

Combined U.S., IA patrol in Ur

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – Security technology is constantly improving and changing; satellites, infrared cameras and biometrics systems are at our fingertips. However, sometimes a good old-fashioned foot patrol is the best way to go.

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division put boots to the Iraqi mud during a foot patrol at Joint Security Station Ur, Dec. 15.

Although the unit is equipped with Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and

M1A1 Abrams tanks, Soldiers used their feet to travel the streets during their most recent presence patrol.

According to Capt. John Ulsamer, commander of Company A, foot patrols are less intimidating, and the unit gets better cooperation from the local populace.

Trekking through muddy streets, surrounded by local children, the Soldiers made contact with several townspeople, conducted impromptu vehicle searches and handed out flyers to children.

The flyers informed children of the risks of carrying around toy guns and running



Photo by Staff Sgt Jeff Hansen

Soldiers patrol throughout the Ur area, north of Baghdad, during a presence patrol, Dec. 15.



Photo by Staff Sgt Jeff Hansen

Spc. Mario Hineman, a native of Sierra Vista, Ariz., conducts a brief search on a parked vehicle during a combined night patrol in Sadr City, Dec. 16.

around military convoys. 1st Lt. Nicholas Ramos, a platoon leader with Co. A, said the safety of the children is just as important as ensuring the village’s overall security.

“We just want [the Iraqi people] to know we are still here for them,” said Ramos, a Nokesville, Va., native who has been part of these patrols for over six months.

Not ones to take much time off, troopers also conducted a patrol the next evening. This time the Iraqi Army led the way into Sadr City to look for a weapons cache.

The search was driven by a cache that exploded on the grounds of a school while the

students were burning trash. School officials requested that the IA clear other schools in the area to ensure insurgents hadn’t hidden any additional caches.

The combined patrol consisted of IA, U.S. Soldiers and a military working dog. In the past, dogs have proven to be a crucial asset to the team.

“We can only find so much, but Gina finds everything,” said Senior Airman Nicholas Kench, a working dog handler.

Ulsamer said he considers both missions successful. Although his Soldiers like excitement, sometimes having no excitement is better in the long run.

Iraqi EOD hosts visit from 16th Engineers

By 1st Lt. Aaron Testa
16th Eng. Bde. PAO, MND-B



BAGHDAD – Brig. Gen. Glenn C. Hammond III (left) receives a brief from Iraqi Col. Kareem on training standards, Dec. 15, as an Iraqi EOD Soldier investigates a possible mine during a training scenario.



BAGHDAD – Brig. Gen. Glenn Hammond III (left), commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, tours the Iraqi Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment's equipment yard.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Eric Toth, a member of the 16th Engineer Brigade, discusses the significance of his patch with one of the Iraqi Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, Dec. 15.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Melcher (left), practices his Arabic with a Soldier from the Iraqi Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, Dec. 15th.

Military Housing Allowance Rates Set for 2010

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 2009 - Military members will see an average raise of 2.5 percent in housing allowance rates in 2010, a BAH program analyst for the Defense Department said today.

The increase comes to an average of around \$37 per month for the more than 900,000 servicemembers expected to draw the basic allowance for housing in 2010. Some areas will see a higher increase, while others will see less, Cheryl Anne Woehr said.

The 2010 raise is down from 2009's 6.5 percent average, and is the smallest percentage increase since the inception of the BAH program in 2000. This is due to

the past year's recession and declining housing market, she said.

"Rates are set based on actual housing data, so as the economy has declined, vacancy rates have increased [and] rental prices have declined, which results directly to lower BAH rates in various areas," Woehr said.

Those who do notice the BAH rates lower in their area than last year shouldn't worry, she said, because an individual rate protection law is in place. The policy protects those who already are under a rental agreement. So if BAH rates in their area are lower Jan. 1 than on Dec. 31, the previous, higher rate applies.

"Service members are able to take advantage of the increase in rates, but are not affected by decreasing rates,"

she said. But servicemembers who change duty stations, change dependency status or get promoted on or after Jan. 1 will be affected by the new rates, she added.

Woehr stressed that it isn't necessarily bad news for the servicemember in areas that see a decrease in rates. "Servicemembers who are newly reporting to an area get to take advantage of the lower market when they arrive," she said.

The BAH program is designed to benefit the servicemember, but it's not designed to pay 100 percent of housing expenses, Woehr said. The rate is intended to cover rent, renter's insurance and utilities based on pay grade and dependency status.

The local market economy determines annual BAH changes and sets the next

year's BAH rates. Military housing offices from each installation begin collecting data on the local rental market as early as January each year. The offices research the current rates for two-bedroom houses, townhouses, single-family homes and the different standards and profiles for homes, Woehr explained.

Typically, rates are higher in larger, more heavily populated metropolitan areas, such as New York City, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Rates in rural areas usually are more stable, and although they may increase to some degree, the rise doesn't have the same impact as in larger cities, she said.

An estimated \$19 billion in BAH will be paid to nearly 1 million servicemembers in 2010, Woehr said.

Patrolling streets with combined effort

By Spc. Luisito Brooks
4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – As part of the effort to support the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police, Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division participated in a combined patrol operation and cordon and search, Dec. 17, in northern Baghdad.

The operation provided security for the citizens of Baghdad by searching for insurgents in an effort to prevent terrorist attacks.

"We assisted the IA and the IP in the search because

we have the same goal of finding all the bad guys to keep the people in this area safe," said 1st Lt. Phillip Matousek.

The operation focused not only finding insurgents, but also searching for possible improvised explosive devices using three teams of military working dogs.

"With the help of the military dogs, we were able to find two unregistered AK-47s and two small improvised explosive devices," said Sgt. Justin Southwick, from Monroe, Wash. "(The dogs) are an awesome tool because they

gave us a heads up on what was in certain areas."

Working with the 4th Brigade Soldiers gave the Iraqi Army and police an opportunity to learn a few things as well.

"I like working with the Americans because they use a lot of different things that help them be very productive and they work fast," said Lt. Kaleb, with 6th IA Division. "It's great every time we work with Americans."

The operation continued through the area until the early morning when the Iraqi Army let the Soldiers

know that the mission was over.

"It doesn't matter how long the mission takes," said Matousek. "We are ensuring that we are performing a thorough job along with the IAs and the IPs."

The Soldiers said they were pleased with the final results of the combined patrol.

"We accomplished a lot today because as we continue to assist the Iraqi people they are building more confidence in their own abilities," said Matousek. "We are heading in the right direction."

On This Day In History

December 21, 1991

Soviet republics proclaim the Commonwealth of Independent States

In a final step signifying the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, 11 of the 12 Soviet republics declare that they are forming the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Just a few days later, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced he was stepping down from his position. The Soviet Union ceased to exist.

The 11 republics-Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan-signed an agreement creating the CIS. Only Georgia, embroiled in a civil war, abstained from participation. Exactly what they created was open to debate. The CIS was not a new nation, but merely an "alliance" between independent states. The political meaning of the alliance was hazy. The independent states each took over the former Soviet government facilities within their borders. The military side of the CIS was even more confusing. They agreed to sustain any arms agreements signed by the former

Soviet Union. The former Soviet defense minister would retain control over the military until the CIS could agree on what to do with the nuclear weapons and conventional forces within their borders. Complicating the situation were terrific economic problems and outbreaks of ethnic violence in the new republics.

For Gorbachev, the announcement was the final signal that his power-and the existence of the Soviet Union-was at an end. Four days later, on Christmas Day, he announced his resignation.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota, 101st Eng. Bn. PAO, 16th Eng. Bde., MND-B

BAGHDAD- Working side-by-side, Pfc. Joshua Tillmon (left), of Burr Oak, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, and Pvt. Hayder Jabar Kamal, 6th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment, complete a truss to add to the roof of the Joint Operation Center on Joint Security Station Constitution. The JOC, a joint construction project, should be complete mid-January.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Someone once tried to tell Chuck Norris that round-house kicks aren't the best way to kick someone.

This has been recorded by historians as the worst mistake anyone has ever made.

Quote For Today

“A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.”

-David Brinkley -

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
71° F | 55° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 53° F



Wednesday
71° F | 55° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What political system was gradually dismantled in South Africa, starting in 1989?

Last Issue's Answer: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

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.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 221 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment teach combatives to their Iraqi

counterparts. Interview with 1st Lt. Nick Salinas, 3-4 ADAR and Sgt. Maj. Ka Dim, 6th Iraqi Army.

2. MEDEVAC crews from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division assist Iraqi civilians following an improvised explosive device attack south of Baghdad. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type= Check 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 Tease

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

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

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



Multi-National Division-Baghdad

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Editor:

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Staff Writers:

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