

# The Warrior

June 2005

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## OPERATION SQUEEZE PLAY

3-15 secure Sadr

443rd CA

Memorial Day

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On the cover: Soldiers from C Co., 1-64 Armor, enter a house during a raid in New Baghdad, Iraq, June 6.

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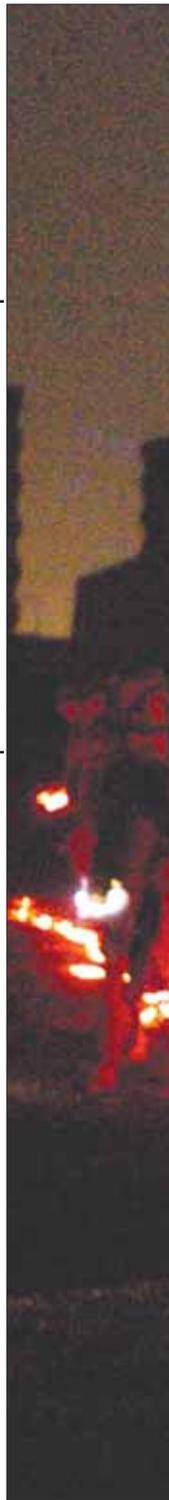
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Spartan Warriors,

As I write this message, we are three weeks into Operation Squeeze Play. Squeeze Play is an offensively-oriented ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) mission that is focused on gathering as much human intelligence (HUMINT) from the local Iraqis as we can. To date, we have received good HUMINT, and we will continue exploit this as long as there are terrorists operating in our area of operations.

There is more to Squeeze Play than offensive ISR, and it is important that all Spartan Warriors understand this.

First, we have to be ready to action (otherwise called "rollover") on intelligence if the conditions exist such that a target or targets are identified and we have necessary information. These targets are short lived; the enemy does not stay in one place for an extended period of time. Therefore, be ready to execute rollover missions on short notice so that we do not blow an opportunity to kill or capture the terrorists.

Secondly, we have to maintain the moral high ground while we elicit information from the Iraqi people. Treat the people with dignity and respect and the HUMINT will come, guaranteed. If we act condescending, rude, impolite, and disrespectful, we probably just recruited more volunteers to support the terrorists rather than fight them.

Third, we will continue to work more and more with Iraqi Security Forces (Army, Police, Commando). We must show them what right looks like at all times.

The Iraqi soldiers have the potential to be professional and effective; they will imitate you because no one else in the world can set a better example. I

expect all Spartan Warriors to set the example 24/7 so the Iraqi Security Forces get competent quickly.

Lastly, there really is no end to Squeeze Play. We will continue to hunt down the terrorists for as long as it takes until they are defeated.

Switching gears a little, a lot has happened over the past three weeks. The Baghdad National Soccer League has resumed for the first time since the fall of Baghdad. Essential services continue to improve, although there is still along way to go. The Tiger Iraqi Army Brigade is now fully integrated into our area of operations. We have conducted combined operations with Iraqi commando and conventional army units for the first time (and the results were great). The next month-plus will be critical. We will see the Tiger Brigade become fully operational capable, which among other things, will allow us to be more flexible.

Chaplain Brzezinski has written a great article, "The Halfway Point," and I highly recommend everyone read this. He has done a great job highlighting what many Soldiers and their families are going through as we hit the halfway mark of our deployment.

Speaking of the halfway mark, I'll close out with reminding everyone of our charter we all signed up for prior to deploying. Spartan Warriors do not count days; we all focus on our mission being so successful a follow-on Brigade will not be needed when we get our change of mission. With your commitment, courage, and dedication, we will save a Brigade from deploying. Keep up the great work, you are all heroes. God Bless.



SEND ME,  
DiSalvo



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## ATTENTION!

“Shots from the field” is always looking for photos taken by Spartan Brigade Combat Team Soldiers serving in Iraq. If you have a good photo, and we have room, we’ll print it. Email your photos via AKO to: [craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil](mailto:craig.zentkovich@us.army.mil), Subject: Shots from the field. Be sure to include your rank, name, and unit as well as a caption for the photograph that includes the subject of the photograph with names and dates. I look forward to receiving your shots.

**Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich**  
Editor, *The Warrior*



# 3-7 Cav. holds M

## Saber assesses health of residents in Salman Pak

Story by 1st Lt. Adam Harris

SALMAN PAK, Iraq – Troopers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, and 3rd Iraqi Intervention Forces conducted a Medical Capabilities Assessment and clinic just outside Salman Pak May 12.

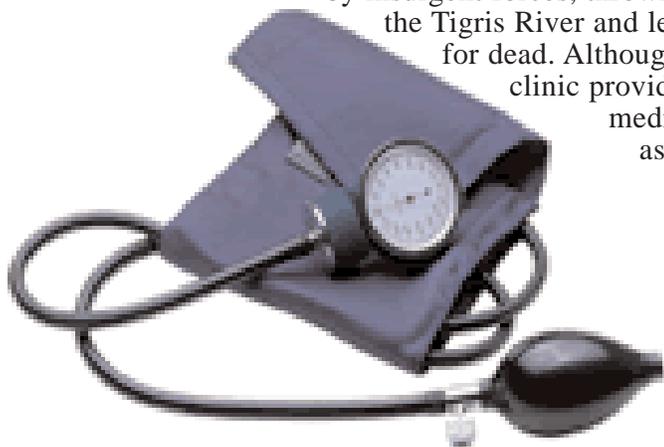
Iraqi and U.S. Army medical officers examined over 500 residents that came to the clinic, in order, for medical advice, treatment, and prescription medication.

“The main purpose of a MEDCAP is to provide simple medicines and treatment for simple wounds and conditions, while assessing the overall health of the people,” said Maj. Rick Smudin, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, team leader. “It’s a good opportunity to build trust and support for our Soldiers and the Iraqi forces in the neighborhood.”

The clinic was held at the Crazyhorse house, a forward observation building located about a mile outside the main city of Salman Pak. Several of the rooms were cleaned and furnished in order to accommodate the mission and although space was limited, all residents who came to the clinic were able to receive medical care.

“The medical operation in Salman Pak provided the people with a chance to receive medical help,” said Capt. Brett Bair, C Troop, 3-7 Cav., commander. “Some of the people were witnesses or victims of insurgent attacks.”

One of the residents seen by doctors was shot twice by insurgent forces, thrown into the Tigris River and left for dead. Although the clinic provided medical assistance for



**Residents of Salman Pak line up outside the C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, house waiting for a health**

residents and better intelligence for coalition forces – the clinic brought several hundred of the residents of Salman Pak and coalition forces together for the first time.

Before 3-7 Cav. was tasked with providing security for Salman Pak in late March 2005, insurgents used the town to conduct anti-Iraqi government operations and terrorize residents.

“We were scared to even walk outside our home before the Americans came here,” said Ali Jafta, a resident of Salman Pak.

With continued operations in the area by Iraqi and U.S. forces, many of the residents feel more secure than they did during the months prior. The medical operation was a testament to this, given of the number of residents who left their homes and came to the Crazyhorse house for medical assistance.

“Overall, the clinic was a huge success,” Smudin said. “It helped build upon the significant progress that

# MEDCAP



(Above) Capt. Jeremy Edwards, 3-7 Cav., physician, checks the breathing of an Iraqi woman at the squadron's MEDCAP May 12.

(Left) A medical Soldier draws blood from a local man. The MEDCAP provided residents of Salman Pak an opportunity to gauge their health.



screening during 3-7 Cav.'s medical capabilities assessment. More than 500 residents were examined.

has been made and the increasing confidence of the residents of Salman Pak toward coalition forces. This event, without a doubt, proved that coalition forces are committed to helping the people.”



# 443rd CA hand out

## Florida school donates hundreds of uniforms to Tissa Nissan kids

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It’s the basic concept of team sports – if you look like a team, you’ll play like a team.

While uniforms for youth sports teams in the U.S. is commonplace, that isn’t the case for kids here in Iraq.

In one sector of Baghdad, though,



**Cpl. David Robillard, 443rd CA Bn., draws uniforms to distribute to Tissa Nissan kids May 10.**

three teams from Tissa Nissan’s youth soccer league will look like just that – three distinguishable teams.

On May 10, Soldiers from Task Force Baghdad’s 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion brought smiles to the faces of more than 120 Tissa Nissan youth when they delivered soccer uniforms and balls to players at the district advisory council compound.

The uniform shirts and shorts were donated by the Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Fla., as part of a humanitarian assistance mission conceptualized by Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Grant, 3rd Infantry Division, command sergeant major, and Maj. Leela Dawson, Army Public Affairs Southeast, director.

The 443rd chipped in by giving away scores of soccer balls and

pumps so the children, ages 12–16, could walk right outside in their new shirts and kick the ball around.

“We rarely get enough matching uniforms to outfit a single team, so to receive a donation of this magnitude is remarkable,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark A. Lewandowski, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, civil affairs, noncommissioned officer in charge. “You can actually see the pride and excitement on the faces of the players - that’s a great thing to see.”

The chairman of education and sports for the Tissa Nissan DAC, Jamal Fadhil, said this is a great gesture from coalition forces and an important ingredient in keeping the children of Baghdad out of trouble.

“They are absolutely excited to get these uniforms,” Fadhil, through an interpreter, said. “The residents



# at soccer uniforms

are thankful for all of this – this is a big deal to us.”

Fadhil said that soccer was the best thing for the Iraqi youth.

“There are much worse things they could be doing,” he said, and confidently added, “There are possibly a number of future Olympic athletes here.”

As much as Fadhil and the children appreciated what coalition forces had done for them, there was

one issue he was hoping could be addressed – a sponsored, goodwill trip to the United States to compete against American youth.

“Last summer, Poland invited (Tissa Nissan youth) to play in their country,” he said. “We played eight games, visited five states and stayed for a month – it was a great experience for all the kids.

“We would be honored if the United States would offer the same

opportunity to us.”

If that were to happen, one thing is for sure – because of the generosity of a school in the U.S., the Iraqi kids would have uniforms.



(Above) Iraqi kids show off at the Tissa Nissan District Advisory Council compound May 10.

(Left) Iraqi kids and Soldiers took to the field to kick the ball around after the uniform handout.

# China mentors IAB on and off the FOB



*Iraqi troops to take reins in Sadr*

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

CAMP HOPE, Iraq – History is being made at Camp Hope, home of 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, as an Iraqi Army battalion prepares to take charge of half of Sadr City in June.

Only a creaky iron gate separates the two units' bases, and 3-15 Inf. takes every opportunity to mentor the growing Iraqi unit and conduct joint operations.

"These troops will be taking over half of our sector, a large area in Sadr City," said Staff Sgt. Michael Allen, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-15 Inf., mortarman. "We're helping to fine-tune their skills at this point – all of them are experienced patrolling the sector."

Allen, of Bryan, Texas, and other leaders from HHC's mortar platoon conduct daily classes at the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division compound. The classes focus on essential Soldier skills, such as map reading and battle drills.

"The IAB guys are like sponges when we teach our classes," Allen said. "We've been working closely with them for a month and a half, and in that time, they've improved really quickly."

Sadr City, the northeast section of Baghdad, is the most densely populated area in Iraq, with about two million residents in a 10-square-mile area.

*(Continued on Page 10)*



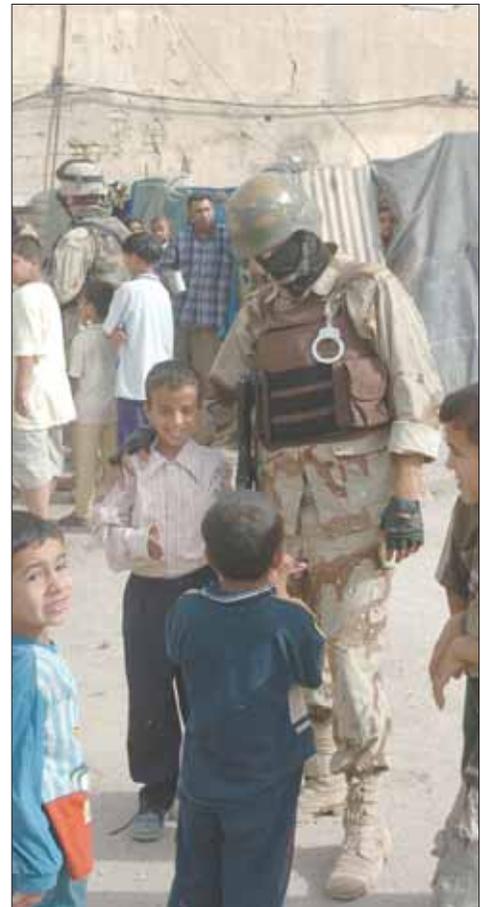
**Spc. Christopher Boynton, A Co., 3-15 Inf., medic, and an Iraqi Soldier set up concertina wire at a humanitarian drop in Sadr City, May 19. The wire is necessary because of the large crowds.**



(Above) 1st Lt. Ed McMichael, A Co., 3-15 Inf., fire support officer, passes out Beanie Babies to children in Sadr City, May 19.

(Right) An Iraqi Army Soldier speaks with Sadr City children during a joint humanitarian assistance mission May, 18.

(Below) An Iraqi Army Soldier passes out frozen chickens during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City May 19. Over 2,000 chickens were distributed by Iraqi and U.S. troops.



The sector, formerly called Saddam City, has erupted in violence several times since the invasion in March 2003, and the IAB's readiness is crucial, according to Allen.

Inside the IAB's tactical operations center, Pfc. Travis Carney, HHC, 3-15 Inf., mortarman, acts as a battle captain, tracking every Iraqi patrol in Sadr City and keeping tabs on major incidents.

Carney and other junior Soldiers from the mortar platoon work in shifts to cover the IAB's TOC 24 hours a day.

"I'm here to help the IAB operate the TOC the right way, and to give them someone they can ask questions of any-time," Carney said. "There's a lot of violence in the city, at least two explosions or ambushes every day, but I haven't lost a single IAB Soldier since I started. It takes hard work and patience, but they've come a long way."

At the other end of Camp Hope, groups of IAB trucks and U.S. humvees line up at the gate, in preparation for daily joint patrols.

A joint patrol to survey schools, engage influential residents and disrupt enemy activity in Sadr City was conducted May 16.

Soldiers from A Company, 3-15 Inf., and Iraqi troops from Jaguar Platoon spent hours walking and driving through Sadr City, setting up traffic control points and

speaking with locals.

"The Iraqi troops do most of the legwork on these patrols – we're there to watch them and show them how to do things better," said Spc. Darryl Bond, A Co., 3-15 Inf., team leader. "They've improved and it's having an effect on the neighborhoods – people are friendlier and adults come out to help keep their kids from mobbing us."

Soldiers from both units left their trucks and continued into the city's narrow alleys on foot, stopping at three schools, where teenagers played soccer until dark.

Bond, from Chesapeake, Va., and several squads stayed back with the gun trucks, conducting TCPs and vehicle searches.

"We're really concentrating on making contacts in the sector – people who will give us intel to help root out the insurgency," said Staff Sgt. Steve Stutzman, A Co., 3-15, squad leader. "We're looking for someone

tonight, but at the same we can't risk letting him know we're looking for him – it's a challenge."

Stutzman, of Portage, Mich., said he sees the IAB's training improving their everyday tactics on patrol.

"You can really see the effects of the IAB's training when you're out in sector," he said. "They're really getting it together, from just wearing their uniforms correctly to protecting and looking out for each other."



**Iraqi Soldiers and 2nd Lt. Wojciech Zajac, A Co., 3-15 Inf., platoon leader, speak with residents of Sadr City, May 16.**



**(Above) An Iraqi Army Soldier pulls security during a joint U.S. - Iraqi patrol in Sadr City, the night of May 16.**

**(Right) Staff Sgt. Brian Sealing, HHC, 3-15 Inf., shows Iraqi Army troops how to use a lensatic compass at Camp Hope, May 16.**



Walking through an area spray-painted with anti-coalition graffiti, children played in the streets and happily greeted U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers.

Adults in the area seemed friendly, and one man engaged 2nd Lt. Wojciech Zajac, A Co., 3-15 Inf., platoon leader, in a lengthy but calm political debate.

“We’re looking at these schools to check on the status of some ongoing Civil Affairs rebuilding projects and to look for propaganda banned by the Iraqi government,” Zajac, of Brooklyn, N.Y., said. “It’s important we double-check to make sure our contractors are doing the work they’re supposed to.”

He said the IAB Soldiers with his platoon give him an advantage, as they are good at talking with residents, gathering information and providing extra security.

“The people here are much friendlier than they were three or four months ago, and the IAB has been a big part of that,” Zajac said. “I’m looking forward to the IAB taking over this area, which will allow us to concentrate more on improving the standard of living in Sadr City.”



**(Above) Trucks pump sewage from the streets of Sadr City, May 18. Soldiers from 3-15 Inf. escort the trucks on their rounds.**

**(Left and below) Iraqi Army Soldiers pass out frozen chickens and books during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City, May 19.**



# Spartans honor their fallen on Memorial Day

*On May 29, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team held a Memorial Day observance ceremony at Camp Loyalty.*

*Honored were the fallen veterans of wars past and present, including the eight Spartan Warriors lost in OIF III.*

*A plaque standing four feet in height was dedicated in their names; to forever remind Spartan Warriors of the Soldiers who lived the Army Values, exemplified the Warrior Ethos, and made the ultimate sacrifice.*





Spc. Danny Anderson

Staff Sgt. Ricky Kieffer



Pfc. Lee Lewis

Sgt. Kelly Morris

Sgt. Javier Garcia

Spc. Gary Walters



Staff Sgt. William Brooks

Pfc. Kenneth Zeigler

# 3-7 Cav. assess Salman Pak

## Crazy Troop meets with local NAC to discuss concerns

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

AL KANASA, Iraq – During a mission near Salman Pak, south of Baghdad, troopers from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, met with local leaders and discussed the state of affairs in the village.

The meeting was an unprecedented gathering of influential residents of al-Kanasa, which has no neighborhood advisory council.

The NAC, common in larger towns, is an important link between town representatives and

residents, and coalition and Iraqi forces.

Crazy Troop maintains a 24-hour presence in the area at a nearby pontoon bridge, and is sensitive to the needs of the local population, according to Capt. Brett Bair, C Troop, 3-7 Cav., commander.

“This meeting is a good way to find out what’s going on in the village and whether they need water and power,” Bair, from Buffalo, Okla., said. “Everything you do here revolves around the

community.”

The troopers waited at a local schoolhouse while residents went to afternoon prayers at an adjacent mosque. After prayers, they filtered into the school and sat at small desks as Bair greeted them.

Through an interpreter, Bair discussed the local water project that is underway, which will eventually bring clean water into the town.

Although the schoolhouse was powered, some residents complained about spotty electricity at



Capt. Brett Bair, C Troop, 3-7 Cav., commander, greets tribal leaders at a school in al-Kanasa, Iraq, May 27. Troopers visited the school and met with residents to assess the town's needs.



**(Above) Atop a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, troopers from 3-7 Cav. guard the pontoon bridge near Salman Pak, Iraq, May 27. Soldiers guard the bridge 24 hours a day to disrupt insurgent activity. (Right) C Troop troopers check a water pumping station in al-Kanasa.**



night.

Discussing coming projects helped end the meeting on a high note, as residents pledged their support for forming a council of respected leaders. They thanked the troopers for coming to see them.

“It’s your town – you pick your leaders,” Bair said. “We just want to help.”

After the meeting was finished, Crazy Troop moved down the road to the pontoon bridge to meet with other 3-7 Cav. troopers and Iraqi Intervention Forces troops.

The bridge is always manned by IIF and Crazy Troop forces, which is essential to the area’s security, according to 1st Sgt. Anthony Broadhead, C Troop, 3-7 Cav., first sergeant.

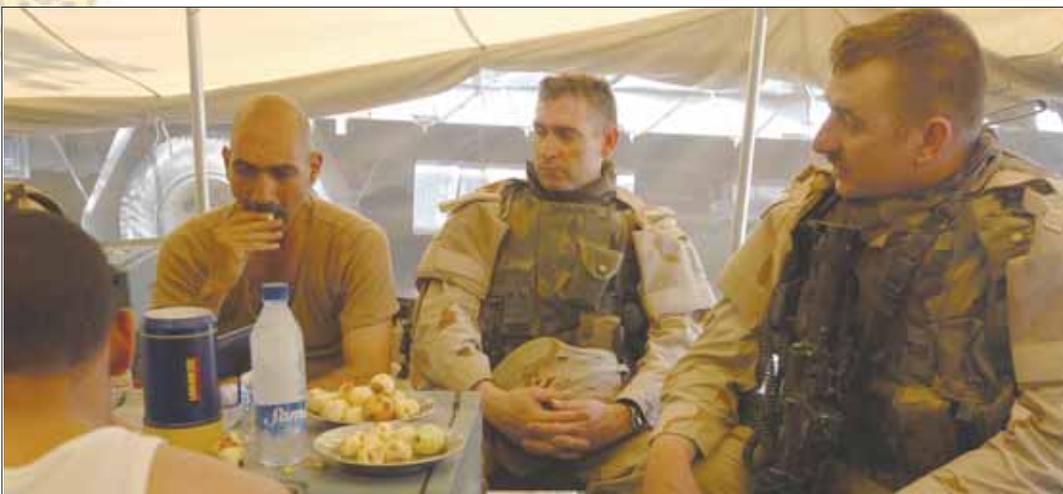
“We maintain an observation point by the bridge to deter (Anti-Iraqi Forces) from traveling into Salman Pak,” Broadhead said. “Every vehicle that crosses the river is searched. We’ve had few incidents since we set up the OP – it’s very effective.”

Crazy Troop set up the OP as part of a joint mission to rid the Salman Pak area of insurgent

forces.

Since the onset of the April operation, insurgent activity in Southern Baghdad has dropped considerably, according to military records.

“We’re going to work on one thing at a time – starting with organizing a body to find out what needs fixing,” Bair said. “Now that the town’s security situation is stable, we can get the utilities projects moving.”



**Bair and 1st Sgt. Anthony Broadhead, C Troop, first sergeant, speak with Iraqi Intervention Forces at their compound near Salman Pak, Iraq, May 27.**



# Rogue roots out insurgents

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

NEW BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, conducted Operation Determined Fury the first week of June in an effort to root out insurgents in Central Baghdad.

“We’re basically doing a week’s worth of cordon-and-searches in two days,” said Maj. Paul Maxwell, 1-64 Armor, executive officer. “Using intel we’ve gathered, we’re targeting

houses where insurgent cells are thought to plan (improvised explosive device) attacks.”

In the afternoon of June 6, troops from C, D and E Companies, 1-64 Armor, rolled into a densely populated New Baghdad neighborhood with M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and humvees, and blocked streets around target houses

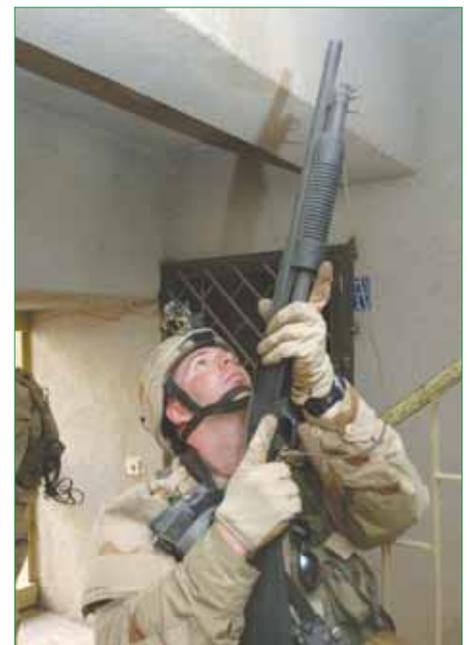
Soldiers from C Co. quickly

cleared their first house and emerged with two Iraqi men in flexcuffs. Another team immediately moved in to thoroughly search the house.

“This operation is targeting members of Ansar al-Sunna terrorist organization, who’ve been manufacturing IEDs and (vehicle-borne) IEDs,” said Capt. Dustin Baadte, C



(Above) As an AH-64 Apache circles overhead, Soldiers from B Co., 1-64 Armor, prepare to search homes in New Baghdad, Iraq, June 7. (Right) Spc. Jeff Campbell, C Co., 1-64 Armor, covers a stairwell while Soldiers search nearby apartments in New Baghdad June 6.





(Opposite) Soldiers from C Co. escort a detainee to one of their vehicles during a raid in New Baghdad June 6. (Left) Soldiers from C Co. prepare to enter a house. (Below) Pfc. David Dillon, C Co., removes rounds from an AK-47 magazine. Residents are authorized 70 total rounds, but only one 30-round magazine.

Co., 1-64, commander. “We’ve lost four guys so far to IEDs, so we’re really pursuing this organization aggressively.”

C Co., nicknamed “The Wild Bunch,” searched about 20 houses and apartments in three locations, and found several small weapons caches.

In one house, Soldiers found three AK-47s and five magazines buried in a plastic bag in the front yard. They also found bags of auto parts that had been stripped of their ball bearings, a common component of IEDs.

Iraqi Army troops, normally a fixture in Wild Bunch operations, did not participate in the mission, as they are currently part of Operation Lightning in South Baghdad.

“It’s too bad the Iraqi Soldiers weren’t here – they help with language and relations,” Baadte said. “We still got to remind (anti-Iraqi forces) that we can put 200 Soldiers on the ground at the same time and conduct large, coordinated operations in sector.”

New Baghdad is a diverse neighborhood, populated with Christians, Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims.

Wild Bunch detained six people, two suspected of plotting insurgent attacks. The other four were later released.

Among the items confiscated

were AK-47s, high-capacity rifle magazines, pistols, suspected bomb-making parts and a plethora of ammunition.

The next day, Soldiers from B Company, 1-64 Armor conducted a similar mission in a different part of the neighborhood.

The target houses were located in a less populated area than the day before, on uneven terrain, so instead of tanks, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters circled the low buildings during the mission.

B Co. brought along a new asset to assist in searching homes – a German shepherd named Sammy.

“Sammy’s trained to find all kinds of explosives and ammunition, as well as people who are hiding,” said Sgt. Nicholas Oberle, 35th Military Police Detachment. “She brings a whole new dimension in how well you can search a house – she can sniff out residues you’d never find.”

Oberle, from Eagle, Neb., and Sammy are attached to 1-64 Armor at Camp Rustimiyah, but have worked together for over a year at Fort Gordon, Ga.

“Every day we train dogs to perform in a combat environment,” Oberle said. “She’s a happy-go-lucky dog, but she’s a hard worker too.”

Bayonet Co. did not take



detainees or confiscate weapons during their searches, but took the time to build relations with residents in the area, according to 1st Lt. Brent Dial, B Co., 1-64 Armor, executive officer.

“Every time you go out, it’s an opportunity to meet residents of your sector and show them you’re looking out for them,” Dial, of Bowie, Md., said.

Dial said the success of Operation Determined Fury contributed greatly to the success of Operations Squeezeplay and Lightning, which focus on the larger mission of securing all of Baghdad.



# 2-3 BTB MPs...

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

JISR-DIYALA, Iraq – In a continuing effort to sustain Iraqi Police authority and improve the force, military police Soldiers in Baghdad are working closely with IPs in the less-populated, outlying areas.

In a multifaceted mission, Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Troops Battalion, MP platoon, visited Jisr-Diyala police Station in Southern Baghdad, May 28.

Before leaving Camp Rustimiya, the MPs picked up a detainee from the camp detention facility for transport to the IP station.

“We’re handing this guy over to the IPs so he can be processed through the Iraqi legal system,” said Staff Sgt.

Nathan Sartorius, MP platoon, squad leader. “There’s a lot of paperwork involved, in Arabic and English, that accompanies the detainee.”

Upon arrival at the station, the detainee, apparently accused of robbery, was locked in a large holding cell with about 30 other men. The concrete floor of the cell was neatly lined with small mattresses to maximize the sleeping area.

“We try and mentor the IPs here, make sure they have the tools and training they need to do their jobs well,” Sartorius said. “They’re a major source of intelligence for us. Sometimes we have to coax it from them, but that’s just local culture and customs.”

Sartorius, from Laharpe, Ill., and Sgt. Steve Oesh, MP platoon, team leader, sat down with an IP major and discussed how to build a case against the man they’d brought in.

The MPs described needing witnesses and physical evidence to bring before a judge if the detainee was to be convicted.

“We’ve got to get the witness to come down to the station and make a sworn statement,” Oesh, from West Palm Beach, Fla., said. “It takes a lot more than just catching a criminal to bring him to justice.”

At the same time, other MP Soldiers walked around the station, making sure IPs were doing their jobs properly, such as pulling security and taking care of detainees.

“The IPs here are taking charge in the area, they plan and execute their own missions all the time,” Oesh said. “We’re not as hands-on with them anymore because we don’t need to be. They’re motivated.”

The station is located near Salman Pak, a former insur-



(Above) Sgt. Steve Oesh, 2-3 BTB, MP team leader, fills out paperwork transferring a detainee to IP custody at the Jisr-Diyala Police Station, May 28.



(Right) Sgt. Robert Bedford, MP team leader, hands out toys to children at the Jisr-Diyala Police Station, May 28.

# *mentor local IPs*



**Staff Sgt. Nathan Sartorius, MP squad leader, monitors a detainee at Jisr-Diyala Police Station, May 28.**

gent stronghold, and has been attacked several times in the previous months. Since April, when a massive joint military force secured Salman Pak, Sartorius said there have been far fewer attacks on the station.

“The security situation is much better here now, and the IP’s confidence reflects that,” Sartorius said. “But they’ve still got to be vigilant and man their fighting positions on the roof and watch the vehicles driving by.”

As a midday traffic jam crept past the station, Sgt. Robert Bedford, MP platoon, team leader, called out to local children near the station that he had treats for them.

Bedford said his wife Shelley, a teacher in the special education department at Richmond Hill Middle School, organized a drive at the school to donate toys to Iraqi children.

Bedford, from Winters, Texas, and other Soldiers were quickly mobbed by excited children, and IPs who had children of their own, and the toys were quickly distributed. Small stuffed animals and a plastic alligator were among the favorites.

“I know the kids back home wanted to do something nice for the kids we see all the time here,” Bedford said. “It really makes you appreciate everything you’ve got back home.”

According to Sartorius, his Soldiers rarely feel their presence is necessary on IP missions.

“If it’s a shootout with insurgents, we’ll definitely go along and provide an outer cordon while they clear the buildings,” he said. “But short of that, the IPs have the skills and confidence to do everything themselves.”

“The security situation is much better here now, and the IP’s confidence reflects that.”

# Leading 1st Bn., 2nd Bde., 6th Iraqi Div., in the right direction

Story and photos by Spc. Ben Brody

BAGHDAD, Iraq – One of Uday Hussein's former palaces has a new tenant – Iraqi troops from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division.

The unit uses the riverfront palace complex to train and to stage operations in North Baghdad, but they are not alone.

Helping train and mentor the young unit is a military transition team from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery.

"This is a place where the Iraqi Army is really succeeding independently of coalition forces," said Maj. Terry Cook, 1-9 FA, executive officer. "They are building pro-IA support in the area because people see the coalition is not involved."

However, Cook and the rest of the MiTT does a great deal behind the scenes at the palace complex.

In addition to providing joint fires, such as attack helicopters, close air support, aerial surveillance and counter-mortar radar, the Battleking team trains Iraqi medics and troops on essential soldier skills.

"We try to nudge the IAB in the right direction, toward how we run battalions," said 1st Sgt. William Zito, B Battery, 1-9 FA, first sergeant. "We've got to guide them during the



**Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, 1-9 FA, commander, and 1st Bn., 2nd Bde., 6th IAD, commander, look over a map at 1st Bn. headquarters.**



**(Above) Iraqi Soldiers practice drill and ceremony in front of Uday Hussein's former palace in Baghdad, Iraq, May 22.**

**(Below) Iraqi soldiers await orders to move out on a mission.**

transition from the old regime to the new Iraqi government so they don't slip back into old habits."

Maj. Ahmed Gebar, 1st IAB, executive officer, said his battalion is making steady progress in his area of operations.

"Everything is getting better in our sector," Gebar said. "If things keep going this way, it will be very good."

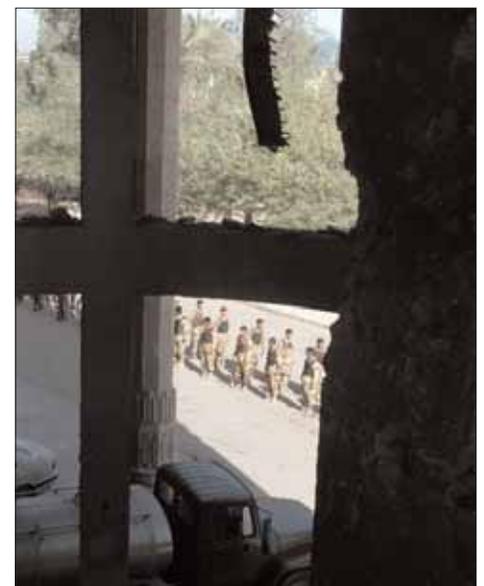
He described the MiTT as being very helpful and responsive to his requests for assistance.

"We have a good relationship with the MiTT – everything we ask for, they always try to help," Gebar said. "I have very good, brave men. They need more training and equipment, but they are good soldiers."

Whether they need training or not, the Iraqi Soldiers at the palace have impressed the MiTT.

"The Iraqis here really accomplish the mission," said Sgt. Steven Carpenter, 1-9 FA, communications sergeant. "Their reaction time is outstanding – when there's an attack in sector, they jump in their trucks and roll out with no delay."

Carpenter, from Sanford, Fla., said the IAB mirrors the Battlekings because of similarities in their leader-



ship.

"The IAB commander and (executive officer) love to go out on missions and be with their Soldiers, just like Battleking 6 and 5 do," he said.

Loyalty Theater plays host to...

# Memorial Day Talent Show

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

CAMP LOYALTY, Iraq - Soldiers numbering in the hundreds came out to Loyalty Theater to see the talents of 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers in the Memorial Day Talent Show May 29.

The talent show, the first of its kind at Loyalty, was organized by the MWR staff and Spartan Soldiers.

A myriad of talents were put on display. Musical acts included R&B, hip-hop, rock, and country, vocal and instrumental performances. There were freestyle and written poetry acts,

and even a musical skit that included a man in a kilt.

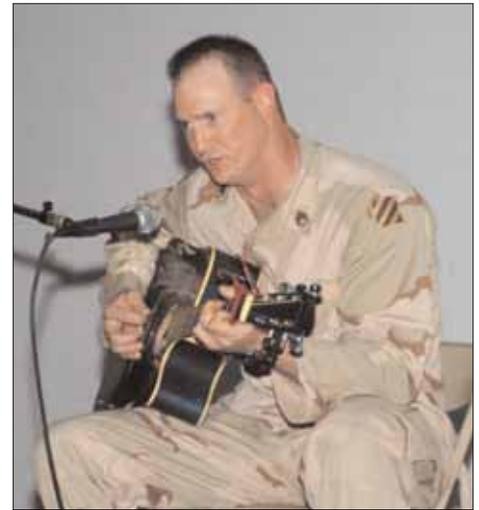
After almost an hour of challenging arithmetic, and mathematical deliberation, winners were announced.

Staff Sgt. Charles Gilley, 2nd BCT, chaplains assistant, took the top prize for his guitar and vocal performance, while Pfc. Lashon Billingsley, 2-3 BTB, shared second place with Pvt. Chaz Robinson, 1-9 FA. Third place went to Spc. James Downing and Spc. Kashawn Adams, 1-9 FA.

The next talent show will be July 3.



**Pfc. Lashon Billingsley, HHC, 2-3 BTB, finished second for his performance.**



**(Above) Winner, Staff Sgt. Charles Gilley, HHC 2nd BCT, plays a Johnny Cash tune. (Left) Spc. James Downing and Spc. Kashawn Adams congratulate each other for their third place finish.**

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month observance

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

CAMP LOYALTY, Iraq - Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team took time to recognize the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans at Loyalty

Theater May 29.

The APA Heritage Month observance, organized through the Titan Equal Opportunity office, recognized the culture, history and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans throughout the past 200 years.

The ceremony included a slideshow of accomplished Asian Pacific Americans, a vocal performance, a martial arts demonstration, and words from the guest speaker, Maj. Rodney Takahashi, 2nd BCT, brigade signal officer.

Takahashi focused his remarks on the wartime heroics and warrior spirit of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regiment



**Pfc. Karem Brown, HHC, 2nd BCT, provides Maj. Kevin McKay, 2nd BCT, battle major, a target during a martial arts demonstration at the Loyalty Theater May 29.**

- a second-generation, Japanese-American unit who, in the face of prejudice, fought gallantly against the axis powers in World War II, losing 900 of

their 1400 men in their first year at war in Italy.

Following the ceremony, attendees were treated to a buffet of Asian and Pacific Island cuisine.



**Maj. Rodney Takahashi, 2nd BCT, brigade signal officer, addresses attendees at the theater.**

# The Halfway Point

**Chaplain (Maj.) Pete Brzezinski**  
2nd Brigade Combat Team Chaplain

I heard one Spartan Soldier say yesterday, “sometimes the days drag on, but here we are five months into the deployment already”.

As far as we know, the half way point for the deployment is right around the corner. Our sense of time is different here than it is when we are at home station. Sure, we are busy back at Fort Stewart, but most of us go home for the evening and weekend helping us keep a more normal cycle of time.

The old saying, “what we spend our time and our money on reveals what is truly important to us,” holds true for those deployed and at home. How do we fill our days? Everyone is busy both here and back home, but how do we keep a healthy balance?

After all, this is a marathon – not a sprint. Everyone lives with outside demands on our time. Some choose to bury themselves in their work and the demands of the daily grind while others try to break it up with different activities to keep a healthy balance. Though the amount of different activities varies from person to person, everyone needs a change of pace on a daily and weekly basis.

There are four components to a healthy lifestyle – the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Each of these requires a commitment of our time.

The Army makes it easy to maintain our physical fitness. We get paid to stay in shape and it’s a part of our daily schedule. This is a huge benefit compared to the

civilian world where few employers encourage you to work out on their time.

Keeping our mental fitness is as easy as turning off the TV and reading a good book, or playing a board game with some friends. Emotional fitness requires finding and keeping up with a “battle buddy”. We all need some one we can trust to be ourselves with.

Spiritual fitness involves things like prayer, bible and inspirational reading, church attendance, meeting with people of like faith in order to build each other up, singing, and writing poems to name but a few.

As we reach the important halfway point in the deployment, there are some things worth holding on to that will help us finish the time well. Remember to break up the week and even the day with something that promotes a healthy balance.

Our view of time looks different when we remember that our times are in God’s hands and that though we have questions and deal with mysteries in life there is a “time for everything, and season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and to die, to plant and to uproot, to kill and to heal, to tear down and to build, to weep and to laugh, to mourn and to dance, to embrace and refrain, to search and to give up, to keep and to throw away, to be silent and to speak, to love and to hate, a time for war and for peace.”

It is my hope and prayer that all of us in the Spartan family reach the halfway point with a healthy balance, and that we finish this marathon strong and in good health knowing the blessings of God no matter what challenges we will face the last half of the deployment.



## When the wall came down...



*Photos by Capt. Eric Melloh*

In early May, on a day of heavy wind gusts, the east wall of Camp Hope crumbled. Soldiers from 3-15 Inf. were called on to secure the camp until the wall was repaired.



# Water: The drink of champions

**Capt. Nicole Zuena**

*2nd Brigade Combat Team Preventive Medicine Officer*

By now, I don't need to tell you that it is HOT outside. That's right...HOT! We all know it. Spend a minute outside and you will begin to notice the sweat dripping in places on our bodies we never even knew existed.

At least we can look at the bright side of the heat. Just step outside and treat yourself to your own little spa experience with your own personal sauna - and it's all for free. You read it correctly...FREE! Okay, back to reality. So why am I stating the blatantly obvious? Everyday, our mission calls for us to be out in this heat, conducting patrols, convoys, motor pool operations; you name it and soldiers are out in the heat getting it done.

And by now, I am sure you are all sick of being told to drink water, drink water, and drink water. So you stop drinking water and resort to other drinks like Gatorade. Then a few days go by and you notice a slight pain in your side or in your stomach and you don't know quite what it is. You blow it off and drive on. Next thing you know, you are extremely tired, you can't stop sweating, you have no appetite and you still don't know what is quite wrong with you. You start thinking to yourself, hey it might have been the funny tasting chicken I ate at the DFAC last night, or that you might be getting sick and coming down with that desert "crud" again. So you decide to go to the Aid Station to see what is wrong with you and you find out that you have just become a victim of a heat injury. So you ask yourself why? I have been drinking lots of Gatorade. I thought that Gatorade was better than water.

I know that many of you already know the three types of heat injuries, and I am not going to preach to the choir, but I am going to let you in on a little secret. NOTHING is better than water. NOTHING! Gatorade is a great supplement to drinking water, but not a substitute for it. Seventy-five percent of your body is made up of water.

Why wouldn't your body crave something that makes up  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of its composition. Gatorade is great to re-supply your body with fluids, electrolytes, and salt balance, but keep in mind that sports drinks are also loaded with sugar.

So how much water should you be drinking?

If your urine is not coming out the same color as the water you are taking in or close to it, then you are not drinking enough water. If you have been out on a mission for eight hours and have not urinated once, then you are not drinking enough water. If you have stopped sweating in this heat and have been out all day on a mission, then you are not drinking enough

water.

I know that we all get sick of drinking water. It has no taste, and for all intents and purposes, it is boring to drink. It is definitely not a substitute for beer, but water is great for your body. It flushes out toxins in your system, it is great for your skin, and most importantly it keeps you from getting poked several times with an IV needle from your buddy who hasn't practiced sticking someone since the last time they took their combat lifesaver course, which might have been years ago.

Either way, keep in mind that a dehydrated person might have to be stuck several times before the medic/CLS person gets a successful stick, because their veins collapse due to the lack of water in their system, which makes it difficult to get an IV into you even from the most experienced medics.

Unless you are one of the few that love getting stuck with a needle, I suggest that you keep yourself hydrated. I do know one thing for sure - there are many soldiers who would love the chance to practice their IV skills, so do not be the person that ends up being the test dummy when you are the sole person that can prevent these types of injuries. So drink up and cheers to drinking water...The drink of champions!



## - Now that's high quality H<sub>2</sub>O -

Next to oxygen, water is the most important nutrient to the human body, but it is often the most overlooked. Check out these interesting facts about the functions of water in the human body:

- The average adult contains 10-13 gallons of water
- A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or a printed page
- The human body loses as much water when asleep as when awake
- Drinking 5 glasses of water (8 oz.) daily, decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, breast cancer by 79%, and bladder cancer by 50%
- Research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

# Stateside

## Taxi! Cubans Set Sail

MIAMI (Reuters) - Taxi! Take us to the United States, don't spare the gas and mind the, er, waves. A group of 13 Cubans set sail for the United States in a vintage blue taxicab converted into an unwieldy vessel, Miami television station NBC 6 reported.

But the makeshift boat, with a prow jutting out of the front and a taxi sign on the roof, was intercepted on Tuesday evening by the U.S. Coast Guard about 20 miles off Key West on the southern tip of Florida.

The television station showed images of Coast Guard launches circling the vessel and the occupants rolling up the windows, presumably to try to avoid being caught.

Coast Guard officials were not immediately available to comment. Generally, Cubans intercepted trying to make the 90-mile crossing from Cuba to Florida are sent home to the Communist-ruled island, while those who make it to U.S. soil are usually allowed to stay.

The taxi passengers, riding in what NBC 6 said was a 1949 Mercury, were not the first to make the journey in a converted vintage vehicle. First there were the "truck-boaters," a group who caught the public eye with their attempt to sail over in a 1951 Chevy truck kept afloat with oil drums in 2003. Another group tried the journey in an elegant 1959 Buick-turned-boat in February 2004.

NBC 6 said one of the people on Tuesday's vessel was 40-year-old Rafael Diaz.

His father, a resident of Miami, told the station the family knew earlier in the day that Diaz was trying to leave. Diaz's father told the station he was worried and sad about the failed journey.

The television station said Diaz was traveling with his wife and two children and had tried to leave Cuba before, once on one of the previous converted vehicles.

While their transport is eye-catching — and the previous attempts have inspired considerable public sympathy — the Cuban migrants traveling in vehicle-boats are just a fraction of the hundreds of Cubans who cross the

Florida Straits every year, often ferried over in smugglers' vessels.

According to Coast Guard statistics, some 1,406 Cubans have been intercepted so far in fiscal year 2005, which began in October, compared with 1,225 intercepted in fiscal year 2004.

## Body parts fall from plane

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Pieces of a man's body fell from the wheel well of a South African Airways passenger plane bound for John F. Kennedy International Airport Tuesday and landed in the yard of a suburban home, police said.

A U.S. customs inspector discovered the rest of the man's body at 7:30 a.m. (1130 GMT) after Flight 203 landed in New York from Johannesburg, South Africa, said a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which oversees area airports.

A South African Airways spokeswoman said it appeared to have been a stowaway attempt. She said the plane had stopped in Dakar, Senegal, on its way to New York.

The pilot reported feeling vibrations at takeoff but conducted a check and found nothing amiss, said Nassau County, New York, police detective Kevin Smith.

During the flight, Smith said the pilot felt more "vibrating sensations and heard pounding, but nothing appeared wrong with the plane."

The body parts, which included the right leg, part of the spine and a hip, struck a garage roof of the home in South Floral Park, New York, before landing in the backyard, police said.

## Animal rights activists face trial under terror law

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) - New Jersey is using an anti-terrorism law for the first time to try six animal rights activists charged with harassing and vandalizing a company that made use of animals to test its drugs.

Prosecutors say the activists, who will stand trial next week, used threats, intimidation and cyber attacks against employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences, a British company with operations in East Millstone, New

Jersey, with the intention of driving it out of business.

The six, members of a group called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), are charged under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, amended in 2002 to include "animal enterprise terrorism," which outlaws disrupting firms like Huntingdon.

If convicted, the group and its accused members face a maximum \$250,000 fine and three years in prison.

SHAC argued that the charges are a violation of free-speech rights and it is the victim of a government crackdown on dissent. "This is a frightening step in the Bush administration's path to war on domestic dissidence," the group said on its Web site.

The defendants are also charged with interstate stalking, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and \$250,000 fine, and with conspiracy to engage in interstate stalking, carrying the same penalty.

The list of potential defense witnesses includes actress Kim Basinger, who joined a protest outside a Huntingdon laboratory in Franklin, New Jersey to try to stop such companies using animals to test their pharmaceutical products.

## Tyson falls to McBride

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Little known Irishman Kevin McBride scored a stunning upset victory over Mike Tyson on Saturday after the former world heavyweight champion quit on his stool before the seventh round of their non-title bout.

Following his third loss in four fights, the man who burst onto the heavyweight scene in such explosive style two decades ago declared that his career in the ring was over.

"This is it. I'm finished. It's just not in my heart," the 38-year-old Tyson told a post-fight news conference.

"I'm just not interested in fighting anymore."

At the end of the sixth round, appearing unhurt but short of energy, Tyson staggered to his corner and slumped on his stool.

His cornermen requested referee Joe Cortez to stop what could be his last fight.

# Around the world

## Woman lays waste to property with 43 goats

BERLIN (Reuters) - A German woman living with 43 goats was evicted from her rented house after the animals left "knee-high" piles of droppings around the garden and laid waste to the building's interior, authorities said Tuesday.

A court in the southwestern town of Saarburg said the woman had been forced out because she was behind on her rent and had allowed the condition of the house to deteriorate to such an extent that it may have to be torn down.

"The goats' droppings were basically piled up knee-high around the garden, and inside the house everything was chewed up. And it stank," said court spokesman Manfred Grueter.

"It was total chaos," he added. "It's pretty doubtful as to whether the place can still be lived in."

The woman is a freelance artist in her early forties. She had resisted eviction on the grounds her life with the goats had been used to create a "social sculpture" inspired by the German sculptor Joseph Beuys.

## Parents fined for urinating baby

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - An Indian temple fined the parents of a baby that urinated on its mother while she was praying, but the government ordered the money returned, saying the penalty was unfair.

Officials at the Thrissur Hindu temple in the coastal state of Kerala fined the six-month-old's parents 2,000 rupees (\$45) — a hefty sum for an Indian working family.

The officials said the baby had desecrated the temple, the Times of India reported.

Priests also held special prayer ceremonies to cleanse the temple after the incident.

When the father, a mechanic, said he did not have the money, other worshippers chipped in to pay the fine for him.

But the father appealed to the government, which told the temple to give the money back because a baby could not be expected to control its bladder.

## French hostage released in Iraq

PARIS (Reuters) - A French journalist and her Iraqi driver were released after being held hostage for five months in Iraq, France said on Sunday.

"Florence Aubenas and Hussein Hanun have been released. They are in good health," President Jacques Chirac said in a televised speech. Aubenas, a reporter for French daily Liberation, was on a plane headed for Paris, he said.

Aubenas and her driver Hussein Hanun al-Saadi were taken hostage after leaving their Baghdad hotel on Jan. 5.

Little had been known about their fate since then. Insurgents in Iraq released video footage of Aubenas on March 1. Looking distraught and fragile, she made an appeal for help. Aubenas' colleagues and family said the 44-year old reporter seemed well, expressing relief over her release.

"I thought I knew what the word happiness meant ... but it is so much better than I thought," the reporter's mother Jacqueline Aubenas told France Info.

"It's a real explosion," she said, adding she had been informed about her daughter's release on Saturday. France's foreign ministry said Aubenas would arrive at Villacoublay airport outside Paris later in the day. Diplomatic sources said French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy was on his way to Cyprus where Aubenas' plane would stop.

French officials drove Saadi to his home in central Baghdad, where relatives and neighbors crowded round and slaughtered a sheep in the street in a mark of thanksgiving, witnesses said.

Saadi, looking drawn and thin, stayed silent. His wife wept as his daughter hugged the father she had not seen for months.

France, which opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq, secured the release of two French journalists in December after they were held hostage for four months by Iraqi militants.

France said then the captors had never asked for a ransom.

It was not clear under what circumstances Aubenas and her driver

were freed.

The head of media watchdog Reporters Without Borders said on Saturday their kidnappers could have asked for a ransom, but he later withdrew his comments. France's foreign ministry had said the remarks "did in no way correspond to reality."

A Romanian reporter, who was held hostage in Iraq for 55 days before being released last month, said for the first time on Sunday that Aubenas had been held in the same cell with her. "Our mattresses were next to each other," Romanian journalist Marie Jeanne Ion told private television station Antena 1.

"She deserves a lot of admiration. She was telling me all the time 'of course we won't die, of course we'll get out, they won't kill us'. If she wasn't there, we would have gone crazy," Ion said, her voice trembling. Ion and two other Romanian journalists were kidnapped in Baghdad on March 28. They were freed on May 22 but held back from talking about the circumstances in which they were held for fear this endanger others.

## Kuwait names first woman cabinet minister

KUWAIT (Reuters) - Kuwait appointed its first female cabinet member on Sunday, naming veteran women's rights activist Massouma al-Mubarak as planning minister, the state news agency KUNA said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah "announced the appointment of Dr. Massouma Mubarak as planning minister and minister of state for administrative development affairs," KUNA reported. Mubarak, a columnist and political science professor at Kuwait University, told Reuters she had been offered the post, and said she was honored to be the first woman minister in the Gulf Arab state's history.

She replaces Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah in both posts. The appointment makes Kuwait the third country in the conservative Gulf Arab region to have a woman cabinet minister.

Kuwait appointed two women to its municipal council earlier this month.

# MNC-I kicks off IED awareness campaign

CAMP VICTORY, IRAQ (Army News Service, May 26, 2005) – Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq, and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory kicked off an information campaign May 25 in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 – but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Eglund, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women. Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps - Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and their effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces."

Eglund said several different counter-IED organizations were already delivering good messages and possible solutions out there, but with no real emphasis or impact to the troops who needed it the most. "It wasn't as good as it could be. Some channels just naturally don't flow

as well as others," he said.

The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group's solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: First, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization that can take the fight to the enemy; third, produce pinpointed products from one organization that can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be any time, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

To push information to the troops anywhere and any time trends change, the working group assembled a small team of designers to brainstorm effective ways to get the word out. The first idea also seemed the most obvious one to start the campaign – military publications.

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together – like a logo. "The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force-Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when they're outside the wire; it is the most basic [tactic] that you have to master."

"This seemed appropriate because 5-and-25 means awareness," said Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "5-and-25 means checking the

area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that [many] Soldiers, who are at a short halt [for as little as] four to five minutes, are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said.

Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

"This time it's [newspaper ads], next time it will be commercials on TV and radio," Martin said. "After that, we're looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit."

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose: to save lives.

"There's no predicting exactly where, when or how you're going to meet an IED when you're driving around," Stockdale said. "Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival."

