



Sandscript

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Coalition forces stage amphibious landing

By U.S. Marine Cpl. Melinda M. Weathers

EL AMAYID BEACH, Egypt—Elements of coalition forces called the Combined Amphibious Task Force, put on an awesome combined amphibious assault Oct. 22nd as part of Bright Star 99/00.

A multi-national team of amphibious units and landing forces from Egypt, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States

were supported by air and surface elements from France, Germany, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The Honorable William Cohen, U.S. Secretary of Defense, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, military leaders, world dignitaries, and international media, witnessed the amphibious onslaught.



Photo courtesy of Combat Camera
Honorable William Cohen, U.S. Secretary of Defense, answers questions from the media after the amphibious landing.

“I look at this as more than an exercise,” Cohen said afterward. “What you saw today was a strong statement, a chorus of nations from the U.S. to Egypt, from Jordan to Kuwait and the U.A.E. These are nations building prosperity for their people, not palaces for their armies.”

The demonstration, which at times resembled a live sporting event by the reactions of the crowd, simulated a tactical landing by the amphibious force into an area of operations, coordinated in order to support a land force scheme of maneuver several kilometers in distance. The assault was physically com-

(Continued on page 2)

British Swing Dance Contest

The Commander, British Forces at Mubarak Military City, Commodore Anthony Dymock, Royal Navy, extends an invitation to all coalition forces to attend a performance by members of the Royal Marines Band Service, on Wed., Oct. 27th, at 2030 hours in the center of the accommodation complex.

A combination of ceremonial swing and dance music to appeal to all tastes - to encourage audience participation - will be played on the eve of the Corps of the Royal Marines 335th birthday.

In The Sand.....

Page 2

Amphibious landing photo

Page 3

Par le vous Francaise?

Page 4

Change in shower hours

pressed so the spectators could experience the different components that would be involved in a real-world operation.

As the mid-afternoon demo kicked off, viewers could see Inflatable Raiding Craft launched from amphibious units at sea, as Egyptian F-16s soared overhead engaging French Mirage 2000 aircraft representing hostile intruders.

Then the coalition forces began their beach landing. Egyptian Rangers, Naval Special Operations Forces from the Egyptian Navy, and men from the U.K./Netherlands Landing Force hit the sand first to carry out reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance and target acquisition.

Close air support was next on the assault menu. Harrier AV-8Bs from the U.S. Marine Corps' 22d MEU (SOC) launched from the USS BATAAN which was off shore. The single seat strike aircraft, which is capable of vertical or short take off and landing, soared overhead.

Aviation patrols began as a pair of AH1W (Huey) Cobras swept in from the 22d MEU (SOC), followed by a Gazelle Light Observation Helicopter and a Lynx TOW Armed Helicopter from the U.K./Netherlands Air Force.

Then it was time to set up the defense. The Royal U.K. and Netherlands Marines flew in on Royal Navy and Air Force helos, and the USMC flew in a platoon of Marines from the 22d MEU (SOC) on CH-46 Sea Knights. The coalition efforts were in full swing when an Egyptian Airborne Platoon was inserted by a USMC CH-53 Sea Stallion. Finally Italian soldiers from the San Marco Battalion and Greek Marines flew in on Italian Agusta 212s.

Following the insertions was the surface assault with a slew of U.S. Combat Rubber Raiding Craft and Italian and U.K. Rigid Raiding Craft, which were transported into



Photo courtesy of Combat Camera

U.S. Navy LCAC prepares to land on beach during amphibious exercise.

theater on one of the numerous amphibious ships. The different raiding crafts unleashed Greek, Italian, U.K. and U.S. warriors from the sea. They were followed by a platoon of Egyptian Airborne Troops hitting the beach from a pair of British Landing Craft Vehicles from the helicopter carrier HMS OCEAN.

With the beach and immediate surrounding area secure, a wave of American and Egyptian Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) landed. With the demo nearing completion, several monstrous U.S. Navy Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCAC) parted the waters, making huge water sprays—an amazing display for the crowd and cameras. The LCACs hovered to the beach amidst a sandy cloud and revealed Egyptian M60A3 Main Battle Tanks onboard ready to hit the beach. Finally, a USMC M1A1 Abrams Tank landed to complete the initial deployment of combat power in the assault.

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Europe's oldest Regiment in Egypt

By Staff Sgt. Drahi, 1st Infantry Regiment

MUBARAK MILITARY CITY — EGYPT On Oct. 11th, the 1st Infantry Regiment, named “PICARDIE,” commanded by Lt. Col. Vial, set up camp in the Egyptian desert for Bright Star 99/00. The regiment’s forest home in Alsace is far away, but sand is not unknown to this Regiment, which was created in 1479. Beginning in 1797 with Napoleon, and more recently in Operation Desert Storm, regiment has confronted the sand dunes several times.

Entirely professional since 1985,

PICARDIE’s 550 soldiers are well trained. Composed of two combat companies equipped with the VAB (wheeled APC) and one command and logistics company, the regiment came from Sarrebourg with its support elements - a reconnaissance platoon equipped with six 120mm mortars and eight MILAN antitank weapons, which give the regiment undeniable firepower.

In addition, the regiment is reinforced by an engineer company detached from the 3rd Engineer Regiment, of Charleville-Mezieres in



the Ardennes.

Bright Star gives this old regiment the opportunity to demonstrate that it is at the forefront of modern combat techniques without abandoning the hardiness dear to every French soldier.

The regiment’s motto is “the regiment refuses to be relieved” (“On ne relève pas PICARDIE”).

LE PLUS VIEUX REGIMENT D’EUROPE EN TERRE ORIENTALE



Par le SCH DRAHI,
1^{er} Régiment d’Infanterie

Depuis le 11 octobre, le 1^{er} Régiment d’infanterie «PICARDIE», commandé par le LCL (TA) VIAL, a pris ses quartiers dans le désert Egyptien. Nos forêts alsaciennes sont bien loin mais le sable n’est pas inconnu pour ce Régiment créé en 1479. En effet dès 1797 avec NAPOLEON et plus récemment lors de l’opération tempête du désert, le régiment a dû à plusieurs reprises affronter les dunes de sable.

Entièrement professionnel depuis 1985, ce sont donc des soldats aguerris au nombre de 550 qui sont arrivés pour participer à l’exercice Bright Star 99. Outre deux compagnies de combat sur V.A.B et une compagnie de commandement et de logistique, le régiment s’est déplacé depuis Sarrebourg avec ses appuis : la compagnie d’éclairage et d’appui qui dispose d’une section de reconnaissance est équipée de 6 pièces mortiers de 120mm et de 8 postes de tir MILAN qui confère au régiment une puissance de feu redoutable. De plus, le régiment est renforcé d’une compagnie du génie détachée du 3^e Régiment du Génie de Charleville-



Photo courtesy of French PAO

For those who doubt, the thousands of snail shells covering the soil prove the French presence in Egypt for hundreds of years.

Pour ceux qui en douteraient, ces milliers de coquilles d’escargots qui jonchent le sol égyptien témoignent de la présence française depuis plusieurs siècles.

Mézières dans les Ardennes.

L’exercice Bright Star 99 permet à ce vieux régiment de prouver qu’il est à la pointe des dernières techniques du combat moderne tout en gardant bien sûr la rusticité chère à tout soldat français.

La devise de notre régiment est “On ne relève pas Picardie.”