

1st Air Cav, IA, IqAF conduct joint air assault

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—U.S. and Iraqi forces worked together in an air assault and patrol mission to check on the standard of living in a small village north of here, Nov. 12.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade has again seen its labors—training the Iraqi Air Force to fly their ground brethren in real missions—come to fruition.

U.S. Soldiers assaulted in on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters along with Iraqi Army Soldiers on IqAF UH-1 helicopters and continued on to the ground mission.

Alongside Soldiers from the 34th IA Brigade, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, conducted a sewage,

water, electrical and trash assessment, or SWEAT, in the village.

The IA was given the guidelines of the mission; to ask the locals if their houses could be searched, look for faulty plumbing or electrical issues and to check if villagers had any information on possible terrorist activities, said Staff Sgt. Marcus Espinosa.

“I would say they (IA) performed pretty well, they did their job by interacting with the local population,” the Newark, Calif. native said. “We (U.S. Soldiers) really didn’t have to do anything, we stepped back and let them take charge.”

While one element was talking with the villagers, another was searching the surrounding area for weapons caches, said Espinosa, adding that the village

had previous ties with al-Qaeda.

All the while, an attack weapons team comprised of two U.S. AH-64D Apache attack helicopters from the provided overhead support and an extra set of eyes for the joint patrol.

Taking part in the SWEAT assessment, Spc. Christopher Shiller, of Arlington, Texas, said he was pleased to see that the IA had confidence in their abilities to conduct the mission.

“The IA didn’t hesitate walking up to the people in the village, letting them know what we were there to do; that we weren’t there to harm them in any way and to see if we could help out in any way,” said Shiller. “It was kind of a way to go out and show that the training has paid off.”

With every mission the IA



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

Spc. Khalid Hermez, pulls security as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter departs the landing zone. U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the 34th Iraqi Army Brigade performed a joint air assault mission and patrol to check on living conditions of a small village north of here, Nov. 12

improves on the ability to work seamlessly with the IqAF.

“I think the mission was a success, with what I saw the Iraqis conducted themselves very well,” said Espinosa. “I think with a little more training they should be able to take the reins.”



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

After completing a search of a small village north of here, U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade move out towards a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to return to base, Nov. 12.

Yusifiya citizens receive wheelchairs

Photos by Sgt. Jon Soles,
MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Michael Hawf, of St. Louis, stands with an Iraqi boy who just received a wheelchair from Soldiers of the West Virginia National Guard's 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, during a key leadership engagement in Yusifiya, here, Nov. 11. Hawf is attached to Civil Affairs Team 722, assigned to the 30th HBCT.



Staff Sgt. Michael Hawf, of St. Louis, talks with an Iraqi boy and an Iraqi man who both received wheelchairs from Soldiers of the West Virginia National Guard's 1st Battalion, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, during a key leadership engagement in Yusifiya.

W.V. Soldiers run for a fallen comrade

By Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO

BAGHDAD — A red and white cavalry flag gently waved in the wind, leading Soldiers of Troop B, 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, on a commemorative run at Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, Nov. 11, in honor of one of their own lost in combat.

Sgt. Deforest Talbert, 24, a Troop B Soldier during the squadron's first deployment, here, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a combat mission near Baladruc, Iraq, in July, 2004.

Although the conference room at the JSS is named after Talbert, Troop B commanders wanted to do something more; something that involved those who knew him, and still miss him today.

"We decided to do something as a memorial for Talbert and the run on Veterans Day; seemed like a good way to honor him," said 1st Lt. Will Hargis, of Huntington, W. Va. "Talbert was a funny guy; keeping the atmosphere lively. He was always good for a good laugh at the right moment."

The Soldiers ran laps around the inner circumference of the small compound they share with Iraqi Soldiers in the early morning hours on Veteran's Day. They ran a total of about a mile in a close, group formation; signifying the cohesive bonding in memory of their fallen friend.

Before the run, two of Talbert's friend's recall the events of the incident as if it happened yesterday. After five years, still torn with grief and guilt from not being able to save him, Staff Sgt. Greg Blankenship, of Cross Lanes, W. Va., discussed what happened.

"It's still hard for me to talk about it," said Blankenship. "I haven't discussed this with anyone except Bridges since it happened. I was in the vehicle behind Talbert. Everything happened so fast, I was knocked down from the blast and my head was all fuzzy."

"Two guys got out of his vehicle and one kept hollering, 'Talbert is still in there,' and the truck was on fire," he added. Blankenship, Talbert and a third friend, Sgt. Jacques Bridges, were very close during the last deployment.

"The medic and I tried to open the door to get him out, but the ammunition started popping from the heat. They made us move back because of the ammo. I burned the crap out of my hand trying to get him out, but I didn't notice it until sometime later," Blankenship said.

Bridges, of Charlotte, N.C., and Talbert had a history that dated back before the deployment. They attended West Virginia State University together, located in Institute, W.V., and both entered the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. The two Soldiers also went through Army basic training together, and came to war together as well.

Bridges arrived at the scene of the incident 15 minutes later with the quick reaction force.

"When we left to go to the scene we knew there was one killed in action, but they wouldn't tell me who," said Bridges. "I was looking at the vehicle and somebody said, 'Bridges, it's Talbert, man'; I don't remember who said it," said Bridges.

"I didn't want to cry because the insurgents could still be out there; watching us," Bridges added. "Sergeant 1st class Jeffrey Neal pulled [Talbert] out and we stayed in the area for

about six hours after it happened. He didn't have time to get out; the autopsy said it was an instant death from the blast. It was bad; I just hope he didn't suffer."

Bridges and Blankenship remember many missions through the streets of Baladruc. Memories of how two little Iraqi boys used to sell them ice cream and candy and how Talbert had teddy bears sent from home just to pass out to the little girls in the community, protecting them and making sure the boys didn't take the bears from them.

Troop Soldiers remember Talbert's humor, friendship, and how he loved being a father. The native of Alexandria, Va., found his way from a troubled youth to becoming a role model for others to follow in his footsteps. Talbert, an athletic college student, never lost his passion for the game of football. It was a sport he mastered in high school but never pursued in college because of his troubled past.

His son, Deontae, carries on the family legacy in pee wee football where Blankenship often stops by to watch him play, when he is home. Bridges also checks in on him and his mother to make sure they are okay.

"Some of the guys from the unit stop by to check on them," said Bridges. "They have a good support channel; 150th has been good about that."

Blankenship, Bridges and Talbert had a running game of Madden football that they played during the last deployment. A game that "Touchdown Talbert" never got to finish.

"Bridges, Talbert and I played ball on Play Station," said Blankenship. We left the game on pause when we went out on that mission. When we came back the game was still set on pause. It sat on pause forever because no one wanted to turn it off."

Although the run started out as a tribute to his life, it helped two Soldiers deal with the harsh realities of his death.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Deforest Talbert's family

Sgt. Deforest Talbert, 24, died July 27, 2004 when an improvised explosive device targeted his vehicle. Troop B Soldiers, here on their second deployment, honored Talbert with a commemorative run on Veteran's Day at Joint Security Station Yusifiyah, Nov. 11. His sense of humor, mentoring and good parenting skills are the things Soldiers remember most about him

On This Day In History

Kennedy decides to increase military aid to Saigon

President John F. Kennedy decides to increase military aid to South Vietnam without committing U.S. combat troops.

Kennedy was concerned at the advances being made by the communist Viet Cong, but did not want to become involved in a land war in Vietnam. He hoped that the military aid would be sufficient to strengthen the Saigon government and its armed forces against the Viet Cong. Ultimately it was not, and Kennedy ended up sending additional support in the form of U.S. military advisors and American helicopter units. By the time of his assassination in 1963, there were 16,000 U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 16th Eng Bde.

BAGHDAD – Runners from all branches of military participate in a 10 kilometer/6.2 mile run to honor American Veterans at Victory Base Complex, Nov. 8. The run was sponsored by the Ft. Bragg's Veterans of Foreign War Club.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

He who lives by the sword, dies by the sword. He who lives by Chuck Norris, dies by the roundhouse kick.



Quote For Today

“Where no one intrudes many can live in harmony”

— Chief Dan George —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
75° F | 53° F



Tomorrow
60° F | 51° F



Wednesday
62° F | 46° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the first state to allow women to vote?

Last Issue's Answer: The race is about 2500 miles long; the race takes place over a 3 week period.

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 # 198 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. Civil Affair Soldiers help out a southern Baghdad school, providing children with school supplies. Story from the field by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

2. Adhering to the standards can prevent vehicle rollovers. Interview with Mr. Dale Smith, 1st Cavalry Division's Safety Director.

It is important for Soldiers to remember roads can become slick causing dangerous driving conditions and ultimately can create fatal vehicle rollovers. Enforcing the standards can prevent rollovers.

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/

Trigger's Teasers

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

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

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



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