

# The Daily Roar

VOL. 1, NO. 31

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION - BAGHDAD

JANUARY 23, 2008

## Taji Media Center opens

**Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti**

*2nd Stryker BCT PAO*

TAJI, IRAQ — The ribbon was cut on Taji's Mass Media Center Jan. 13 opening the doors to a free, democratic press for the qada.

The opening of the Media Center was "a big step forward for the Taji Qada," said Anchorage, Alaska native Col. Mike Bridges, deputy team leader, embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, Baghdad 5.

"This is the first of the six rural quadas around Baghdad to advance in their new local government program, a democratic, transparent local government," he said.

This project was part of the local government program, in which the U.S. military units and the ePRT began a mentorship program as well as a democratic government development program with the local council.

Bridges said at first only a few people dared to attend when the mentorship program began last spring.

"It was still too dangerous for them at that point," Bridges said, "but as we continued to work through the summer and reconciliation facilitated security."

The goal of the media center, Bridges explained, is to give the people the resources under what the U.S. considers a free democratic press, starting with the government but for the overall community to share information.

The newly-opened media center will allow the people of Taji to do their own primary news, weather, sports and entertainment.

"(Under the rule of Saddam Hussein) it was Saddam all the time," Bridges said. "Now it is going to be the people of Taji all the time."

This will bring the people of Taji hope, said Ali Abeb, chairman of the Taji Education Board through a translator.

Abeb went on to explain his hope of hiring more people in the future to expand the reach of Taji's new media center.

The center currently has five employees who will be responsible for writing, producing and distributing the

"news of the people," Abeb said.

"This is a great achievement for us," he said.



by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti, 2nd Stryker BCT PAO

Bryant, Texas native 1st Lt. Mareo Montoya delivers newspapers to the Mass Media Center in Taji Town.



by Capt. Janet Thomas, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

### Meet and greet

Omaha, Neb., native Capt. Matthew Jensen, from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, talks to a shop owner during a population engagement patrol in Husseiniya, Iraq, Jan. 19. The townspeople spoke openly with Jensen and other Silver Lions' Soldiers about essential services issues. While electricity and sewage continue to be a problem, the people said their area was secure. The townspeople recently commemorated Ashura, a religious observance, in peace.



The Player of the Day Award is presented to Staff Sgt. Richard Day for outstanding performance as the DIVENG Operations Sergeant. Day supervised the nightly staffing and management of shift personnel in the Division Command Center. His dedication to duty and ability to adapt quickly make him today's 4th Inf. Div. Player of the Day.

### Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

**Wednesday**  
Chance of rain  
HI: 44F/7C  
LO: 35F/2C



**Thursday**  
Partly cloudy  
HI: 53F/12C  
LO: 37F/3C



**Friday**  
Clear  
HI: 57F/14C  
LO: 37F/3C



## The Daily Roar

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# Armorer's course graduates thirty

by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons,  
4IBCT PAO, 1Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD – More than 30, “shurta” or Iraqi National Policemen graduated from the Armorer’s Maintenance Course in a ceremony held at Joint Security Station Jazeera, in eastern Doura, Jan. 19.

The course, which taught the shurta how to maintain an AK-47 and how to properly organize an arms room, was instructed by members of Company B, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., and the 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division National Police Transition Team.

“We thank all who participates in these courses and helps its successes,” said Iraqi Brig. Gen. Karim, 7th Bde., 2nd NP commander, to his troops during the ceremony. “A few months ago, we passed through a very hard situation in fighting Al Qaeda criminals, and some of our weapons and vehicles were destroyed. However, we can say that we improved the security by 80-90 percent in this district, and that required maintaining our weapons, cleaning our guns and vehicles, and organizing our bases.

“My brothers, by maintaining and repairing our weapons, training and organizing our bases, we could fight.”

Not only did he praise his policemen, but he thanked Coalition Forces for helping them.

“However, my brothers, you know our limited capabilities, and the Coalition Forces are the ones who are helping us and supporting us with these courses,” he said. “They help us in fighting and training and I thank them in your name for helping us in our missions.

“I advise you, when you return to your units to transfer this training to your soldiers: organize the problems, maintain your weapons, and open records. Through this organization, training and care, you can achieve success and strength and keep the success.”

Those who taught the course agreed it was necessary.

“This course is very important,” said New York City native, Pfc. Jose Molina, a 25-year-old small arms

repairman with Co. B, one of the instructors during the course. “It helps get them up to speed. We taught them how to maintain their weapons and arms room safely.”

The other instructor for the course said he agreed with Molina.

“It is very important,” said Syracuse, N.Y. native Staff Sgt. William Brewster, an armament maintenance supervisor with Co. B. “First we want to help them keep track of their weapons, second to help them organize the arms room and also how to properly clean their weapons.”

Brewster said the students were fairly attentive and most could recite almost verbatim what was taught, but the best part of teaching the course for him was the graduation ceremony.

“It was really special seeing the looks on their faces when they received their certificates,” the father of two said.



by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Timmons, 4IBCT, 11D

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Karim, commander of 7th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division, gives Syracuse, N.Y. native Staff Sgt. William Brewster, an armament maintenance supervisor with Company B, 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a certificate of appreciation for running a three-day Armorer’s Maintenance Course