



DANGER FORWARD



April 19, 2010 | Issue 12

Iraqi Airmen to celebrate National Air Force Day

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA, Iraq – Seventy-nine years ago, April 22, 1931, five pilots touched down in the al-Washash airport in Baghdad after spending four years at Cranol College in Britain studying aeronautics.

Touching-down touched-off the Iraqi Air Force, now commemorated each year throughout Iraq.

“It is a glorious day recognizing the formation of the Iraqi Air Force,” said Brig. Gen. Sami Saeed, Basra Air Base commander. “It is important for every Iraqi. We celebrate it in remembrance for all the sacrifices of the officers and crew and for the unknown airmen of the Iraqi Air Force who have lost their lives.”

Before being promoted to base commander, Saeed commanded the Iraqi Air Force 70th Squadron, also based in Basra. The 70th is part of a proposed plan to realign some Iraqi Air Force operations within southern Iraq.

Basra Air Base is co-located with the U.S. Army’s Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Lt. Col. Phillip Hamilton, 1st Infantry Division Air Liaison Officer and Detachment 1, 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group commander, said it is important to take time to remember that history.

“What’s important to me as an Airman is certainly different and tough to celebrate 365 days a year – even though it sounds like a great platitude,” said the Mammoth Lakes, Calif. native.

“I think it’s relevant to any large organization, in the sense that, it is how we as leaders try to differentiate ourselves and our people by inculcating this notion of identity and culture and shared heritage,” Hamilton said.

COB Basra personnel plan to celebrate with speeches recounting history and accomplishments, as well as food and drink.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

The Sama CH2000 surveillance plane is one of the aircraft used by the Iraqi Air Force’s 70th Squadron to train pilots for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. The squadron has worked diligently to bring an era of independence and now trains Iraqi pilots with Iraqi instructors.

Similar celebrations are planned throughout the country. The largest is planned for Baghdad, where Saeed expects to celebrate the event.

He has much cause, according to Hamilton.

“He is the Basra Air Station commander and he is the former 70th Squad-

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COMMAND

Danger Forward

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Danger Seven sends

Our Soldiers here are 100 percent mission-focused, prepared to carry out their orders with efficiency. Sometimes Soldiers get so focused on accomplishing the task at hand they start neglecting the basis of their strength.

Even while on deployment, Soldiers must continue to “PMCS” themselves the same way they would their equipment. There are five “Pillars of Strength” Troops and Leaders should monitor to keep performing at a peak level:

-Physical: We do PT every day in the rear. Why should we stop on deployment? Maintaining a high state of physical readiness is not only every Soldier’s duty, but exercise is a great way to relieve stress.

-Emotional: The perception many people have of Soldiers is we don’t talk about our feelings and we have to constantly be emotionless warriors. There are so many avenues for Soldiers to seek help, whether it’s mental health professionals or your fellow Soldiers on your left and right.

-Social: It’s easy to catch yourself in a groove of just going to work, going to chow, and hitting the rack, and repeat. That’s ignoring the important social needs all humans have. When you get some downtime, grab some buddies and hit the USO, get in a game of basketball, just do something to keep up those human connections.

-Family: It’s important we keep those home-fires burning while we’re away. We’re lucky enough today to have so many avenues such as e-mail and phone banks to keep in contact with our loved ones. Take advantage. That taste of home makes this time apart easier, and it makes the transition back to normal life easier once we get home.

-Spiritual: From the battalion level on up we have spiritual fitness teams prepared to assist Soldiers of all faiths in keeping the connection with their higher power. Keep them busy to maintain the strength in that fighting spirit.

Soldiers: it is your responsibility to yourself and to your battle buddies to keep yourself in peak condition; don’t neglect these foundations. Leaders: know your Soldiers and keep an eye on them to ensure they’re taking care of themselves. This is part of your sacred responsibility of taking care of American fighting men and women.

Now get after it!



Jim Champagne
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army



Commanding General



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

PAO

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-  4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
-  12th CAB
-  3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
-  367th MPAD



“STAYING SAFETY FOCUS”

By Gus Walker

USD-S Safety and Occupational Health Manager

“Saving Lives”



There is a notion out there that, “safety doesn’t matter while we are at war.” Have you heard someone say that?

Quite the opposite! The importance of safety is elevated at all levels during war because the hazards we face are much greater. If we subscribe to the idea that safety is something we do in garrison, then we are setting ourselves up for failure.

Here is how we become successful: care about what happens to Soldiers and equipment. The Composite Risk Management (CRM) process simply means “Caring Really Matters.” Caring makes a huge difference in what we do.

Do accidents occur? Of course they do. Can we prevent the majority of them from occurring? Yes we can.

The Division Safety office is passionate about what we do because we care about the lives of every Soldier and civilian in theater. Our mission is to find out what safety concerns are out there and provide the best recommendations for the CG’s consideration.

By simply caring, we can drive down or eliminate those things that disrupt our mission on a daily basis such as accidents, negligent discharges, suicide gestures and attempts, etc. Caring is a driving force that make us take a closer look at what is happening to us.

Be safety conscience and let’s take care of each other.

Duty First – Safety Always

Have a suggestion to make *Danger Forward* better? Send a SIPR email to our suggestion box: 1IDPAO SUGGESTIONBOX@1id.army.smil.mil

USD-S re-enlistments, April 9 - 16

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

BSTB

SPC SHAWN M. SMIERCIAK
PFC SCHETRONE L. COLLIER JR
SPC DONTÉ E. MUSE

2nd Bn, 69th AR

SSG JEFFREY R. TURCOTTE
SGT CHRISTOPHER V. SALAS
SGT BRIAN J. WILSON
SPC MICHAEL C. PUTNAM
SGT DANIEL J. BROUMLEY

1st Bn, 15th Inf Regt

PFC NATHAN J. WENGERT
SPC CHARLES E. ROAN III
SGT MATTHEW D. FOX
SPC JOHNATHAN M. COLTON
PFC HOLLEE M. PROCTOR
PFC JONATHAN E. STEPHENS
SGT JEFF T. NUTTER

412th ASB

SGT REMILLEJOSE FROILAN CABIGON
SGT JASON SCOTT WOOTEN

3rd Bn, 158th AVN

SPC MATTHEW WAYNE HARVELL
SGT MELVIN JIMENEZ- PONTE

2nd Bn, 159th ARB

SGT YESARELA ALEJANDRA ASTRINOS

17th Fires Bde

1-377th FA

606TH FSC
SPC WILLIAM ROCHOW

B BTRY
SGT JONATHAN FORTE

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at: <http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Do you or a “friend” have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we’ll send you some cool safety incentives.

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

April, 1943

The 1st Inf Div shifted north to Beja and went into battle near Mateur, in the African campaign, April 19. The attack was aimed at Mateur and launched over broken, rocky hills which tore shoes and clothing. Hill 523 was taken by the 16th Infantry’s direct assault in one of the dirtiest, bloodiest battles of the campaign.

This week in OIF history

April 22, 2006

Nuri al-Maliki of the Shiite Dawa Party is approved as prime minister, ending four months of political stalemate following elections in 2006.

This week in 3rd Infantry Division history

April 1945

The 3rd Infantry division, after sweeping into the key city of Cologne, swept up the Paderborn in its advance, to shut the back door to the Ruhr river. The 3rd crossed the Saale River, north of Halle and sped on toward the Elbe River.

Iraqi medics take flight

By Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy L. Moore
BTT Phoenix, 4th BCT, 1st Armd Div

JSS CHILAT – A few hundred meters from the Iran-Iraq border, sentries from the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement recently conducted medical evacuation training with advisors attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

U.S. Border Transition Team Phoenix conducted the training at Joint Security Station Chilat – where the U.S. and Iraqi forces work and live side-by-side – at the request of the 11th Bde., DBE, commander. Successful medical evacuation can save lives for Soldiers on the battlefield or at the scene of an accident, and no place is the importance of such self-reliance more clear than at the austere and isolated border fort located in the northern part of Maysan Province.

To that end, members of BTT Phoenix and the flight crew and medics of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, assisted their Iraqi medical partners by providing basic MEDEVAC training to members of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 11th Bde., DBE.

Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Moore, BTT Phoe-



Photo by Capt. William Johnson
Sgt. Carey Atkins, a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief assigned to Co. C, 3rd Bn., 238th Aviation Regt., waves a DBE litter team up to load a casualty. The DBE is advised by BTT Phoenix, attached to 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

nix medic and a native of Houston, Texas, assisted in the teaching of several classes to the Iraqis, including 9-line MEDEVAC transmission, litter carries and improvised litter construction.

Moore, a veteran of multiple combat tours, emphasized the importance of remaining calm during emergency situations.

One of the main training objectives was to familiarize Iraqi DBE soldiers with both hot and cold helicopter loading procedures, so that the first time they are exposed to working under a hot rotor system is not in combat.

This training gave the DBE a chance to learn verbal commands and hand-and-arm signals, which is very important because normal communication is not possible under loud rotors.

The UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC procedures are much the same as the procedures for the Iraqi Air Force's UH-1 helicopter.

"The exercise covered various facets of MEDEVAC procedures," said Staff Sgt.

Kevin Ferrell, a flight medic with Co. C, 3rd Bn., 238th Aviation Regt.

"The aviation crew assisted them on how to set up landing zones, guide the helicopters in, and how to load patients, but the Iraqi's lead the training."

Maj. Dante Antonelli, commander of BTT Phoenix, praised the aviators for making the training a valuable experience.

"The MEDEVAC crew supported us completely, and together, we are committed to continuously trying to professionalize the force in Iraq," he said.

The 2nd and 3rd battalions were very pleased with the training. The best part of the MEDEVAC training, however, was the fact that Iraqi medics Salah and Ali, who recently graduated from the Ministry of Defense Medical Train-the-Trainer Course in Taji, Iraq, were training their own soldiers with minimal help from U.S. forces.



Photo by Capt. William Johnson
Salah, a senior Iraqi medic assigned to 2nd Commando Bn., 11th Bde., Iraqi DBE, trains his peers on aerial evacuation with U.S. advisors from 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div. at JSS Chilat, in northern Maysan Province, March 27.

For more from 4th BCT, visit
<http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>

Mudhif captures spirit of Iraqi culture

By Maj. Eric F. Russell,
TF 2-29 Pathfinder, 4th BCT, 1st Armd Div, and
C. Brandt Smith, Jr.,
Human Terrain Team 8

COB ADDER – Local architecture plays an important role in the culture of the marsh Arabs of southern Iraq, and no structure captures the lifestyle and traditions of the region more than the ‘mudhif.’

Now, with a little outside help, the traditional structures are making a comeback in modern construction.

First constructed in the marshes of what is now southern Iraq more than 5,000 years ago, the mudhif is a unique local meeting place constructed entirely of reeds, straw and other natural materials. Over time, the building process hasn’t changed greatly.

Lengths of reed about 10 meters long are bunched into columns, tied together, and then shaped into huge parabolic arches. Hand-woven mats are then tied over and between the columns, forming a roof. Finally, reed lattice panels are attached to the sides, allowing for both sunlight and airflow into the interior and enclosing the entire hut.

The design of the mudhif reflects local traditions. For instance, there are always an odd number of reed pillars in the mudhif, allowing the host of a meeting to sit along one side wall with an equal number of guests to his right and left. This ensures that the tribal sheikh remains at the center of decision-making when conducting business, and reinforces his position of prestige in the area.



Courtesy Photo

Local contractors construct the main reed arches of a marsh Arab mudhif. The house is a blend of adobe and reed building materials used frequently by marsh Arabs in southeast Iraq. Construction of the “model” adobe house was coordinated with TF Pathfinder and the Dhi Qar PRT.

Building on this traditional form of construction, U.S. Soldiers with Task Force Pathfinder recently embarked on a program to incorporate local building materials and techniques into present-day construction projects.

As part of a military-sponsored training program entitled “The Modernization of the Traditional Marsh Arab Mudhif,” local builders used readily available – and generally free – raw materials along with ancient building techniques to construct a model adobe house in Chubayish

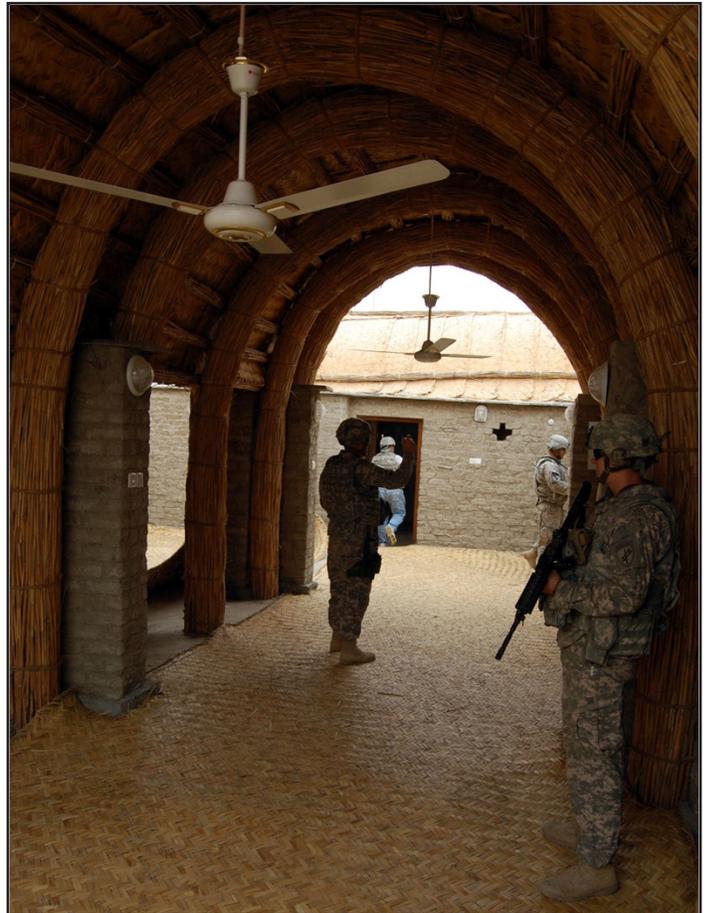


Photo by Spc. Aaron Brooks

Soldiers from TF Pathfinder’s Personal Security Detachment secure the Adobe House during the project’s final inspection March 1 in Chubayish. The house is a blend of adobe and reed building materials used frequently by marsh Arabs in southeast Iraq. Construction of the “model” adobe house was coordinated with TF Pathfinder and the Dhi Qar PRT.

City in southern Iraq.

The ancient and the modern meet in this single location—a marsh reed home outfitted with electricity, running water and conveniences that usher in an architectural concept found throughout the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division’s operating environment.

The objective of the project is to merge traditional building methods with modern materials in a way that could maximize the use of local construction materials. The use of inexpensive marsh reeds, whether as mats or support columns, a soil foundation, and modern adobe bricks, are the basic elements needed to build the houses, promoting sustainability and allowing locals to replicate the buildings without much expenditures on construction materials.

See MUDHIF, page 11

Event fosters military, media relationship

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Local media met with Brig. Gen. Randal A. Dragon, 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for support, at Contingency Operating Base Basra to discuss ways to bolster the relationship between the 1st Inf. Div., Iraqi Security Forces and the media, March 27.

Dragon emphasized his desire for a monthly meeting between the media and himself or Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general of maneuver. He promised at the next meeting to give an operational update.

“Any dialogue needs two people,” said Dragon, “It needs to be active and open.”

Also in attendance were the public affairs representatives from the Iraqi Army and the local Iraqi Police.

They answered questions from the Iraqi media regarding their ability to report on joint training between U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces.

After discussing the relationship in broad terms, Lt. Col. Matthew Hackathorn, 1st Inf. Div. public affairs officer, led a dialogue regarding the specific methods that both sides can reach out to the other.

During the meeting, the local media expressed some of their current concerns.

The media cited trouble accessing press releases from the 1st Inf. Div. in the current format and some said they did not receive them at all.

Others said the flow of information between the media and the 1st Inf. Div. is too slow.

In order to ensure information is accurate, press releases are translated from English to Arabic and then sent to be translated back into English, a sometimes lengthy process, Hackathorn said.

To counter this, he suggested developing a program by which Iraqi media could embed directly with units in the same way U.S. media has done. He also proposed a program of temporary on-post time to work closely with information sources.

Hackathorn also expressed his desire to distribute stock footage and news stories from the 1st Inf. Div. public affairs office to the local TV news stations.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for support, speaks to an audience of ISF personnel and local news media March 27, about ways to bolster the relationship Iraqi and U.S. forces have with local media during a media luncheon at COB Basra.

The Iraqi media commented on their responsibility to the public, which Dragon said he wanted to support.

“You tell the story as you want. We tell you the truth as we understand it,” Dragon

said, “In the end, it’s about informing people in the way that only you can.”

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
A member of the Basra media asks a question of Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, 1st Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for support, during a media luncheon at COB Basra about ways to bolster the relationship Iraqi and U.S. forces have with local media.

TROOPS IN FOCUS

Danger Forward

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Troops, civilians learn life-saving skills

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
17th FiB PAO

COB BASRA – A combat lifesaver course hosted by the 17th Fires Brigade medical staff on Contingency Operating Base Basra April 7, not only provided life-saving skills for Soldiers, but also Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

Staff Sgt. Jason Alexander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th FiB, medical health noncommissioned officer and combat lifesaver course training instructor, taught essential techniques that will enable each of the 17 students to perform life-saving first aid to any casualty on the battlefield.

“When you’re a casualty on the battlefield, six-to-eight minutes can feel like an eternity,” Alexander said. “That’s why it’s critical to have someone on the battlefield that’s knowledgeable on how to treat life-threatening injuries in a hurry.”

The training consisted of classroom sessions and hands-on exercises that covered several topics designed to enhance the student’s knowledge of what to expect when faced with an actual casualty.

“We teach the Soldiers the basics of



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Staff Sgt. Jason Alexander, HHB, 17th FiB, Combat Lifesaver course instructor, teaches the proper techniques during the hands on portion of the course held on COB Basra April 7.

providing care while taking fire, how to react under those conditions and how to call for additional medical assistance,” Alexander said.

The class featured spontaneous training scenarios that forced the Soldiers to adapt in order to react to adverse conditions.

“We would be working on whatever assignment they had for us and then all of a sudden you would hear someone yell ‘boom!’” said Spc. Jonathan Mercedes, a supply clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th FiB, and native of Bronx, N.Y.

“The instructor would create an incident and, we had to administer the correct care using what we had learned,” he said.

Alexander said that over the past few years the need for more combat lifesavers on convoys has increased due to the amount of violence U.S. forces face in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While on missions, Soldiers who are CLS certified should inform the convoy commander of their capabilities so that they are properly used if

an emergency arises.

Alexander summed-up the importance of Combat Lifesavers to the class.

“There is no piece of equipment in the Army’s inventory that is worth a Soldier’s life, so things you learn here will make you a tremendous asset and will also save your buddy’s life on the battlefield,” Alexander said.

For more from 17th FiB, visit <http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Spc. Jonathan Mercedes, HHB, 17th FiB, supply clerk, packs rolled gauze into an open wound to stop the bleeding on a training dummy during the Combat Lifesaver course held on COB Basra April 7.



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Staff Sgt. Patrick Reddickt (left), security commander for the Convoy Security Detachment, 308th BSB, applies the techniques he learned during the hands-on portion of the Combat Lifesaver course held on COB Basra, while Staff Sgt. Jason Alexander, HHB, 17th FiB, Combat Lifesaver course training instructor, supervises.

US Army Europe commander visits troops

By Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Inf Div, TF 12 PAO

COB ADDER – Soldiers of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, based out of Ansbach, Germany, received a visit from Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, at Contingency Operating Base Adder, April 10.

Ham's visit is one in a series of stops he has planned for visiting the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who fall under the USAREUR command chain. The visits allow the USAREUR Commander to inspect his troops and provide moral support from the chain of command in Europe.

Ham arrived in the 12th CAB area with the United States Division-South's commanding general, Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, and was welcomed into the 12th CAB headquarters by Col. Robert Doerer, the 12th CAB commander. Doerer, an Ansbach resident, said that the visit was beneficial to the CAB's troops, who are spread out over Iraq.

"Soldiers like it, and they like to hear general officers and command sergeants major speak, broadcast questions about the future and things like that," said Doerer.

At the brigade conference room, Ham received a briefing on 12th CAB's current operating status, plans and other information from the brigade.

Command Sgt. Major David Perkins, the 12th CAB command sergeant major and an Anderson, S.C. native, said the visit showed that Ham cares about the operations of Soldiers stationed in Iraq.

"It makes you feel good that senior leaders are still maintaining contact with all of their Soldiers," said Perkins. "Especially someone at his level who has thousands upon thousands of Soldiers scattered all over Europe and Southwest Asia, and he's tak-



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Gen. Carter Ham, left, commanding general of USAREUR, meets with Col. Robert Doerer, commander the Germany-based 12th CAB, before a situation briefing at the 12th CAB headquarters on COB Adder April 10. Ham's visit is one in a series he is making to check on USAREUR troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

ing time out of his schedule to make contact with them and seeing to their needs."

Ham then moved on to the maintenance area, taking a tour of the UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook repair hangers, taking time to speak with the Soldiers of the 12th CAB. There he passed out coins to Soldiers working on the helicopters used by the 12th. Doerer said that the visit is something new for the Soldiers.

"It's different from the day-in and day-out stuff and provides an opportunity to interact with leadership," he said.

For more from 12th CAB, visit www.davidshub.net/12thCAB



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of USAREUR, and Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of 1st Inf. Div. and USD-S, walk toward the 12th CAB headquarters on COB Adder April 10.



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of USAREUR, talks with Soldiers of the Germany-based 12th CAB at the West Fingers Maintenance Area on COB Adder April 10. Ham's visit let the Soldiers of the 12th CAB talk with the commander one-on-one.

USD-S well equipped for drawdown

By Master Sgt David Bennett
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The song “The Army Goes Rolling Along,” remains the same. Nowhere is that premise more evident than in Iraq, where major commands, including United States Division-South, are spearheading a massive effort to ship excess equipment out of theater.

An integral piece of the complex operation — the largest since the buildup to World War II — is transporting millions of tons of gear that comprised the U.S. forces’ logistical lifeline during the past seven years. Now, as the Sept. 1 deadline for the responsible drawdown of forces looms near, long convoys of vehicles, generators, radios and thousands of other pieces of equipment continues to depart Iraq.

Lt. Col. Seth Sherwood, chief of sustainment for 1st Infantry Division, which commands USD-S and its nine provinces in southern Iraq, said the effort over the last few months has been an exercise in preparation, coordination and execution — literally from the ground up.

A main consideration early on, he said, was identifying which combat and supporting units are scheduled to leave this year, and determining the logistical needs of those units coming to replace them. In fact, some will not be replaced. Plans are to reduce U.S. troop levels to 50,000 by the end of August, from about 96,000 currently.

This summer, the military footprint in Iraq will shrink by 20 percent, requiring less equipment to support the remaining force.

“The first challenge was identifying what was excess. What did units need to get rid of,” Sherwood said. “That took time, a lot of coordination with the units, going back and forth in deciding what equipment they were going to keep for their mission, and what the mission was going to look like Sept. 1.”

Almost daily, Sgt. Nicholas Satriano, a transportation operator with the 2nd Heavy Transportation Company, based in Fort Irwin, Calif., oversees uploads [equipment



Photo by Master Sgt. David Bennett

Convoys loaded with equipment sit on COB Basra. USD-S is coordinating the movement of excess equipment out of operating bases in southern Iraq as part of the responsible drawdown of forces in theater.

picked up at a specific site] and downloads [equipment that is dropped off].

Satriano’s unit works mainly with commercial transporters such as the Iraqi Transportation Network — a consortium of Iraqi trucking companies that move cargo across Iraq — that have been a critical part of convoy operations within theater. Comparably, the 2nd HET’s area of responsibility includes southern Iraq.

“It’s pretty steady for us,” Satriano said of the weekly treks to USD-S bases and beyond. “Our longest mission has been seven days and that was going to Al Asad.”

Al Asad Air Base is an airfield 100 miles west of Baghdad that once was used by Saddam Hussein’s military.

Once a Sunni insurgent stronghold, Al Asad is just one of several logistical points that the 2nd HET has supported while in Iraq.

Sherwood said the contractors, such as the Iraqi Transportation Network, are responsible for moving non-sensitive cargo. Typically, drivers move the cargo to such central points as Contingency Operating Base Adder near the city of Nasiriyah, where it is first downloaded, then uploaded onto vehicles to be moved via other

convoys to final receiving and shipping points, usually in Kuwait.

Sensitive items and equipment, those critical to U.S. forces’ operations, are transported by military vehicles and protected by combat escort teams.

Once in Kuwait, the equipment is processed and its final destination is determined based on the Army’s needs. Cargo can be shipped back to a unit’s home station, or can be redistributed to a deploying unit heading to Afghanistan. Afghanistan has been the receiver of approximately 40 percent of equipment shipped from USD-S thus far, Sherwood said.

Sherwood said the need to do more as early as possible has been a goal from the onset.

“As the drawdown goes on, there will be less and less transportation assets to pick this stuff up and move it out, so we want to get ahead of that,” said the San Diego, Calif. native. “Also, we want to get rid of this equipment before the Soldiers go away. And on top of that, we want to get rid of the equipment before it gets really hot.”

As a result, the retrograde numbers and

See **DRAWDOWN**, page 11

Base boasts 'hidden gem' in crew lounge

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
12th CAB, TF 12 PAO

COB ECHO – In locales around the world, people often have their special places and hidden gems they consider as “must-sees” whenever they pass through, and Iraq is no different.

With military bases throughout theater, such locations become well-known for different reasons.

Contingency Operating Base Echo is one of those bases, and if you ask any pilot, crewmember or even passenger of the aircraft that pass through daily, it is nearly unanimous why Echo has an excellent reputation among aviators and their customers for the extra effort they make to keep them comfortable.

Erin Wahl, from Killeen, Texas, the logistics coordinator for the KBR Air Operations Lounge at COB Echo, said that, as a growing number crew members come through for the lounge’s sandwich wraps, they leave behind comments about how they preferred to take their breaks at COB Echo because of the way they are treated.

“Most aircrews say this is their favorite place to stop and we try to have them do as little as possible when they come in,” Wahl said.

Wahl, known for her cheerful, welcoming attitude and her pink sweater, pink reflective vest or some form of pink worn at all times, said she runs the aircrew lounge with her supervisor, Sandra Edwards, a fellow Texan who calls Dallas home and works with two Soldiers in the next building over, Cpl. Danny Crenshaw, a La Grange, Ga., native with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion 15th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Carson, also HHC.

Crenshaw and Carson operate the Arrival Departure Aviation Control Group section that handles coordination for those coming and going by aircraft from COB Echo – sort of like a mini airport terminal. Crenshaw works days and Carson handles the night shift.

“We are kind of a team. She is a big help and we work together great,” Crenshaw said of the partnership they have with the KBR staff.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
One of the first signs passengers and crew see when they arrive at COB Echo is an arrow point to the Echo Air Operations Lounge, which is gaining popularity among the aviation crowd.

Refueling of aircraft takes approximately 20 minutes, as crews are required to shut down for cold fueling, she said. They see about five aircrews a day – approximately 40 per week – though recently there had been more because of the March 7 national elections.

Wahl said she consistently sees more and more crews come through, in no small part due to their breakfast, sandwich wraps, drinks and snacks, not to mention the comfortable environment of the lounge.

She and Edwards have also recently made good friends of the latest unit to rotate into COB Echo: Company A, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment.

“I’ve been here since December, which was good timing since the (new) units rotated in too. I took over for a guy who had been here for three or four years,” Wahl said. “We made space for 2-285th folks

for the duration of their assignment here.”

Wahl said she was impressed with Co. A since they made Echo their home.

“One day it is this, the next day it’s that, and they just roll with it. They are really flexible,” she said about their mission of transporting passengers and equipment around this part of United States Division-South.

Co. A was stationed at al-Kut but relocated a few months ago to COB Echo to continue its mission.

“I don’t see them as much now that they are here than when they were away, but we still get them extra wraps. The dining facility folks are really helpful with that,” she said. “Even if they don’t stop here, we still would bring them wraps, sandwiches and Gatorade.”

Whether it is crews from Co. A, the Big Red Express crews or Co. C, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment’s MEDEVAC Soldiers, the lounge takes care of them all, to include offering them use of their four black leather couches or the Armed Forces Network routed into their lounge.

Wrapping it up, Edwards said good service is all part of the job.

“We are glad we can assist,” he said. “Customer service is a high priority for KBR and for us. We want them to be comfortable.”

For more from 12th CAB, visit
www.dvidshub.net/12thCAB



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Cpl. Danny Crenshaw, a La Grange, Ga., native with HHC, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., who handles the passenger coordination at COB Echo, and Erin Wahl, a native of Killeen, Texas, manager of the KBR Echo Air Operations Lounge, stand by the location’s hospitable reputation.

DRAWDOWN, from page 9

tonnage that division logisticians monitor have steadily increased.

“When we first got here in January, we were moving out — total USD-S — 15 to 20 vehicles a month,” Sherwood said. “Now, we’re moving, on average, 250 vehicles per month. We’ve moved out a total of 2,500 containers. That’s a pretty Herculean effort. It’s like going from zero to 60.”

U.S. Army Maj. Joshua LaMotte, deputy chief of sustainment for USD-S, said while containers serve a simple purpose, managing their location and movement can be a complex process.

“To take logistics seriously, to move it, to aid the commander, to clean up what you have brought in is important,” said LaMotte, who is from Burnsville, Minn. “Logistics is tough. If it was easy, everyone would be doing it.”

To make their job easier, LaMotte’s staff relies on electronic tracking tools such as the Integrated Booking System/Container Management Module (IBS-CMM).

IBS-CMM allows logisticians to track containers on a digital database. Whenever containers are moved, logisticians can add or remove the identification numbers



U.S. Army photo

An overview of a staging yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, where equipment from Iraq, including USD-S, is being transported to be shipped to either the United States or Afghanistan.

of the containers at an identifiable physical location. This process, LaMotte said, is called in-gating and out-gating. At its best, IBS-CMM can provide real-time tracking of each container’s location and its time on the ground.

LaMotte said this a revolutionary time in Iraq following the country’s March 7 national elections. In a way, USD-S is

leaving its own distinctive mark— albeit one that grows smaller every day.

“It’s a proud moment in history. This is one of the biggest things we’ve undertaken,” LaMotte said. “I think back to something a football captain once quoted in a locker room speech that ‘success is a journey not a destination.’”

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

MUDHIF, from page 5

“This model Adobe House is an architectural example that can be easily replicated in the surrounding area. The province plans to use the modernized mudhif to house eco-tourists in the coming years as part of birding expeditions into the marshes,” explained Sgt. 1st. Class Darell Walker, project officer with Task Force



Courtesy Photo

A local contractor weaves reeds into a fence to provide privacy for the modernized marsh Arab mudhif.

Pathfinder.

“The concept and design of the house are intended to showcase the cultural significance of the mudhifs and reed huts that have been used in the area since recorded history, bearing in mind the climate of the area,” explained Maj. Eric Russell, an Army engineer and operations officer for Task Force Pathfinder. “Each of the houses has a modern service module that includes a bathroom and a kitchen.”

There is a tremendous need for housing projects in the Marshlands to accommodate returning refugees as well as the growing population of villages and cities in and around the marshes.

As with all traditional societies, Iraq continues to experience change. The land and the people are resilient and welcome many of these changes.

A new government system is in place with the tender shoots of democracy beginning to emerge from this desert-dwelling nation. Like the ‘mudhif,’ an ancient structure rebuilt to reflect modernization,

the people of Iraq are embracing a new time and place in the world.

For more from 4th BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>

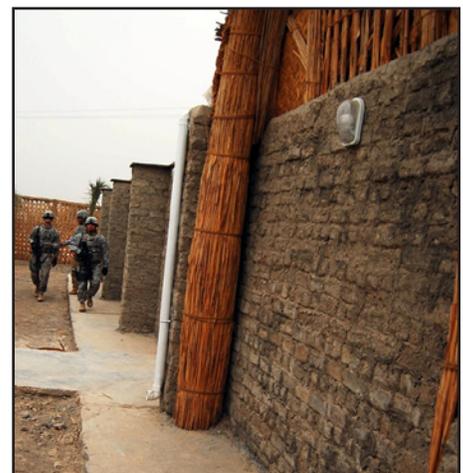


Photo by Spc. Aaron Brooks

TF Pathfinder Soldiers inspect the structure of the Adobe House in Chabayish March 1. Construction of the “model” adobe house was coordinated with 2nd Bn., 29th FAR, TF Pathfinder, and the Dhi Qar PRT.

AIR FORCE, from page 1

ron commander. I personally believe the success of the squadron is squarely on his shoulders," said Hamilton, "He has every right to take pride and ownership."

In January of this year, Col. Nazih al-Fahaed assumed command of 70th Squadron, at COB Basra.

Fahaed, like the first Iraqi Airmen, studied aviation in Europe. He attended flight school in France from 1985 to 1989, where he learned to speak French. He said he is proud of the achievements of the Iraqi Air Force.

Even with the long history of accomplishment, history is still in the making, said Fahaed.

Future goals for the 70th Squadron include maintaining their capabilities through training to ensure they are successful in providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. But, they also want to make improvements.

"It's good to acknowledge the accomplishments of our Air Force but we still need to develop our capabilities," Fahaed said. "It is very important to have good airplanes."

Both Fahaed and Saeed agreed on the importance of better equipment.

The nature of warfare in modern times – often called "asymmetric" or "unconventional" warfare – has made a strong, capable Air Force in Iraq essential, as it requires pilots to be precise and respond quickly, Fahaed said.

The Iraqi Air Force hopes to purchase F-16 Fighting Falcons by 2013, according to Fahaed.

Hamilton anticipates Iraqi leaders will face problems familiar to U.S. Air Force leaders, only on a smaller scale.

"They're dealing with a lot of the same issues – procurement challenges, training challenges," he said. "I think getting fresh blood – young officers and pilots who are really going to be the future of the Iraqi Air Force – that development now is some of the most important things that they can do."

There is also future groundwork being laid for dealing with logistical issues as the Air Force grows.

Talks about the possible relocation of the 70th Squadron from Basra Air Base to Ali Air Base, also known as COB Adder,

have been discussed, though nothing has been decided yet, according to Saeed.

"Ali Base has always been a really important base for the Iraqi Air Force," said Hamilton. "When you look at its proximity on the map, it's pretty important to the southern half of the country. I think they want to reclaim that with the idea that, in the future, they'll have an infrastructure and an ability to grow that base."

Deciding how best to position its assets has also been a point of discussion, Hamilton said.

"There are many different views as to how those aircraft should be employed or what strategies the air force should be pursuing and why – whether it's for sovereignty, or border patrol, whether it's for oil pipeline surveys and things like that," he said.

Recently a new air traffic control tower was built at Ali Air Base, in addition to many renovations to airfield pavement improvements and new lighting.

Ali Air Base is near the city of Nasiriyah and operates near the Great Ziggurat of Ur, a massive historical site uncovered in the 1920s.

The greatest accomplishments of all have been those made while rebuilding the Iraqi Air Force, said Hamilton.

"It is a testament to their professionalism that they have a sense of national identity, as Airmen and as Iraqis, to be an active professional participant in the rebuilding of their Air Force," he said.

Hamilton also said that he is intrigued by the unique relationship between U.S. and Iraqi military partners.

"There are a lot of fascinating personal stories of Iraqi Airmen who fought against us in some way, shape, or form, and participated in the past conflicts that litter our history here in Iraq," he said.

"I can tell you that when I go over and talk with 70th Squadron, at the end of the day, they're a lot more like me, and vice versa, than we might sometimes think," Hamilton said.

"These are guys who are fighter pilots who love flying," he said. "It's their life's calling. It's what they've done, what they'll continue to do until, like most U.S. Airmen, they get dragged kicking and screaming out of the cockpit."

After the founding of the Royal Iraqi

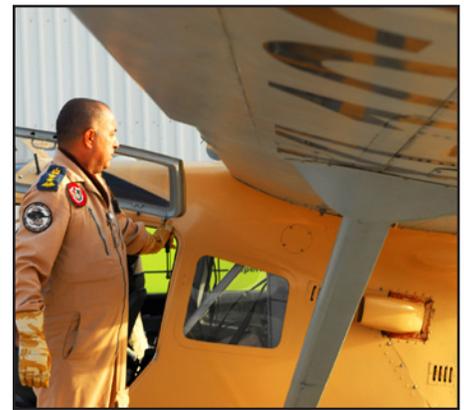


Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

A pilot with the Iraqi Air Force 70th Squadron conducts preflight checks on a Seabird Seeker surveillance plane.

Air Force in 1931 – known only as the Iraqi Air Force after the July 14th Revolutions in 1958 – it grew to become one of the largest in the region. It played an important role in the Iraqi reclamation of the al-Faw peninsula during the Iran-Iraq War.

During the Persian Gulf War, the Iraqi Air Force sustained heavy losses. Later, as a result of the U.S. led invasion of Iraq in 2003, many aircraft were dismantled or buried in the desert.

Now, since, the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime, efforts to rebuild the force have been underway.

On March 4, 2007, a wounded Iraqi policeman was taken from the 28th Combat Support Hospital to Baghdad on the first medical evacuation by the Iraqi Air Force.

In 2008, during Operation Charge of the Knights, the Iraqi Air Force provided many hours of intelligence in over 100 missions supporting the Iraqi Army as they attempted to drive the Mahdi army out of Basra city.

The many achievements of the developing Iraqi Air Force have created a safer environment for citizens to live out their lives, Fahaed said.

"In Baghdad you can stand outside and stay out all night," he said. "Today, in 2010, things are much better. I think our future will be better. I feel optimistic that we will become strong again, God willing."

**For more from USD-S PAO,
visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision**

New Yorkers clucking about hens

BY ERICA PEARSON
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK - City chicken raisers, unite!

As a growing number of New Yorkers raise hens in backyards or community garden coops, chicken enthusiasts are flocking together online.

More than 280 chicken fans are part of a City Chicken Meetup NYC group - pecking away at issues like urban coop design and handling fuzzy chicks who grow into noisy (and illegal) roosters.

The fine-feathered friends also meet in person to take workshops on hen-raising and bike tours of chicken hotspots like the South Bronx.

"It's almost like talking about your kids," said Debbie Anderson, 54, a member of the Meetup group who helps run a Brooklyn coop. Anderson said it's nice to be around people who like chicken talk as much as she does.

"It's a growing movement, especially for backyards," said Debbie's husband, Greg Anderson, 48, one of the group's organizers.

Some communities - like Highbridge in the Bronx, where a wild flock was recently rounded up and sent to an upstate

sanctuary - have been home to chickens for decades.

In Crown Heights, where the Andersons run a coop inside the Walt Shemal Community Garden, the six hens get plenty of clucking from passersby.

"Hey ladies. Hey ladies," called Greg Anderson, opening the coop door and gently greeting his flock on a recent Saturday. "That's my girl," he said, scooping up his huge hen, Big Red, and stroking her feathers.

The Andersons and other plucky members of the community garden's "chicken committee" take turns caring for the hens - and sharing in the eggs.

Owen Taylor, the director of Just Food NYC's city chicken program, started the Meetup group last year when he couldn't keep up with the intense demand for hen advice. The questions are still coming.

Cobble Hill chicken raiser Martha Lazar, a photographer, turned to the group's message boards when one of her three backyard hens got an egg stuck inside her.

"The chicken social networking helped me find a vet that would see her," said Lazar, 42. Three hundred dollars later, the hen's okay.

Declan Walsh, who helps run the group,



Theodorakis, NY Daily News

Greg Anderson keeps an eye on the pecking order in chicken coop at his Crown Heights home.

is something of a Brooklyn chicken pioneer, raising hens in Red Hook for more than six years. Still, he turned to the site's message boards when he started having raccoon trouble.

Walsh also teaches others that raising chickens is pretty easy to do, even in New York City.

"You don't need a masters in chicken-
dom," he chuckled.

Bronx, N.Y. is the hometown of Spc. Jonathan Mercedes, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th FiB, featured on p. 7

School district in Temple revives paddling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPLE — One school district in central Texas has brought back the paddle as a way to restore respect and discipline in the classroom.

Although most American school districts have banned corporal punishment, Texas doesn't seem to believe in sparing the rod. Of the estimated 225,000 students spanked in schools in 2006, the latest available figures, nearly one-fourth were from Texas.

But Temple is unusual in that after banning the practice, the school district re-

vived it last May at the request of parents who were nostalgic for the orderly schools of yesteryear. Without it, there weren't any consequences for students, according to Steve Wright, Temple's school board president.

Although only one student has been paddled in the past year, officials say the change in student behavior in Temple's 14 public schools has been dramatic and they note fewer discipline problems.

Many of the parents who pushed for the change paddle their children at home and wanted consistent discipline in the class-

room, said John Hancock, Temple's assistant superintendent of administration.

"We're rural central Texas," Hancock said. "We're very well educated, but still there are those core values. Churches are full on Sundays. This is a tool we'd like in the toolbox for responding to discipline issues."

Corporal punishment is legal in 20 states, but its use is diminishing.

Houston, Tex. is the hometown of Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Moore, BTT Phoenix medic, featured on p. 4

AROUND THE COB

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant

Sundays

Contemporary Worship

1000

General Protestant

1130

Gospel Worship

1400

Liturgical Protestant

1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

0830

Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

Mon-Fri Mass

1130

Jewish

Friday

1800

LDS

(COB Basra House of Prayer)

Sundays
1400 - 1500

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John

(RIVRON MWR - Camp Alpha)

Wednesdays

1800

New Believers

(COB Basra Chapel)

Thursdays

2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Mondays

1900

The Truth Project

(308th MWR tent)

Wednesdays

1900

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)

Thursday

2000

Wild at Heart

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)

Fridays

1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events Coming up

1st ID Band

Every Saturday
1900 at Echoes

Salsa - Lessons and Practice

(Sand Pit)
Every Wednesday
2030-2230

(Echoes)

Every Friday
2030-2400

5K Run for Sexual Assault Awareness

April 23

Basketball Tournament

(USO Courts)

April 15

1700-2200

April 18

1400-1900

Hooters Tour

(MWR Stage)

Tue, April 20

1900

- Featuring band Brokendon Cadillac and comedian Amy Lauer

Rick Trevino

(MWR Stage)

Wed, April 28

Strong Man Competition

USO Gym

April 25

1300

Times & programs

Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes

(Fire Station 1, across from D-Main)

Wednesday @ 1000

- All unit Fire Warders are required to submit the USF-I Task Force Safe Fire Safety Checklist to the fire chief monthly. This form can be taken to either fire station or emailed to Mike White, mwhite@sallyport-global.com. For an electronic copy, email Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher exchange and re-service program: Expelled or unserviceable extinguishers can be brought to either fire station for exchange or reservice. We also have a limited number of extinguishers to hand out.

A look around USD-S

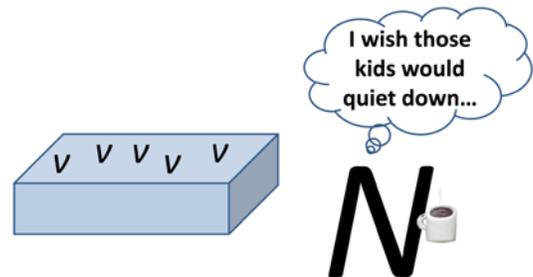


photo by Sgt. Cody Harding, 1st Inf Div, TF 12 PAO

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, presents a coin to 1st Lt. Bradley Glosser, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, for his recitation of an Arabic translation of the 1st Inf. Div. Motto April 10, at Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.

Solution for last week: Pices

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

March Madness on the COB

March 27 - April 20, every Wednesday and Saturday at the main gym courts

- 18 teams
- Battle to elimination
- Prizes provided by Harley Davidson and other businesses on COB Basra.

"Hopefully, we give the Soldiers something to do and a memorable event."

- Master Sgt. Darwin Nealy
senior medic, 1314th CA Co.
and tournament organizer.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_medium_031_solution.html