

New weapon for the fight against IEDs

By Lt. Col. Pat Simon
225th Eng. Bde, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Army combat engineer Soldiers now have a new weapon in the fight against deadly improvised explosive devices.

U.S. engineers demonstrated the Ground Torch System during a training session at the 225th Engineer Brigades Task Force Iron Claw Academy, Oct. 20.

The system gives Soldiers the ability to snuff out bombs and trip wires that are hidden in heavily vegetative areas throughout Baghdad. Soldiers can now simply use the torch to burn thick shrubbery from a safe distance away.

“This is the Army’s version

of the Marine Corps’ torch that they have been using for a long time,” said Jason LaHaye, Lake Escobar, Calif., the civilian chief trainer. “Army units in Balad [Iraq] are using it with success. This is the first unit in Baghdad to use it.”

Spc. Heather Todd, from Lisbon, Ohio, with the 1192nd Eng Company, one of the first to test the system, was in awe by the amount of heat delivered by the system at long distances.

“It’s a new experience for me,” Todd said excitedly. “I love it. It’s definitely an adrenaline rush.”

Soldiers not only were able to fire the torch during the training, they also learned how to properly mix the fuel for the burn; similar



Photo by Lt. Col. Pat Simon

Engineer Soldiers create a field of fire during training, Oct. 20, on the new Ground Torch System. The torch is now being fielded by the elements with the 225th Engineer Brigade to help kill heavy vegetation along road routes that might be used to hide improvised explosive devices.

to what you would learn in a high

school chemistry class. But it was the act of pushing fierce heat downrange that got them fired up about this weapon system.

“I immediately put this on the top five on my list of cool things I have done,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Ray, of Baton Rouge, La.

The new torch means less of a need to manually cut branches and other vegetation along roadsides which reduces security risks for both Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers.

“We recently had to push lots of heavy equipment and manpower to Mahmudiyah and we could have really used this (torch),” said Ray.

“We have a lot of [Brigade Combat Teams] asking about it.”

Todd’s unit is among the first group to use the anti-IED torch during route sanitation missions.

“Yeah, they said they have a few missions ahead. Hopefully, I will get to be a part of those,” she said.



Photo by Lt. Col. Pat Simon

Staff Sgt. Joseph Ray, from Baton Rouge, La., 225th Engineer Brigade, fires the Ground Torch System during training, Oct. 20.

Federal Police learn hands-on techniques

By Sgt. Joshua Risner, MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD – Staff Sgt. David Free (left), from Hull, Ga., inspects an Iraqi Federal Policeman's arm hold during combatives training at Joint Security Station Istaqlal, here, Oct. 20.



Iraqi Federal Policemen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st FP Division, wrestle for the upper hand during hand-to-hand combat training at Joint Security Station Istaqlal, here, Oct. 20.



Sgt. Thomas Robbins (bottom), from Birmingham, Ala., grapples with an Iraqi Federal Policeman during hand-to-hand combat training at Joint Security Station Istaqlal, here, Oct. 20.



An Iraqi Federal Policeman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st FP Division, throws uppercuts at a punch glove held by Spc. Robert McDaniel, from Memphis, Tenn., during combatives training at Joint Security Station Istaqlal, here, Oct. 20.

Baghdad brothers train Iraqis

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — At first glance, they don't look like brothers. Staff Sgt. Avery Washington is stoic, even-tempered and wears glasses. Sgt. Steven Barner is the youngest and has a smooth southern drawl while Staff Sgt. Joseph Willett is loud, friendly and has a hearty laugh.

"We're pretty much brothers," said Barner with a smile.

These three tankers aren't related by blood, but that doesn't matter. Assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, they are on their third combat tour in five years to Baghdad as a team. This time they are helping to mentor and train Iraqi Army Soldiers to fight as one team and become what they have become—brothers.

"It's sad that it takes war to bring people together with teamwork, but that's one thing that we have in Blue Platoon — teamwork," explained Willett, a native of Evansville, Ind.

At Joint Security Station Shield, here, where they train their IA counterparts, the three Soldiers stand around during a break in training to joke with each other.

"This is the first guy I met at Fort Hood when I showed up as a private," said Barner, from Greenwood, Miss., as he pushes Willett. "I've been trying to get rid of him ever since!"

Barner added that being familiar and able to joke around with his other non-commissioned officers really helps ease tensions.

"I remember that time our last tour when we were riding in our tanks and an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] hit my tank and blew the M-240 machine gun off the tank," said Barner with a laugh.

Though there have not been too many close calls this tour for these Soldiers, they still stay sharp by predicting what the other will say or do next.

"Somebody will start out teaching a class, but we always jump in and help each other out," explained Washington about their method of working together.

The three Soldiers constantly interact with different IA Soldiers in the class. When one teaches one class, another would help explain some details of another class

and the other would lead a group through a practical exercise.

"But if I ever have a question, I know I can go to Staff Sgt. Washington and Sgt. Barner any time of the day and say, 'Hey, I need some help, square me away.' And I know they will," said Willett during a rare serious moment.

"We pretty much know what we're thinking before anything happens, so it comes in handy if something goes down," said Washington, from Atlanta, Texas.

Willett agreed that when the Soldiers are on missions, they are doing the exact same thing that they've been trained to do and know exactly what the other person is going to do.

"The Iraqi Soldiers see how we work together and try to emulate us as Soldiers because we know the standard and are the standard," explained Washington. "We all know the same information and are able to pass it on down to these Soldiers."

"My goal is being able to conduct successful missions and being able to adjust and react properly to situations and redeploy home with all my guys together," continued Washington.

For these NCOs, it might be their last deployment together and opportunity to train Iraqis because they are going different ways once they get back to the U.S., but in the meantime, these Baghdad Brothers are not going to slow down.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Staff Sgt. Avery Washington (right), a section sergeant from Atlanta, Texas, shares a laugh with an Iraqi Army counterpart during a break from a training academy at Joint Security Station Shield, Oct. 18.

On This Day In History

U.N. formally established

Less than two months after the end of World War II, the United Nations is formally established with the ratification of the United Nations Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories.

The idea of the United Nations began to be articulated in August 1941, when U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter, which proposed a set of principles for international collaboration in maintaining peace and security. Later that year, Roosevelt coined "United Nations" to describe the nations allied against the Axis powers--Germany, Italy, and Japan. The term was first officially used on January 1, 1942, when representatives of 26 Allied nations met in Washington, D.C., and signed the Declaration by the United Nations, which endorsed the Atlantic Charter and presented the united war aims of the Allies.

In October 1943, the major Allied powers--Great Britain, the United States, the USSR, and China--met in Moscow and issued the Moscow Declaration. Compromise was reached by the "Big Three"--the United States, Britain, and the USSR--at the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and all countries that had adhered to the 1942 Declaration by the United Nations were invited to the United Nations founding conference.

On April 25, 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organization convened in San Francisco with 50 nations represented. Three months later, during which time Germany had surrendered, the final Charter of the United Nations was unanimously adopted and signed by the delegates. The Charter called for the U.N. to maintain international peace and security, promote social progress and better standards of life, strengthen international law, and promote the expansion of human rights.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

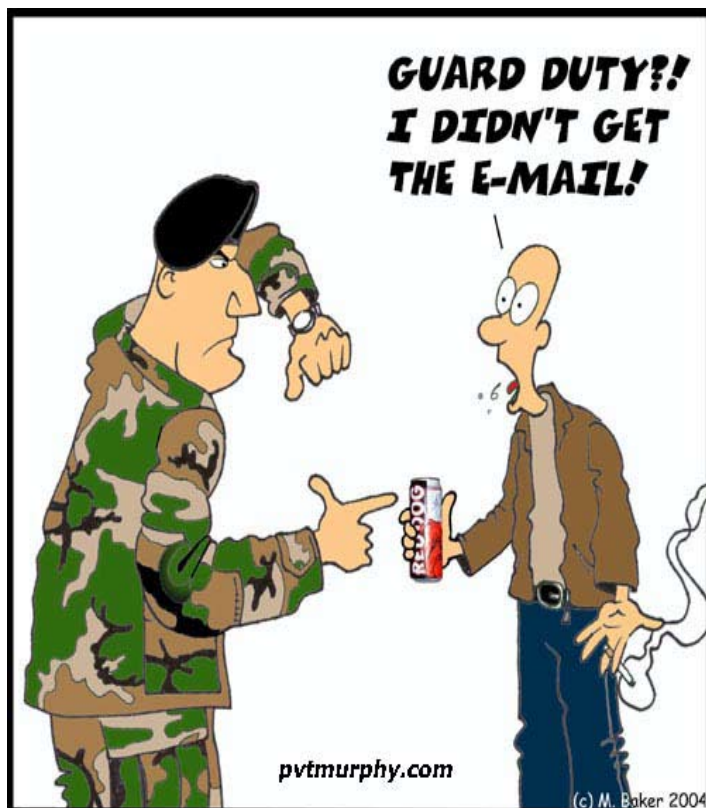
"When Chuck Norris goes to donate blood, he declines the syringe, and instead requests a hand gun and a bucket"

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Pfc. Bailey Jester

BAGHDAD – Brooklyn, N.Y. native, Staff Sgt. Aussie Barker (left), team chief assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Sebring, Fla. Native, Sgt. Jessie Rowe, shop foreman also assigned to Co. B, discuss the days accomplishments at Joint Security Station War Eagle, Oct. 16.



Quote For Today

“Try not to do too many things at once. Know what you want, the number one thing today and tomorrow. Persevere and get it done.”

— George Allen —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
96° F | 69° F



Tomorrow
87° F | 62° F



Monday
91° F | 66° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

This word came to English from the Turkish and Persian languages, and referred to a beverage of sweetened, diluted fruit juice. Later in Europe this word referred to a carbonated drink. Today it refers to a fruit-flavored treat.

Last Issue's Answer: QUEUEING

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 183 was produced by SGT Lisa Heise, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. The sound of the big guns at Camp Taji keep give troops the security they need. SGT Ashley Anderson, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, PAO.

The test fire gave the artillery crew a chance to show a couple of VIP's what it really takes to fire off high explosive rounds. The next time you hear that thunderous blast in Taji, just know its only the 1/82

keeping you safe.

2. U.S. engineers demonstrated the Ground Torch System during a training session at the 225th Engineer Brigades Task Force Iron Claw Academy.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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

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



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The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

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