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February 23, 2009

Iraqi Army displays Live Fire in Amarah

CAPT. KEVIN WOLF
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB GARRY OWEN – After nearly two months of intense training, 48 Soldiers, from the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade accurately called in a target and fired a 120mm-mortar system here, Feb 16.

“The instruction that we received gives us a specialty, something that (most no other Iraqi) Soldiers have training on.” said Sgt. Mishal Ghanim, of the 38th IA’s mortar battery.

The 38th IA Bde. became one of the first units in southern Iraq to conduct a live fire exercise with Iraqi Army mortar crews and forward observers executing indirect fire missions. The Iraqis received assistance from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division ‘Long Knives.’

“Things such as map reading and observing indirect fire doubles our combat effectiveness; we are now Forward Observers and are of much greater use to our unit,” said Pvt. Ali Shani, assigned to the 38th IA Bde.

His unit’s training with the Long Knife Soldiers consisted of instruction on map reading, observing and



Photo by Capt. Kevin Wolf

A soldier, assigned to the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade, loads a 120-mm mortar round during a live-fire exercise in Amarah, Iraq Feb 16. Amarah is located near Forward Operating Base Garry Owen in southern Iraq.

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LIVE FIRE

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adjusting mortar fire and firing the 120mm mortar system.

The partnership between the 38th Bde. and Long Knife Brigade has continuously strengthened since the American Soldiers first arrived last summer. The Maysan Province is becoming more stable every day, thanks in large part to the increasing capabilities of the IA.

After the live-fire exercise, the Multi-National Division Center Commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, congratulated the Iraqi Soldiers and handed out coins.

“I’ve said it before, that we’re working ourselves out of a job here,” said Oates during a brief to the Long Knife Staff. “The question is – Does anyone need to replace you when you leave.”

Editor’s Note: 2nd Lt. Timothy Hayes, 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. contributed to this story.



Photo by Capt. Kevin Wolf
Sgt. Mishal Ghanim, from Co. Commando of the 38th Iraqi Army Brigade calls in a grid coordinate during a live-fire exercise while Ali Shani, also assigned to the 38th IA observes for accuracy in Amarah Feb 16. The city of Amarah is located near FOB Garry Owen in southern Iraq. The 38th became one of the first units in southern Iraq to conduct a live fire exercise with Iraqi Army mortar crews and forward observers executing indirect fire missions. The Iraqis received assistance from Soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div. ‘Long Knives.’

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- Click on the *click here* icon
- Chat is anonymous

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449

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Women's Initiative improves Iraqi quality of life

SPC. DEBRALEE P. CRANKSHAW
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – Women play a vital role in the United States. The same is true in Iraq, but there is little emphasis placed on their well-being.

The Women's Initiative is a program designed to improve women's role in Iraqi society. This is done in three different parts.

The first component of the program is to decrease women suicide bombers. The initiative was originally started due to the increase in female suicide bombers. In 2007 there were 7, but in 2008 the number increase to 38. To help alleviate this trend, the initiative began.

"The thought behind it is that the women have lost so many of the men in their families – fathers, brothers, husbands, friends," said Capt. Jennifer Glossinger, 413th Civil Affairs Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, MND-C, Women's Initiative Coordinator.

"What happens to so many is they become very vulnerable because they don't have many resources, a lot of

times they're left with many (children) to take care of. They may not be able to read or write. The Women's Initiative looks to fill in the gaps and provide some of those basic needs to mitigate some of those female suicide bombings."

The second part of the initiative is economic development.

"Eighty percent of employment comes from the agricultural sector in MND-C. Seventy percent of that work force is composed of women. Women do just about all of the work," said Glossinger.

The initiative works with Provincial Reconstruction Teams and agriculture teams to include women's programs at their extension center.

"The extension centers main goal is to create a place where people can come and learn about new technology," said Glossinger. "They can come together and pool their money to buy equipment or work as a team and help strengthen each other."

Providing literacy and youth programs is another idea Glossinger has for these centers. Rural areas are the

main focus of the program, however, the initiative also encourages women in the cities to obtain grants and start businesses.

The final area the initiative looks at is human rights, but the other components are usually the avenue used to obtain these rights. There are a few other ways this is pursued. One way is to encourage women to help other women.

"In Dhi Qar, there are 12 women lawyers and they are talking about opening a women's center there and providing legal services to women," said Glossinger.

The initiative focuses on these areas to provide communication, information and support to pass on the best practices to the MND-C areas of operation in regards to women and programs to assist them.

"Our main goal is not to change the culture, but to strengthen what they have in terms of employment and education," said Glossinger. "I think it's important to be realistic in what you focus on. Most of the women in the MND-C area are rural and need the most basic things like jobs and education."



Courtesy photos

(Left) Capt. Jennifer Glossinger, 413th CA Bn., 10th Mtn. Div., MND – C, Women's Initiative Coordinator speaks with Iraqi women at a Women's Initiative conference in the MND-C area of operation about programs they may want to see in their town. (Above) Capt. Jennifer Glossinger speaks with a woman in one of the provinces in MND-C about issues women in her area face as part of the Women's Initiative. The Women's Initiative is a program designed to improve women's role in Iraqi society.

Staff Section Round-up

A Proclamation for African-American History Month

The history of African-Americans is unique and rich, and one that has helped to define what it means to be an American. Arriving on ships on the shores of North America more than 300 years ago, recognized more as possessions than people, African-Americans have come to know freedoms fought for in establishing the United States and gained through the use of our founding principles of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assembly and due process of law.

The ideals of the Founders became more real for every citizen as African-Americans pressed us to realize our full potential as a Nation and to uphold those ideals for all who enter into our borders and embrace the notion that we are all endowed with certain unalienable rights.

Since Carter G. Woodson first sought to illuminate the African-American experience, each February we pause to reflect on the contributions of this community to our national identity. The history is one of struggle for the recognition of each person's humanity as well as an influence on the broader American culture. African-Americans designed our beautiful Capital City, gave us the melodic rhythms of New Orleans Jazz, issued new discoveries in science and medicine and forced us to examine ourselves in the pages of classic literature. This legacy has added luster to the United States, which has drawn immigrants to our shores for centuries.

The narrative of the African-American pursuit of full citizenship is also the story of a maturing young Nation. The

voices and examples of the African-American people worked collectively to remove the boulders of systemic racism and discrimination that pervaded our laws and public conscious for decades. Through the work of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, the African-American community has steadily made progress toward the dreams within its grasp and the promise of our Nation. Meanwhile, the belief that those dreams might one day be realized by all citizens gave African-American men and women the same sense of duty and love of country that led them to shed blood in every war we have ever fought, to invest hard-earned resources in their communities with the hope of self empowerment, and to pass the ideals of this great land down to their children and grandchildren.

As we mark National African-American History Month, we should take note of this special moment in our Nation's history and the actors who worked so diligently to deliver us to this place. One such organization is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which this year will witness 100 years of service to the Nation on Feb. 12. Because of their work, including the contributions of those luminaries on the front lines and great advocates behind the scenes, we as a Nation were able to take the dramatic steps we have in recent history.

BARACK OBAMA

Sports Talk

By Spc. JOSH LECAPELAIN

College basketball facing exciting March

On Feb. 16, a titan fell. In what has become commonplace this college basketball season, the No. 1 team in the land, the Connecticut Huskies, were dismantled by the Pittsburgh Panthers 76-68.

A few weeks earlier, the Duke Blue Devils had been knocked out of the top spot, after losing to the Wake Forest Demon Deacons, 70-68, Jan. 28. Wake Forest had been the previous No. 1, but had lost on Jan. 21 to Virginia Tech, 78-71 – dropping the top spot they had held for a week, after then-No. 1 seed Pitt Panthers fell to the Louisville Cardinals 69-63 Jan. 17.

To start the season, the North Carolina Tar Heels were the top team in the land and held that spot for a few months before they too tripped and tasted defeat.

Where all these teams end up, as well as the others that will join them in the March Madness tournament, is up in the air. Every year, there seems to be a favorite to take the whole thing, but it seems up for grabs this season.

The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East Conference both stand well above their peers, as every number one ranked team has come from them thus far. While teams such as the Memphis Tigers and Oklahoma Sooners stand

on the cusp of being 'king for a day,' they don't appear to have the legs and scorers to match up well against their more celebrated adversaries in the ACC and Big East.

Many analysts still consider North Carolina the front runner to win it all. While that may be the eventual outcome, it is more likely we are headed to a tournament where whatever team gets hottest makes the most noise. There are too many good basketball teams this season to consider any one the odds on favorite to win it all.

The conference tournaments are going to be telling. Is North Carolina going to be able to defeat Wake Forest, Duke and the rest of the heavy hitters in the ACC, and then have to go on and beat the rest of the country's best? That would be almost an unparalleled degree of difficulty. The lesser teams have to be hoping that these heavyweights leave each other in such awful shape that they can sneak in a score a quick, unexpected knockout.

I think the best case scenario would be for the Huskies and Tar Heels to lock horns. They have both appeared to be the consistent best since this season tipped off.

As long as loser schools like Michigan and West Virginia are nowhere near the big game, I'll be content.

Headline Round-up

World News:

WASHINGTON - With two missile strikes over the past week, the Obama administration has expanded the covert war run by the Central Intelligence Agency inside Pakistan, attacking a militant network seeking to topple the Pakistani government. The missile strikes on training camps run by Baitullah Mehsud represent a broadening of the American campaign inside Pakistan, which has been largely carried out by drone aircraft. Under President Bush, the United States frequently attacked militants from Al Qaeda and the Taliban involved in cross-border attacks into Afghanistan, but had stopped short of raids aimed at Mr. Mehsud and his followers, who have played less of a direct role in attacks on American troops.

Entertainment:

TIJUANA, Mexico - Mexican officials have detained an Austrian woman accused of stalking "CSI: Miami" star David Caruso. Austrian prosecutors say the woman sent the American actor more than 100 letters, pursued him for an autograph and then sent death threats when he refused to give her one. She was charged with stalking and threatening to kill Caruso, but failed to show up for court in 2007 and was believed to be on the run. Tijuana police said Friday they detained the woman with the help of a blog titled The Stalker Chronicles, dedicated to the woman's arrest. She was turned over to immigration officials late Thursday and will likely be deported. Caruso plays Miami police Lt. Horatio Caine on the crime drama series on U.S. network CBS.

Odd News:

CHICAGO - This is no jolly matter. Antoinette Basso filed a lawsuit Thursday against a man dressed in a Santa suit who she said stumbled and fell on top of her, knocking her face-first into the sidewalk outside a Chicago restaurant. Basso claims in the Cook County Circuit Court lawsuit that she suffered "pain ... disability and disfigurement." She's asking for damages in excess of \$50,000. Basso alleges that the Santa, Daniel Aulwes, appeared intoxicated at the time of the Dec. 7 incident. She's accusing Aulwes of negligence and negligent battery.

Quote of the Day

"There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in travelling in a stage-coach, that it is often a comfort to shift one's position and be bruised in a new place" – Washington Irving

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Fishbowl Gym

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.

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.

Registration begins @ 7 a.m., race begins @ 8 a.m. T-shirts awarded to top finishers.

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.

Tuesdays

God and the military @ 7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar lessons @ 4 p.m.

Thursdays

Catholic Choir practice @ 5:30 p.m.

Fridays

Catholic hour @ 6:30 p.m.

Sundays

Protestant (Traditional) @ 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass @ noon

LDS Service @ 2 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.

Protestant (Contemporary) @ 7 p.m.

Liberty

Feb. 23

Black History Month Observance at Aw Faw Palace @ 7 p.m.

POC: Maj. Monique

Compere-Anderson at 835-2057.

Feb. 26

Charlie Wilson and the GAP

band at Liberty PX/BX stage @ 7:30 p.m.

Victory Stage

Feb. 27

Blackstreet @ 7 p.m.