DANGER FORWARD

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Iraqi logistics unit completes urban exercise

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

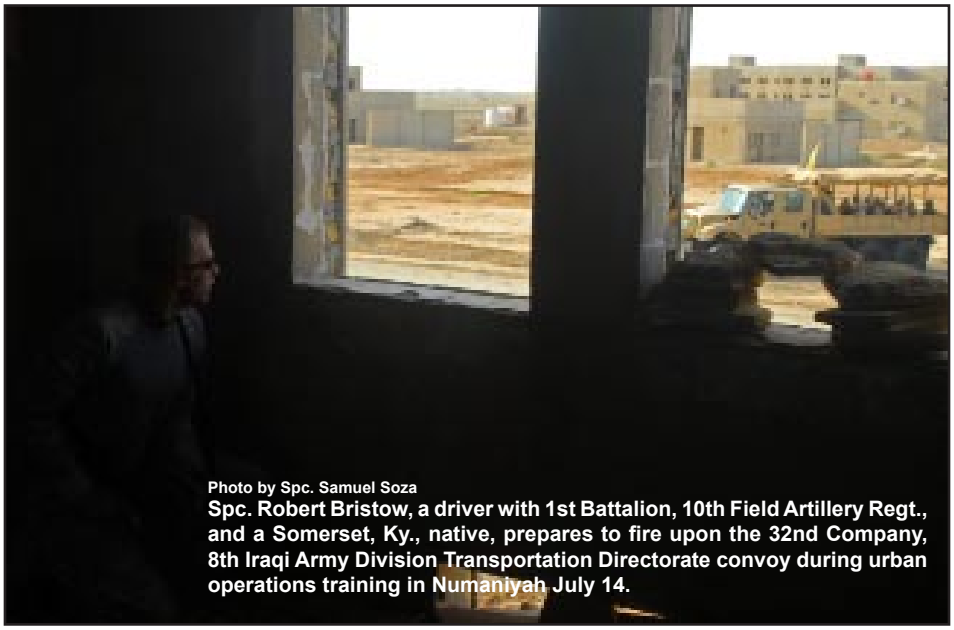

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza
Spc. Robert Bristow, a driver with 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regt., and a Somerset, Ky., native, prepares to fire upon the 32nd Company, 8th Iraqi Army Division Transportation Directorate convoy during urban operations training in Numaniyah July 14.

NUMANIYAH – A team of Soldiers from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division met with the 32nd Company, 8th Iraqi Army Division Transportation Directorate in Numaniyah July 14 to conduct a capstone situational training exercise (STX).

The STX focused on convoy operations and was the culmination of more than nine months of training between U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces that began with basic vehicle maintenance, first aid, and more advanced lessons in reacting to small arms fire and improvised explosive devices.

The 32nd Co. convoy rolled through expansive urban training grounds on the Numaniyah training base in northwestern Wasit Province and passed through five scenarios.

"We try to make it as realistic as possible," said Capt. Matthew Parker, executive officer for Company G, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

"The most likely events that they will see out on real-world missions is IEDs, small arms fire, and possibly a broken down vehicle that they have to recover," the Concord, N.C., native said.

In the first scenario, the convoy approached a 155 millimeter artillery shell with wires running far off the road. The convoy called it up to the fictional explosive ordinance disposal team.

Next, the Iraqi soldiers were halted by a roadblock; as they turned around, soldiers acting as hostile forces fired down from the encompassing three story buildings of the training site.

After reacting to small arms fire, the convoy moved on to the third and fourth lanes, which exposed the convoy to another form of IED known as an explosively formed projectile as well as a vehicle-borne IED scenario.

In the latter, the convoy halted for the vehicle that was driving erratically, but the real lesson was in the secondary explosive planted where the convoy was expected to halt.

Finally, 32nd Co. rolled through a rubble-filled lane where Sgt. Joshua Atkins, a medic with 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artil-

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Training to save lives, p. 5

SAMC board at Kalsu, p. 8

3-3 HBCT throw-down, p.9

Danger Seven sends

On July 26, 1948, President Truman issued a directive for equal opportunity and treatment in the armed forces. This laid the framework for today's equal opportunity programs that promote healthy work environments, maximize the efficiency of today's Army, and recognize the proud heritages of all our troops through ethnic observances. Victims of assault or discrimination also have another confidential outlet to seek help thanks to this program.

As the premiere fighting force of one of the most diverse nations on the planet, the U.S. Army needs equal opportunity now more than ever. Our organization welcomes people regardless of their creed, color or gender, and those are the people that we defend. Equal opportunity advisors deserve a tip of the cap from all service members for the great work they do to ensure our "melting pot" of Soldiers is afforded the same opportunities to develop and achieve their life goals in our military.

The Soldiers of United States Division-South have my respect for creating positive environments where they can work with one another toward the common goal of establishing lasting democracy here in Iraq, but this is an ongoing process. It is the responsibility of each and every Soldier to keep this up. After all, respect is one of the Army Values, and equal opportunity goes hand-in-hand with living up to that value. That makes EO our collective duty, another Army Value.

Leaders, enforce the standards. Communicate with your Soldiers both ways by listening to them if they have a complaint and asking them if there is anything you can do to create a more cohesive work environment. Sometimes younger troops may feel intimidated to bring any concerns to the forefront, and even more senior Soldiers may not want to be perceived as "whiners" for bringing anything up. By opening the floor for discussion, you may get more feedback than waiting for input, making it easier to solve problems and allowing your troops to focus on the task at hand.

With a high-pace operational tempo and a rigorous deployment cycle, today's Soldiers are shouldering a heavy enough burden without having to deal with the distractions of offensive conduct. I applaud our Soldiers' and Department of the Army civilians' efforts, but it's a constant fight. If you see an issue, take care of it immediately, and encourage your Soldiers to do the same.

Now get after it.

Jim Champagne
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army

Commanding General
Major General
Vincent K. Brooks

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DANGER FORWARD

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Supplementing Safely

Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

Everyone wants to look good, but what price are you willing to pay for more reps, a higher max on your bench, or six-pack abs? In an effort to boost workouts or improve their appearance, some Soldiers are turning to supplements and other performance enhancers. Unfortunately, a lot of these products on the market can be harmful, even deadly. What you don't know can, in fact, hurt you.

You might be surprised at the number of empty cans of supplements found in our Soldiers' trash cans or outdoor recreation areas. Some of these products might guarantee big gains in your weightlifting routine while others lure consumers with the promise of quick weight loss or increased energy. Truth be told, many of these "miracle cures" offer nothing but empty promises and a possible trip to the emergency room.

Generally, manufacturers don't need to register their products with the Food and Drug Administration or get the FDA's approval to produce or sell supplements. They must, however, ensure the product label information is truthful. While this looks good on paper, some advertisements and word-of-mouth can be misleading.

Some dietary supplements marketed for performance enhancement and weight loss can be harmful when ingredients are combined. Some particularly risky combinations include mixing products containing caffeine with those containing ephedra or ephedrine-like substances and aspirin. A number of new "energy" drinks also have potentially harmful substances when used in excess or as the only source of nutrition.

Possible side effects from such combinations include high blood pressure and abnormal heart rhythms. Mixing these substances may also put you at greater risk of becoming a heat casualty. Caffeine-containing substances include guarana, coffee, cocoa, green tea, black tea, oolong tea, cola nut and mate. Ephedrine-like substances include many cold remedies (pseudoephedrine), bitter orange/citrus aurantium (synephrine), country mallow, heartleaf and ma huang. Despite the fact that ephedrine supplements have been banned for sale in the United States, these products are still available internationally and can be purchased illegally in the U.S.

Reading the labels of all purchased dietary supplements and cold remedies is critical. Soldiers should avoid products that contain significant amounts of caffeine in combination with herbal mixtures. Soldiers also should consider the caffeine content of any foods and beverages they consume in addition to any supplements.

Officials recommend avoiding dietary supplements and other self-care products containing combinations of ephedrine-like compounds, caffeine-containing substances, and aspirin. Soldiers should inform their healthcare provider of dietary supplements they are using. Individuals taking these substances should drink extra water, and leaders need to be aware of what Soldiers are putting into their bodies by staying engaged in all aspects of their on and off-duty activities. Staying engaged and keeping Soldiers healthy helps keep our Army strong.

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

On July 27, 1944, The 1st Infantry Division takes part in Operation Cobra, an offensive to take advantage of the German preoccupation with British and Canadian activity around the town of Caen and punch through the German defenses in France. Due to German fighting on other fronts, the Fighting First easily broke through and destroyed most of the organized defenses.

This week in OIF history

On July 29, 2008, 50,000 Iraqi soldiers and police, supported by U.S. troops, launch Operation Augurs of Prosperity in Diyala province, northeast of Baghdad. Iraqi forces faced little resistance; insurgents were believed to have fled the area before the offensive.

This week in 4th Infantry Division history

On July 31, 1919, the 4th Infantry Division ended their occupation duties near the Rhine in Germany and sailed back to the United States from France.

Children attend IP graduation

Pfc. Khori Johnson
3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

NASIRIYAH – Recently, an Iraqi Police graduation ceremony transformed into an occasion more reminiscent of a childhood birthday party, complete with cake, toys and a piñata.

More than 30 children attended an IP criminal investigation course graduation ceremony as the guests of honor at the Mittica Training Center in Nasiriyah July 8.

"We want to get the communities involved and the families involved because that helps you with investigations, and that helps you with being a better police officer," said Steve Burton, a mentor, trainer and advisor with the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team. "A lot of these children are not the Iraqi police officers' children. They are children from their neighborhoods."

"This is the next generation."

~ Steve Burton
CPATT

The impromptu party, organized by the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, CPATT, and the U.S. Army, began almost immediately after the graduation ceremony.

The children quickly overlooked the lunch buffet intended to honor the new graduates and made straight for the dessert. The cake, bearing the U.S. Army seal, generated an excitement that could only be properly expressed through their frosting-covered smiles.

"I am very happy to be here. Everything was so nice," said Al Hassan, a 13-year-old who was there with his uncle, an interpreter for the police. After filling up on cake and other treats, the children received a variety of toys like soccer balls, which inspired a lively debate concerning the future winner of the World Cup.

The children also took turns swinging at a piñata until the final whack scattered candy across the floor, sending children scrambling for it.

As he watched the children, Burton said interactions such as these play an important role in maintaining relationships between the IP, the PRT, the CPATT, and U.S. forces, especially with the kids.

"Look at the way the children act around American Soldiers. You can tell that they are not afraid of them," he said. "This means that when these children are at home, their parents are talking [positively] about us. This will greatly enhance the future, because when these children grow up, they will remember this, and they will be the adults that we will deal with in the future. This is the next generation."

For more from 3rd BCT, visit www.facebook.com/3bct4id

Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson

A young girl from Nasiriyah is interviewed by local media after an Iraqi Police criminal investigation course graduation at the Mittica Training Center July 8.

Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson

Two siblings from Nasiriyah pose for a picture after an Iraqi Police criminal investigation course graduation at the Mittica Training Center July 8. The children were the guests of honor during the event.

IP learn new ways to save lives

By Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COS KALSU – Iraqi police officers from Babil Province recently had the opportunity to learn life-saving skills from U.S. military police at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu.

The four-day course, which began July 18, was presented by the 253rd MP Company, an Army National Guard unit out of Lenoir City, Tenn., attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

The course, which is conducted regularly by the 253rd MP Co., adapts life-saving techniques that are taught to U.S. Soldiers to suit the needs and equipment of Iraqi forces.

Staff Sgt. Rick Mackneer, the course instructor and medical noncommissioned officer in charge for the 253rd MP Co., is an experienced trainer in the Army's Combat Life-Saver course.

"Back in the states, before I volunteered to come with these guys, I was on long-term ADSW [active duty for special work], teaching CLS to deploying Soldiers," the Newburgh, N.C., native said.

Though the objectives of the courses are the same, Mackneer had to make some adjustments when teaching the IPs tasks such as how to apply a tourniquet or clear an airway.

Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey

Staff Sgt. Rick Mackneer, the Combat Life-saver course instructor and medical noncommissioned officer in charge for the 253rd MP Co., instructs Iraqi Police officers from the Babil Province on how to apply a tourniquet July 19 with the help of his demonstrator, Pfc. Kevin Marlin, also assigned to the 253rd MP Co.

Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey

Sgt. Aqael Hadi Kianbr, a police officer from Babil Province, Iraq, practices applying a tourniquet July 19 during the second day of medical classes taught to local Iraqi Police at COS Kalsu by the 253rd MP Co. out of Lenoir City, Tenn.

"Some things are the same, but it is a little different because of the supplies that the Iraqis have versus the supplies that we have," he said. "The class was built based on the supplies that they should have."

The course is broken up into periods of learning and practice, Mackneer said, with the last day consisting of an exercise that simulates real-world situations, requiring the IPs to use their skills "under fire."

"Usually we have three days worth of PowerPoint (slides) they have to go through," he said. "During that, they'll do some hands-on and I'll teach them several things. Then, on the fourth day, we have a cumulative lanes training, and that way they can put everything that they've learned into actual, practical use."

The IPs have done well in the hands-on exercises and are constantly asking questions, Mackneer said, demonstrating a genuine interest in the material.

"It's great; it's wonderful," he said. "They're tracking on everything I say. I go back and ask them questions, and I can tell they're retaining it."

Sgt. Mohammed Adnan Azeaz, a police officer from the city of Babil, said some of the material was completely new to him and felt even those outside the police could benefit from this kind of training.

"This class is not only useful to us, but to everybody, even regular citizens," he said. "You can see that it's useful, even generally, such as with civilians if there is an accident."

Azeaz said he intends to share what he has learned with other officers.

"Anything that I learn, I teach it to my friends, to those under me," he said.

Sgt. Aqael Hadi Kianbr, a police officer from Babil Province, agreed that the things taught in the class, such as clearing an obstructed airway and controlling bleeding with pressure or tourniquets, are things he will want to teach others.

Kianbr said he feels confident that he has learned the techniques well enough to be capable of passing on the knowledge.

Even the most basic life-saving techniques can make a tremendous difference in the first few minutes after an injury. Preventing someone from bleeding out or going into shock from loss of blood can be accomplished with materials on-hand, meaning the difference between life and death.

"We are, as policemen, exposed to dangers such as vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices," Kianbr said through a translator. "The most important thing in that situation is stopping bleeding."

Kianbr said some of the information in regard to tourniquets covered in the class was completely new to him, and that he had never received instruction on how to open the airway of a person who might have a neck injury without making the injury worse.

Overall, Kianbr said he was grateful for the opportunities the training offered, for his own education and the possibility of passing the information on to others.

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Assassin Troopers orient on their objective

By Sgt. David Dyer
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

COL SHOCKER – Soldiers from Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have it all mapped out when it comes to performing the advise and assist mission.

On a visit to Al-Taan on the Iraq-Iran border July 13, the Assassin Troopers trained their Iraqi partners on the finer points of map-reading.

"We are moving forward with a training program that will assist them in improving current skill levels and developing new skill sets," said 1st Lt. Frederick Do, a West Covina, Calif., native.

Sgt. Shawn McClellon of Lorain, Ohio, led the map-reading class with the assistance of an interpreter. Most of the students were junior officers or noncommissioned officers from several of the outlying posts and border forts who will pass on the knowledge gained to their subordinates.

"The skills we pass along today will lay the foundation for future and more advanced training later," McClellon said. "Every piece of information or new skill that we can pass along only helps to improve the security and stability in this region."

Photo by Sgt. David Dyer

Pfc. Gerald Guarrino of Troop A, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. and an Iraqi DBE agent scan the Iranian border from a rooftop while conducting training on the proper use of the LRAS3 July 13.

A pair of enlisted cavalrymen shared new skills with their counterparts on the roof of the fort. The troopers had set up a Long-Range Advance Scout Surveillance System and were helping the DBE agents learn its uses.

The LRAS3 enables Army scouts to conduct 24-hour reconnaissance and surveillance missions, remaining outside threat acquisition and engagement ranges.

"The device is extremely useful in helping them (DBE) with their mission of interdicting smuggling operations along the border" said Spc. Nicholas Leuthauser from Brighton, Colo.

Leuthauser spoke on how smuggling operations are counter to the stability and sovereignty of Iraq.

"If we can assist the DBE in stopping just one (smuggler), it helps," he said.

It was well into the night before the training was over and the cavalrymen of Assassin Troop loaded their vehicles and prepared for the trip back to COL Shocker. The Soldiers and their DBE partners looked forward to the next visit with a desire to build upon the relationship of training and trust in the future.

Photo by Sgt. David Dyer

First Lt. Frederick Do of West Covina, Calif. (front center), and Sgt. Shawn McClellon of Lorain, Ohio (far right), pose for a photo with members of the Iraqi DBE who participated in the joint map reading training at Al-Taan July 13. Do and McClellon are members of Troop A, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit http://www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

Soldiers not sheepish about micro-grant program

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

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Sheep stand under the shade of their pen at a farm in the small village of um-H'lail. Soldiers with the 1st Bn., 10th FA Regt. and the Wasit PRT conducted an inspection of the farm July 17.

UM-H'LAIL – Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment and the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team conducted a follow-up inspection of sheep and turkeys bought with a micro-grant at a farm in Um-h'lail July 17.

The inspection was an effort to assess the effectiveness of the micro-grant program in the area and gather information for future projects.

"It's to help the poor villagers who don't have as much in this area and are having a hard time finding work; so we subsidize their economy," said 2nd Lt. Joseph Bush, a civil affairs officer with Battery A, 1st Bn., 10th FA Regt. "By giving them sheep and turkey, we give them a way to create their own business so they can become a self-sufficient village."

The Soldiers began the inspection by meeting with the farm owner and local sheik, Abu Ali. They discussed the well-being of the animals in the months since they were purchased, challenges to raising them, and future projects for the village.

"With Sheik Abu Ali, what's going on next is working on funding for a water purification plant. Today, we got some of the information we needed on that," said Cpl. David Bobian, a psychological operations specialist with the 341st Tactical Psychological Operations Company. "The owner actually happened to be his brother, so that worked out good."

Another project focuses on the electricity for the villagers.

"They also have a problem with power; they only have power two hours a day," said Bobian, a Houston native. "We're working on getting an emergency generator which can provide 10 to 12 hours of electricity."

During the inspection, Soldiers also passed out backpacks and toys to children as well as several boxes of rice, which is much needed in the area, Bobian said.

"It's good to just be out there to help the kids the way we can because these guys are poorer than poor," he said. "It's good to give them what we got."

The inspection yielded mixed results as the turkeys, a cheap animal that was a recent venture for the program, were not faring well in the Iraqi summer heat while the sheep were thriving, Bush said.

"These people know how to farm sheep," Bush said.

In the past year, the Wasit PRT has dispersed approximately $17 million in micro-grant funds.

The inspection mission was two-fold: it aimed to build a good rapport with the locals and provide them with tip-line phone numbers that might yield intelligence on foreigners coming into the community or weapon caches.

"By helping these people out, we are helping ourselves out, and we are able to increase businesses in Iraq," said Bush.

The micro-grants are not a cure-all but aim instead toward stimulating the local economy to promote self-sufficiency; so far, it seems to be working, Bush said.

"What we can do is try to help them in the areas we can," he said. "We've definitely given these people an upper hand."

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Sheik Abu Ali, owner of a small farm in um-H'lail, talks to 2nd Lt. Joseph Bush, a civil affairs officer with Battery A, 1st Bn., 10th FA Regt., during an inspection July 17.

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Carrying on the legacy of Audie Murphy

By Pfc. Erik Anderson
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

COS KALSU – The original Sergeant Audie Murphy Club began at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986. The group recognizes non-commissioned officers who have displayed the integrity, professionalism and commitment exemplified by Audie L. Murphy. In 1994, the SAMC spread throughout the Army, with individual commands performing the selection process for their own NCOs.

Ten Soldiers deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division met at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu July 8 to vie for membership in the club.

The morning started out with a physical fitness test, followed by a land navigation course spanning across COS Kalsu that had the SAMC hopefuls performing common team leader tasks and firing their weapons.

For the potential members, the day marked an end to their rigorous preparation.

"I had 16 days to get things in order, and luckily, most of my Soldier's information was updated so I had just a few things to fix," said Staff Sgt. Nhiem Chau, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd HBCT. "I spent most of my time studying different regulations that most NCOs neglect or did not pay much attention to."

Chau and the other competitors were sponsored by senior leaders in their quest for membership.

"First Sergeant (Jerimiah) Gan, Sgt. 1st Class (Matthew) Delisle, and myself conducted mock boards every day leading up to the actual date of the board," said Sgt. 1st Class Oracio Pena, Jr., 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt. "We quizzed all nine individuals (from the battalion) on situational questions and questions referring to Audie Murphy and his life to ensure they knew every bit of information about Audie Murphy."

For current members like Pena, membership is more than a medal to be worn around the neck

"Being a member of one of the most prestigious clubs is an honor," Pena said. "It means that people expect more of me, and I am always up for the challenge no matter what."

Each candidate faced a board comprised of senior NCOs asking situational questions as the final part of the selection process.

"To be honest, the entire board was intimidating but not difficult," Chau said. "The questions that were asked are based on experience as a leader and how you would respond to different situations."

Photo by Pfc. Erik Anderson
Staff Sgt. Nhiem Chau, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., is congratulated by Sgt. Maj. Rick Hairston, operations sergeant major for 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., after being named to the SAMC July 8 at COS Kalsu.

When the dust had settled and the questions were answered, three staff sergeants from 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., Audie Murphy's former unit, were inducted.

"The benefit of knowing that when a VIP comes into a military post, and they ask for an escort, they look to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club to provide a member due to the professionalism that comes from the club," Pena said. "It is a great honor and a privilege to be a member."

Chau, one of the newest Sergeant Audie Murphy Club members, wasn't sure he was up for the challenges of the board.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Moore, my battalion sergeant major, was the one that put me up to it, and I am glad that he did," Chau said. "He somehow knew that I would do well and instilled the confidence in me."

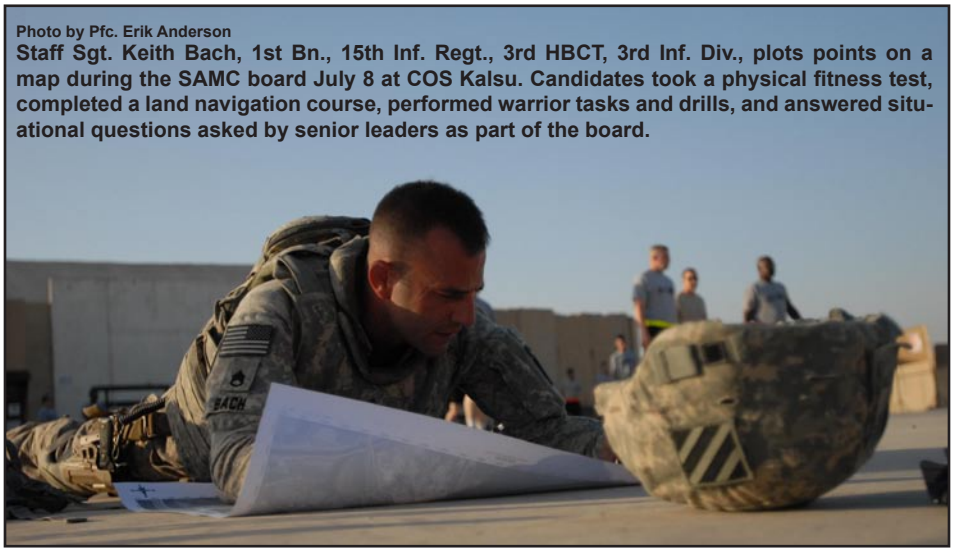

Photo by Pfc. Erik Anderson
Staff Sgt. Keith Bach, 1st Bn., 15th Inf. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., plots points on a map during the SAMC board July 8 at COS Kalsu. Candidates took a physical fitness test, completed a land navigation course, performed warrior tasks and drills, and answered situational questions asked by senior leaders as part of the board.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

Sledgehammers fight to represent brigade

By Pfc. Erik Anderson
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

COS KALSU – The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division held a brigade-wide combatives tournament at COS Kalsu that ended July 10.

Fighters representing each of the brigade's five battalions came together for two days of competition to determine who would go on to represent the "Sledgehammers" in the All-Army Combatives Tournament later this year.

"It's unreal to me," said Spc. Sarah Lanphear, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd HBCT. "I just started combatives in March. It really means a lot that I have achieved so much in such a short time."

Winners of the tournament earned a plaque and a coin from brigade commander, Col. Peter Jones. They will continue their training at Fort Benning, Ga., in preparation for the All-Army tournament.

"We have had support from the brigade," said Sgt. Seth Mendel, 3rd BSTB, "but to compete successfully at the All-Army level, it takes an incredible amount of personal dedication."

Photo by Pfc. Erik Anderson

Sgt. Harold Adams, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., strikes his opponent during a finals match in the brigade's combatives tournament July 10 at COS Kalsu.

The fighters said they are ready to work on improving their abilities.

"I need to work on my stand-up game," said Lanphear. "Right now I'm really looking forward to working on my boxing skills."

For Lanphear, winning is not all about brute strength.

"Some people might think that because I'm smaller, I might not be a very good fighter," said Lanphear, "but I think it's interesting that it doesn't matter what size you are; it's all about your heart."

Lanphear credits more than heart for her success.

"Staff Sgt. (James) Vincent has been an incredible mentor to me," she said. "He has really made it his goal to help me succeed, and Sgt. (Craig) Obeso, who calls himself my manager, has been my number one support channel. He pushed me and reminded me how much I like this sport."

For Mendel, it is a chance to become a student again.

"I will be refining every aspect of my game," he said. "It will be nice to have someone at a higher level train me and point out where I am weak so I can improve."

Entering the All-Army ring is a natural progression for Mendel.

"What helped me was a long history of interest in martial arts and fighting, anything to do with combat," he said.

As one of the brigade's combatives instructors, Mendel trains fellow Soldiers in the Army Combatives Program.

"All that it takes to make every Soldier a hardcore fighter, something they can be proud of, is an instructor that has a passion for fighting," he said.

Although he won his weight class at the brigade tournament, Pfc. Jeremy Myers, 3rd BSTB, is not satisfied.

"I wouldn't call myself a success yet," he said. "I can call myself a success after I win the All-Army tournament."

While some identify coaches and friends as their driving force, Myers fights for someone else.

"I fight for everyone that says I shouldn't be here," he said. "I win for them."

Photo by Pfc. Erik Anderson

Soldiers of the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. pose with their awards following the finals of the brigade's combatives tournament July 10 at COS Kalsu. The Soldiers pictured will go on to represent 3rd HBCT and the 3rd Inf. Div. in the All-Army Combatives Tournament later this year.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

EXERCISE, from page 1

lery Regiment, threw two flash bang grenades at the second vehicle, simulating an exploding IED and marked the truck as a disabled vehicle with colored smoke grenades.

From here, Atkins, a native of Tacoma, Wash., assessed the medical proficiency of the Iraqi soldiers as they rendered aid to those he designated as injured. The wounded were loaded on to an ambulance, and the convoy was split in two as half accompanied the ambulance to the clinic on post.

After each scenario, the Soldiers and Iraqis would discuss the performance of the 32nd Co. soldiers.

"Convoy commander [Capt. Nakeeb Allah, 32nd Co. executive officer] performed great," said Lt. Col. Greg McAfee, team chief with Stabilization Transition Team 13, 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

The Soldiers have been working with four companies of the 8th IA Div. Transportation Directorate, a logistical unit with approximately 200 soldiers per company and over 150 trucks.

The unit transports everything from troops to parts to pilgrims during the larger religious holidays, said McAfee, a Marietta, Ga., native.

"They're a very large unit that has a very big mission for the 8th Iraqi Army Division," McAfee said. "We've been behind the scenes helping advise and assist these professionals as we approach the final withdrawal."

In some instances, the lessons were refreshers for 32nd Co., which currently operates in an area south of Baghdad and includes the holy shrines in Najaf and Karbala.

"They already perform missions and are completely independent of US forces," Parker said.

Soldiers from both sides said the exercise was beneficial.

"It was good training. We got a lot of information from this exercise, and we are going to use this information when we go outside on the real mission. This was good to refresh the mind of military skills," said Pvt. Ali Adnon Anu, a vehicle driver with 32nd Co, 8th IA Div. Transportation Directorate.

Anu was recognized as the "Hero of the Battle" after the exercise for his part in identifying the secondary IED on the fourth lane.

Atkins agreed there was much gained by both sides during the training.

"I've really, really enjoyed my time out here," Atkins said. "It's been a real eye-opener as far as level of cooperation. I've really enjoyed seeing these guys develop more of their skills."

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

A soldier with 32nd Company, 8th Iraqi Army Division Transportation Directorate provides first aid to a simulated casualty after an improvised explosive device attack during urban operations training in Numaniyah, July 14. The wounded were rushed from the "kill zone" to a nearby medical facility that participated in the exercise.

Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

The 32nd Company, 8th Iraqi Army Division Transportation Directorate re-assembles their convoy after taking sniper fire and responding to an improvised explosive device during urban operations training in Numaniyah, July 14.

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

The stench of matrimony

Couple fears corpse flower will smell up nuptials

By CINDY HORSWELL
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — As Jessica Zabala was planning her dream wedding a year ago, she envisioned the sweet scent of tropical flowers wafting through the air with butterflies — not the stench of rotting flesh.

Yet now the young bride-to-be from Katy worries that her wedding set for Saturday evening in Houston's Cockrell Butterfly Center may smell more like a funeral.

That's because Zabala in her white gown will be competing for attention with another female - Lois, a rare corpse flower, who's been slowly revealing her burgundy attire to thousands of spectators daily. Unfortunately, the 5-foot bloom also emits a cadaver scent designed to attract carcass-eating beetles in its rain forest home in Sumatra.

Neither Zabala nor the museum's event planners knew the corpse flower (amorphophallus titanum) might choose to make its debut on her wedding day. One of the world's largest flowers, this endangered species has bloomed only once before in Texas and 29 times in the U.S.

It started as a walnut-sized seed that a Houston Museum of Natural Science horticulturist planted in a pot and has watched grow in the museum's greenhouse for the past six years. Over the July Fourth weekend, the horticulturist noted the plant appeared plumper as if ready to bloom.

Photo by Deni Brown

A corpse flower, nicknamed 'Lois', like the one pictured is threatening to ruin a Houston couple's wedding. The flower, a titan arum, is an endangered species indigenous to the jungles of Sumatra, a western island of Indonesia. The plant earned its dubious nickname thanks to its odor, which is similar to that of rotting flesh. The corpse flower was named the official flower of the Bronx in 1939, but this throne was usurped by the day lily in 2000.

So on July 6, it was put on display, but then the bloom didn't begin to start unfolding for two weeks. The petal, or spathe, which opens like a calla lily, had opened only 8 inches from its core by Thursday, although the bloom will be 4 feet wide when fully extended.

Usually, the flower opens within six hours, but finicky Lois seems to be in no hurry, said Latha Thomas, the museum's spokeswoman.

"The bloom, which usually lasts two to three days, only has a strong aroma for up to 12 hours," she said.

So nobody knows whether the bloom's odious fragrance will make its presence felt on Zabala's big day. The flower is in the butterfly center just outside the doors to the rainforest where the wedding ceremony will be held.

Her guests could walk by the bloom to enter the ceremony area, or another entrance may be used to avoid it. Fans and plastic sheeting also are being brought in to prevent the scent from seeping into the wedding area, Thomas said.

The museum plans to close access to Lois for an hour during the wedding.

The 23-year-old future bride and her groom, Jonathan Smith, said the wedding site could not be changed after more than $25,000 had been spent on mailing invitations, catering, music and a honeymoon to Niagara Falls. The reception also is being held nearby in the paleontology hall.

Vows will go on

No matter what happens, the couple, who fell in love three years ago while working together as officers of a Houston Community College honor organization, will say their vows Saturday.

"We're hoping for the best," said Smith, who first learned about the potential disaster two weeks ago when one of his guests jokingly asked if he would be passing out gas masks.

Zabala has decided to make light of the problem by giving each guest a souvenir clothespin with his name on it.

Smith, 27, a web designer, had hoped the blooming would have been over long ago. Now the couple is just waiting until Saturday to see - or rather smell.

"I'd wanted a unique experience, but I'd never expected this," Zabala said.

Houston is the hometown of Cpl. David Bobian, who is featured on page 7 of this week's Danger Forward.

Betty's Best in 5 Words or Less

Q) How does one determine the quadratically converging algorithm for computing the Euler-Masheroni Constant beyond the current world record of 2 billion digits, and is it possible to also determine if the constatnt is irrational or transcendental?

A) We only accept English questions.

Q) Test Message- I tried to submit one before…But it did not work. Let's see if this goes through.

A) Error, message not received.

Q) Why is it that when I turn in my whites they come back looking dirty? I have t-shirts, socks and boxers, that after one or two washes through the on-base service, they no longer look white. It also seems my other clothes are not fresh either. I understand whites do not stay white forever but after one or two washes has me thinking what kind of water and are they even using soap to wash our clothes.

A) We're in a combat zone.

Q) In Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham, is it true that Sam I am represents the false promises of the Communist State and that the Main Character is representative of Sen. McCarthy? If this is the case, what is the theme being discussed in the passage "In a Train, in the Rain?"

A) Read dry erase marker warning!

Q) Is it just me or is the current brand of toilet paper hard to start when it is first used? I find it very frustrating when all you want to do is get out of that sauna they call a restroom! While we are on the subject do you refill the spool or do you just use the last bit and walk away?

A) I just walk away sucka's!

Q) Does anyone care that the chow hall staff washes the trash cans in a place where we have to walk through, and smell the garbage washed out on our way to and from chow? Isn't there a better place? Why hasn't this been noticed or fixed by someone that can get it fixed?

A) Because the porta-john's distract us?

Q) Why can't I access the internet on my SIPR computer? Internet on SIPR would greatly increase productivity, CD's are hard to get, and copying stuff back and forth is time consuming.

A) AAAAAh! Who's productivity? The enemy's?

Q) How much wood could a wood chuck chuck if a wood chuck could chuck wood?

A) No wood, would Chuck Norris?

Basra Betty

ROCK AND ROLL TRIVIA

ACT LIKE YOU CAN SING

Since before Elvis sang into a mop handle in "Jailhouse Rock," singers have been trying to branch out into acting (to various degrees of success). See if you can answer these questions about rockers and rappers on the silver screen.

1) Ice-T has acted in dozens of movies, both good ("New Jack City") and not so good ("Leprechaun in the Hood," anyone?), but his first role was in what 1984 dance movie?

2) The Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger mentors Andy Garcia in what profession in "The Man from Elysian Fields?"

3) In "Purple Rain," Prince stars as a struggling musician in what city?

4) What hard rock band made a cameo appearance in the 1987 Dirty Harry thriller "The Dead Pool?"

5) "Friday" was a good day for what rapper?

6) Sting, portraying Feyd Rautha, dies in a duel with Kyle MacLachlan's character at the end of what 1983 sci-fi flick?

7) Her real life love might have been Bobby Brown, but Whitney Houston played a pop superstar who "will always love" Kevin Costner in what drama?

8) Which movie grossed more money at US box offices, Mariah Carey's "Glitter" or the Spice Girls' "Spice World?"

9) What two former Beatles starred in "Give My Regards to Broad Street?"

10) In 2003's "The Italian Job," how many of the thieves are played by real life rappers? Who are they?

Bonus: Since the rock n' roll era began in the 1950s, who is unquestionably the biggest box office star that started out as a professional recording artist?

Answers to this week's trivia:
(1) Breakin' (2) Male escort (3) Minneapolis (4) Guns n' Roses (5) Ice Cube (6) Dune (7) The Bodyguard (8) Not even close – Spice World sold almost $30 million in domestic ticket sales, Glitter barely topped $5 million (9) Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr (10) Two – Mark Wahlberg [Marky Mark] and Mos Def (Bonus) Movies starring Will Smith [aka The Fresh Prince] have grossed over $2.5 billion in domestic ticket sales.

USD - South
1st Infantry Division
Yearbook Photos

The Yearbook is on its way, and the USD-S PAO is offering you the chance to decide what you want to see.

*Send in your own photos. Requirements are complete army uniform, no hats/sunglasses.

*If you don't have a camera, arrange for a photo shoot with Public Affairs. All you need is a time and a place.

*If you are a DHHB Soldier serving in USD-S, photos are required.

If you have any other questions or comments, e-mail Sgt. Cody Harding on Outlook.

cody.harding@iraq.centcom.mil

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: Capitol city

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

A look around USD-S

Photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Kobernick

Spc. John Bosecker shows a member of the Iraqi Army how to properly use non-lethal weapons in riot control at Contingency Operating Base Basra July 15. Bosecker is a member of the 354th Military Police Company out of St. Louis.

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 nathaniel.smith5@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html