



(Photo by Pfc. April B. Campbell, 27th PAD)

Thinking Outside of the Box

Jennings, La., native Staff Sgt. Russetta Celestine, Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, shows off her costume, a mail room package, to the judges during a Halloween party costume competition at the Division Morale, Welfare and Recreation Field House at Camp Liberty in western Baghdad, Oct. 27. Celestine won the award for the most creative costume.

Extremist Indirect Fire Attacks Hit Baghdad Residents

Multi-National Division - Baghdad Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – Extremist groups continue to launch rocket and mortar attacks within residential neighborhoods and commercial areas of the Iraqi capital resulting in the deaths of two civilians and wounding of 22 others during the period of Oct. 12 - 26, though there has been an overall reduction in violence against Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and the civilian population during that time.

Despite fewer total indirect fire attacks during the month of October, innocent civilians continue to fall prey from these merciless extremist acts.

"There have been 21 total indirect fire attacks within the Baghdad Security Districts in the last two weeks," said Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl, spokesperson for Multi-National Division Baghdad and the 1st Cavalry Division. "Two-thirds of those attacks have directly affected innocent

Iraqis living in the Iraqi capital."

Fourteen of the 21 attacks have directly affected civilians, as mortars and rockets continue to land within their neighborhoods and commercial areas. Mostly notably, however, a large majority of these attacks have landed in the southern, East and West Rashid Districts of Baghdad.

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces continue to quickly respond to such attacks and seek out those extremist groups responsible. Iraqi Army soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division responded to and investigated a recent launch site in the al-Amil area of West Rashid Oct.25. The quick response helped facilitate a large cache find of 14 Katyusha rocket launchers gathered in a storage building located in the al-Ardon school.

Using Soldiers on the ground and in the air, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have been able to quickly identify the source and origin of these attacks. In a recent attack against Coalition Forces, two extremists

were quickly identified at a rocket launch site in a southern section of Baghdad. Coalition helicopters responded, engaged and killed the two-man rocket team.

"Coalition Forces paired with Iraqi Security Forces and concerned citizens providing security, will continue to work together to investigate groups responsible for these attacks," Bleichwehl said.

"Our joint force is committed to working with the Iraqi people to help develop leads quickly that bring these perpetrators to justice," he added.

Recently, five men were detained when an ambulance they were driving was stopped by Coalition Forces. A search of the vehicle uncovered a 107mm rocket inside the ambulance, beneath one of the terrorists who was pretending to be sick. All five were members of a Shia extremist cell, and their Aug. 16 apprehension led to their conviction by Iraqi criminal courts recently.

All five men have been sentenced to 15 years in Iraqi prison.

Troop Wins Shoot-out with Terrorist in Rashid

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4-1 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – “I think the whole part of being scared and nervous actually helped it along with what the situation was, and I think it played a part in me actually being able to act on what was going on,” Spc. Justin McDaniel said.

He had all the pre-mission jitters. It was natural. He was a little anxious, a little nervous, but he, like his fellow Soldiers in his platoon, his company and throughout Iraq, understood there was a job to be done and they were the ones on tap to do it.

What McDaniel, a team leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colo., didn't know before going into sector was, on this night, those jitters just might save his life.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 20, McDaniel and his platoon leader were clearing a room that was occupied by a terrorist.

The criminal pulled a handgun on McDaniel and fired a round into his side before McDaniel returned fire, killing him.

For his presence of mind, quick reactions, and actions under fire, the Rapid City, S.D., native was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device for



(Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith, 4-1 Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

Col. Ricky D. Gibbs (left), commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, congratulates Spc. Justin McDaniel, a team leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, on receiving the Army Commendation Medal with Valor at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad, Oct. 26.

Valor during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Oct. 26.

For McDaniel, the award was reassurance he did the right thing.

“It let’s me know that I did my job how it’s supposed to be done. It’s a statement saying that this person knew his job and was able

to act under pressure.

“I think it’s something that other people will strive to do, as well,” he said.

As appreciative as he is of receiving the

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Arabic Phrase of the Day
kurat il-qadam
Defined: soccer

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report

	Today	Tomorrow	Wednesday
High:	88	88	87
Low:	65	65	65

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
Editor: Sgt. Jerome Bishop
Staff Writers: Sgt. Mark B. Matthews, Spc. Angel D. Martinez, Spc. Elvyn Nieves and Pfc. April Campbell
Contributing Writers: Sgt. Robert Yde and Pfc. Nathaniel Smith

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

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(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

1st Lt. Chris Gallion, a platoon leader with Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, passes out soccer balls to children at the Harthia Primary School in central Baghdad's Kindi neighborhood Oct. 23.

Tennessee Community Donates Soccer Equipment to School Children

**By Sgt. Robert Yde
2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD – After hearing a presentation from a Tennessee National Guardsman who had recently returned from Iraq about how the future of the country will be in the hands of its children, Richard Kolasheski and others at the American Legion Post 256 in Loudon, Tenn. came away with a new idea for helping Soldiers fighting overseas.

Kolasheski, a retired Army colonel, had taken part in a donation drive for Soldiers about a year earlier, and he wanted to do something similar, but this time with the focus being on young, Iraqi children.

“A lot of people asked, ‘why are you sending things to Iraqi kids?’” he explained about the questions they received when they first started pitching the idea to other people and organizations. “Based on things the National Guard representative said, we did this with the thought of winning the hearts and minds.”

“We wanted the kids to see that there’s a human side to us, and that Soldiers are inter-

ested in kids. Help GIs win the hearts and minds and get home sooner is what we told people,” he said.

Instead of accepting donated goods, Kolasheski said they thought raising money and then buying school supplies in bulk would be much more economical, so the American Legion Post 256, along with assistance from the local Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis and the Tellico Village Community Church began raising funds for the project in January.

“Our idea was that \$25 would support one kid, and most people we approached were willing to support at least one kid,” he said.

While raising money was the focus, they soon received a generous donation of soccer equipment that they couldn’t pass up.

American Soccer Incorporated, which is owned by a friend of one of the Legionaires, donated 1,000 backpacks, 1,000 soccer balls and 5,000 soccer jerseys, and all of a sudden the focus of the campaign to raise money to buy goods for Iraqi school children switched to raising money to ship all of this soccer

equipment.

They eventually raised \$27,000, which gave them not only the money to pay for the shipment of thousands of pounds of equipment, but also to accomplish their original plan of buying and donating school supplies.

Everything was sent at the end of June in two shipments: one going to Kolasheski’s son, who is a battalion commander with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and the other going to his son-in-law, Maj. Christopher Norrie’s, unit, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Norrie, who is originally from Barton, Vt., said that once the donated items were on their way, the only thing left to do was select a school to distribute them at, and so the squadron’s leadership approached the local Iraqi leaders in their area of operations and decided on donating the items to the students at Harthia Primary School.

“They picked that particular school

Harthia School Children Receive New Gifts

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because those are probably the most impoverished children in our area of operations and they don't have a lot to look forward to," he said.

So with everything set, the soccer equipment and school supplies were delivered by Soldiers from Company E, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, which is attached to 4-9 Cav.; D, Forward Support Company, 4-9 Cav.; and the 4th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, Oct. 23.

The Soldiers went from classroom to classroom, first handing out the backpacks and then the soccer balls and jerseys to the schools 570 students, who range in age from six to 12.

"The students are very happy to get this backpacks and it brings smiles to their faces," the school's headmaster, Faten Shehab Ahmed.

She said that the teachers were just as happy to receive the school supplies as the kids were to receive to the soccer equipment, and that she hopes to continue her school's partnership with the Coalition Forces.

Norrie said that the day after the backpack drop, leaders in Harthia continued to call the squadron to thank them for the donations; however, Norrie was quick to note that the real thanks should be directed toward the residents of Loudon, Tenn.

"To sit there with an idea, and then translate that idea into what it became, is something requires a lot of talent, a lot of effort, a lot of hard work and dedication, and there's a whole group of folks back there who put all of that together," he said.

"To know that, not having been asked, and not needing to do it, a group of citizens back in the United States, raised their hands and said I would love to help and they did everything that they could to do just that over the last few months, and it was a pretty wonderful way to help."



(U.S. Army photo)

Spc. Justin McDaniel, a team leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, displays the bruise from a round that struck his side while on a mission in southern Baghdad, Oct. 20.

Shot, Soldier Takes Out Insurgent

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award, the Soldier was not concerned about medals at the time of the incident.

"When I first got shot, I was scared," he recalled. "When I actually figured out I was shot, I thought it was a whole lot more serious. There was just a burning sensation in my side. I thought the round had actually

gone into my flesh. I'm really thankful it didn't."

Capt. Jim Keirse, the commander of Co. B, 2-12 Inf. from Highland Falls, N.Y., said McDaniel's actions that morning were not a surprise.

"It's comforting knowing we've got high-quality human beings like him out there, positively identifying and neutralizing threats without hesitation," he said.

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