

Air Cav medevac: Surge, drawdown

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins

1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq—There are numerous sources where one can find the number of service members and civilians killed or injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom – a number many use to judge how well the war is going.

But one war-weathered flight medic need only reference memories of his previous deployment, from 2006 to 2008, and compare it to now.

“The big difference in Iraq, between the surge and this year is the sheer number of missions,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Orange, a flight medic for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Orange, who has been in Iraq for what he likes to describe as, “the war, the surge and the pull out,” has made it through over half of his current deployment with very few critical missions like the ones he encountered daily during the surge.

“So much more, during the surge, it was the IEDs (improvised explosive devices) with often catastrophic results,” said the Sarasota, Fla., native.

A flight medic’s job inherently brings them in close contact with gruesome scenes which are uncommon for most. So if medevac is not flying, Soldiers are not being severely injured, said Orange.

Now, Orange and his fellow flight medics are seeing less



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins

A medevac crew from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, perform maintenance on a UH-60 medevac Black Hawk, here, Dec. 2. Medevac helicopters in the 1st ACB are not flying much this deployment as Soldiers are not getting critically injured as often, said Capt. Alec Finlay, a medevac pilot and officer in charge of the Taji medevac unit.

violent scenes and more scenes where patients walk themselves right onto the helicopter unaided, he said.

Capt. Alec Finlay, of Pensacola, Fla., a medevac pilot and the Taji medevac officer in charge, has noticed the change as well.

“You look at some of the stuff that’s gone on for years and years [in Iraq] ... to seeing everything we’ve done in six, going on seven, years and the difference that we [made] in the surge – it’s night and day,” said Finlay.

Finlay was used to the typical 14-hour day during the surge when he went on three to five missions, with two of those

usually being highly dangerous road-side medical evacuations, he said.

“Last time we were here, [ground] guys would get blown up, they’d stop, pull security and go after the bad guys and we’d land right there,” said Finlay. “You’re flying unarmed and unafraid.”

In contrast, missions have now slowed down to the point where the veteran medevac crews are – more often than not – happily unemployed while the younger, less experienced, pilots and medics are chomping at the bit, he said.

“We’re happy because we see the progress. We know what it’s like to have seen the gore and

the results of the violence,” said Finlay. “That’s stuff you don’t necessarily want to see or brag about. [The] guys that fit into that category are content with what’s going on right now.”

Orange said he fits right into that category along with other veterans who would rather be training than picking their brethren off the streets.

“The new guys definitely want to get into the air and save lives and do all the things they became flight medics for. And they still do that, but not near as much,” he said.

“I’ll go collect guys with appendicitis all day for the rest of my career – I’ve seen enough,” Orange said.

Corps commander visits Ironhorse

*Photos by Maj. Brian Carlin
1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B*



Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby (right), commander of Multi-National Corps Iraq, asks Pfc. Luciano Rehak, from Chicago Heights, Ill., to pick a fellow member of his platoon to receive one of the corps commander's coins, Dec. 5.



Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby (left), commander of Multi-National Corps Iraq, and Col. Tobin Green (center), commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, meet with Capt. Michael Doyle, from San Diego, during a visit to Camp Taji, Dec. 5. Jacoby visited the "Ironhorse" Bde. to discuss current operations and preparations for the future drawdown of U.S. Forces in Iraq.



1st Lt. William Roach (right), from Raleigh, N.C., gives a pre-mission patrol brief to Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby (left), commander of Multi-National Corps Iraq, and staff Brig. Gen. Munam Abdul Sittar Dawuud (center), commander of the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division. Jacoby visited Joint Security Station Mushada to inspect the security situation and check on the morale of the troops stationed there.

Artilleryman receives high honor

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

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Remaining steadfast and dedicated to the artillery world can pay off with high honors.

Saint Barbara was adopted as the patron saint of artillery to help protect the men from fires and sudden death. The Honorable Order of St. Barbara is only awarded to Soldiers that have the highest standards of professionalism while helping to improve the field artillery community.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Weisheit, from Tucson, Ariz., the fire support noncommissioned officer in charge for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, displayed the dedication and professionalism that compelled one of his fellow artillery men nominate him for the medal.

After seeing the efforts put forth by Weisheit, Capt. Robert McDonough, from Bonham, Texas, the fire support officer in 1st ACB, felt

Weisheit deserved to receive the honors of this award.

Weisheit was nominated for the award because of willingness to go through great lengths in helping Soldiers better themselves, said McDonough. Combining that and his long history in field artillery is the reason he is being presented with this honor.

“In the artillery community, this award is extremely prestigious and only a select few receive it,” said McDonough. “Since it’s so rare, it just goes to show that there are great men out there serving in the artillery community and the Army.”

Weisheit has been an artilleryman since he joined the army in 1996, before coming to the 1st ACB.

“The Order of Saint Barbara is one of the highest honors you can get in field artillery, it feels good to finally get recognized and it was an honor to get recognized in a unit that is not a field artillery unit,” said Weisheit.



Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski

Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Weisheit (right), from Tucson, Ariz., the fire support noncommissioned officer in charge in 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, bows his head to receive The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara award presented to him by Lt. Col. William Smith (left), from Harker Heights, Texas, the deputy fire support coordinator in Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cav. Div., here, Dec. 5.

A part of that honor is being able to stand next to other recipients of the St. Barbara award during the St. Barbara Day ball, said Weisheit. It is an accomplishment to be part of that group.

“Something that makes it even better is my wife already has the Molly Pitcher Award,” said Weisheit. “Both awards go hand in hand since Molly Pitcher was designated as the artillery man’s wife.”

Military working dog’s bark is worth the bite

By Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – While preparing for a Dec. 3 mission to search for hidden weapons caches, U.S. troops 1st Platoon, Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment Soldiers and their partners in the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division realized they were missing something: a military working dog.

“Without dogs, it might take too much time to find what we’re searching for,” said Iraqi Army Capt. Nomas

Mohammed Hussain, a company commander with the 6th IA Division.

Military working dogs are natural experts at sniffing out bombs, drugs and other dangers, a skill modern technology is unable to replicate. These talented canines are in high demand, and not every unit who wants to use them has access to them. When the unit decided they needed a dog for their mission, they arranged for a dog and his handler to come, from the 72nd Military Police Detachment.

“Dogs can come [to Aqur Quf] overnight, which is what they usually do, but at the end of the day we need to take them back so they can be properly cared for,” said 1st Lt. James Harvie. “The best facilities for that are on [Victory Base Complex] as far as I know.”

Integrating the dogs into mission is a lot of work, but the animals are a very useful asset that the company tries to use as much as possible, explained Harvie.

For Nomas, it was his first time utilizing military work-

ing dogs on a patrol, adding that the dogs provide a very helpful service and he was glad they were able to make the trip out to the joint security station on the city’s western side.

After returning the dog and its handler back home at the completion of the mission, the U.S. Soldiers returned to base knowing that even though the trip was a little out of way, in the long run, the capabilities the dogs bring to the mission saves both time and quite possibly lives.

On This Day In History

December 9, 1992

U.S Marines storm Mogadishu, Somalia

On this day in 1992, 1,800 United States Marines arrive in Mogadishu, Somalia, to spearhead a multi-national force aimed at restoring order in the conflict-ridden country.

Though a peace accord was signed with Ethiopia in 1988, fighting increased between rival clans within Somalia. Over the next 23 months, Somalia's civil war killed some 50,000 people; another 300,000 died of starvation as United Nations peacekeeping forces struggled in vain to restore order and provide relief amid the chaos of war.

In early December 1992, outgoing U.S. President George H.W. Bush sent the contingent of Marines to Mogadishu as part of a mission dubbed Operation Restore Hope. Sporadic violence continued, including the murder of 24 U.N. soldiers from Pakistan in 1993. As a result, the U.N. authorized the arrest of General Mohammed Farah Aidid. On October 3, 1993, during an unsuccessful attempt to make the arrest, rebels shot down two of the Marines' Black Hawk helicopters and killed 18 U.S. soldiers.

President Bill Clinton gave the order for all American soldiers to withdraw from Somalia by March 31, 1994.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Maj. Timothy Hyde, 2nd BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div., MND-B BAGHDAD, Iraq – Gen. Abud Kanbar Hashim Khayun al-Maliki (foreground), the commander of Baghdad Operations Center, and Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger (center), commander Multi-National Division –Baghdad, receive a briefing from Col. David Miller, of Evanston, Ill., the commander of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, at Contingency Operating Site Hammer, Dec. 3, on how 2nd BCT will support the operations of the BOC during their deployment to the eastern portion of Baghdad.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS

DID YOU KNOW?



Chuck Norris is the only man to ever defeat a brick wall in a game of tennis.

Quote For Today

“We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it long enough.”

— Helen Keller —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 44° F



Tomorrow
66° F | 48° F



Friday
69° F | 50° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What opportunistic country declared war on Japan five days before its surrender in 1945?

Last Issue's Answer: Okinawa

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from North Carolina National Guard team up with their Iraqi counterparts to look for weapons caches to help keep a south Baghdad neighborhood safe. Interview with Spc. Nathan Lacompte, B Company, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion.

2. Soldiers from the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team help open a new school in southern Baghdad.

Soldiers attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the school.

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general_search/&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type

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

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



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