

# U.S., Iraqi mechanics keep vehicles mission ready

**By Staff Sgt. April Mota**  
16th Eng. Bde, UPAR

BAGHDAD- Soldiers from the 101st Engineer Battalion trained Soldiers of the 6th Iraqi Field Engineer Regiment, here, on Victory Base Complex, Dec. 4, to repair various faults on the Iraqi’s equipment.

Some of the repairs included a turret handle, door bracket, fuel leak, an air tank leak, and a transmission that shifted intermittently.

Spc. Brett Bonina of Bellingham, Mass., spent some time working with the Iraqi Soldiers on the equipment. He showed them how to use available resources to fix various problems. Bonina, along with another welder, Spc. John Clarke of Northbridge, Mass., helped fix a door problem by welding a bolt to screw the new

locking mechanism in place.

“You are not always going to have the right part when you need it. Sometimes you need to be creative and think of something else that will work,” said Bonina.

This was Bonina’s first time working with the Iraqi Army. He found it to be a worthwhile experience. He enjoyed working with the Iraqi Soldiers to help them get their equipment fully mission capable.

“Our mission here is to give them the help they need to support themselves. They’ve got the equipment, now they need the knowledge,” said Bonina.

Sgt. Fouad, a driver for the 6th IA, has attended three training classes with the U.S. forces. He was pleased that by the end of the course all of their equipment was up and running.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

In order to repair a faulty door bracket on the Iraqi Army route clearance vehicle, Spc. John Clarke, of Northbridge, Mass., welds a new bolt in place. Soldiers from the 6th IA and the 101st Engineer Battalion were able to fix multiple faults on three Iraqi vehicles, Dec. 4.

“Working on the vehicles together was good, this was a better class than just learning how to operate the equipment, we fixed our problems together,” said Fouad.

Staff Sgt. Frank Lopez, of Webster, Mass., has taught many courses to Iraqi Soldiers. He spent some time during this course teaching them how to order parts needed to repair faults.

“This was a nice change of

pace, we worked together, and they are really into it,” said Lopez.

With some creative problem-solving skills and teamwork, both the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers were pleased that all of the Iraqi equipment was up and running by the end of the course. Having fully mission capable equipment is integral to the Iraqi Army successfully completing their missions.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

With the help of an interpreter, Sgt. Steve Cyr, of Uxbridge, Mass., explains the best way to repair a faulty wiring harness to Spc. Murad, with the 6th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment, Dec. 4. The U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers repaired equipment during a three day maintenance course taught, here, on Victory Base Complex.

# WWE Superstars visit 2BCT Soldiers

*Photos by Georges Aboumrad  
2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div.*



Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, gathered at Forward Operating Base Hammer, east of Baghdad, Dec. 3, for their chance to meet some of the World Wrestling Entertainment Superstars, a morale boost that helps Soldiers who are deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



World Wrestling Entertainment Superstars visit Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at Forward Operating Base Hammer Dec. 3. Wrestlers get ready to meet and greet Soldiers as well as sign autographs and take photos with the Soldiers.



Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Montour (left), of Amarillo, Texas, the command sergeant major of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, jokes with World Wrestling Entertainment Superstar Mark Henry as he exits a Mine Resistant Ambushed Protected vehicle at Contingency Forward Operating Base Hammer, Dec. 3. Seven World Wrestling Entertainment Superstars visited Soldiers at three 2nd BCT installations.

# Air Cav crew chief uses mother's good fortune

**By Sgt. Alun Thomas**

*1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sometimes all it takes is a piece of luck to change the direction of somebody's life, for better or worse.

For Spc. Opeyemi Akinwumi – pronounced o-pay-emmy akin-woo-me – it was for the better and he has his mother to thank for it, despite heavy odds.

Through his mother's good fortune at winning a green card lottery, Akinwumi's life was changed drastically; it allowed him to move to the U.S. from Nigeria and pursue a new path.

For the first 20 years of his life Akinwumi, now from Wylie, Texas, a crew chief in Company C, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, lived in Ondo State, Nigeria, a place it was sometimes hard growing up in, he said.

"You have to hustle for yourself and go to school because there's a lot of poverty over there," Akinwumi said. "Most of the time you don't have people that are going to take care of you. The economy isn't really that great, so people from the middle class have to be able to go to school."

Akinwumi's parents divorced when he was young and he found himself working as a laborer to save money for college.

"Sometimes I had to go to a farm, do some labor work and take the money I earned and use it to pay for school," Akinwumi said. "You have to do what you have to do to go to school. Without school you can't go too far."

Despite the hardships, Akinwumi said Nigeria provided a good upbringing.

"There was a lot of mass unemployment, but for me Nigeria was comfortable because it was free," he said. "I loved farming and working with my hands ... I love sport and I played soccer for my college too. It was good."

Akinwumi said Nigeria was



Photo by Sgt Alun Thomas

Spc. Opeyemi Akinwumi, from Wylie, Texas, a crew chief in Company C, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, tightens the panels on the tail of an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter, here. He emigrated to the U.S. from Nigeria in 2005 after his mother won a green card lottery five years earlier.

free of conflict when he lived there, but people still sought to go to the U.S., including his mother.

"She wanted to come to America to study and have a better life," Akinwumi explained. "She put in for the green card lottery on the internet and finally won after years of trying."

As his mother and stepfather settled in the U.S. as teachers, Akinwumi said he was content in Nigeria, until his mother beckoned for him to visit.

"After my mother had been there for a few years she said to me 'it's been a while, come and spend some time with me,'" Akinwumi said. "I came over after I graduated college in 2005 just to visit. I thought it was better in America because there were more jobs and I could work anywhere, so the opportunity was there."

Luckily for Akinwumi the transition into citizenship was easy, due to his mother's status as a naturalized U.S. citizen which

allowed her to sponsor him.

His next task was finding work to finance college, despite already having a degree from Nigeria.

"I had a degree in computer science from Nigeria but I never used it. When I came to America I wanted to change my line of work," he said. "I worked [retail], at gas stations and went to school full time to get my AMP (Aviation Mechanic Powerplant) license."

This was too expensive for Akinwumi, who said the proposition of joining the Army to pay for his education was a good alternative.

"I thought if I joined the military they'd be able to give the same education and I won't have to pay for it," he said.

Akinwumi's next stop was basic training, which he said was a positive experience.

"I knew it was going to be challenging being with people I didn't know that had different ideas and backgrounds from me," he said. "It was a good thing because it

helped me learn more about people and their cultures."

Akinwumi's first duty station was at Camp Humphreys in South Korea, where he stayed for a year before he joined the 1st ACB.

"Every unit has its own challenges and the Air Cav. has been good so far," he said. "I would really like to go back to Korea too ... I was only there a year but liked it a lot."

Akinwumi said he wants to put in a packet for Officer Candidate School, but is still unsure about making the Army a career.

"It's 50/50 right now ... but probably," Akinwumi said, with a hearty grin.

One thing Akinwumi is certain of, is making sure he returns to Nigeria on a regular basis.

"I go back every year and that's a promise I made to myself," he said. "My grandmother and my uncle are still there ... so are my nephews. They like what I'm doing."

## On This Day In History

December 7, 1941

### Pearl Harbor bombed

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan appeared out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed and descended on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the U.S. into World War II.

Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless: Five of eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded. Japan's losses were some 30 planes, five midget submarines, and fewer than 100 men.

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress, after a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and Japan. The Senate voted for war against Japan by 82 to 0, and the House of Representatives approved the resolution by a vote of 388 to 1. The American contribution to the successful Allied war effort spanned four long years and cost more than 400,000 American lives.

## MND-B Pic of the day!

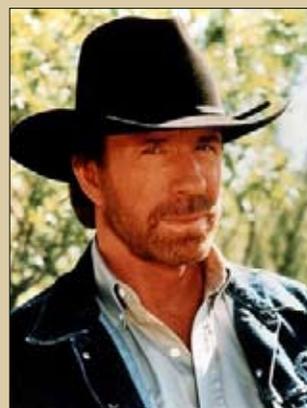


Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

Soldiers from the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion work on completing the electrical components of the new light fixtures in the convoy staging area. The lights will increase safety to the Soldiers of the 101st Eng. Bn.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS

### DID YOU KNOW?



Chuck Norris is not only a noun, but a verb.

## Quote For Today

“The will to persevere is often the difference between failure and success.”

— David Sarnoff —

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today**  
69° F | 48° F



**Tomorrow**  
64° F | 50° F



**Wednesday**  
64° F | 42° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

What marked the first time since the Revolution that the U.S. accepted direct financial aid to fight a war?

Last Issue's Answer: THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

## 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 # 212 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade were happy to discover and clear a weapons cache in western Baghdad. Interview with Sgt. Joshua Rogers 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

2. 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron Soldiers deliver 23 off-road style wheel chairs to locals who are in need of them, some due to battle related injuries. Interview

with Capt. Thomas Mills, 150th ARS.

[http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general\\_search/&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general_search/&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type)

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

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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

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

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

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



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### Editor:

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### Staff Writers:

Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Staff Sgt. Robert Jordan

Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Sgt. April Mota

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Sgt. Alun Thomas

Spc. Howard Alperin

Spc. Jamie Vernon

Georges Aboumrad

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