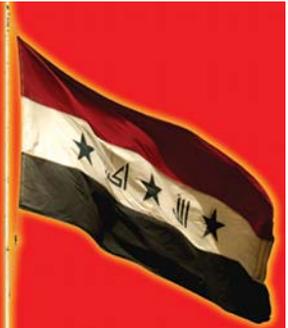




THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



Vol. 1, No. 6

Published by Multi-National Force - Iraq

September 21, 2005

Securing a city, securing a nation ...



File photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Ahlschwede

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis celebrate holy day in Karbala under the protection of Iraqi Security Forces, uniting and defying al-Zarqawi threats.

Tall Afar operation transitions to reconstruction

By Multi-National Corps Public Affairs

TALL AFAR — Operation Restoring Rights wrapped up decisive combat operations in Tall Afar and transitioned to the rebuilding phase of the operation so its citizens can continue with the democratic process in a safe and secure environment.

“Acting on my orders, Iraqi forces commenced an operation to remove all remaining terrorist elements from the city of Tall Afar. These forces are operating with support from the Multi-National Force,” said Prime Minister of Iraq Ibrahim Ushaiqer al-Jaafari. “They are acting on behalf of all the different religious and ethnic elements in Tall Afar and in response to their appeals for help.”

The Iraqi-led operation began Sept. 10 at 1:45 a.m. to clear the Sarai neighborhood of terrorists and foreign fighters

operating in Tall Afar in support of Iraqi Government efforts to bring safety and security to the citizens of the city.

The Iraqi-led operations included more than 11,200 Soldiers from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division, Ministry of Interior forces and the U.S. Army’s 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The operation resulted in the death of more than 150 terrorists, detention of 427 terrorists, and discovery of 53 weapons caches. Additionally, security forces discovered an improvised explosive device-making factory, a cave used to hide people and equipment, and concealed observation and sniper positions.

The Iraqi Forces put an end to the acts of terror being carried out against the citizens of Tall Afar, said Maj. Gen. Khorsheed Saleem Al-Doski, commander,

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Iraqis, 3rd ACR set up Forward TOC in Tall Afar, *Page 9*

Iraqi police train at Mosul Public Safety Academy, *Page 10*

Locals celebrate Baghdad bridge opening, *Page 13*

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Iraqi battalion secures streets near Al Suwayrah, *Page 18*

Iraqis Taking the Lead: photos from



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Coming together

By Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.
Multi-National Force - Iraq Commanding General

The recent battle in Tal Afar gives us a chance to see how a lot of little steps come together to show success.

Look at what is transpiring around the country: a water project here, insurgent battles there and people registering to vote in historic numbers.

Iraqi Security Forces topping 192,000 people. What does it all mean? First, there is the battle of Tal Afar. Let's look at what happened:

- An Iraqi-lead, Coalition-supported operation of approximately 11,000 denied a major safe haven to the insurgents, killing or capturing approximately 500.
- Iraqi government officials answered the call of their people sending in security forces to expel the insurgents.
- Humanitarian assistance was provided and reconstruction is in progress.

Second, Tal Afar is no isolated event, but the culmination of years of long, hard work, and the tangible start of a campaign to deny insurgents safe havens all across Iraq.

Around the country approximately 98 percent (or more than 15 million eligible voters) have registered to vote. Each week key members of the insurgency are captured or killed because of Iraqi informants.

The Iraqi Security Forces stand at 192,000—and is growing every day! Just look through this issue of "This Week In Iraq" to see the various reconstruction efforts, Forward Operating Base transfers and ISF academy training graduations taking place. Why? Iraqis across the country feel increasingly safe to express their desire for democracy.

Separately, these actions are little steps in the right direction. Together they are a giant leap toward the end for the insurgents and a new dawn for the Iraqis. From Mosul to Najaf; Fallujah to Tal Afar cities are rebuilding and looking toward a bright future.

It is happening all across Iraq, not in isolation but as part of a coordinated effort that is bearing fruit.



Gen. George W. Casey Jr.



Courtesy photo

A couple of U.S. Marines take a look at a newly renovated hospital in Fallujah.

Quality medical care returns to Fallujah

By Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

FALLUJAH — Fallujah has made a turn for the better. Once the heart of the insurgency, Fallujah was an Iraqi city battered and broken from years of maltreatment by Saddam Hussein's ruling Ba'ath Party. By the time Coalition Forces secured the city in November 2004, most of the residents had moved away. Living conditions had become unbearable. The city was in turmoil.

The initial assessment in December 2004 indicated that one hospital and three clinics were operational. During Operation Fajr, insurgents occupied Fallujah General Hospital. Coalition Forces took the hospital by force, causing extensive battle damage that limited its operational capabilities. The clinics also sustained extensive damage. Coalition Forces and the newly elected

City Council determined that medical services were a priority for the city residents as they returned to their city. Coalition Forces, along with their Fallujah partners, focused on restoring the city's medical facilities.

Three clinics were repaired with Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds and are currently operational, caring for between 300 to 500 patients daily. An out-patient clinic at Fallujah General Hospital was also built with CERP funds and is fully operational.

There are six other clinics in various stages of repair or construction. Three of these are under construction in the north of the city, one in the center, and two in the south. Future projects include a new \$46 million hospital with a capacity of 200 beds.

Ground was recently broken

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Right, citizens of Tall Afar line up at a checkpoint outside the city to be searched. The residents were allowed back to their homes September 14 following days of fighting between anti-Iraqi forces and Iraqi security forces and Multi-National Forces.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Blair Larson



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Security Forces during mounted patrol in Tall Afar.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. James Wilt

Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division, storm a house in Tall Afar.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Blair Larson

Iraqi Policemen secure a checkpoint on the outskirts of Tall Afar, a city nearly 20 miles west of Mosul. Residents left the village to avoid intense fighting. Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces launched Operation Restoring Rights Sept. 9, ridding the city of terrorists and restoring local government control.

Right, Spc. Adan Serna, a Soldier assigned to 3rd Armored Cavalry Regt. stands guard at a screening site outside Tall Afar in Iraq's Nineveh province. His presence was intended to provide aid and comfort to civilians evacuating the city and separate anti-Iraqi forces from the general population.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert M. Schalk



Tall Afar

from page 1

3rd Division. They brought security and stability back to the people of this city, he added.

Representatives of the Iraqi Transitional Government, the Ninevah Provincial, Tall Afar city governments and local leaders called on the Iraqi and Coalition forces to take action to rid the city of terrorism and intimidation. Several Iraqi government officials visited Tall Afar to view the operation firsthand. "I met with the commander of the 3rd Division in Tall Afar and his officers and soldiers and found them in high spirits," said al-Jaafari.

Efforts by numerous Iraqi government agencies along with non-governmental relief organizations initially provided humanitarian assistance to the displaced citizens of Tall Afar such as short-term potable water needs, tanker trucks, portable water tanks and water cans distributed throughout the city.

The long-term humanitarian assistance effort is led by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration Office, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, International Medical Corps and Red

Cross. The Ministries of Health, Trade and Transportation are also playing a vital role in caring for the needs of the people.

The Iraqi government approved \$50 million to the people of Tall Afar for reconstruction and compensation. The U.S. has already approved \$5 million to help build the infrastructure of the city, with more than \$3 million in additional funds already requested.

More than \$730,000 is earmarked for transformers, wiring and other electrical infrastructure repairs, and two electrical lift trucks are standing by to aid in repairs to the electrical grid.

To date, 3,688 displaced civilians have been screened at the Displaced Civilian Rest Areas. Recently, the Provincial Governor toured Tall Afar with the 3rd IA Division and city leadership and encouraged citizens to return to the city.

"They want this city to fail. They want Iraq to fail," Col. H.R. McMaster, 3rd ACR commander, said of the insurgents. "But the number one priority is being met by this operation, which is to defeat the terrorists so they can no longer prevent reconstruction from happening."

First GMLRS fired in combat in Tall Afar battle

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

TALL AFAR — From more than 30 miles away, a platoon of M270A1 rocket/misile launchers positioned themselves to strike. Their arsenal rotated towards the city of Tall Afar as a target was programmed in the computer. Within a few minutes, six rockets left their launchers. Each rocket left a cookie cutter section of a building used by insurgents as a defensive position, in rubble. This was the first battlefield use of the Guided Missile Launcher Rocket System (GMLRS) since its introduction.

With the weapon system proved in combat, two more rockets were fired to destroy another insurgent position the next night with the same lethal precision as the first strike. Both times the damage to the surrounding homes was almost non-existent and the target's destruction was absolute.

"This system is all-weather, precision, Global Positioning System (GPS), low collateral damage, long range, lethal effect munitions," said Capt. Robert J. Hannah, 3/13 FA Battalion Commander. "This allows ground commanders to precisely attack small targets, even in an urban environment, with lower collateral damage than precision bombs used by the U.S. Air Force."

Another remarkable feature of the rockets is the longer they are in the air, the more precise they become. Most rockets follow an arc from the launcher. This means factors such as weather have to be taken into account before the rocket is launched.

The new GMLRS follows a path similar to a missile, firing higher into the sky and diving on its target to reduce collateral damage and allow the rocket to correct itself mid-flight for increased accuracy, said Staff Sgt. Daniel Waorowski.

The rocket isn't the only innovation for



A Guided Missile Launcher Rocket System prepares to fire.

the launchers; the on-board computer boasts the ability to communicate with the Tactical Operations Center and to receive missions from almost anywhere in the world. Each launcher also has its own GPS system, feeding even more information into the rocket and the computers to increase the accuracy of their arsenal.

"The fire system is completely digital; there is no voice communication necessary," said Sgt. David Helton, crew chief of B/31, 3/13 FA, who fired the first two rounds in combat. "We receive our mission from the computers of the Fire Support Officer with all of the coordinates of the aiming points of the target. Then, each launcher is assigned aim points to fire upon." When a voiced mission is given, there is a chance of miscommunication.

With the new system, each launcher is given exact coordinates fed from the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS). Each launcher can communicate to the FSOs through the system to verify the status of the launcher and the mission.

The idea isn't a new one for the U.S. Army, the same launcher has the capability to fire two long range missiles with similar effects. With the GMLRS's smaller size, the

launchers can carry more of them, maintaining the same effectiveness at a lower

cost while engaging more targets.

"We aren't reinventing the wheel," said Hannah. "We are using the same system but with improved munitions." The older munitions were the same rockets minus the GPS. They can disperse sub-munitions over a large area without the incredible accuracy boasted by the GMLRS.

Even the M270A1 launchers aren't brand new, built on the same chassis as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. They are currently the only platform that can fire the new GMLRS. The 3/13 fielded these new vehicles in June of 2004.

Hannah and his artillerymen constantly train on their computers and with the launchers to overcome such obstacles. Each night, Hannah drills with the crews and the Fire Support Officers to make sure every outcome is prepared for. Mock missions are developed and executed to make sure all Soldiers are ready to fire on a moment's notice.

In an urban setting like Tall Afar, targets have to be generated from intelligence to ensure buildings of the local populous aren't needlessly destroyed. Each of the targets is replanned. Before a target is fired upon, a

link to the insurgency must be proven by Soldiers on the ground who have been engaged from the structure or have made contact with the terrorists around the structure. After the approval of the mission, a battle drill is rehearsed so all sections know what needs to be accomplished prior to executing the mission. All the ground and air forces are then cleared of the rocket's path. The Fire Support Element provides guidance to synchronize the units on the ground to prevent fratricide. After the drill is complete, the rockets are fired and ground units monitor the result.

The outcome of the training and hard work the 3/13 FA has done paid off. With eight rockets fired and two insurgent buildings totally destroyed, the new system and its crews have shown the ability of the new GMLRS system and its effect when fielded in combat.



A GMLRS crew member loads the rockets for firing.



GMLRS rockets are loaded by a crew member.



Heroes of the Week

Soldier gets Bronze Star Medal for saving Soldiers

Story and photo by
Spc. Matthew Wester

3/1 Armored Division Public Affairs

TAJI — A routine mission turned into a moment of courage for one Task Force Baghdad Soldier last April. In the blink of an eye, Sgt. Cory J. Scott was forced to make several quick decisions, even as enemy bullets were raining down on him.

A squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Scott was recently awarded a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for valor for his actions April 3 during a mission south of Baghdad.

Scott and nine other Soldiers were conducting a census of a rural area. They completed the survey, but an enemy ambush was waiting for them when their convoy rolled out of the neighborhood.

"We heard some noise like some people screaming out, and they started firing [rocket-propelled grenades] at us," said Scott, a Reynolds, Ga., native. "My guys immediately started firing toward the enemy. By this time, I was looking around, trying to assess the situation."

His squad spread out, sought cover near a concrete canal and took up firing positions.



Sgt. Cory J. Scott

were struggling to stay afloat in the swift current.

Scott quickly organized an attempt to get them out of the water. He removed his belt and told two other Soldiers to remove their belts as well. Scott tied the belts together and made a makeshift rope.

He threw the lifeline into the canal, but the first of the Soldiers in the canal was pulled underwater by the current.

The other two Soldiers couldn't get a grip on the belts either, so Scott improvised again by breaking a long antenna off a radio and dangling it near the troops.

Scott said the enemy noticed the squad's efforts to rescue their buddies and

"My A and B Team leaders were on the right side hugging the canal, and all of a sudden, they disappeared. Then, the third rifleman disappeared," he said.

The Soldiers had fallen down the steep sides of the canal and

focused small-arms fire on the sides of the canal. Now, he had to contend with not only the raging canal water, but also more bullets and grenades.

"The rounds were landing about five to six feet from me. Then they tried to shoot the guys in the water," he said.

Shrugging off the AK-47 fire, Scott fished out two of the three stranded Soldiers. Spc. William D. Richardson, the Soldier who went underwater, was lost in the current and died.

Sgt. Dustin Garner, one of the Soldiers Scott pulled out of the canal, said he would have drowned if Scott did not think on his feet and use the antenna to help him out of the water.

Garner, a Fort Riley, Kan., resident and team leader for 2nd Plt., thinks Scott's actions were worthy of the Bronze Star Medal. "He does deserve it," Garner said. "If he hadn't been on his toes thinking, or been concerned about where we were, he might not have noticed us out there in the canal."

Although he was the recipient of the medal, Scott said it was a reminder of his whole squad's efforts to save their comrades. "If we didn't work as a team, then we would have had a lot more casualties."



Heroes of the Week

Iraqi military leader faces obstacles, perseveres

By Capt. Tom Earnhardt

22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, BALAD — Capt. Kaed Yunis Mohammed lives the challenge of command like few others in the profession of arms. Command generally means responsibility for the personnel and equipment of a given unit. For Kaed, command means building a cohesive unit from nothing, training new leaders and Soldiers and ridding his area of terrorists.

Kaed, the commander of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, finds himself burdened and blessed with the mantle of command during an exciting and dangerous time in Iraq's history. His company's area of responsibili-

ty extends north from the city of Balad to the village of Ishaki, in the Salah ad Dihn Province.

"The best thing about this now is Capt. [Ralph] Elder and his company," said Kaed referring to his partner in the establishment of his company.

Elder, commander of Troop B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, has dedicated the last seven months to teaching, equipping, supporting and protecting Kaed and his men.

"They've really come a long way," said Elder, who relinquished command Sept. 1.

"Kaed is different," said 1st Lt. Cory Tatom, the company fire support officer assigned to be the liaison to Kaed's company.

Troops remember 9/11 by honoring true hero

By Task Force 134 Public Affairs Office

CAMP BUCCA — On Sept. 11, Sgt. Ron Bucca, currently stationed in Iraq, came to visit the forward operating base (FOB) that bears his family name.

Bucca's father was a firefighter in New York City and was one of the initial responders at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. He was on the 74th floor of the second tower when it collapsed, killing him and numerous others.

Sgt. Bucca's father, Ronald Bucca, served in the U.S. Army Reserves for 29 years and was a firefighter for 23 years.

Bucca's visit began with a small memorial ceremony followed by a flag raising ceremony to honor his father. Following the ceremony, Bucca was given a tour of the FOB, to include the Theater Internment Facility, which houses more than 6,000 security detainees. Later on, he spread some of his father's ashes from the top of an old communications tower overlooking camp.

For some, the memory of Bucca's father served as a reminder not only of the events of 9/11, but of why they are serving in Iraq.

Fallujah

from page 2

for this new state of the art facility. Construction is expected to take two years.

Current health capabilities in Fallujah provide a higher standard of care than is found frequently in other Iraqi cities. Fallujah General provides a wide range of out-patient

procedures, as well as a low risk pregnancy birth center. Urgent care is also provided in the form of a 24 hour emergency room at some of the larger clinics.

The Janabi Clinic is an example of a unique, coordinated effort between the private sector and Coalition Forces. This effort combined funds to renovate the hospital to meet the needs of the local popu-

lace while renovations were ongoing with other healthcare projects. With 23 operational beds, this hospital supports both the ISF and civilians. Fallujah General is currently the largest hospital in the city with 173 beds. The Jordanian Field Hospital is smaller but also provides complete operating room capability as well as inpatient capability.

Kaed

from page 5

"He's the lone Sunni commander in his battalion," he added.

Every day, his challenge is more difficult. He must deal with the cultural divide just north of the city of Balad notoriously supportive of Sunni-backed insurgency.

On occasion, war hits close to home. Kaed had to order a raid on his own cousin's home on Aug. 28.

"Tonight, we have five targets," Kaed told 5th Bn. officers during an operational review before the raids. "This one right here is very important, I am sure. It is my cousin's house."

Now, his cousin is in Coalition custody accused of facilitating improvised explosive device attacks.

The raid was the second in the three days led by Kaed into his home area. Each of C Co.'s raids are a matter of pride for the Soldiers of Troop B as their hard work develops into an operational Iraqi company.

"We've been coming out here for months to work with these guys, and

they keep getting better," Elder said as C Co. prepared to head out for the latest in a series of raids to clean up its area of operations.

"This raid is Kaed's show," said Tatom referring to the Aug. 28 operation. "This is his intelligence and his target list. If he says it's there, it's there." The operation netted four of Kaed's five targets.

Many of Company C's challenges are like ones other units face, said Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Perez, platoon sergeant assigned to train the Iraqi unit's noncommissioned officers.

Developing leaders and systems takes time and patience, he said. "They're learning; each day here, I end up doing a little less and watching more."

Kaed said he is extremely satisfied by his company's evolution, but acknowledges there are still problems and challenges.

"The [junior] officers need to be more dedicated," Kaed said. "I spend much time on doing [their] jobs, not mine."

Another challenge facing Kaed is that he sleeps close to his work, and he's not very popular in his neighborhood.

"Many times, I arrest the [terrorists], very bad men with the [weapons] in the house, and they return to my neighborhood in seven days," Kaed complained. "I am getting them again," he said with a determined smile.

Like many company commanders, Kaed desires more funds for his work. His infrastructure is constantly in disrepair, but the new Troop B commander, Capt. Jacob Dalton, thinks he can help.

"I'm going to do all I can to help him," Dalton said. "It's very frustrating here. We're fighting an enemy we can't really see." Dalton said he hopes Kaed will trust him and continue the climb to success.

Kaed said he believes the future is bright. "This is very hard, but the officers and sergeants, they help me and my company," he said. "The future is good with [men like] Tatom, Elder and Perez."

Plans are in place to refurbish Company C's compound and provide improved equipment, Tatom said. "It's just hard to see them have to wait for it."

Kaed remains determined, and he relishes the partnership. Success isn't far off.

Cargo vessel activity at the Port of Um Qasr in Basrah Province will increase substantially. Four cargo vessels arrived Sept. 16, carrying 130,000 tons of Thai rice to be distributed throughout Iraq. Construction and maintenance work continues on 40-ton cranes as well as the provision of five electric cranes being returned to service.

Election protection in ISF hands

By Staff Sgt. Julie Nicolov
Multi-National Corps –
Iraq Public Affairs

As of September 2005, more than 190,000 Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have been trained to defend their new country and impending constitution. While the citizens of Iraq prepare for their constitution referendum on Oct. 15 and election day on Dec. 15, the ISF Soldiers prepare to secure and protect those citizens.

Coalition forces, with 138,000 troops, will merely be a contingency plan.

"It's the Iraqi face that's at the front of this, not ours,"

said Lt. Col. Patrick Stevens, operations planner, Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

Over the past two years, Coalition Forces have guided the ISF and Iraqi parliament through a "crawl, walk, run" model of leading and training. Now, like a teacher who watches a student gradu-

ate, coalition troops are stepping back while ISF troops step forward.

"It is important for Iraqis as a whole to know that there security forces are able to protect them," said Col. Tarek, civil affairs officer, Iraqi Armed Forces Command, who chooses to use only his first name. "The election is the first step. If we do a good job in the election, the people will have more faith in our ability."

ISF Soldiers have started the planning and organization process so election day will run smoothly.

"They've identified a few places where they thought they might need

some assistance with security," said Lt. Col. Scott Hood, chief of staff, Multi-National Force - Iraq Election Support Branch. "In those cases,

even if the Iraqi police force and Iraqi Security Force cannot provide it, it'll be the face of the Iraqi Army that will be

there providing security."

Providing security during the elections is an opportunity to gain the confidence of other countries, as well as the Iraqi population.

"It shows to the rest of the world that the ISF are willing and ready to protect anything in Iraq," Tarek said. "We want to tell the world that we are in charge of securing our country."

Two battalion-sized elements from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division will deploy to Iraq for the election process. The approximately 2,000 troops will not stay longer than 120 days, according to Army officials.

"We have prepared a contingency plan in case we need to, but this is totally an Iraqi-led effort," Stevens said.

An increase in troop strength is a precautionary measure taken regularly during elections in the areas of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We, of course, in each instance, have increased the number of forces that we have



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Soldiers prepare to provide security for elections.

in country in Afghanistan and Iraq in anticipation of elections," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, during a press brief at the Pentagon, Aug. 23.

Although troop strength will increase slightly and an emergency plan has been prepared, coalition troops will continue their duties as they would any other day.

"It's good for us to know that this is really an Iraqi process, and we just happen to be in the country while it's going on," Hood said.

For the Iraqi citizens, however, Oct. 15 and Dec. 15 will be days for the history books.

"We are literally seeing the evolution of democracy in this country," Stevens said. "It is almost like we're working with the Thomas Jeffersons and Benjamin Franklins of America."



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Soldiers patrolling a street are ready to provide security for elections.

Construction worth \$416,100 started this week on eight artesian wells in the Ninewa Province. The work consists of digging and adding the associated piping and tanks for six villages in the Ba'asheka, Al Hamdaniya and Al Shikhan Districts. Estimated completion date for these wells is Dec. 1. The projects were selected by the local Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee and funded by the Commanders Emergency Relief Program.

Construction will be completed this week on three projects totaling \$1.4 million for the approximately 750 Soldiers in the 20th Iraqi Army Battalion stationed in the Diyala Province. The work consisted of renovations of four barracks, a maintenance area, a bakery, instructional classrooms and offices. Chain link fencing was also installed around the battalion area.

A three-day international exposition of Iraqi reconstruction concluded Sept. 18. More than 250 Arabic companies attended the event, which was hosted by the Kurdistan Regional Government, the Iraq Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event will help the region to introduce foreign companies to the investment opportunities in the Kurdish region.

Iraqi Security Forces operations this week in Iraq

MND-NC Operations

Iraqi police captured a potential suicide bomber outside a mosque in Tuz Sept. 16. The capture came moments after another suicide bomber detonated himself outside a mosque in the city. The detonation damaged the mosque door and nearby Iraqi shop windows. An initial assessment by Iraqi police at the scene indicated 10 civilians were killed and about 20 others wounded in the suicide attack. The two terrorists wore explosive vests and attacked the mosques at about 2:30 p.m. Friday, the traditional Islamic day of prayer.

Iraqi police had removed the bomber's detonation switch before handcuffing the individual to a tree. This safety measure allowed Coalition Force explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel to investigate and remove the estimated 10 to 15 pounds of explosives worn on his suicide vest. EOD removed the vest with a robot and destroyed the device.

Members of the 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and their SF advisors detained five suspected terrorists and discovered a weapons cache in Balad. The cache included several 155 mm rounds.

Training

Approximately 120 Soldiers from the 10th Iraqi Army Division's Engineer Company started three weeks of training at the 1st Field Engineer Regiment School at Taji. Eighty-one students graduated from Military Intelligence basic training at Taji.

The Transitional Integration Program academy also graduated 118 students.

At the Al Kut Regional Training Center, 17 students graduated from the Basic Medic course.

MNF-NW

Operation Restoring Rights

Prime Minister Ja'afari has assumed responsibility for operations in Tall Afar. CNN declared the operation a "rare show of force by the Iraqi Transitional

Government." The defense minister sent a clear message to the terrorists that "we are coming for you" — implying the unified people of Iraq — and, along with Iraqi Transitional Government outreach efforts, is using the operations in Tall Afar to flex Iraqi autonomy as the elections approach.

Iraqi Army units continue to run independent security and reconnaissance operations and provide the majority of the troop strength for combat operations. IA units are leading the expansion to the villages surrounding Tall Afar and continue to integrate Iraqi police officers into village security to free themselves up for more independent offensive operations.

The 4th Police Commandos are conducting independent operations in support of Coalition and IA forces and have assumed control of western Tall Afar.

A weapons cache found in Tall Afar included mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), RPG armor-piercing rounds, anti-coalition propaganda, small arms and ammunition. Two terrorists were also detained.

During a patrol in Kisik, the Iraqi Police provided the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division of the Iraqi Army with information regarding hidden weapons in a town's power generator room. The Iraqi Soldiers found four men with IED-making materials. The four suspected terrorists were detained.

During a combined direct action mission with an the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division and Special Forces advisors in Tall Afar, Iraqi Soldiers captured 28 suspected terrorists, sustaining six casualties.

MND-NE

Iraqi troops from the 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force detained a suspected insurgent east of Saqlawiyah during a combined operation with Coalition Forces Sept. 13.

MNF-W

Members of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division detained 14 suspected ter-

rorists during a combined raid with SF advisors in Q-West. A weapons cache including two 122 mm artillery rounds and IED-making equipment was also confiscated.

Operation Sayaid

IA troops maintain effective control of Rawah, and continue combined operations in the Haditha/Hit area.

The IA leadership in the western region is currently preparing to assume control of battle space in the Syria/Iraq border area.

MND-SE Operations

Iraqi Police officers arrested two men who had been observed planting IEDs near the Al Taqwa Mosque, in the Al Farahidy district of Basrah City. The IPs immediately launched an investigation under the direction of their Provincial Joint Operation Centre (PJOC). Four more men, who were found in a Toyota Land Cruiser which contained a large quantity of TNT, were arrested in the search.

Members of the Iraqi Counter-terrorism Force and their Special Forces advisors detained a leader of a Anti-Iraqi Forces cell in Baghdad.

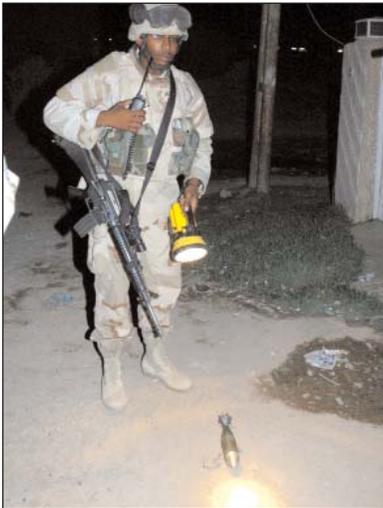
The suspect was allegedly an intelligence colonel in the former regime. Intelligence indicates that he arranged numerous IED attacks against Coalition Forces and attempted to purchase anti-armor and anti-aircraft weapons from Mahdi army.

Training

Approximately 750 volunteers from As Samawah will attend an eight-week military course at the An Nasiriyah Military Training Center. Training includes basic infantry skills and military urban operations.

MND-B Training

Approximately 100 students graduated from the Transitional Integration Program Academy in Karada.



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Ben Brody

A Soldier inspects a mortar round found in a Zafaraniya residence Sept. 14 during Operation Flea Flicker.



U.S. Soldiers and Public Order Brigade troops search houses in Zafaraniya during Operation Flea Flicker.

Operation Flea Flicker

sweeps through Zafaraniya

By 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

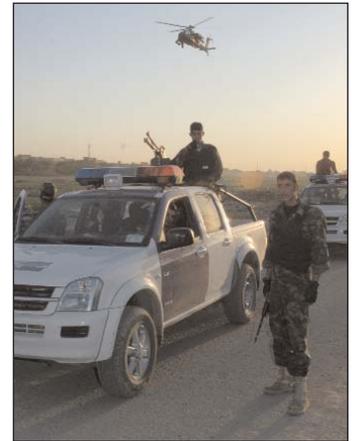
ZAFARANIYA — U.S. and Iraqi Forces searched houses and fields during Operation Flea Flicker in Zafaraniya Sept. 14.

The operation — conducted by Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi Public Order Brigade — was designed to disrupt anti-Iraqi activity in the area in preparation for the Oct. 15 constitutional referendum.

The joint force swept through neighborhoods during the early-morning mis-

sion, searching for illegal weapons, propaganda and other contraband.

Troops discovered several minor weapons violations, and detained a man with a 60 mm mortar round in a plastic bag under his bed.



An AH-64 Apache flies overhead, as Public Order Brigade troops pull security during the mission.



Sgt. Shaun Mance, Battery A, 1st Bn., 9th Field Artillery Regt., hands out T-shirts to Zafaraniya children during Operation Flea Flicker.

Iraqis, 3rd ACR set up Forward TOC in Tall Afar

Story by Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

TALL AFAR — The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and Iraqi Army set up a forward Tactical Operations Center close to the town here in preparation to root out the terrorists who have come to call this place their new home.

“A Forward TOC is a forward manifestation of the unit to keep communication with Soldiers on the ground,” said Sgt. 1st Class Clarence McKaine, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd ACR.

“It is supposed to help maintain command and control and communication with the units, because if those aren’t upheld, the units won’t be as effective.”

“It is easier to get reception with units in the field from here than from the main TOC,” said 1st Lt. Alex Vershinin, HHT, 1/3 Cav. “We can also track units faster with less interference.”

A lot of factors had to be considered for security and communication, on the top of the priority list.

“We are bringing out various barriers and sandbags to fortify force protection here,” said Capt. Terrence Buckeye, Commander, HHT, 1/3 Cav.

He added that a platoon of Iraqi Army Soldiers is helping guard the Forward TOC by guarding the main gate and manning two of the guard towers.

When the building was hardened, antennas went up and the Soldiers’ pushpins dotted the activity of that day on maps hung from the walls.

Setting up the Forward TOC may be all in a day’s work for the HHT troopers, but the TOC they created stays up and running 24 hours a day, keeping constant communication with all of the units currently deployed in Tall Afar.

“Each situation has its own unique challenges,” said McKaine. “We have everything we really need here to be successful. These guys are performing a job most guys won’t do, and they go above and beyond. This is a great unit doing great things.”

Even though the HHT set up the TOC in a matter of hours, they were pushed to do it right, not to do it fast.

“It’s not about the speed which we do our mission,” said McKaine. “It’s about the effectiveness of it. Anybody can run though and tear stuff up, but these guys are taking their time and doing things right.”

Iraqi police train at Mosul Public Safety academy

Story and photos by Sgt. Rick Way
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

MOSUL — The newly created Mosul Public Safety Academy opened its doors for the first class of Iraqi Police officers Aug. 21. Over 250 cadets arrived to take part in the first class. Although they are here as Police Cadets, they are not new to law enforcement.

The first class of cadets has been employed as Iraqi Police officers in Mosul and surrounding areas.

“All of the cadets are IPs, they just haven’t been formally trained,” said Capt. Kevin Pugh, commander of the 179th Military Police detachment assigned to the academy.

“They probably have a decent idea of what Iraqi Police do in this country, but they should be a total package when they graduate from this academy,” he said.

“The primary mission [of the 179th] is to augment and supervise the force protection of the facility; we also advise the training and instruction,” said Pugh.

“Facilitating the movement of the police cadets and providing drill instructors is also on the list of duties for the 179th.”

The 179th are not the only instructors; they also support a team of Iraqi Tactical Officers (ITO), advising them during their training and instruction.

“We already have a pretty good relationship built between my [non-commissioned officers] and the ITOs,” said Pugh.

“I didn’t expect it to develop this quickly. They’ve surpassed our expectations.”

In addition to the Soldiers of the 179th



Police trainees file into a classroom at the Mosul Public Safety Academy.

and the ITOs, civilian International Police Trainers provide training in the classroom and firearms instruction.

The IPTs are employed by Military Professional Resources Inc., a contractor for the U.S. Department of Justice.

“Everybody knows we’re here for one mission and one goal,” said Greg Jordan, an employee of MPRI. “We work side by side with the 179th MPs, doing everything from filling sandbags to washing dishes.”

After an initial inspection of the cadets’ personal luggage, they were issued uniforms and marched to the dining facility for breakfast.

The next step in the process was a medical screening. “My job is to screen the cadets from head to toe,” said Sgt. David Edwards, a combat medic, 179th MP.

To aid Edwards during the medical screenings, two of the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment medics, Pfc. Corey Daniels and Spc. Abram Leonard, volun-

teered to lend a hand.

With over 250 cadets to examine, the medics must work swiftly while maintaining a thorough health screening for the cadets.

“Most of the Iraqis have not been to a doctor their entire lives, unless something really bad happened,” Leonard said. “The Iraqis are surprisingly healthy for the conditions that they live in.”

All of the medics agreed that athlete’s foot was going to be the number one medical issue with the cadets.

Literacy testing and the issue of identification badges followed the medical screenings. As always with a new facility, there are bugs to be worked out, but the first day went exceptionally well and all of the cadets were soon standing tall in their fresh new uniforms for the welcoming ceremony that evening.

At the brief ceremony, MPRI employee John Hayes, told the cadets, “We plan to make the academy the premier police academy of Iraq, a place you can be proud to say that you graduated from.”



Iraqi Tactical Officers march trainees after being issued the new blue tactical uniforms.

Ansar al Sunna Emir of Mosul Captured

By Multi-National Corps -
Iraq Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — On Sept. 6, elements of 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), acting on intelligence sources and tips from concerned citizens, raided a suspected terrorist location in Mosul and captured Amanz Muhammad Abd-al-

Rahman, aka Dara Mohammad. Dara Mohammad is an admitted terrorist in the Ansar al Sunna (AS) terrorist organization and the alleged Ansar al Sunna Emir of Mosul.

Dara Mohammad, who recently returned from Iran



after being incarcerated, moved to Mosul where he believed he and his family would be safe from Iraqi authorities. He is wanted for alleged terrorist acts against the Iraqi people in the Kurdish region.

His alleged crimes include the participation in and the directing of numerous murders and bombings against targets throughout the Kurdish region

as well as Mosul. These include suicide, VBIED and IED attacks on local citizens as well as attacks directed against governmental, Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

Dara Mohammad, as the senior Ansar al Sunna terrorist in Mosul, is also alleged to have numerous terrorist connections in the region as well as with international terrorist groups like al-Qaida.

Troops search for explosive devices, pink taxis

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Matthew Acosta
22nd Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, BALAD

— Although the Iraqi Army is well on its way to taking responsibility for the security of the area here, Coalition Forces are still patrolling Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa and the surrounding areas, keeping the roads open for Coalition travel.

Every day, Soldiers of Combat Troop, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Liberty, mount trucks and set out to check roads and set up observation posts, with or without the assistance of the Iraqi Army.

“We try to utilize the Iraqi Soldiers as much as possible, taking them out on patrol and sitting back while they do most of the work leading the patrol and clearing the MSR and other known [improvised explosive device] (IED) sites,” said Staff Sgt. Derrick White, dismount patrol commander, Troop C, 5/7. “Sometimes, the Iraqi Soldiers are busy raiding a nearby village or patrolling other problematic areas and they can’t go out with us, so we go without them.”

Although the roads are patrolled several times a day by the Soldiers, the IED threat remains at an elevated level.



An interpreter speaks to the driver of a pink taxi as directed by Staff Sgt. Derrick White, dismount commander, 5th Bn., 7th Cavalry, Task Force Liberty.



An Iraqi Soldier from 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Division checks a man's identification at an Iraqi Army checkpoint in Balad.

The IED attack that destroyed a Bradley fighting vehicle was on a road infamous for IED attacks against the Coalition Forces. White's platoon regularly sets up observation posts around the area looking for suspicious activity.

“We use the highest site in the area for an observation post,” White said. “From here we can see into different sec-



Iraqi Soldiers from 3rd Bn., 1st Bgde., 4th Division check a truck for explosives at an Iraqi Army checkpoint in Balad.

tions of the area we're responsible for covering and if we can see that far, we can shoot that far, too.”

Besides observation posts, the Soldiers conducted several random vehicle inspections and one deliberate inspection.

“The last few times we were hit with an IED, there have been reports by more than one person of a pink-colored vehicle fleeing the scene at a high rate of speed,” said White. “This is the only pink car [that I know of] in Balad.”

White carefully approached the driver and asked his business in the area.

The driver of the taxi tells White he lives on the other side of Balad and knows nothing about the IEDs.

After thoroughly searching his vehicle, White let him go with a warning.

“It just seems so odd that

every time we get hit, there's a mention of a pink car in the area,” he said. “Pink is just not that popular here.”

While the Soldiers are out on patrol, they are made aware of intelligence reports that may come in as the patrol is out clearing the streets.

White said they get calls on the radio telling them to keep an eye out for specific makes and models and colors of suspicious vehicles.

From now on, White said, whenever they see the pink taxi, the driver is going to be pulled over and searched, especially if there's an explosion in the area.

Until the Iraqi Army takes complete control of the road and MSR security around Balad, Coalition Forces will continue to patrol the streets looking for those who may plant IEDs or drive pink taxis.

Caring for detainees' family members

ABU GHRAIB — Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib are working with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service to distribute care packages to families visiting their loved ones at the Theater Internment Facility.

AAFES is donating overstocked sup-

plies including cookies, potato chips, etc., to be used in care packages prepared by Soldiers and distributed during family visitations.

Soldiers recently distributed more than 200 individual care packages to children visiting the FOB. Numerous Soldiers

volunteered their time to hand out the bags. Some even donated some items such as Beanie Babies for the children.

Handing out the care packages not only helps put children at ease during an often emotional visit with their loved one, but also helps foster good relationships between the Soldiers and the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Soldiers respond to terrorist attack, find cache

CAMP ECHO — Soldiers from Iraqi 8th Division carried out a cordon and search operation in Al-Jawasim six miles west of Diwaniyah in response to a mortar attack on Camp Echo Sept. 14.

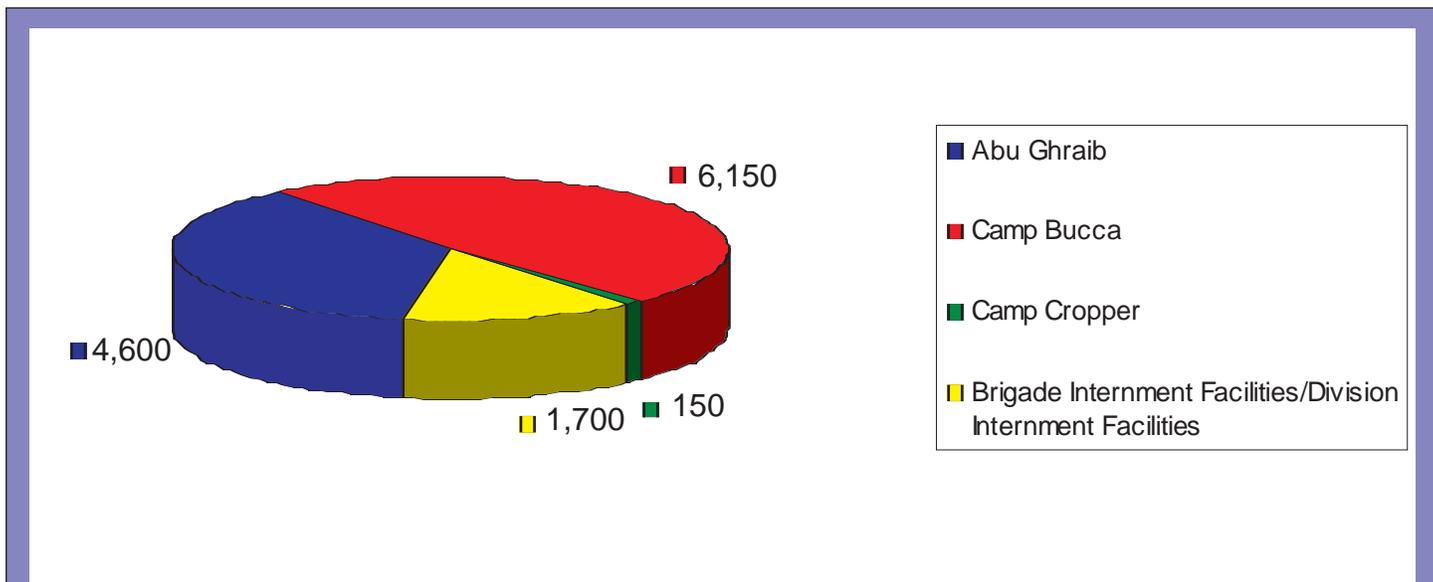
The Iraqi troops seized a cache of illegal weapons and ammunition, including two mortars, 29 anti-tank launchers, nine anti-aircraft launchers, one machine gun, one sniper rifle, 175 mortar grenades, 30 kilos explosive material, 35 fuses, 13 improvised explosive devices that were ready to



use and a large amount of various caliber ammunition.

This is the latest successful action carried out by 8th Division Soldiers that deprived terrorists groups of weapons and ammunition that would otherwise be used in terrorists attacks.

The successful response on terrorist action demonstrates growing capability of Iraqi army to quick respond to violence acts and proves the ability of Iraqi Soldiers to ensure safe and secure environment to Iraqi people.



MNF-I Detainee Population as of September 16, 2005 — 12,600

Construction is completed on the \$485,000 Al Rasheeda Hinda Water Treatment Unit in the Karbala Province. An Iraqi company from Karbala employed 30 workers and installed over nine miles of new water lines supplying water to approximately 7,000 residents.

Local leaders celebrate Baghdad bridge opening

By 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers and leaders from the Tissa Nissan District of East Baghdad cut the ribbon on a much-anticipated bypass Sept. 9.

The opening of the Rustamiyah Traffic Bypass represents the culmination of a \$2 million project conceived by the Tissa Nissan District Advisory Council with assistance from 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division; the 36th Engineer Group; and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“The idea for the bypass was the brainchild of the Nine Nissan DAC,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Farrell, commander of 1st Bn., 64th Armor. “It’s benefited the local economy by creating jobs, but also by improving the traffic flow in the area.”

A gathering of Iraqis and U.S. Soldiers grew on the bridge as attack helicopters circled the area and tanks patrolled the streets.

Tissa Nissan DAC member Dr. Karim Al Amber, who cut the ribbon officially opening the bypass, praised the project as representing a bridge of peace between Iraqis and Americans.

“This is a great project. It is also a weapon, which will shorten the age and the time of the terrorists,” Amber said. “The motivation from this will promote hope in the souls of the people.”

Since the liberation of Iraq in 2003 and the continued presence of Coalition Forces on the Rustamiyah Military Academy Compound, residents of Baghdad have found it difficult to travel easily on nearby Canal Road due to the high volume of military



U.S. Army photos by Spc. Ben Brody

The Rustamiyah Bypass Bridge is a concrete girder bridge with a concrete deck and asphalt surface able to handle loads in excess of 70 tons.



District Advisory Council members from Tissa Nissan cut the ribbon at a ceremony for the opening of the Rustamiyah Bypass Bridge Sept. 9.

and logistical traffic.

Additionally, the compound and travelers in its vicinity have been at increased risk for car bombs because of traffic congestion. The Rustamiyah Bypass attempts to solve these problems.

“The heavy traffic near Rustamiyah posed a threat to both civilians and Soldiers from [vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices],” Farrell said. “The area is safer for everyone now.”

The project included a bridge, 1.5 kilometers of roadway, curb construction and emplacement of roadside lighting. The bridge itself is a concrete girder bridge with a concrete deck and asphalt surface able to handle loads in excess of 70 tons.

This project is one of many road and infrastructure improvements completed or currently underway under the guidance of the leaders and citizens of Tissa Nissan in partnership with 1/64 Armor Soldiers.

Since February, local leaders with the help of the battalion have supervised the completion of \$3 million worth of projects, with another \$2 million worth of projects ongoing throughout the Tissa Nissan District. All projects share the same goal of improving the quality of life of the district’s citizens.



More power on the way ...

International Limits of Baghdad has the \$1.1 million contract to supply, install, test and place in service two new 33kV underground feeders in Adamiyah 132/33/11kV substation to New Greatee 33/11kV substation in the Rusafa Governate of Baghdad (west of Sadr City). Currently the work is 48 percent finished and 22 500-meter cable drums have been delivered on site. About 70 Iraqis are part of the work crew. Construction started July 19 and is expected to be complete Oct. 14.

Economic hopes soar with new airfield tower

By Polli Keller

Gulf Region Central District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL — The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is working hard to assist Ninawa Province in becoming a major commercial center in northern Iraq.

The USACE is providing quality assurance oversight as a Turkish contractor, EMTA Construction Co., builds a new air traffic control tower at Mosul Airport, on FOB Diamondback, Iraq.

Iraq Air has committed to providing air service to this airport in northern Iraq when the tower is completed in June 2006.

This commitment will bring international air travel to the Ninawa Province, which will attract international commerce.

In turn, the increase in commerce will strengthen and should help stabilize the economy.

Frank Scopa, the Corps' Mosul Office Area Engineer, spoke of the positive social changes increased commerce will bring.

"With an improvement in commerce, there will be significant alternatives to joining the insurgency, which should lead to a reduction in violence," said Scopa.

"There will be choices not available today due to the extreme unemployment



Photo by Jim Gordon

Workers install the reinforced concrete footing for new construction of the 30 meter tall control tower at the Mosul Air Field in northern Iraq.

in Ninawa."

According to Scopa, this project should lead the effort for the economic recovery of Ninawa Province.

There is very little capital investment in the area, but projects like the building of this tower should help the local economy to expand.

Most of the money paid these construction workers is not being spent in Mosul.

The company's Turkish workmen come to Iraq because there is work here and they can earn premium wages, which they take back to Turkey to support their families.

Scopa explains, "Right now, the

Ninewa economy is flat lined or, more realistically, negative.

"If Ninewa Governorate were a more permissive area in which to work, local companies would be supplying building workers and building materials to the ATCT in lieu of foreign countries."

During construction, this project employs 150 workers daily for approximately seven months.

Once completed, this project will employ approximately 50

workers in permanent airfield maintenance, operations and air traffic control jobs. Tower construction is not the only improvement planned for the Mosul airfield.

Other improvements consist of new navigation aids for the Instrument Landing System, which includes the distance measuring equipment, glide slope approach, and the control and monitor system.

The new system will also include a precision approach path indicator and new communications equipment.

Additionally, there will be new lighting for the existing runways and taxiways, as well as new signage.

Sumer water plant undergoes renovation

By Lt. Cmdr. Bartosz Zajda

Multi-National Division - Central South Public Information

SUMER — Polish Soldiers from Multi-National Division Central-South Civil Military Cooperation renovated a water plant for the citizens of Sumer, nine miles north of Ad Diwaniyah. The water plant provides potable water for about 30,000 citizens.

This is the latest water project provided by MND-CS for local citizens. Just last week MND-CS Soldiers opened a new water plant in Sarai, 18 miles south of Ad Diwaniyah.

The water plant in Sumer didn't work effectively as the pumps and electric engines were broken down. Polish Soldiers decided to prepare the project to renovate the water plant.

Thanks to that project the water plant in Sumer has five new pumps, five new electric engines and new electric installation. Additionally general service and conservation of the generator 500 kVA were made.



Courtesy photo

Workers and Polish Soldiers discuss the renovation of the Sumer water plant.

From the very beginning of its mission the MND-CS has been actively engaged in improvement of living conditions for local society in the area of responsibility. MND-CS soldiers organized reconstruction of the civilian infrastructure and provided humanitarian relief for Iraqi citizens.

During the two years, the civil military relations specialists have completed 2,100 projects; other completed projects include water purification facilities, electrical power stations, educational infrastructure, medical facilities and administrative buildings. In total, they helped more than 500,000 Iraqi people.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

- Construction started Dec. 20, 2004, on the \$658,000 Al Guyara (was Al Baladiyat) Primary Healthcare Center project in Baghdad Governance (located at the southern edge of Sadr City).
- About 30 Iraqis work there daily. Currently they are involved in building brick walls and partitions, shuttering and casting the overhead columns. Contract completion date is Oct. 30. About 25 percent of the work is complete.
- This is a two-story, 1,155-square meter facility providing

space for medical and dental examination and treatment, with space for a pharmacy and public education.

- Thirty-four Public Healthcare Center projects are under construction throughout the area. These facilities will relieve the overburdened outpatient care currently being provided by existing hospitals. Sadr City has seven health care projects with contracts totaling nearly \$21 million. That includes \$17.2 million for renovating the Al Baladi Hospital, which is 40 percent complete.



Engineers to improve Al Mada'in Schools



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Troy Westerman

A site assessment of two schools in the Al Mada'in community in southeastern Baghdad Sept. 13 found the Al Mada'in schools had falling ceiling plaster, cracked walls, and were in need of some extensive rehabilitation. Gulf Region Central District has renovation or new construction work involving 107 schools totaling \$29 million. Of those schools, 58 have been completed.

Yesterday the Radwaniyah Medical Clinic opened in Baghdad. The clinic is co-located with the government information center, adjacent to the 48th Brigade Combat Team Civil Military Operations Center. Iraqi doctors and staff will provide free medical service to all Iraqis, and Coalition health service personnel will provide support as needed.



This week in Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Coalition Operations: a week in review

MND-NC Operations

Task Force Liberty Soldiers near Samarra killed an insurgent while responding to a sniper attack. 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers manning an observation post identified two other insurgents following small arms fire from a nearby house. Another group of Soldiers engaged the insurgents fleeing in a civilian sedan. The insurgents abandoned their car and fled the scene of the attack on foot.

After securing the scene, 1st BCT troops conducted a search and discovered one dead insurgent with a Draganov sniper rifle. Soldiers searched for the second insurgent and discovered a blood trail. The second insurgent was not found.

In the Diyala Province, Task Force Liberty and Iraqi Army Soldiers followed a civilian tip to a cache of artillery and mortar rounds near Jalula and detained four individuals Sept. 10. The cache included 29 82 mm mortar rounds, 14 122 mm artillery rounds and six 130 mm artillery rounds. Task Force Liberty explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel conducted a controlled blast to destroy the munitions.

Eight more individuals suspected of making and placing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were detained in Kirkuk Sept. 11. The joint force conducted a search based on information gathered by the police.

A weapons cache of mortar rounds was found near Bayji Sept. 10 while Coalition Forces searched a farm north of the city. The cache included 35 60 mm mortar rounds and boxes of artillery propellant and was taken to a Coalition base for disposal.

An Iraqi informant led Iraqi Army Special Forces and elements of Task Force 5/7 to a house owned by a suspected IED maker. Soldiers found IED-making materials and several IEDs made out of artillery rounds. Seven anti-Iraqi forces cell members were detained, including a tribal leader where the cache was discovered.

Training

Approximately 150 students graduated from the Taji Military Training Base Engineer School.

Another 236 students graduated from the Sulaymaniyah Regional Academy.

Fifty-one students graduated from Advanced Instruction Criminal Investigation courses at Adnan Palace as well.

Construction

A new school in Homerat Alaouk held its grand opening ceremony Sept. 13. The new school will house 120 students and has provided jobs for the village over the past six months.

Soldiers of the Iraqi Army and a Task Force Liberty civil affairs team checked the construction progress on a new school in Aflad Sept. 11. The troops also passed out school supplies to the children.

MND-NE Operations

Iraqi Army and U.S. Marines detained a man suspected of being the leader of a known insurgent cell during a cordon-and-search mission in the Saqlawiyah-Fallujah area.

MNF-W Operations

Coalition Forces conducted an air strike Thursday night against a known terrorist safe house and weapons cache in the Western Al Anbar Province border town of Karabilah. The target was an abandoned school used by al Qaida in Iraq terrorists to carry out attacks against local civilians and Coalition Forces. At the time of the strike, terrorists were also observed firing mortars from outside the building.

Two AV8-B Harrier jets destroyed the building using precision-guided 500 lb. bombs. Multiple secondary explosions were observed after the strike. Nine terrorists were confirmed killed and one vehicle destroyed.

During other operations throughout the week, U.S. Air Force F-16s and Navy F/A-18s and EA-6Bs provided close air support to Coalition troops in the vicinity of Al-Fallujah, Al Ramadi, Balad, Baqubah, and Mosul.

Iraqi and Coalition forces detained two suspected insurgents during a patrol in

Ramadi Sept. 14.

Troops from 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and U.S. Army Soldiers detained two men engaged in suspicious activity during a combined combat patrol. Upon searching their residence, they found one IED, two AK-47 rifles and one machine gun.

Two weapons caches found in Ar Rutbah and Iskandariyah included mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG), RPG armor-piercing rounds, anti-Coalition propaganda, small arms and ammunition. Two terrorists were detained.

MND-B Operations

A suspected bomber was detained after he assaulted his mother-in-law in her home. Coalition Forces were clearing unexploded ordnance northwest of Nasser Wa Salam when they saw a man running to a vehicle parked near the site.

The troops pursued the man and saw him run into a residence where they heard women screaming.

Coalition forces found the woman, later identified as the suspect's mother-in-law, suffering from head injuries. She told the Soldiers the man who assaulted her was a terrorist and was putting bombs in the roads. The man was taken into custody and the woman was taken to the local hospital for treatment for suspected skull fracture.

Women insurgents were arrested this week in at least two separate incidents in Baghdad.

Operation Thunder

A weapons cache found in the Karkh region of Baghdad included mortars, RPGs, RPG armor-piercing rounds, anti-coalition propaganda, small arms, small arms ammunition and two anti-Iraqi force personnel detained.

Constitution

College students and recent graduates are helping to educate citizens on the Iraq Constitution's content. Although some district councilmen have expressed their lack of support for the current draft, they are committed to the democratic process and a free and fair election.



This week in Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Iraqis undergo intense transportation training

By Pfc. Spencer Case
Multi-National Corps - Iraq
Public Affairs

U.S. military trainers in northern Iraq challenged Iraqi Soldiers to think with platoon-level exercises that test progress towards running their own supply missions.

Eighteen platoons of the 3rd Motorized Transportation Regiment at Al Kasik performed two mock convoys. Passing three points where U.S. trainers ran scenarios ranging from non-threatening civilians asking for water to complex attacks involving terrorist tactics, with smoke, artillery and blank ammunition for realism.

Trainers, from the 1st Corps Support Command, did subtle things to create cohesion. Instead of briefing the Iraqi soldiers directly, they briefed platoon leadership and gave them two hours to prepare. After that, platoons moved to the staging area to make terrain models and conducted “rock drills,” in which leaders called on soldiers randomly to explain parts of their mission.

This represents the first time the Iraqi platoons integrated a broad range of soldier skills, said Army Master Sgt. Nathan



Posing as an insurgent, a U.S. Soldier targets the Iraqi convoy during the training.

York, the regimental training operations non-commissioned officer for the 3rd MTR Military Training Team (MiTT).

The need for critical thinking became evident when the 3rd MTR conducted a mission to pick up barricade materials from Forward Operating Base Sykes. One of the vehicles drifted away from the convoy and followed a tank from another unit.

“In the absence of guidance, a jundai (Iraqi Soldier) will follow whatever’s in front of him,” York said. He added correcting this is vital — and challenging. York trained eight interpreters and two U.S. Soldiers in the MiTT to act as opposing force elements, attacking as real terrorists would.

York said. “It’s a scenario base that allows the commander to make decisions based on the circumstances he sees ... and flexibility to allow good or bad consequences.”

“Maybe the jundai feel it is hard,” said



Iraqi Soldiers with the 3rd MTR arrest an “insurgent” during a training exercise at Al Kasik.

Salman Abed Salman, a sergeant in the 3rd MTR, “but that’s OK because it is good training.”

2nd Lt. Yassiem Taha Fatah, a platoon leader, showed surprising skill by improvising techniques that he had not been taught. When trainers tested him with an IED scenario, he secured the area using both vehicles and dismounted soldiers. When a sniper attacked, Yassiem pulled them back to the vehicles, and flanked the attacker.

Trainers have difficulty relaying safety to Iraqi troops because of the language barrier and a military history with acceptable one or two percent casualty rates.

U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers said the training showed progress towards the day when they will run their own operations.

\$218,000 in construction work will be completed this week on four schools in Baghdad, Kirkuk and in the Salah ad Din and Qadisiyah Provinces. Nearly 1,350 children will receive a better education in schools with repaired roofs, bathrooms, water fountains and playgrounds. One of these, a girls’ school, with a capacity of 600 students, received two additional classrooms and a bathroom.

GRD/PCO released \$20 million to stabilize the Mosul dam.

On Monday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a corn processing plant in Balad Ruz. Currently 40,000 tons of corn is produced in the Diyala Province, 30,000 tons of which comes from the Balad Ruz region. The nearest processing plant currently is in Kirkuk, much too far for local farmers to travel and causing much of the harvested corn to go to waste. The plant will invigorate the agricultural community, as well as the collateral business activities.



This week in Multi-National Division - Central South

Iraqi battalion hits the streets near Al Suwayrah

By Yuriy Karin
(Ukrainian Contingent)

81st Task Force Public Information

AL SUWAYRAH — The Iraqi Army's 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade of the 8th Division, trained by Soldiers from the Ukrainian 81st Task Force, was certified ready to conduct operations independently Sept. 15.

This is a keystone stage of the preparation process within the 3rd Brigade structure. It means that all individual subunits of the 3rd Brigade achieved their certifications, which confirms their readiness to implement a wide array of tasks within its area of responsibility.

The next stage is to evaluate the ability of the 3rd Brigade as the uniform component of the 8th Division.

The 3rd Battalion has been working with advisors from the Ukrainian military



Courtesy Photo

The Iraqi Army's 3rd Bn., 3rd Bgde., 8th Division, trained by Soldiers from the Ukrainian 81st Task Force, was certified ready to conduct independent operations Sept. 15.

since June and is scheduled to be deployed near the city of Al Suwayrah.

In August, the battalion was redeployed to the city of As-Souveyra where preparations were carried out in cooperation with

the troops from the 4th Airmobile Company, 81st Task Forces.

Under supervision of the military advisers Iraqi Soldiers were engaged in conducting patrolling, service at the checkpoints as well as stabilization operations in the northwestern district of the Wasit province.

As a result the commission of the MND-CS acknowledged the high ability of the 3rd Battalion to conduct its tasks at all levels.

When they certified the 3rd Battalion, the 3rd Brigade commander and Brig. Gen. Sergey Ghoroschnikov, commander of

the 81st TF, noted with great satisfaction that Soldiers from 3rd Battalion were well prepared to live up their superiors' expectation in the area of responsibility of the 8th Division.

Coalition Soldiers help kids begin new school year

By Lt. Cdr. Bartosz Zajda

Multi-National Division Central-South
Public Information



Courtesy Photos

Coalition Soldiers visit a girls' school in As Salahiyah to distribute supplies for the new school year.

House in Ad Diwaniyah, were the recipients.

"We know how important thing is to support Iraqi families when the Iraqi children start a new school year," said Polish officers from Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Centre in MND-CS. "That's why we provided school supplies, footwear and clothing to the schools."

About 150 girls were given school supplies. This week MND-CS HACC provided also school supplies for about boys from

AS SALAHIYAH

— Soldiers from Multi-National Division-Central South provided donations for Iraqi children who are starting a new school year. Girls from intermediate school in As Salahiyah, 40 kilometers west of Ad Diwaniyah, and boys from Child's

House in Ad Diwaniyah. In total it was about 200 kilograms of donations, including school supplies, footwear and clothing. School supplies for another 600 students will be provided to other Iraqi schools in the future.

Those gifts were collected by American organizations such as "People to People," "Operation Iraqi Children," and "Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation," and distributed by MND-CS Humanitarian Coordination Centre.

A problem in Iraq when the new school year starts is a lack of teaching aids and educational infrastructure. In many cases the problems are basic, for example, lack of electricity and water. That's why, for the last two years Multi-National Division-Central South provided for Iraqi people about 500 educational projects. They included renovating the schools, educational buildings, providing the equipment, school supplies and many other supplies that are necessary to teach the children.



Grateful students look at the school supplies delivered by Coalition Soldiers.



This week in Multi-National Division - Baghdad

New equipment brings smiles to Salhiya orphanage

Story and photos by Spc. Dan Balda
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Humvees descended on Salhiya in the blink of an eye. Roads were closed and cordons established as armor-clad



Sgt. Kelly Johnson gently rocks a little girl who lives at the orphanage.

Soldiers stepped from their vehicles, wary eyes hidden behind dark glasses.

As the dismounted U.S. Soldiers got closer to the crowd, their tight-lipped expressions suddenly turned into smiles as children circled around for hugs.

The children were orphans excited about another visit from the Soldiers of Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 4th Brigade Combat Team.

The orphanage was in the company's patrol route so Soldiers and children were

well acquainted, but this day, Aug. 29, was different. The assembled parties were together to celebrate the installation of a generator the U.S. Soldiers had purchased for their little friends.

The orphanage had an old run-down generator, said Capt. Steve Wood, A Co. commander. "They didn't have power too often, and the temperature inside the building would get into the triple digits. To enhance the living conditions, we bought them a new generator."

The generator works with the city power. The orphanage can turn it on when the Baghdad power grid shuts down.

The civil-military operations section researched the project to make sure it was feasible for the area and that the generator would be maintained.

"We don't want to start a project where, once we leave, the work that we have



A Soldier entertains a little girl during the celebration.

completed goes to waste," said 1st Lt. Kevin Siegrist, a civil military operations officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Bn. 64th Armor.

The bid process is a way for the civil-military operations section to teach Iraqi citizens the intricacies of capitalism. They take a minimum of three bids from area contractors and then choose the best qualified candidate.

"We don't choose them based on who knows who," Siegrist said. "It's based on who can provide the best product for the best price in the least amount of time."

Within a matter of days after the contract was approved the contractor was at the site, laying the concrete slab for the base. There was less than an eight-hour period where the military generator was removed from the site and the new generator was powered up.

Injured Iraqi girl captures U.S. medic's heart

By 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — By the time she was 15, Hawra had already suffered a lifetime of pain. Her father was killed by the old regime; then, a year ago, her sister was killed when she and Hawra were caught in a cross-fire between terrorists and Coalition Forces.

Hawra was trapped in the burning car, leaving her with severe burns on both her legs. She was taken to an Iraqi hospital, but after several unsuccessful skin grafts, her legs healed incorrectly in a bent-knee position. An Iraqi doctor had to break her knees in order to straighten her legs.

Hawra's case caught the attention of a U.S. Army civil affairs unit working with the

1st Cavalry Division in February, and she was taken to the military hospital in the International Zone.

After her release, Hawra continued to receive care from the 4th Brigade Combat Team Falcon Troop Medical Clinic. That's where Sgt. Tracy Perfors first met her.

Perfors, a Company C, 703rd Forward Support Battalion, 4th BCT, medic, said she walked into the aid station for work that day as she would any other.

"But this time, instead of being greeted by only sick and injured Soldiers, a small, wheelchair-bound Iraqi girl captured my attention," Perfors said.

"Though frail and small for a teenager, she was the most animated person in the waiting room. Her eyes shone brightly and her smile radiated as she



U.S. Army photo

Sgt. Tracy Perfors poses with Hawra at the Camp Falcon Troop Medical Clinic in June.

laughed and joked with everyone in broken English."

Perfors was the only female medic on shift, so she spent the afternoon with Hawra assisting with her medical care. The little girl told stories of life in Iraq since Saddam and of living with

her 11 brothers and sisters. Hawra raved about the chance to eat cheeseburgers and macaroni and cheese when she visited the aid station.

Hawra also told Perfors about her dream of going to school in the fall and maybe one day having a family of her own.

"Hawra had captivated me," Perfors said. She was so upbeat.

Perfors continued to work with her week after week at the aid station, and with each visit she amazed the sergeant further. Hawra is currently recovering at her home

"Through her courage and unbeatable determination, Hawra continues to remind me of why the U.S. is in Iraq: to give the innocent people who have suffered under Saddam's regime a chance at a prosperous life," Perfors said.



This week in Multi-National Division - North Central

Cavalrymen counter terrorist propaganda

Story and photo by

Staff Sgt. Matthew Acosta

22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, BALAD — An integral part of the new Iraqi Security Forces' success lies in the people they have vowed to protect.

Without the support of those who live in Iraq, the effort to rebuild this country could be severely hindered; hence the importance of assessing the opinion of those who may have influence over the population.

One way to do this is to listen to and translate mosque messages that are broadcast for the townspeople to hear.

"We conduct what we call mosque missions where we go out and record the messages that are preached in town," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Bush, platoon sergeant, Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Task Force Liberty. "Listening to the messages is a good way to see how the religious leaders perceive us and our efforts."

Bush said that although many of the messages broadcast are innocent in nature preaching "good things," there have been reports of mosques preaching anti-Coalition propaganda.

"It annoys [the Iraqi Army and policemen] because their actions are being undermined by these few people who are trying to recruit [insurgents] or upset their progress," said Pfc. Aaron Schindewolf,



Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Bush, 2nd Bn., 7th Cavalry, 1st BCT, Task Force Liberty, records a mosque message from the concealment of trees next to a mosque in Balad, while "Jack" translates the message.

medic, Co. B, 5/7.

Sometimes, the 5/7 Soldiers have driven right up to the mosque during the broadcast over the loudspeaker and recorded the message from within its secure perimeter. Bush said however, there have been times that as they pulled up, the broadcast stopped in the middle of the message.

"It makes me think they were preaching anti-Coalition messages because when they see us coming, they stop the message," Bush said. So Coalition Forces have adapted their tactics.

"We decided to start approaching the mosques unseen when possible," Bush

said. "We determine what mosque we are going to record, then see what cover is available around the area."

On one mission, the Soldiers crept through an orchard prior to the broadcast and waited for it to begin.

"We got close to the speaker, which was mounted on the roof of the mosque; close enough to hear the message loud and clear," Bush said. "We also had an interpreter to let us know if there was an anti-Coalition message being played."

Bush said after the message is recorded, it is turned over to the interpreters and translated into English, then used for intelligence purposes.

"Terrorists come from other countries to destroy this country," said "Jack," who is working as an interpreter with Coalition Forces. "So we must stay together to build a safe country, so everybody can live in peace."

"They are not all bad messages," Jack said. "Sometimes mosques preach good messages for the Soldiers."

Soldiers go out on mosque missions weekly covering different mosques every time, Schindewolf said.

"Since we're not allowed to enter the mosques, all we can do is record the messages, but it's a good gauge in seeing what kind of positive support or negative influence is being preached," Bush said. "It gives us a heads up on what to expect from that area."

Nawroz Boys School gets supplied

By 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK — Soldiers from the 116th Brigade Combat Team delivered school supplies to a Kirkuk boys' school Sept. 11 while assessing possible polling sites.

A team of 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, Task Force 2/116 Armor and 324th Psychological Operations Soldiers delivered privately-donated markers, pencils and writing tablets to Principal Fasal Amin of the Nawroz

Boys' Primary School.

The supplies, donated by individuals from the United States, were delivered during a stop at the school while the team was assessing local schools for possible use as referendum or elections polling sites. The supplies were assembled by the Coalition Force's Operation Provide School Supplies program operating on FOB Warrior.

"The visit was very positive," said Capt. Alex Carter, a 451st Civil Affairs officer. "The children at the Nawroz Boys' Primary School told us, 'George Bush - A OK.'"



Photo courtesy 451st Civil Affairs

Principal Amin of Nawroz Boys Primary School in Kirkuk receives privately donated markers, pencils and writing tablets from 116th BCT Soldiers Sept. 11.



This week in Multi-National Force - West

Gatekeepers manage Convoy Marshaling Yard

**Story and photo by
Cpl. C. J. Yard**
2nd Force Service
Support Group

CAMP TAQADDUM — Tracking the convoys leaving and coming into base here is no small feat.

Since the beginning of the month two Marines, Sgt. Andy J. Jeffords and Cpl. Travis W. Hoopingarner, have had 632 vehicles and 1,600 personnel pass through the Convoy Marshaling Yard.

"The [2nd Infantry Battalion, 112th Armor] won't let a convoy leave unless it has passed through the CMY," said Hoopingarner, noncommissioned officer in charge, CMY, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward).

"We keep a log of all military and nonmilitary movements on and off TQ."

The CMY is a staging area

for all the convoys leaving and also for Third-Country Nationals who are escorted by the Marines and Soldiers.

When TCNs come aboard the base they must be inspected.

The first step of the inspection is stage the TCN vehicles at the CMY. After being inspected they are returned to the CMY.

"This job is very time consuming because convoys are coming and going at all hours of the day and night," said Jeffords, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, CMY.

"Sleep out here is very hard to come by. Most of the time we sleep on a cot or in a hammock we have strung up out back.."

"It just doesn't work to have one person here at a time," said Jeffords.

"This isn't really a two-person job; there should be more Marines out here because this is a huge yard and it is tough to



Cpl. Travis W. Hoopingarner, a unit movement control specialist with the Convoy Marshaling Yard, checks a piece of gear being retrograded back to the United States.

see everything that goes on."

Staff Sgt. Darryl Rosencrants said he knows how hard Jeffords and Hoopingarner work at the CMY.

"They're out there running 18-hour shifts working endless, tireless hours," said Rosencrants, unit movement control chief, 2nd FSSG (Fwd.).

Not only do the Marines keep track of the times of Marine Convoys, but coordination must be made with the

Army's 949th Movement Control Team.

"We need to make sure we don't have convoys leaving the same time as the Army does," said Hoopingarner.

Some units get "special treatment" when they are trying to leave.

"Usually when EOD is called out,

we let them roll through pretty quickly," said Hoopingarner. "When they are called out, every second for them counts."

Along with the disadvantages of having only two Marines, Jeffords and Hoopingarner feel it is better to have a small work section because it is easier to assume responsibility.

"It's good there's only two of us, because we can't blame somebody else if something goes wrong," said Jeffords.

Marine's family joins reenlistment at Al Asad

By Cpl. James D. Hamel
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL ASAD — When Gunnery Sgt. Ron S. Smith, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 26 aviation information systems chief, reenlists, he likes to mark the occasion by doing something no one else has done.

For one of his reenlistments, the Brooklyn, N.Y., native, tried to spring out of a helicopter. For his most recent, Smith decided to become the first forward deployed Marine to reenlist through video teleconferencing (VTC).

"It was kind of a fluke," he said. "I had planned on reenlisting, but I found out it

had never been done before, and I figured it would be neat to reenlist via VTC."

Smith's wife and children were present for the ceremony thanks to modern technology. Although they were at Marine Corps Air Station New River, NC, they could see and hear as if they were physically present.

It was important for the 18-year Marine Corps veteran, as this reenlistment ceremony might be his last.

"I'm trying to focus on the task at hand," he said, although he cautioned he hadn't yet made his final decision.

"But it was important for [my family] to share this with me considering it could be my last.

"I include my family in everything I do.

They're my fuel, the catalyst for all I do," he added.

After the ceremony, Smith was treated to some private time with his wife and children. His youngest child is only 1 year old.

"She didn't understand [the reenlistment]. She just wanted to know if she could see me," he said. "The kids were excited. My 1-year-old was touching the screen; it was really special for her.

"I think that any Marine who has the opportunity to do this should. It is a great morale tool to enable [deployed Marines] a different manner of communication," he said.

"You can actually bring situations to a video screen in front of you."



This week in Multi-National Force - Northwest

Troopers' presence helps secure northern Iraq

Story and photos by
Sgt. David J. Nunn
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

RAWAH — During their mission to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq, Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, continue through the final chapters of their deployment to break new ground in the effort to rid the country of the insurgency.

Their tour began at the northern Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sykes, tempering the living conditions for the citizens of Tall Afar, while enforcing an aggressive stance against the insurgency campaign in their area.

These Soldiers continue their hard work to the south, at the newly established FOB Rawah located north of the City of Rawah and the Euphrates River that serves as the borderline between Syria and Iraq. This area of Iraq was suffering from being used as a portal for foreign fighters from Syria and a smuggling route used to fuel terrorism in Iraq.

“We are conducting operations here to basically disrupt the foreign fighters and insurgent activity along the Syrian border,” said Capt. James Hayes, commander of Troop C, 2/14 Cav. “This area was being used to supply the enemy operations in Baghdad, Mosul and the surrounding areas with equipment, explosives and weapons.”

Apparently since the recent establishment of FOB Rawah, the Iraqi citizens of

the area have begun to enjoy better living conditions than they have ever known.

The Soldiers assigned to the base have been very successful in preventing the flow of illegal traffic, and flushing out the insurgents that inhabited the area.

“These foreign fighters have come to this country to wage war on the people of Iraq and their allies,” said Hayes.

“One of our biggest missions here has been attempting to stop the flow of suicide bombers and their explosives.”

The mission becomes more successful with every operation to the border. Members of the 2/14 Cav. have been deterring these forces with their presence along the border, heavy patrols, and by conducting hasty traffic stops. These tactics have yielded the arrests of many hostile personnel, seizures of numerous weapon caches, vehicular improvised explosive devices, and other weapons aimed at disrupting the peace process the Iraqi people continue to work hard to fortify.

“We feel that once it becomes known



A trooper from 2nd Bn., 14th Cavalry walks across a northern forward operating base.

that we are doing these operations, it will stop them from entering this part of the country,” said Hayes. “Everyone that we detain and every weapon we discover equals lives saved in this country, both those of our forces and those of the free people of Iraq.”

In addition to their offensive operations against the insurgency, the Soldiers have also worked tirelessly to develop the trust of the good people of the region. They walk the streets of these villages and meet with the local people, talking with them and handing out information that reveals the truth about the damages caused by foreign and domestic fighters.

“We are just doing our jobs out here,” said Cpl. Zachery Houston, Troop C, 2/14. “We are continuing to do the same good work we started back in Tall Afar.”

Arctic Wolves reenlist in the desert

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Two hundred and ten Soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) reenlisted here Aug. 26 in the largest re-enlistment ceremony in the unit's history. Approximately 5 percent of the brigade reenlisted.

“The big thing for this is about half of the Soldiers here reenlisted to stay in Alaska. To me, that means when they return they have been combat seasoned for the next life cycle of the unit,” said Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Ulibarri.

Col. Michael Shields, commander of the 172nd SBCT, admin-

istered the oath of office to the enlistees.

“This is truly a great morning. This whole group represents a great tradition. Two hundred and ten Soldiers re-enlisted in a time of war and there are more out there. They are truly patriots and it is extremely humbling,” Shields said during the ceremony.

This year alone the 172nd SBCT is currently at approximately 156 percent for re-enlistments.

The 172nd SBCT is stationed out of Fort Wainwright and Fort Richardson, Alaska.



Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

Protecting Habbaniyah

Story and photos by Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq
Public Affairs

HABBANIYAH — In its heyday, Camp Habbaniyah was a bustling base for the British Royal Air Force. With tree-lined roads, gardens and green lawns, it was a desert oasis for thousands of personnel and their families stationed there.



Many of the roads are lined with towering willow-type trees, remnants of the base's British roots.

Construction on the base began in 1934 and ended in 1937. It was a town unto itself, boasting family housing and amenities such as a swimming pool, indoor and outdoor movie theaters, a Catholic church, golf course and a race-track.

Iraqi forces eventually took control of the base in 1955; the RAF pulled out completely four years later.

When U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nathan Parsons arrived in mid-

February as part of a four-person base support unit (BSU) adviser team, the only hint of the base's former glory was in the towering willow-type trees lining the narrow paved roads. Everything else was in shambles.

Parsons and the team, led by U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Jeff Davis, were tasked with getting the east camp prepared for Iraqi Army units.



A cemetery on the outskirts of the east camp has fallen into disrepair, but some headstones are still upright. Hundreds of British Royal Air Force members and their families are buried there.

They worked with a 17-person Iraqi advance team of Soldiers, but without vehicles, phones or computers, progress was slow, Parsons recalled.

"We'd walk or run P.T. over to the west camp (the Coalition side) to use the internet on their MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) computers and to take showers," Parsons said.

"We really had to build from scratch. But it was exciting in

a way, what we said, went."

Parsons is the only remaining member of the first BSU. There are now 14 members of the base support unit adviser team, led by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ed Brown. The number of Iraqi Intervention Force Soldiers stationed there is close to 3,000.

As an Army medic, Parsons expected to share his medical knowledge and expertise with Iraqi Soldiers.

But with only four people jump starting the base, he found himself doing everything but teaching for the first few months.

Parsons was able to work on a proposal to build an Iraqi Army medical clinic. It is scheduled to be complete in January. His tour ends in December.

"That's really frustrating for me, that I won't be here to see it open," he said.

Iraqi Armed Forces Joint Staff College to open

By Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — A Joint Staff College for the Iraqi Armed Forces opens soon at Ar Rustimiyah, which is also the location of the Iraqi Military Academy.

A team of 24 Iraqi instructors for the college's two courses went through a 15-week "Train-the-Trainers" course earlier this year, with instruction provided by NATO Training Mission - Iraq.

The college will consist of a junior course, conducted over five and a half months, and a senior course, which will

last nine and a half months.

Selection tests were conducted in Mosul, Irbil, Baghdad and Basra over the summer for those interested in attending the college; officials reported the number of applicants far exceeded the amount of seats available for the initial courses.

There were also a large number of applicants for the Train-the-Trainers course who had to meet standards such as: ability to teach, understand and embrace democratic principles; a desire to work at the college; ability to speak English or another language; and be a graduate with an initial degree.

Nine Iraqi colonels and 15 lieutenant

colonels were selected for the course by a committee made up of representatives from Iraq's Ministry of Defense and the Joint Headquarters.

The course included more than 300 hours of lectures and 120 hours of exercises, divided into five sections.

They are: International relations, security and political organizations; national policy, security and economic organizations and cooperation in security issues; judicial aspects of international and national military operations; sociology and leadership aspects; and operation of war, military decision making and staff work.



This week in Logistics Support Area Anaconda

Contracts bring money back to local economy

By Staff Sgt. Engels Tejada
Logistics Support Area Anaconda
Public Affairs

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD — As fiscal year 2005 winds down, budget figures from the Regional Contracting Center (RCC) here estimates approximately \$88 million in contracts were awarded since October 2004, with over \$30 million to companies registered in Iraq.

The RCC here reports to the Joint Contracting Command, Iraq/Afghanistan, and processes contracts for 1st Corps Support Command, Army Material Command, the 42nd Infantry Division and special operations units.

Iraqi companies were awarded contracts that covered construction projects, labor services and commodity purchases, said Maj. Erwin Rivera, the chief of contracting for the RCC at Balad.

Some projects improved conditions at Anaconda. A significant portion of the money was awarded through the Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP), money for local projects to rebuild Iraq.

For example, the Balad Train Station



Master Sgt. Martin S. Nemes, a member of the 100th Institutional Training Division purchases office supplies for the 3rd MTR at a local business in Dohuk.

Water Project, awaiting approval, is expected to employ 60 Iraqis. It will benefit between 700 to 800 families upon completion and cost approximately \$620,000.

Building the Qara Tapa courthouse, a \$415,000 project, went to an Iraqi company. Additionally, a significant amount of the CERP went to rebuilding local schools and roads through Iraqi companies.

Iraqi businesses benefited through at least two major programs. Under the Field

Ordering Officer (FOO) program, Army units requested money to purchase small supplies through local businesses.

The project allows Army units to spend up to \$2,500 per purchase, per vendor, for small supplies, if obtaining them would be difficult or inefficient through the Army's logistics system.

According to Maj. Van Auken, 1st COSCOM's comptroller, 1st COSCOM units spent approximately \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2005 on supplies.

Similarly, U.S. troops working with units from the new Iraqi Army received funds through the Transition Team Initial Fund (TTIF), a program that parallels the FOO program. About \$130,000 was appropriated to 1st COSCOM units working with the Iraqi Army.

The units have used the money to buy small supplies and office materials from local businesses. He said the spending helped the war efforts in two ways. First, money spent on local labor allowed Soldiers to concentrate on combat duties. Second, doing business with local Iraqis and providing employment for them minimizes the recruiting market for insurgents.

A hero from an almost forgotten war — still serving

By Sgt. Maj. Joe Adelizzi
301st Area Support Group

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD

—The commander of the Army's 1st Corps Support Command's Troop Support Battalion, Lt. Col. Gordon Roberts, is an average-sized man, with a penetrating gaze that takes in everything around him with a quick glance, inquiring, appraising and missing nothing.

Roberts came of age during a war serving in the infantry and received the Medal of Honor. He was the youngest ever to receive the medal.

On July 11, 1969, at Thua

Then Province, Republic of Vietnam, the 19-year-old Roberts, a Middletown, Ohio native, was serving with the 101st Airborne Division, when his platoon air assaulted near another company who had been ambushed and were taking casualties.

Roberts was walking point toward the sound of the guns when his platoon happened on a dug-in enemy bunker. Four Soldiers moving behind him were hit and he found himself cut off from his platoon and pinned down by intense automatic fire.



Lt. Col. Roberts

Roberts would claim years later that there really was no alternative to hitting that bunker, but there was. He could have got down and simply waited for his platoon buddies to move up to his position and decide their next move.

Instead, he chose to attack.

That day he saved the lives of many fellow Soldiers and ultimately changed his life forever.

Nineteen months later, his Medal of Honor had been approved and presented to him by President Richard M. Nixon.

By the time he had completed his first tour in the Army,

Roberts had also received two Silver Stars, The Bronze Star Medal, two Army Commendation Medals and three Air Medals.

When his tour ended in 1971, he was discharged and went to college. He then served in the Army Reserve and Ohio National Guard. He received a direct commission in 1989. He could have continued along this path and eventually retire, but an opportunity arose from the Ohio National Guard to return to active duty. To Roberts, it was an offer he couldn't refuse.

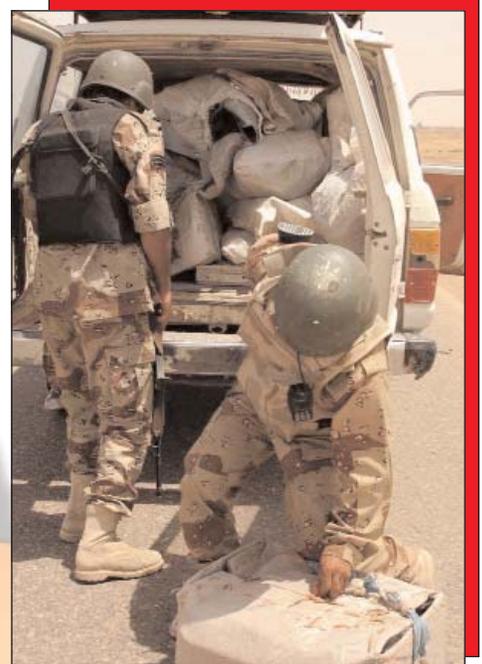
Roberts is one of the very few Soldiers who was awarded the Medal of Honor and who still serves on active duty today.

Iraqis taking the lead



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gul A. Alisan

Iraqi Army 3rd Platoon leader, Sgt. 1st Class Tho-Falgar of 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Division talks with an elderly women during a village visit in Al Hizam village, Diyala province.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gul A. Alisan

Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Division search a car during a mission in the Diyala province.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeromy K. Cross

Iraqi police recruits receive a number before they are screened by U.S. forces at the Police Training Facility in the city of Najaf.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ben Brody

Col. Joseph DiSalvo, 2nd BCT commander, speaks with District Advisory Council members at a ceremony for the opening of the Rustimiyah Bypass Bridge, Sept. 9.



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Army 8th Division Soldiers celebrate their discovery of a weapons cache in Al Jawasim.