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December 9, 2009

First Iraqi Army Master Driver's Course



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez

A 10th Division Soldier conducts before-action Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services. The IA Master Driver Candidates were trained on preventative maintenance, along with the engine characteristics and basic maintenance.

By Capt. Jeffrey Witherspoon
4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.



CAMP UR – The 121st Brigade Support Battalion “Iron Hammers,” partnered with the 10th Motorized Transport Regiment of the 10th Division, Iraqi Army, to put on a first-of-its-kind Master Driver Certification Course at Camp Ur.

Since the 10th IA's fielding of new International brand five-ton truck variants, they have been plagued with accidents across the division.

They sought out the 10th MTR for assistance based on their track record with the vehicles following their use.

The Iraqi government purchased hundreds of the trucks from Navistar Defense to revitalize a fleet of old and unreliable five-ton trucks amassed from several different countries. Since the MTR's fielding of these vehicles in August, the 121st BSB has been conducting focused maintenance and drivers training with them.

This has resulted in a greater proficiency with the vehicles, as well as confidence down to the jundee (sol-

“Overall a successful event by all accounts with the benefits to be seen within the coming weeks as the 10th IA Division continues to build its drivers training capacity across their extended footprint. The event puts the battalion one step closer to building ISF logistics capability in MND-S.”

– Lt. Col. David Wilson
121st BSB Commander

dier) level at operating them. The vehicles are now the primary means by which the MTR moves massive amounts of supplies throughout southern Iraq.

The MTR attributed their success to the efforts of the 121st BSB's Operator, New Equipment Training, coordinated by the BSB Logistics Training and Advisory Team and conducted by the Iron Hammer master drivers and senior mechanics.

So, when it was time to train the 10th Div., the MTR enlisted the help of the Iron Hammers. The BSB team provided two instructors, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez, a petroleum supply specialist, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Claybourne, a motor transport operator.

Both have extensive training on a variety of Army vehicles and studied the five-ton International trucks at length to prepare for the course.

The master driver course was designed to teach drivers from each unit how to set up a driver's training program on the newly fielded vehicle to eliminate operator errors and costly maintenance repairs due to improper use.

The Div. has lost several new vehicles due to improper operations. The MTR commander's solution was designed to give the 10th IA Div. what they would need to train themselves in the future with minimum assis-

U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Sailors secure shores

Iraqi leaders and Army transition team design training for border guard

By Spc. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD



AL FAW – Iraqi security forces are constantly stepping-up their role in the protection of Iraq, from the heart of the country out to the borders, where the Iraqi Coast Border Guard can be found at work with U.S. Army Border Transition Teams.

“Our primary mission is to coach, teach, and mentor Iraqis as we get ready to transition out of Iraq and let them take complete control over their own security,” said Capt. Matt Hagerman, team chief for a BTT that works with the 17th Fires Brigade.

To meet that goal, the BTT’s share their assets -- physical and intellectual -- to help leaders of the CBG create a force that can operate long-term.

The CBG consists of four “boat groups” and one land-based battalion that patrol the land along the Shat al-Arab and costal border with Iran from Al Faw to Basrah.

During a recent trip to the CBG headquarters, Hagerman and a team of Soldiers brought a training list to Gen. Shehab, a key leader in the Iraqi force.

Together, they created a curriculum, meant to be taught in the hours between CBG patrols, that will supplement the longer courses taught by the U.S. Navy’s Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 which focus on water operations.

“The classes that we teach primarily focus on the land battalion but are also classes that can be water or land, such as basic first aid or detainee operations,” said Hagerman, a **Williamsville**, N.Y. native.

Other classes presented by the BTT include radio and communication operations, targeting, and close-quarters combat.

“We’re there now to help them improve as an organization like you would



Photos by Spc. Samuel Soza

General Shehab discusses training options, such as close-quarters combat and detainee operations, offered by the U.S. Army BTT, Dec. 3.



Iraqi CBG leaders meet with members of a U.S. Army BTT to create a training program, including first aid, detainee operations and radio communications, that will better enable the Iraqi security forces to maintain the country’s border with Iran.

SECURE
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HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Old Home Days Festival is held every summer.

The festival is in remembrance of several women who in the mid 1800s would come to the park once a summer to drink tea and catch up on the years past.

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

Editorial Staff

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- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 28th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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CSM Julin checks up on his Soldiers

By Sgt Francis Horton
367th MPAD



Photos by Sgt. Francis Horton

Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin, command sergeant major of MND-S, sits in the seat of a Combat Deployable Crew Station which is used to control Predator UAVs while they are on patrols and in combat areas while Steve Sharpe explains the controls and abilities.

COB ADDER – Command Sgt Maj. Doug Julin, Command Sergeant Major of MND-S, visited Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Contingency Operating Base Adder to check on the morale and welfare of the servicemembers stationed there.

“We travel about four to five days a week,” Julin said.

Talking to the service members and handing out coins as he went, Julin asked about their jobs, as well as their working and living conditions.

Talking candidly and offering laughs and an attentive ear, Julin asked about any problems the servicemembers might be having.

“We check on their welfare and training,” Julin said. “It lets people know they are being looked after out here.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin, command sergeant major of MND-S, talks shop with Air Force Staff Sgt. Jonathon Thompson (center) and Air Force Staff Sgt. Jorge Gutierrez, two generator mechanics stationed in Contingency Operating Base Adder and attached to the 34th Inf. Div.



The coin handed out by Command Sgt Maj. Doug Julin, command sergeant major of MND-S, to numerous service members.

For more of Sgt. Horton's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Horton

Chipping Contest!



December 12, 1300 to 1400
Open field next to the PX
PRIZES for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Twenty-five openings, on a first contact basis
 Contact Spc. Belland, RBVB at James.belland@iraq.centcom.mil

TEE TIME 

Tee it up for the Troops is traveling with Serving our Troops. J. B. Ball will be in attendance. Ball started Tee It Up For The Troops to honor his son stationed in Iraq and to help veterans and their families.

Tee it up for the Troops, Inc. is a non-profit organization created to help support the fallen and disabled members of our Armed Forces, and their families.

This event is sponsored by **Tee It Up For The Troops.**

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Sadiqi- My Friend



بِك عِلْتِه غِه لَمْش

Top commanders evaluate base for Jan. turnover



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway, 17th Fires Brigade

Maj. Gen. Richard Nash, commander, Multinational Division-South, Gen. Abdul Aziz, 14th Iraqi Army Division, Col. Steven L. Bullimore, commander, 17th Fires Brigade, and Marine Corps Lt. Col. Douglas R. Patterson, team leader, Military Training Team 14, conduct an operational evaluation of Camp Wessam in preparation for the transfer of this base and many others slated for mid January 2010.



Serving Our Troops is providing a St. Paul steak dinner to 6,500 U.S. Service members here in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as for 2,000 family members in St. Paul simultaneously.

Want to show your appreciation to the traveling party, volunteers, elected officials and community for their support?

Let them know how much we appreciate their generosity:

Log onto your Twitter account and tweet #servingourtroops to show your appreciation.

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SECURE

"We're there now to help them improve as an organization, like you would for any friend and any ally," said Hagerman.

One of the greatest challenges has been learning to communicate not just between national cultures, but between naval and Army cultures as well, he said.

The two groups have had to learn different vocabulary to understand each other enough to know what sort of information is relevant to the operational goals.

"The language barrier is actually not that difficult for us," Hagerman explained.

"The Coastal Border Guard leadership is an extremely well-educated, intelligent, and dedicated group of Iraqis," he said, "many of whom speak

English and other languages such as Chinese and Russian."

With strong leadership and plenty of training, Hagerman said he finds the greatest satisfaction when he sees the unit in action.

"One of the greatest things is when the Coastal Border Guard does something completely independently," he said.

Hagerman noted a particular instance when the BTT were making a trip to meet with the CBG and stumbled on a large, coordinated training operation, complete with instructors and graders, involving the troops they had been training.

More independent operations will come as the two forces work together to protect the borders of Iraq, he said.

"The partnership is abso-



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Capt. Matt Hagerman, native of Williamsville, N.Y., team chief for the Border Transition Team working with the 17th Fires Brigade, and General Shehab, one of the key leaders for the Iraqi CBG, discuss the creation of a training curriculum that will lead to effective security of the Iraqi border with Iran.

lutely critical," Hagerman said, "Not only does it help the long term security of Iraq but it also fosters cooperation and understanding between our two countries."

For more of Spc. Soza's stories, visit www.TheRedBulls.org/Soza



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"3/1 Trains Iraqi's"
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THE POWER TRIP

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MIKE "THE SUPERSTAR" MORRIS

LIVE FROM COB BASRA, FRI., DEC. 11

1500-1800 TOWN HALL (MAIN CHAPEL)
NEAR D-MAIN AND GREEN BEANS COFFEE





Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez

A 10th Division Soldier drives a five-ton International truck through the drivers training lane on the first day of practical exercises.

**From Page 1
DRIVER'S**

designed to give the 10th IA Division what they would need to train themselves in the future with minimum assistance.

With the assistance of the Iron Hammer Battalion, the MTR was able to facilitate the master driver course for the 10th Div. at their camp, as well as provide instruction that was IA-led.

Twenty-eight Soldiers started the training and 20 successfully completed. The other eight Soldiers were sent back

to the basic drivers training course to increase their skills before becoming a master driver.

The five day course began with an introduction to the International 4200 series truck, which covered environmental safety and fuel safety considerations.

The IA master driver candidates were then trained on preventative maintenance, along with the engine characteristics and basic maintenance troubleshooting on day two. Day three consisted of driver's safety, rollover procedures, fuel system components and continued maintenance troubleshooting. This session culminated with a hands-on performance exam that assessed their retention of the previous three days of instruction. The hands-on performance exam covered proper vehicle start up procedures, preventative maintenance, troubleshooting and engine components.

Finally on day five, the master driver candidates were given instruction on setting and administering a road test and final exam.

To test their retention again, the 10th IA Div. master driver candidates were given a performance exam and a road test utilizing the road test lanes they set up.

The course culminated with a review to ensure the information was retained.

Finally, the MTR injected a little spirit-

ed competition into the course where the master driver candidates had to employ ground guiding procedures with proper hand and arm signal use and competed in a competition to see who could negotiate the course with the least amount of errors.

"I was extremely impressed by the professionalism of the 10th Iraqi Army Soldiers," 121st BSB commander Lt. Col. David Wilson said. "They were very attentive and performed well on all assessment measures. I am looking forward to the first iteration of Iraqi led drivers training."

After all the After Action Review comments were recorded, the class instructors shared stories of accidents that had happened to Soldiers during duty and discussed the cause of the accident and what could have prevented it from happening.

"Overall a successful event by all accounts with the benefits to be seen within the coming weeks as the 10th IA Div. continues to build its drivers training capacity across their extended footprint," Wilson said. "The event puts the battalion one step closer at building ISF logistics capability in MND-S."

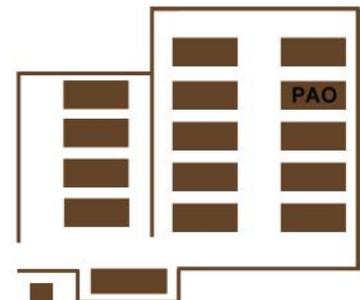
For more of 4/1 stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/highlander



**a CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR
APPRECIATION TO THOSE
WHO APPRECIATE YOU...**

**SWEET MARTHA'S
COOKIE PACKERS**

**&
SKYPE**



Green Beans

Dec. 19, 2100-0000, come to the PAO trailer behind Green Beans Coffee near D-Main to Skype with volunteers packing cookies for you!

**Contact 1st Lt. Shamika Hill:
shamika.hill@iraq.centcom.mil**



34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

MINNESOTA VIKINGS VIEWING PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

VIKINGS VS. BENGALS

21:00 hrs. @ THE RED BULL LSA, near the VOLLEYBALL COURTS



The Power Trip
weekdays 4 to 9am

Be in the audience as the Red Bulls Viewing Party is linked LIVE to the KFAN broadcast to the Metrodome.

Mike "The Superstar" Morris for this live RADIO broadcast.

Game coverage from 2100 to 0000. Stay after the game for the post-game show



COME JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!
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WEAR YOUR VIKINGS GEAR!

SKOL, VIKINGS

GO VIKES!



Aim High For Defensive Driving

Aiming high when you are driving means looking down the road for potential hazards and a safe route.



- Monitor vehicles two or three places in front of you
- Watch for signals, brake lights
- Continually look at the entire traffic picture
- Watch for pedestrians
- Keep your eyes moving at all times
(By knowing where vehicles are beside you and behind you, you can slow or swerve to avoid an obstacle on the road ahead)
- Always leave yourself an out.
- Have an alternate route
- Be ready to react at all times
- Make sure other drivers see you
- Monitor your mirrors
- Know the road
- Cover your break when driving through hazardous areas

- Know your own abilities

Your ability to react quickly to a situation can vary greatly. Fatigue from a late hour or a long shift of driving can greatly slow reaction time. Eating a heavy meal can make you sleepy. Alcohol and many kinds of drugs – even common cold remedies – can impair your ability to drive safely. Lack of experience in driving a certain kind of vehicle or in certain kind of terrain can make you vulnerable to accidents. . Problems with depth perception, peripheral vision as well as difficulties distinguishing shapes and colors can make it hard to drive safely.

For more about safety, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/SafeandSound

Please Contact your Camp Basrah Safety Office for more information 318-858-4255

Word Search: Photography

- | | |
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For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions



St. Paul to Iraq

Saturday, December 12th

For all Servicemembers on COB Basra: *Delicious Steak Meal with all the trimmings*

What: Volunteers from *Serving Our Troops*, a Minnesota-based civic group, are traveling from St. Paul to Iraq to serve COB Basra service members a grilled steak dinner.

Special DFAC Dinner Menu: On Saturday, December 12, both DFACs will serve a 12-ounce grilled steak dinner meal during regularly-scheduled hours, courtesy of *Serving Our Troops*.

A Special Invitation for Minnesota Soldiers: *Dinner with your family*

In St. Paul: *Serving Our Troops* is hosting a unique, free event for families at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium from 9:30am to 3:00pm CST. Your families will enjoy free steak meals, ice cold beverages, live music, special kids activities, and free tickets to the Science Museum and Children's Museum. **Tell your family to RSVP to www.servingourtroops.com.**

The St. Paul family event will be linked via two-way video to the COB Basra Red Bull LSA.

At COB Basra: Join *Serving Our Troops* volunteers for a special event in the Red Bull LSA from 1700 to 2200. Live music from the 34th Red Bull Division Band and special guest GB Leighton. Freshly-grilled steaks, a special program, and a live video link back to St. Paul, with opportunities to speak to loved ones.



Around the world in 34 seconds



BAGHDAD – An official at Iraq’s Interior Ministry says at least 90 people have been killed and more than 115 wounded in a series of coordinated blasts around Baghdad. Three bomb-rigged cars exploded in quick succession on Tuesday, striking the Labor Ministry, a court complex and the new site of Iraq’s Finance Ministry — whose previous building was destroyed in an August blast. Earlier, a suicide bomber struck a police patrol in southern Baghdad. The Interior Ministry official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media.



OHIO – Witnesses to the scheduled execution of a killer who scattered a woman’s remains across two states could have an even more somber experience than those who watched previously when Ohio put nearly three dozen other inmates to death. Inmate Kenneth Biros, if executed as planned Tuesday morning, would become the first person in the U.S. to die by lethal injection with a single drug, a process most death penalty experts agree will take longer than the old method. Biros’ procedure would be the first lethal injection since the state’s switch from using a three-drug combination. If that method fails, a backup plan allows executioners to inject drugs directly into muscles instead of veins. Ohio overhauled its procedure after the failed attempt at rapist Romell Broom’s execution, which was halted by Gov. Ted Strickland in September. Executioners tried for two hours to find a usable vein for injection, hitting bone and muscle in as many as 18 needle sticks that Broom said were very painful. Broom, 53, was sentenced to die for the rape and stabbing death of a 14-year-old girl. He has appealed the state’s attempt to try to execute him again.



GREEN BAY – The standings say the Green Bay Packers are in good shape for the playoffs. But Monday night’s victory over the Baltimore Ravens showed they still have some work to do to be taken seriously once they get there. Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes, including two to tight end Jermichael Finley, and the Packers beat the Ravens 27-14 in a penalty-filled game Monday night. It was the fourth straight win for the Packers (8-4), solidifying their spot in the NFC wild-card race. But it certainly wasn’t pretty. “I’ll say this about our football team: I was very proud and excited the way they overcame the adversity,” McCarthy said.



OLDSMAR, Fla. – A Florida teenager has been charged with assaulting his father, reportedly because the man was snoring too loudly. The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office reported that the teen, 18, first threw a magazine at his father, who was sleeping on a living room couch Tuesday evening. When that didn’t work, deputies said the teen pushed his father onto the floor and punched him in the face. The father was checked out at a nearby hospital as a precaution. The teen was arrested and charged with domestic battery. He was released from jail Wednesday.