

The North Star

Serving Task Force Marne
U. S. Division- North, Iraq



Volume 1, Issue 133

October 1, 2010

Iraqi Army leads mission that ends with four detainees, gun ammunition

Article by Spc. Jessica Luhrs, 1AATF, 1AD PAO

During an Iraqi Army led cordon and search in the Rashaad Valley near Kirkuk, Iraq, nearly 50 IA soldiers with 2nd Battalion and 4th Battalion of the 15th Brigade, discovered a cache with more than 800 rounds of heavy machine gun ammo buried throughout a field and detained four suspects, Sept. 25.

"The mission showcased the ability of the 15th BDE IA to plan, coordinate and execute a complex mission almost entirely on their own. The plan

was theirs, we merely gave input and provided enablers," said 1st Lt. Dan Chapman, a platoon leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, "Golden Dragons" 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"We were definitely in the advise and assist role during this mission," said 1st Lt. Chapman who was the

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Photo by Spc. Charles Smith, Combat Camera attached to 1AATF, 1AD PAO

(Above) An Iraqi Army soldier searches for weapons during a cordon and search, in the Rashaad Valley near Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 25. The Iraqi Army led operation ended with the soldiers discovering a cache with more than 800 rounds of heavy machine gun ammo and detaining four suspects.

(Left) First Lieutenant Dan Chapman, a platoon leader with HHC, 1/14th Inf., 2AAB, 25ID, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, pulls security during a cordon and search, in the Rashaad Valley near Kirkuk, Iraq, Sept. 25. The Iraqi Army led operation ended with the soldiers discovering a cache with more than 800 rounds of heavy machine gun ammo and detaining four suspects.



Photo by Spc. Jessica Luhrs, 1AATF, 1AD PAO

CSI training hones Iraqi police officer skills

**Article and Photos
by Sgt. Ricardo Branch
2AAB, 251D Public Affairs**

The Iraqi policeman walks up slowly, scanning and searching the side of an abandoned car. He stops for a second, hunches down and looks into the wheel well of a suspicious looking vehicle.

The satisfied policeman nods to his commander and moves off, while another officer takes over to begin the next steps of the investigation.

The scene of the investigation consists of four vehicles called in by a roll player so the Iraqi police can ensure there's no danger for the people operating out of Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

For the Iraqi police force in Baqubah and Soldiers of the 512th Military Police Company, crime scenes and investigations are normal; however, each organization's methods are as different as the uniforms they wear.

The differences of each service prompted both organizations to conduct a combined crime scene investigation course Sept. 24 on Warhorse.

"We brought the Iraqi police here to show them the ways we go over a crime scene," said 1st Lt. Steven Harloff, a platoon leader with the 512th MP Co. "We're both of different police forces and have different ways of operating.

Some of the techniques we use to search or cover a crime scene ... may be different for Iraqis, but they can really [and often times] benefit."

The Iraqi police are trained in the fundamental



An Iraqi police officer checks the side of a car door for prints following a simulated crime scene investigation training course Sept. 21 at FOB Warhorse. The IPs trained in CSI tactics to improve upon their skills to fight crime.

techniques to fight crime. They can cordon off an area, detain individuals, search areas and gather the basic information necessary to arrest suspects breaking the law of Iraq.

Things such as dusting for fingerprints, analyzing those prints, and going over powder residue are still difficult skills for many of the law enforcement personnel.

"What we're trying to do is get the Diyala Special Investigation Team started," 1st Lt. Harloff said. "It's currently an investigative team that involves U.S. and Iraqi forces, but what we're doing with a lot of mission rehearsals is refining the Iraqi team concept for them."

The team concept is to gather all the different elements together – the policemen who handle the initial investigation, the officers who go over the evidence, and the personnel who analyze the prints, and get them working side-by-side to hone the advanced police officer skills.

"The training we're doing is showing them safer methods to search a vehicle, how

to properly check for prints, and how to deal with bystanders near the scene of a crime," 1st Lt. Harloff said. "All of this together will help get the Diyala investigate team more skilled in their tasks to better analyze crime scenes. Basically, it's CSI, the proper way to analyze everything in a crime scene."

During the training, Iraqi police dismounted from mine resistant ambush protected vehicles [MRAPs] and taped off the crime scene ... securing the area. The policemen then broke off into two teams, one group to search the vehicles, another group to question the bystanders.

"We saw a lot of things immediately when they began the steps to search the scene," 1st Lt. Harloff said. "One group immediately called in explosive ordnance disposal [EOD] when they found a 'sticky bomb,' the other questioned the bystanders before they could leave the area."

The Anandale, Minn., native remarked the Iraqi police he's witnessed have

come a long way based on what he witnessed in the CSI training. The consistent training throughout the years has improved the Iraqi police force methods to investigate a crime scene.

"They are coming along real well," 1st Lt. Harloff said. "Anytime we can have an opportunity to work with them is a good experience for everyone because we can see what they do well and give them advice to improve on areas they might be lacking."

Since the start of Operation New Dawn, the focus has shifted for U.S. troops to an "advise and assist" role in Iraq. The Iraqis have taken the lead role in protecting their country.

For the Iraqis taking part in the Warhorse training, their focus hasn't shifted but has remained steadfast – to improve on what they know and take the steps necessary to learn what they don't know.

"The American officers [law enforcement person-

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ground force commander for U.S. forces during the mission. The IA decided to search the site because of a reliable tip they received of insurgent activity in the area, according to Lt. Col. Moufoq, the IA ground force commander during the mission. First Lieutenant Chapman, a native of Stockbridge, Ga., said during the entire mission he was very

impressed with the IA soldiers and their leadership.

"The IA soldiers and leadership impressed me with their individual soldier professionalism, ability of leaders to command and control units on the ground, and adapt the plan to the situation on the ground," he explained.

Immediately after securing the ammo, detaining

four individuals, and clearing the rest of the area the IA once again impressed the Golden Dragons by visiting a nearby village to drop off humanitarian aid.

"It is important to build relationships with the people in the village. When we do we are able to detain insurgents and find their weapons," said Lt. Col. Moufoq.

First Lieutenant Chapman said this mission set the standard for IA missions with the responsible draw-down of troops.

"This operation and others like it will demonstrate the increased ability of the Iraqi Security Forces to stand on their own against internal and external threats once the U.S. withdraws," said 1st Lt. Chapman.



Photos by Sgt. Ricardo Branch, 2AAB, 25ID PAO

First Lieutenant Steven Harloff, a platoon leader with the 512th MP Co., listens to Iraqi police officers going over their plan during crime scene investigation training Sept. 21 at FOB Warhorse. The MP Soldiers monitored the training and offered valuable assistance to improve on the IPs crime fighting skills.

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nel] are very skilled in many of the information gathering techniques," said Captain Ahdib Sa'ad Haid, an Iraqi police officer from the Diyala IP station.

He added, "Just the methods of ways they search a vehicle are different from the ways we do a search, so these classes provide good opportunities to learn.

"All of us here today are going to take what we have learned, all the new methods we have seen, and return to our stations to train our personnel to improve our crime fighting skills."

For Soldiers with the 512th MP Co., training, advising, and assisting has become the mission, as they help further move on to the day where Iraqis handle the security on their own.

"These courses really do make a big difference for the Iraqi police," said Pfc. Nicole Gray, a military policeman with the 512th MP Co. "I'm glad we're working with them because what we see gives us all confidence that the IPs will be in good shape for when we leave this country."

As the training ended, the Iraqi police forces left Warhorse with more knowledge under their belt to hone their skills and ensure success in future operations where Iraqis are the sole defenders of their country.



An Iraqi police officer goes over evidence found during crime scene investigation training Sept. 21 at FOB Warhorse. The IPs trained in CSI tactics to improve upon their skills to fight crime.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Sergeant Jeffrey Berry, a Mansfield, Ohio, native with Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, is a fire support sergeant at the Task Force Marne Main Command Post. Sergeant Berry's performance in the Fires and Effects Cell has been truly outstanding. His determination and diligence to support the daily fire support and sensor challenges within TF Marne's area of operations mark him as a key member of the fires team. Sergeant Berry is an outstanding shift noncommissioned officer, having tracked and assisted in prioritizing over 1,000 air support requests. He works tirelessly to manage the 55 radar sensors protecting U.S. and Iraqi bases across northern Iraq. His diligent efforts ensured minimal system down time and allowed his section to provide the best possible force protection and counter fire ability. Sergeant Berry's commitment to the safety and protection of the task force's Soldiers is in the keeping with the best traditions of selfless service and makes him most deserving of selection as the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Michelle George, a New Boston, Ill., native, has been a phenomenal member of the Task Force Marne G-8 office working as a managerial accountant from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. A former U.S. Army Soldier, Ms. George understands dedication to duty and continually supports the task force's mission in an outstanding manner. She personally identified and returned over \$4.6 million of over obligated funds to the U.S. Treasury. Ms. George provided a wealth of knowledge that the G-8, finance office and contracting office simply could not have been successful without. Her countless hours of arduous research, correcting various issues in automated financial systems, have contributed to local vendors being paid in a timely fashion. Her efforts have helped maintain good rapport between the U.S. and the Iraqi populace. Ms. George's unrelenting desire to fund the war fighter's needs makes her a natural choice for the Task Force Marne Service Provider of the Week.

Safety thought of the week: *Are you moving soon? Here's how to do it safely.*

•Use the "Power Zone" when lifting objects. This is the area between the mid-chest and mid-thigh and very similar to the "Strike Zone" in baseball. Keep loads close to the body in this zone for safer lifts.

•When lifting objects, keep the back straight, abdominal muscles tight, and use the legs, shoulder width apart, to straighten up. Don't lift while twisted at the trunk or bent over a load causing only the lower back muscles to be used. Keep the head up and look straight ahead. Use the same techniques when putting the object down.

•Be aware of own limitations and don't lift more than capable. Check large boxes for weight and "man lift" requirements (e.g. Four Man Lift.) Ensure there are enough people for lifting the load to prevent strains. Test the load before lifting to ensure it is even and stable. If using more than one person to lift, communicate throughout the process.

•Ensure to have a good hand-holds on loads to prevent dropping them and becoming injured from impacts.

•Wear gloves for a better grip and to protect the hands.

Safety is Leadership in Action!

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Cakewalk: Thieves leave trail of snack wrappers

www.mynorthwest.com

WITCHITA, Kan. — Now that's taking the cake! Wichita police say whoever stole a Little Debbie delivery truck left a trail of empty boxes and snack cake wrappers after abandoning the vehicle.

The truck was taken around 4 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27, from outside a Walmart store. KFDI-AM reports the vehicle was driven into a shallow canal -- but not before the thieves apparently pulled out some of the thousands of dollars worth of snacks. Police are still looking for the thieves.

Three wreckers pulled the truck from the canal. It's been returned to its owner.

Prosecutors: Woman stabbed man over feet insult

www.chron.com

EVERETT, Wash. — Prosecutors in Washington state say an 18-year-old woman stabbed a 19-year-old man for teasing her that her feet smelled. The Herald of Everett reported the man was found by police with a steak knife sticking out of his back, buried a few inches in. His lung had collapsed. Officials said he'll recover. Charging papers said trouble started when Dallas Amber Smith was drinking and hanging out with friends and was

challenged to do a back flip. When she took off her shoes to do the back flip, the teasing started.

Smith had no criminal history. She faces charges of second-degree assault with a deadly weapon.

Smith's attorney, Dave Allen of Seattle, declined to comment on the case Friday, Sept. 15, saying he'd do that in court.

Boring names will stop rural sign theft

www.jacksonville.com

DARIEN, Ga. — A rural Georgia county is losing about 550 street signs a year to thieves and a commissioner says he has a solution: Make the names boring.

McIntosh County Commissioner Mark Douglas serves a rural county about 60 miles south of Savannah. He says signs marking Green Acres, Boone's Farm and Mary Jane Lane are frequently stolen.

He suspects the thieves are targeting those signs because they share names with a popular TV series, a low-cost wine or, in the third case, a slang term for marijuana.

Then there's the stolen signs for Harmony Hill. Douglas figures the thieves just like the alliteration.

It's become a costly problem. County Manager Luther Smart says the area is paying \$17,000 a year to replace the signs.

You are invited

Task Force Marne 10-Miler

Where: COB Speicher - Oct. 10

Contact 1st Lt. Baldo at
emily.baldo@iraq.centcom.mil
for more information

Michael Peterson

Where: FOB Cobra/Warhorse - Oct. 4

Where: Samarra/Dagger - Oct. 5

Where: McHenry/Irbil - Oct. 6

USO Handshake Tour

Where: Edge, Cobra, Cruz Morris,
Samarra and Dagger - Oct. 17

Buffalo "Jills" Cheerleaders

Where: McHenry, Irbil, India, Heider,
Nimur - Oct. 19

Chuck Milligan

Where: FOB Warrior - Oct. 22

Where: FOB Marez - Oct. 23

Where: FOB Warhorse - Oct. 24

THE

North Star

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