

# JSS Copper handed over to Iraqi government

**By Sgt. Mary Phillips**  
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD - After a long and tiresome process, Soldiers of Battery A, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, can now put Joint Security Station Copper, behind them.

The Soldiers lived and operated there for the past seven months, sharing the land with 3rd Battalion, 55th Brigade, 17th Iraqi Army Division, until Dec. 10, when documents were signed, releasing the property to the Government of Iraq. The IA will continue to use part of the land as their base, while the GoI decides to use the rest of the land or return it to the land owner.

Opened during the surge in 2007, JSS Copper continued operations until the handover. Maj. Mathew Fitch, the 30th HBCT Brigade engineer officer, hopes the land owner can be paid for the use of his land.

“The 30th Brigade is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Real Estate Depart-

ment to get compensation to the land owner for the use of his property,” said Fitch, of Falls Church, Va.

U.S. Soldiers continues to work with the IA in the area; traveling to conduct joint patrols and key leader engagements in the vicinity, but security will mostly be controlled by the IA.

“It’s a milestone,” said Battery A commander, Capt. Brian Gill. “I think it’s a reflection of the Iraqi battalion here. They operate with less and less direct support from U.S. forces.”

“It’s an indication of their improved abilities; their abilities to target insurgents in the area and build relationships with the locals,” said Gill, of Raleigh, N.C.

Many of the American Soldiers who lived and worked at JSS Copper, also consider this a milestone.

“I feel good about closing this base because it is one step closer to going home,” said Pfc. David Spence, of Char-



Photo by Sgt. Marry Phillips

Sgt. Michael Woods (left), and Spc. Eric Griffin, both of Lincolnton, N.C., load equipment onto a trailer in preparation for leaving Joint Security Station Copper, south of Baghdad, Dec. 10.

lotte N.C.. “[The IA] have stepped up. It’s good for the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people that the IA can take over now.”

Sgt. Robert Coleman, of Lawndale N.C., agreed with Spence.

“It means we’re making progress and the U.S. is on the withdrawal,” said Coleman.

This is the 30th HBCT’s second deployment to Iraq, the first time being in 2004, and the base closure is an example of the change that many of the Soldiers have

witnessed.

“When we were ending our last deployment [to Iraq] there were a lot of bases opening and now as we are ending this deployment there are a lot of bases closing,” said Gill. “It shows what the Iraqi Army has been able to accomplish in the last couple of years.”

“This is just one small step in the right direction. The IA has shown that they are capable... and we will continue to provide a supporting role in helping them do so.”

# “Ironhorse” Soldiers earn their spurs

By Sgt. Jessica Reaves

1st BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div., MND-B



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers from the Field Engineering Regiment, 11th IA Division, push themselves through the last obstacle course, before becoming the first Iraqi Soldiers to complete the Spur Ride with the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers participating in the Silver Spur Ride on Camp Taji, Dec. 12, carry the Order of the Spur platform to the first obstacle of the challenge. The Spur Ride lasted nineteen hours and contained nine no-fail tasks that each participant was required to complete.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Champaign, Ill. native, Pfc. Joel Rosenbeck (front), assigned to 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, crawls under a concertina wire obstacle to finish the Silver Spur Ride on Camp Taji, Dec. 12.

# IA receive commo and intell courses

**By Staff Sgt. April Mota**

*16th Eng. Bde, UPAR*

BAGHDAD- U.S. engineers conducted classes on radio operation, maintenance operations and counter insurgency operations at Old Ministry of Defense, in central Baghdad, for the troops of the 11th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment, Dec. 9.

Spc. Carlo Vannatta, of Norwalk, Ohio, and Master Sgt. Jim Fritts, of Sugar Grove, Ohio, both with the 16th Engineer Brigade, spent three weeks preparing their

classes on radio communication; preparing handouts in both English and Arabic. The class covered basic operations, components of the radio, operator tasks, and maintenance.

“The purpose of this class is to get [Iraqi Soldiers] more familiar with the radios so they won’t have problems later on down the road,” said Vannatta.

Fritts addressed the fact that these radios are state of the art. He pointed out that as technology advances radio communication becomes stronger

and smaller.

Vannatta explained how vital radio communication is to the mission.

“If you see anything dangerous, you need to be able to communicate that,” said Vannatta, “[other Soldiers] need to know what to look for.”

Following the radio communications class Maj. Hugo Silva, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, taught a class on counter insurgency operations and intelligence operations on the battlefield. His course covered the importance of information gathering during

missions.

“This class will help the Iraqi Soldiers understand how to prepare before they enter a battle space,” said Silva. “It helps them understand what information needs to be collected and the reason for collecting it.”

American engineers of the 16th Eng. Bde. have continued to strengthen the partnership between the U.S. Forces and the Iraqi Army. With the information taught during these classes, the Iraqi Soldiers will be better capable of achieving mission success.

# Soldiers stay busy outside the wire

**By Sgt. Mary Phillips**

*30th HBCT PAO, MND-B*

BAGHDAD—U.S. troops have moved out of Iraqi cities and Soldiers with 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team are still busy south of Baghdad; going outside the wire daily.

The missions are different now for the North Carolina National Guardsmen, as they have transitioned from aggressor to supporter.

“Our objective has changed,” said Sgt. Aaron Butler. “We have gone from attack mode to helping.”

Many of the Soldiers believe that they are still playing a crucial role in Iraq, helping

prepare the Iraqi security forces for when U.S. Forces leave.

“We are still providing security and they’re [the Iraqi Army] still learning from us,” said Spc. Cody Stewart. “They’re still learning valuable tools and knowledge from us to help them better provide security once we’re gone.”

The Soldiers’ patrol include meeting with local sheiks and Iraqi Security Forces leadership, counter improvised explosive devise missions, and being ready to respond as a quick reactionary force.

“We go out every day,” said Sgt. Scott Bang. “If we’re not going out we are on QRF supporting the other platoons that

are going outside the wire.”

The Soldiers have been able to notice the rewards of their hard work by the lowered violence seen in the area.

“To me, it seems like IED attacks have gone down since we started out CIED missions,” said Bang, of Hope Mills, N.C.

Bang also said he feels that he is providing a beneficial service because of the large number of U.S. and Iraqi forces that use the roads his company performs CIED missions on.

1st Lt. Michael Mazie, a platoon leader, is proud of what his Soldiers have been able to accomplish and their

continued dedication to their mission.

“Charlie Company, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion is used to conducting multiple missions at one time,” said Mazie. “Second platoon is currently maintaining a strong force outside the wire to continue contributing to the security of Iraq and develop our Iraqi security forces counterparts and Iraqi federal government.”

“There is still work to be done in Iraq, and the dangers are still very real, although progress is everywhere. My Soldiers use skill sets and advance soldiering tasks. Every day we remain vigilant and ready to respond.”

## On This Day In History

December 16, 1989

### A terrorist bomber begins his deadly rampage

Federal Judge Robert Vance is instantly killed by a powerful explosion after opening a package mailed to his house near Birmingham, Alabama. Two days later, a mail bomb killed Robert Robinson, an attorney in Savannah, Georgia, in his office. Two other bomb packages, sent to the federal courthouse in Atlanta and to the Jacksonville, Florida office of the NAACP, were intercepted before their intended victims opened them.

The FBI immediately assigned a task force to find the terrorist, naming their operation VANPAC (for Vance package bomb). The investigators used nearly every forensic method available: DNA profiles were made from the saliva on the stamps, and both the paint on the boxes and the nails that acted as the bomb's shrapnel were traced back to the manufacturer. Finally, an FBI agent remembered that Walter LeRoy Moody had been convicted in 1972 for setting off a pipe bomb with a similar design to that of the 1989 bombs. A search of Moody's home failed to turn up evidence linking him to the VANPAC bombs, but bomb experts compared his 1972 bomb to the VANPAC explosives and determined that there was little doubt that the same man had made them all. . Purportedly, Moody was upset by the judicial system.

In June 1991, a federal jury convicted Moody on charges related to the bombings and sentenced him to seven life terms plus 400 years in prison. In 1997, an Alabama judge sentenced Moody to die in the electric chair for Vance's murder.

## MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Ruth McClary, 30th HBCT PAO, MND-B

BAGHDAD – First Lt. Jason Hickman proudly holds Noor Hassam Oudah, during a celebration in her honor, Dec. 9. The one-year-old known as “Baby Nourah”, was born blind with congenital cataracts. Hickman spearheaded a campaign, raising over \$5,000 for her surgery with donations from Soldiers of 150th ARS.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris invented black. In fact, he invented the entire spectrum of visible light. Except pink. Tom Cruise invented pink.

# Quote For Today

“You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction.”

-George Lorimer -

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
69° F | 59° F



Tomorrow  
69° F | 50° F



Friday  
68° F | 53° F

## TRIVIA TIME!!

What did an enemy have to be, for a U. S. soldier to call him a "believer" in the Vietnam War?

Last Issue's Answer: DAYTON

# 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@dvidshub.net](mailto:news@dvidshub.net).

Today's Cav Round-Up # 220 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. Soldiers lend a helping hand to farmers in a

small village west of Baghdad. Interview with Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Jack and Capt. Walter Hatfield, both of 150th Armored Reconnaissance Squadron.

2. Soldiers from the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team turn Joint Security Station Copper over to the Iraqi

Army.

[http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general search/](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general%20search/)

# Trigger's Tease

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

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. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

## Yesterday's Answers

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



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