



Mass-casualty exercise held at Victory

Pfc. Matthew Clifton
MNC-I PAO

Combat lifesavers provided “mock” aid to eight “wounded” Soldiers during a mass-casualty exercise June 3 at Al-Faw Palace on Camp Victory.

The mass-casualty exercise took place at a number of camps including Victory. The exercise tested the responsiveness and procedural awareness of Victory's first-responders in a time of crisis.

Because of the quick reaction of first-responders, Victory Soldiers

learned what to expect if a situation like this ever happened.

Spc. Matthew Hanks, information systems analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., said he knew there was going to be an exercise, but didn't know when or where it would happen.

“I heard screaming and yelling while I was working, so I grabbed my combat lifesaver bag and headed toward the scene of the incident,” said Hanks, one of the first Soldiers to respond to the incident.

Lt. Col. Niel Johnson, chief of clinical operations, Multi-National Corps - Iraq Surgeon's Office, was another first-responder and has seen exercises like these before. Much of the information about the exercise wasn't announced because the people in charge wanted to make it as much of a surprise as possible, he said.

“They purposely kept individuals from knowing more than they needed to know so we wouldn't have time to make any plans that would jeopardize the integrity of the exer-

cise,” Johnson said. “I had no idea where the scene would be, how many casualties would be involved or what the exact scope of the exercise entailed.”

Troops were informed of the incident through MNC-I's Joint Operations Center, which telephoned each section in the palace to announce the start of the exercise.

“They told us there was an incident and first responders were needed on the second floor,” Johnson said.

When Johnson arrived at the scene he noticed many blast injuries, a finger amputation and major neck and chest wounds. Unfortunately, the wounds were almost identical to the type of injuries that could be expected if the real thing ever happened, Johnson said.

“When I got to the site I started to look for the most injured casualties -- skipping over the Soldiers who were conscious -- knowing the Soldiers who were unresponsive

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photo by Pfc. Matthew Clifton/MNC-I PAO

Soldiers use their combat lifesaver skills to load a mock casualty onto a litter during a camp-wide, mass-casualty exercise June 3 at Camp Victory. The concept of the operation was to make sure the Soldiers knew how to react and what to do during an insurgent attack on the camp.

Women volunteering, filling Iraqi police force ranks

Pfc. Laura M. Bigenho
42nd MP Bde. PAO

Since the fall of the old regime, Iraqi women have been breaking old traditions and taking advantage of new-found opportunities. For many Iraqi women, the capture of Saddam Hussein seems to have restored their hope and assurance for a safer environment and added opportunities.

Female Iraqis are joining their male counterparts in the fight against crime, demonstrating their rights and movement toward a safer Iraq. Moving toward equality in a society where women were once confined to their own homes doesn't come easy, but to a growing number of Iraqi women, the risks are well worth it.

Ma'ha, a 39-year-old Iraqi policewoman, comes from a well-educated, wealthy family. She used to work as an instructive engineer. Today she works for the Karrada Patrol Headquarters as a statistician. Her credentials could land her a better paying job with more prestige, but

for Ma'ha, working with the Iraqi police force is a great honor and achievement, she said. She graduated from the Dean of Police College nearly two years ago, shortly after the capture of Hussein. She underwent the same training as male cadets.

Using a translator to communicate, Ma'ha said her initial motive for joining the Iraqi police was to get revenge on her abusive ex-husband.

“I was hurt by my husband so badly that I wanted to get revenge on him,” Ma'ha said. She divorced her husband before he was able to inflict serious damage, yet she took comfort in knowing that she was trained to use a weapon in case she would ever have to defend herself against him again.

Although Ma'ha has escaped the danger and fear of her ex-husband, she has inherited new dangers and risks that all police must face.

Lohlia, a policewoman working as a statistician at the



photo by Pfc. Laura M. Bigenho/42nd MP Bde. PAO

A female Iraqi police graduate gets ready to accept her certificate as the rest of her fellow policemen and women look on.

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Preventive Points:

Tips from Multi-National Corps - Iraq's Force Health Protection

Anthrax vaccinations to resume under emergency use authorization

- Personnel serving in Iraq will soon be offered anthrax vaccinations under an approved emergency use authorization. The EUA was granted by the Food and Drug Administration at the request of the Department of Defense to resume pre-attack protection of personnel against anthrax spores and inhalation anthrax disease. Maintaining protective immunity through vaccinations is critical to the overall preservation of health and combat power during ongoing MNC-I operations.
- The most deadly form of anthrax is inhalation anthrax. It is a condition that is contracted from breathing in bacterial spores and not having sufficient vaccine-induced immunity or rapid antibiotic treatment to prevent disease. *Bacillus anthracis* is the bacteria that causes inhalation anthrax and is considered by the intelligence community to be the primary organism of concern with respect to biological warfare and bio-terrorism. If unprotected and insufficiently treated, inhalation anthrax can be 100-percent fatal.
- Anthrax vaccine provides the best round-the-clock protection against the disease. A study in mill workers showed that the anthrax vaccine was 92.5-percent effective in preventing anthrax (including cutaneous [skin] and inhalation anthrax). Anthrax vaccine has been licensed by the FDA since 1970. Since 1998, DoD has administered more than five million doses of vaccine to more than 1.3 million military and civilian personnel serving all over the world.
- The anthrax vaccine immunization program EUA is a unit commander's program to increase force health protection. Beginning in June, commanders will arrange for individuals to be informed of the AVIP EUA program, ensure each individual is provided the EUA pamphlet and the opportunity to have all questions answered prior to deciding on vaccination. Individuals accepting vaccination will resume the series where they left off prior to the Oct. 27, 2004, injection. No vaccinations will be repeated in the series. Information on the EUA program is located in the MNC-I Surgeon's folder on the Camp Victory exchange server.

EXERCISE

would need the most attention," Hanks said. "I knew the unconscious Soldiers would take priority over the responsive ones."

Johnson said he was on the scene in less than five minutes after he received word of the incident.

"I think it was a quick and realistic response," Johnson said. "The time it took us to grab our gear and reach the scene was very accurate to how long it would take us to respond if the real thing were to happen."

Initially it seemed like there was a lot of confusion among the first responders. One minute it's a normal work day and the next, waves of people are responding to numerous casualties, Hanks said.

"Any time you respond to a scene like this there is a lot of confusion, a lot of people standing around and trying to figure out what is going on," Johnson said. "The first thing we did was make an assessment of the situation. We got somebody to quiet down the crowd, take a leadership position and explain to us what happened rather quickly."

Hanks said even though there was confusion at first, within minutes everyone came together and did what needed to be done to correctly treat the wounded Soldiers.

"I was extremely pleased to see the kind of response we got from the first responders and to see the amount of control they had," Johnson said.

"These things can be extremely chaotic, and it was encouraging to see how much cooperation and cohesiveness took place. The waves of first responders were very eager to help and



photo by Pfc. Matthew Clifton/MNC-I PAO

A Soldier uses his combat lifesaver skills to treat a mock casualty for an extremity wound during a camp-wide, mass-casualty exercise June 3 at Camp Victory.

follow directions," Johnson added.

"I think this exercise helped prepare Soldiers for the real thing. Even though it's a lot easier to do dry runs, you know it's just a drill," Hanks said. "The training we received during this exercise coincides with what would be asked of us if we were ever put into a position where we had to perform for real."

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MNC-I Courts Martial results

April 2 -- A specialist, 1st Corps Support Command, was convicted by a general court-martial of exporting marijuana from the United States to Iraq while receiving special pay. Sentence: Reduced to E-1, confinement for six months.

May 16 -- A staff sergeant, 1st Corps Support Command, was convicted by a special court-martial of larceny of government property and wrongfully receiving stolen government property. Sentence: Reduced to E-5, forfeiture of \$1,000 pay per month for one month and confinement for 20 days.

May 16 -- A specialist, 25th Infantry Division, was convicted by a special court-martial of indecent acts and loitering while posted as a sentinel and receiving special pay. Sentence: Reduced to E-2, forfeiture of \$600 pay per month for two months and confinement for two months.

May 17 -- A specialist, 18th Military Police Brigade, was convicted by a special court-martial of disobeying a noncommissioned officer and disrespect to a superior noncommissioned officer. Sentence: Reduced to E-1, forfeiture of \$823 pay per month for four months, confinement for four months and discharged with a bad-conduct discharge.

May 26 -- A specialist, 1st Corps Support Command, was convicted by a general court-martial of wrongful use and distribution of Diazepam and indecent assault. Sentence: Reduced to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for three years and six months and discharged with a bad-conduct discharge.

Voices of Victory: What are you doing for your dad on Father's Day?



"I waited too late to get a gift, so I'll be mailing my father a card."

Staff Sgt. Caprecia Miller,
executive
administration NCO,
Multi-National Force - Iraq



"I'm sending my father a photo-postcard."

Staff Sgt. Jose Pagan-Guerrero,
knowledge management
systems administration NCO,
Multi-National Force - Iraq



"A zero-dollar balance on my debt consolidation loan."

1st Lt. Amanda Bryan,
targeting officer,
Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Midnight Dining 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shopette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Chapel

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service Noon

Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.

Episcopal 4 p.m.

Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.

Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Post Office Hours

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Over the counter prescription refills

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

WOMEN

Karrada Major Crimes Unit Headquarters in Baghdad, is another brave character putting on the police uniform. Prior to becoming a police-woman, Lohlia, 45, studied business at a local university. She was unable to finish her education because she was forced to raise her three children alone after her husband died.

By the time Hussein was captured, her children were grown and independent. Eager to take part in the wave of new opportunities, Lohlia enrolled in the Dean of Police College. She was also among the first group of women to graduate from the course nearly two years ago.

"I loved the very thought of being able to wear the Iraqi police uniform," Lohlia said. "For me, wearing the police uniform meant I would be helping people."

Both women wear their police uniforms with tremendous pride, but beneath the blue, button-down, long-sleeved, collared shirts are concerns

about what their careers could mean for them, as well as for their families. Being a member of the Iraqi police force also means being a primary target for insurgents, who launch attacks on Iraqi police daily.

Despite the attacks and countless threats, Ma'ha said she is choosing to stay with the Iraqi police because her job gives her a sense of accomplishment. She said she feels like she is contributing to making Iraq a safer place.

1st Lt. Margaret Snow, military intelligence officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., meets with the Iraqi police-women on a weekly basis. She said they are very proud of what they've accomplished at the Police Academy.

There is a lot of pressure from society, family and coworkers for women not to be in the workplace -- especially in the police force. They get a lot of comments from fellow policemen, who believe the women

should be home raising children instead of working, Snow said.

"(Attending the academy) was a change from anything they've done in their lives. It was the first time that they were treated as equals and allowed to do things like work out and fire weapons," Snow said. "They were forced to meet the same standards as men, and they succeeded."

Although Iraqi women have made much progress in a short time, Snow realizes it may be several years, perhaps even decades, before the women are treated as equals, especially in the Iraqi security forces.

It may take a while, but eventually these women will create a society that doesn't know of a police force without women, Snow said.

Lohlia is also optimistic about Iraq's future and believes she is taking the first step in making good things happen, she said.

"(My job) pushes me forward in life," she said. "It's like I am seeing flowers bloom right before my eyes."

Victory MWR Events June 14 - 20

Today: Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

Thursday: Country night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 10:30 p.m.; Ping Pong Tournament at 7 p.m.; Basketball coaches meeting at 12:30 p.m. at the Gym.

Friday: Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m.

and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Saturday: Talent show and hip-hop night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.; 5 kilometer Father's Day run; Basketball Tournament.

Sunday: Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Eight-ball Tournament at 3 p.m. and Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Fencing practice from 9 - 11 a.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Kajukenbo from 9 - 9:30 p.m.; Basketball Tournament.

Monday: Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9 p.m.

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