

THE *Ivy* U.S. DIVISION-NORTH LEAF



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

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JANUARY 7, 2011

‘Long Knife’ Soldiers train first Iraqi unit at Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center

Spc. Angel Washington
4th Advise and Assist Brigade Public Affairs
1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Division-North

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, began training Iraqi soldiers at Al Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Jan. 3.

Approximately 550 Iraqi Army soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, conducted collective training as part of Al Tadreeb Al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, at the newly developed training site to help hone their ability to secure their country.

“We are training the 3rd Iraqi Army Division on basic soldiering skills and individual training to support collective tasks,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Duane Detweiler, the senior enlisted non-commissioned officer in the unit.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, practice squad movement drills at Al Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Jan. 3, 2011. Soldiers assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, began training their Iraqi counterparts as part of Al Tadreeb Al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, to build upon 3rd IA Div. soldiers’ basic infantry capabilities, developing the light infantry division at the new training center at Contingency Operating Site Marez.

“By the time we are done training, we will have more confident Iraqi soldiers and a more capable Iraqi Army,” said the native of Pittsburgh. “They will have confidence in themselves, their leaders and their country.”

Soldiers of the 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. began a four-week

See GWTC, pg. 3



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, secure an area after coming into simulated contact with enemy forces during squad movement drills at Al Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Jan. 3, 2011. Iraqi soldiers began training as part of Al Tadreeb Al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, at the new training facility located at Contingency Operating Site Marez to develop their individual and collective competencies in basic defensive and offensive infantry drills.

WARRIOR
LONGKNIFE
DEVIL
FIT FOR ANY TEST
IRONHORSE
STEADFAST AND LOYAL

STEADFAST AND LOYAL
IRONHORSE
FIT FOR ANY TEST
DEVIL
LONGKNIFE
WARRIOR





IRONHORSE STRONG: Soldier of the Week

U.S. Army Photo

“Ironhorse Strong” Soldier of the Week, Spc. Michael Hubbard, a combat medic assigned to Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, earned recognition for his superior performance of duty, displaying initiative above his pay grade and responsibility. Hubbard enlisted the help of U.S. forces, Iraqi Army and Peshmerga security forces to fortify the entry control point, improving protective measures at a combined security checkpoint in northern Iraq. Hubbard’s professionalism and initiative to lead this project in addition to his daily duties and responsibilities as a combat medic earned the Soldier from Topeka, Kan., the honor of “Ironhorse Strong” Soldier for the first week of 2011.

Since deploying to northern Iraq last summer, “Ironhorse Strong” Soldier of the Week, Spc. Michael Hubbard, a combat medic assigned to Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, shouldered medical responsibilities for his platoon, carried additional duties training ISF, and tackled a special project on his own initiative.

Recruiting assistance from U.S. forces, Iraqi Army, and Peshmerga forces, Hubbard led the installation of improved force pro-

tection measures at a combined security checkpoint where his Soldiers train ISF.

His hard work and initiative led to improvements in traffic control at the site and security at the checkpoint, ensuring vehicles slow down and funnel through one entrance and improving the command and control at the traffic control site.

“(Spc. Hubbard) had a great idea and we used it,” said Staff Sgt. Kome Blacksher, a cavalry scout and section sergeant assigned to Troop A, 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div. “He made the control point easier for the traffic, and he reinforced the control point.”

The Soldier, from Topeka, Kan., involved leadership from the tripartite forces operating at the combined security checkpoint, and ensured the combined security forces each had a part in the decision-making process, assisting the troops in meeting the desired goal of improving the checkpoint operations.

In addition to the new project, Hubbard maintained his daily duties and responsibilities as a combat medic.

“Our squads are so small that we often rely on medics to do other jobs,” said Command Sergeant Major Ruben Torres Jr., 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div. “Spc. Hubbard does this caliber of work on a daily basis – that’s why he was chosen as Ironhorse Strong.”

Developing the problem solving process and enabling Iraqi Security Forces to be self-sustaining, made Hubbard a great candidate for Ironhorse Strong Soldier of the Week, said Torres.

As a result of Hubbard’s hard work and initiative, the combined security checkpoint continues to evolve, along with the relationships between the tripartite forces, he said.

U.S. DIVISION-NORTH NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE QUARTER STRIVES FOR SUCCESS
Page 4

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES REHEARSE PLAN OF ACTION
Page 6

IRAQI EMERGENCY UNITS COMPLETE EMT TRAINING
Page 7

IRAQI AND U.S. ENGINEERS CONDUCT JOINT ROUTE CLEARANCE MISSION
Page 9

THE IVY LEAF

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**1st Advise and Assist Task Force
1st Infantry Division**

**2nd Advise and Assist Brigade
25th Infantry Division**

**4th Advise and Assist Brigade
1st Cavalry Division**

Continued from GWTC, pg. 1

training program implementing squad, platoon, company and battalion-level training, with the intent to rotate 3rd IA Div. battalions every 30 days until the IA division is fully trained on conventional offensive and defensive maneuver operations.

The inaugural training cycle will culminate with a battalion-level live-fire exercise conducted by IA soldiers of the 1st Bn., 11th Bde., 3rd IA Div.

Staff Sgt. Clint Jacobs, a squad leader assigned to Troop A, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., worked with Iraqi soldiers refining basic team and squad-level movement drills.

Once the Iraqi soldiers performed the individual infantry drills effectively, Jacobs allowed Iraqi squad leaders to conduct the movement training.

“We are using the ‘crawl, walk, run’ method, and we are starting at the beginning,” said the cavalry scout from Marietta, Ga.

Jacobs said his Soldiers are responsible for building the IA soldiers’ capabilities, training IA leaders to build upon individual and collective core competencies at squad, platoon and company levels.

U.S. forces are working with leaders of 3rd IA Div. to build a lasting foundation for new Iraqi soldiers as they arrive to their units, explained Jacobs.

In the days before the first training cycle began at the new train-

Sgt. Samuel Shed, a forward observer assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrates how to secure an assigned sector during squad movement training Jan. 3, 2011. Shed, a native of Electra, Texas, trained soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, at Al Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, a newly opened site at Contingency Operating Site Marez capable of facilitating training for battalion-sized units. U.S. forces are supervising the inaugural training in support of Al Tadreeb Al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, conducting individual and collective infantry training with units of the 3rd IA Div. at the new training facility.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div., USD-N
Lt. Col. John Cushing, commander, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, discusses the training schedule with staff Col. Mohamed 'Olwan, commander of 1st Battalion, 11th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, at Al Ghuzlani Warrior Training Center, Dec. 30, 2010. Soldiers assigned to 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt., train Iraqi Army soldiers on basic soldiering skills to build an enduring training capability for Iraqi Security Forces in northern Iraq, as part of Al Tadreeb Al Shamil, Arabic for All Inclusive Training, at the newly developed site located at Contingency Operating Site Marez.

ing site, troopers of 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. set up the training lanes, running through rehearsals and making adjustments to ensure the training will be a success for the first Iraqi battalion to participate in the inaugural training program.

The “Long Knife” Soldiers of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. are assisting the IA forces in leading classroom and hands-on training ap-

plications during the month-long training cycle, said 1st Lt. Sean Mitcham, platoon leader, Troop C, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt.

“We’re teaching them techniques used by American fighters,” said Mitcham, a native of Annandale, Va. “(Once the training is complete) they’ll be able to mold it into their own system to make it work for them.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB PAO

U.S. Division-North Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter strives for success

1st Cavalry Division

By Spc. Terence Ewings
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Steven Newman, a native of Hobart, Ind., bested six other noncommissioned officers to be named the United States Division-North NCO of the Quarter at the quarterly competition held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Dec. 28.

The 29-year-old field artilleryman assigned to Battery B, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, participated in multiple academic and leadership development boards including three Soldier of the Quarter boards and was a runner-up for the title of 1st Cavalry Division's NCO of the Year.

"I love everything about competing at these boards," said Newman, who has served in the U.S. Army for almost six years. "Using experience from my past boards, I knew I needed to be head and shoulders above the other NCOs I was competing against. I tried to give the most thorough answers, giving detailed responses to every question."

After successfully besting his peers in the NCO of the Quarter board, Newman competed in the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club board the next day—another strenuous and challenging board that further tested the field artilleryman's knowledge and leadership skills as an NCO.

Newman's performance at the board earned him the prestigious club's medallion, which he will receive when he is in-



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Carmen Daugherty-Glaze, USD-N PAO

Staff Sgt. Steven Newman, a field artilleryman assigned to Battery B, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, appears at the United States Division-North Soldier of the Quarter board held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq Dec. 28. Newman, a native of Hobart, Ind., earned the title of United States Division-North Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter after besting six other NCOs to win the competition. After successfully besting his peers in the NCO of the Quarter board, Newman competed in the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club board the next day—another strenuous and challenging board that further tested the field artilleryman's knowledge and leadership skills as an NCO.

ducted as a member into the club later this year.

"It was a privilege just to be selected to take part in the Audie Murphy Club Board, because they only take the best of the best," said Newman, currently on his third deployment to Iraq. "The only thing that feels better than knowing I will be a part of this organization is training my Soldiers so they can have the opportunity to compete in these boards and be successful too."

When Newman isn't studying or competing in military boards, he is working with his platoon as one of the senior section chiefs in charge of training and maintenance of M109A6 Paladins, the unit's self-propelled howitzers.

"Just like how basket-

ball and football players have coaches and mentors, Staff Sgt. Newman is my coach," said Pfc. Troy Taylor, a field artilleryman who works in Newman's section.

Taylor, a native of Starkville, Miss., began distinguishing himself as an exceptional Soldier before he met Newman.

Upon completion of Advanced Individual Training in October 2009, Taylor earned recognition the Distinguished Honor Graduate for his class due to his hard work, determination and work ethic.

Since joining Newman, the 20-year-old won a Soldier of the Month board and participated in the battalion-level Soldier of the Quarter board.

"(Newman) has that effect

on his Soldiers," said Taylor, currently on his first deployment to Iraq. "Anytime he comes up to you, he'll quiz you on something that is in a field manual or Army regulation so you can further increase your military knowledge. He's already recognized throughout the brigade as a good NCO, and he just wants (his Soldiers) to be as successful as him."

With future plans to win the next Soldier of the Quarter board and return home safely to Fort Hood, Texas, following this deployment, both Newman and Taylor said they share the same goal: the Soldiers plan to serve at least 20 years in the military, passing on their knowledge and love of military boards to their Soldiers.

'On Time' Soldier takes 'Ironhorse' competition

Spc. Matthew Sprague wins U.S. Division-North Soldier of Quarter

25th Infantry Division

Cpl. Robert England
2nd AAB Public Affairs
25th Inf. Div., U.S. Division-North

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq – “The atmosphere is pretty intense and nerve-wracking at first, especially when you get to division-level boards, because it’s all sergeants major,” said Spc. Matthew Sprague. “Once it gets going though, you calm down.”

Sprague, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery A, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, surpassed his peers to take the competition, winning the U.S. Division-North Soldier of the Quarter board, Dec. 28.

Attending four boards since September 2010, Sprague, who calls Meriden, Conn. home, won competitions at the subordinate levels as a prerequisite to compete at the division-level board.

His first attempt at the Soldier of the

Month board for Task Force 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery Regt. did not yield success, but his performance influenced his superiors to give him another chance.

In order to be considered for a recommendation to a board, a Soldier typically must exceed standards through exemplary performance as a Soldier. The selection process to determine if Sprague would represent his battery fell on his first sergeant.

“We had a board down at our battery, and basically he was the best out of the six that we had during the time, so we nominated him to go on to the battalion board,” said 1st Sgt. Marvin Walters, Battery A, Task Force 2nd Bn., 11th Field Artillery Regt.

Competing in a board requires an equal balance of mental focus and calm composure to rise above the tense atmosphere produced by the self-imposed pressure to succeed.

For Sprague, success came from more than composure. During the boards, senior noncommissioned officers, first sergeants

and sergeants major evaluated Soldiers on military bearing and knowledge.

The board members scored each competitor based upon the junior enlisted Soldiers’ military knowledge of various skills and institutions, ranging from Army programs to weapons specifications.

“I spent a lot of time studying, especially the week before each (board), spending like three to four hours each day answering questions and making sure I’m ready for it,” he said.

Sprague said he received assistance from other Soldiers in his platoon as well as his superiors, enabling him to progress through the multiple competitions from battalion to division.

“I’ve been studying with some of my superiors, and some of my battle buddies have been helping me out studying as well,” he said. “There’s been a lot of support in the platoon, a lot of people helping me out with everything.”

The studying and support ultimately paid off with each of Sprague’s successful board completions, and though he advanced through the demonstration of his comprehensive knowledge of Soldiering skills, his battle buddies and superiors share in the victories.

The support from superiors and fellow Soldiers indicated the level of pride and interest the unit took in sending Sprague to the board, said Walters, a native of New Canton, Va.

“I was very impressed the way (Sprague) advanced through the boards,” he explained. “The battalion is unbelievable. We work together as a team. We have good Soldiers, and we have outstanding Soldiers; and our battalion feeds off that.”



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Carmen Daugherty-Glaze, USD-N PAO

Spc. Matthew Sprague, a cannon crew member assigned to Battery A, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, completes facing movements after reporting to the President of the Board during the U.S. Division-North Soldier of the Quarter board at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Dec. 28, 2010. Sprague, a native of Meriden, Conn., earned top honors beating his peers at the U.S. Division-North Soldier of the Quarter board, Dec. 28, 2010.

Iraqi Security Forces rehearse plan of action

1st Infantry Division

Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st AATF Public Affairs
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces, consisting of Iraqi Police, the Emergency Security Unit for the Kirkuk province, Iraqi Army, Major Crimes Unit and Criminal Investigation Unit, met at the technical college in the Adallah district of Kirkuk to rehearse for an Emergency Response mission Dec. 29.

The ISF undertook the exercise to prepare for an emergency situation in Kirkuk similar to the Gold Market robbery by armed insurgents in November.

Maj. Gen. Jamal Taher Bakr, Provincial Director of Police, worked closely with Col. Eric Welsh, commander of 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., and Lt. Col. Joseph Holland, commander of 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, to prepare the rehearsals.

Jamal, in turn, supervised his subordinate commanders, including Col. Najat Gafeer R. Akeem, the Operations officer of the ESU.

“This scenario is from a real-life situation,” said Najat. “A gang attacked a jewelry store, killed the owners and stole the gold a few months ago. Ever since then, we, the ISF, have become cautious and alert that the same thing could happen again.”

Najat added that his unit was used to doing operations alone, but now are practicing to cooperate with other ISF units for the rehearsal.

Such rehearsals, he said, will prepare the entire ISF to work together to protect the people of Kirkuk.

“Our mission here is to help the ISF build a sustained



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N
Second Lt. Amer of the Emergency Security Unit of the Kirkuk Iraqi Police uses a terrain model to explain his platoon's mission during an emergency readiness rehearsal at a technical college in the Adallah district of Kirkuk Dec. 29, 2010. The ESU is responsible for the cordon around the building, the breach of the building, the capture of criminals and the release of hostages. The Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, Major Crimes Unit, and the Criminal Investigation Unit also participated in the exercise to prepare for an emergency situation in Kirkuk.

readiness for future joint operations,” said Capt. Mark Quivers, commander of Company D, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Reg., 1st AATF, 1st Inf. Div. “The plan is to implement combined training in order for the ISF to increase their capabilities to react to sporadic attacks.”

The scenario, explained Quivers and Najat, started after the initial attack occurred.

ISF expected Iraqi Police to

be the first on site since they are on patrol throughout the city on a routine basis, they said.

After the IP evaluated the situation, the ESU joined the effort to secure a perimeter.

Following the conclusion of the operation the CIU collected fingerprints and DNA from the detainees while the evidence unit collected evidence from the scene.

American units remained

available to advise and assist the ISF during the rehearsal but did not take part directly in the action.

“We’re all planning and coordinating for a successful operation tomorrow,” said Quivers. “Hopefully this will better prepare them to become aware of their situations and will increase their confidence to provide security for the city.”

Iraqi emergency units complete EMT training

1st Advise and Assist Task Force
Public Affairs
1st Infantry Division, USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE WARRIOR, Iraq – “Thunderhorse” medics of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., concluded Emergency Medical Technician training with Iraqi Emergency Security Unit teams at Contingency Operating Site Warrior Dec. 28.

The five-week training began in late November, providing instruction to Iraqi Police, the Emergency Security Unit, and members of the Iraqi Ministry of Health. The ISF learned basic medical skills with the goal of making them subject matter experts for their respective organizations in emergency medical care.

“This last exercise demonstrates how to (medically evacuate) a patient after they’ve treated them,” said Pfc. Michelle Nelson, a combat medic, HHC, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Reg.

During MEDEVAC drills of the capstone exercise Iraqis conducted “cold” and “hot” loads that used U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Cold loads entailed the ESU practicing loading a casualty onto a static helicopter, which was not running, said Nelson.

Once the ISF mastered cold load training, they conducted the hot load training.

During hot loads, the ESU teams strapped their casualty to a litter, and loaded him onto a running helicopter.

The Forward Medical Service Team, the “Dust Offs” of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, from Fort Riley, Kan., provided the MEDEVAC UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters for the final training exercise of the course.

Sgt. Matthew Giersdorff, platoon sergeant, Company C, 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., said the MEDEVAC training completed the five-week course that began in November, providing a sense of how the ISF have progressed throughout the course.

Giersdorff added that most of the ESU never had formal training prior to the EMT class and now the ISF unit will have its own medical capabilities.

“I hope they don’t ever have to use this training,” said Giersdorff. “But now that they have received training, if anything were to happen, they would be able to be litter bearers whenever we conduct joint missions together.”

Giersdorff said he hoped the ESU stu-

dents continue progressing and continue on to receive additional medical aircraft training, and with additional training, the ISF might become flight medics, or even doctors and nurses, which would help increase their units’ overall training.

Throughout the course, the ESU trained on basic medical skills such as clearing the airway, restoring breathing, controlling bleeding and treating shock.

They also learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation, trauma care, medical assessment training, medical evacuation training, and the extraction of casualties from vehicles and the rooftops of buildings.

“The hands-on, or practical, training is what I liked the most,” said Cpl. Adil Najmiddin Ameen, a shift leader, 2nd ESU Battalion, Iraqi Police. “The training isn’t completed until its hands-on because a lot of people don’t fully understand what is being taught until they’re doing it themselves; then the concept of what the U.S. Soldiers are teaching us is more easily grasped.”

Adil said this was his second EMT training class.

He said the first time he went through the class as a student. This time, Adil served as an instructor, training other Iraqi Police how to conduct the emergency medical procedures.

“It’s our role to convey the modern medical ideas to our Iraqi Army units in order to serve our people and save lives,” said Adil. “This is a bridge to convey our voice to the people who are expecting us to be well-trained in order to have a significant and effective role in our society.”

The day after the MEDEVAC training, the EMT class graduated in a ceremony held Dec. 29 at COS Warrior, acknowledging the students for the hard work and accomplishments made during the five-week course.

“This graduation has helped us to reach a huge milestone in order to pass the torch to the Iraqi Security Forces,” said Capt. Harold Yu, physician’s assistant, 2nd Bn., 12th Cav. Regt., attached to the 1st AATF.

Yu, a Torrance, Calif. native, said he hopes that because of this training exercise, the students can help save lives in Kirkuk and will use the knowledge and skills learnt to instruct and train future EMTs in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Members of the Emergency Security Unit of the Kirkuk Provincial Police practice loading and unloading a notional casualty during medical evacuation training at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Dec. 28, 2010. “Thunderhorse” medics of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, and the Forward Medical Service Team, the “Dust Offs” of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, from Fort Riley, Kan., supported the training, advising and assisting the Iraqis and provided U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. The MEDEVAC training concluded a five-week Emergency Medical Technician training course for the ISF at COS Warrior.

TMC keeps Soldiers mission ready while deployed

Spc. Angel Washington
4th AAB Public Affairs
1st Cav. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE MAREZ, Iraq – Soldiers assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, operate the troop medical clinic, providing for the physical and behavioral health care needs of Soldiers at Contingency Operating Site Marez.

“When you talk about a brigade-sized element, with the amount of Soldiers we have, it is important that we are able to take care of them,” said 1st Lt. Juliet Ayodele, a platoon leader for Company C, 27th BSB and the brigade nurse.

The clinic offers specific areas where “Long Knife” health care professionals can treat their patients in a variety of ways, said Ayodele, who is currently on her first deployment.

Soldiers of Company C maintain a lab, a medical radiology section, a dental section, a physical therapy section, a



pharmacy and a patient holding area.

“We treat colds, bumps, and anything else a Soldier may have so they can continue to do the mission we came out here

to do,” said Ayodele, a native of Houston.

Medics working at the TMC provide coverage 24 hours-a-day to 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers, Department of Defense employees and service members based at COS Marez.

“Our convenience in hours allows Soldiers to be seen around the hours of their missions, and we have a variety of capabilities,” said Ayodele. “We have specialized doctors and experienced professionals that are capable of treating many problems.”

Since the medical team of Company C, 27th BSB, assumed authority for the troop medical clinic, they’ve added a personal touch to make it more patient friendly to include painting the walls to add the “Cavalry” mark, the 1st Cavalry Division patch.

“We’ve been treating many of the people (back at Fort Hood) and we are continuing

Capt. Cyrus Kardouni, brigade physical therapist assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, helps Sgt. Veronica Torres, a medic in Company C, perform balancing exercises Dec. 29, 2010.

to treat them here which allows continuity of treatment,” said Maj. Ashley Maranich, M.D., a native of San Antonio and brigade surgeon assigned to 27th BSB, 4th AAB.

“We typically see around 35 patients per work day and thus far we have had over 2,800 appointments since we took over on Oct. 1,” said Maranich. “That includes sick call, dentistry and physical therapy.”

Soldiers assigned to Company C, 27th BSB, also take the time to train their Iraqi counterparts in different areas of the medical field in support of U.S. Division-North’s mission to advise, train, and assist the Iraqi security forces.

Since arriving in Iraq in September of 2010, “Long Knife” Soldiers of the 4th AAB, trained their Iraqi counterparts on pharmacy, radiology and basic patient treatment procedures.

Company C also sent training teams to the 3rd Iraqi Army Division Headquarters at Al Kisik, Iraq to train ISF on basic medical skills and help establish a radiology lab at the Iraqi TMC.

“We conserve the fighting strength of our forces in Iraq and are preparing the ISF to do the same for their country” said Capt. Arthur Knight, the company commander.

The Soldiers of 4th AAB, 1st Cav. Div. deployed to Iraq to assume a new mission in October for a one-year deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Angel Washington, 4th AAB PAO, 1st Cav. Div. **Capt. Bernardo Bianco, a dentist assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and Spc. Rachelle Halaska, a medic in Company C, 27th BSB, fill a cavity at the troop medical clinic at Contingency Operating Site Marez, Dec. 29, 2010. Soldiers assigned to Company C, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, operate the troop medical clinic, providing for the physical and behavioral health care needs of Soldiers deployed in support of U.S. Division-North.**

Iraqi and U.S. engineers conduct joint route clearance, train for future missions

Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st AATF
1st Inf. Div., USD-N

CONTINGENCY OPERATING SITE K1, Iraq – Iraqi Army engineers of the Field Engineer Regiment, 12th Iraqi Army Division joined the “Outlaw” engineer Soldiers of Company C, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., to conduct combined route clearance training and operations during the month of December.

“The most important thing is to keep the highway safe for civilians in our area of operation and to secure it,” said Lt. Sabbah Anwar Zain al Abedeen, commander of the Route Clearance Platoon, 2nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, FER, 12th IA Div.

“We are always looking to

improve our capabilities and make Kirkuk safe for all of the people who live here,” said Sabbah.

The engineers cleared a route in their area of responsibility searching locations where Improvised Explosive Devices had been placed in the past or were likely to be placed based off of an intelligence estimate of the route.

The units began their route clearance mission at approximately 4 a.m. and reached their turn around point about sunset.

A few minutes after turning around, the IA engineers stopped to investigate a tire that had a plastic bag in it on the side of the road. The object seemed out of the ordinary, and the engineers examined it using protective equipment and engineering assets.

This particular object turned out to be nothing more than



Photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins

garbage, but on other occasions such searches have turned up IEDs or unexploded ordnance.

“The purpose of this mission with the IA was to observe and teach them how to conduct a route clearance,” said 1st Lt. Branden Jones, Outlaws Platoon leader, Company C, 1st STB, 1st AATF. “Doing joint

An Iraqi soldier of the Field Engineer Regiment, 12th Iraqi Army Division, places grid coordinates into his handheld Global Positioning System during route clearance training at Contingency Operating Site K1, Dec. 21, 2010. The training, conducted by the ‘Outlaws’ of Company C, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., built upon a previous course in map reading to familiarize the IA soldiers with how to use map coordinates to assist in reporting unit locations and Improvised Explosive Devices during future route clearance missions.

missions helps us build relationships as well as allow us to evaluate how they perform to ensure it’s done correctly in order for them to be fully capable of taking over in the future.”

Although the engineers did not find anything on this particular route clearance, Lt. Sofuan Waheed Esaa, 1st Platoon commander, 2nd EOD Company, FER, 12th IA Div., said the most important part of this mission and their training with American forces is being able to recognize and check for an IED.

“Route clearance is a new [mission] for the Iraqi Army,” said Sofuan. “And it’s important because we’re learning how to use special tactics to counter our enemies in a way that will minimize casualties.”

Sofuan said despite being a new unit, the Iraqi engineers have worked with the U.S. engineers for a long time and have gained a great deal of experience in a very short time.

U.S. forces also trained the Iraqi engineers to accomplish the mission using recently acquired equipment.

See CLEARANCE, pg. 10 –



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div., USD-N

Iraqi engineers of the Field Engineer Regiment, 12th Iraqi Army Division, investigate a suspicious object on the side of the road while conducting a joint route clearance with the ‘Outlaw’ engineers of Company C, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kan., around the city of Kirkuk, during the month of Dec. 19, 2010. The engineers cleared a route in their area of responsibility searching locations where Improvised Explosive Devices had been placed in the past or were likely to be placed based off of an intelligence estimate of the route.

Communications critical to mission success

Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPIECHER, Iraq – On a spring night in Massachusetts, two lanterns glowed in the bell tower of Old North Church, while in the streets below a rider mounted his horse. The lanterns signaled a silversmith named Paul Revere that the British army would cross a river on its way to Lexington; prompting Revere to ride from Boston to Lexington to warn colonists. The critical information Revere provided that night in April of 1775 allowed the colonial militia to thwart the British attack on Concord, forcing a retreat of British troops to Boston.

The U.S. Army's modern communication technology, maintained by Command and Control, Communications and Computers Operations sections, ensure digital radios, computers and satellites provide near instantaneous means for Soldiers to communicate throughout their environment, replacing the need for riders on

horseback making epic treks across treacherous landscapes.

"C4 Operations are in the center of everything the Army does," said Lt. Col. Chuck Heimann, Chief Information officer assigned to Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. "We handle everything communication related from radios to electronic file storage to Information Assurance."

U.S. Division-North's C4 Operations section facilitates communications, a timely exchange of information and efficient mission coordination for Soldiers deployed in support of Operation New Dawn, said Heimann.

The Soldiers of 4th Inf. Div.'s C4 Operations are responsible for providing the many means of communication used by the various units operating in northern Iraq, said Heimann

C4 Operations is comprised of two main sections, Network Operations and Operations, which are further broken down into several smaller sections, each responsible for an aspect of U.S. Division-North



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller, USD-N
Staff Sgt. Brett Williams, transmissions systems operations noncommissioned officer assigned to Company C, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, monitors network activity from his work station in Network Operations, part of Command and Control, Communications and Computers Operations section at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Dec. 29, 2010. All communication aspects from radio's to e-mail is the responsibility of C4 operations.

communications, he explained.

Signal Soldiers of Network Operations established and maintain the many

See COMMUNICATIONS, pg. 12

Continued from CLEARANCE, pg. 9

Staff Sgt. Pete Steffen, squad leader, Company C, 1st STB, 1st AATF, introduced the Iraqi soldiers of FER, 12th IA

Div. to new Global Positioning Systems using a sequential training model to report unit locations and the locations of



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kandi Huggins, 1st AATF PAO, 1st Inf. Div.
Iraqi engineers of Field Engineer Regiment, 12th Iraqi Army Division, learn about the basic functions and features of a Global Positioning System during route clearance training at Contingency Operating Site K1 near Kirkuk, Iraq, Dec. 21, 2010. U.S. Soldiers of Company C, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., trained the Iraqi Security Forces how to use the new gear to report unit locations and the location of suspected IEDs.

suspected IEDs.

Steffen said during the first day of training, the Iraqi soldiers learned to orientate their maps when using GPS to navigate.

"This was a good introduction to the system," said Steffen. "Our emphasis was on grids, which took them a while to recognize in the map reading training."

"This way they can see how it's put to use while using the GPS," he said.

Steffan said he expects the FER to practice using the GPS systems independently during future missions.

"The training was outstanding," said Pfc. Amar Ahmad Sleman of the Route Clearance Platoon, FER, 12th IA Div. "Last session we had a test on map reading, which most of us passed."

Amar added the GPS train-

ing was a good way to learn how to better read grids and recognize features on a map.

"It shows we're progressing throughout this training process and we're taking advantage of learning from U.S. Soldiers," said Amar.

As a result of U.S. training, Iraqi soldiers unfamiliar with an area can determine their location with the help of the GPS, he added.

The "Outlaws" of Company C, 1st Special Troops Battalion continue to work with the Iraqi engineers to build their capability, said Jones, who believes it will be only a matter of time before the FER, 12th IA Div. is ready to conduct independent operations.

Local COB Speicher talent provides entertainment

Sgt. Coltin Heller
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
U.S. Division-North Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPIECHER, Iraq – Multi-colored lights flashed and danced off the stage as performers showed off various talents during an event held to boost spirits New Years Eve at Contingency Operating Base Speicher Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center-North.

Soldiers and civilians performed their acts during the COB Speicher Talent Show



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller

Sgt. Tanecia Shepherd, a Dallas-native and cable team leader assigned to the 820th Signal Company, 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, sang "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys, for Soldiers and civilians at the Contingency Operating Base Speicher Talent Show held at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center-North, Dec. 31, 2010. Shepherd, one of four registered acts to perform in the talent show, placed first with her rendition. "I was nervous to sing at first," said Shepherd, who calls Dallas home. "But once I got on stage I forgot all about that." Soldiers performed in front of an audience of Soldiers, and contractors who laughed, clapped, and shouted their support to comedy, singing, and rap acts.

singing well-know songs for the audience and performing stand-up comedy routines for a good laugh.

"We do this as something to keep the Soldiers' spirits up," said event coordinator Sgt. 1st Class George Byrd, noncommissioned officer in charge of communications for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Task Force ODIN, Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize, U.S. Division-North. "The talent show is something different; something the Soldiers can come to and perform or they can kick back and relax."

Following the performances, audience members chose the top three performers, casting votes for the favorite acts through applause, cheers and shouts of encouragement.

Sgt. Tanecia Shepherd, cable team shift leader assigned to 820th Signal Company, 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, U.S. Division-North, placed first in the event for her rendition of Alicia Keys' "If I Ain't Got You."

"I was really nervous to sing at first," said the Dallas-native. "But once I got on stage I forgot all about that."

For performing his original rap song, "Where Can I Run To?," Spc. Louis Robinson, petroleum supply specialist with HHT, Task Force ODIN, placed second in the event.

"I came to interact with people and start the New Year off right," said Robinson, who hails from Baton Rouge, La.

Retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Norma Lockhart, a civilian contractor working at COB Speicher in support of the troops deployed for Operation New Dawn, said she enjoys singing for the Soldiers.

"I wanted to uplift the Soldiers' spirits on this dismal day with an upbeat song," said Lockhart, referring to the rainy weather dampening the COB located near Tikrit in northern Iraq.

Lockhart, who deployed to Iraq in 2006 with 628th Finance Detachment, 213th Area Support Group, 28th Infantry Division, said she knows the importance of events like the talent show.

"I liked coming to these events when I was deployed," said the Johnstown, Pa.-



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Coltin Heller

Pfc. Louis Robinson, a petroleum supply specialist from Baton Rouge, La., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Task Force ODIN, Observe, Detect, Identify and Neutralize, performs his original song, "Where Can I Run To?," at the COB Speicher Talent Show hosted at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center-North at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Dec. 31, 2010. Robinson, the only performer to rap that night, placed second in the show.

native. "It gives the Soldiers something to think about other than the mission."

Due to inclement weather, only four performers had officially signed up for the show. As the night continued audience members came to the stage to perform off the cuff comedy routines to the amusement of Soldiers and civilians alike, whose laughter could be heard throughout the MRW-North Center.

"All the acts were great," said Spc. Anthony Kelly, unit supply specialist assigned to Company A, Task Force ODIN, U.S. Division-North. "It would have been good to see more, but the ones that did go on stage were as good as expected."

Although this was the first and last talent show held during 2010, more shows are planned for next year, said Byrd.

"We'll keep trying to do something for the Soldiers, no matter what it is," said Byrd, selecting songs played between acts. "It doesn't matter how many show up. If we can entertain one person, we are going to do it."

Hey Doc: 'Don't Huff and Puff and Blow Your Career Away!'

Capt. Nathaniel Teague
Surgeon's Office
U.S. Division-North

'Hey Doc: 'How is...is... is...is...it going? Please ignore the redness around my nose, and my uncontrollable body shaking. I love you man. Is canned air bad for you? What's your name again?'

– Signed
"Fewer Brain Cells"

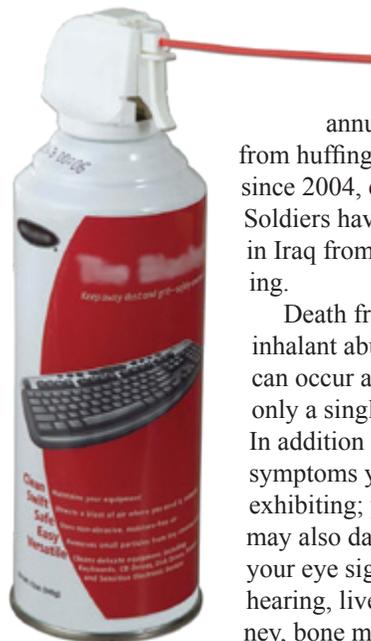
Dear "Fewer Brain Cells,"

I suspect you may be "huffing" or abusing inhaled chemical vapors in order to alter your mental status. You are experiencing some of the classic symptoms and signs; slurred speech, emotional instability, memory loss, rash around the

mouth and nose.

Inhaling chemical vapors, such as canned air, to purposefully alter your mental and physical state, also known as huffing, is a serious offense; primarily against your body, and also in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

By illegally huffing, you are jeopardizing your career, your health, and your very life. The U.S. Government has reported more than 1,000 deaths



annually from huffing, and since 2004, eight Soldiers have died in Iraq from huffing.

Death from inhalant abuse can occur after only a single use. In addition to the symptoms you are exhibiting; you may also damage your eye sight, hearing, liver, kidney, bone marrow,

and nervous system. You are most certainly causing irreparable brain damage. Everytime you abuse you kill brain cells and become more and more dullwitted.

If separated from the Army because of huffing – assuming your abuse hasn't resulted in your death – you could receive a dishonorable discharge, lose all your benefits, and have trouble finding employment in the civilian job market. Get yourself help, before it's too late. Combat Stress Control and Behavioral Health providers are standing by to assist you.

Ironhorse Soldiers, keep those questions coming!

Continued from COMMUNICATION, pg. 10

computer networks that Soldiers and units use in their day-to-day operations.

"This section handles tactical systems, and hosts all divisions systems, providing access to the network and allowing the various pieces in (U.S. Division-North) to communicate," said Sgt. Chris Russell, senior network manager from College Station, Texas, assigned to Company C, DSTB, 4th Inf. Div. "We also are responsible for maintaining the network as far as construction of the network and the many portals on it."

Network Operations supports a Wide Area Network for units operating outside U.S. Division-North Headquarters, allowing users in northern Iraq to have access to the system despite being stationed at other installations, said Staff Sgt. Brett Williams, Transmissions Systems Operations non-commissioned officer, Company C.

"The WAN is what lets the brigades talk to each other during battle update briefs and other meetings held on the network," said Williams, who hails from Brooklyn, N.Y. "Communication between division and the brigades is crucial to the mission."

The other side of C4, the Operations section, directly supports current operations, employing more communications

functions to accomplish the mission.

Division Automation Management, commonly known as the "Help Desk," and the Information Assurance and Communication Security sub-sections are also organized under the Operations section.

In addition to supporting U.S. Division-North staff, the Help Desk is also responsible for maintaining the networks the subordinate brigades use, said Spc. Imre Fabian, signal support systems specialist, from West Palm Beach, Fla.

"We handle any administrative problems the Soldiers have on their network computers such as logging on or problems with e-mail," said Fabian.

Communications between units is crucial and as such must be protected from external threats, said Williams. The security of the network and landline communications is provided by Information Assurance and Communication Security.

"Information assurance ensures the security of the network for all of USD-N," said Pvt. Matt Burnett, information technology management specialist from Walton Beach, Fla. with Company C. "This section is responsible for anti-virus programs on the computers and monitors for any attempt to hack the system."

Burnet added the Information Assurance section authorizes which computers and programs are placed in the system, as well as software updates and patches uploaded to the network.

"Radio frequencies and encryption of telephone lines is the responsibility of the communications security, ensuring the information passed in that capacity is not compromised," said Heimann.

Due to the critical nature of C4 operations, many of the Soldiers in the section have 12-hour shifts, ensuring the communications hub is manned at all times. Those stations not manned 24 hours have Soldiers standing by if needed.

"This is the best group of Soldiers I have ever worked with, in that they all bring something to the table," said Heimann. "They set a very high standard for themselves and take pride in what they do."

The collaboration of each section of C4 Operations enables U.S. Division-North to maintain situational awareness and command and control of Soldiers and units operating in U.S. Division-North, he said, providing commanders the tools they need to plan and execute missions in support of Operation New Dawn.