



The

Mountain View



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May 12, 2009

# IA, U.S. EOD detonate weapons cache in Basra



STAFF SGT. CARLOS M. BURGER II  
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



BASRA PROVINCE – U.S and Iraqi forces conducted a joint controlled detonation recently.

Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, along with elements from the 521st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 trained the 14th Iraqi Army Division EOD team to properly dispose of a cache of ammunition, said Navy Lt. Joe Morgan, assistant platoon commander for the 521st platoon, EOD Mobile Unit 5.

Before the two teams could detonate the ammunition, they had the daunting task of identifying and inventorying every round.

The EOD teams cataloged more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition; the majority of them were high-explosive, armor-piercing rounds, said Morgan.

It's imperative to teach the IA EOD teams to dispose of ordnance before the Coalition forces depart the country, said 1st Lt. Kyle Huss, a platoon leader with Echo Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment.

"We have to be sure the Iraqi Security Forces are capable of dealing with problems like this by themselves," said the Friendswood, Texas native. "There is a lot of unexploded ordnance in Iraq and much of it is unstable and dangerous. It's really important to teach them how to not only find this stuff, but how to safely inventory and dispose of it."

Morgan, who has worked with EOD operations for two years, believes each detonation contributes to the overall security of Iraq.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II  
Members of the Iraqi and U.S. EOD teams prepare the discovered ordnance for detonation during a joint EOD controlled detonation recently in Basra province. The U.S. forces trained Iraqi Soldiers on proper detonation procedures.

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# EOD

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“The best part is seeing bad stuff go away and (ensuring it) doesn’t fall into the wrong hands,” Morgan said.

Huss added that the IA seemed poised to perform their own EOD operations in the near future.

“They seem to be very capable of running unilateral missions,” Huss said. “They probably could have done this mission themselves if they had the resources, which is something we’re working on.”



Photos by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II

(Above) Several high-explosive, armor-piercing rounds await final detonation in Basra province recently. More than 1,000 rounds were identified, inventoried and detonated by the IA and U.S. EOD teams. (Top right) The ammunition found in a weapons cache by the IA detonates in a huge explosion in Basra province recently. (Bottom right) 1st Lt. Kyle Huss, platoon leader, Echo Company, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, instructs his Soldiers on the type of rounds found during a joint EOD controlled detonation in Basra province recently. Huss is from Friendswood, Texas.



## THE Mountain View

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 Task Force 449

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# Hazards present on COB Basra

SPC. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY  
MND-S



COB BASRA – Soldiers stationed here may already be familiar with the obvious hazards of being in a combat zone. But there are other dangers Soldiers should be aware of during their time here.

Most of the hazards that present themselves to Soldiers on a daily basis are road-related according to Lt. Col. James Tovsen, the Multi-National Division – South command safety director.

With the arrival of the 34th Infantry Division, COB Basra is currently overpopulated, he said. The COB currently houses three divisions; the 34th ID, the 10th Mountain Division, and the U.K. 20th Armoured Brigade. With all these extra personnel, he explained, the roads are especially over-populated.

“Pedestrians are everywhere on the roads without any sidewalks,” he said. “Walking against traffic is probably the best and safest act to follow since it allows walkers to see what is coming their way.”

“Soldiers new to the COB are walking everywhere,” he continued, “Walking around the base allows Soldiers to become familiar with their new home.”

With the 10th Mtn. Div. receiving all of their vehicles from Camp Victory, Tovsen said more and more vehicles are on the roads here.

Some of the larger vehicles are too big for the roads, such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and the over-sized connex movers, he said.

“The roads themselves are narrower than what drivers have trained on,” he added. “The large drainage ditches neatly tucked away on the sides of the road also present a large hazard.”

In the last two weeks alone, Tovsen said there have been quite a few accidents. One accident involved a connex mover running into a small NTV with two Soldiers inside. Though no one was hurt, he said the accident could have been avoided with the use of a ground guide. Another accident involved one of the movers slipping into a large drainage ditch.

The intersections by dining facilities three and four are places Soldiers should always remain aware of their surroundings, Tovsen said. That specific area has more congestion than any other location on the COB.

Tovsen said he has never seen a place with as many road hazards as COB Basra. He expects some of the over-population of the roads, and in turn, the hazards on the roads, to drop by the end of May due to the 10th Mtn. Div. and the U.K. preparing to head home.

“I think the safety goal is to continue to identify the hazards and make improvements to mitigate risks to Soldiers as fast as we can,” he said.

In the mean time, he said, Soldiers should remain alert “because most everyone is new and unfamiliar to the area, risks are higher.”

## Red Bull Radio

The daily news podcast of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.



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**Staff Section Round-up**


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# IG Corner: Common Uniform Violations

As leaders, it is our responsibility to know and enforce standards. Daily, we find Soldiers violating standards for a multitude of reasons but two are worth addressing; first is Soldier who doesn't know the standard and second are those who are ignoring the standards. Our goal is to point out some of what we have seen in our first 30 days and reemphasize the correct standard. Below are common violations of Multi National Forces-Iraq Memorandum 11-1, Annex R, and dated August, 2007.

- Physical Training uniforms (paragraph 5b): PT shirts not being tucked in – this includes in and around your living areas. Hair not in accordance with AR 670-1. PT shirt sleeves rolled up.
- Entertainment devices (paragraph i.5.): will not be worn while conducting outdoor physical training or when walking, riding a bicycle or operating a motor vehicle. They may not be worn to and from the gym; too many Soldiers are walking with their headphones dangling from the front of their PT uniform.
- Vehicle Uniforms (paragraph c.) Soldiers must wear ballistic eyewear and ballistic helmets while driving/

riding in all-terrain vehicles and tactical vehicles.

- Identification Badges (paragraph g. 3.): Security badges are being worn outside of the areas that require them. Security identification badges must be displayed for access to restricted areas or facilities, and must be removed, along with all types of badge holders/attachments when departing the area for which they were required.
- General Conduct (paragraph i.): Soldiers not rendering the hand salute and greeting of the day when appropriate.
- Smoking - within 50 feet of buildings, while operating military or U.S. Government owned or leased motor vehicles or equipment and smoking while walking in uniform.

It is time for leaders at all levels to get back to basics and help us to enforce standards.

Here is the link for all MNF-I uniform standards: <https://mnci.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/C2/Command%20and%20and%20Special%20Staff/default.aspx>.

Thanks,  
*Your IG Staff*

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34th Red Bull Infantry Division**

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share Red Bull news and video links, and INVITE YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO JOIN!**

# Headline Round-up

## U.S. News:

FARGO, N.D. - Millions of bags filled with sand were used to battle record flood crests in Fargo and neighboring Moorhead, Minn. But now that the flood risk is over, city leaders wonder: Where will the sand go? Cleanup efforts in the two cities are facing about 6 million bags of sand used to prop up dikes, built in a week after the National Weather Service bumped up its Red River flooding forecast by several feet in March. "We were in crisis mode when we were filling the bags, and that gave people a lot of energy," said Bruce Grubb, a Fargo city official who managed sandbagging operations. "Now that the adrenaline is gone, it's just work." Most of the sand can be recycled and reused if it's not contaminated with sewage or petroleum products, said David Glatt, environmental chief for the North Dakota health department.

## Entertainment News:

LOS ANGELES - "Star Trek" beamed itself up to the top of the box office, earning \$76.5 million in its opening weekend. Paramount Pictures had estimated that the movie would make about \$50 million for the weekend, but figured that strong reviews helped carry it to the bigger opening. Director J.J. Abrams' reboot of the beloved sci-fi franchise made \$72.5 million from May 8 through May 10, plus \$4 million just in pre-midnight screenings May 7, the studio said Saturday. That cumulative figure includes a record \$8.2 million in IMAX showings. "Star Trek," which reveals the back stories of Capt. Kirk, Mr. Spock and the rest of the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise, is an unusual blockbuster that pleased critics receiving 96 percent positive reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes Web site.

## Odd News:

LITITZ, Pa. - A Pennsylvania high school ordered more than 450 shot glasses for its prom, a move the assistant principal now says sent the wrong message. As the Warwick High School students left last week's dance, the prom committee handed them souvenir shot glasses. Assistant Principal Scott Galen says: "Unfortunately, this year the junior class didn't have quite as much money." Galen says that the principal signed off on the purchase order, but that paperwork simply said "prom souvenir" and didn't identify the mementos as shot glasses. Galen says he's certain this will never happen again. The school is in Lancaster County, about 65 miles east of Philadelphia.

### Quote of the Day

*"Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper." – Mark Twain*

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u				7				5

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



[www.taskforce-mountain.com](http://www.taskforce-mountain.com)

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### COB Basra

May 13-14

Graduation greeting.

Schedule a time with Staff Sgt. Kristen King at [kristen.king@iraq.centom.mil](mailto:kristen.king@iraq.centom.mil) or call 858-4096.

### DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday

Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 9:30 a.m.

General Protestant @ 11 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.

General Protestant @ 6:30 p.m.

### DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday

Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

### DFAC 4 Worship

Monday - Saturday

Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.

Sunday

Protestant Contemporary Worship @ 10 a.m.

Holy communion, Protestant (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 8:30 p.m.

### MWR Stage

May 16

Basra Idol @ 6 p.m. To audition contact CW2

Meeks at 858-4526 or email [robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.mil)