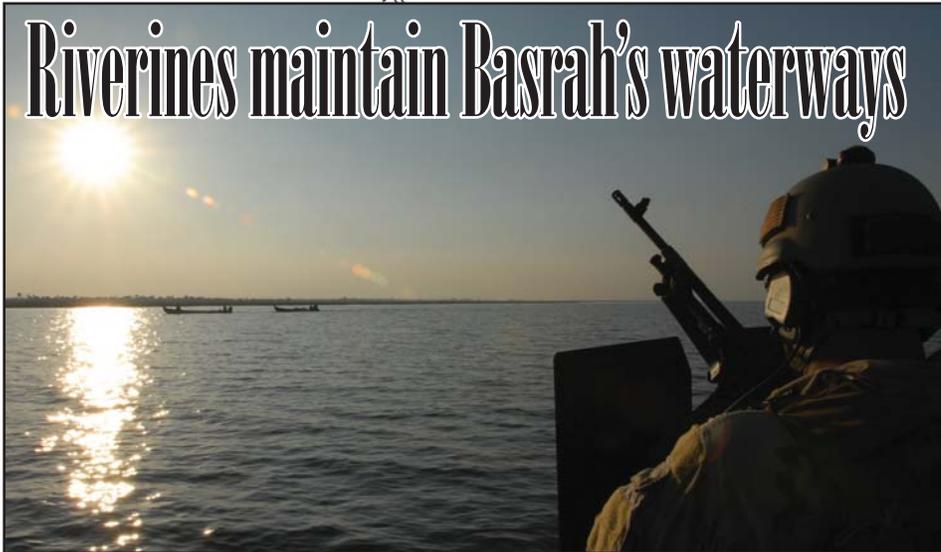


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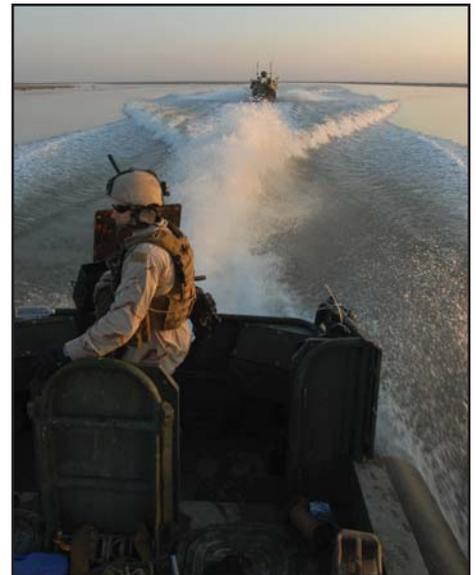
December 23, 2009



Riverines maintain Basrah's waterways

Photos by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey

As Petty Officer 1st Class Ron Mejia, port gunner, Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3, looks on, the sun sets over two local fishing boats making their way home Dec. 14, near Basrah, Iraq. The rivers and canals in southern Iraq are key arteries for commerce and a central part of the lives of many locals.



With the Riverine assault boat bringing up the rear, aft gunner and engineer Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Conklin, Detachment 1, RIVRON 3, watches the shoreline. Though the security of the waterways in the south will eventually fall completely to Iraqi forces, the presence of the Riverines is an essential part of the current security of the area.

Smooth sailing for Iraqi, US partnership

By Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
 367th MPAD



COB BASRA, – Up to a few months ago, Lt. Omar Falah Hassan, with three years in uniform, had nothing to do with river patrols. Now, he is a platoon leader charged with security and social stability on and around a river that is home to many, but far from his own home.

Helping him and his men in 1st Squadron, 52nd Brigade get their “sea legs” is another group of out-of-town-ers: Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3.

Hassan said that many of the ways the Iraqi Army and Riverines function on a unit level are very different, but they try to support each other.

After the Vietnam War, the United States ceased to maintain a “brown-water Navy,” but when the Marines requested help with waterway security a few years ago, volunteers from across the Navy stepped up.

As a result, when RIVRON 3 – the last

“They definitely are looking to secure their country. You can tell that they’re excited and willing to take on the mission and secure the area.”

~ Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Houskey
 Boat Captain, Detachment 1, RIVRON 3

of the three current RIVRONs to be assembled – was stood up July 6, 2007, it was comprised almost entirely of sailors who specifically requested the duty.

That had a definite impact, said Petty Officer 1st Class Jeremy Houskey, boat captain, Detachment 1, RIVRON 3.

“You’ve got guys who volunteered for the mission; they want to do the mission,” he said. “RIVRON 3 seemed to set the bar for all the training cycles and a lot of training that was pipelined through the Marine Corps.”

The Marine Corps training he referred to includes the Marine Corps School of Infantry, which he attended in addition to training for handling the machine guns on the boats and the boats

themselves.

Now on their second deployment, RIVRON 3 is throwing that mentality and motivation into not only securing the waterways of southern Iraq, but securing a reliable future for Iraq’s essential river arteries by training Iraqi forces to take over when they go.

“We interact with the Iraqis daily,” Houskey said. “We take them out, do what they want to do: whatever they want to search, whatever they want to look around.”

The primary focus of the training for the Iraqis is how to take what they know

Hanukkah Candle Lighting Ceremony

By SSG Chris Carney
367th MPAD



COB BASRA – The final day of Hanukkah was celebrated with a candle lighting ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Basra Dec. 19.

Jewish lay leader and combat historian with the 311th Military History Detachment, Sgt. Jennifer Sheldon, attached to the 34th Infantry Division as an administrative noncommissioned officer, led a celebration that culminated in the lighting of all nine candles of the Menorah – one for each day of Hanukkah and the Shamash, or guardian candle, which is used to light the others.

Although the event was small, it drew supporters from around the base.

“There are not a lot of Jews in the Army. Actually there are not a lot in armies around the world, outside of Israel that is,” said Staff Sgt. Paula Merns, from Minneapolis, a 34th Inf. Div. analyst.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Macapagal, St. Paul, Minn., a budget NCO in the 34th Inf. Div., attended to show support but he is not unfamiliar with Hanukkah.

“My kids are Jewish and they celebrate every year. So I’ve seen this a few times,” Macapagal said.

Being able to see this helps with being away from his kids, he said.

Others came for the opportunity to witness the Menorah lighting for the first time.

“This is just something that I’ve always wanted to see,” said Maj. Kimberley Venable, budget officer with the 34th Inf. Div.

For more of SSG. Carney’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Carney



Sgt. Jennifer Sheldon, 34th Inf. Div. administration NCO, unrolls the Torah.



The Hanukkah Menorah, lit on the final day of the “Festival of Lights.”



Photos by SSG Chris Carney

The Hanukkah Menorah is lit right before sunset so that it can burn at least 30 minutes after dark.



Spc. Brian Solomon, 34th Inf. Div. main command post, Sgt. Jennifer Sheldon, 34th Inf. Div. administration NCO, and Staff Sgt. Paula Merns, 34th Inf. Div. analyst, take turns lighting the Menorah during a ceremony on the last day of Hanukkah

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Runner’s World ranks the Twin Cities as America’s sixth best city for runners. The Twin Cities Marathon in Minneapolis and St. Paul every October draws 250,000 spectators.

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office

★★

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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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Photos by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Kahlich, Detachment 1, Riverine Squadron 3, holds a small boat steady against a Riverine Patrol Boat.

From Page 1 WATERWAYS

and translate it to river operations, said Lt. j.g. Mike Diehl, Det 1 commanding officer.

"They're used to the land aspects, and they've got that down," Diehl said, "but we work with them on how to incorporate the fact that they're now getting boats and how to utilize that lane of communication so that it's a positive instead of a negative."

"But, by getting them so they can operate on both the land and the water in conjunction, you turn that into a positive, so that now it's a way for them to move, to transport; it's another way for them to approach the enemy," Diehl said.



Lt. Omar Falah Hassan, platoon leader, 1st Squadron, 52nd Brigade, Iraqi Army, talks with locals who had ducked into a side canal when they saw the boats of Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 approaching. Working directly with the Iraqi authorities during actual operations simplifies communication for the Riverines and allows the Iraqi forces to take a front-seat role.

The Iraqi Soldiers have learned techniques for everything from searching boats to setting up security when they go on land, Hassan said.

But what the Iraqis and Americans work together on has as much to do with the application of known techniques as delving into new ones, said Diehl.

"The way we like to teach is that a patrol is a patrol is a patrol, just like a checkpoint is a checkpoint is a checkpoint, whether you're on land or on water," Diehl said.

Much of the training involves not simply learning a set of tactics, but also understanding the principals on which tactics are based so they can be altered as needed.

"They're looking at different maneuvers and different tactics," Diehl said. "That way, if the insurgents are out there, they don't know the best way to avoid having their illicit cargo found."

"They're in a highly visible state out

on the river, and it's really easy to be observed, because there are lots of people out and about," he said. "It's very easy to send people through just to see how people are being searched, and put things that aren't bad away in places to check to see if they're going to find them or not."

The Iraqi Soldiers' solid knowledge base means that the Riverines didn't have to start at square one with the training.

"Pretty much, they have the game plan; they know how to execute it," Houskey said. "They just need some help, to get some guidance on what to do. A lot of these guys have been trained by SWCC [Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman], so they have a general idea of what's going on."

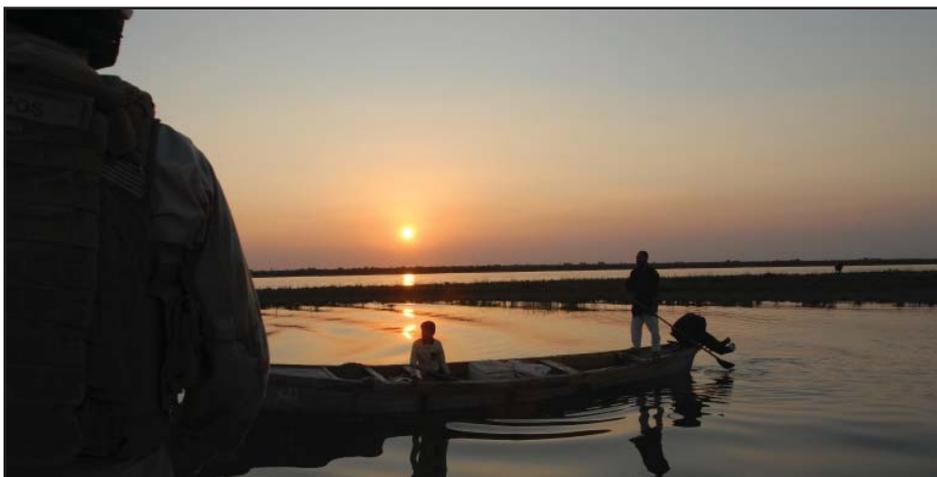
The working relationship is a comfortable one, Hassan said, and one aspect he likes about working with the Americans is simply getting a different perspective.

Much like the RIVRON 3 Riverines themselves, it is the attitude of the Iraqi Soldiers that most contributes to the success of operations.

"What it boils down to is, the Iraqis are willing to get on their boats and do these missions," Houskey said. "Even though they're working during the day on check points, they get on the boats at night and work with us as well."

Diehl echoed Houskey's impressions.

"They definitely are looking to secure their country," he said, "and you can tell that they're excited and willing to take on the mission and secure the area."



An Iraqi man and young boy out fishing in the final hours of the evening pull their boat alongside the Riverine Patrol.

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

3rd HBCT Soldiers earn their patches



Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Inf. Div., carry lit sledgehammers to ignite a bonfire during the ceremony.



Soldiers of the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, bow their heads in prayer during the unit's combat patch ceremony held Dec. 18 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq. The patch ceremony is a milestone a Soldier crosses when deployed to a combat zone with a unit for 30 days.



Col. Peter Jones, commander, and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, put the 3rd Inf. Div. combat patch on the right shoulders of staff officers and noncommissioned officers during the ceremony.



Sgt. 1st Class Candy, a bomb sniffing member of 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., receives her unit combat patch. Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, 3rd HBCT, congratulates her.



Col. Peter Jones, commander, gives a speech during the unit's combat patch ceremony. In his speech, Jones spoke of the pride each patch wearer should feel as they put on the same combat patch that numerous heroes before them wore.



Leaders of the 3rd HBCT and the 34th Inf. Div., salute the flag. The 3rd HBCT is currently attached to the 34th Inf. Div. during the unit's fourth deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick
3rd HBCT Public Affairs





Word Search

Mystery Christmas Carol

H Y E P Y L L O H L M W C G N
 T L R R D T L W S E L E A A O
 I L O A T I E E H C K A R Y W
 W O F H A O S L M I T T O R Y
 J J E H E S G E L P L H L E Y
 Y O B H A E A E A E E E A E S
 U T Y L S S D S T R R R N H H
 L N N O U T S L U H R A G O T
 E E S R U E R S E W E U P R D
 W I E E S S A I A S O R O P L
 W C A D N E L T K B S L L O A
 I N S I R Y A W A E L I L S D
 N A O T G N I Z A L B D N O S
 D J N T S A F S U R O H C G F

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

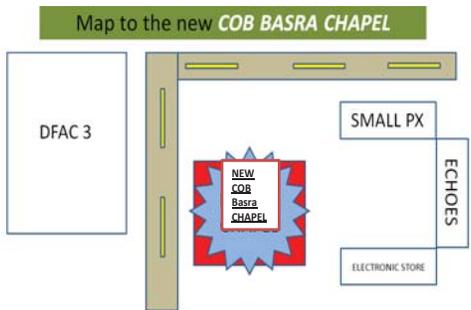
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ALL | MEASURE |
| ANCIENT | MERRY |
| APPAREL | NEW |
| AWAY | NOW |
| BEFORE | OLD |
| BLAZING | OUR |
| BOUGHS | PASSES |
| CAROL | SEASON |
| CHORUS | SING |
| DON | STRIKE |
| FAST | TELL |
| FOLLOW | TIDE |
| GAY | TIS |
| HAIL | TOGETHER |
| HARP | TREASURE |
| HEEDLESS | TROLL |
| HOLLY | WEATHER |
| JOIN | WHILE |
| JOLLY | WIND |
| JOYOUS | WITH |
| LADS | YEAR |
| LASSES | YULE |

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

LAST SUNDAY @ the Interim Chapel Tent



Join us @ the
NEW
 COB Basra Chapel!!



All Chapel Services, beginning with the 24 December Christmas Eve services @ 2200, will be @ the NEW COB Basra Chapel. See map above for directions.

Questions? Call or email SGT Jonathan Groeneweg @ 858-4596 or jonathan.groeneweg@iraq.centcom.mil, thanks!

COB BASRA
 2009 Holiday Service Schedule

24 Dec, 2200
 Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

24 Dec, 2330
 Christmas Eve Mass

25 Dec, 0900
 Christmas Mass

25 Dec, 1030
 COB Basra Christmas Service

All services held at the new COB Basra Chapel

New Year's Resolution: Keeping Safety a Top Priority

As the new year approaches, it is a good time to reflect on all the success of your safety program during the past year. Safety should be a top priority for everyone in your organization. Did you meet your goals and objectives in 2009? Are you ready to set some new safety goals, priorities and objectives for 2010?



Hunt down and eliminate hazards:

- ♦ Take a second look at the layout and condition of work areas.
- ♦ Examine tools and equipment to make sure they are safe for employees to use and review maintenance schedules to make sure they stay that way.
- ♦ Observe the way employees work and behave. You might be surprised at how many unsafe acts and behaviors you observe.
- ♦ Check to make sure that appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in good condition and is readily available to all workers.
- ♦ Identify all potential hazards like: fire, chemical, electrical and other potential dangers throughout your workplace and take appropriate corrective action to eliminate all these risks.

Emphasize training:

- ♦ Check AR 385-10/OSHA safety standards and training requirements. Regulations have very specific safety standards and requirements.
- ♦ Make sure training sessions are interactive and provide plenty of opportunities for questions, answers and discussion.
- ♦ Take advantage of available technology to enhance and expand your safety-training program.
- ♦ Provide lots of demonstrations and hands-on experience during training sessions.
- ♦ Do not forget to also provide training for maintenance, supervisors and managers.

Encourage employee participation:

- ♦ Encourage all employees to make suggestions in how to improve their workplace safety and give their suggestions serious consideration and recognition.
- ♦ Involve all employees in problem solving: Safety & Health issues in the work place.

Take some time now to consider your personal safety resolutions for 2010.

For more about safety, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/SafeandSound



RACE DAY REGISTRATION STARTS AT 0600 AT THE USO

RACE STARTS AT 0715

SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$10; T-SHIRTS FOR THE FIRST 400 REGISTERED

POC: brandin.foos@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS CONTRIBUTE TO A MINNESOTA MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF:

SPC Daniel Drevnick, SPC James Wertish, and SPC Carlos Wilcox

(MEMORIAL COINS WILL ALSO BE FOR SALE FOR \$20 EACH)

PRE-REGISTRATION:

27 DECEMBER, MAIN PX 1100-1500

03 JANUARY, USO 1200-1400

08 JANUARY, DFAC2 LUNCH & DINNER

CASH/CHECK/EAGLE CASH ACCEPTED DURING PRE-REGISTRATION; RACE DAY CASH/CHECK ONLY

PRIZES FOR TOP MALE/FEMALE FINISHERS

- 1ST: Apple Ipod Touch
- 2nd: Oakley Sunglasses
- 3rd: Nike+ Sportsband

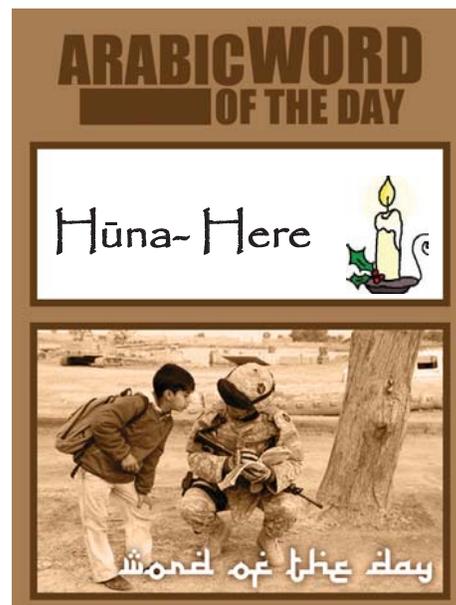




Photo by Sgt. Neil Gussman

FROM DUSK TILL DAWN

Sgt. Benny Hume, a crew chief in "A" Company, Task Force Diablo, performs post-flight maintenance on a Blackhawk at sunset on Contingency Operating Base Adder.

An advertisement for the Oasis Restaurant Grand Opening. On the left is a photograph of a large, ornate fountain with multiple jets of water spraying upwards. The background of the ad is a light, textured surface. The main text is in a green, stylized font. Below the main text are four small inset photographs: the first shows a counter with various bottles and containers; the second shows a close-up of food being prepared in a pan; the third shows a person's hands mixing ingredients in a large metal bowl; the fourth shows a group of people sitting on the ground under a tent, possibly at an outdoor event.

OASIS RESTAURANT GRAND OPENING
DECEMBER 26, 2009 1200-1400

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE FOR A SAMPLING OF TRADITIONAL IRAQI FOOD.
COME OUT AND EXPAND YOUR CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AT THE BAZAAR.

THE AL MOOSARI GROUP WANTS TO EXPRESS THANKS
TO MG. NASH AND THE 34TH IN. DIV. FOR THEIR SUPPORT
WITH THIS SPECIAL GRAND OPENING EVENT.



Around the world in 34 seconds

WORLD MOSCOW - Russia and the United States plan unprecedented cuts to their Cold War arsenals of nuclear weapons under a new arms reduction deal, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying on Tuesday. The two largest nuclear powers have been trying to find a replacement for the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which led to the biggest reduction in nuclear weapons in history, but have so far failed to reach a deal. "The treaty will stipulate a radical and unprecedented reduction in strategic offensive weapons," Lavrov was quoted as saying by the state-owned RIA news agency. Cutting the vast arsenals of nuclear weapons built during the Cold War is the centerpiece of U.S. President Barack Obama's efforts to "reset" relations with Russia, which the United States is pressing to offer more help on Afghanistan and Iran. Russia and the United States failed to agree on a successor to START I by Dec. 5, when the treaty was due to expire, and have extended it as they search for a new agreement.

U.S. WASHINGTON - A leaked memo appearing to show Tehran's efforts to design an atomic bomb trigger was forged by the United States, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a U.S. news program. Ahmadinejad was asked by ABC News about a report in London's Times newspaper last week on what it said was a confidential Iranian technical document describing a four-year plan to test a neutron initiator, the part of a warhead that sets off an explosion. "They are all fabricated bunch of papers continuously being forged and disseminated by the American government," he told the U.S. network in an interview broadcast on Monday. Reports that Iran is working on a bomb trigger are "fundamentally not true," Ahmadinejad said. On Dec. 14, The Times published what it said was the Farsi-language document, with an English translation, entitled "Outlook for Special Neutron-Related Activities Over the Next Four Years." The document described steps to develop and test parts for a neutron initiator, a device that floods the core of highly enriched uranium with subatomic particles to set off the chain reaction of a nuclear explosion.

SPORTS LONDON - Roger Federer and Serena Williams were named 2009 ITF World Champions on Tuesday after capturing four grand slam singles titles between them in 2009. It is the fifth time Switzerland's world number one Federer has won the ITF award, based on performances at grand slam events, Tour events, Davis Cup and Fed Cup. Williams took the award for the second time despite her foul-mouthed outburst at a line judge at this year's U.S. Open. Williams was fined \$175,000 and put on probation for two years by the Grand Slam Committee following the tirade that resulted in her receiving a point penalty and losing her semi-final against Kim Clijsters. Federer had no such shadow hanging over his season.

ODD WASHINGTON - The city's police chief slammed a veteran detective Monday for pulling a gun during a mass snowball fight that had been advertised on Twitter. Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier said she watched video clips from the confrontation and has no doubt the off-duty detective pulled his gun after snowballs hit his personal car during Saturday's record snowfall. Lanier said the detective, whom she did not identify, did not deny the accusations. He is on desk duty until an investigation is complete. Hundreds of people gathered for the snowball fight on a major street after organizers used social networks such as Twitter to advertise it.