

'The birds will last forever'

3rd CAB Chinooks still going strong

Pfc. MONICA K. SMITH
3RD CAB, 3RD INF. DIV.

CAMP STRIKER — Her name is Ann and she has been deployed since 2005. She took care of troops in two different units before joining the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division last December. She is Chinook #86-01659.

"We call her Raggedy Ann or Little Orphan Annie because she's been around so long," said Sgt. Jimmy Fletcher, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd CAB.

Before Raggedy Ann came to 3rd CAB, she worked with the 1st Cavalry Regiment stationed at Camp Taji. At the time, Co. B, 2-3 Avn. Regt. was using Chinook #185 but discontinued use because of cracks in its sheet metal, said Fletcher.

Chinook #185 was sent back to the States and Ann moved to Company B.

"We spent half a day at Taji and brought it down that night," Fletcher said. "We flew a couple of missions and then put it in phase where 603rd (Aviation Support Battalion) spent almost a month in phase to repair all the sheet metal damage ... it runs like a champ, minus a few gremlins."

Though few aircraft have been around as long as Ann, Chinooks as a fleet have a strong lineage dating back to the Vietnam War.

The first Chinook, designated an YHC-1B, was produced by Boeing in 1961 for the Army and Air Force as a medium-lift helicopter.

Four years later, during the Vietnam War, Chinooks were first used in combat and by 1968 had logged 161,000



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Staff Sgt. Daniel Enus, Co. B, 2-3rd Avn. Regt., washes Chinook #659, dubbed "Raggedy Ann," Feb. 16 at the 3rd CAB flight line

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MND-C PAO

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHINOOK: *Aviation aircraft withstands time*

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hours in flight, carried 22.4 million passengers and transported more than 1.3 million tons of cargo.

That heritage continues with today's Chinook fleets.

To date, Company B has moved over 12 million pounds of cargo and 55,000 passengers, said Cpt. Kurt Blankenship, company commander.

"We move mail, (passengers), equipment, anything to keep as many trucks off the roads as possible with the (improvised explosive device) threat," said Chief Warrant Officer Rodger Howard, standardization instructor pilot with Co. B, 2-3 Avn. Regt. "We take everyone: Army, Marines, Air Force, the Special Forces guys, foreign Soldiers, prisoners, anyone who asks or needs to be moved."

After the Vietnam War, plans were developed to upgrade the fleet of A, B and C-models into what is now the CH-47D. In 1982 the first D-model aircraft were delivered; the upgrade was completed in 1994.

Since then, only two D-model aircraft were created to replace aircraft losses during the Persian Gulf War, making some of the D-models' airframes more than 40-years-old.

It's the same airframe, but it's been



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Soldiers wait to board a Co. B, 2-3rd Avn. Regt., 3rd CAB, 3rd Inf. Div. Chinook Feb. 7 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

remanufactured," said Lt. Col. Alex Covert, commander of 2-3 Avn. Regt. "Helicopters in general are maintenance-intensive. With Chinooks, every 25, 50, 100, 200 and 400 hours there is a scheduled inspection. A lot of times we replace parts or items. You almost rebuild it completely, but it's essentially the same airframe."

The constant inspecting and maintaining of the aircraft adds to the Chinooks' durability over the years.

"The Chinooks have a lot of inspections for safety and the replacement of parts," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Enus, Co. B, 2-3 Avn. Regt. "As long as we follow the maintenance program set forth, the birds will last forever."

CORRECTION

The headline of yesterday's front-page story, "Mahmudiyah hosts business expo," was incorrect. The business expo was held in the city of Baghdad, with Mahmudiyah businesses represented there.

Safety Thought of the Day

Vehicle Fire Prevention

- Ensure PMCS is performed to standard in accordance with appropriate technical manual.
 - Make sure all electrical connections and lines are secure and free of nicks or cuts.
 - Check all fuel lines and connections to ensure there are no leaks.
 - Clean air filters and radiator fins daily when operating under extreme temperatures.
- Repair any electrical or mechanical problems and conduct services to standard.
- Rehearse emergency crew fire drills to ensure proficiency.
- Ensure on-board fire suppression systems are tested and fully operational.
- Clean the fire sensors daily.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Passion phones; China 'horror' content ban

Passion phones sense love

SEOUL (Reuters) — Valentines Day in South Korea means chocolates, romantic dinners and a high-tech mobile phone device that can secretly check the passion in the voice of a lover.

The "Love Detector" service from mobile operator KTF uses technology that is supposed to analyze voice patterns to see if a lover is speaking honestly and with affection.

"We created this service because we thought people would want to know what others were feeling about them," said Ahn Hee-jung, a KTF official.

Users who speak by pointing their mobile phones at themselves for video conferences can see a "love meter" bar on the screen of their handset during a conversation.

They later receive an analysis of the conversation delivered through text message that breaks down the amount of affection, surprise, concentration and honesty of the other speaker.

The service costs subscribers a flat fee of 1,500 won (\$1.59) a month for unlimited use or can be accessed at 300 won for each call, KTF said.

"The caller is paying the money, so the information is provided only to him or her," said Ahn.

China regulators now spooked by ghost stories

BEIJING (Reuters) — China has added ghosts, monsters and other things that go bump in the night to its list of banned video and audio content in an intensified crackdown ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Producers have around three weeks to look through their tapes for "horror" and report it to authorities, the General Administration of Press and Publications said in a statement posted on the government Web site.

Offending content included "wronged spirits and violent ghosts, monsters, demons, and other inhuman portrayals, strange and supernatural storytelling for the sole purpose of seeking terror and horror," the administration said.

The new guidelines aim to "control and cleanse the negative effect these items have on society, and to prevent horror, violent, cruel publications from entering the market through official channels and to protect adolescents' psychological health."

The regulations suggest China, where graphic, pirated sex and horror movies are available on most street corners, is keen to step up its control of the cultural arena ahead of the Beijing Olympics in August, which are widely seen as a coming-out party for the rising political and economic power.

'Mr. Rude' French, flatulent

LONDON (Reuters) — Zut alors! The popular British cartoon and television series "Mr. Men" has come up with a malodorous Mr. Rude who speaks with a bad French accent.

"Pardon me," says Mr. Rude in comedy Franglais as he breaks wind when his finger is pulled on a game played on the television show's Web site, www.mrmen.com.

"Ohhh, don't seem so surpriised," Mr. Rude exclaims when loud noises

and a noxious-looking gas erupt from his behind. "I'll geeve you rude," he tells children as he blows a raspberry in a promotion for the new series which will run on British television on February 25.

The French embassy in London declined to comment to Reuters on whether the coarse Mr. Men character, the only one on the show with a foreign accent, would offend.

But a source at the embassy told Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper that this kind of humor won't go any distance toward easing a centuries-old rivalry between the two nations.

"It is obviously meant in a light-hearted way, but it won't improve Anglo-French relations," the source said.

A spokeswoman for Channel Five, which is airing the show, said the Mr. Rude character was just a bit of fun that is not meant to offend France or the more than 300,000 French citizens who live and work in Britain.

"Mr. Men is a comedy show for four to seven year olds. The fact that Mr. Rude has a French accent is meant to be light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek and no offense is intended," she said.

The much-loved Mr. Men, who include such characters as Mr. Messy, Mr. Strong and Mr. Tickle, were created by Roger Hargreaves in the early 1970s.

They appeared first in a series of books and in 1975 on television.

Chorion, which makes the show, said it is looking to sell the series to France, among other countries.

But the company could not say whether the French version of Mr. Rude would have a British accent or not.

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

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

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

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Hello

mar-Ha-bah