

Air assault training at JSS Aqur Quf

By Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – Like something right out of an Army recruitment commercial, a helicopter landed in the center of an open sandy space, kicking up dust in every direction as Soldiers in full body armor jumped out and dropped flat on their stomachs with heads low and weapons aimed.

However, these Soldiers, were not in a commercial. They are members of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division practicing loading onto and off of a UH-60 Blackhawk during air assault training here, Dec. 4.

The platoon leader, 1st Lt. Mark Hamilton signed his Soldiers up for the training to meet the battalion’s objective of having every Soldier be familiar with air assault tactics.

“As a Stryker Brigade, there are places the vehicles that we use can’t go because of their size and weight,” said Hamilton. “It’s always good to have platoons capable of doing a quick air mission, so when the time comes to do an air assault mission, (the commander) can pick any platoon and know that they’re qualified,” said Hamilton, a Baltimore, Md. native.

For Pvt. Aaron Flanagan, a squad automatic weapon gunner, it was his first time taking part in this type of training. The Mount Vernon, Ill. native said he enjoyed jumping out of the Blackhawk onto the ground.

But while he had fun during the training, Flanagan knew that

the training was important to the mission of the brigade.

“It shows that they want us to be on top of the game and know what we’re doing in different situations,” said Flanagan. “If we need to do something a Stryker can’t do, it shows the brigade is ready to do it, even if we are not in our normal vehicles.”

The training included a night assault that had the Soldiers apply the same skills after the sun went down that they learned during the daytime.

By the end of the training day, the Soldiers, covered in dirt from their numerous exits from the Blackhawks, learned the basic skills needed to execute an air assault mission and looked forward to future training sessions.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

From left to right; Spc. Josh Millwee, of Comanche, Texas, Pfc. Nicholas Newcomb, of Danville, Pa., 1st Lt. Mark Hamilton, of Baltimore, Md., Spc. John Bailo, of Aubrey, Texas, and Pvt. Edgar Garcia, a native of Reno, Ne. all with 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, provide security after exiting out of a UH-60 Blackhawk during air assault training, Dec. 4.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

Spc. Josh Millwee (left), of Comanche, Texas, and Pvt. Edgar Garcia, a native of Reno, Nev., both with 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, take aim after exiting out of a UH-60 Blackhawk during air assault training, Dec. 4.

Civil affairs team assesses water filtration systems

By Spc. Daniel Schneider
MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Jeff Blanchard, a civil affairs team sergeant of Company B, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion and native of Polkville, N.C., photographs the work done on one of the canals that feeds into a solar powered water filtration system that provides clean water to 240 Iraqi families in Zadan, Dec. 5.



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Jeff Blanchard, from Polkville, N.C., a civil affairs team sergeant of Company B, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, assesses an irrigation canal which feeds into a solar powered water filtration system in Zadan, Dec. 5.



Staff Sgt. Jeff Blanchard, a civil affairs team sergeant of Company B, 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion and native of Polkville, N.C., listens to concerns from Iraqis in a village receiving a solar powered water filtration system in Zadan, Dec. 5.

Dash for Cash means more than money

By Spc. Kelly LeCompte
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD – Service members and civilians honored a fallen 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team comrade with an annual event, which this year comprised of four foot races held in both Iraq and the National Guard unit's home-state of North Carolina, Dec. 5 and 6.

The race, named the Dash for Cash, in honor of the late Capt. Christopher Cash, a former company commander from the 30th Brigade Combat Team, who died during the brigade's last deployment to Iraq in 2004.

It was the fifth year for the annual event held in Greenville, N.C., the original site of the competition and the city near where Cash lived. Three years ago, an annual sister-race was organized at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, near Baquabah, Iraq, where Cash was serving with A Company at the time of his death.

This year, two more races were added; one at Forward Operating Base Falcon, south of Baghdad, where the brigade is headquartered and serving a second tour, and at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, where the 120th Combined Arms Battalion, 30th HBCT is located.

Runners pay a small registration fee to participate, and donations for the event are also accepted. Proceeds go towards a fund called the Cash Foundation, which is used to award a scholarship each year to three colleges: North Carolina Wesleyan College, where Cash earned a bachelor's degree; East Carolina University, where Cash earned a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree; and Pitt



Photo by By Spc. Kelly LeCompte

Runners of the Dash for Cash race get ready to take off at Forward Operating Base Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, Dec. 6. The annual race is named after the late Capt Christopher Cash, a company commander with the brigade who died in combat during the brigade's last deployment to Iraq in 2004. Four locations held the race this year; three in Iraq and one in Greenville, N.C., where the original competition began.

County Community College, located in Cash's hometown of Winterville, N.C.

Dawn Cash-Salau, Cash's widow, formed the Dash for Cash Committee and created the race after representatives from Wesleyan contacted her about starting a memorial scholarship in his name.

"I wanted this race to be exactly what Chris would want, and I wanted it to represent the person Chris was, so I asked a group of Chris' dearest friends to help," Cash-Salau said of forming the committee. "I am so grateful for each of them and their contribution to what has grown to be a wonderful event to honor Chris every year."

"Chris knew the impor-

tance of an education," Cash-Salau said. "To continue things that were important to him we award college scholarships in his memory."

Capt. Max Stroud, was a platoon leader with Cash, and has been a part of the Dash for Cash Committee since its inception. Stroud was also Cash's neighbor in Winterville.

"Christmas was Chris's favorite holiday," Stroud said of the reason for holding the race every December.

Stroud is serving a second deployment with the brigade, and ran the race at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

"Dawn said 650 people ran this year in Greenville," Stroud said. "Three hundred and twenty ran in it the first

year."

Sgt. Barb Russell, of Jacksonville, N.C., joined the N.C. National Guard in July of 2007 and learned of the event from recruiters that had known Cash. She ran in N.C. in 2007 and then ran in it again this year at Forward Operating Base Falcon. She was the first female finisher.

"The minute I saw the first flier go up, I was like, 'Good to go, I'm going to go run,'" Russell said.

"I think it's a good cause," Russell said. "It's nice to know [Cash's family] is able to generate some good out of something that was so devastating."

"As long as I can run, and I'm in the area, I'm going to keep doing it every year."

On This Day In History

December 11, 1981

Muhammad Ali vs. Trevor Berbick

On this day in 1981, the Jamaican boxer Trevor Berbick beat former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali in a unanimous 10-round decision, before a crowd of 10,000 at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre in Nassau, the Bahamas.

At the age of 39, Ali (born Cassius Clay) was attempting his second comeback from retirement. Crowned as the World Boxing Council heavyweight champ in 1964 after beating Sonny Liston. He had successfully defended the title eight times before he was convicted of draft evasion in 1967, stripped of his boxing license and title and sentenced to five years in prison. The conviction was later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, Ali announced his retirement in 1970. He returned to the ring after only a short time, however, and regained his heavyweight title in 1974 after a win against George Foreman in Zaire. Ali then announced his retirement for the second time. He re-emerged in October 1980 to fight a championship bout against Larry Holmes, who knocked him out. Ali refused to accept the result, however, and pushed to set up the fight with Berbick in order to prove himself.

Ali retired for good after the fight, finishing his career with an overall record of 56-5 and earning a lasting reputation as one of the 20th century's most influential sportsmen.

MND-B Pic of the day!

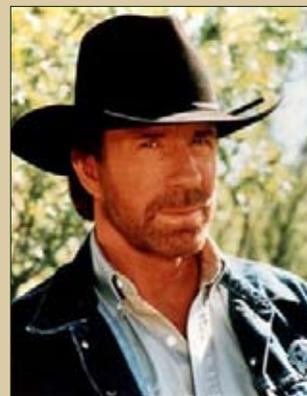


Photo by Sgt. Bryce Dubee, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq— Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins (right), of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division discusses the features and capabilities of the Stryker armored vehicle with Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice, the command sergeant major of the Maneuver Center of Excellence. Rice visited Soldiers from the Raider Brigade as part of a tour of units in Iraq.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS

DID YOU KNOW?



If you spell Chuck Norris in Scrabble, you win. Forever.

Quote For Today

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.”

— Jimi Hendrix —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
66° F | 50° F



Tomorrow
62° F | 48° F



Sunday
66° F | 51° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Who returned to Russia from exile in October, 1917?

Last Issue's Answer: GERMANY

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.

For this newscast, please contact the Media Relations Staff with DVIDS at 678-421-6612 or e-mail news@dvid-shub.net.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 217 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B

Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. In preparation for the upcoming Iraqi elections, Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, assist IFPs in moving barriers to a polling location to secure the area people. Interview with 1st Lt. Robert Makuch, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div.

2. Soldiers from the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division train on air

assault tactics. The training provided the basic tools necessary to complete the mission.

http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general_search/&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&typeCheck out other MND-B products, such as the weekly First Team Update video news program, and the latest print stories 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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