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April 3, 2009

8th IA Div. familiarizes with the Shadow



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

A Shadow TUAV operator with Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT, 4th ID, inspects the unmanned aircraft as other Co. A Soldiers explain the necessity of pre-flight checks and overall maintenance to officers from 8th IA Div., prior to a launch at Camp Echo March 29.

SGT. RODNEY FOLIENTE
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CAMP ECHO – Officers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division participated in familiarization training and a launch demonstration of tactical unmanned aerial vehicles at Camp Echo March 29.

Soldiers from Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted the training by reviewing technical data, explaining training requirements for operators and maintenance personnel of the TUAV and launching a Shadow TUAV to demonstrate its surveillance capabilities first-hand.

“We were happy to show them our capabilities for surveillance and they were



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

An officer with 8th IA Div. studies the body of a Shadow TUAV prior to its launch during familiarization training conducted by Soldiers of Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT, 4th ID at Camp Echo March 29.

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SHADOW: 8th IA Div. familiarizes with the Shadow

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pleased to learn," said Staff Sgt. Henry Henson, TUAV sergeant, Co. A. He said the Iraqis expressed a lot of interest in obtaining a similar system through the Iraqi government.

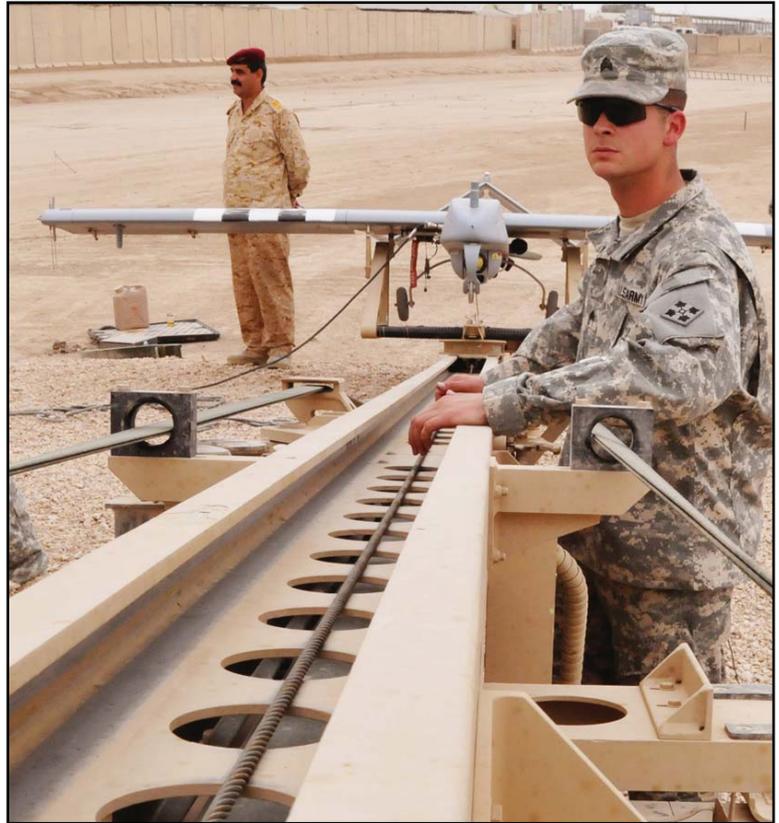
"We're hoping for future joint operations, assisting them in learning the capabilities until they can be self-sustaining," the Yuba City, Calif., native said.

"The demonstration was excellent," said Lt. Col. Kassim Kathem, commander for the 8th IA Div. military intelligence battalion. "We hope this surveillance capability will be available to every Iraqi Soldier and officer as they conduct their missions. We hope to have a (UAV) unit."

Kathem said they appreciated the Coalition forces' assistance with UAVs in the past, but felt that "Iraqi personnel could use this technology more effectively because they know the area better. Our units could have greater command and control of our areas of responsibility with such an asset."

Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

A Shadow TUAV sergeant with Co. A, STB, 2nd BCT, 4th ID inspects a TUAV launcher during pre-flight checks prior to a launch demonstration for officers from 8th IA Div. during familiarization training at Camp Echo March 29.



The CG wants to talk to you!

When?? Sunday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Baghdad time
(Noon, Fort Drum time)

Where?? <http://www.taskforcemountain.com/lima-charlie-chat-room>

www.taskforcemountain.com

THE Mountain View

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Contributing Units

172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
41st Fires Brigade
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449

Romanian contingents swap out at Delta



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

(Top Left) Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, Multi-National Division – Center and 10th Mountain Div., Deputy Commanding General for Operations, presents Col. Valentin Nistor, 11th Romanian Contingent's senior representative, with a gift after the transfer of authority ceremony recently. (Top Right) Col. Valentin Nistor, 11th Romanian Contingent's senior representative, salutes during the playing of the Romanian national anthem. The 11th Romanian Contingent, deployed since September, handed their mission over to the 12th Romanian Contingent, who is scheduled to serve a six-month deployment. (Left) Brig. Gen. Catalin Tomescu, senior Romanian representative in Baghdad, gives his remarks during the transfer of authority between the 11th and 12th Romanian Contingents.

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – The 11th Romanian Contingent passed their Iraqi mission on to the 12th Romanian Contingent during a transfer-of-authority ceremony here recently.

“As a valued member of our team, the 41st Fires Brigade salutes the 11th Contingent for their partnership, professionalism, significant contributions and, most of all their friendship,” said Col. Richard Francey, commander, 41st Fires Bde.

“Thank you for all you did in helping the Iraqi people in their quest for this unprecedented freedom,” he added. “The history books will speak highly of your effort.”

The 11th Romanian Contingent worked with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team and the 41st Fires Bde. intelligence and engineering sections, conducting unmanned aerial vehicle operations. The 12th Romanian Contingent will continue to fulfill the same missions at FOB Delta.

“We leave Iraq with the feeling that we did all our best to fulfill the received mission,” said Col. Valentin Nistor, 11th Romanian Contingent's senior representative.

“I want to deliver my best regards and an easy mission

to the Romanian newcomers, to wish them to push further what we succeeded here and to fulfill with excellent results all the tasks,” he added. “Be safe and God bless you.”

Colonel Cornel Pavel takes over as the 12th Romanian Contingent's senior Romanian representative and said that he is looking forward to continuing the mission.

“It is also an important chance to work with our American partners...I assure you we will do our best, and thank you,” said Pavel.

The senior Romanian representative in Baghdad also attended the transfer of authority ceremony and praised the 11th Romanian Contingent's hard work.

“I have only heard very good things from the brigade commander, coming from the division commander and his deputy, General Buchanan, but also coming from the PRT,” said Romanian Brig. Gen. Catalin Tomescu. “That means you did your job well.”

Tomescu also encouraged the incoming Romanians to embrace the new cultures they will experience, both American and Iraqi, and to continue to show the professionalism and friendship that the Romanians are known for.

The 11th Romanian Contingent has been deployed to Iraq since Sept. 2008, and the 12th Romanian Contingent is scheduled for a six-month deployment.

Spartans attend Signal University while deployed



Photo by Spc. Jessica Galloway
Members of 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division train on a 15M-mast satellite dish. The Soldiers learned how to properly install the dish to provide optimal coverage for the brigade's network communications system at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq recently.

1ST LT. STEPHANIE WORLUND
 4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – Four U.S. Soldiers took time away from their current mission in southern Iraq to receive specialized signal training at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait recently.

Sgt. Joshua Martin and Spc. Andrew Fryman, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, attended the U.S. Army Central Command Signal University, where they learned how to better enable voice and data communication.

"I believe all Soldiers in the Signal Corps would benefit greatly from the professional and detailed instruction offered at the Signal University," said Fryman, a native of Mt. Olivete, Ky.

Spc. Jorge Castro and Pfc. Gabriel Resto, also assigned to the Spartan Battalion, completed the Basic Fiber Installers Course, gaining expert knowledge of how to expand com-

munications networks and provide combat teams with the ability to interface from unit to unit throughout the brigade's area of operations.

"We're already benefiting from the training in Kuwait," said Spc. Jorge Castro, from New York. "Hopefully we can use this knowledge to help the next unit when they take over for us this summer."

The Signal Soldiers received a certificate of completion and civilian college credit for completing the course. They also received credit toward promotion to their next military rank.

The Spartan Battalion is planning to send additional Soldiers to attend the unique training, which offers more than 30 courses on various communications skills. The course instructors are often retired military veterans who understand how to effectively communicate with Soldiers.

Training at the university is free to military units, and anyone can enroll at <http://cflccsignaluniversity.arifjan.army.mil/default.asp>.



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Headline Round-up

World News:

TRIPOLI, Libya - Hundreds were feared dead March 31 in the chilly waters of the Mediterranean Sea, days after an overcrowded wooden fishing boat packed with migrants capsized in stormy waters off the coast of Libya. A few survivors were rescued, but authorities pulled 21 bodies from the waters and at least 200 more were still missing after the boat capsized March 27. It is believed to be the deadliest migrant ship accident between North Africa and Europe in recent memory, an international migration official said. The capsized boat, which a Libyan police official said had a capacity of just 50, overturned Friday in high winds with about 250 on board.

U.S. News:

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Border Patrol is erecting 16 more video surveillance towers in Michigan and New York to help secure parts of the U.S.-Canadian border. It is awarding the contract to a company criticized for faulty technology with its so-called "virtual fence" along the U.S.-Mexico boundary. The government awarded the \$20 million project to Boeing Co. for the towers designed to help agents stationed along the 4,000-mile northern stretch. Eleven of the towers are being installed in Detroit, and five in Buffalo, N.Y., to help monitor water traffic between Canada and the United States along Lake St. Clair and the Niagara River. At present, Border Patrol agents are posted along the river to keep an eye on water traffic.

Odd News:

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. - The Denver Broncos said March 31 they will grant Jay Cutler his request and try to trade the disgruntled Pro Bowl quarterback. There is no shortage of teams interested in the 25-year-old rocket-armed quarterback whose unhappy offseason began with Mike Shanahan's firing and has haunted new coach Josh McDaniels' budding regime. Broncos owner Pat Bowlen released a statement saying both he and McDaniels had been unable to get Cutler to call them back over the last 10 days. Bowlen said he spoke with Cutler's agent, Bus Cook and came away convinced "that Jay no longer has any desire to play for the Denver Broncos."

Quote of the Day

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen." - George Orwell (1903 - 1950), "1984"

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



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Fishbowl Gym

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

Sundays

Protestant (Traditional) @ 10

a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass @ 12 p.m.

LDS service @ 2 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.

Protestant (Contemporary) @ 12

p.m.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @

7 p.m.

Tuesdays

God & the Military @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar Lessons @ 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Catholic Choir practice @ 5:30

p.m.

Fridays

Catholic hour @ 6:30 p.m.