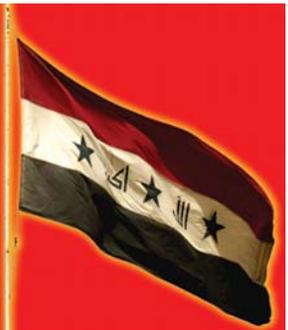




THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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Bright lights of Baghdad's nights



Courtesy photo

Al Qaida and other terrorists cannot stop lights from coming on in Baghdad. See the story on Page 2.

Coalition, Iraqi Forces clear Tall Afar of terrorist activity

By Multi-National Division North - West Public Affairs

TALL AFAR — Two days after this year's largest offensive by Iraqi and Coalition Forces to wrest insurgent control of a city and restore it to the people, the citizens and Soldiers alike are already seeing signs of hope while forces now begin the reconstruction effort.

Operation Restoring Rights, which began in mid-July, is intended to provide permanent security for the people of Tall Afar, about 260 miles northwest of Baghdad and 60 miles east of the Syrian border, that will allow them the opportunity to vote in upcoming elections.

The operation is being conducted at the direction of the Prime Minister in support of requests from the local government and local sheiks. Iraqi government officials at all levels directed that action be taken to protect the citizens of Tall Afar.

After weeks of security and reconnaissance patrols, and evacuations throughout the city, on Saturday about 5,000 Iraqi Police and Army personnel alongside about 2,500 U.S. forces focused their combat power on the insurgent stronghold of Sarai, a densely-built district in old Tall Afar just east of the city center.

With Sarai cordoned off, Coalition and

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Making a difference

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

It is hard to believe that four years ago al Qaida terrorists attacked innocent civilians in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon. Today we are involved in a global campaign to preserve the safety and dignity of every human being. Together with Iraqi patriots, we are taking the fight to the enemy and preventing the terrorists from establishing a sanctuary for violence and oppression.



Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

We are making a difference. A great example of taking the fight to the enemy is the ongoing operation in Tall Afar. The Iraqi-led attack is succeeding and denying a safe haven from insurgents carrying out attacks across northern Iraq. Iraqi leadership is directing the efforts in Tall Afar and coordinating the vital assistance citizens need.

The Iraqi lead in Tall Afar is a significant step, enabled by the great successes in producing Iraqi Security Forces. Currently, there are more than 190,000 Iraqi military, police and emergency services personnel taking on more responsibility and making Iraq more secure. As Tall Afar demonstrates we are at a turning point. Terrorists are discovering it is increasingly difficult to find a safe haven throughout Iraq. Insurgents are not standing and fighting, not because they don't want to, but because they literally cannot. Their senior leaders have either been captured or killed, or operations so seriously degraded they cannot muster a resistance.

Such is the case in Tall Afar, and is becoming the case all across Iraq. Recent polls indicate 75 percent of Iraqis are tired of the insurgents and will turn them in. That is backed up by our increasingly popular "TIPS" hotline where on average 160 leads to terrorists, caches and criminal activity around the country are received each week.

Remember our fallen comrades, both here and from Sept. 11, 2001 and keep pressing the fight. Until next week, "Itizam Mushtarak" — United Commitment.

Lights are on in Iraq

Story by Dennis Karns
Project and Contracting
Office (Electricity Sector)

BAGHDAD — Despite the best efforts of terrorists and foreign fighters, Baghdad continues to have improving electric service.

Residents of Baghdad now see higher levels of electricity at any time since the fall of Saddam Hussein. This is even in the face of skyrocketing demand in an ever increasing consumer market.

The U.S. government has invested millions in the electrical infrastructure and more than 2,764 megawatts of generating capacity have been added to Iraq's power grid.

Completed projects include new generation stations, rehabilitation of existing power plants, transmission lines and substations. A new gas turbine project under way in Khor Al Zubair will add another 220 megawatts to the grid by the end of the year.

Phoenix, a project designed to restore 696 megawatts from 26 existing power generators that were not in service for a variety of reasons, has added 555 megawatts to the grid to date.

Electrical service progress continues although challenged by insurgent attacks on transmission

lines and towers, shortages of fuel to operate the power plants, unplanned power outages because of a fragile and neglected electrical infrastructure, and an ever increasing demand for electricity.

The ability to maintain the momentum of electrical service to the Iraqi people requires a focus on completing existing projects and developing a strategy to ensure sustainability by the ministry of electricity.

The long term success of the electricity situation relies on the ability of the Ministry of Electricity to take control of its operations and maintain the

investments made in the electricity sector. Initiatives are underway to provide financial assistance in operating and maintaining major power plants over the next two years.

Success is also contingent upon the ability of Iraqi officials, the ministers of oil, electricity, and finance, to obtain sufficient funds and fuels to operate and maintain the power plants.

Iraqi engineers and power plant managers are receiving training in the ability to run, manage, supervise, and operate large power plants.

Iraq's electricity situation is getting better every day.



Photo courtesy of PCO

Workers connect electrical cable at a substation in northern Iraq.

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Iraqi Security Forces with assistance from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment provide security for the region of Tall Afar in order to disrupt insurgent safe-havens and clear weapons cache sights.

Tall Afar from page 1

Iraqi Forces screened more than 3,200 Sarai evacuees just prior to the nearly unopposed attack to ensure residents were not harmed and to root out fleeing terrorists.

The operation resulted in the death of 143 terrorists and the capture of nearly 341 terrorists, including several key leaders. Lt. Col. Joel Armstrong, deputy commanding officer, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, said "The enemy was decimated by the Iraqi Army and 3rd ACR's shaping operations which began on July 18. The remnants decided to quit and hide after putting up their last major fight on the 5th and 6th of September."

Intelligence officers with 3rd ACR say the streets are safer in large part due to a steady increase of citizen reports on insurgent locations as they continued to feel safer over the past weeks. Those tips also assisted combined forces in locating more than 30 improvised explosive devices and 16 weapons caches. Forces continue to locate weapons caches and terrorist logistic points, and they continue to destroy the tunnel systems used by terrorists to transit the city undetected.

Soldiers patrolling the streets noticed an immediate difference the day after the offensive.

"Fifteen days ago it was not possible to walk down these streets because of snipers," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Coll, a platoon sergeant with Tiger Squadron, 3rd ACR, who has been searching for terrorists house-to-house in western Tall Afar for more than two weeks. "Now, I've got about 20 guys, and we're just walking down the

street here."

As combined Iraqi and U.S. forces continue to support local police by patrolling the streets, planners are already looking to the future of Tall Afar.

"While we continue security and reconnaissance operations to capture or kill any terrorists remaining in the city, we are initiating the reconstruction phase of Operation Restoring Rights," said

Armstrong. "The city has been neglected for years and, as security improves, we will continue to focus more on reconstruction."

To date, 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. The Iraqi government is also currently discussing funding to rebuild Tall Afar.

Short-term potable water needs will be provided by tanker trucks, portable water tanks and water cans distributed throughout the city, while engineers and national agencies pursue a permanent upgrade to Tall Afar's water supply and distribution system.

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. City and provincial technicians are standing by to repair the city's electrical grid at the earliest opportunity. Planners will also be looking at constructing city offices, businesses and residences.

Local leaders will assist residents with fil-

ing claims for any property damaged by U.S. forces during this operation.

"We'll start by reconstituting the police and getting essential services online," said Armstrong. "There's a lot of work to do; terrorists intimidated the entire population of this city, the police, public workers and local businesses. The terrorists used food, water and electricity among other things to manipulate the citizens of Tall Afar."

About 400 new Sunni and Shiite Iraqi police officers, most from Tall Afar, are standing ready to occupy new police headquarters to ensure the safety of residents.

Immediate medical care will be provided by the Jordanian Air Force, which plans to set up a hospital in Tall Afar for short-term care, and World Health Organization medical kits are being distributed to the hospital and clinics in the city.

With \$1.2 million in immediate employment funds, \$700,000 is dedicated to Sarai district employment and \$380,000 will employ residents to repair roads.

With \$480,000 set aside to refurbish and rebuild schools, many of which had been transformed into terrorist bunkers, damage to school buildings will be assessed and rebuilt as needed.

"We will continue operations until Tall Afar is free of terrorists, and we will remain here until a professional, demographically representative police force is installed and able to assume its duties in providing enduring security for the people of Tall Afar," Armstrong said.



Courtesy photos

Coalition troops supporting Iraqi Security Forces walk the streets of Tall Afar as part of Operation Restore Rights.



Iraqi Security Forces patrol the streets of Tall Afar alongside Coalition troops.

Repairs ensure Mosul Dam continues to provide safety, electricity, irrigation for Tigris Basins

Story and photos by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD — Stabilization of the Mosul Dam continues with an additional \$20 million in Iraq Reconstruction and Relief Funds allocated this week for that purpose. The Iraq Ministry of Water Resources and the ministry of electricity have made the dam a top priority for the region.

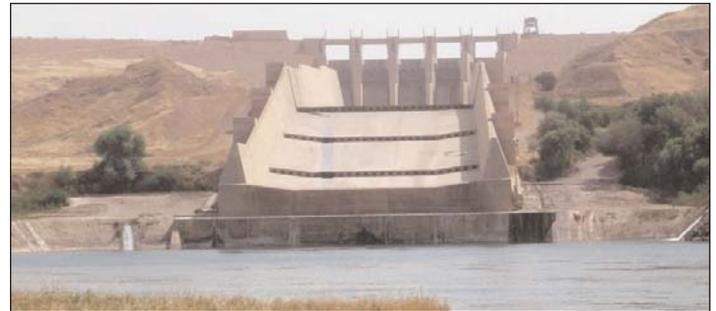
The largest dam in Iraq, Mosul earthen dam holds back upwards of 12 billion cubic meters of water for the arid western Ninewah Province while creating hydroelectric power for the 1.7 million residents of Mosul. This reconstruction project includes an upgrade of specialized maintenance equipment, seismic monitors, materials and spare parts.

Completed in 1983, the dam has required maintenance to plug or “grout” areas of leakage on a regular basis. Without this work,



Water rushes out one of the chute spillways at the Mosul Dam.

the dam could develop problems over time with the possibility of a catastrophic failure. An event of this magnitude could devastate the rich agricultural valley of the Tigris, endangering the population of Mosul.



The Mosul dam holds back 12 billion cubic meters of water for the western Ninewah Province, while creating hydroelectric power for the 1.7 million Mosul residents.

New automatic grout-injection equipment included in the project will help stop seepage under the dam. Seismic equipment will provide information to monitor the dam's stability.

An Iraqi contractor has been selected for this work as part of an effort to encourage local economic development and jobs. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide engineering and quality-control oversight from Gulf Region North near the city of Mosul.

At the time of transfer of sovereignty in June 2004 to the Iraqi Interim Government, there were just over 200 reconstruction projects started in Iraq. Today 2,834 projects have started - valued at about \$6.7 billion. Currently 1,073 projects are ongoing at a program value of about \$ 4.7 billion, and 1,761 projects are completed, valued at about \$2 billion.

Multaka radio station moves forward in Kirkuk

Story by Capt. Monte Hibbert
116th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK — A radio station project in Multaka, is providing construction jobs for local workers and will be a means of regional public communication for the future according to 116th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers who visited the construction site Aug. 20.

Soldiers of the 116th BCT's Task Force 1/163 Infantry visited the site to check progress on the project intended to bring broadcast communication to the largely Sunni Arab population in western Kirkuk Province.

“The Multaka Radio Station is close to being finished, and should be finished sometime in September,” said 1st Lt.

Chris Robinette, a special operations officer with the 116th BCT.

“This will be well in advance of the elections and allow the Arabs to talk and educate the Sunni Population on current topics that are happening within the community.”

According to Robinette, the station will also allow farmers in the area to talk about current agricultural issues and bring answers to questions troubling many of the local Arabs.

Helping facilitate communications is part of the 116th BCT's mission while deployed in north central Iraq.

The unit's mission also includes assist-



Photo courtesy of Task Force 1/163 Infantry

Iraqi workers guide a Coalition Soldier on a tour of a new radio station construction site in Multaka. The station will provide news to the local Sunni Arabs.

ing Iraq's new government, supporting economic development and improving security and stability in the region.

The 116th BCT consists of headquarters and staff sections, two armor battalions, a mechanized infantry battalion, support battalion, field artillery battalion, engineer battalion and various specialized units.

The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq

September 7, 2005

Electoral Administration
Administration department
Human Resource section

To the Defense Ministry (The Honorable Minister Office)
Subject: Military votes or ballots castings

Greetings from the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq,
Concerning your letter we received on Aug. 7, 2005, in which the Military votes or ballots castings subject was mentioned and after the United Nations experts were consulted, the authorized council agreed to the following:

1 - The officially designated Army and police members will protect and secure the voting poll centers, they will also be able to vote in the same centers but they must show proof of identification that mentions their place of residency and province. The voting ballot will be placed inside an envelope and the front will indicate the name of the province in which the military or police member is registered. The envelopes will be sent to the national office to be sorted and counted according to each province.

2 - Each police or Army member must have the following identifications to show at the polling center:
a - Personal military identification issued by police or the National Guard
b - Another type of personal identification showing the province they belong to

3 - Due to logistical, legal and technical issues Army or police members that are in their barracks (work-centers) are not allowed to vote there. Each one must vote where their name is registered.

Please be advised.
Very respectfully,

'Adil al-Lami
General Director

Cc: * The Defense Ministry (The Honorable Minister Office)
* Operations Office

Iraqi president asks for bridge investigation

The President of Iraq, Jalal al-Talibani, addressed the Iraqi people about the bridge incident. Here is the text of his speech:

“On this ominous day which brought calamity to the holy city of Kademiya which led to the martyrdom of hundreds of our sisters, sons and brothers from the pilgrims of the holy shrine of Imam Moussa Al-Kadem, I would like to send my condolences to the people of Iraq in general and the families of martyrs in particular.

“This awful crime which was perpetrated against the pilgrims is a proof of the brutality of the terrorists who were conducting genocide war against the Iraqi people. Those terrorists accuse our Shiite brothers, who are real Moslems, of infidelity. Also they accuse Kurds of betrayal though Kurds are the real patriots in this country. This awful crime should push us all to take more precautions and measures required to prevent these terrorists from achieving their vicious goals. This crime also should lead to trigger our enthusiasm into striving to uproot terrorism in our dearest Iraq to terminate the criminal gangs.

“The Iraqi government, through its all bodies up from the Presidency of the Republic to the Council of Ministers and the Judiciary Council, should take necessary measures to hold free, fair investigations on the defect which led to hundreds of casualties among our lofty people. The brothers from pilgrims proved too much once again that their will is stronger than the crimes of the terrorists, and they continued the rituals despite the huge casualties.

I pray to Allah to place our martyrs in His Heaven and bestow their families patience and oblivion. And peace be upon you and God's blessings and mercy.

Iraqi, Coalition troops sieze Illegal weapons, ammunition

Multi-National Division Central -
South Public Affairs

Multi-National Division Central - South (MNDCS) units supported by Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) seized an illegal cache of weapons and ammunition. Action was conducted in the Wasit province. It

was taken to prevent possible terrorist attacks against Iraqi people.

The action resulted in the seizure of: 22 machine guns, over 1,000 rounds of various caliber ammunition, magazines and other military equipment.

The operation was conducted in difficult terrain conditions and in bad weather. MNDCS troops operated from the air and

on land. Two MNDCS Soldiers were slightly injured in action. Hostile fire was not associated with their injuries.

The actions deprived terrorists groups of weapons and ammunition which would otherwise be used by terrorists. The efforts of the ISF ensure that MNDCS area of responsibility is a safer place to live and work.

Sunni Arabs participate in political process

By Lt. Matthew S. Shaffer
Strategic Effects Directorate - Policy

On Aug. 3, voter registration opened across many of Iraq's 18 provinces as citizens of all ethnicities began their second annual democratic exercise. However, security concerns kept the doors shut on the over 15 planned Voter Registration Centers (VRCs) in the predominantly Sunni Arab province of Al Anbar.

Directly west of Baghdad, Anbar is the largest province and encompasses most of Iraq west of Baghdad, sharing borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Ramadi and Fallujah, Anbar's largest cities, form the western point of the Sunni Triangle and boast over 60 percent of the population. The cities of Hadithah, Rawah, Husaybah, Hit and Al Qa'im stretch westward along the basin of the Euphrates River Valley and represent the remainder of Anbar's habitable land.

Many western media outlets have reported these names recently as U.S. Marines continually battle insurgents, terrorists and foreign fighters in and around these towns. Coalition Forces remain pitched in a battle against not only the terrorists' weapons but against their tactics of intimidation as well.

This province has an estimated population of 1.3 million, of which about 500,000 are eligible voters. These voters will directly sway the national perception associated with Sunni Arab participation in Iraq's political process. The Sunnis boycotted the



Courtesy photo

A Sunni Arab woman registers to vote during the recent registration extension in Al Anbar province.

January 2005 elections consequently resulting in their under-representation throughout the Constitutional drafting process.

To ensure maximum Sunni participation in the October referendum, the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi-led Independent Electoral Commission on Iraq (IECI) agreed to keep registration sites open throughout Anbar an additional week until Sept. 7. The IECI held a press conference in Baghdad on Aug. 29 and publicized the extension via TV, radio and newspaper outlets across Anbar to provide every possible registration opportunity for their Sunni brethren.

Up to 18 VRCs were established and manned by the IECI with local Sunni tribes providing security against would-be terrorist disruptors. U.S. Marines provide baseline security for three additional VRCs in the province's most troubled areas while sustaining a predominantly Iraqi operation through coordination with indigenous security forces.

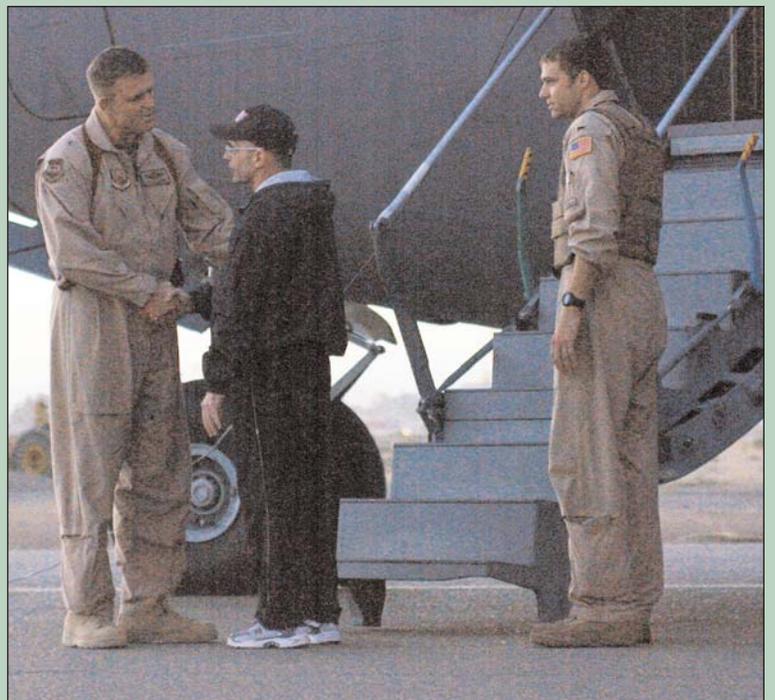
At the Sept. 7 deadline, IECI officials placed registration estimates over 80 percent, which would rank Anbar as one of the top five registered states per capita in the United States. Although not free from attacks, the registration process has displayed impressive Iraqi resolve and ownership of their political future. Participation in the political process is the first step in de-legitimizing the insurgency and this registration extension exemplifies the Iraqi government's commitment to fair and equal political participation across ethnic and sectarian lines.

Rescued hostage finally headed home

Roy Hallums shakes hands with Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc before boarding a flight home from Iraq. Hallums was rescued Sept. 7 by Coalition Forces after 10 months in captivity.

The U.S. military, acting on a tip, raided an isolated farmhouse outside the capital Wednesday and rescued an American businessman held hostage for 10 months. The kidnappers, who had kept their captive bound and gagged, escaped without a gunbattle.

Hallums, formerly of Newport Beach, Calif., was kidnapped at gunpoint from his office in the Mansour district of Baghdad on Nov. 1, 2004.



Courtesy photo



Heroes of the Week

3 MPs awarded for efforts to rescue Iraqi Soldiers

Story and photo by
Sgt. Lynne Steely
18th Military Police Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, BAGHDAD — It was a Labor Day to remember for three Soldiers from the 108th Military Police Company out of Fort Bragg, N.C. They were awarded medals of valor by the Multi-National Corps - Iraq Commander, Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, in a ceremony on Camp Liberty Sept. 5.

“We’re here to recognize the valor of these three brave noncommissioned officers that stand in front of us,” Vines said.

In the early morning hours of April 30, Staff Sgt. Javier Echols, Sgt. Matthew Acosta and Sgt. Zachariah Collett, as part of squad Warlord 11, were patrolling a Main Supply Route when an improvised explosive device detonated nearby. An Iraqi Army (formerly Iraqi National Guard) transport vehicle filled with Iraqi Soldiers was hit by the blast.

Echols, who received the Silver Star for



Staff Sgt. Javier Echols, Sgt. James Acosta and Sgt. Zachariah Collett of the 108th Military Police Company out of Fort Bragg, N.C., stand at attention at an awards ceremony in their honor at Camp Liberty.

his bravery, led his team in the rescue of four Iraqi Soldiers who were wounded in the explosion. Amidst a dangerous cross-fire between insurgents and Iraqi Soldiers, the trio managed to move the wounded to safety and administer medical aid until an evacuation helicopter arrived on the scene.

For one wounded Iraqi Soldier, the

team crafted a makeshift stretcher from a piece of metal that had been blown from the transport truck in the explosion.

Acosta received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, and Collett, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor for their fearless efforts to rescue, treat and evacuate the wounded during the small arms attack.

After presenting the Soldiers with their medals, Vines expressed his admiration for their courage and applauded their actions. “In support of the Iraqi [Army] Soldiers, these three Americans risked everything they had, their lives, to protect and defend them,” Vines said.

“Americans will be able to sleep safely at night, be able to congregate on Labor Day, at rallies and to go to football games and all the other things that they do in their daily lives only so long as there are men and women such as yourselves. You are epitomized and represented by the great Soldiers standing in front of us today,” said Vines.



Heroes of the Week

Iraqi Soldiers make donation for Katrina victims

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle
Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq
Public Affairs

TAJI – Iraqi Soldiers serving at Taji military base collected 1 million Iraqi dinars for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Col. Abbas Fadhil, Iraqi base commander, presented the money to Col. Paul D. Linkenhoker, Taji Coalition base commander, at a Sept. 5 staff meeting.

“We are all brothers,” said Abbas. “When one suffers tragedy, we all suffer their pain.” The amount of money is small in American dollars, roughly \$680, but it represents a huge act of compassion from Iraqi Soldiers to their American counterparts, said Maj. Michael Goyne.

“I was overwhelmed by the amount of their generosity,” Goyne said. “I was proud and happy to know Col. Abbas, his officers, NCOs and fellow Soldiers. That amount represents a month’s salary for most of those Soldiers.” Abbas read a letter he

wrote after giving the envelope to Linkenhoker.

“I am Col. Abbas Fadhil; Tadjji Military Base Commander,” Abbas wrote. “On behalf of myself and all the People of Tadjji Military Base; I would like to console the American people and government for getting this horrible disaster. So we would like to donate 1 million Iraqi Dinars to help the government and the people. Also I would like to console all the Americans who are helping us rebuild our country and our Army. We appreciate the Americans’ help and support. Thank you.”

In a reciprocal gesture, U.S. Soldiers attended a memorial service Sept. 5 for victims of the disastrous panic during a pilgrimage in Baghdad, which happened the same day Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. More than 1,000 people fell into the Tigris River or died on a bridge when the crowd panicked after rumors that suicide bombers were in the procession.

Abbas spoke of the Iraqi victims as “martyrs” and donated one half of his paycheck to a fund earmarked for their families. A collection box for the fund was filled with contributions from American Soldiers.



Coalition Partners



Share a pint with the Irish

By British Support Unit

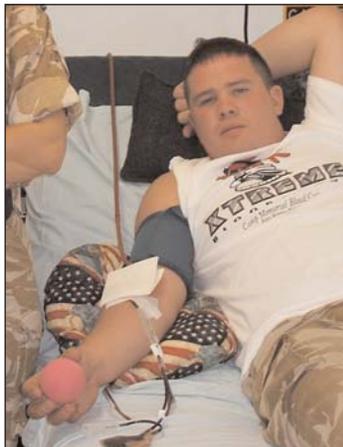
Soldiers of 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment serving in Baghdad made the ultimate gesture of friendship towards their fellow Soldiers serving in Iraq when they rallied to a cry from the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad for blood platelet donations.

The request came from Nurse Practitioner Squadron Leader Fin Bradley, of the Royal Air Force, on behalf of the doctors and nurses at the hospital.

Platelets help to stop the patient from bleeding and unlike other blood components or whole blood, platelets can not be refrigerated or frozen, so the CSH's supply must be sourced locally.

Although the hospital may occasionally conduct a whole blood drive during an emer-

gency most whole blood used in Iraq is flown in from the United States. The CSH which deals with varying degrees of injuries sustained by service members and local civilians, is the first and only hospital in a combat zone to extract life saving platelets from the donor's blood, and here in Baghdad the platelets are used on a daily basis to save lives and treat casualties both from the Multi-National Forces and the Iraqi Security Forces, who are together securing the future of Iraq.



A Soldier of the Royal Irish Regiment relaxes as he donates blood platelets at the 86th CSH.



U.S. Navy photos by Lt. Cdr. Scott Allan

Nurse practitioner and Squadron Leader Fin Bradley demonstrate that blood platelet donation is simple and easy.

The Soldiers of the Royal Irish Regiment, who are the first ever British Soldiers to donate in Iraq, responded immediately to the request. Recently they have made over 50 platelet donations, at about a pint a time, which equates to over 400 units of blood.

"Platelet donation is simple, safe and painless. Platelet

donations are made at the 86th CSH. The staff there ensure the patients are very well looked after and even pampered," Bradley said. The entire process takes roughly two hours, which gives the donor time to watch a DVD of choice and enjoy some jelly beans.

Contact Sgt. Vernon Malaer to donate: DSN 318-239-7621 or MCI 914-360-4697 or e-mail vernon.malaer@us.army.mil.

Iraqi, Coalition troops detain terrorist suspects

By Multi-National Division Central - South Public Information Office

CAMP ECHO, AL-HILLAH — Iraqi Army supported by Multi-National Division Central - South (MNDCS) troops captured two men suspected of terrorist activities. Detained persons had a large quantity of illegal ammunition with them, magazines to machine guns and the fuses. They were caught thanks to cordon and search operation conducted last night in the city of Al-Hillah.

In recent months Iraqi Security Forces supported by MNDCS troops conducted many actions to detain the terrorists.

These joint operations create a more secure environment for Iraqi people within the MNDCS area of responsibility.

Iraqi C-130s support deployment



This week, the Iraqi Air Force successfully transported Soldiers from a Commando Brigade from Baghdad International Airport to Tall Afar, supporting counter-insurgency operations in Ninewa province. Iraqi C-130s moved Commandos the largest Iraqi transportation of Iraqi Security Force personnel to date.

Mosul leader of al Qaida in Iraq killed

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Forces raided a safe house Saturday in Zanazil, near Mosul, resulting in the detention of four terrorists and the death of a key local leader of al Qaida in Iraq.

Abu Zayd, identified as the current al Qaida in Iraq military Emir of Mosul, was killed in the raid.

Information received from concerned citizens and collected through intelligence assets led Multi-National Forces to the location.

Upon arrival at the safe house, Multi-National Forces immediately detained



Abu Zayd

four terrorists located outside the house. At the same time, Multi-National Forces shot and killed an unknown terrorist who was engaging them from a nearby field. The unknown individual was positively identified as Abu Zayd.

As the key al Qaida in Iraq leader for

Mosul, Abu Zayd was responsible for coordinating all terrorist operations in the city, which included kidnappings, extortion, murder, intimidation of Mosul citizens and attacks against Iraqi security and Coalition Forces. Abu Zayd also directed the use of foreign fighters within his organization.

The recent capture of Abu Talha, the recent death of Abu Zubayr, and now the death of Abu Zayd leaves only two terrorist leaders remaining to control the al Qaida Iraq network in Mosul.

IRAQI OPINIONS



Construction on the renovated Al-Dora Library and the Nahiat Al-Mamoom facility, a telephone exchange company headquarters, is completed this week. The renovation project costs of both facilities combined totaled \$226,000 and enhanced the presence of reliable government buildings in Baghdad.

Iraqi Security Forces operations this week in Iraq

MND-B Operations

Elements of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade and U.S. Soldiers from Task Force 1st of the 30th Infantry in Dali Abass, northeast of Baghdad, conducted several raids and cache searches. Soldiers assaulted three objectives that resulted in the capture of five suspected enemy Soldiers, weapons and some improvised explosive device (IED)-making material including detonation cord, blasting caps, and nine, 152 mm artillery rounds.

The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force and Special Forces advisors in Baghdad conducted simultaneous raids of four objectives.

The operation was to capture key leaders and disrupt a terrorist network that plans to interfere with the Oct. 15 referendum. The raids resulted in the capture of a primary target and 24 other suspected anti-Iraqi forces (AIF) members.

Three suspected terrorists were captured by members of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Special Forces advisors conducted a combined raid.

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), supported by Coalition Forces, detained five suspected terrorists during a search in Baghdad.

ISF members also confiscated one, 72 mm projectile, two rolls of detonation cord, 12 blasting caps, one rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher, two RPG rounds, two AK-47 rifles and nine, 152 mm rounds during the raid.

Operation Thunder

At a checkpoint, ISF members captured two insurgents with a tank-penetrating round and Sadr propaganda material.

ISF southeast of Baghdad International Airport captured five members of an IED



U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. Ron Flesvig

Iraqi Army personnel participate in a "Shoot House" Live Fire Weapons Training exercise in Iskandariyah.

cell who placed an IED in a dead dog along a main road.

Security forces also captured a known kidnapper.

ISF found several weapons caches that included rocket propelled grenade rounds, plastic explosives, IED making materials, night vision scope and tank rounds. Four AIF members were also detained.

Construction

Construction on a \$608,000 primary healthcare center project in Sadr City is 20 percent complete. The center, which is scheduled to be complete in late December, will relieve the overburdened outpatient care currently provided by existing hospitals.

Twenty Iraqis are on the work crew laying brick above lintels, fixing exterior sanitary pipes and plastering inner face of parapet with cement.

This is one of seven ongoing healthcare projects – six new primary healthcare centers and the renovation of the Al Baladi Hospital – planned for Sadr City.

Training

Ninety-five students graduated from five specialized police courses in Adnan Sept. 8.

One hundred thirty-three students are projected to graduate from the 6th Division engineer class this month.

MND-NC Operations

Iraqi Police found and cleared a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) in Ba 'qubah. No casualties or damages were reported.

Iraqi Army (IA) troops from 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force found and secured an IED Sept. 3 in Ad Dwar. The IED was later safely detonated.

Based on a tip from local citizens, Iraqi Police, supported by Coalition

troops, conducted a cordon and search operation, discovering a landmine and other items of interest Sept. 6 in Kirkuk.

Inside the home, officers also confiscated three pistols, a motorcycle battery, trip flare and one U.S. Army desert camouflage uniform.

Construction

Construction is complete on a \$275,000 Border Fort Project in the Maysan Province. The Qaryat Abu Leylah Border forts serve as bases from which the Iraqi Border Police conduct patrols along the Iranian border.

The facilities contain offices, kitchens, sleeping rooms and latrines for the Iraqi police, and holding cells for detainees who are caught attempting to cross the border illegally. The police had previously lived and worked in tents. Sixteen other border forts are under construction.

Training

The Zahko Academy platoon leaders' school graduated 20 students.

MNF-NW Operations

In Ganus, southeast of Mosul, Iraqi Army Soldiers captured seven insurgents in the wake of an attack on IA Forces.

Training

More than 250 men in Tall Afar alone joined the Iraqi Army this week.

The Iraqi Mosul Emergency Response Battalion screened more than 400 displaced civilians.

MNF-W Operations

Iraqi Security Forces in the Musayyib area captured the father and three brothers of a



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Day

An Iraqi Soldier mans a defensive fighting position at a checkpoint near Ba 'qubah.

See **OPERATIONS**, next page

Taking the reigns:

Iraqi troops take over training Strategic Infrastructure Battalion

Story by Capt. Tom Earnhardt
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PALIWODA, BALAD — Until now, training Iraq's Strategic Infrastructure Battalion (SIB) Soldiers was the responsibility of Coalition Forces, but the torch in Balad is being passed to their Iraqi counterparts.

Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) are handing over the training and equipping of the 10th SIB to 3rd Battalion, 30th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Division.

The SIBs are dedicated to protecting Iraq's vulnerable oil pipelines from sabotage and terrorism. Until recently, 2nd Platoon, Troop B, directed and executed 10th Battalion's training. Now, the Iraqi Soldiers are taking the reigns.

"The intent here is to strengthen these Soldiers while they perform this vital service," said 1st Lt. Alzin Lewis, officer in charge of SIB training for 5th Battalion. "We've put them through [basic rifle marksmanship], first aid, patrolling and basic security tasks and, overall,

they've performed well. They liked the fact that we got down with them and worked them through the process."

The concurrent training of the 10th SIB began outside Balad about four months ago. The companies of 10th Battalion rotated from duty on the pipeline into a four-week intensive training designed by 5/7 to better prepare them for success in protecting Iraq's oil. The weeks of training consisted of a set of basic soldier skills passed from Coalition Soldiers to the under-trained Iraqis of 10th Battalion.

The Iraqi trainers stepped in last week without missing a step.

The trainers commanded their classes with a teaching savvy that belies their training and experience, said Lewis. Notably, the battalion's medics delivered basic lifesaving classes with enthusiasm and pride, he added.

Simultaneously, a platoon of other Iraqi trainers stood in the hallway dejected to have to wait a week to begin their classes. Their sorrow was short-lived as they seized the initiative to join in the 10th Battalion medical training.

"I really think we've turned the corner,

here," said Iraqi 1st Lt. Shoqutt. "At first, the whole country didn't take us seriously; they didn't have confidence in us. Now, things are different; our guys are hungry to demonstrate their skill and show the world."

Shoqutt, a Balad native, said he takes pride in the ability of his troops to serve as trainers.

"We've had the advantage of time and resource as Americans brought us along and we must use what we've learned to defend ourselves and teach the rest the right things," he said.

Following brief hygiene classes by Coalition medics, the Iraqi medics were eager to assume control. The 22 students learned how to evaluate a casualty, perform triage and how to evacuate Soldiers from the battlefield.

Lewis said the training will continue concurrent with 10th Battalion's work assignments on the pipelines until all have completed the program.

Shoqutt and Lewis said they know it will only get better as the Iraqis take it over. "Tomorrow, we will teach them shooting," Shoqutt said.

Operations

from page 8

known VBIED-maker who are involved in smuggling foreign fighters.

Iraqi Security Forces found and cleared a VBIED in Ar Ramadi.

In Iskandiriyah, Iraqi Security Forces captured a terrorist facilitator who regularly fired flares to warn insurgents of approaching security forces.

Troops from 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force detained a man Sept. 6 in Hit after he failed to produce credible identification. Iraqi troops and Coalition Forces were questioning locals about an abandoned motorcycle when they spotted the military-aged male trying to sneak out of the area.

The man produced photocopied identification and changed stories before admit-



U.S. Army photo by Spc David Kobi

Local Iraqis wait at the Al Anal School to receive school supplies in Baghdad.

ting he was from Baghdad.

Construction

Construction on a \$533,000 border fort project in Ma'aniyah is 85 percent complete. The project is scheduled to be complete in early October. This is one of seven Border Fort projects programmed in the An Najaf province. Five of these projects are complete.

MND-SE Training

Eighteen Iraqi Army officers are projected to graduate from the Reconnaissance and Surveillance class at Taji Military Intelligence School, and four officers are projected to graduate from the Criminal Investigation class.

The Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses and homicide investigation.

Approximately 150 Soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division's Engineer Company completed training yesterday at the 1st Field Engineer Regiment School at Taji Military Training Base.

Approximately 250 serving Iraqi Police Officers graduated from six advanced and specialized courses at the Adnan Training Facility.

Maryland Soldiers divert car bomb, save lives

Story and photo by
Spc. Matthew Wester

3/1 Armored Division Public Affairs

TAJI — Sometimes Soldiers perform best when they are in the most stressful situations.

That was true of troops from Company B, 1st Battalion, 115th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division on the morning of Aug. 28.

Through quick and decisive action, the Maryland National Guard Soldiers diverted a car bomb from its intended target and saved many lives.

According to B Co. commander, Capt. Brian S. Borakove, an Arlington, Va., native, Soldiers from his company's 1st Platoon were conducting a mounted patrol when they noticed a suspicious vehicle driving through the town of Saba Al Bor.

B Co. patrols the area around the clock, and has become familiar with the residents and traffic patterns.

"By living' there, you know what should and shouldn't be there," Borakove said.

The platoon leader, 1st Lt. Michael Kirtland, from Burtonsville, Md., decided to search the car and another car traveling with it.



Cpl. Brian A. Justice, a gunner in the Maryland National Guard's B Co., 1st Bn., 115th Regt., 29th Infantry Division, mans his .50-cal. machine gun before a patrol near Camp Taji.

He directed the drivers to pull to the side of the road. When the Soldiers were preparing to search the rear car, the driver detonated the explosives-laden vehicle.

The dismounted Soldiers were wounded and their vehicle became a burning hulk.

Their comrades sprang into action, securing the area and aiding the wounded.

"One of the guys ran through a cloud of black smoke, found his buddy, pulled him to safety and started treatment," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick M. Carey, platoon sergeant for 1st Plt. "Everybody did a great job. The lieutenant's driver [Spc. Ernest Miller IV] was still working the radio

while the vehicle was on fire."

Kirtland pulled the vehicle's gunner out of the burning Humvee.

If the Soldiers hadn't stopped the two cars, "it would have been a mass casualty incident," Carey said. "The cars were completely destroyed, so we know they were packing a lot of explosives."

"We believe [the car bomber] was headed to another target," Borakove said. "I believe the Soldiers on the patrol saved the lives of others at checkpoints in the area."

The senior leaders of the company praised the performance of their troops.

"Our Soldiers performed well during crisis," said 1st Sgt. Donald R. Connolly, from Silver Spring, Md. "Their training and skill showed through, and they all made us very proud."

"I'm extremely proud of how they handled themselves after contact with the enemy," Borakove said. "Their actions showed the great confidence they have in each other."

The two Soldiers wounded in the attack were evacuated to a medical facility in Germany and are recovering from their wounds.

Detainees educated at Camp Bucca

CAMP BUCCA — More than 300 detainees have received elementary school education at Camp Bucca's Um Qasar Elementary Reform School since the start of the program in October 2004.

About 50 percent of the detainees arriving at the Theater Internment Facilities (TIF) have either no formal education or limited elementary school education. The education program is available for detainees who consistently comply with camp rules.

There are four teachers from the local

area who come to Camp Bucca to teach the detainees. Classes are offered mornings and afternoons, six days a week. The classes, which last for 12 weeks, provide the detainees with basic reading and writing skills up to the sixth grade level.

To date, 60 detainees have graduated from the education program, which is accredited by the Ministry of Education. All graduates receive a certificate upon completion of the course. Coalition Forces are in the process of establishing similar education programs at the other TIFs.

Construction is completed this week on an \$887,000 water network project in Kirkuk, Tameem Province. An Iraqi company installed a distribution pipeline and connected 2,200 residences.

More than 260 Iraqi Highway Patrol officers graduated from training yesterday and begin service in the Iraqi Police Service.

In a recent poll, the confidence of the Iraqi people in the Iraqi Police Service reached 73 percent.

Iraqi Court sentences insurgents for border crossing

BAGHDAD — The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) held 13 trials last week convicting 14 security detainees for crimes including illegal border crossing and possession of illegal weapons.

One security detainee received a life

sentence. In Iraq, a life sentence is equivalent to a 20-year sentence.

Upon conviction, all defendants are turned over to the Iraqi Corrections Service to serve their sentences.

To date, the CCCI has held 443 trials of

insurgents suspected of anti-Iraqi and anti-Coalition activities threatening the security of Iraq and targeting Multi-National Force - Iraq. These proceedings have resulted in 452 individual convictions with sentences ranging up to 30 years of imprisonment.

Walls, fence lines, concertina wire, all towers and the road are complete at the Khan Bani Saad Prison, south of Ba'qubah. The Mayor's Unemployment Office will now facilitate the hiring of up to 1,000 people in preparation for subsequent phases of reconstruction.

Detainee Visitation Rules and Guidelines

ABU GHRAIB — Visitation at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca is highly encouraged for those with family members currently detained at these facilities.

While detainees are not eligible for visitation during their first 60 days of internment, once they complete their first 60 days, they are authorized four visitations per month, or one per week.

Those wishing to visit detainees at these facilities must abide by the following rules and guidelines:

- Only immediate family members or the detainee's lawyer are authorized to visit
- Family members and lawyers are not authorized to visit at the same time
- Visitations must be scheduled in advance and will not be granted the same day they are scheduled
- The maximum number of visitors permitted for one detainee is six; no more than three adults at a time
- Each visitation will last one hour
- Visitors are only allowed to bring items listed on the visitation rules form
- No cameras or recording devices are allowed
- Letters and bags brought for detainees will be collected at the search point and turned over to be screened
- Any contraband removed from visitors will be placed in bags and returned following their visitation

To improve the safety and security at the internment facilities, officials now require all visiting family and lawyers to be photographed prior to visiting a detainee. Photographs will be taken along with iris scans and fingerprints. All visitors will be searched by guards of the same sex as the visitor.

Visitations are conducted Monday through Saturday. Those wishing to visit Camp Bucca must sign up for visitation either at Abu Ghraib or Camp Bucca. Abu Ghraib schedules Camp Bucca appointments on Fridays and Saturdays only. These appointments must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. Appointments for Abu Ghraib are typically scheduled for three to four days after signing up.

Al-Hurra Television broadcasted a press conference Saturday on operations in Tall Afar, and Iraqi Defense Minister Dulaimi said that 141 gunmen had been killed and 197 captured in military operations. He also said that Iraqi forces are ready to launch offensives to eradicate terrorists in other cities such as Ramadi, Samarra and Al-Qaim. He added that there will not be any place for the criminals and murderers.

The City of Diwaniyah, received a new generator of the governor's security office and mechanical and electrical maintenance work for the Um Al-Khail drainage station. The Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP), is funding just over \$70,000 and the projects are expected to be completed by the end of September.

Remembering victims of 9/11...

... with Coalition personnel at Camp Victory

Story and photo by Pfc. Matthew Clifton
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD — More than 200 Coalition service members and civilians remembered the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. Sunday with a ceremony in the Al-Faw Palace ballroom on Camp Victory.

The ceremony began with the lighting of a candle for remembrance by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas MacGregor.

“We are here today with the specific purpose of honoring the memory of those who perished on Sept. 11, 2001,” MacGregor said. “Since the attack, America and the world have never been the same.”

MacGregor’s opening speech was followed by a slideshow titled “September 11, 2001: A Review in Pictures,” which was accompanied by music from the 3rd Infantry Division Band Brass Ensemble.



Firefighters fold the U.S. flag during a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony Sunday at Al-Faw Palace at Camp Victory.

A first-hand account of the attack on the Pentagon was then given by Lt. Col. Charles Gabrielson, commander, 327th Signal Battalion (Airborne), 35th Sig. Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

“That day started just like any other day in the Pentagon,” Gabrielson said. “When the first aircraft hit the World Trade Center we all thought it was a small plane that was lost, but after the second one hit we knew it had to be a terrorist act.

“As we were trying to figure out what exactly had happened, the airplane hit the Pentagon,” Gabrielson continued. “You could feel and hear the explosion and it seemed to last forever.”

Following Gabrielson’s emotional speech, firefighters from the Camp Victory Fire Department raised an American flag while The Hard Corps Chorale sang “Mansions of the Lord.”

... during ceremonies in the International Zone

By Spc. Matt Coffee
209th Broadcast Operations
Detachment

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — Service members and civilians serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom gathered at the Embassy Community Chapel here Sunday to



FBI Special Agent Garrett McKenzie plays “Amazing Grace” during the International Zone’s remembrance ceremony Saturday.

remember the victims of the most significant act of terrorism inflicted on American soil.

The Multi-National Force chaplain’s office designed the ceremony to ensure service members were encouraged to speak openly about how Sept. 11 affected them and how it still

impacts everyone today.

“I was stationed on the U.S.S. Wasp when the planes hit the twin towers,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen Walz, a religious program specialist. “I called my wife afterward and told her I would be late coming home. She replied, ‘I understand what you have to do.’”

Col. Thomas Stefanko, Baghdad’s Joint Area Support Group commander, opened the ceremony and said America united after the twin towers fell.

Walz echoed that and recalled a shipmate he served with who died in the



Photos by Spc. Ferdinand Thomas
An MNF-I Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jerry D. Powell, speaks about the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks during a remembrance ceremony at the Community Chapel.

Pentagon attack.

“When you know someone that close, it hits you hard,” said Walz. “He was all for the Navy.”

The ceremony closed with a moment of remembrance for everyone who lost their lives that day. A single bell was rung for all who died in the world trade center, another for all who died at the Pentagon, again for all

who lost their lives on flight 93 in Pennsylvania and finally, the last ring for the 1,894 service members who have lost their lives over the past four years in support of OIF.

It was an emotional ceremony for everyone, but also served as an opportunity to reflect on their mission here — and how important it is to the two nations.

ECONOMICS

Full speed ahead in Iraq

By Capt. Gina Prevett
Joint Contracting Command

At the fall of Saddam's regime and the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqi railways were in a state of disarray, and less than 40 percent of the locomotives were functional, according to an article entitled "Iraq's Railways and Amtrak." "Clearly, U.S. political leaders understand that railways are crucial to the smooth functioning of a modern economy — and that in a modern world, railroads cannot operate without substantial government funding." Hence, the Bush Administration approved a bill that allotted \$303 million to restart the Iraqi railway system.

Due to a concerted effort between the Iraqi Railway, the Project and Contracting Office (PCO) Logistics, the Joint Contracting Command — Iraq/Afghanistan (JCC-I/A), and the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO), the first railway transport of commercial/reconstruction cargo took place this week from Umm Qasr to Baghdad.

The transport, which came in ahead of schedule, moved \$1.1 million worth of freight consisting of new pick-up trucks, excavators, hospital beds, and forklifts. The total freight shipping cost was \$13,800. To ship the same freight via highway, it would have cost \$74,000. The new railway saved the government \$60,100 with the first shipment alone. In addition, the railway will increase efficiency and will play a large role in the Iraqis



Iraqi Railway FPS stand guard on a flatcar carrying forklifts. These FPS personnel provided security for the train along its entire route.



Photos by Mark Hemphill

A locomotive pulls into the Iraqi Railway's warehouse yard hauling reconstruction cargo valued at \$1.1 million.

rebuilding their economy and nation.

In the end, 125 railway stations will be renovated by the Facilities and Transportation (F&T) Sector of the PCO, according to an article posted on www.portaliraq.com. "I feel like the mission to renovate these railway stations is an important one," said railway program manager Martin Sanders, "because it will allow Iraqis to move freight, cargo and people across the country more rapidly. Getting the stations up and running also helps put people to work, both through the renovation process and afterwards as the stations employ more people."

Sweetwater Canal:

Millions of Iraqi citizens benefit from \$2 million project

By LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD — Two million Iraqi citizens in Basra and the surrounding area will have a constant and reliable source of water when the Basra Sweetwater Canal, or SWC, system upgrade is complete.

At least \$2 million of the Iraq Reconstruction Program's \$18.4 billion was released this week to purchase electrical equipment for Pump Station Number 2, to include breakers, a mobile substation, switchgear, wire, and towers to provide permanent power to Pump Station 2. All materials are scheduled for full delivery by May 2006.

Pump Station Number 1 currently has permanent power, as well as back-up generator capabilities.



Courtesy photo

Only 40 percent of the Sweetwater Canal is lined with concrete due to a lack of resources over a decade ago when it was built.

The Sweetwater Canal — also known as the Um Qasr — is a 238 Km man-made canal that begins in Ash Shatrah, 60 Km north of An Nasiriya on the Gharraf River, and runs to slightly west of Basra. It was constructed under difficult conditions with limited resources more than a decade ago. Although originally designed to be fully concrete lined, due to lack of funds and construction materials at the

time of construction, 40 percent of the canal is partially unlined and structurally unstable, resulting in leakage, bank collapse, breaches and other issues.

Later, a second contract will be advertised and awarded to a local Iraqi contractor for construction and installation of the permanent power system for Pump Station 2, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing quality assurance oversight.

At the time of transfer of sovereignty in June 2004, there were just over 200 reconstruction projects started in Iraq. As of mid-September, 2,834 projects have started — valued at about \$6.7 billion. Currently 1,073 projects are ongoing at a program value of about \$4.7 billion and 1,761 projects are completed — valued at about \$2 billion.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

Sadr City sees huge investment since ceasefire

Story and photo by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD — Sadr City residents are looking forward to when they have functioning sewers, clean drinking water and reliable electricity.

Last summer, the Baghdad suburb was besieged in deadly violence as insurgents and U.S. forces clashed. In June 2004, four contracts were awarded totaling nearly \$60 million to renovate about 24 miles of Sadr City sewers. The work got underway but had to be stopped on several occasions as the fighting continued. On Oct. 7, 2004 a truce was brokered and the sewer work proceeded. Last week contractors concluded the final work on that project.

“Sadr City sewers, which were originally installed over four decades ago, had been neglected for years,” said Mike Mitchell, the Sadr City sewer rehabilitation project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central District. “Some of the major trunk lines, like the Zeblin Line were blocked up to 60 percent. That line is 3,000 mm in diameter, nearly 10 feet wide.

“The contractor pulled everything you



Lt. Col. Jamie Gayton, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Brigade Troops Battalion commander, looks over a huge aerator at Iraq's largest sewage treatment facility at Rustamiyah, that recently underwent an extensive renovation. That facility is treating 100 percent of all effluent coming from the 2 million residents of Sadr City and is capable of handling 86,000 gallons per minute.

can imagine out of those lines as his crew cleaned them — tires, engines, and a washing machine. One of our Quality Assurance representatives told me he saw a dead horse pulled out,” said Mitchell. People threw their garbage and anything else they didn’t want down those manholes.”

As the project moved forward, the contractor had to solve a few unexpected challenges as well — such as residents who

built their homes or businesses right over an existing manhole. But eventually the work was completed.

Apart from the trunk lines, some lateral lines 32 inches in diameter were completely blocked and had to be cleaned or replaced. “Over 70 breaks and collapses in these major lines were repaired and three new force mains installed, all of which greatly improved not only the efficiency of the network, but helped create a safer, cleaner environment for the people,” says 1st Lt. Joshua Conary, waste water officer in charge, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. In addition to the sewer line work, 15 sewer pump stations and the Rustamiyah Treatment Plant also had to be repaired.

Three of the four contracts are completed and the final one is 87 percent completed, with roads torn up by the sewer project the sole unfinished area, Mitchell said. Currently, 130 Iraqis are working on those Sadr City road repairs.

“We haven’t fixed all the problems regarding Sadr City sewers,” Mitchell said, “but there’s definitely a lot less sewage on the streets than there was a year ago.”

Other infrastructure improvements underway in Sadr City:

- \$106 million for the installation of new electrical poles, power lines and transformers in 76 sectors (impacting 1.2 million Sadr City residents).
- \$2.3 million for 27 new compact water treatment units, each producing 15,000 liters of clean, potable water daily. Ten of these units will use water from wells, 17 from the Sadr City raw water system. The compact water unit at Thawrat Al-Hijara School is the first to be fully operational and clean water from there is being supplied to Sadr City residents.
- nearly \$21 million for seven healthcare projects that are 20 to 40 percent finished. That includes \$17.2 million for work at the Al Baladi Hospital; \$3.7 million for six new primary healthcare centers. About 350 Iraqis are working on these projects.
- \$600,000 to renovate three police stations. That work includes force protection measures of additional security walls,

new guard towers, and new gates.

- \$279,125 for a trash transfer station in Sadr City with expected completion by the end of December.
 - \$902,000 for a new Sadr City Fire Station which will open next spring. The three-story, 925-square-meter structure will feature five bays (three for ladder trucks and two for SUVs.) It will include a dormitory area, dining room, commercial-grade kitchenette, a training room, locker room, control room, and a Chief’s office.
 - \$3.7 million for 28 Sadr City schools (an average of \$133,250 each) to upgrade their electrical wiring, lights, heat, water, doors and windows, blackboards, functioning bathrooms and furniture for both students and faculty.
- The projects referenced above account for nearly \$190 million of infrastructure improvements for Sadr City.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

Sadr City sewage repairs continue improving quality of life for Iraqi citizens

By Capt. Gina Prevett
Joint Contracting Command

Of the estimated 26 million Iraqi citizens, only about 6 percent live in a district that has a functional water treatment plant. Some families have septic tanks. Others dispose of waste any way they can.

In Iraq, where the sewer systems are inoperable or overcapacity, it's common for people to walk through streets or intersections full of standing sewage. On occasion, children play in the sewer water. In the past year, cholera cases have increased by 300 percent. Dr Duraid al-Khatoun, a pediatrician at the Children's Teaching Hospital in Baghdad, told IRIN news that 90 percent of the cholera cases involved children living in suburbs where sewage treatment is non-existent. Cholera causes severe diarrhea and is caused by drinking contaminated water that has not been properly treated.

Sadr City is one such location that faces such an epidemic state of sanitation. This city is located just northeast of Baghdad. It houses over two million Iraqis. The Joint Contracting Command - Iraq, consisting of Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel, along with government civilians, contractors, and Iraqi nationals, working out of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, along with the Coalition Provisional Authority, contracted out to Washington International/Black & Veatch (WI/BV) Public Works Joint Venture to rehabilitate the sewage system infrastructure of Sadr City.

The \$46 million sewage rehabilitation project started May 30, 2004 and was completed July 10, 2005. According to WI/BV sources, "the project included the rehabilitation of 11 sewage pump stations, the placement of thousands of meters of major trunk sewers, 70 repairs of collapsed sewers, the installation of 5,200



Sadr City's \$46 million sewage rehabilitation project started May 30, 2004 and was completed July 10, 2005. The project included the rehabilitation of 11 sewage pump stations, the placement of thousands of meters of major trunk sewers, 70 repairs of collapsed sewers, the installation of 5,200 meters of new force mains, and the reconstruction and paving of roads.

meters of new force mains, and the reconstruction and paving of roads." This project has already cleared much of the standing sewage from the streets.

At the beginning of the project, the Amanat, which can be compared to a city council in the U.S., encouraged the hiring of these militia members to work on the trenches. This idea seemed ludicrous at the time. Project leaders soon discovered, though, that replacing guns with shovels actually worked. The more the Iraqis participated in their city's reconstruction, the more they realized they were doing something important for their family, city, and country. They were also less likely to interact with the insurgency.

WI/BV project management staff acknowledges that the real heroes in this story are the Iraqis. They are the ones who truly made this project a success. The American employers distanced themselves from day-to-day construction activ-

ities. The project was managed remotely with frequent coordination between program managers, Baghdad municipal government leaders, and Iraqi subcontractors.

Those Iraqi subcontractors received training on quality control and safety, and then the training was implemented and enforced in the field by Iraqi staff. Amazingly, over one million man-hours of work was completed with no injuries. This is almost unheard of

in today's workforce, especially in a more hostile environment like Iraq.

Despite the low profile maintained by American WI/BV staff, Iraqi project leads were still at risk of being threatened and intimidated on a daily basis.

In spite of these dangers and risks, the Iraqis worked hand-in hand with project managers toward the goal of providing badly needed infrastructure.

While the reconstruction of the sanitation system were other benefits. As construction crews arrived to fix the sewer systems, excited citizens greeted them, men and women alike cheered. Some even brought out cold drinks for the workers. As projects neared completion, WI/BV said there were several reported instances where crowds of residents applauded and cheered as final pipe connections were made, alleviating a problem that had plagued residents for years in just a few minutes.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

Bidders' conference draws 350 Iraqi contractors

Story and photo by Norris Jones
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Central District

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — About 350 Iraqi contractors attended a Bidders Conference sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region Division (GRD), Project and Contracting Office, and the Joint Contracting Command, Saturday, at the Baghdad Convention Center.

Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr., Commanding General, USACE, GRD, opened the program by explaining the event's purpose was to help those in attendance better understand the bidding process. He cautioned that not everyone wins in such a system, "but we want a fair and open competition, and I'd hope that's what you want as well."

McCoy noted that some contractors had the erroneous perception that the bidding process was designed to award contracts only to American firms. "Over 60 percent



Staff Sgt. Brian Ekendahl, administrative specialist, USACE, GRD, helps contractors sign in at the registration table during the opening of the bidders conference Saturday at the Baghdad Convention Center.

of the contracts are being performed by Iraqi or Arab firms," he said. And regarding the current projects out for bids, McCoy said, "We believe the vast majority will be built by Iraqi or Arab firms."

McCoy discussed upcoming Iraqi

events including the vote on the constitution Oct. 15, and the election Dec. 15. "This is an historic time. Iraq has a very bright future," he said.

Following the formal briefings, Gloria Martinez, Chief of Contracting, Gulf Region Central District, led a team of 11 people who provided individual counseling to Iraqi contractors on what's required for bid consideration.

"This conference was designed to help Iraqi firms understand our processes so they can get on with the business of rebuilding this great nation," Martinez said.

For those unable to attend the conference, or who want additional information about bidding opportunities, visit www.iraqibusinesscenter.org. At the site, look on the left side of the page and click on your area of interest, such as "Baghdad Business Center."

At that Web page, the action button for "tenders" provides users the choice of (1) General Instructions, (2) Frequently Asked Questions, and (3) "Tenders" on projects being advertised for bid.

Sadr City's 27 Water Compact Units



- \$2.3 million contract with Al Sahba Company of Baghdad calls for providing and installing 27 water compact units. Each unit has the capacity to produce 15,000 liters of potable, clean water daily — a total of 405,000 liters per day for Sadr City residents. Construction started June 16. The project is nearly 50 percent finished.

- Six Water Compact Units are finished in Sectors 45 (Thawrat Al-Hijara School), 20 (Um-Alqura School), 44 (Al Hassan Al Basri School), 43 (Oqba Bin Baffi School), 17 (Al Mansoor School) and 55 (Al Furkan School). In addition, the unit in Sector 41 (Warka Bin Nawfal School) is 95 percent completed.

- 60 Iraqi workers are currently employed at the various sites. Work includes building brick walls and brick ceilings, internal and external plastering, finishing brickwork and tiling around wash basins.





This week in Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Coalition Operations: a week in review

MNF-NC

Armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) attacked a suspected enemy mortar cell. The attack resulted in 11 terrorists killed and four wounded. During the same mission, ground responders captured two terrorists near Balad.

After receiving a tip from a local citizen, Coalition Forces in Abayachi raided two houses where they captured 20 suspected terrorists and found a weapons cache. Security forces in Abayachi also captured three confirmed terrorists, including a cell leader and a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) maker who was also responsible for sabotaging the water treatment plant.

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) captured four suspected terrorists in Bayji and Said Alan, northwest of Jalula.

Coalition and ISF captured two suspected improvised explosive device (IED) bombers in Samarra, and a member of the Counter Terrorism Group in Kirkuk who is suspected of anti-Iraq forces (AIF) activity.

In Khalis, a combined raid outside Dujayl captured a known terrorist cell leader.

A combined operation in the Bayji area captured six suspected terrorists

Two weapons caches, including mortars and explosives, were found in Bayji and Balad Ruz.

Two weapons caches were found in Ad Dujayl and Ad Duluiyah. The caches included rocket propelled grenades, IED-making materials, artillery rounds, mortars, rockets, grenades, explosives, police vest and small arms.

Two Anti-Iraqi Forces were captured by members of 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, 1st of the 163rd Infantry and Special Force advisors in Zab.

MNF-NW

Operations

Operation Restoring Rights

Five weapons caches were found in the northwestern region. Two were discovered in each of the cities of Tal Afar and Mosul,

and one each was found in Rawah, Fallujah and Sulayman. The caches included artillery rounds, anti-aircraft rounds, mortars, detonation devices, rocket propelled grenades, rocket parts, anti-tank mine, explosives, sniper rifles, IED-making materials, spools of electrical and copper wire, small arms and small arms ammunition and anti-coalition propaganda.

Coalition and ISF operating in and around Mosul captured three suspected terrorists and nine associates applying further pressure on the insurgency outside Tal Afar. Also in Tal Afar, Coalition forces operations discovered several weapons caches, captured 18 insurgents, killed seven insurgents, and destroyed several enemy fighting positions. Coalition forces continued to evacuate the Sarai neighborhood, with 500 additional displaced civilians processed south of the city.

Politics/demonstrations/voting

One hundred people demonstrated in Tal Afar this week in support of security operations there.

Construction

Coalition and Iraqi security forces and the local government are establishing a temporary camp for displaced civilians. A delegation from the Iraqi Transitional Government, provincial and local leaders, and security forces met in Kisik and agreed to a plan for the operation.

MNF-W

Operations

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces captured 15 suspected terrorists while responding to a complex attack on an Iraqi Army (IA) patrol in Khalidiyah.

A combined security operation in Fallujah captured an IA-identified terrorist and various military uniforms and equipment. Coalition Forces also discovered a weapons cache of mortars and explosives in Fallujah.

Based on a local tip, Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces also detained a wanted terrorist in northeast Fallujah. A raid in

Ramadi captured the leader of a weapons trafficking cell that used garbage trucks to smuggle weapons through security checkpoints.

Six other targeted individuals were captured during raids in Fallujah and Ramadi. Also found were DVDs of executions, protective masks and mortar firing tables.

Coalition and Iraqi Security forces in Musayyib captured an enemy mortar man and mortar tube when the taxi driver he had hired turned him in at a traffic control point.

Two weapons caches were found and cleared in Tal Afar and Fallujah. Caches included rocket propelled grenade rounds, RPG warheads, IED making materials, cell phone, artillery rounds, mortars, rocket, tank rounds, and anti-coalition propaganda.

In western Anbar, Coalition Forces dropped concrete bombs on the Mish Al and Al Bu Hardan Euphrates River pontoon bridges. Both bridges were damaged and will no longer allow vehicular traffic.

Operation Sayaid

Operation Sayaid continues in Rawah and the area west to the Syrian border.

Operation Liberty Express

Operation Liberty Express continued across Anbar Province.

Four weapons caches were found and cleared in Husaybah, Ar Ramadi, Fallujah and Iskandariyah.

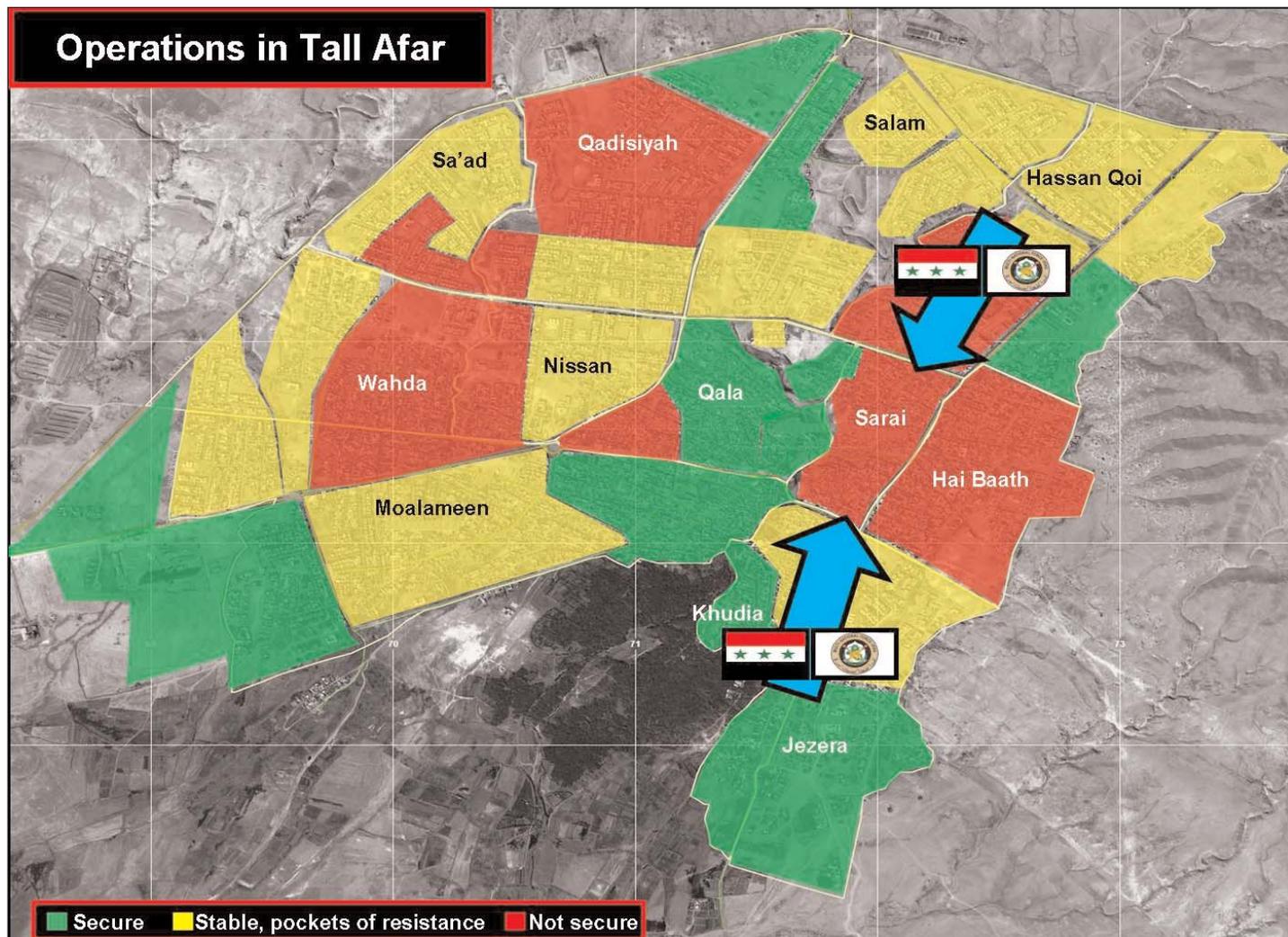
MND-SE

Construction

Construction on the \$412,000 Al Ashaar water project started this week, placing an additional 10,500 linear meters of piping to the existing Al Ashaar water network. Approximately 650 individual homes and 5,000 Iraqis citizens will benefit from the 250,000 gallons of potable water that will be provided per day.

Twenty Iraqis, hired by Iraqi contractor,

See **OPERATIONS**, next page



Operations —

from previous page

Al Zaquar Group, will work on the project, expected to be completed in mid-December.

The \$191,000 Abo Al Kaseb water mains project also broke ground this week. An additional 2,000 linear meters of piping will bring fresh water to approximately 400 individual homes and 3,000 Iraqi citizens.

Twenty Iraqis, hired by Iraqi contractor, Al Zaquar Group, will work on the project, expected to be completed in January 2006.

MND-B

Elements of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade and

U.S. Soldiers from Task Force 1/30 Infantry in Dali Abass, northeast of Baghdad, conducted several time-sensitive raids and cache searches.

The Soldiers assaulted three objectives, capturing five suspected enemy soldiers, weapons and IED-making material and nine 152 mm artillery rounds.

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces found and cleared a VBIED. Four terrorists were also detained. Coalition Forces southeast of the city also captured a female member of a terrorist cell.

MNC-I Operational Summary Sept. 3-10 compiled by Staff Sgt. Julie Nicolov, MNC-I Public Affairs Office.

Greeting of the day



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

Staff Sgt. Steven Rinaldi, the Military Transition Team noncommissioned officer in charge for 3rd Iraqi Army Battalion talks with a boy from Al Hizam village during a presence visit in the Diyala province.



This week in Multi-National Division - Central South

Iraqi sheiks visit, thank Coalition troops

Story and photo by

Lt. Col. Sylwester Michalski

Multi-National Division Central-South
Public Information

CAMP ECHO, AD DIVANIYAH — Twenty Tribal leaders from Babil, Quadisija and Wasit Provinces visited Camp Echo, Ad Divaniyah, at the invitation of Multi-National Division Central-South (MND-CS) Commanding General Maj. Gen. Piotr Czerwinski.

Czerwinski familiarized the Sheiks with MND-CS support given to Iraqi population.

During last two months MND-CS completed about 100 reconstruction projects with total cost \$3.5 million, to support essential needs and to improve the life conditions of people.

The next 55 CIMIC projects will be completed next month.

“Our hearts are open on human misery; our intentions are clear and honest. Thanks to your wisdom and dedication the potential of your land and people living here can successfully develop.

“Share your wisdom with us. Let’s complete the mission together. Prosperity of

Iraqi nation is our joint effort,” said MND-CS commander addressing Tribal leaders.

When the discussion about future cooperation came to the end, one of Sheiks summarized it by stating, “With your support we are living in free country. For many years, no one from us dared even to whisper standing in front of past regime civil servants.

“Now we can freely speak our mind. We’ll never forget your assistance.”

After the discussion about support for reconstruction process, MND-CS leaders introduced the current status of Iraqi Army training which priority of MND-CS mission is.

“We trained 20,000 Iraqi Soldiers so far. They successfully completed about 100 operations, detaining 600 suspicious of terrorism and confiscating more than 500 illegal weapons,” said a MND-CS officer



Maj. Gen. Piotr Czerwinski, commander, Multi-National Division Central-South, escorts Iraqi sheiks during a recent visit to Camp Echo.

responsible for IA training.

As a final point of the visit the guests had also opportunity to observe the training of Iraqi Army.

They were impressed with the dynamic display of antiterrorist action given them by Iraqi 8th Division Soldiers in cooperation with MND-CS air support.

For the first time the 8th Division troops were training with use of MND-CS helicopters.

Polish Soldiers provide water plant in Sarai

Story by Lt. Cdr. Bartosz Zajda

Multi-National Division Central-South
Public Information

Polish Soldiers from 1st Brigade Battle Group provided a new water plant for citizens of Sarai, south of Ad Diwaniyah, providing 2,500 local citizens with potable water.

Local citizens had to use the water directly from a river flowing through town.

“We know how important potable water is for local citizens,” said Maj. Wojciech Trojanowski, chief of CIMIC, 1st Brigade Battle Group, Multi-National Division Central-South (MND-CS).

During the opening ceremony Polish soldiers were welcomed by Iraqi children keeping the white and red flowers as a symbol of



Courtesy Photo

Iraqi children welcomed Polish Soldiers keeping white and red flowers.

Polish national colors. Polish soldiers gave the children as a present, toys, water and candies.

“We would like to give them more. That’s why we asked some institutions in Poland to conduct the next humanitarian assistance actions for Iraqi people,” said Col. Zbigniew Blazewicz, chief of Staff, 1st BCT.

“During the construction of the new water plant, 70 Iraqis found a job. To increase the economical development in Iraq MND-CS, CIMIC implements the projects to employ local Iraqi companies

and workers in the provinces of Qadisayah, Babil and Wasit,” said Col. Wieslaw Mitkowschi, MND-CS G-9 chief, responsible for all MND-CS civil-military cooperation activities.



This week in Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Louisiana National Guard returns to face another battle

Story and photo by
Sgt. W. Watson Martin
214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — The battle is not over for up to a third of the brigade size element of the Louisiana National Guard returning home after an 18-month deployment.

Of the 2,500 troops polled, nearly 800 said they would volunteer to remain on active duty to assist in the recovery efforts wrought by Katrina's destruction of biblical proportions, said Brig. Gen. John P. Basilica, commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

While in Iraq, the 256th operated as part of Task Force Baghdad, which is led by the 3rd Infantry Division. These Soldiers made great strides towards improving the security and rebuilding of Iraq, Basilica said.

Main supply routes have remained open due to their efforts of providing security, clearing improvised explosive devices and patching pot holes. Not only have they repaired roadways, the 256th discovered weapons caches, seized and destroyed car bombs and captured terror suspects, Basilica said. Of the 1,000 suspected insurgents they captured, 500 have been retained at Abu Ghraib prison awaiting trial by the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad.

The seven-mile highway, Route Irish, connecting the International Zone to



Brig. Gen. John P. Basilica, commander of the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

Baghdad International Airport, has had its security greatly improved, said Basilica. The Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq and the 256th BCT trained Iraqi police to man this stretch of highway at the several interchanges to randomly check cars before entering. It plays a secondary role in stopping incoming traffic while convoys pass by.

Even more notably, the 256th helped to train the 1st Iraqi Brigade, which now controls its own individual battle space as part of Task Force Baghdad, he said.

Furthermore, Basilica's Soldiers involved themselves in the 'sweat' projects aimed at restoring sewage, water, electricity and trash services. They also assisted farmers to take delivery of aid in the form of tractors, fertilizers and seeds.

Over 500 of the Louisiana guard members directly affected by the hurricane get to go home as early as possible. The vast majority of the brigade will return home by the end of the month, said Basilica.

School supplies donation kicks off Iraqi school year

By 4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – More than 200 students, teachers and family members attended a humanitarian event sponsored by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers in the Karradah district Aug. 28.

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division distributed various school supplies to the Al-Aman Primary School.

Attendees from 15 different Iraqi schools in the Baghdad area were present at the giveaway.

"We never saw anything like this under the old regime," said Nadhera Abbood Mohammed, a sports teacher at the school.

"Under Saddam, they had many meetings about getting supplies but were told by the government that they would have to get it themselves."



U.S. Army photo by Capt. John Agnello

Spc. Jesse Nadolny, a Civil Affairs Soldier assigned to 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, delivers halal military ration meals to the Al-Aman Primary School in the Karradah district Aug. 28.

Several students who achieved high academic marks were recognized publicly by the Karradah district council chairman, Dr.

Mohammed Al-Rubaie.

These achievers were given special awards which included backpacks full of school supplies donated by U.S. non-profit organizations as well as friends and families of deployed Soldiers.

The remainder of students received a plastic packet containing a large amount of school supplies for the upcoming school year.

"Projects like this assist the communities in Baghdad and the local governments," said Capt. John Agnello, the civil-military operations officer for 4th Bn., 64th Armor Reg.

"We hope that our efforts help the local populace trust their government and as a result, maybe they will give democracy a chance."



This week in Multi-National Division - North Central

Strategic infrastructure battalion Soldiers graduate

Story and photos by the 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR – Approximately 1,080 enlistees from four battalions assigned to defend Iraq's valuable infrastructure graduated from individual enlisted training (IET) Sept. 1 at the Iraqi Army's K1 training facility near Kirkuk.

The graduates were comprised of four platoons from each of three of the Iraqi Army's (IA) Strategic Infrastructure Battalions — the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battal-



A formation bearing the Iraqi colors, passes in review before Iraqi Army commanding officers during the individual enlisted training graduation ceremony.

ions. About 475 Soldiers from the 18th Strategic Infrastructure Battalion (SIB) also graduated.

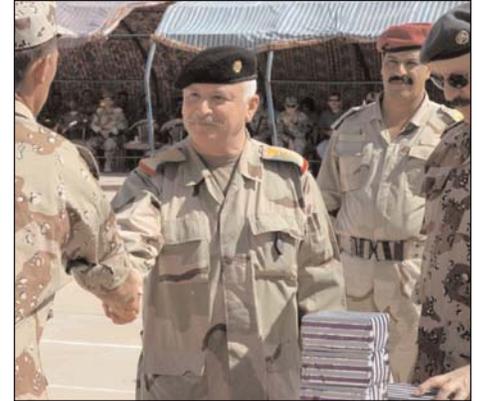
The graduation ceremony attracted an impressive list of distinguished guests from both Iraqi and Coalition Forces including the IA's 4th Division Commander Lt. Gen. Aziz Abdul Al Rahman, the 2nd Brigade Commander Maj. Gen. Anwar Hamed Amin, the 2nd Brigade Executive Officer Brig. Gen. Ayad Mohammed Saleh and Col. Jasim Ali Khalil, the K1 Training Center commander.

Coalition guests included the 116th Brigade Combat Team Commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart and Task Force 1-148 Field Artillery Commander Lt. Col. Russell Johnson.

Kirkuk Provincial Governor Abdulrahman Mustafa also attended and personally recognized the top IET graduate.

"This ceremony represents a milestone in the Iraqi Army's journey to becoming a fully trained and capable force," said Brig. Gen. Gayhart. "As the Iraqi forces continue to fill their ranks with trained soldiers, they are more prepared to defend the new freedoms all Iraqis enjoy."

The hour-long ceremony included



Iraqi Army 4th Division Commander Lt. Gen. Aziz Abdul Al Rahman presents a gift to a distinguished graduate of the individual enlisted training program at the training center near Kirkuk.

music by an IA band, readings from the Koran, a speech by Training Center Commander Col. Khalil, a pass in review, passing of the colors and awards for the top ten graduates.

Helping prepare the Iraqi Army to take full responsibility for the security and stability of the region is part of the 116th BCT's mission while deployed in north central Iraq. The unit's mission also includes assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development and facilitating communications.

Village gets clean water

By 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR — The people of Klaw Qut, Iraq, celebrated the completion of a new well and water storage system Aug. 16, a project made possible through the cooperation of the local government and Coalition Forces.

Klaw Qut is an interior village of 60 families that relied entirely on a dirty, slow moving stream for water. The

Qarah Anjir local government worked with coalition leaders to provide a well, pump house, storage tank, generator and rudimentary network using the Commander's Emergency Relief Program.

"Clean drinking water is a concern for all Iraqis as the government works toward upgrading existing facilities and building new ones," said Capt. Lane Packwood, a company commander with the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 1/148 Field Artillery. "This project pro-



Photo submitted by Task Force 1/148 Field Artillery

The Qarah Anjir local government and Coalition leaders celebrated the completion of this pump house August 16. The pump will provide clean water to about 60 families in Klaw Qut.

vides an immense improvement in the village's quality of life."

Working with Iraqi leaders

to complete critical infrastructure projects is part of the 116th BCT's mission while deployed in north central Iraq.



This week in Multi-National Force - West

Iraqi Army gets closer to working independently

Story and photos by
Pfc. Christopher J. Ohmen
2nd Marine Division

CAMP FALLUJAH — With every week that passes, the members of the Iraqi Army get closer to their goal of operating independently and creating a free Iraq with the help and guidance of the United States Marines.

First Battalion, 4th Brigade of the Iraqi Army, has been working side-by-side with the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment trying to accomplish that objective.

“The Iraqi Army has come a long way



Iraqi Army Soldiers and Marines with 2nd Bn., 2nd Marine Regt. set up security during a halt.



Iraqi Army Soldiers and Marines with 2nd Bn., 2nd Marine Regt. greet the locals of this residence before they ask to search the premises.

since last year, when 2nd Marines were clearing the insurgents out of Fallujah,” said 1st Lt. Nathan P. Dmochowski, the executive officer for Company E. “They take over more responsibilities as the weeks go by.”

The Iraqi Army had been working hand-in-hand with the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines to hone their skills. Now it is time for the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines to combine Marine determination with Iraqi Army knowledge to continue to suppress the insurgency’s ability to fight.

“The group of Iraqi Army we are working with at Camp India are learning very quickly and have no problems taking the lead when we search houses on daily patrols,” Dmochowski stated.

Since the Iraqis of 1/4/1 learned most of the basics from the Marines of 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, tactical integration with the 2nd Marines was easier.

Conducting daily joint patrols (with the Marines) of their areas of operation, the Iraqis seem to get more confident as time goes by. The Marines are working to focus the Iraqi Army effort toward stopping the insurgents.

The Marines’ primary mission is to support the Iraqi Army when they do patrols and other operations throughout this area. They are trying to let the Iraqi Army do as much of the work as possible so they can start doing more and more on their own.

“The Iraqi Army is able to run their own patrols and get their own intelligence about what is going on in the area,” Dmochowski said. “They are working very hard to get everything on their own.”

Lafayette Marine team’s vigilance saves lives

Story and photo by
Cpl. Mike Escobar
2nd Marine Division

FALLUJAH — Whether made of artillery shells or triple-stacked anti-tank mines, insurgent-made improvised explosive devices (IEDs) continue being a leading cause of casualties throughout the country — including innocent civilians.

The members of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, North Carolina-based Marines and Sailors who are conducting counterinsurgency operations in western Iraq’s turbulent Al Anbar province, have themselves suffered four losses at the hands of these terrorist devices.

On the desert battlefield’s frontlines, young men like

Lance Cpl. Robert A. Belaire work to ensure that no more of their fellow warriors perish at the hands of a roadside bomb. For hours on end, this infantryman and his teammates with the battalion’s 2nd Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, observe insurgent activity on a perilous roadway leading into Fallujah.

Since April, Weapons Company personnel have pursued an aggressive campaign to curtail insurgents’ ability to emplace IEDs. As Iraqi Security Forces and the battalion’s infantrymen patrol the city streets and rural surroundings, Marines like Belaire set up



Marines with 2nd Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, 1st Bn., 6th Marine Regt. observe the deserts from their Humvee while manning an observation post.

observation posts to watch for suspicious activity.

Additionally, Marines erect signs along frequently transited routes that warn local residents not to stop there for extended periods of time or set down anything on the side of the road.

Belaire’s 2nd CAAT platoon has stopped several insurgents

from laying explosives throughout several months of roadside vigilance. These Marines would often sit in one spot for up to 16 hours staring out at an unchanging, barren landscape.

“It gets really boring out here, so we usually just talk to each other about anything and everything,” Belaire stated. “We run out of things to talk about after a long day.”

As exhausted and bored as they are after conducting hundreds of these types of missions, the Marines continue realizing the vital role they play in helping secure Iraq.

“When we first got here, there were IEDs being placed all the time,” Belaire said. “Now, we see hardly any. It makes what we do all worth it in the end.”



This week in Multi-National Division - Northeast

Service projects completed in Swere



Villagers of Swere patiently await their turn for medical services.

Zaytun Division's "Green Angel Operations" has worked miracles for yet another village that was in desperate need of service projects. The 4-day project which began on Sept. 3 included reconstruction of the sewage system which flooded whenever it rained, and installation of power generators for lighting in a local elementary school.

On Sept. 6, when reconstruction was completed Zaytun Division's 11th Brigade offered medical services, donations and entertainment for the locals in celebration. The Korean Army will continue to support and give hope to the Iraqi people.



Courtesy photos

The 11th Brigade performs the traditional Korean mask dance during the project completion celebration.



The minister shakes hands with an Iraqi who is taking a course in Zaytun's Vocational Training Center.



Minister of Defense Yoon is greeted by Lt. Gen. John Vines, commander of Multi-National Corps - Iraq on his arrival to Iraq.

Defense Minister of Republic of Korea, Yoon visits MND-NE

Korean Minister of Defense Yoon paid a visit to MND-NE Sept. 5 to encourage Korean troops which faces its first year in Irbil. After being briefed by the command general, Maj. Gen. Jung, the minister remarked, "I am confident and grateful for Zaytun's success in its missions."

Yoon also visited the Vocational Training Center which offers engineering, baking, and computer courses to locals. He later met with KRG president Barzani for talks to discuss reconstruction of the area and cooperation with the local government.



Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

MNSTC-I command changes hands

Story and photos by Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — A year after steering the 1st Armored Division through an Iraq deployment, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey is back to guide the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq in its efforts to train, equip and mentor the Iraqi Security Forces.

Dempsey took command of MNSTC-I and the NATO Training

Mission - Iraq from U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus in a Sept. 8 ceremony in the International Zone's newly-refurbished Cultural Arts Center. Petraeus is on his way to Kansas, where he will assume command of Fort Leavenworth.



MNSTC-I Commander U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey mingles with guests following the change of command ceremony.

The ceremony's reviewing officers, U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of the Multi-National Force - Iraq, and U.S. Navy Adm. Harry G. Ulrich III, commander of the NATO Joint Forces Command - Naples, each praised Petraeus' contributions to the fight and welcomed Dempsey, describing him as a superb leader.

Prior to the change of command ceremony, Casey awarded Petraeus the Defense Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership of MNSTC-I from June 4, 2004 to Sept. 5, 2005.

During that time, Petraeus oversaw a budget of more than \$11.1 billion, and the largest military procurement and distribution effort since World War II during his command, according to his award citation. He is also credited with overseeing the training of more than 100,000 members of the Iraqi Security Forces and a strategy for the development of a future force of more than 344,000. During Petraeus' command, the Iraqi Security Forces received more than 172,000 AK-47 automatic rifles, 163,000 pistols, 8,000 heavy machine guns and 195,000 sets of body armor.



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus

Iraqi military leaders thank transition team troops

Story and photos by Sgt. Lorie Jewell
Multi-National Security Transition
Command - Iraq Public Affairs

FALLUJAH — Leaders of the 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force thanked members of their Coalition Military Transition Team for their service by presenting each team member with Iraq's General Service Medal.

Iraqi Staff Brig. Gen. Abdullah, brigade commander, and his staff presented the medal to 40 U.S. Army soldiers and three U.S. Navy corpsmen in an Aug. 24 ceremony at the brigade's headquarters.

The medal, originally established for British Soldiers serving with the Iraqi Army, was re-established in 1958 for foreign soldiers who serve Iraq's Army. It is believed to be the first time the medal has been awarded to U.S. Soldiers, said MiTT senior leader U.S. Army Lt. Col. Malcom Burr.

Abdullah and his staff sought approval

Iraqi Staff Brig. Gen. Abdullah pins U.S. Army Maj. John Bivona with Iraq's General Service Medal for his service with the 1st Iraqi Intervention Force.



Photo courtesy 4th Brigade MiTTs

from the Ministry of Defense to award the medals. The award citation notes the MiTT's "immeasurable support and assistance" to the brigade and its contributions in building the new Iraqi Army and establishing security and stability in Fallujah and other areas of Iraq.

"They caught us by complete surprise," said Burr. "It showed us that they obvi-

ously care about our support and partnership, and that they know how to work their chain of command."

Burr and his team arrived in Iraq in November, spending their first two weeks at the Kirkush Military Training Base where the brigade's first 700 Soldiers had just completed basic training. They relocated to Fallujah, where the brigade went operational. At its peak, the brigade has boasted close to 3,000 Soldiers, Burr said.

Since then, the brigade has conducted more than 100 convoys, moving more than 25,000 troops. Burr believes they were the first Iraqi brigade to start running unescorted convoys, operating with a single Humvee and Nissan gun trucks. He has nothing but praise for the brigade leaders and Soldiers. "Their hearts are in owning Iraq."



This week in Multi-National Division - South East

RAF firemen train Iraqi fire crash, rescue crews

Sqn. Ldr. Daren Moss
Basrah Press Information Center

BASRAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT — In addition to providing the ongoing airfield crash and fire cover for Basrah International Airport (BIAP), WO Pittock and the 36 Royal Air Force Firemen stationed at BIAP are also undertaking a comprehensive training program for members of the Iraqi Fire Service who will eventually replace them in this crucial task.

Sgt. Al Hadfield, the SNCO IC Training and Implementation (from AFCO Manchester in the UK) is in charge of the training program and is impressed with the progress being made by the ISF — “Although they are experienced firemen, they aren’t used to working with such modern equipment. However, they are an extremely enthusiastic bunch who are clearly delighted to get their hands on kit like the Mercedes Rosenbauer Fire Engines and they are making great progress.”

The Mercedes Rosenbauer Fire Engines, together with associated support equipment have been provided by Multi-National Forces -Iraq (MNF-I) as part of the ongoing SSR programme for Iraq. Seven of these fire-engines will be delivered by October and together



Photos by Cpl. Tony Stinson, Basrah PIC CCT

Sgt. Al Hadfield (AFCO Manchester) and SAC Davies (RAF Brize Norton) train Iraqi Fire Service in dual team tactics such as how to surround a fire.

with their IFS crews will eventually take over from the RAF Firecrews in providing the airfield crash and fire cover for BIAP.

Hadfield and his team began an intensive training program for the IFS Aug. 21. The rate of progress of the IFS has been such that the first IFS crews will start to shadow the RAF crews by Sept. 21. It is envisaged that the first IFS crews will be fully trained and ready to start providing full crash and fire coverage by 1 Dec. allowing the first RAF crews to return to the UK.

This will be an event of mixed emotions for the RAF Firecrews, many of whom have served at Basrah before and have a lot in common with the IFS. As Hadfield explains, “Despite the language barriers there is a growing sense of camaraderie between many of the RAF and Iraqis — we’re all firemen after all — and their have been some genuine friendships formed.”

This program is yet another sign that Iraq is returning to a state of normality, with the Iraqi’s increasingly taking control of their own affairs.

Providing an indigenous fire coverage for BIAP is the next stage in the ongoing development of the airport which saw its first ever civilian International flight on Aug. 22 and now hosts regular flights between various airports in Iraq and Dubai.



SAC Davies (RAF Brize Norton) drills IFS members in how to put down a spray wall. Members of the Iraqi Fire Service put their training into practice.

Two new 11KV underground dedicated feeders from the step down Obaidy substation to the Amari Water Treatment facility were installed to the Obaidy Reservoir. The \$220,000 project, which called for 2,500 meters of insulated cable, was completed in under one month and employed 47 Iraqi workers throughout the project.

Iraqis taking the lead



U.S. Navy Photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Alan D. Monyelle
Iraqi Security Forces searches a vehicle at a security checkpoint in Tall Afar.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Day
Iraqi Army 2nd Brigade Sgt. Maj. raises the Iraqi Colors at a Forward Operating Base Scunion transfer ceremony in the Diyala Province where they took control of the FOB.



Courtesy photo
Two young boys smile as Coalition Soldiers pass by their shop in a marketplace in Ash Sharqat.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Kobi
Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Hasan of the 1st Battalion, 4th Iraqi Public Order Brigade, gives toys to local children during the drop off of humanitarian supplies in the al-Rashid district of Baghdad.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Day
The newly elected mayor of Abu Sayda Taria Najim Abdullah holds a city council meeting with local leaders and sheik Aug. 3.