Soldiers to see how clean it is and see how professional you are," he added.

According to Al-Rafee, the Kuwaiti Humvees are configured differently than the ones U.S. Soldiers use because the missions are different.

"Well I talked to the Kuwaiti leadership; they told me that I gave them exactly what they wanted. They wanted to mainly focus on PMCS and supervisory PMCS. Also the trouble of getting parts, and our STAMIS system," said Beyl.

"It is very important; we believe the U.S. Army, a very big Army, has a lot of experience on how to maintain their equipment, especially during an operation. That is what we need to know, how they maintain their equipment during peacetime and during combat operations," said Al-Rafee.



Master Sgt. Mark E. Beyl, senior maintenance NCOIC, HHB 115th Fires Brigade, stands by to teach U.S. maintenance processes and procedures to Kuwait National Guard maintenance personnel during a Joint Training exercise at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, Oct. 13, 2009.



Kuwait National Guardsmen and Master Sgt. Mark E. Beyl listen as Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Kuykendall (wearing coveralls), mechanic, and Sgt. Martin J. Marquez, mechanic, both of A. Company, 960th Brigade Support Battalion, 115th FiB, talk through the step by step process of conducting Preventative Maintenance, Checks and Services (PMCS) as Staff Sgt. Zachary West, HHC, 960th BSB follows along in the manual to ensure no steps are missed.

61st Joint Forces Chemical Training

Story by Spc. Matthew H. Oda
Photos by Master Sgt. David Largent

The 61st Chemical Company Reconnaissance Platoon conducted a joint forces training operation with the Kuwait National Guard Nov. 18, 2009 at Camp Tarheer, Kuwait.

The 61st set up a decontamination site to train the Kuwaitis for dismounted reconnaissance, as well as HAZMAT scenarios to practice proper reaction to the incident.

“When we come down to train with the Kuwaitis, we want to make sure they are as prepared and equipped as they can be for any situation or incident that may occur,” said Sgt. Joseph McBride, NCO in charge of the training. “What we do is walk them through each step of the process. They learn how to use the equipment to detect the chemicals in the area and how to take samples. We also made sure they know all the necessary steps and procedures to protect themselves and their country in case a situation should occur,” he added.

The Soldiers and Kuwaitis were briefed on the training scenario, and then they put on the suits and entered the contaminated area to collect samples to bring back and get analyzed for a better understanding of the situation. Once that team came back, the Decontamination Team was ready with different stations to decontaminate the first team.

“Every step of the way, we were showing them new things that they never knew before. We made sure they understood why they did what they did, and how to do it so they properly protect themselves,” said McBride.

Not only did the 61st share their knowledge of different



Spc. Daniel A. Zavala, chemical operations specialist, Recon Platoon, 61st Chemical Co., 115th Fires Brigade, assists a chemical defense unit member of the Kuwaiti National Guard as they suit up in chemical protective suits during joint training at camp Tarheer, Kuwait, Nov. 18, 2009.

types of training to the Kuwaitis, but they also shared their equipment as well.

“We got to put on the U.S Army suits which are different from the suits we use,” said Pvt. Hammed Asi, a chemical Soldier for the Kuwait National Guard. “Actually, the suits are not that comfortable but this is what you have to do and you have to be tough to do it so we didn’t mind,” he added.

Teamwork has a vital role when working together with another military force in order to have a successful mission.

“What I liked about the training the most is the teamwork,” said Asi. “We split up into different teams and each member of the team would help each other out. In the end all teams would submit their work together and that felt like such good teamwork,” he finished.



Spc. Amanda K. Schinkel, chemical operations specialist, Recon Platoon, 61st Chemical Co. 115th Fires Brigade, attaches an oxygen hose to the protective mask of a chemical defense unit member of the Kuwaiti National Guard at camp Tarheer, Kuwait, Nov. 18, 2009. Schinkel is from Colorado Springs, Colo., her unit is stationed at Ft. Lewis Wash. and was deployed to Kuwait.





Members of the 2-300 Field Artillery Advanced Marksmanship Team work with Kuwaiti snipers from the 68th Platoon, 25th Commando Brigade for two weeks. They focused on close quarter marksmanship and long distance marksmanship.

Wyo., Kuwait Forces Conduct Weapons Training

Story by Sgt. Katie Gray

Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Largent

At the base a ridge in northern Kuwait, a barely visible target is seen standing against the wind. Five hundred meters away, a man shields his face against the blowing sand and lines up the target in the crosshairs of his scope, draws a breath, pauses and fires, then pauses again to hear the ‘plink’ of the bullet on the metal target.



A Kuwaiti sniper with the 68th Platoon, 25th Commando Brigade, looks downrange through a spotting scope to the 500 meter target during joint advanced marksmanship training with a team from the 2-300 Field Artillery. The training took place at a firing range near Camp Megavier, Kuwait, Jan. 7.

This was one of many shots fired on the last day of training between Soldiers from the 2-300 Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade and Kuwait Soldiers from the 68th platoon, 25th Commando Brigade during a two week advanced marksmanship training course on Jan. 7, at a range near Camp Megavier, Kuwait.

The training focused on hitting targets in urban terrain and started with theory in the classroom then shifted to application in the field.

The nine 2-300 F.A. Soldiers were handpicked to lead the joint training because of previous achievements. In addition to their Guard training, the instructors had prior active duty with either designated marksman training or sniper school experience which qualified them to instruct the Commandos on both close quarters marksmanship and long distance marksmanship with M9 pistols, M4 rifles, and .308 caliber sniper rifles.

This training gave both groups an opportunity to see how the ‘other side’ does things. Although the Kuwaitis had previous marksmanship training, Staff Sgt. Zachary S. Miller, NCOIC of the training from 2-300 F.A., explained this training

was tailored to suit the changing complexion of warfare.

“Now the fight is urban. It’s not going to be in the desert or the jungle or wherever we’re used to fighting,” explained Miller, who spent four years

Continued on next page



Working as a team, a Kuwaiti sniper takes aim and prepares to fire at the 500, 800, and 1,000 meter targets while another sniper, also from the 68th Platoon, 25th Commando Brigade, gets ready to fire.



1st Lt. Oliver Gooden of Rock Springs, Wyo., operations officer, 2-300 Field Artillery, looks downrange to the 500 meter target during advanced marksmanship training with a Kuwaiti sniper team.



To add realism by increasing their heart rate and breathing, the snipers ran a couple kilometers with 35 pound packs or their sniper rifles and then, each two person team, did 200 pushups and 200 sit-ups before firing at the 500, 800 and 1,000 meter targets.

Cowboy Thunder

Continued from page 8

in the active Army and is a qualified sniper. "They've been doing very well. They've been shooting 1000 meter targets and they're doing great. They are doing great things for their country and the War on Terrorism."

The training is one of the extra modules the 68th platoon, which is comparable to U.S. Special Forces, undergoes, said 1st Lt. Fahad Al Ouwish, the Sniper Squad Leader of the 68th platoon. Al Ouwish explained most of his men go through Kuwait Ranger School before joining the Brigade, and then are selected for the 68th.

"Most of the officers and enlisted guys we have try to go to the 68th because it's like the top notch. But it's hard to get into because you've gotta go through tests," Al Ouwish said.

The requirements for the Kuwaitis to become Special Forces demonstrates that they view their Special Forces with just as much pride and determination as their American counterparts.

"Every unit has a set of Soldiers that are definitely motivated to do training in infantry tactics," said 1st Lt. Oliver Gooden of Rock Springs, Wyo., an operations officer with the 2-300 F.A. "These guys were squared away. They're motivated to be out here and they were happy to come out every day with us to get dirty, nasty, and shoot bullets downrange.

"I've trained with over 12 different countries in my career and every infantryman in the world is basically the same: pretty easygoing guys, we like simple things, we don't mind the dirt, we don't mind the sweat; these snipers are just the same," Gooden said loud enough to be heard over the wind.

Of course, the training had some challenges. The language barrier caused some discomfort on both sides; most of the Kuwaitis had varying English abilities yet shyness made them hesitant to speak up at first.

"For us we learned patience—language patience. Everything moves just a little bit slower when two different units speak two different languages," Gooden said. Yet the barrier



1st Lt. Fahad Al Ouwish, 68th Platoon, 25th Commando Brigade, prepares to fire during advanced marksmanship training with a team from the U.S. 2-300 Field Artillery.

made the Americans reassess a teaching strategy that heavily relies on verbal communication.

On the last day of training, American Soldiers challenged the Kuwaitis physically with a 'stress shoot'. Both forces donned 30-35 pound rucksacks and ran up and down the suddenly distant hill that served as a backdrop for most of their shooting. When they returned, each two man team performed 200 pushups and 200 sit-ups. They then had three minutes to set up their rifle and engage their target.

The exercise didn't dissuade them and everyone was able to complete the shoot, albeit with a few moans and pained laughs. Even sore and tired, Miller had good things to say about the 68th platoon, "I'd absolutely go to war with these guys. They're great Soldiers...they're a tier up of everyone else that I've worked with."

Gooden is especially optimistic. "I'm glad that the relationship between the Kuwaiti's army and the U.S. Army can take a step forward for the future," Gooden said.



Cpl. Randy L. Stevens, HUMVEE gunner, A Battery, 2-300 FA, from Florence, Texas, checks the wind speed to see what effect it will have on the trajectory of the bullet.

Host Nation Training



Two M88 recovery vehicles are used to lift the boat out of the sand and water allowing the workers to evaluate the wreckage and see what needs to be done to finish separating the pieces at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Nov. 11, 2009.

Navigational Hazard Cleared

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Robert D Walden

Soldiers from the 115th Fires Brigade approached the end of a five year project at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, involving a sunken tugboat by removing the navigational hazard from their shore, Nov. 23, 2009.

In an agreement with the Kuwait National Guard, the 86th Engineer Dive Team, the 1-147th Field Artillery, along with contractors from DynCorp removed the vessel by cutting it into sections using demolition, and cutting torches. M88 recovery vehicles were then used to pull the metal remains onto the shore where it will be loaded onto a truck by a crane and hauled off as scrap metal.

The boat is believed to have been sunk farther out in the channel during the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1992, said 1st Lt. Joseph M. Lunn, commander of the 86th Engineer Dive Team.

"It was moved here to the beach to get it out of the way," said Lunn. "Now the Navy and Marines use this area for amphibious landings with LCAC's (Landing Craft Air Cushioned) so the boat needs to be moved again."

According to Lunn, at high tide

only the boat's tallest parts can be seen above the water.

Members of dive teams have used the wreckage as a training aid to practice underwater welding and cutting since the ship was moved here five years ago.

"It's been really nice having a project like this in our backyard where we can throw together an oxy-acetylene cutting set and get some of the new guys to practice their skills so they can become experts underwater," said Lunn.



Using a torch, Sgt. Chaise Turner of the 86th Engineer Dive Team cuts a hole in the ship for a chain to go through to pull the wreckage from the water at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Nov. 11, 2009.



Soldiers from the 1-147 FA along with contractors from DynCorp attach cables from the wenchies on M88 recovery vehicles to the tug boat to pull it from the water.



Coast Guardsmen, contractors and Kuwaitis prepare the boom to be guided into the water where it will then be pulled into place by a coast guard 25 foot Transportable Port Security Boat to contain any oil floating on the surface during the first Emergency Oil Spill Response exercise held at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Dec. 14, 2009.

Oil Spill Response Exercise

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. David Largent

An Oil Spill Response Exercise was conducted at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Jan. 14, 2009 to ensure the response team would be able to contain and clean up an oil spill should it ever happen.

Participants included members of the Camp command cell of the 1-147 Field Artillery out of South Dakota, Coast Guardsmen from Port Security Units 301 and 312, Soldiers from the Harbor Master Operations Detachment, 396th Transportation Company, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, contractors from Combat Support Associates, Environmental Department, several Kuwaitis and members of Camp Patriot Fire Department. It was the first time many of the participants have ever been involved in an oil spill exercise.

It's necessary to get all of the departments together that would be involved and determine what responsi-

bilities fell to which department and how to coordinate and communicate throughout the response.

"The goal is to have the ability to respond here in Kuwait as we would anywhere back in the U.S.," said Kirk E. Davis, environmental department manager from CSA, the company that is under contract with 3rd Army to provide oil spill and hazmat response to the U.S. Military in Area Support Group Kuwait's area of responsibility.

Prior coordination and practice is required to put a team together from so many different groups.

"Our intent was to provide personnel and equipment to contain a spill from a U.S. vessel up to 1,000 gallons of fuel within the harbor and notify CSA spill response for the cleanup," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brett K. Anderson, environmental officer for Camp Patriot Command Cell, 1-147 Field Artillery. "The first response is to contain the spill, then the contractors come in to do the cleanup," he added.



The boom is put into place surrounding a simulated oil spill to keep it contained until it can be removed.

To kick off the exercise, the simulated spill was reported to the Joint Operations Center, manned by Soldiers from

Continued on next page

Continued from page 6

1-147 FA, who spread the word to the other organizations involved. Each quickly responded to the call and did their piece to contain the spill.

The fire department was first on the scene and ensured the area was safe for other workers and checked for injured personnel while the Quick Reaction Force from the 1-147 secured access to the pier.

The harbor master ensured radio communications functioned properly as a Coast Guard team delivered the trailer with the oil containment boom and prepared to guide the boom into the water where a boat crew operating a 25 foot Transportable Port Security Boat guided the boom out into the water to contain the oil until it could be removed.

Throughout the exercise a small group of Kuwaitis observed each stage of the operation so they will know the steps in case there is an oil spill.

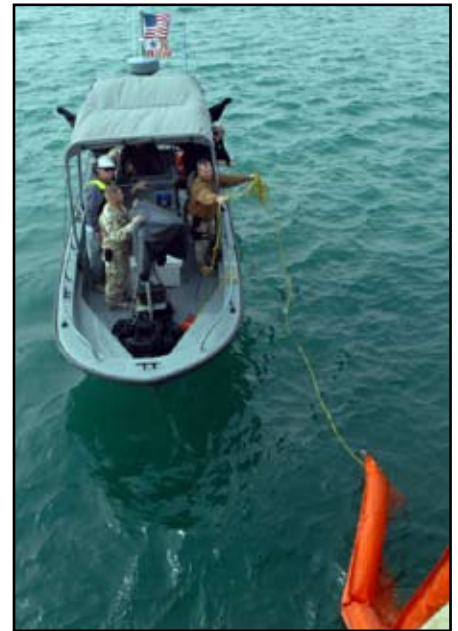
While there was no oil spilled this time, the exercise allowed all the participants to; get their hands



A 25 foot Transportable Port Security Boat manned by Coast Guardsmen from PSU 301 who recently redeploy back to the U.S. and some of their replacements from PSU 312 guide the boom into place which would keep the oil spill floating on the water from spreading until it can be removed.

on equipment for the first time and learn how it operates; test communications and learn how to make their radios work throughout the different groups involved; and an opportunity for everyone to meet the others that they will be working with should a spill ever occur.

"I think it's going to open doors and build bridges to more and better joint training," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Glen A. Spence, harbor master, 396th Transportation Harbor Master Operations Detachment, 180th Transportation Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade.



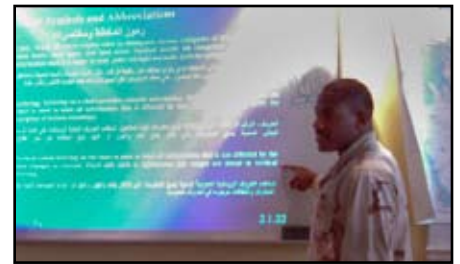
The boom is guided into the water as the Coast Guard Patrol Boat pulls it into place. The boat must travel slowly to make sure the water isn't stirred up which would affect the spill they would be trying to contain.



Quick Reaction Force members from the 1-147 Field Artillery secure the entry to the pier to ensure only required personnel are near the oil spill to ensure safety of everyone during an Oil Spill Response Exercise.



Petty Officer 1st Class Carl M. Sette, machinery technician, Port Security Unit 312, operates the hydraulic control on the oil containment boom to regulate the rate the boom is played out Dec. 14, 2009.



Navy Trains Patrol Boat Operations

Two of the top trainers, Lt. j.g. Mathew Lewis and Electrician,s Mate 2 Stanley Phillips, Command Task Group 56.5 conducted Patrol Boat training to Kuwaiti Marines at the request of their Officer In Charge. Training was conducted every morning five days a week. The Kuwaitis recently purchased a fleet of 34' Sea Ark Patrol Boats, the same as those operated by 56.5, and we provided them training on navigation, boat handling, and engineering for several months. A graduation ceremony was held at Camp Patriot, Kuwait early in January.

See more photographs on next page

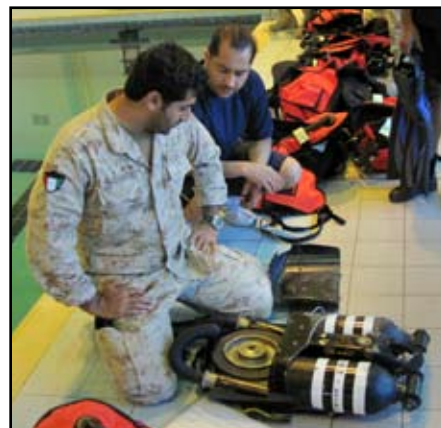


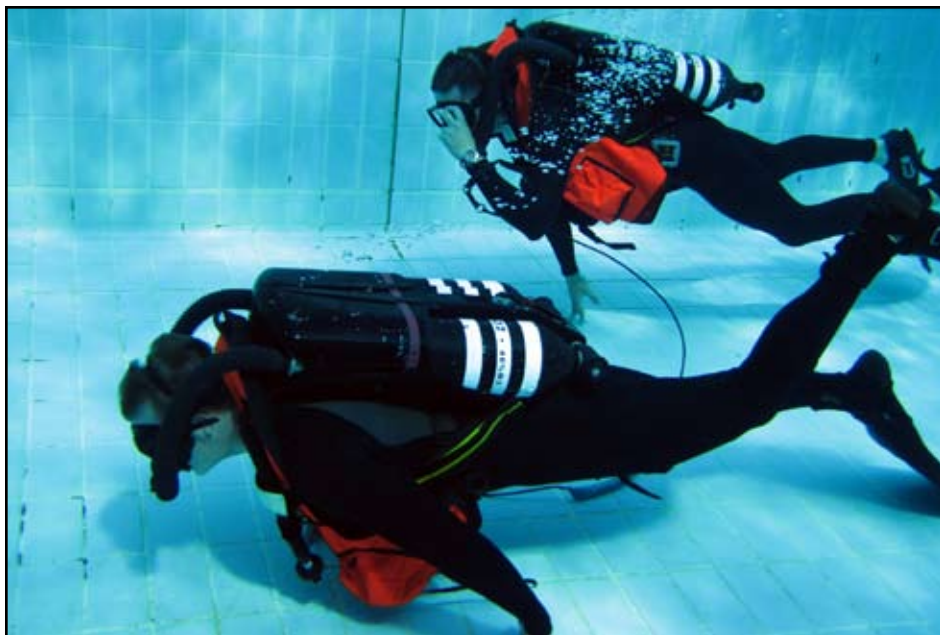




Divers Share Experience, Equipment

The Army's 86th Engineer Dive Team trained Kuwaiti divers on the Army Super Lite 37K and the Kuwaitis trained the U.S. Divers on the DC-55 rebreather at the Kuwait Naval pool at Camp Patriot, Kuwait in Dec. 2009. It was the first time these U.S. divers conducted dives with a rebreather and the first time for the Kuwaiti divers using the Super Lite 37K. (Photos by 1st Lt. Joseph M. Lunn, 86th Engineer Dive Team)





Kuwait, South Dakota National Guardsmen Conduct Close Quarter Training

Story and photos by
Spc. Steve Brannelly

Continuing in the spirit of a successful partnership, U.S. Guardsmen from S. D. with the 1-147th Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade and members of the Kuwait National Guard's 4th Infantry Battalion came together February 18th to perform their final day of training on Military Operations in Urban Terrain at Camp Kazma, Kuwait.

MOUT training involves assaulting a building, moving tactically from room to room and neutralizing combatants until the building is clear.

For the host nation troops, it was their first experience with this type of training.

"It was very well executed. They've done a great job, especially having never been exposed to this before," said Command Sgt. Maj. Darold Diede with the 1-147 FA.

The KNG's 4th Infantry Battalion was organized in Oct. 2009, and is "basically a hodge-podge of the leftovers from the other battalions," said Eric Thien, a civilian contractor with Military Professional Resources Inc. "And these guys came out here to their first live fire MOUT range and hit every single target," he added.

The 1-147 FA Battalion has been rotating squads to train with the KNG Infantry Battalions since Sept. Some of the training included Improvised Explosive Device reaction, weapons training, and a favorite of the U.S. Soldiers; riot control.

Lessons learned by the Kuwait Guardsmen centered on proper use of, and trust in, their equipment.

"The Soldiers threw rocks during that training. If the Kuwaitis got hit, they should've had their riot shields up," said Diede.

Continued on next page



Screening their movements with smoke, Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion, Kuwait National Guard, overcome a wall before assaulting the target building during Close Quarters Training at Camp Kazma, Kuwait, Feb. 18.



Using the walls as cover, Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Battalion, Kuwait National Guard, round the corner as they prepare to breach the building during Close Quarters Training at Camp Kazma, Kuwait, February 18. During training over the past six months, including the Close Quarters Training, Soldiers with the 1-147 Field Artillery from South Dakota were there in an overwatch and mentoring capacity.

Continued from page 16

“These guys are happy to get out. Interacting with the Kuwaitis is something these Soldiers don’t often get to do,” explained Diede, “and it’s great for them to experience another culture doing the same things they’re doing.”

According to Diede, “Our guys also got the chance to hone their



Soldiers with the 4th Infantry Battalion, Kuwait National Guard, clear the building before calling in EOD support at Camp Kazma, Kuwait, Feb. 18.

mentoring skills,” whether demonstrating the most efficient way to get over a wall, or imparting different techniques for stacking outside a door before assaulting a room.

Despite the language barrier the two groups worked together well and the troops from South Dakota were impressed with how quickly the Kuwaitis picked up the basics of MOUT. On the other side, the host service members were pleased to show off their National Guard training center to their U.S. counterparts while picking up some valuable infantry tactics at the same time.

At the conclusion of the training, the KNG soldiers formed up to receive certificates of accomplishment from their commander before posing for a group picture with the contract trainers and the S.D. Guardsmen.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers fire a water canon to disarm a simulated explosive.

Conducting training with the host nation builds on an already stable foundation of cooperation, and allows the U.S. troops to feel more comfortable in their temporary surroundings.

“I’ve met with two of the top five Kuwaiti generals, and they both said that while we are here this is our home, we’re welcome anytime,” Diede said.



A member of the Kuwait National Guard’s EOD unit prepares to place a water cannon to disarm a simulated explosive device during Close Quarters Training.



Soldiers with the 1-147 Field Artillery from South Dakota, conduct Close Quarters Training with Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion, Kuwait National Guard, at Camp Kazma, Kuwait, Feb. 18. This training allows Soldiers from both countries to experience how each military conducts operations.



115th FiB Presents Posters, Awards to Kuwait National Guard



Leaders from the 115th Fires Brigade presented certificates of appreciation, belt buckles, and posters displaying photos from training events to Leaders from the Kuwait National Guard at Camp Tarheer, Kuwait, Feb. 23. Soldiers of the 115th Fires Brigade participated in many Host Nation training events with Kuwait Soldiers during their year-long deployment.



Kuwait Policewomen Visit U.S. Female Officers

Story and photos by
Sgt. Katie Gray

Cameras flashed and various American and Kuwaiti greetings and terms were traded back and forth as a group of six women from the Kuwait Police Academy attended a special meeting with female United States Coast Guard and Navy officers at Camp Patriot, Mar. 3.

It was a special chance for the women, from the first class of female graduates at the academy, to interact with other female officers.

Cmdr. Joan Amanda Dobbs, deputy commander, Combined Task Group 56.5, came up with the idea after hearing about the class, and contacted the Kuwait Coast Guard where Capt. Mubarak Ali Y. Al Sabah, chief of maritime operations helped arrange the meeting. As the first among what Dobbs hoped to be many meetings, the group toured Camp Patriot while the two sides exchanged lifestyle and culture stories. One popular word of the day was “ajib” slang for “awesome” and the word flew back and forth all day in both languages.



Lt. Farah Ahmad, a Kuwait Policewoman checks out a machinegun during a tour of a Navy ship at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, March 3. She is one of the women who were part of the first graduating class of female officers at the Kuwait Police Academy.



From Left to Right: Lt. Amal Al-Awadhi, Lt. Maali Osama Bu-Abbas, Lt. Dalal Al-Amer, Ensign Michelle Bostic, Lt. Farah Ahmad, Ensign Elisha Mueller, Lt. Heba K. Al-Khalaf, Lt. Carmelita Fleming, Lt. Eman Boland, and Cmdr. Joan Amanda Dodds smile for the camera during a tour of Camp Patriot, Kuwait, March 3.

Lieutenants Eman Boland, Heba K. Al-Khalaf, Farah Ahmad, Dalal Al-Amer, Maali Osama Bu-Abbas, and Amal Al-Awadhi were just six of 40 applicants to the first Kuwait Police Academy to allow women to attend. Prior to attending the academy all six of the police women had college degrees, varying from

law and forensics to media. Twenty seven of the 40 who started the class went on to graduate and included 16 officers, eight warrant officers, and

Continued on next page



Cmdr. Joan Amanda Dodds, deputy commander, Command Task Group 56.5, and Capt. Mubarak Ali Y. Al Sabah, chief of maritime operations, Kuwait Coast Guard, led a group of Kuwaiti police women and female American officers during a tour of Camp Patriot, Kuwait, Mar. 3.



Continued from page 19

three sergeants. The Kuwait Police Academy typically takes two years, unless a cadet has a college degree prior to attending in which case it is shortened to six months.

All the women say their families have been very supportive throughout the process.

Even at the Academy the women were breaking records.



Capt. Al Sabah said the women's standards were even higher than the Academy's, and hoped they will be applied to incoming cadets. Ensign Michelle Bostic, CTG 56.5, saw firsthand how the policewomen pushed the cultural envelope and said, "They are truly pioneers."

The women spent a year as second lieutenants and will be promoted in mid-March to first lieutenants.



To view more photographs please visit our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cheyenne-Wyoming/115th-Fires-Brigade/115980276368?ref=ts>

or visit the Brigade Web Page at: www.115firesbrigade.com