

IA learn carpentry from engineer Soldiers

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles
101st Eng. Bn., 16th Eng Bde.

BAGHDAD –After two days of a basic carpentry skills course, Soldiers of the 11th Field Engineer Regiment, 11th Iraqi Army Division, finished a practical exercise building dormitory-style rooms, Nov. 14, at Iraq’s Old Ministry of Defense, in northeastern Baghdad..

Soldiers of the 1434th Engineer Company taught a “train the trainer” course so that the IA engineers will be able to continue training each other.

The first day of class covered basic safety instruction on the proper use of power

tools, personal protective equipment and safety on the job site. The classes included hands-on training for measuring and cutting boards correctly the first time.

With guidance from the 1434th Soldiers, IA Soldiers put their new skills to use on the second day of class. Split into two groups, the Soldiers practiced measuring and cutting boards and framing the dormitory-style rooms in the existing structure.

“It was great, there was sawdust everywhere, the IA Soldiers were so excited to be working they didn’t want to take a break,” said Pfc. Raymond Shehata, of Mil-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. James Glomski, of Alpena, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, observes Iraqi Pfc. Omar Khodair Abbas making his first cut using a circular saw. Glomski trained the new carpenter in proper handling of the power tools during a “train the trainer” carpentry course that helped to further the partnership between the Iraqi Army and U.S. Soldiers.



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Raymond Shehata (far left), Milford, Mass., helps Iraqi Army Soldiers understand a course of instruction on safety and basic carpentry.

ford, Mass.

Shehata, originally from Egypt, was assigned to the project because of his fluency in Arabic and helped out with the hands-on portion of the class.

Shehata’s ability to speak Arabic helped to strengthen the partnership and camaraderie between the IA Soldiers and the 1434th.

Shehata gained valuable insight into the effectiveness of the training because of his comprehension of Arabic. He was crucial to earning the IA Soldiers’ respect, which contributed greatly to the success of the mission.

“Being a part of the partnership training gives me a great feeling of accomplishment; knowing I was teaching them new skills,” said Shehata.

New Texas traffic and criminal laws

The following are notable traffic and criminal laws that went into effect on Sept. 1 in the state of Texas which was released by the Texas Department of Public Safety

Seatbelts:

HB 537 requires all occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, to be secured by a safety belt, no matter where they are seated in the vehicle; changes the definition of a passenger vehicle to include a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers including the driver; removes the current exemption for third-party Medicaid transportation provisions regarding the use of child passenger safety seats; and prohibits a motorcycle operator from carrying a passenger under the age of 5 unless the child is seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

SB 61 amends the existing statute regarding child passenger safety seats. The bill requires that any child younger than 8 years of age be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat unless the child is taller than 4 feet, 9 inches in height. The fine is no more than \$25 for a first offense and \$250 for a second offense.

Driving:

HB 55 makes it illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used.

HB 2730 increases the penalties for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger by adding an automatic driver license suspension period for first-time offenders and an increased suspension period for repeat offenders. The driver license re-instatement fee for completing an education program will rise from \$50 to \$100.

Driver license:

HB 2730 requires that all applicants under the age of 18 take the driving skills exam to receive a driver license. The law also requires that a provisional driver license (under 18) or instruction permit expire on an individual's 18th birthday, removes the requirement that a provisional driver license or instruction permit be renewed annually and increases the fee for those licenses from \$5 to \$15.

HB 2730 and HB 339 restrict all drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

HB 2730 prohibits DPS from issuing a driver license or identification card to a person who has not established a domicile in Texas. The law specifies that an applicant may receive a driver license at a post office box only if the applicant's residence address has also been provided, with some exceptions

Crime:

HB 558 allows minors to be charged with public intoxication.

HB 1282 makes it a Class B misdemeanor to steal a driver license, commercial driver license or personal identification.

Motorcycles etc.:

Senate Bill 1967 requires that applicants for an original class M license or class A, B or C driver license (including commercial driver licenses and permits) with authorization to operate a motorcycle, provide evidence of completion of an approved motorcycle operator training course.

Doc makes journey from Vietnam to U.S. Army

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Following the fall of Saigon in 1975, many Vietnamese immigrants saw the United States as a beacon of hope as they escaped their war-torn nation.

The family of Capt. Tram Truong was no exception, seeing little future in a country traumatized by years of fighting and hostility.

Luckily for Truong, now from Santa Clara, Calif., a flight surgeon for 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, the U.S. turned out to be her family's savior and led to her serving in the U.S. Army.

Truong, who was born in Vietnam, said her parents witnessed the entire Vietnam War and were disillusioned with the outcome.

"They had three daughters and thought it would be a better life [in America], because we were growing up in the communist times," Truong, 32, said. "My dad doesn't talk much about [the Vietnam War]. He was in the Vietnamese Army fighting the [communists] and he was in the concentration camps for several years."

The communist environment stifled the chances of a good education, another factor in the move to the U.S., Truong said.

"My mother wanted to be a lawyer but never got to pursue it because she was restricted on what she could do education wise," Truong said. "She saw this as a limiting factor for us kids."

Truong said her grandfather was essential in the escape cause for many other Vietnamese citizens hoping to leave like her family.

"He was one of the people who helped [provide] money to build boats and coordinate

boat trips so people could escape communism," Truong said. "Several boats that he funded carried families who eventually got rescued and either made it to the U.S. or Australia, where they remain today."

With the assistance of relatives already in the U.S., Truong's family managed to secure admission into their new country through a different method.

"My aunt's family sponsored my Mom so we could come to America," Truong said. "The process took several years and I came over with my family in 1985 when I was seven."

Initially things were difficult because Truong's parents were struggling to make ends meet; the language barrier was also a problem.

"It was tough as a kid because I didn't speak much English. Somehow I picked it up like all the other [Vietnamese] kids," she said. "I took English as a Second Language and in the 8th grade I finally passed the test and was glad I didn't have to go there anymore."

Things improved significantly for Truong's family, especially after they moved to California where job opportunities were greater.

"My dad was originally an engineer in Vietnam ... and when he came to the U.S. they didn't recognize his degree," Truong explained. "He eventually got his engineering degree in the U.S., and he and my mother got into the electronic field."

In the U.S., Truong also found the opportunity to chase other interests, such as Taekwondo, a long standing ambition of hers.

"I wanted to do it when I was younger, but never had the chance to, so I started when I was in college," she said, soon rising to the level of black belt.

"They (the school) needed



Photo by Sgt Alun Thomas

Capt. Tram Truong checks the heartbeat of Spc. Kevin Roberts, from Valley Center, Calif., during a routine medical examination at the 1st ACB Troop Medical Clinic, here.

some help so they promoted me—kind of like an accelerated program," Truong joked. "I've done a couple of tournaments, but I realized I didn't want to be kicked in the head. I need my brain as a physician."

Becoming a physician was Truong's desired career and she opted to join the Army through the Health Professional Scholarship Program, which would help pay for medical school.

"If you have some kind of merit they offer you a scholarship and I was offered one for three years," Truong said. "I trained with the military while I was doing this."

After graduating medical school Truong was promoted to Captain and assigned to Fort Belvoir, Va., where she was told she would be deploying to Iraq with the 1st ACB.

"Wherever [the Army] are missing someone they grab whoever's available ... someone who hasn't deployed," Truong said. "I was pulled to Fort Hood and was attached to the 1st Cav."

The deployment has been good for Truong so far and bet-

ter than she expected.

"You hear all the stories but I think it has changed here, especially from [Operation Iraqi Freedom I] until now," she said. "Things have developed in Iraq."

Truong's husband is a captain in the Army also and works at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., a situation which she finds difficult sometimes.

"My husband is also a physician, but I think it's just a little too hard being dual military," Truong said about being separated from her husband. "For officers it may be a little easier, but it's whatever works for the military and if they can accommodate you they'll try."

Truong said working with the 1st ACB and the Army as a whole has been more than positive over her four-and-a-half years of active service.

"It's been pretty good ... but as far as my medical career [goes] they've been very helpful," Truong continued.

As for her imminent future in the Army, Truong said she plans to leave the service eventually.

On This Day In History

November 20, 1789

New Jersey ratifies the Bill of Rights

On this day in 1789, New Jersey ratifies the Bill of Rights, becoming the first state to do so. New Jersey's action was a first step toward making the first 10 amendments to the Constitution law and completing the revolutionary reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence.

The Anti-Federalist critics of the U.S. Constitution were afraid that a too-strong federal government would become just another sort of the monarchical regime from which they had recently been freed. They believed that the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government by outlining its rights but failing to delineate the rights of the individuals living under it. Before the Massachusetts ratifying convention would accept the Constitution, then, which they finally did in February 1788, the document's Federalist supporters had to promise to create a Bill of Rights to be amended to the Constitution immediately upon the creation of a new government under the document. This helped to assuage the Anti-Federalists' concerns.

As promised, the newly elected Congress drafted the Bill of Rights on December 25, 1789. Drafted by James Madison and loosely based on Virginia's Declaration of Rights, the first 10 amendments give the following rights to all United States citizens.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris did in fact, build Rome in a day.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Brian Johnson, 16th Eng. Bde

BAGHDAD – Pvt. Matthew Curtis, of Escanaba, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, double checks his measurement before he begins cutting a board for a safety platform at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam. The safety platforms are being constructed and installed into the guard towers to improve the safety of the Soldiers that currently work in the guard posts



News Bulletin

Effective Tuesday 17NOV09, the DSTB aid station will be changing hours from 0700-1800 hrs. The only exception is the days that we will be giving flu shots. Sick Call still remains: Monday-Fridays 0800-1000 hrs and 1300-1400 hrs, Saturdays 0800-1000 hrs, and Sundays 1330-1430 hrs.

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
66° F | 48° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 46° F



Sunday
67° F | 48° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

In a non-leap year, what month and date can be called the exact "middle day" of the year?

Last Issue's Answer: July 4th - (though not the same year) John Adams, Thomas Jefferson

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

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers check Iraqi vehicles at a local traffic stop under the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Jones. Story from the field by SGT Nathan Jones, Ironhorse Public Affairs Office.

2. A new bridge in Taji is giving Iraqi's an improved route of transportation. Interview with SSG

Nicholas Lien, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st BCT.

Though it is a small bridge it means a lot to the local people. It cuts out 15 to 20 kilometers, making life easier for the people of Taji.

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

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

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

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



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