

MASCAL training provides learning experience

By Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Pfc. Tessa Marsh, a combat medic, arrived on the scene where she found five people “injured” from a simulated mortar attack during a mass casualty exercise here, Dec. 14.

After checking with a combat life saver-qualified Soldier who had already assessed the wounded, Marsh treated the most critically injured person by quickly placing a tourniquet on a man’s severed arm, simultaneously explaining to a fellow Soldier how to tourniquet the man’s leg.

As she aided the injured man, Marsh had two things on her mind: her medical skills and communication with those around her.

Because of the limited number of medical staff on site, she worked to do what was best for the patients while communicating with others on scene, in order to provide aid the most seriously injured, explained Marsh, a Lacrosse, Wisc. native, with the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Marsh’s team evacuated casualties to Riva Ridge Troop Medical Center where Staff Sgt. Charles Ensminger, the medical evacuation platoon sergeant acted as the triage officer, sorting incoming patients into medical categories before sending them to treatment.

Using the DIME method, Ensminger separated the patients into four medical categories: delayed, immediate, minimal, and expectant.

‘Delayed’ patients can wait more than two hours for treatment without compromising his or her health, while ‘immediate’ patients require assistance within two hours to preserve life, limb or eyesight. Patients categorized as ‘minimum’ are walking wounded and do not usually require hospital admission or the services of operating room, and ‘expectant’ patients are those severely injured and not expected to survive even with treatment.

Ensminger knew that even with outlined standard operating procedures, not everything flows perfectly in stressful environments, especially with his profession.

“With medicine, the book answer is not always the correct answer, sometimes it’s just situational,” said Ensminger, a Port St. Lucie, Fla. native.

Head trauma, shrapnel injuries, burns and severed limbs were among the many medical situations thrown at the staff during the exercise.

Medical providers and medics treated each patient accordingly and used available assets such X-ray machines and intravenous therapy.

Capt. Christopher Staley, a physician with 702nd BSB, said he believed that the exercise was an overall success because of everything the training offered.



Photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

Staff Sgt. Charles Ensminger (right), the medical evacuation platoon sergeant, from Port St. Lucie, Fla., assists Lt. Col. Chris Soltis (center background), a physician from Gaithersburg, Md., unload a “patient” during a mass casualty exercise, here, Dec. 14.

“It gets you mentally prepared to deal with a chaotic event such as a mass casualty,” said Staley, a Salem, Ore. native. “It helps you to identify areas that might be weak in the system, areas that need improvement, and areas that are done well.”

After aiding more than ten injured Soldiers and civilians with the cooperation of more than 100 civilian firefighters, paramedics, and military medical Soldiers, the exercise ended with an enlightening after action

review.

“As [a lower enlisted] medic, I only get to do what’s in my lane,” said Marsh. “Seeing the big picture and what everyone had to say was educational.”

Marsh ended her day by evacuating a real-life patient, who wasn’t involved in the training, to the casualty cache where she had taken the exercise patients earlier in the day. While it was not as hectic of a trip, she was reminded that if it was, she could handle it, thanks to the practice and training of the day.

CSI training gives Iraqi police an explosive edge

Spc. Ruth McClary
30th HBCT PAO, MND-B)



BAGHDAD – Phoenix, Ariz., native, Sgt. Zulfiyar Keskin (left), of the Weapons Intelligence Team, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, hands a fingerprinting brush to officer Ahmed Kadem (middle) during improvised explosives crime scene training at FOB Falcon, Dec. 15.



BAGHDAD – Bronx, N.Y., native, Sgt. Hiram Montalvo (right), of the Weapons Intelligence Team, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, points out a fingerprint highlighted with black powder during improvised explosives crime scene training at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 15.



BAGHDAD – Bronx, N.Y. native, Sgt. Hiram Montalvo, of the Weapons Intelligence Team, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion, instructs Iraqi Federal Policemen on fingerprint categories at FOB Falcon, Dec. 15.



BAGHDAD – Iraqi police officer, Ahmed Kadem, lifts a fingerprint from a beaker during improvised explosives crime scene training at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Dec. 15.

Law allows spouses to keep residency while on orders

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 2009 - A new law protects military spouses from being taxed for work performed in states where they're living outside their home states as a result of military orders.

President Barack Obama signed the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, an amendment to the 2003 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, on Nov. 11.

"This act, among other things, would provide that when a servicemember leaves his or her home state in accord with military orders, the servicemember's spouse may retain residency in his or her home state for voting and tax purposes, after relocating from that state to accompany the servicemember," the president said in a Nov. 12 White House statement.

The new law means a change in fundamental tax law for military spouses, said Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of legal policy in the office of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"If a spouse accompanies a military member to a state that is not the spouse's [state of legal residence] and does so solely to be with the servicemember under military orders, then the income the spouse earns from services performed in that non-domiciliary state cannot be taxed," he said in a Pentagon Channel interview yesterday.

But, he warned, some

states interpret the act to apply only if the military servicemember and the spouse live under the same roof.

"A number of states believe that to get this tax break, or tax exemption, the spouse and the servicemember must have the same domicile," he said. "Different states interpret this possible requirement differently."

The law does not necessarily mean that someone who makes their permanent home in one state will never be taxed in the state they're living in because of a servicemember's military orders, Shumake said. In fact, he explained, the act states only that income earned from work performed in the nondomiciliary state is not taxable. That doesn't mean the spouse wouldn't have to pay income tax on such income to the state of legal residency.

"Of course, there are those states that don't have any income tax at all," Shumake said. "If the spouse were a legal resident of those states, then they would likely not pay income tax from [work] performed in any state."

Understanding the meaning of "domicile" and knowing how to prove it are keys to understanding the law, Shumake said.

First, he said, the terms "domicile," and "legal residence," are synonymous. A person can have only one domicile at a time. It is one's primary home or permanent residence, and it's formed by being physically present in a state and simultaneously

forming the intent to remain there for the indefinite future.

"You have to prove your intent by establishing certain contacts with the state, such as voting there, buying property there, getting your professional license there, claiming in-state tuition rates there, registering a vehicle or obtaining a driver's license there," Shumake said. "Of all of those, voting may turn out to be the most important for proving your domicile for the purposes of the [Military Spouses Residency Relief Act]."

The act also has an effect on personal property taxes, Shumake said.

"The [act] now says that a nondomiciliary state cannot tax personal property such as automobiles and boats if that property is in the state only because the spouse is with the servicemember in that state in compliance with military orders," he said.

For all the positive benefits the law offers military spouses, it can be confusing, Shumake acknowledged.

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act addresses only tax law concerning income earned in nondomiciliary states, the colonel said, and doesn't change the rules for establishing and proving legal residency.

"One common misperception is that the new law allows a spouse simply to 'choose' his or her spouse's domicile. This is not true," he said. "Domicile must still be demonstrated or proven under the rules that

have always been in place. Likewise, a spouse does not 'inherit' the domicile of the military member through marriage."

Spouses also should be aware that the law doesn't allow them to recapture or regain a previously abandoned domicile, he added.

"For example, if the spouse established a Texas domiciliary status and then moved to Virginia under orders with the [servicemember], and while in Virginia the spouse registered to vote and bought property in Virginia and got a real estate license from Virginia, then it looks like the spouse has established Virginia as the new domicile," Shumake said. "The [law] is not likely to allow the spouse to abandon Virginia and resume or recapture Texas domiciliary status while still in Virginia."

It seems the matter of how the law affects driver's licenses has left some in a bit of a quandary, as well. Whether a spouse needs to obtain a new driver's license in each new state the spouse lives in is a matter of state law and completely unaffected by the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act, Shumake said.

While the new law can be confusing, help is only as far away as the nearest legal assistance attorney, Shumake said. He also suggested checking with appropriate state tax authorities for any rules they may have put out, especially with respect to refunds for tax year 2009.

On This Day In History

December 18, 1972

Nixon announces start of “Christmas Bombing” of North Vietnam

Following the breakdown of peace talks with North Vietnam just a few days earlier, President Richard Nixon announces the beginning of a massive bombing campaign to break the stalemate. For nearly two weeks, American bombers pounded North Vietnam.

On December 13, peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam collapsed. The North Vietnamese and American negotiators traded charges and countercharges as to who was to blame. Infuriated, President Nixon ordered plans drawn up for retaliatory bombings of North Vietnam. Linebacker II was the result. Beginning on December 18, American B-52s and fighter-bombers dropped over 20,000 tons of bombs on the cities of Hanoi and Haiphong. The United States lost 15 of its giant B-52s and 11 other aircraft during the attacks. North Vietnam claimed that over 1,600 civilians were killed.

The bombings continued until December 29, at which time the North Vietnamese agreed to resume the talks. A few weeks later, the final Paris Peace Treaty was signed and the Vietnam War came to a close, ending the U.S. role in a conflict that seriously damaged the domestic Cold War consensus among the American public. The impact of the so-called “Christmas Bombings” on the final agreement was difficult to assess. Some historians have argued that the bombings forced the North Vietnamese back to the negotiating table. Others have suggested that the attacks had little impact, beyond the additional death and destruction they caused. Even the chief U.S. negotiator, Henry Kissinger, was reported to have said, “We bombed the North Vietnamese into accepting our concessions.” The chief impact may have been in convincing America’s South Vietnamese allies, who were highly suspicious of the draft treaty worked out in October 1972, that the United States would not desert them. In any event, the final treaty did not include any important changes from the October draft.

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles, 101st Eng. Bn., PAO, 16th Eng. Bde., MND-B

BAGHDAD – Commanders, Capt. Gordon Robbins (left), 277th Engineer Company, and 1st. Lt. Richard Hamilton, 317th Engineer Company, present arms during a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Dec. 9, here on Camp Liberty. The 277th completes its one year of duty and the 317th steps in to complete the mission.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

4 out of 5 doctors fail to recommend Chuck Norris as a solution to most problems. Also, 80% of doctors die unexplained, needlessly brutal deaths.

Quote For Today

“Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul.”

-Douglas MacArthur-

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
68° F | 53° F



Tomorrow
71° F | 50° F



Sunday
71° F | 51° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What southeastern state was the last to return to the Union after the Civil War?

Last Issue's Answer: NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF.

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. For this newscast, please contact the Media Relations Staff with DVIDS at 678-421-6612 or e-mail news@

dvidshub.net.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 221 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment teach combatives to their Iraqi

counterparts. Interview with 1st Lt. Nick Salinas, 3-4 ADAR and Sgt. Maj. Ka Dim, 6th Iraqi Army.

2. MEDEVAC crews from 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division assist Iraqi civilians following an improvised explosive device attack south of Baghdad. <http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

[search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type](http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general/search/ppphp&table=audio&query=Cav+Round-Up&type) Check out other MND-B products, such as the weekly First Team Update video news program, and the latest print stories at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage: www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Tease

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

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. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



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