

Ground Torch System training for engineers

By Sgt. Tracy Knowles
16th Eng. Bde, UPAR

BAGHDAD – In order to enhance route sanitation capabilities, five Soldiers of the 1192nd Engineer Company, 101st Eng. Battalion, finished up a week-long training event on the Ground Torch System (GTS), Dec. 20, here, on Camp Liberty.

The GTS is a trailer mounted flame throwing system used when mechanical means clearing vegetation are difficult, such as clearing canals or steep slopes.

The training began with proper operation of the components and controls, including how to execute preventive maintenance checks and services. It then transitioned to mission specific tactics, techniques and procedures.

“This is something very new to me; any operational training I have had with the Army has already been

set up,” said Sgt. Carl Compton, of Portsmouth, Ohio. “We started from the ground up with this operation and have been very hands on; everything from operating the equipment and writing [standard operating procedures] to planning and implementing battle drills.”

First Lt. Benjamin Smith, of Mashpee, Mass., developed a training plan that best prepared the Soldiers for future route sanitation missions.

“In order to execute a ‘controlled burn’ during a convoy or route sanitation mission, competency on equipment and burn procedures must be established,” said Smith. “The best way to incorporate a new skill is to learn it, do it, conduct an after action review of the exercise and then do it again.”

The concept of the operation was developed through field training ex-



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Standing close to the flames, Pfc. Lorenzo Clark, of Cleveland, Ohio, controls his area of ground clearance, during the last phase of a five day training course on the ground system.



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles

Pfc. Lorenzo Clark (left) and Spc. Alexander Taylor, of the 1192nd Engineer Company, fire up a controlled burn during practical exercise, Dec. 20. The course included battle drills on fire safety equipment and proper handling of the equipment.

ercises and rehearsals which prepare the Soldiers for real world missions; keeping their situational awareness a top priority.

Additionally, the Soldiers practiced fire drills, escape routes, safety zones and key communication guidelines, to include hand and arms signals.

“As engineers, we will lead the way for developing the process for safely deploying and operating the GTS,” said Sgt. Zach Caudill, of Plymouth, Ohio.

Days of pouring water on each other and putting out pretend fires prepared the Soldiers to move

directly into reaction mode, should something happen.

“We always watch, always stay diligent. We are always watching the wind so we know what the fire is doing,” said Spc. Heather Todd, of Lisbon, Ohio.

Todd and the other Soldiers worked under close supervision performing more than a dozen dry runs. After a week of instruction, the Soldiers validated their training with a live-fire exercise.

The Soldiers are now trained on a piece of equipment that can provide a safe passage on the streets of Iraq for U.S. Soldiers.

No ordinary tire change

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



BAGHDAD – Spc. Robert Riddle, from Dallas, Texas, puts on his gloves before he begins the process of changing a flat tire of a Stryker, Dec. 18, at Joint Security Station Justice.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Robert Riddle, from Dallas, Texas, slides a new tire under the slat armor of a Stryker in order to change a tire on the vehicle, Dec. 18, at Joint Security Station Justice.



BAGHDAD – After taking off a tire, Spc. Jordan Smith (left), and Spc. Robert Riddle, from size up the situation while changing a flat on a Stryker, Dec. 18, at Joint Security Station Justice.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Jordan Smith, from grits his teeth as he gives a large wrench a turn in order to loosen the lug nuts of the flat tire on a Stryker, Dec. 18, at Joint Security Station Justice.

A Christmas gift of Catholic confirmation

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – With the traditional anointing of the chaplain's thumb, seven service members from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade received a long-awaited gift just days before Christmas.

It was a gift that had had taken months to achieve and was being given in the most unlikely of places – a warzone.

After 20 weeks of studying and practice, the Soldiers were officially confirmed as Catholics in a confirmation mass at the Tigris River Chapel, here, Dec. 19, bringing them fully into the realm of the Catholic Church.

It was the final step in their path to becoming Catholics, said Chaplain (Maj.) Tyson Wood, from Long Beach Island, N.J., with the candidates beginning their training almost seven months ago.

"We began this program, called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, about three weeks after we deployed here," Wood said. "My intention was to build good Catholics and receive them into the church just before the Christmas season to celebrate with us all the Christmas joys."

Wood said he had to obtain special permission to confirm the group because of the location and circumstances surrounding their confirmation.

"Not every sacrament can be celebrated by a Priest, there are a couple that are reserved for bishops; ordination and confirmation," he explained.

"With good standing, a priest can receive special delegation; the Arch Bishop of the Army gave me permission to confirm."

For Wood the end result was worth the months of study, as he noted the exuberant reaction of those confirmed.

"It gives me great joy, it's what I live for," Wood said. "I have felt like a kid waiting for Christmas ... to me this is Christmas and this day could not come soon enough."

"It was an awesome privilege to do this and I've had the chance to do this every time I've been deployed, which you don't get to do often as a priest ... it was an honor," Wood added.

The ceremony was a special one for 1st Lt. Marjana Mair, from Albany, N.Y., who along with her confirmation, was baptized and received her first communion.

Mair said she was part of another religion for many years, but wanted to become a Catholic upon discovering the faith.

"I grew up (Muslim) for 18 years, but when I started studying (Catholicism) I found I related to it ... there was something beautiful about it and I wanted to be part of it," Mair said.

Before she could be confirmed, Mair said she had to undertake the required classes to be eligible for the blessing.

"Over the 20 weeks I learned about the religion through the Bible; what it means to be a Catholic and the way they do things" Mair said. "I felt I had



Photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas

Six service members from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade listen attentively in the front row as Chaplain (Maj.) Tyson Wood (right), from Long Beach Island, N.J., administers their final vows in confirming them as Catholics, in a ceremony held at the Tigris River Chapel, here, Dec. 19.

a good grasp of it after that."

Mair said she found her baptism to be a moving experience, despite her nervousness at being in front of the large attendance.

"Once Father Wood was up there with me it felt right, I knew I was doing the right thing," Mair said. "It was a beautiful ceremony and will be one the biggest things I take from this deployment."

The ceremony was also a milestone for Capt. Jeffrey Schenck, from Bitburg, Germany, who said becoming a Catholic was an ambition he had wanted to realize for a long time.

"There've been so many good people in my life that have been Catholic and it's the faith that I saw which they believe in that drove me to become a Catholic," Schenck said.

"What sealed the deal was meeting my fiancée who is Catholic, which made us take a look at walking down the Catholic life together."

Schenck said receiving the confirmation vows was remarkable, considering the location and environment he is currently in.

"It felt wonderful to be able to do it here in Iraq with this setting and I couldn't have found a better priest to take me under his wing and educate me," Schenck said. "He (Wood) kept it down to earth and explained everything from a layman's point of view."

"It's just been a great experience doing it here in the middle of everything else going on 24 hours a day ... especially in the circumstances we're in," he said.

On This Day In History

December 23, 1986

Voyager completes global flight

After nine days and four minutes in the sky, the experimental aircraft Voyager lands at Edwards Air Force Base in California, completing the first nonstop flight around the globe on one load of fuel. Piloted by Americans Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, Voyager was made mostly of plastic and stiffened paper and carried more than three times its weight in fuel when it took off from Edwards Air Force Base on December 14.

Voyager was built by Burt Rutan of the Rutan Aircraft Company without government support and with minimal corporate sponsorship. Dick Rutan, Burt's brother and a decorated Vietnam War pilot, joined the project early on, as did Dick's friend Jeanna Yeager (no relation to aviator Chuck Yeager).

When Voyager took off from Edwards Air Force at 8:02 a.m. PST on December 14, its wings were so heavy with fuel that their tips scraped along the ground and caused minor damage. The plane made it into the air, however, and headed west. On the second day, Voyager ran into severe turbulence caused by two tropical storms in the Pacific. Dick Rutan had been concerned about flying the aircraft at more than a 15-degree angle, but he soon found the plane could fly on its side at 90 degrees, which occurred when the wind tossed it back and forth.

Rutan and Yeager shared the controls, but Rutan, a more experienced pilot, did most of the flying owing to the long periods of turbulence encountered at various points in the journey. With weak stomachs, they ate only a fraction of the food brought along, and each lost about 10 pounds.

On December 23, when Voyager was flying north along the Baja California coast and just 450 miles short of its goal, the engine it was using went out, and the aircraft plunged from 8,500 to 5,000 feet before an alternate engine was started up.

Almost nine days to the minute after it lifted off, Voyager appeared over Edwards Air Force Base and circled as Yeager turned a primitive crank that lowered the landing gear. Then, to the cheers of 23,000 spectators, the plane landed safely with a few gallons of fuel to spare, completing the first nonstop circumnavigation of the earth by an aircraft that was not refueled in the air.

Voyager is on permanent display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Scott, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – Spec. David Alvarez, an Avenger systems repairman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, grins as he lays out vehicle equipment for inspection, here, Dec. 22.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Godzilla is a Japanese rendition of Chuck Norris' first visit to Tokyo.

Quote For Today

Leadership can be thought of as a capacity to define oneself to others in a way that clarifies and expands a vision of the future.

-Edwin H. Friedman-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
73° F | 50° F



Tomorrow
71° F | 50° F



Friday
73° F | 51° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What new weapon was introduced in the Battle of the Somme?

Last Issue's Answer: SPAIN

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. With the help of U.S. forces, an Iraqi's are securing election locations and the future of their country. Interviews with 1st Lt. Nicholas

Ramos, A Troop, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment., Sgt. Richard Hainey, A Troop, 2/5 Cav.

2. Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade and the 6th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment near completion on a Joint Operations Center at al-Muthana airfield. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

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

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

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



Multi-National Division-Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

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Public Affairs Officer:

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Editor:

Pfc. Debrah Sanders

Staff Writers:

1st Lt. Aaron Testa

Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Scott

Staff Sgt. April Mota

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