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MARCH 25, 2011

Mobile Training Team Soldiers bring training tailored to IA unit's mission

Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Shots from multiple AK-47's snapped in the dirt, echoing amidst the Field Engineer Regiment compound, as Iraqi jinood, assigned to the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Iraqi Army Division, conducted weapon familiarization and qualification training March 19.

U.S. Division-North Soldiers of the Mobile Training Team attached to 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, led the days' training, running range safety and teaching basic rifle marksmanship to the jinood, Arabic for soldiers, at the compound range near Tikrit.

"We're here to train the trainer," said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Hernandez, training instructor with the MTT. "This training will make the IA better, furthering their skills, so they can accomplish the mission effectively."

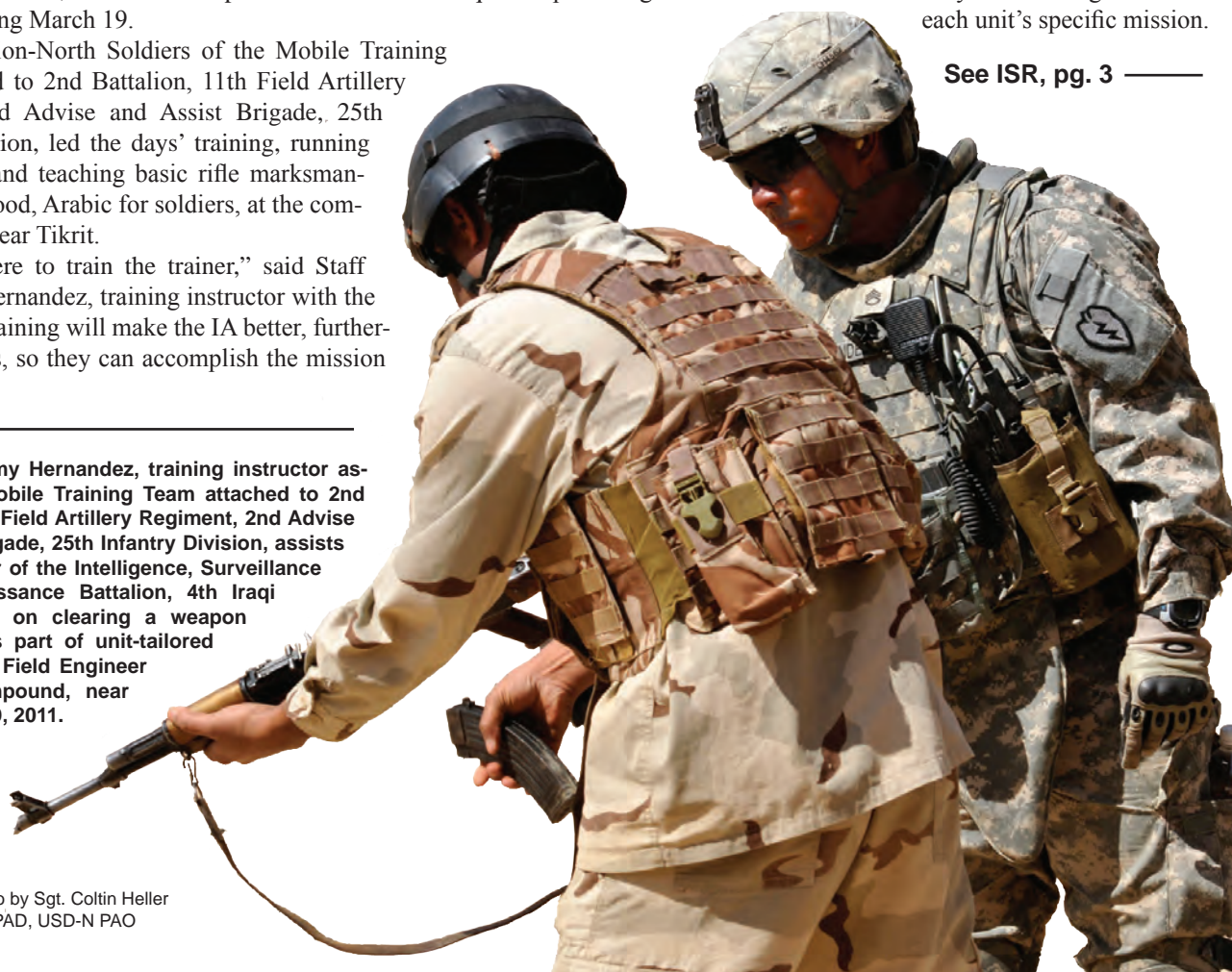
Staff Sgt. Jimmy Hernandez, training instructor assigned to a Mobile Training Team attached to 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, assists an Iraqi soldier of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Iraqi Army Division on clearing a weapon malfunction as part of unit-tailored training at the Field Engineer Regiment compound, near Tikrit, March 19, 2011.

The ISR gathers intelligence for the entire 4th IA Div., providing critical information necessary for Iraqi commanders to coordinate missions.

"We teach them proper procedures to gather military intelligence, to execute (intelligence) missions and prepare them to be aware of threats to Iraq," said Hernandez, who calls San Juan, Puerto Rico home.

The MTT visits IA units operating in Salad ad Din province, providing 10 to 15 days of training tailored to each unit's specific mission.

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

STEADFAST AND LOYAL
IRONHORSE
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DEVIL
LONGKNIFE
WARRIOR

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IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week

U.S. Army senior noncommissioned officers provide the troops they lead a wealth of tactical and technical skills and expertise honed by years of training and experience.

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Bittle, an armor crewmember and platoon sergeant assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, turned out to be the right man in the right place at the right time, using his years of experience to prepare combined security forces for a day of organized demonstrations in Mosul, Iraq.

Training and mentoring Iraqi Army and Kurdish Regional Guard forces manning the combined checkpoint in northern Iraq, Bittle directed his platoon of U.S. Soldiers to advise the combined security forces in maintaining operations at the checkpoint, said Capt. Jeremy Zolan, commander, Company D, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Bittle used his years of experience as a platoon sergeant to fortify checkpoint operations, ensuring Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers remained professional and diplomatic during increased traffic in the area, said 1st Sgt. Shannon Boldman, senior enlisted leader of Company D, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

"This is Bittle's second time deployed with this platoon as a platoon sergeant," said Boldman. "He's a knowledgeable and capable leader, and every Soldier, regardless of which army they serve, benefits from his experience."

Bittle's steadfast professionalism served as an example for the combined security forces, who remained calm, asserting a cordial and diplomatic presence, during the day's events, he said.

The NCO's unwavering leadership and commitment to the advise, train and assist mission, in support of Operation New Dawn, earned Bittle the title of "Ironhorse Strong" Soldier of the Week.



U.S. Army photo

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Bittle, an armor crewmember and platoon sergeant assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, adjusts a Kurdish soldier's load-bearing vest at a combined checkpoint near Mosul, March 22, 2011.

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THE IVY LEAF

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1st Advise and
Assist Task Force
1st Infantry Division

2nd Advise and
Assist Brigade
25th Infantry Division

4th Advise and
Assist Brigade
1st Cavalry Division

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Hernandez said he has seen progress by the ISR, as well as other units trained by the MTT in support of Operation New Dawn.

"This training positively changes each aspect of how missions are conducted," said Hernandez. "It allows for the Iraqi soldiers to better fulfill their mission and provide security for themselves."

The MTT operates independently of Tadreeb al Shamil, or All Inclusive Training, an ongoing Iraqi-directed initiative to modernize IA ground forces, said Maj. Jared Rudacille, MTT chief.

"The training is very adaptive and differs from (unit to unit)," said Rudacille, who hails from York, Pa. "We taught (the ISR) human intelligence procedures, as well as tactical and close reconnaissance."

The instruction provided by the MTT reinforces individual and collective training taught at the enduring training facilities in northern Iraq as part of Tadreeb al Shamil, he explained.

The Iraqi jinood assigned to the ISR learned quickly, incorporating their own unit tactics, techniques and procedures into

the training exercises, added Rudacille.

After the classroom portion of the training, the MTT moved the ISR jinood to the compound range for basic rifle marksmanship and range operations, building a foundation for self-sustaining training.

Iraqi officers and noncommissioned officers fired first, and then acted as safeties for their jinood, ensuring the Iraqi firers performed the techniques to standards taught by U.S. Soldiers.

Between firing iterations, U.S. Soldiers provided "hip pocket" first aid training to the Iraqis, teaching life-saving techniques to the jinood awaiting their turn on the firing line, said Sgt. Thomas Cook, combat medic, MTT, 2nd Bn., 11th FA Regt., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div.

Reviewing skills taught during previous periods of classroom instruction, Cook, a native of Atlanta, led the medical refresher training for the jinood.

"We went over basic skills we taught them, like how to put on a tourniquet, dress a sucking chest wound, apply pressure dressings and splint fractures," said Cook.

Another positive outcome



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

Capt. Clem Lochner, deputy team chief and Chicago-native assigned to the Mobile Training Team of 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, demonstrates site adjustments on an AK-47 rifle during weapons training for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Iraqi Army Division at the Field Engineer Regiment compound, March 19, 2011. The MTT conducted 10 days of training with the ISR, the intelligence collection unit for the 4th IA Div., providing instructions on how to properly conduct reconnaissance and gather military information vital to missions conducted by the 4th IA. After the classroom portion of the military intelligence training, the MTT moved the ISR soldiers to the range for basic rifle marksmanship and range operations, building a foundation for self-sustaining training.

of the training was seeing Iraqi NCOs take a larger part in leading the training, said Rudacille.

"The officers led the training at first and the NCOs followed, but after the first group of firers, (the officers) stepped back and let the NCOs have a greater hand in the training, and

eventually they were running the lane, just like we would," he said.

After finishing range operations, the MTT returned to Contingency Operating Base Speicher to prepare for the next day's training for Iraqi soldiers of ISR Bn., 4th IA Div. based out of the FER compound.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller

Sgt. Thomas Cook, combat medic, Mobile Training Team, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, provides concurrent medical training to Iraqi soldiers of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Iraqi Army Division, in between firing iterations as part of training at the Field Engineer Regiment compound, March 19, 2011. During the 10-day training course provided by the MTT, the Iraqi jinood, Arabic for soldiers, learned medical skills in addition to basic rifle marksmanship and reconnaissance and intelligence techniques.

Kirkuk CSF visit to local village strengthens community relations, benefits Iraqi citizens

1st Infantry Division

Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – Soldiers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division partnered with Kirkuk Combined Security Forces for a community assistance engagement March 17.

The soldiers of 1st AATF and the Kirkuk CSF visited the village of Razada to conduct routine medical checkups, safety patrols, and to talk with local village leaders in support of Operation New Dawn.

“The CSF is taking the lead in these missions,” said 1st Lt. Michael Sexton Jr., platoon leader, Company A, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt.

The Kirkuk CSF is a tripartite unit composed of Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Kurdish Regional Guard soldiers, assisted by U.S. Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., said Sexton.

In a region such as Kirkuk, which consists of many different ethnicities living together, cooperation between these different elements of the Iraqi Security Forces is a must for mission accomplishment, he said.

Sexton, a Buffalo, N.Y. native, explained that combining the ISF together to form a unit encourages the tripartite forces to put differences aside and see that ISF need a partnership to complete the mission.

Each element of the CSF brings unique skills to the security mission, he said.

The Iraqi Police have superior knowledge of law enforcement requirements, while

the Iraqi Army and Kurdish Regional Guard soldiers each understand how to provide security to both Arab and Kurdish villagers living around Kirkuk, explained Sexton.

The cooperation between different ethnic groups and the different elements of the security forces—each providing their own unique capabilities to the mission—is truly exemplary, he said.

Each element of the CSF has soldiers from different ISF organizations in leadership positions, explained Sexton.

In 2nd Platoon, for example, the platoon sergeant is a member of the Kurdish 1st Regional Guard Brigade, but the squad leaders are from the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police, he said.

The CSF are representative of the relationship U.S. forces and ISF hope to foster between

the people of Iraq, said Sexton.

The 1st AATF, working with Kirkuk CSF, began conducting partnered patrols and community engagements, like the community assistance engagement at the village of Razada, since late Fall 2010.

The CSF visit the villages in their sector frequently to ensure the areas are safe and to help the local populace.

Beyond security and community engagements, the CSF also provide needed medical assistance to the local villages during their visits.

During the visit to Razada, the Kirkuk CSF patrolled the village, discussing needed improvements for the village with local leaders, while U.S. Army and Iraqi medics provided medical treatment to local villagers.

U.S. Army Spc. K.C. Pless, a combat medic from Cortland,

N.Y., assigned to Company A, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., provided medical aid to a young child in the village who suffers from recurring infections.

At the end of the visit, local Iraqi leaders thanked the Kirkuk CSF and U.S. Soldiers for their assistance.

“The relationship between us and the people of the villages has grown greatly, and it all happened because we worked together to make it happen,” said Sgt. 1st Class Muhammad Salah Ahmad, 1st Regional Guard Brigade, serving with Kirkuk Combined Security Forces as a platoon sergeant.

“If I had the choice to work 24-hours, seven days-a-week for a full year, I would do it, with no hesitation, to make the cities and villages of Iraq safe,” said Muhammad.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Children of Razada Primary School sing the “A,B,C’s” in English for 1st Lt. Michael Sexton Jr., platoon leader, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, and Sgt. 1st Class Muhammad Salah Ahmad, platoon sergeant, 1st Regional Guard Brigade, Kirkuk Combined Security Forces. Soldiers of 1st AATF partnered with the Kirkuk CSF during a community assistance mission to the Razada village in Kirkuk, Iraq, March 17, 2011.

Soldiers, airmen hone forward observer skills at Besmaya Range Complex

Spc. Andrew Ingram
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

BESMAYA RANGE COMPLEX, Iraq – U.S. Army forward observers and U.S. Air Force air liaison officers partnered with joint tactical air controllers deployed to northern Iraq in support of U.S. Division-North during Joint Tactical Air Controller/Joint Forward Observer training at Besmaya Range Complex, March 17-18.

During the two-day training exercise at the range located east of Baghdad, Soldiers and airmen called in close air support scenarios to U.S. Air Force F16 fighter pilots deployed with 13th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

“It is outstanding that we can talk to the birds in the air today,” said Sgt. Michael Peterson, forward observer, Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, assigned to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division. “Having the F16 pilots on the radio, and then watching them carry out the attacks, makes it all more realistic.”

Forward observers, artillery Soldiers who integrate into infantry units, relay target locations to artillery assets, explained Peterson, who hails from Aurora, Colo.

“Working with air assets broadens our skill set and makes us more well-rounded Soldiers, but even more importantly than that, we have to keep training to stay sharp,” he said. “We have a perishable skill, and if we don’t stay sharp, we lose it.”

Receiving a call for fire from the Soldiers and airmen, the Air Force pilots carried out close air support attacks on targets approximately two kilometers from the observer’s position.

U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Peterson, forward observer, Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, assigned to 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, calls for fire while U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Nate Corean, Joint Tactical Air Controller, Joint Air Control Team, 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, assigned to 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., observes and mentors during Joint Tactical Air Controller and Joint Forward Observer training at the Besmaya Range Complex, March 18, 2011.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD-N PAO

Employing fires using air assets is an important skill for forward observers to learn, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Nate Corean, joint tactical air controller, Joint Air Control Team, 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, assigned to 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div.

“JTACs are basically a liaison between the Army and Air Force, and we usually make the call for air support; but there are not very many of us in country right now,” said Corean. “We are making sure the FOs are trained up, because we need as many qualified people on the ground as possible, just in case somebody has to make that call.”

Corean, a native of Sundance, Wy., said

U.S. Army Sgt. Michael Peterson, forward observer, Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, watches a 500-pound bomb hit its mark during Joint Tactical Air Controller training at Besmaya Range, Iraq, March 17, 2011.

he is excited to have had the opportunity to participate in the JTAC/JFO training during his deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

“I have had a very quiet deployment which isn’t a bad thing,” he said, “but this is a kinetic job. If we aren’t out there blowing things up, we aren’t happy.”

Soldiers and airmen also expressed gratitude to the Iraqi Army for allowing U.S. forces to use the Besmaya Range Complex, the only range in Iraq large enough to facilitate the JTAC/JFO training.

“I am really impressed with the way they ran things out here,” said Capt. Matt Bolton, air liaison officer, 368th EASOG, attached to 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div. “The Iraqi range control is very professional, and they put a premium on safety.”

The Iraqi Army operates and maintains the Besmaya range under the tutelage of U.S. civilian contractors.

Bolton said he believes joint training will strengthen relations between the Army and Air Force personnel, ultimately making for a stronger fighting force.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD-N PAO

'Head Hunter' Troopers, Iraqi mortarmen get 'fired-up' during training at Destiny Range

1st Cavalry Division

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers assigned to Mortar Support Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, launched multiple high explosive rounds from 60 and 81 mm mortar systems during a live fire training exercise, March 19.

Iraqi soldiers demonstrated speed and proficiency in operating the indirect fire support system at Destiny Range, using techniques taught by 1st Squad-

ron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

"The Iraqis' performance today was excellent, and we have the American Soldiers to thank for that," said Lt. Col. Aziz Ali, commander of Mortar Support Company, assigned to 3rd Bn., 11th Bde., 3rd IA Div.

The Iraqi mortarmen trained with U.S. Soldiers at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center as part of an Iraqi military initiative known as Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training.

"Head Hunter" Soldiers of 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., re-

inforced Iraqi skills, teaching Iraqi soldiers how to operate mortar systems and accurately engage targets.

"(My Soldiers) expected to do a good job firing the mortars today, because they received good training from the instructors at the Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center," said Ali, a native of Bashika, Iraq.

The training is one of many exercises that make up Tadreeb al Shamil, a 25-day training cycle providing individual and collective training to develop and strengthen IA units' capability to secure and defend the people of Iraq from external threats.

During the exercise at Destiny Range, Iraqi soldiers verified their skills on IA 60 and 81 mm mortar systems in preparation for another live fire exercise at GWTC later this month.

The Head Hunter Soldiers supervised their Iraqi counterparts, ensuring the Iraqi soldiers conducted the training exercise in a safe manner.

Sgt. 1st Class Herman George, served as the senior advisor for the live fire exercise, working with each of the Iraqi mortar crews operating the weapons systems on the range.

With the help of an interpreter, the former drill sergeant assisted Iraqi soldiers, who were experiencing difficulties. George guided the Iraqis making the appropriate adjustments on the mortar systems and walking each fire team through the firing process, boosting their confidence in their weapons systems and each other.

"I feel this exercise went pretty well; we had some challenges throughout the training, but the Iraqis came out here and performed to standard," said



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings

An Iraqi soldier assigned to Mortar Support Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, looks down the sight of an 81 mm mortar system to watch a smoke round detonate after it was launched from the indirect fire weapon system, March 19, 2011. U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, trained the Iraqi mortarmen at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center as part of a 25-day training cycle, Tadreeb al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, an Iraqi initiative to provide collective training for IA units.

George, a native of Temple, Texas, and mortarmen assigned to Troop A, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

"Our job is to make sure the Iraqis are tactically proficient in their skills, and we're going to continue to train and better their skills," said George.

Head Hunter troopers continue to train and mentor Iraqi soldiers of 3rd Bn.'s Mortar Support Company, to enhance the Iraqi unit's ability to use the indirect fire support systems, preparing units of the IA battalion for the month-long training rotation's culminating live fire exercise, March 31.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

Iraqi mortarmen of Mortar Support Company, 3rd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, launch high explosive rounds from 81 mm mortar systems during a training exercise at Destiny Range, March 19, 2011. U.S. Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, trained the Iraqi mortarmen on how to operate the indirect fire support system during a 25-day training rotation, known as Tadreeb al Shamil, for IA battalions at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center in northern Iraq.

Dropping Dimes ...



‘Golden Dragons’ train 12th IA Div. Soldiers to use M16 rifles



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Sgt. Bernardo Medina, a native of Ocala, Fla., and infantryman assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, uses his experience as a “Lefty” to show an Iraqi Army soldier serving with Commando Company, 15th Brigade, 12th IA Division, how a left-handed shooter should be positioned when firing an M16 rifle, March 20, 2011. Lead instructor of M16 rifle familiarization training, Medina and U.S. Soldiers paired with Iraqi soldiers to demonstrate the four fundamentals of executing a proper shot group during classroom instruction at Forward Operating Base Texan, near Kirkuk, Iraq.

Pfc. Alyxandra McChesney
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., U.S. Division-North

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – U.S. Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, brought Iraqi soldiers up to speed on how to use newly issued M16 rifles at Iraqi Forward Operating Base Texan, March 22.

“Golden Dragon” Soldiers of 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. used skills acquired in basic combat training, refined through years of experience, to mentor and train Commando Company, 15th Brigade, 12th Iraqi Army Division, building muscle memory for Iraqi soldiers learning to use the M16 rifle.

Lead instructor of the class, Sgt. Bernardo Medina, infantryman, HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., attached to 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div., provided the trainees a training packet consisting of detailed pictures and

descriptions translated into Arabic, beginning the class with the basic characteristics of an M16 rifle.

“We are starting with the very basics of soldiering skills,” said Medina, an Ocala, Fla. native. “The more they know their weapon and all of the functions of it, the more they will know what to do if it malfunctions.”

After learning the characteristics and parts of the M16 rifle, each soldier completed a functions check to ensure the class was ready to progress to learning basic rifle marksmanship.

Using Golden Dragon Soldiers to demonstrate, Medina broke down each fundamental of the M16 rifle step by step for his Iraqi counterparts.

“There are four fundamentals you all must know before stepping up to the firing line,” Medina told the Iraqi soldiers.

The first thing the shooter must do when stepping up to the firing line is to assume a steady firing position, one that allows the

firer to have good observation of the target, said Medina.

The second is aiming and aligning the sight picture on the target, he explained.

“The third is the most important—your breathing—making sure to shoot either at the bottom of your breath, or the top, but it must be the same every time,” said Medina, “and the fourth being trigger squeeze—using the tip of your finger, pull the trigger slow and smooth.”

After rehearsing the techniques several times, the Commando soldiers tested their mastering of the four fundamentals by conducting dime and washer drills.

Each Iraqi soldier partnered with their U.S. counterpart, assuming a steady position on the firing line.

U.S. Soldiers, coaching their Iraqi counterparts, placed a dime on top of each trainee’s M16 barrel; the Iraqi soldiers, balancing the dime on the end of their rifles, squeezed their triggers.

One by one dimes dropped, and the soldiers laughed, realizing the control that must be employed to keep the dime in place.

Golden Dragon coaches motivated the Iraqi soldiers to maintain the four fundamentals until their muscles became accustomed to the motions, making it easier to keep the dime balanced, repeating the actions until they became second nature.

“The motivation the U.S. Soldiers gave us made the class fun. It kept me interested in wanting to learn,” said Pvt. Mohamed Shahal Ahmed, a Samara, Iraq native, serving with Commando Company, 15th Bde., 12th IA Div.

“I want to thank all of the instructors who made this class easy to understand, and exciting to learn,” said Mohamed. “I can’t wait to take these skills and teach my soldiers to be as proficient as I will be when this training is done.”

After mastering the four marksmanship fundamentals, the Iraqi soldiers practiced dry firing from various firing positions, preparing for an upcoming live fire exercise to validate their marksmanship with the M16 rifle.

‘Long Knife’ Soldiers bring the heat at Destiny Range, keep FA skills sharp

Spc. Terence Ewings
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Armed with mortars and self-propelled field artillery systems, Soldiers assigned to 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a combined arms live fire exercise to demonstrate the unit’s ability to provide accurate and timely fires, March 17.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and Battery A, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, both of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div., showcased their indirect fire proficiency at Destiny Range on Contingency Operating Site Marez during the CALFEX.

“We’re out here to demonstrate the skills we’ve been practicing the last couple of weeks by putting live rounds downrange,” said 1st Lt. David Kim, mortar platoon leader assigned to HHC, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

Deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, Soldiers assigned to Mortar platoon, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt. do not usually get the opportunity to fire the U.S. Army M1064 Self-propelled 120 mm Heavy Mortar Carriers during their advise, train and assist mission in northern Iraq, he said.

While there is no need to use the systems to conduct combat missions in northern Iraq, the mortarmen regularly conduct training with 2nd Iraqi Army Division soldiers to increase their Iraqi partners’ proficiency in operating their 60 mm, 81 mm and 120 mm mortar sys-

tems, Kim explained.

“We don’t get to do many live fires throughout the deployment, so we just wanted to sustain our skills and at the same time show the Iraqi soldiers the correct way to execute and engage targets using the mortar system,” said Kim.

“We’re training the Iraqis on mortar systems and battle drills to build up their security forces,” said Kim, a native of Marysville, Calif.

When Kim and fellow mortarmen stationed at Joint Security Station India are not training the 2nd Iraqi Army Division soldiers on different mortar systems, the U.S. Army Soldiers provide mounted patrol assistance to units that travel to and from the remote installation.

“We support the brigade in any way we can, and we love that we get the opportunity to come out here and fire rounds

and do our job,” said Sgt. Andrew Harris, a native of Germantown, Md., and mortar section sergeant assigned to HHC, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt.

Throughout the live fire exercise, the 4th AAB Soldiers engaged multiple simulated targets on Destiny Range with the indirect fire weapons systems.

The mortarmen used the speed of their M1064 armored mortar carrier systems to quickly engage a target, and the 4th AAB’s field artillery battalion employed its powerful self-propelled howitzers to continue the engagement.

The “Red Legs” of 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt. fired M109A6 Paladins, launching 155 mm high-explosive rounds from a firing point located several miles from where the M1064 armored mortar carriers engaged the target area.

Prior to the training exercise, the field artillery troopers

completed the pre-requisite fire direction and gunnery re-certifications to verify the crews’ proficiency at putting rounds on target.

“We’re out here demonstrating the counter indirect-fire techniques we use to suppress the enemy,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nikon Escobedo, platoon sergeant assigned to Battery A, 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt.

Both battalions spent weeks training and preparing for the combined arms live fire exercise, the second exercise of this type since the 4th AAB assumed its mission in Mosul in October 2010.

“These weapons we use can cause a lot of collateral damage if not used properly so it’s important we train regularly on these systems,” said Escobedo, a native of Cisco, Texas. “We love to fire our weapons, but we want to make sure we do things safe and the right way.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terence Ewings, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

“Black Dragons” Battalion, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, fire M109A6 Paladins during a certification exercise, March 16, 2011. Soldiers of 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., validated the accuracy of their weapons systems, launching 155 mm high-explosive rounds at Destiny Range. The firing teams renewed certification on the indirect fire support weapon system prior to the combined arms live fire exercise conducted with Iraqi Security Forces the next day.

Information dissemination training builds foundation for Iraqi Army media officers

25th Infantry Division



U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Robert England, 2nd AAB PAO, 25th Inf. Div., USD-N

Cpl. Robert England
2nd Advise and Assist Brigade Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division, U.S. Division-North

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – In an age of technology, information moves at broadband speeds with the click of a button. Information Operations sections in units across the U.S. Army must operate at the same pace using broadcast stories, news articles and photos to keep audiences informed.

Informing audiences of the U.S. Army mission builds support from local, regional and national audiences, an effort which sparked interest in the Iraqi Army, leading staff Brig. Gen. Dia'a, commander of 5th Iraqi Army Division, to request specialized training from U.S. Division-North Soldiers.

Senior leaders of 5th Iraqi Army Division learned how to accurately gather and distribute information in a timely manner during the Information Dissemination Operations course March 17 at Forward Operating Base Khamees in Diyala province of Iraq.

U.S. Army Soldiers of 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit, based out of Fort Indiantown Gap, deployed in support of U.S. Division-North, taught IA officers methods used by the U.S. Army to compile and distribute information to public audiences through a variety of media.

As American Soldiers deploy to foreign countries, specifically combat zones, the need to inform increases in response to the curiosity and concern of the Families, friends and communities of

Sgt. Shawn Miller, a public affairs specialist assigned to 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit based out of Fort Indiantown Gap, deployed in support of U.S. Division-North, demonstrates photography from a different perspective during the Information Dissemination Operations course March 17, 2011.

Soldiers serving overseas.

Public Affairs Soldiers inform internal and external audiences through videos, digital photos and written articles highlighting Soldiers, their unit and their mission.

"I cover stories on units from (U.S. Division-North) in the advise, train and assist mission in northern Iraq," said Sgt. Shawn Miller, a public affairs specialist-writer with the 109th MPAD. "I take photos and write stories from the missions I cover."

Miller said he utilized his years of photojournalism experience to teach Iraqi Army media officers the basic mechanics of taking photographs to tell the story seen through the eyes of the photographer.

"I taught them basic composition for photos, like the 'Rule of Thirds,'" he said. "I showed them some examples of photos for referencing on how to take photos from different angles. My main emphasis was to get them to change their perspective rather than just walking around taking snapshots."

The IA media officer shares many duties and responsibilities similar to a U.S. Army Public Affairs officer, said Capt. Ali, media officer of Emergency Battalion, 5th IA Div.

"I take pictures and write articles about events in my battalion," Ali said. "Sometimes when we have missions going on, my commander instructs me to take pictures and write a report on the mission."

Maj. David Repyneck, executive officer, 109th MPAD, also lent his experience in public affairs during the IDO course.

He taught the IA media officers how to compile information into a press release, or news article according to U.S. Army doctrine.

Repyneck stressed the importance of including facts vital to the comprehension of an article, basic information for any particular event the media officers cover.

Sgt. David Cannon, a noncommissioned officer assigned to 304th Military Information Support Operations Company, said IDO is a combination of messaging techniques that produces products which will enable the Iraqi government to directly inform the Iraqi people.

Cannon, who coordinated the training, said this training will certainly have lasting effects that will benefit both the Iraqi Army and the local Iraqi populace.

"The ability to correctly message to the population of Iraq will give the government a chance to address direct issues that various groups of the population have while keeping the people current with what the (Iraqi) Army is doing," he said.

Following the conclusion of the training, the IDO course instructors presented graduation certificates to each of the media soldiers, signifying successful completion of the course.

U.S. Division-North Soldiers celebrate Women's History Month at COB Speicher

Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th MPAD
USD-N Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – “Duty, Honor, Pride—these words reflect the spirit of generations of American women who have sought to defend the rights and freedoms of others,” said Lt. Col. Mary Krueger, Surgeon, U.S. Division-North and 4th Infantry Division, during a special ceremony celebrating women at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, March 18.

The event, “Our History Is Our Strength,” held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center-North, celebrated Women’s History Month, providing service members with the history of military women,

as well as stories of female Soldiers currently deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn.

“The history of women in the Armed Forces began more than 220 years ago with women who served during the American Revolution and continues through the present day,” said Krueger. “It’s a great privilege to be what we are.”

Krueger spoke of the first female Medal of Honor recipient, Mary Walker, who served during the Civil War, tending to sick and wounded Soldiers in hospitals and later on the fields of battle, and then continued her care of Soldiers to the detriment of her own health during four months of imprisonment.

“This is the history we stand upon,” said Krueger.

Krueger said due to her unique perspective as a woman serving during her last deployment to Afghanistan, she was able to elicit information about extremists from mothers in local Afghan communities.

“The mothers would talk to me and tell me who was threatening her children,” she said. “They would help us anyway they could.”

In addition to historical military heroines, Krueger also showed photos of female Soldiers, like Staff Sgt. Vanessa Kennedy, currently serving their country at COB Speicher, sacrificing time with Family and friends during deployment. Pictures of renowned military women also lined the walls, adding to the gravity of the ceremony.

Kennedy, a medical logistics noncommissioned officer assigned to the Surgeon section, U.S. Division-North and 4th Inf. Div., juggles her time between service to the nation and her Family.

“I know the importance of having priorities,” said Kennedy, a mother of three children. “There are times when I have to adjust my schedule, but time for my Family is still important to me.”

Krueger said she cares for her own two boys but sometimes as a Soldier not in the tra-

ditional sense.

“Some mothers ask me how I can leave my children,” said Krueger. “I tell them that I get to directly go after the people who threaten my kid’s safety. That’s my way of caring for them.”

Many women have understood the idea of serving something greater than their selves, and their service has resonated throughout history, Krueger added.

Lt. Col David Cushen, Equal Opportunity Program manager, U.S. Division-North, one of several male Soldiers in attendance, spoke after Krueger, remarking on her words and the ceremony itself.

“Thank you for the unique perspective you provided for us today,” said Cushen. “Women serving in the military are part of the heritage of the military as a whole, as this celebration of Women’s History Month shows us.”

Krueger ended the ceremony noting that her service and the service of all female Soldiers deployed in support of the nation will not go unnoticed.

“There will come a time for women, when the Army will look you in the face and thank you for your service,” she said. “You’re doing an amazing thing here.”

Lt. Col. Mary Krueger, Surgeon, U.S. Division-North and 4th Infantry Division, hosts a Women’s History Month celebration at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, March 18, 2011. Krueger spoke of military heroines, past and present, who sacrificed time with their Families in service to their country. The celebration, titled “Our History Is Our Strength,” held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center-North on COB Speicher, commemorated Women’s History Month, providing service members with the history of military women, and stories of female Soldiers currently deployed to U.S. Division-North in support of Operation New Dawn. “The history of women in the Armed Forces began more than 220 years ago with women who served during the American Revolution and continues through the present day,” said Krueger. “It’s a great privilege to be what we are.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO



Chaplain's Corner: The grass is always greener ... but beware of the tigers

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Houston
Chaplain
U.S. Division-North

Like my recent story about the "Great Pumpkin Orgy"—this story is also true!

As you may remember from my article a couple of weeks ago, I shared that in the early 80s I had a fascinating job working at a drive through Animal Park. In that job, I did not work directly with the animals, but I did, however, come away with some great stories!

In one of the larger cages in the park we had a couple chimpanzees. They were mature animals; circus rejects that had become mean, disgusting and quite dangerous.

They had nasty habits! One of them had been taught to smoke and would beg tourists until they tossed a lighted cigarette through the bars of his cage. No longer suitable for the circus, they were permanently locked up.

The keepers who fed the chimps and cleaned their enclosure each day had a system to safely move the animals from one area to another so the workers could enter and clean different areas of the cage. There was a specific sequence of locking and unlocking steel doors to move the chimps.

Then one day the unthinkable happened—someone missed a critical step in the sequence, and when the keeper opened the back door to clean the sleeping area, she was instantly flattened by a full-grown male chimp, who was in a dead run to escape!

Keep in mind that chimpanzees are

several times stronger than a man, and have been known to severely injure or even kill their keepers. Lucky for our animal keeper, the chimp was more intent on escaping than harming her.

Now, I can imagine that the chimps spent a good part of their day looking at the scenery beyond the confines of their cage. Directly in front of their cage there was a lush hillside of trees and green grass. Freedom was just a short hop over a low fence if they could just get out.

But now the story takes a dramatic turn, because what the chimps could not see was the Siberian Tiger enclosure, sitting out of view behind the chimp cage, directly across from the back door where the chimp made his mad dash for freedom.

The fleeing chimp cleared the low fence in a single bound. Ignoring the sign that said "Siberian Tigers," he quickly climbed the 10-foot barbed wire and chain link fence, landing in what he must have thought was the "lush green grass of freedom." He was wrong.

A male Siberian Tiger was on him instantly, and the fight was on! The chimp and the tiger fought it out in the large pool of water in the center of the tiger cage.

Chimps are strong, and this one put up a good fight; however, in the end, there was no doubt which animal would win.

The keepers shot the two tigers in the cage with tranquilizer darts, and then darted the severely injured chimp. They carried the injured animal back to his cage, but despite all they could do, the chimp died the next day.

Okay, what's the point? What does this have to do with deployment?

While we are deployed, we face multiple temptations. There are many things just beyond our reach that appeal to our senses.

Somehow, in our human nature, we convince ourselves that we cannot live without that which is on the other side of the imaginary fence. We discover an open door—and we escape—only to find that there is a painful cost to crossing certain lines.

As a Chaplain with multiple combat deployments, I have often been called on to perform some sort of miracle when a Soldier or spouse has crossed the exclusive lines drawn in a marriage relationship. There is a huge cost to be paid for unfaithfulness; and once that line is crossed, Soldiers, spouses and Families get chewed up in the process.

Sadly, I find that once it reaches this point, there is little a chaplain can do, and the marriage suffers—the damage is done.

All of us are tempted in a thousand different ways. If you feel that you are at risk of crossing a line, are tempted to climb the wrong fence or are in danger of walking through a door that should remain closed, talk to your chaplain!

Chaplains can help, and your conversation is always confidential. If you do not feel comfortable talking to your chaplain, seek out someone who can help you climb back over the fence before it is too late.

Oh, by the way, the second chimp made it to the tall fence, but when he heard his buddy screaming and fighting with the tigers, he ran back into his cage, obviously deciding that there is no place like home!



Check out YouTube to have full access to videos of U.S. Division-North Soldiers, as they advise, train and assist Iraqi soldiers throughout northern Iraq. See the new broadcast stories uploaded to the site weekly.

www.youtube.com/user/the4ID



Can't get enough of the Ivy Leaf? Go to Slideshare and read this and past issues of U.S. Division-North Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn. If you haven't seen this extremely user-friendly site, check it out!

www.slideshare.com/the4ID

'Hey Doc: 'It's getting hot in here. I'm going to take my clothes off.'

Capt. Nathan Teague
Preventive Medicine
U.S. Division-North

– “Hey Doc, It's getting hot in here. May I take off some of my clothes?” – Signed “Hot Tamale.”

Dear “Hot Tamale,”

Indeed, you may take off some of your clothes, but not so fast buckaroo. Allow me to communicate some guidance first.

Heat can kill—please don't play with it. An average of three to four Soldiers die of heat-related injuries every year. Others are forced to leave the Army because of the heat-related injuries they have sustained.

Soon, we will be physically exerting ourselves in extreme heat, under heavy loads. It is imperative that we understand how to protect ourselves from heat injuries since many are

preventable.

Let's look at some of the causes of heat injury.

There are four variables that interact to cause heat injuries:

- 1) Climate—temperature and humidity
- 2) Intensity and duration of activity
- 3) Clothing and equipment
- 4) Individual risk factors

Three of the four variables are modifiable.

Leaders should be aware of the climate, and balance the mission and training requirements against the risks associated with operating in hot weather.

Clothing and equipment may be altered to fit the environment. This is where taking off some clothes fits in.

Guidance will come from your Command.

Individually, you can pre-

pare yourself by adhering to the following:

•Drink: Consider water a tactical weapon. Drink enough water to replace your fluids lost through sweat. Don't wait until you feel thirsty. Look at your urine. If it is dark or if you have not urinated, you need to drink more. Don't over hydrate however as daily fluid intake should not exceed 12 quarts.

•Eat: Eat meals to replace salts. Do not follow low calorie diets while operating in hot environments. Do not take any dietary supplements containing ephedra, or ma-huang, at any time. Be very careful with other supplements, such as creatine.

•Consider: Current or recent illness; certain chronic medical conditions; certain medicines, such as allergy or cold reme-

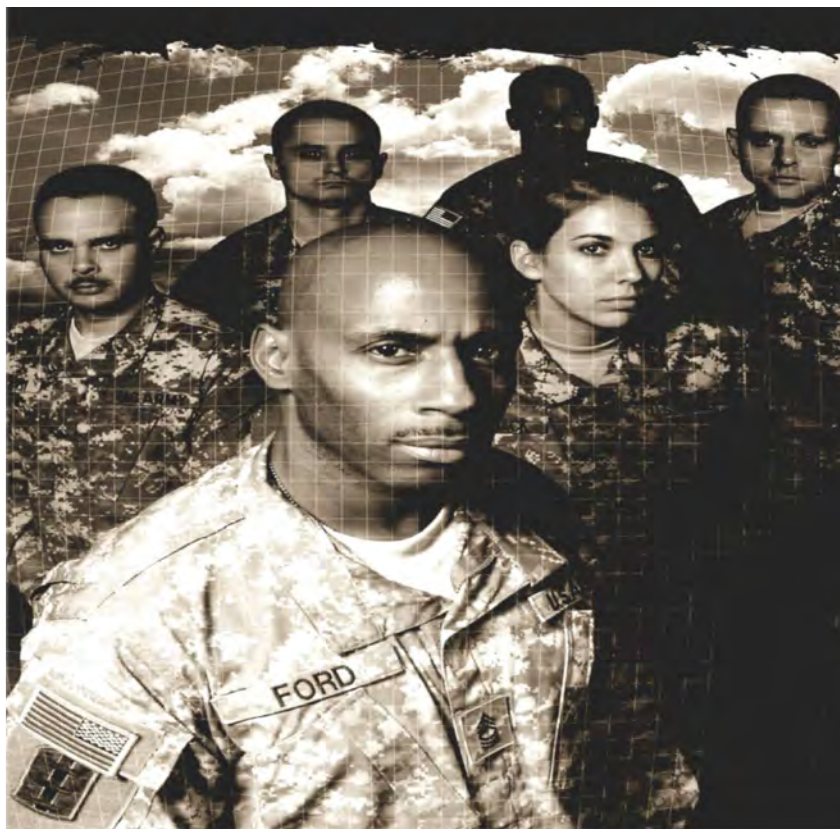
dies; poor fitness; prior history of heat illness; being more than 40-years old; and cumulative exposure to heat, exertion and lack of quality sleep places you at risk for heat injuries.

Ask your medical provider if you have any questions about your susceptibility.

Early recognition and treatment of heat injury symptoms are key to saving lives. Dizziness, headaches, nausea and vomiting, feeling tired or weak, muscle cramping and confusion are all signs of heat injury. Immediately seek medical care for yourself or your buddy if you notice these symptoms.

Your life and your career are too important to ignore this very real danger, Hot Tamale.

Be careful out there, and Task Force Ironhorse keep those questions coming!



- Sexual Assault - Awareness Month

- Awareness is knowing.

- Action is doing

- It's time to bring some light to an ongoing issue.

- Saturday, April 2, 2011
1900 @ MWR-North