

The Daily Roar

VOL. 1, NO. 4

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION -- BAGHDAD

DECEMBER 21, 2007

UAV Company provides 'eyes in the sky'

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Task Force XII PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Planting improvised explosives devices is a dangerous business in central Iraq. Even the most experienced insurgent with a meticulous plan and a foolproof hiding spot can quickly find himself face to face with the business end of a Hellfire missile.

It's not that they don't try to hide. Most insurgents planning to attack a convoy, or lob a mortar at a coalition base, take great care in covering their intentions. But it's hard to fight a guy sitting in front of a monitor, miles away, flying an eight foot unmanned aerial vehicle.

"You can tell we do a lot of good here," said North Ridgeville, Ohio native Spc. Eric Hansen, a UAV maintainer for 1st Brigade Special

Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. "When we got here, we were getting mortared a lot; that's really slowed down since we've been here."

In Multi-National Division-Baghdad, the small unmanned aircraft are launched and recovered by Company G, Task Force XII's 'Guardian Angels.'

"The UAV is a huge combat multiplier that provides a real time picture of the battlefield," said Company G commander, Capt. Shirwen Separa, a native of Brockledge, Fla. "It provides surveillance and reconnaissance for the maneuver units to identify terrorists in the act of terrorism."

Made up of Soldiers from seven brigades in the MND-B area of operations, Company G is the embodiment of cooperation between the local commands in Iraq. While its



by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton, Task Force XII PAO

Sgt. Jeremiah Bull, an unmanned aerial vehicle operator from 4th Brigade, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, assigned to Task Force XII's Company G, 'Guardian Angels,' pushes a UAV toward its launcher.

headquarters is composed of Soldiers from the division's aviation brigade, Task Force XII, the six assigned platoons each hail from one of the maneuver brigades.

The Soldiers assigned to the "Guardian Angels" are responsible for maintaining, launching and recovering the aircraft, said Company G 1st Sgt. Todd Venema who hails from Grand Rapids, Minn. Once the planes are in the air, they fly to a specified handoff sight, where the forward operators in the brigades take to the helm of flying the aircraft in mid-flight.

"The platoons mostly work with their own brigades and their own aircraft" he said. "So the relationships are good,

see **UAV** pg. 4



Helping hand

by Spc. Nathaniel Smith, 4th IBCT PAO

BAGHDAD - Cpl. Julian Landrove, a medic with Company C, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from San Antonio, bandages around an Iraqi child's foot in southern Baghdad's Doura neighborhood, Dec. 18. Landrove was on a battlefield circulation with the 4th IBCT's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, when he saw the child's injured foot.

Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

FRIDAY

Partly Cloudy

HI: 53F/12C

LO: 35F/2C



Saturday

Sunny

HI: 55F/13C

LO: 37F/3C



SUNDAY

Sunny

HI: 57F/14C

LO: 37F/3C




The Daily Roar

Multi-National Division - Baghdad
Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

Div. Command Sergeant Major:

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Steve Stover

Public Affairs NCOIC

Sgt. 1st Class Guadalupe Stratman

Editor:

Spc. Philip Klein

Staff Writers:

Sgt. Michael Molinaro

Sgt. Jason Thompson

Sgt. Mark Matthews

Sgt. Jerome Bishop

Spc. Elvyn Nieves

Pfc. April Campbell

Pfc. Samantha Schutz

The *Daily Roar* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The *Daily Roar* are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 4th Infantry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 4th Infantry Division, or The *Daily Roar* of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The *Daily Roar* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share?

The *Daily Roar* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC guadalupe.stratman@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The *Daily Roar* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor walter.klein@mnd-b.army.mil

Soldiers from Task Force XII make Taji their new home

By Sgt. Brandon Little

Task Force XII PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—Some Soldiers may view a deployment as a never-ending case of déjà-vu, but for many Task Force XII Soldiers it's been the complete opposite.

In the last month, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force XII has trained and transferred the mission of providing direct aviation support to Multi-National Corps – Iraq to Task Force 49; then packed and moved to Camp Taji.

Since their move to Taji, they have taken on the vital mission of becoming the aviation task force for Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Each and every challenge placed in front of these Soldiers, in the last few months, has been taken on and successfully accomplished, said Col. Timothy J. Edens, the commander of Task Force XII.

The challenge of fulfilling this role, previously occupied by the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, from Fort Hood, Texas, must be accomplished.

“This just means that our command has a lot of confidence in us,” said Staff Sgt. Cedric T. Lowe, the human resource sergeant for 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

“(We) have a lot of motivated people who are excited about their jobs, so we will definitely be just as successful here as we were in Logistics Support Area Anaconda,” said Lowe.

In addition to its headquarters company, Task Force XII is comprised of the 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood Texas; the 3-158th, also known as “Task Force Storm”; and a Forward Logistics Element (FLE) from the 412th Aviation Support Battalion.

“Our job (in Camp Taji) is to help provide communication support for Task Force XII,” said 1st Lt. Heidi Connelly, the Joint Node platoon leader for the FLE. “So far, our transition into this role has been pretty smooth and painless.”

The FLE only has 74 Soldiers, and for many of these Soldiers, as well as the Soldiers from 3-158th, the move from LSA Anaconda will mean more than just a zip code change, said Connelly, a native of Allentown, Pa.

“There will be a change in the actual mission; I'm sure of that,” said Lowe, a 13-year Army veteran and native of Shellman, Ga. “There won't be any change as far as our capability to accomplish the mission.”



by Sgt. Brandon Little, Task Force XII PAO

Staff Sgt. Cedric T. Lowe, a human resource sergeant, works on a report for his battalion. Lowe is one of many Task Force XII Soldiers that are taking on the mission of becoming the aviation task force for Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Lowe, and the other Soldiers of Task Force XII, will have to adjust to this change in mission as they perform a relief in place with the Soldiers from 1st ACB.

“I think everything is going great so far, and everyone is doing a good job,” said Spc. Jackson Longcamp, a paralegal specialist in 4/3 ACR and native of Brooklyn, New York.

“I also think the chow hall food is a lot better here than it is in Texas, and once I get the internet in my room this place will be perfect,” said Longcamp

Although transitioning to Camp Taji might not have been easy for some of the Soldiers, they will surely exceed all expectations as they have done in the past, said Edens.

“Everything you have accomplished has come at a price,” he said. “A great deal of that price has been, and continues to be, the sacrifices made by your Families. I am extremely proud of the Soldiers and Families of Task Force XII, and I hope all of you will continue to do great things.”

Combat multiplier provides real time picture of the battlefield

UVA from pg. 1

and the handoffs are seamless.”

The pilots are also unique. While most Army pilots are commissioned or warrant officers, the Soldiers who patrol the Iraqi airspace from the ground are enlisted.

Sgt. 1st Class David Norsworthy, a UAV operator from Clarksville, Tenn. says he has a special perspective for just how valuable the eyes in the sky really are. He’s an 11 year infantry veteran who says he can appreciate his new job for several reasons.

“It’s a whole new world,” said Norsworthy. “The way I used to deal with infantry Soldiers doesn’t work here. But after 11 years of beating back brush and sleeping in the rain, this is the life.

“This job is kind of a novelty too,” he added. “About once a week, we’ve got (Soldiers from other units) coming around to ask about what we do. At times, we’ve got VIP’s walking through here.”

“When I went to (a Soldier professional development school) pretty much every body in the class wanted to do what I do by the end,” said Hansen.

Company G launches about 20 aircraft per day to patrol the skies over the Baghdad area. Once in the air, Soldiers at Taji, and in the maneuver brigades, monitor the feeds sent back by the planes.

“If an operator sees a threat they let the ground guys, or aviation close air support know,” said Separa. “With the UAV, we can react to a threat almost instantly.”

“I think they’re a great asset to the Army,” said Hansen. “You can fly them cheaply, and get surveillance 24 hours a day and in inclement weather.”

“Most importantly, it minimizes lives at risk because they’re unmanned,” added Separa.

Even those who miss the quiet whirring sound of the tiny plane flying hundreds of feet above them, are sure to notice its effect – no matter how hard they try to hide.



by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton, Task Force XII PAO

North Ridgeville, Ohio’s Spc. Eric Hansen (left) and Delaware, Ohio’s Staff Sgt. Yancy Shattuck, unmanned aerial vehicle operators from 1st Bde. Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div., wait for clearance to launch a UAV in support of Multi-National Division-Baghdad Dec. 14. The two Soldiers are assigned to Company G, Task Force XII.



by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton, Task Force XII PAO

Controllers Spc. Eric Hansen and Staff Sgt. Yancy Shattuck will fly the aircraft’s surveillance and reconnaissance missions for troops on the ground in MND-B.