

The Daily Roar

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION - BAGHDAD

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Soldiers use UAVs for better battlefield picture

by Pfc. April Campbell

27th PAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — In the civilian world, sneaking a peak at an exam before taking it will earn someone a failing score. Sneaking a peak at the front lines before leaving the base for a mission, however, can save lives in the combat zone.

Soldiers with the Unmanned Aerial Systems Platoon, Company A, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division help provide that sneak peek for Striker Brigade Soldiers as well as others in the Multi-National Division – Baghdad operational area. This group is responsible for operating and maintaining the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System for the RQ7B Shadow 200, an unmanned aerial vehicle.

While some UAS platoon members work at the 3rd BCT Tactical Operations Center, both flying and monitoring the video feed from the Shadow, approximately half of them are at the Launch and Recovery Site here attached to Company G, Task Force XII, said Staff Sgt. Robert Lilly, the UAS platoon sergeant.

3rd BCT Soldiers at the LRS, working as part of TF XII, work with Soldiers from other brigades in the Baghdad area of operations recovering and launching Shadows throughout the day. The Shadows launched and recovered by these Soldiers will not necessarily spend all of their flight time in any one brigade's AO, said New York City native Chief Warrant Officer 2 Antonio Mitchell, opera-

tions chief with the UAS Platoon from the Striker Brigade which is attached to Co. G, TF XII at the LRS.

“What we are doing here is not a traditional UAS operation,” said Mitchell, who has been working in the UAV field since 1997. “Normally a UAS platoon works directly for (its) brigade.”

Because there are several brigades in Baghdad, which one gets to use the Shadow and for which missions is determined by MND-B, said Lilly, a Beckley, W.Va., native.

The division grants the brigades airspace priority based on the threat and the amount of benefit it will provide in a certain area for a certain period of time, Mitchell said.

When a Shadow is in the Striker Brigade AO, UAS Platoon Soldiers in the brigade TOC monitor the video produced by it. Nearby, there are other brigade UAS Soldiers who remotely control the UAV, said Lilly.

Soldiers may be monitoring an area of interest for various reasons, including sweeping areas for improvised explosive devices as well as assisting Soldiers with specific operations, Lilly added.

“Before Soldiers go out on a mission, we can give them a better picture of the battlefield,” Lilly said.

Having a bird's-eye view helps to keep Soldiers safe and allow them a greater success rate during their missions. With the Shadows giving them an up-to-date glimpse of their AO, Soldiers can have an even greater understanding of their surroundings.



by Pfc. April Campbell, 27th PAD

A RQ7B Shadow 200, is launched into the skies over the Multi-National Division - Baghdad operational area at the Launch and Recovery Site here Jan. 6. Shadows are the primary type of unmanned aerial vehicles used at the brigade level in the Baghdad.



by Daniel Blottenberger, 18th MP BDE PAO

Mechanics keep fleet rolling

Native of Cable Wire, Mich., Pfc. Paul Storms, a light wheel mechanic, 511th MP Co. deployed from Fort Drum, N.Y., replaces the ball joint on the rear tire of a humvee Jan. 4 at Forward Operating Base Delta. His work keeps the 18th Military Police Brigade's Police Transition Teams wheel vehicle fleet rolling.



4ID Player of the Day

The Commanding General's Player of the Day Award for Jan. 10 was presented to Spc. Jennifer Stiever for outstanding performance of her duties. Stiever is the sole Soldier Actions clerk, and her ability to prioritize and synchronize incoming actions ensures that Soldier's actions are processed in a timely manner.

Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

Friday
Snow
 HI: 44F/7C
 LO: 30F/-1C



Saturday
Clear
 HI: 48F/9C
 LO: 30F/-1C



Sunday
Partly sunny
 HI: 48F/9C
 LO: 30F/-1C



The Daily Roar

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100,000th food shipment arrives safely

By Pfc. Samantha Schutz

4th Inf. Div. PAO

The 4th Infantry Division has spent the last month transitioning into its role as the new leaders of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, an effort exemplifying a goldier within the division is a vital member of the Ivy team.

In recognition of the 4th Inf. Div.'s civilian teammates whose job it is to support the Soldiers' dining needs, a ceremony was held at the Ironhorse dining facility here Jan. 7 to celebrate the 100,000th safe delivery of food supplies in three years from the Agility Logistics/Public Warehousing Company into Iraq.

There are many things happening beneath the surface as the Soldiers are performing their duties, and there are many fans of the division working tirelessly to support its members.

For instance, Ivy Soldiers have the opportunity to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner inside a welcoming building without worrying about where the food is coming from.

"We're here so the military can focus on their main mission: fighting wars," said Michael Fleming, an Auckland, New Zealand, native who works as a camp operations manager for Agility Logistics/PWC.

To train Soldiers to do the shipping, receiving and preparing of food would take a lot of valuable manpower away from the mission at hand, Fleming added.

While MND-B Soldiers engage in military operational supply missions, hundreds of third country national drivers make it their mission to supply the Soldiers with food and services. According to a press release distributed by the company, these workers, with military escorts, use a fleet of more than 1,200 trucks to transport this valuable cargo through routes where there is constant danger from improvised explosive devices, small arms fire, adverse weather and arduous conditions throughout Iraq.

In the three years since the company began its mission, 27 Agility Logistics/PWC workers were killed on the job, and more than 235 workers were injured. Additionally, more than 300 trucks were destroyed, and more than 700 were damaged, said the company in its press release.

Nevertheless, even under stress and tight deadlines, the company's drivers and other members of their team continue to push forward and rely on their motto – "Feed the Forces, Whatever it Takes" – to make their mission one of the most successful of its kind in history.

"Our brothers that assist us in this intricate operation risk their lives just like the Soldiers out there on the lines," said Chief Warrant Officer Sabrina Nero, a native of Harker Heights, Texas, and the chief of food services for MND-B, Company B, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div.

"All we see is the food on our plates; we don't really think about what it takes to get it there," said Nero, who was given a certificate of appreciation for assisting with the ceremony. "It was an honor to be part of this moment. The 4th Inf. Div. is definitely proud to receive this 100,000th shipment."

The teamwork between MND-B, Agility Logistics/PWC and other civilian contractors is often overlooked, but it plays a vital part in allowing the division's deployment to run smoothly, added Nero.



by Pfc. Samantha Schutz, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

Workers at the Ironhorse dining facility and employees of the Agility Logistics/Public Warehousing Company hold a banner in celebration of the company's 100,000th safe shipment of food and services to Iraq outside the Ironhorse dining facility at Camp Liberty Dec. 7. Third country national drivers transport the shipments along dangerous convoy routes in support of military bases in Iraq.