

Pilots lend a hand to air-ground training

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

BAGHDAD – Close air support provided by helicopter gunships is an invaluable tool on the battlefield, however knowing how to properly call in support is what truly makes it effective.

Calling upon the experts, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division received a visit from the very helicopter pilots that provide them air support at a class, here, Dec. 18.

“The better information we receive, the faster we can provide over watch and fire support for you guys,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Santiago Torres, a 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry

Division AH-64D Apache attack helicopter pilot from New York City. “If you don’t know how to fully use the tools in your tool box you are shorting yourself.”

The Air Cav pilots gave a short presentation to the troops stationed at Joint Security Station Justice that demonstrated the capabilities of the AH-64D Apache attack helicopter and how to properly call for support.

“The [presentation] had awesome videos that showed how combat effective the birds are,” said Staff Sgt. Shane Gallagher, a squad leader from York, Pa., “It actually got me thinking about becoming a pilot one day.”

The training then went from the classroom to the landing



Photo by Luisito Brooks

Pilots from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade conduct a class on air support for Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division on a landing pad at Joint Security Station Justice, Dec. 18.



Photo by Luisito Brooks

Sgt. Neil Geitner, a Company C, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division team leader from Littleton, Colo., gets an up close view of the inside of an AH-64D Apache attack helicopter at Joint Security Station Justice, Dec. 18.

pad, for an up close look at the AH-64D.

“When we got to the landing pad, there it was, an Apache,” said Sgt. Robert Pierce. “The pilots answered every question (we asked), from how the Apache operates, to how a unit is supposed to request air support.”

After answering everyone’s questions, the pilots put on their flight suits, climbed into the Apache and flew away, leaving the class with a better understanding of air support and what it brings to the fight.

“I really appreciate the pilots for coming here for this training,” said 1st Lt. Adam Karboski, from Camden, N.Y. “My Soldiers had a chance to speak to these guys face to face on how to communicate better with them, making us more combat effective.”

Taking training to new heights

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BAGHDAD – Pfc. Samuel Greubel, an infantryman, grabs the tension line to guide the Aerostat during a recovery of the system at Joint Security Station Muthana, Dec. 19.



BAGHDAD – During training on the Aerostat system, Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division practice recovery of the blimp at Joint Security Station Muthana, Dec. 19.



BAGHDAD – Spc. Justin Roy, with the Headquarters and Service Battery, stabilizes the Aerostat as he holds on the side rope guides at Joint Security Station Muthana, Dec. 19.



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. Jaime Suarez, an infantryman, ties a knot in the rear guide rope of the Aerostat at Joint Security Station Muthana, Dec. 19.

Shia Muslims march to Karbala

Sgt. Samantha Beuteraugh

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD – Culture plays a lead role in the lives of people all over the world, and while in Iraq, there are many cultural differences and Islamic practices that U.S. Soldiers need to be aware of.

Although for many Americans this season is a time filled with gifts, joy and happiness, for the Shia Muslim community it is filled with a great deal of sorrow and pain.

Dec. 18 marks the start of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar year. This first month is a sacred month in which peace prevails and fighting is prohibited, as well as the start of the Shia pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Husain, the grandson of the prophet, Mohammad.

The pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred shrine, and the Shia Muslims are beginning their journey to Karbala. For many Iraqi natives, it is tradition to start these travels on foot the seventh or eighth day of Muharram, carrying a green or black flag. Many other Shias from Iran, India, Pakistan, Bahrain, and elsewhere will visit the shrine also.

When the march kicks off, Iraqi Army Soldiers will be prevalent in the streets southwest of Bagh-

dad as millions will gather to the site of Husain's holy shrine in Karbala.

The purpose of the march is for Shias to pay their respects to Imam Husain's holy shrine. Not all Shia carry on this tradition. It depends on how the individual was raised. While on their journey, those making the pilgrimage are welcomed into the homes of many. People along the road help them, feed them, and offer them a place to sleep.

During the march to the holy shrine, they—immersed in faith—are known for inflicting pain upon themselves to represent the pain and suffering Husain felt when he was martyred. The Shia march in remembrance of his sacrifice.

More than 1000 years ago, Yazid bin Mu'awiyah—the Muslim leader—didn't enforce Islamic rules and traditions. Husain led a revolution against Yazid after his refusal to follow the rules and traditions of Islam. The Shia Muslims look at the war as if it were a battle between the righteous and the unrighteous.

As a small child, the young Husain learned from a prophet that he would be killed in a great war. He knew that he would be martyred. If Husain had

simply announced his allegiance to Yazid, he would have been granted his life. Husain stood his ground as he would not abandon the traditional Islamic word that was engraved in his heart, and for that, he was martyred.

The people of Kufa, a town outside of what is now the big city of Najif said: come to us, and promised they would support him. Unfortunately, they changed their minds because they were afraid of the 10,000 warriors from Syria who were camped in Karbala, and had threatened to kill Husain.

Knowing the consequences, Husain traveled to Karbala to make peace. He traveled with his family to include women and children. Some of his family and 72 of his followers were massacred in Karbala. Husain is viewed as a martyr, and his sacrifices remain in the hearts of many Shia.

The one-day war ended with the decapitation of Husain after he was speared and shot with a flaming arrow. To make an example of him, Yazid's men didn't bury Husain. They captured the women and children, trampled Husain's body with their horses, and proceeded to parade Husain's head through Syria to send a warning to all who ques-

tioned Yazid.

Later, the women and children were released, and they buried Husain in a coffin. As time went on, the coffin became more embellished. What started simple is now a sizable, holy shrine.

The journey symbolizes the deep sorrow felt for the sacrifices Imam Husain made and represents the pains he suffered—spear wounds, flaming arrows, and decapitation.

Some of the marchers perform torturous acts to themselves in the following forms: continuous hard slapping over their chest, whipping their backs with chains, and in more severe cases, using a saber or sword to slash at their skull. These are all self-inflicted acts.

It is the Shia's way of showing their internal mourning for the loss of Husain in the war. They suffer through the journey, and indulge in habitual weeping when they arrive at the shrine, each year, reenacting the severity of Husain's suffering.

Some religious driven practices may seem extreme; however, these practices are culturally symbolic to Shia Muslims. It is important to remain respectful of the Shia beliefs and cautious of any hostile acts that might occur.

On This Day In History

December 24, 1979

Soviet tanks roll into Afghanistan

On December 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan, under the pretext of upholding the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978.

As midnight approached, the Soviets organized a massive military airlift into Kabul, involving an estimated 280 transport aircraft and three divisions of almost 8,500 men each. Within a few days, the Soviets had secured Kabul, deploying a special assault unit against Tajberg Palace. Elements of the Afghan army loyal to Hafizullah Amin put up a fierce, but brief resistance.

On December 27, Babrak Karmal, exiled leader of the Parcham faction of the Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), was installed as Afghanistan's new head of government. And Soviet ground forces entered Afghanistan from the north.

The Soviets, however, were met with fierce resistance when they ventured out of their strongholds into the countryside. Resistance fighters, called mujahidin, saw the Christian or atheist Soviets controlling Afghanistan as a defilement of Islam as well as of their traditional culture.

The mujahidin employed guerrilla tactics against the Soviets. They would attack or raid quickly, then disappear into the mountains, causing great destruction without pitched battles. The fighters used whatever weapons they could grab from the Soviets or were given by the United States.

The tide of the war turned with the 1987 introduction of U.S. shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles. The Stingers allowed the mujahidin to shoot down Soviet planes and helicopters on a regular basis.

It was the first Soviet military expedition beyond the Eastern bloc since World War II and marked the end of a period of improving relations (known as *détente*) in the Cold War. Subsequently, the SALT II arms treaty was shelved and the U.S. began to re-arm.

Fifteen thousand Soviet soldiers were killed.

The long-term impact of the invasion and subsequent war was profound. First, the Soviets never recovered from the public relations and financial losses, which significantly contributed to the fall of the Soviet empire in 1991. Secondly, the war created a breeding ground for terrorism and the rise of Osama bin Laden.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq— 1st Lt. Marjana Mair (left), from Albany, N.Y., smiles as she wipes water from her face after being baptised by Chaplain (Maj.) Tyson Wood (right), from Long Beach Island, N.J., as part of a confirmation ceremony at the Tigris River Chapel, here, Dec. 19. Mair was also confirmed and received her first communion as part of her conversion to Catholicism.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Staring at Chuck Norris for extended periods of time without proper eye protection will cause blindness, and possibly foot sized brusies on the face.

Quote For Today

“If once you forfeit the confidence of your fellow-citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem.”

-Abraham Lincoln -

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
73° F | 55° F



Tomorrow
69° F | 50° F



Saturday
69° F | 50° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Air Force Capt. Joseph McConnell-an ace during the Korean war-had a total of how many aerial battle wins?

Last Issue's Answer: TANK

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

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullin tours a local market west of Baghdad

to reassure local market owners that security is a top priority. Interview with Admiral Mike Mullen.

2. Soldiers from 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division attend a humanitarian drop west of Baghdad in support of the Iraqi Army. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

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

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Trigger's Tease

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

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



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