

# TFICA teaches to clear the way

**By Sgt. Tracy Knowles**

*101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng. Bde.*

BAGHDAD — Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, took part in a four-day route clearance course taught by Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade at Task Force Iron Claw, here, at Victory Base Complex, Nov. 4.

According to the officer-in-charge at Task Force Iron Claw, 1st Lt. Craig Smith, the training teaches U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers to tell the difference between what is an improvised explosive device and what is not.

“There are so many things along the road that can be mistaken for an IED and this course really gets into the difference between recognizing what is or isn’t an IED,” said Smith.

Communication is an important aspect of route clearance missions, especially when relaying messages on the location of suspected enemy activity or improvised explosive devices.

Spc. John Dunn, of Cranston, R.I., taught three days of classroom briefings and one day of hands on training out in the field.

“[Soldiers] need to be prepared, the vehicles need to work properly, communication systems need to be working properly, or the mission cannot be successful,” said Dunn.

Soldiers navigated the



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Setting up a marker on a simulated improvised explosive training device, Spc. John Dunn, Cranston, R.I., covers the markings in the dirt during the fourth day of training at Task Force Iron Claw Academy, here, on Victory Base Complex, Nov. 4.

course in Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles after Dunn and other instructors hid simulated IED’s along the route; setting up a situation close to a real world environment.

Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Walker, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, an assistant instructor and a veteran of both Vietnam and Desert Storm, reflected on the training he had for those wars.

“It is amazing to see the training that happens now compared to the training I had back then,” said Walker.

The well disguised training aids were set up in order

to test the Soldiers’ awareness.

“We don’t hide them so they can find them,” said Walker. “We want the lane to be difficult so they are more aware of what is out there.”

The training was successful after Soldiers learned how to use the specialized engineering equipment used for route clearance operations. It was evident to the instructors that the Soldiers used what they learned the three previous days.

“The training went well. It was a real eye opener for some. Everyone is used to easy IED lanes and this one

is more like the real world,” said Smith.

“It was great training, more in depth, a real wake up to what’s really going on out there,” said Pfc. Zackary Leber, of Wellsboro, Pa., assigned to 2nd BSTB, 10th Mtn. Div.

As the end of day four came to a close and the Soldiers grounded their gear, the instructors reemphasized that even if the Soldiers don’t see something the first time down a road, they need to continue to be diligent. The mission of the route clearance team not only protects our Soldiers but Iraqi citizens as well.

# Bridge offers faster and safer route

Photos by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.



TAJI— Cambridge, Mass. native, Staff Sgt. Carlos Madden, a civil affairs team leader assigned to 1379th Civil Affairs Company, uses a public works contract to inspect the Sheik Abdullah Bridge in Taji, Nov. 10.



Mt. Holly, N.C. native, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Martin, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to local leader Sheik Abdullah during a final inspection of a bridge with his name-sake in Taji, Nov. 10.



Evansville, Ind. native, Pfc. Travis Conder, an armor crewman attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, walks across the Sheik Abdullah Bridge during a final inspection in Taji, Nov. 10. The bridge offers a faster and safer route to local markets for residents of the rural area

# Microgrants helps struggling business

**By Sgt. Jon Soles**  
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — As Iraqis make gains in self-sufficiency, microgrants, made possible by the U.S. Army, are helping businesses grow and develop the Iraqi economy.

Soldiers of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team distributed a micro grant to a struggling young business owner and checked the progress of other microgrant recipients in Mahmudiyah, here, Nov. 6.

Months ago with the help of the Iraqi Army, American Soldiers identified Mohammed, who was trying to support his ailing mother and three younger brothers with a tiny snack shack. When Mohammed's father died in an accident two years ago, he

was forced to quit high school and work in a metal fabrication factory to support his family.

But tragedy struck again when Mohammed's left arm got caught in a piece of heavy machinery and was severely damaged. When Iraqi Army Capt. Amjad Mahmood Hasam told 2nd Lt. Matthew Hagerty about Mohammed, Hagerty paid a visit to the young man's business in July.

"I asked the captain if there was anybody who we could help with a business," said Hagerty, a platoon leader from Jacksonville, N.C. "Once I met Mohammed, I said 'This is a priority.'"

Hagerty said Mohammed's situation was dire, as his left arm was partially disabled and his store was lacking in an ad-

equate inventory and amenities. Mohammed and his family were on the verge of abject poverty, until the 30th HBCT and the IA stepped in.

"He was running it with about 12 sodas and he didn't even have a way to keep them cool," said Hagerty. "But it was right across the street from a school so it's in a perfect location."

Hagerty said the microgrant will help Mohammed invest in his store, which he hopes to grow into a supermarket one day. He already has a name for his fledgling business — al-Rafiden — which means "Two Rivers."

"I appreciate this. It is good money to bring stuff here for the store," said Mohammed. "I will never forget this was from U.S. forces."

Following the microgrant payout, Hagerty visited other small businesses that had received microgrants. So far, he has paid out five microgrants with six more pending. The program helps Iraqis by encouraging development in business that will boost the local economy.

"It has worked really well, especially in this incidence," said Hagerty. "I actually liked helping out this family because we can see the direct effect, because this family is poor."

Even a small microgrant can mean a lot to a struggling Iraqi. With the help of a microgrant, Mohammed may one day own a business that will provide services and jobs, which may bring more security and self-sufficiency to Mahmudiyah.

# Earning "The Patch" on Veteran's Day

**By Sgt. Joshua Risner**  
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — On a gravel-strewn area on Camp Taji, not long after sunrise here, Soldiers of 4th Striker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, gathered.

Some smoked, some talked, and others shivered in the early morning chill.

As the leaders came down, Soldiers fell into formation to be recognized for the awarding of the shoulder sleeve insignia for former wartime service; simply known as the combat patch.

"In about three hours, it's going to be the anniversary of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when the guns fell silent at World War I," said Capt. Dennis Grinde. "The patch that you guys are wearing was worn in World War I and worn in every combat operation since. That signifies something. That identifies you as someone who belongs in the 2nd Infantry."

As Grinde continued, the Sol-

diers listened intently while being told of the significance of that day and their own place in history as veterans of the United States Army.

"Now you're a veteran, you're special," said Grand Forks, N.D. native to his Soldiers. "Wherever you decide to go, forever, now you're a veteran of the United States [Army]. That's something to be proud of."

The sentiment reverberated through those present and the words sank in with the weight of a dozen generations of American warriors who had come before them.

One of those new warriors, Pfc. Larry Doyle, an infantryman, received a Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman's Badge in addition to his combat patch today.

Doyle admitted the recognition carries a great feeling, but he is humble about the honors bestowed upon him.

"I came in wanting to make this a career, wanting to do 20

years, so it is a great honor," he said. "I didn't ask for it, but it comes with the job."

When the command of "Fall out" was sounded, the recently patched combat veterans dis-

persed to go about the day's duties in service to their country. They had entered the hallowed ranks of those who had fought and served before them, and of those who are honored every year, on Nov. 11.



Photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner

Lt. Col. Michael Lawrence (left), commander of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Striker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, salutes Pfc. Larry Doyle, of Warren, Ind., after awarding him the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge and his combat patch at Camp Taji, here, Nov. 11.

# On This Day In History

November 13, 1982

## Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated

Near the end of a weeklong national salute to Americans who served in the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington after a march to its site by thousands of veterans of the conflict. The long-awaited memorial was a simple V-shaped black-granite wall inscribed with the names of the 57,939 Americans who died in the conflict, arranged in order of death, not rank, as was common in other memorials.

The designer of the memorial was Maya Lin, a Yale University architecture student who entered a nationwide competition to create a design for the monument. Lin, born in Ohio in 1959, was the daughter of Chinese immigrants. Many veterans' groups were opposed to Lin's winning design, which lacked a standard memorial's heroic statues and stirring words. However, a remarkable shift in public opinion occurred in the months after the memorial's dedication. Veterans and families of the dead walked the black reflective wall, seeking the names of their loved ones killed in the conflict. Once the name was located, visitors often made an etching or left a private offering, from notes and flowers to dog tags and cans of beer.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial soon became one of the most visited memorials in the nation's capital. A Smithsonian Institution director called it "a community of feelings, almost a sacred precinct," and a veteran declared that "it's the parade we never got." "The Wall" drew together both those who fought and those who marched against the war and served to promote national healing a decade after the divisive conflict's end.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

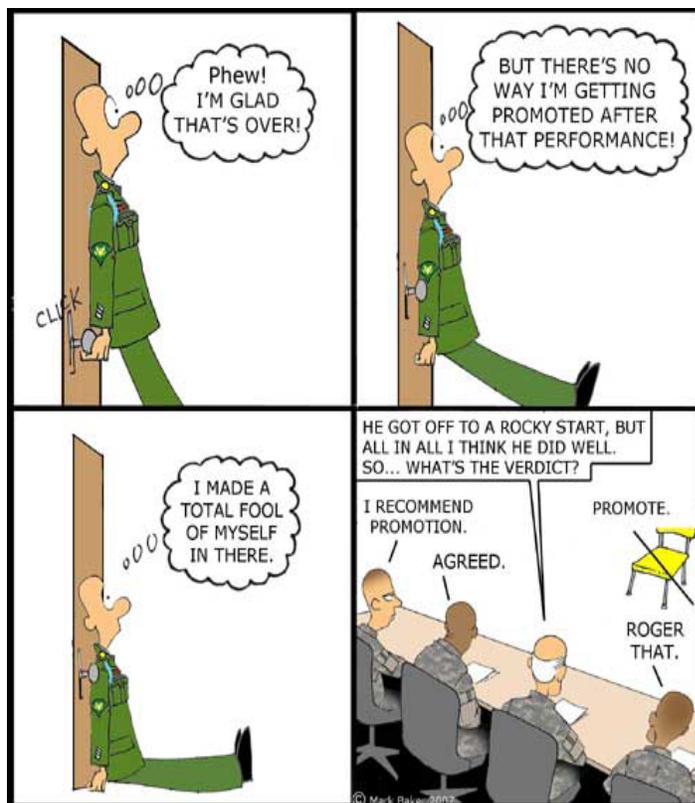
If, by some incredible space-time paradox, Chuck Norris would ever fight himself, he'd win. Period.

# MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron M. Testa, 16th Eng. Bde

BAGHDAD— Sgt. Maj. Rebecca George (left), of the 16th Engineer Brigade meets with her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Mark George, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Nov. 7, for the first time since last February. The two deployed together, but to separate locations.



## Quote For Today

“Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough.”

— Og Mandino —

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today**  
79° F | 61° F



**Tomorrow**  
83° F | 62° F



**Sunday**  
86° F | 64° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

How long is the Tour de France bicycle race?

Last Issue's Answer: Barry Sanders

## Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

### MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 197 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Engineer soldiers of the 101st Engineer Battalion are providing Soldiers living space at JSS Rasheed. Story from the field by SGT Stephanie Logue, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

2. Medics of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team are providing a course for Iraqi Federal Police to learn basic lifesaving skills. Inter-

view with SGT John Montgomery, 252nd CAB, 30th HBCT.

The class involved a lecture portion and also hands on training. The overall goal for the course is to give the IP's the tools the need.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

[www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/](http://www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/)

## Trigger's Teasers

6		1	8	2	3
	2		4		9
8	3		5	4	
5	4	6	7		9
	3				5
7		8	3	1	2
	1	7		9	6
	8		3		2
3	2	9	4		5

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

### Yesterday's Answers

1	5	6	7	4	8	9	3	2
2	9	8	1	6	3	5	4	7
7	4	3	9	5	2	1	6	8
8	1	9	3	7	6	4	2	5
6	2	7	4	1	5	8	9	3
5	3	4	8	2	9	7	1	6
3	8	1	2	9	7	6	5	4
9	7	5	6	3	4	2	8	1
4	6	2	5	8	1	3	7	9



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