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February 17, 2009

1-4 ARB adapts aviation support to theater conditions



Courtesy photo by Chief Warrant Officer Eduardo C. Alomar

An AH-64D Apache Helicopter, belonging to 1st Battalion 4th Aviation Regiment, Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, flies over Iraq in support of ground elements across Multi-National Division-Center.

CAPT. KATHERINE O. ZYLA
TF 449



CAMP TAJI, Iraq— 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Attack Reconnaissance Battalion brings strength to Task Force 449 Aviation Brigade and supports ground elements across Multi-National Division-Center through show

of force, reconnaissance and presence patrols.

The Soldiers of 1-4 ARB from Ft. Hood, Texas, have been in theater eight months, assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad, and have continuously adjusted tactics, techniques and procedures to meet the Security Agreement between Iraq and the Coalition Forces. The support the battalion is providing to Task Force 449, and has recently

provided to the elections, is not much different than what the unit has been doing since the Security Agreement took effect January 1. The difference is 1-4 ARB now primarily supports MND-C instead of MND-B Brigade Combat Teams.

“We are flying more friendly in support of the Iraqi Security Forces,” said

See AVIATION, page 3

Black History: The long road travelled

MAJ. PAGE BALDWIN
MND - C



Since the dawn of human civilization, dominant cultures and ascendant empires have treated conquered peoples badly, using them as serfs and slaves. After thousands of years and abuse meted out in every corner of the world, the terrible practice was finally ended by the world-spanning British Empire with the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. Thirty two years and a terrible civil war later, the United States followed suit, and the journey from subjugation to the realization of the founders' conceptualization that all men are created equal began for millions of blacks in America.

As the journey from slave to freedom proceeded after the Civil War, blacks in America endured many hardships. For decades, blacks were denied the right to vote in some states and were even barred from using the same public facilities as others. "Jim Crow" laws made a mockery of the sacrifices of President Lincoln and many others. Even the famed WWII "Tuskegee Airmen" fighter wing, made up of black pilots, had a hard time arranging cross-country training flights because some airports didn't have separate facilities available for black pilots.

The Tuskegee Airmen were just some of the thousands of blacks who fought for their country gallantly in WWII. General Eisenhower, a strong believer in civil rights for all, issued a policy letter on Feb. 26, 1944 which was to be read by or to all the soldiers in the European Theater every month. The letter stated that "Equal opportunities of service and recreation are the right of every American soldier regardless of branch, race, color, or creed."

The spirit of the policy letter became the rule for all the armed services on July 26, 1948, when President Harry Truman issued an executive order which called for "equality of treatment for all persons in the armed services, without regard to race, color, religion or national origin." The military was leading the way toward a future of equality under the law.

As President, Dwight D. Eisenhower continued what he had begun and where Truman had left off. Eisenhower supported the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of To-

peka U.S. Supreme Court decision, in which segregated ("separate but equal") schools were ruled to be unconstitutional.

He also proposed to Congress the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960 and signed those acts into law. Finally, and most famously, he federalized the Arkansas National Guard to force that state to obey a Federal court order to integrate their schools. Nine brave black students, the "Little Rock Nine," were daring to enter an all-white public school. The governor of Arkansas called out the National Guard to block the entrance. To counter this move, President Eisenhower federalized the entire Arkansas National Guard and sent them back to the school - this time to escort the students into the school and enforce the students' civil rights.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy pressed for passage of a far-reaching civil rights act. After his assassination, President Lyndon B. Johnson carried on the work. Passage of the landmark legislation was not a sure thing, with key Senators and Representatives opposing the bill. The organizing actions of civil rights giants like Martin Luther King, Jr. and others played a key part in mobilizing both public opinion and the legislative support that eventually overcame opposition and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a majority of both Republicans and Democrats. The law gave new muscle to the concept of equal justice under the law, and gave the federal government new tools to end decades of unequal treatment of blacks in America.

Since then, America has continued to move forward. Today, blacks and whites work together at the highest levels of business, government, and entertainment. The military has seen a black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, we've had a black Secretary of State, and now Barack Obama is president. And not insignificantly, public support of these policy makers has centered not around the color of their skin, but, as Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed would someday be the case, the content of their character. We may not be at the end of the road of racial discrimination in America, but with the overwhelmingly positive developments of the last six decades, we can surely see the finish line, where all men are created equal, from here.

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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AVIATION

From page 1

Maj. Philip E. Graham, Battalion Operations Officer, "We continue to show force and presence without hindering the Iraqi Security Forces ability as they continue to take over operations."

The battalion has recently focused on reconnaissance missions in support of the Iraqi elections as well as continuing to provide convoy escort and a host of other security missions.

"Our mission in support of the elections changed slightly. We shifted the majority of our teams to the times in which the polling stations were open and most people were active," said Maj. Tammy L. Baugh, 1-4 ARB Executive Officer. "Even though we shifted forces, our presence remained a reinforcement to the security provided by both Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces on the ground."

Graham, a Rogersville, Tenn. native, said Soldiers within the battalion understand the importance of the elections.

"The Iraqi Provincial Elections are important because it marks a continued march in the right direction for this country through a dispersion of political power down to the local leader level," said Chief Warrant Officer John Zimmerman, an Instructor Pilot. "The security of the country is currently under the leadership of Iraqis, who are extremely committed to ensuring the polls are secure for the voting population."

Zimmerman, who flew during the elections, said his job was to provide early warning to the Iraqi Security Forces, through the use of liaison teams on the ground, of anything that violated the security provisions set forth by Iraqi leadership.

"Our mission was to help the ISF interdict possible attacks in a timely manner and prevent the loss of innocent Iraqi lives," said the Houston, Texas, native. "From the air, our Longbow Apaches witnessed thousands of Iraqi citizens exercise their newfound freedom by visiting the polls and



Courtesy photo by Chief Warrant Officer Eduardo C. Alomar

An AH-64D Apache Helicopter conducts a security mission in Iraq. Soldiers of 1-4 ARB, who are from Ft. Hood, Texas, have been in theater eight months, assigned to Multi-National Division-Baghdad and now work for Task Force 449 supporting Multi-National Division-Center.

casting their ballots. "

While assigned to MND-B, the pilots of 1-4 ARB were part of Counter-Indirect Fire missions, tasked with providing over watch of the urban areas and helping ground units with the security transition since the summer of 2008.

"It has been a collective effort, helping change the tone towards Iraqi self sustainment and implementation, getting conditions set for the security agreement, and now for elections," said Graham.

Graham said the pilots are dedicated to flying missions and supporting personnel on the ground. They have adapted to the evolving operational environment, what they can and cannot do, and continue to support ground commanders in every way they can.

"Our junior aviators have surpassed our expectations regarding their experience level and the skills required from them to meet the commander's intent," said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Oliphant, Battalion Standardization Pilot, who has served in the Army for 20 years.

"Regardless of the mission, be it reconnaissance, security or attack, the pilot's ability to seamlessly participate in the combined arms fight; from Air-Ground Integration, sensor to shooter operations, and joint operations, to supporting a two-man sniper team or providing security for a four vehicle convoy, their ability to support the ground commander is impressive," added the Copperas Cove, Texas native.

1-4 ARB's mission and high operational tempo will not change now that they are working with Task Force 449; however, they will fly over more rural areas than urban.

"Our dedicated focus to providing the ground commander the support he needs; our constant desire to refine our mission to complement his objectives; and assisting the Iraqi forces will not change," said Graham, who has been in the Army for 15 years.

Not only do 1-4 ARB's aircrews fly an average of 90 hours a month, but the maintainers meet the demanding maintenance requirements for the aircraft to be operational, keeping the AH-64D Apache Helicopters and crews in the air.

"We are able to do more with less because of the excellent Soldiers we have across the board," said Graham. "They are dedicated to the mission and practice our philosophy 'launch, recover, launch'."

The transition from 4th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade to Task Force 449 has been seamless; 1-4 ARB has continued its mission of show of force, reconnaissance and presence patrols.

The Soldiers of 1-4 ARB replaced 4/3 Armored Cavalry Regiment in the summer of 2008 in MND-B's operational environment and again January 20.

"The transition with 4/3 Armored Cavalry Regiment was seamless," said Baugh, a Brillion, Wis. native. "Knowing the organization and personnel from the previous Relief in Place greatly assisted in our ability to receive and carry out the mission."

Being familiar with 4/3 ACR's tactics, techniques and procedures helped the transition; however, 4/3's Soldiers' professionalism and TF 449's support made an impact as well.

"We cannot say enough good things about the high caliber of Soldiers in 4/3 ACR, and we owe them a lot," said Baugh, who has been in the Army 13 years. "TF 449 has accepted us wholeheartedly. Although we are not organic to TF 449, they have made us feel we are part of the team."

Showtime at Camp Victory

Soldiers celebrate Black History month Apollo style

SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – Many deployed Soldiers have hidden talents their comrades don't know about, and all they need is an opportunity to let that talent shine.

The Multi-National Division – Center Equal Opportunity Office hosted the first Victory Base Complex Night at the Apollo Saturday in celebration of Black History month in Hope Chapel.

The idea came to Staff Sgt. Marci Nemtzow, 10th Mountain Division Band EO leader, by reflecting on talent shows at her past duty assignments. The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program would put on talent shows and they eventually became known as "Apollos".

"I took note that the talent shows were successful and well attended, and the audience always had a good time." Nemtzow, a Boynton Beach, Fla., native, said. "My concept for VBC Night at the Apollo was for people to attend and have a good time. I wanted it to be like a night out on the town for them."

Looking back on the event, she said, it went really well. She was pleased with the turn-out.

"The event was outstanding, and if you weren't there you missed a powerful night" said Sgt. 1st Class Tammie Terrell, MND-C EO advisor. "It also promoted good morale and esprit de corps."

"About 100 people came out," Nemtzow said.

"I was very happy. I think everyone

who performed did very well. I applaud those who got up there and performed. In a setting like that, you are setting yourself up to get booted off stage, but they did it anyway."

"Overall, the effect we were trying to achieve was to incorporate a different environment for the Black History month observance," Terrell, a Burlington, N.C., native, said. "I feel like we achieved our goal."

Nemtzow said she is really glad the EO office put it together and saw it

through, and would definitely put the effort in to doing it again.

The Night at the Apollo was the first of a few events, said Terrell. There will be three movie nights and the actual observance of Black History month will be on the 19th.

"When we are doing observances," Terrell added, "we aren't just doing them for that ethnic group. It's for knowledge, and not just common knowledge, it's for educational knowledge."



Photo by Spc. Darryl Montgomery

Spc. Youlande Thomas, a St. Louis, Mo., native. MND-C S4 section sings to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Salley, a Columbia, S.C., native, Multi-National Corps – Iraq IAG, during a duet in the first Victory Base Complex Night at the Apollo. Thomas came in 1st Place and Salley came in 2nd Place, both for their talents in singing.

MND-C African American/Black History Month Observance

Feb. 19

Hope Chapel

4 p.m.

Refreshments provided

Headline Round-up

Science News:

BANGKOK, Thailand - The polar oceans are not biological deserts after all. A marine census released Feb. 16 documented 7,500 species in the Antarctic and 5,500 in the Arctic, including several hundred that researchers believe could be new to science. "The textbooks have said there is less diversity at the poles than the tropics, but we found astonishing richness of marine life in the Antarctic and Arctic oceans," said Victoria Wadley, a researcher from the Australian Antarctic Division who took part in the Antarctic survey. "We are rewriting the textbooks."

U.S. News:

DALLAS - The Federal Aviation Administration has received numerous reports of falling debris across Texas, which could be related to a recent satellite collision. Some of the callers around midmorning Feb. 15 reported what looked like a fireball in the sky. FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said officials suspect the debris could be related to the collision, but he said that had not been confirmed.

Sports News:

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - The rain was coming, and Matt Kenseth knew it was time to get going. It was the Daytona 500, a race where drivers wait until the very end to make their big move for NASCAR's biggest prize. Only this time, nobody knew when the end would be. The rain that had threatened Feb. 15's season-opening race all day finally rolled in moments after Kenseth slid past Elliott Sadler for the lead. Then the former NASCAR champion was forced to sit out a 20-minute delay before claiming victory after 152 of 200 laps. It was just the fourth rain-shortened 500 in the race's 51-year history, and first since Michael Waltrip's 2003 victory. "It's going to be really wet out here, because I'm crying like a baby," the usually cool Kenseth said as he choked back tears. Coming off one of the worst seasons of his career, Kenseth's 2009 start seemed to be headed in the wrong direction, too. He wrecked his primary car, had to go to a backup and started at the back Feb. 15. Kenseth sliced his way through the field, then used a huge push from Kevin Harvick to take the lead from Sadler. A caution came out moments later for a spin by Aric Almirola, and the sky opened up about the same time. After two laps under caution, NASCAR stopped the race and brought the drivers to pit road. Most climbed from their cars to await NASCAR's decision. Kenseth did not, choosing instead to sit silently inside his Ford away from his nervous supporters.

Quote of the Day

"Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." – Oscar Wilde

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For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lion's Den

Feb. 17
Madden '09 @ 7 p.m.
Spades @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

Feb. 17
Full body aerobics @ 6 a.m.
March 27
Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony @ 8 p.m.
March 28
Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk run. Free t-shirt and continental breakfast. Race begins @ 7 a.m.

Freedom Chapel

Violin teacher needed. Contact Col. Andrew Baan (Andrew.baan@iraq.centcom.mil) for more information.
Mondays
A History of Christianity @ 7 p.m.
Wednesdays
Guitar lessons @ 4 p.m.
Fridays
Catholic Hour @ 6:30 p.m.

Liberty

Feb. 19
Salsa Band MWR C-10 @ 9 p.m.
Feb. 22
Sweet 16 5 K Run. Race begins at "Z" Lake @ 7 a.m. FREE T-shirts to the top 115 finishers. POC: Spc. Daniel Balderas 485-0411 or daniel.balderas@iraq.centcom.mil
Feb. 23
Black History Month Observance at Aw Faw Palace @ 7 p.m. POC: Maj. Monique Comper Anderson 835-2057.

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Babylon Theatre

Feb. 17
Soul Men @ 4 p.m.
Role Models @ 7 p.m.
Notorious @ 9:30p.m.
Feb. 18
Fire Extinguisher Class @ 1 p.m.
Feb. 20
Town hall meeting @ 1 p.m.