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"All in all this was a great professional development experience for these young leaders."

— Lt. Col. James W. MacGregor  
Commander, 1st Battalion (Air Assault)  
377th FAR

## Air Weapons Team conducts joint call-for-fire training

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th FB



COB BASRA – The old adage “Send in the cavalry” once referred to Soldiers on horseback, riding to the aid of embattled comrades.

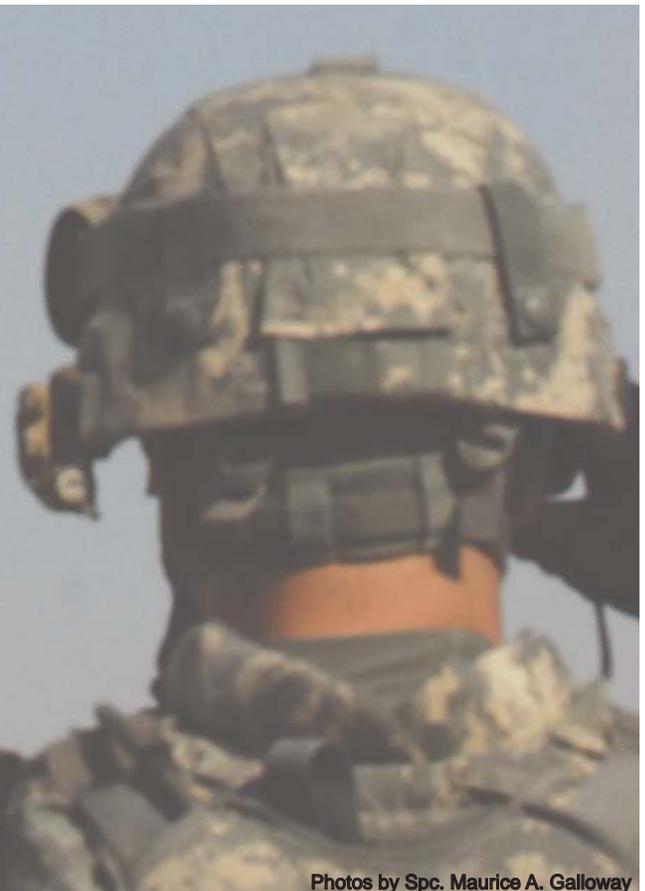
Today, that same call for backup can be made a lot quicker and with much more devastating effect through the Army’s joint operations.

Twelve Soldiers from 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th Field Artillery Regiment and 1st Battalion (Reconnaissance), 130th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Panther, teamed-up to conduct an air support live-fire exercise at a detonation range outside of Contingency Operating Base Basra.

The training provided leaders with the opportunity to gain valuable experience and increase their proficiency in calling for fire during close-combat scenarios.

After days of orchestrating the layout, boundaries and procedures of the exercise, the two taskforces conducted training sessions to familiarize the Soldiers with the different steps involved in the call-for-fire process.

“The hardest part of the training for me was being able to determine the distance of each of our projected targets from such a long distance away,” said 1st Lt. Mike S. Robinson, Bravo Co. 177th Armored Cavalry, infantry officer and native



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Photos by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

# A shot of health

By Sgt. Francis Horton  
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – In the world of medicine, humanity is constantly warring with ever evolving viruses and bacteria.

Specifically, the H1N1 flu strain – commonly known as “Swine Flu” – is on the minds of many servicemembers these days.

“H1N1 is more easily spread than seasonal flu,” said Capt. Michelle Gielski, a physician’s assistant with the 34th Infantry Division.

In the last few months, H1N1 has been moving across America and Europe, infecting millions.

The virus has shown particularly dangerous to children and the elderly due to its effect on the respiratory system, Gielski said. Servicemembers 40 and older are in greater need of the vaccination because of lowered respiratory capabilities.

“Swine flu is new and there is less documentation on it,” Gielski said.

While all strains vaccinated against are comparably dangerous, the lack of past experience with this new variety makes it more dangerous.

But the military is already prepared. All service members deployed to Iraq must be inoculated against H1N1.

The vaccination process is simple. Once a Soldier signs in, the medical staff fills out and looks over a health assessment questionnaire. Then, a quick shot and a bandage are all the service mem-

ber needs to be ready to continue the mission.

The virus that is injected is the key to it all.

“We are using non-live viruses now,” Gielski said.

Typically, vaccinations are injections of live viruses which allow the body to develop immunity to an attack, but it has been found that a dead virus can produce the same effects. The benefits of a dead virus lie in the milder side effects after getting the shot.

If Soldiers are feeling under the weather, it is imperative that they get themselves checked out as soon as possible, Gielski said. Concerned Soldiers should seek medical attention at the troop medical clinic without waiting for sick call.

Symptoms are much like the seasonal flu, and any Soldier experiencing fever, chills, aches and a sore throat should get checked out immediately.

So far, there have been only two confirmed cases of H1N1 on COB Basra, and both have been treated without having to resort to antiviral medications, Gielski said.

For more of Sgt. Horton’s stories, visit:  
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Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton  
Spc. Albana Luli, a transport management specialist with the 159th Support Operations Company, receives her H1N1 shot from Pfc. Amber Hale, a medic with the 34th Inf. Div. in one of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation buildings on COB Basra.

**ARABIC WORD  
OF THE DAY**

Muu mushkila -  
No problem

بدك عنك من المشكله

## THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office



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Photos by Pfc. Aaron Brooks

*The Pathfinder Mudhif at Contingency Operating Base Adder is built entirely from materials harvested from the local marshes and by a crew of craftsmen from the region. Its completion will serve as a lasting monument to the task force's unconventional mission, while displaying the commitment the United States has to ensuring that local history and heritage are not forgotten. First constructed in the marshes of what is now southern Iraq over 5,000 years ago, the mudhif is a unique local meeting place assembled entirely of reeds, straw and other natural materials.*

## A Marsh Arab 'Mudhif' rises on COB Adder

By C. Brandt Smith Jr. & Nazar Alkass  
HTT 8, TF 2-29, 4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.



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

First constructed in the marshes of what is now southern Iraq over 5,000 years ago, the mudhif is a unique local meeting place assembled entirely of reeds, straw and other natural materials.

In a project designed to honor the customs and traditions of the region, members of Human Terrain Team (HTT) 8 recently served as advisors on the construction of a mudhif on Contingency Operating Base Adder at the 4th Brigade's Regional Center of Excellence for Civil Capacity.

The HTT has worked in the Southern Iraqi provinces of Maysan, Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna for the last two years. They work to gain an understanding of the local culture and share that knowledge with the Soldiers operating in the region.

As part of their work, they regularly take part in engagements with local leaders and conduct field research

among the Iraqis who live along the many canals in the region and in the Hawizah Marsh.

Task Force Pathfinder will use the mudhif they helped construct to conduct meetings with local leaders in a comfortable, traditional background.

The Pathfinder Mudhif is being built by a crew of local craftsmen entirely from materials harvested from the local marshes.

The lead builder of the mudhif is a man with skin darkened by years of exposure to the elements. Although unwilling to give his name, he commented, "I have built nearly 100 mudhif structures in my lifetime."

With experience like his it was no surprise when he was soon routinely accompanied by several younger men, the next generation of craftsmen eager to learn how to build the traditional hall.

The design of the mudhif itself 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 the center of decision-making when conducting business, and reinforces his position of prestige in the

area.

Lengths of reed, some 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 both sunlight and air to flow into the interior and enclosing the entire hut.

Cultural understanding and immersion were the reasons behind the construction of this communal hall.

Its completion will serve as a monument to the task force's unconventional mission, while displaying the commitment the United States has to ensuring that local history and heritage are not forgotten.

"It was important for us, and our mission of building civil capacity, to create a structure that demonstrated our appreciation for local customs and traditions," explained Lt. Col. Michael Eastman, commander of TF Pathfinder.

"This mudhif is more than a symbolic gesture," he said. "It is a place where Americans and Iraqis meet and discuss ways to sustain our progress in these three provinces."

For more information about these authors, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Alkass](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Alkass)



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
1st Lt. Mike S. Robinson, 1-77th Armored Cavalry, "B" Company, coordinates the location of his next target with the Air Weapons Team by using the distance and direction he received from his azimuth.

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**AIR WEAPONS**

of Spokane, Wash. "You have to take into account that there are two perspectives: what we see from the ground and what the air support team sees."

From their positions on the ground, Soldiers used their choice of techniques taught during the training to direct two AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters to hostile ground targets and have them deliver an airstrike.

Some Soldiers used the compass method, shooting an azimuth to gain the distance and direction of their target, while others tackled the difficult task of navigating the airstrike verbally without any target marking.

"This event gave our platoon leaders an opportunity to see what the Apache is capable of doing for us if we ever need more firepower," said Lt. Col. James W. MacGregor, commander, 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th FAR. "They are routinely coordinating operations with the Air Weapons Team during their patrols, not only as a secondary source of firepower, but also to expand their field of view."

A lot of different factors come into play when trying to acquire a target, and it is because of this that communication is so important.

"The two teams have to constantly talk," said MacGregor. "The platoon leader has to identify his target and help the pilot see what he is looking at. Both may be looking at the same thing, but from a much different perspective."

When multiple targets are in close proximity of each other it makes target identification all the more difficult. One strategy is to have troops on the ground use small arms fire to mark their target.

"My objective was to identify the target for air support, using the 240 Bravo Light Machine Gun," said Pfc. Ian D. Favro, gunner, 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th FAR, and native of Phoenix, Ariz. "I basically shot rounds in short, controlled increments just short of their intended target to knock dust into the air so that the AWT could properly identify their objective and destroy it."

With all of the objectives destroyed and each of the platoon leaders getting the opportunity to become more familiar with calling for fire, the event was definitely a success, MacGregor said.

"This experience offered our platoon leaders a chance to talk to the pilots and gain insight on their perspective from both a fixed and rotary-wing standpoint," he said.

"All in all this was a great professional development experience for these young leaders," said MacGregor."

For more of Spc. Galloway's stories, visit:  
[www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway)

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**HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT**

Every year in May, Spokane hosts the Lilac Festival, which features many events including the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade.



## Around the world in 34 seconds



**PARIS** – The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at President George W. Bush in Baghdad last year had a taste of his own medicine Tuesday when he nearly got beamed by a shoe thrower at a news conference in Paris. Muntadhar al-Zeidi ducked and the shoe hit the wall behind him. “He stole my technique,” al-Zeidi later quipped. The identity of the new shoe-thrower — and his motivation — weren’t immediately clear, but he appeared to be an Iraqi. It was not known if the intruder was a journalist or just pretended to be one to attend the news conference at a center for foreign reporters. Whatever his motive, the confrontation didn’t stop there. Al-Zeidi’s brother, Maithan, chased the attacker in the audience and — what else? — pelted him with a shoe as he left the room.



**JACKSONVILLE** – Battle-weary troops and their families braced for a wrenching round of new deployments to Afghanistan, but many said they support the surge announced Tuesday as long as it helps to end the 8-year-old conflict. As President Barack Obama outlined his plan to send 30,000 extra troops to Afghanistan — while pledging to start bringing them home in 2011 — soldiers, Marines and their families interviewed by the Associated Press felt a tangle of fresh concerns and renewed hopes. Some took in the televised announcement as they played darts in a barroom near their base, while others watched from their living rooms. “All I ask that man to do is, if he is going to send them over there, is not send them over in vain,” said 57-year-old Bill Thomas of Jacksonville, N.C., who watched Obama’s televised speech in his living room, where photos of his three sons in uniform hang over the TV. One of his sons, 23-year-old Cpl. Michael Thomas, is a Marine based at neighboring Camp Lejeune. He’ll deploy next year to Afghanistan.



**ORLANDO** – All Tiger Woods has to do is pay a \$164 fine — less than a round of golf at Torrey Pines — and his dealings with Florida authorities over his infamous car accident will be over. What hasn’t ended is the public’s fascination with his private life, which may get more complicated. Us Weekly magazine, which hits newsstands Wednesday, features a cover story alleging that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress had a 31-month affair with the world’s No. 1 golfer — and that the proof was in 300 text messages. The world’s most famous athlete will be cited for careless driving outside his home in the exclusive gated community of Isleworth. It will cost him four points on his driver’s license, but he will not face criminal charges, the Florida Highway Patrol said Tuesday. Woods, who was briefly unconscious after the crash, never spoke with investigators. Instead, he provided his driver’s license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance to investigators, as required by Florida law.



**WAUKESHA** – A masked man tried to enter a bank building not realizing it had closed six minutes earlier. Maybe the bank robber needed the money to buy a watch. It would seem he needed one after arriving six minutes after the Guardian Credit Union in Waukesha closed. Police said a man wearing a ski mask entered the first set of doors at 5:36 p.m. Wednesday with a gun, apparently not realizing the bank was closed. The second set of doors was locked and police were called but the man left before they arrived. Waukesha Police Sgt. Jerry Habanek told The Freeman in Waukesha that police are reviewing security tapes and investigating. He said the robber could have planned poorly or possibly had another reason, like getting tied up in traffic.