



Spartan Chronicle

pointing out the weekly news from the 2nd BCT

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Grand grand opening for bazaar

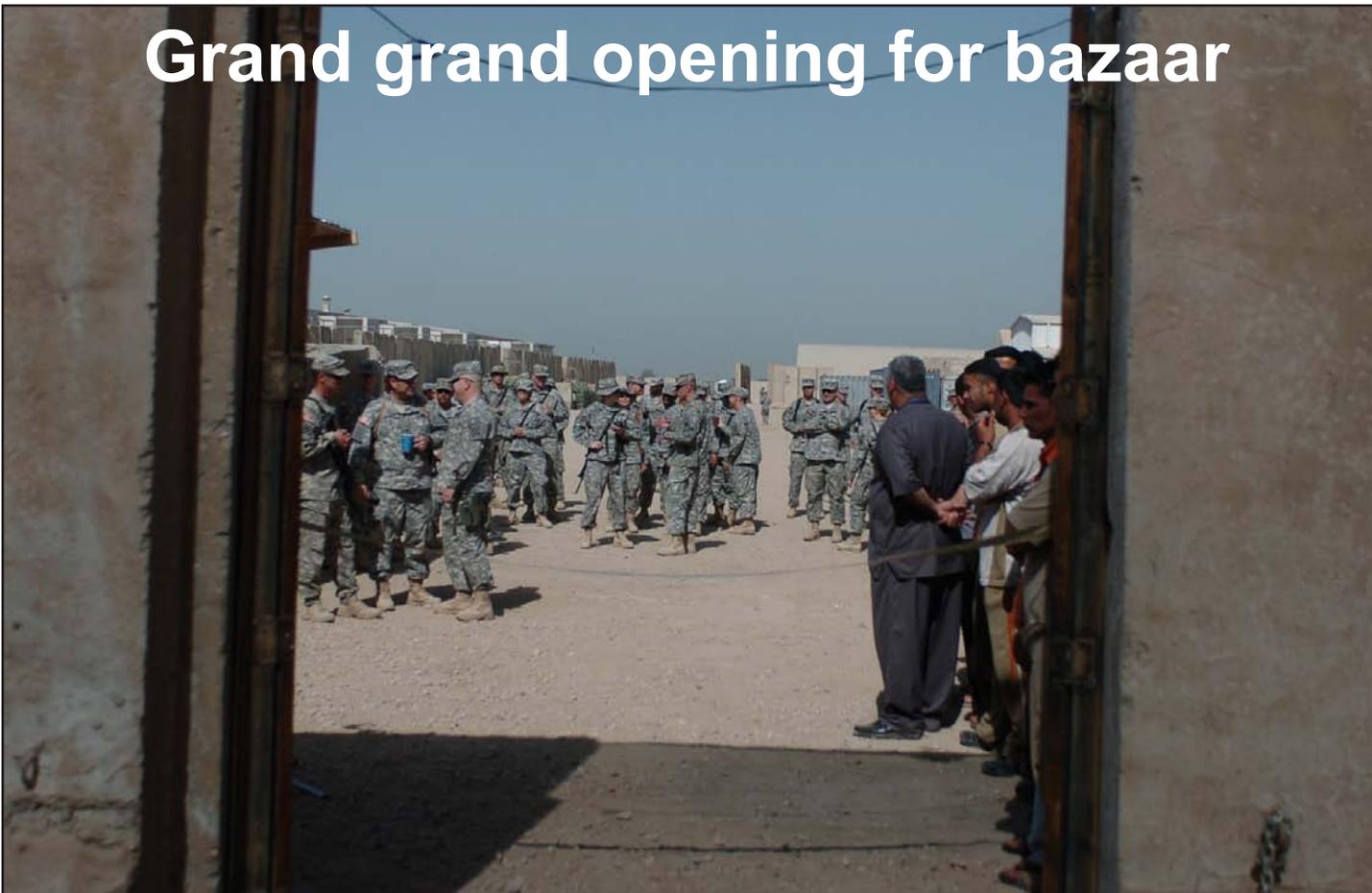


Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

The Forward Operating Base Kalsu local bazaar reopened March 20 after being relocated to a new part of the base. The new move will benefit both Soldiers and shopowners, as the shops are located in a more convenient area. See page 14 for the story.



Baghdad official visits 2nd BCT

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Soldiers give boy new leg

- page 8



Runners race for gold on green day

- page 12





Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Community leaders of Arab Jabour, Sobhy Al-Mashhadani, Baghdad province's rural services committee chairman (second from left), Government of Iraq officials and Coalition forces tour Arab Jabour and celebrate the grand opening of Yusifiyah Pump House 1 March 13.

Baghdad chairman visits 2nd BCT AO

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

Baghdad province's rural services committee chairman visited leaders from three rural farming communities in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team area of operations March 13.

The communities of Sayafiyah, Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab conveyed the same message to

Chairman Sobhy al Mashhadani – streets are safer and local leaders are willing to work with the Government of Iraq to receive assistance for infrastructure projects.

At the first stop, Mashhadani spoke at a meeting with sheikhs from the community of Sayafiyah, located on the western bank of the Tigris River.

Mashhadani's second stop was

a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Yusifiyah Pump Station 1, in Arab Jabour.

After their arrival in June, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, set to work securing Arab Jabour and assisting with rebuilding the area's critical infrastructure. One of the area's most important projects was

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1st Lt. Kalen Smith
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Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
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the repair and refurbishment of Yusifiyah Water Pump Station 1.

With the majority of Arab Jabour residents dependent on water to keep their farms running, the three remaining functional pumps barely provided enough water to keep its canal system full.

Avoiding bureaucratic delays, Coalition forces worked directly with the Ministry of Irrigation and hired contractors to deliver, repair and emplace the new pumps. Nine of the 12 pumps were open at the time of the ribbon cutting.

The chairman also visited Patrol Base Hawkes and met with Rashid District's Iraqi Police Chief, Lt. Col. Muhammed, who was conducting the last day of a four-day IP recruiting drive. The drive was the first-ever for the region. Mashhadani's last stop was Hawr Rajab, where he met students at the Village of Hope, a vocational school designed to train citizens in the basics of construction.

He spoke to the group of more than 50 students to reinforce the importance of self-sufficiency and reconstruction.

While in Hawr Rajab,



Photos by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Community leaders of Arab Jabour, Government of Iraq officials and Coalition forces (not pictured) celebrate the grand opening of Yusifiyah Pump House 1 in Arab Jabour March 13. Only nine of the twelve pumps function at one time to avoid overflowing the area's canal systems.

Mashhadani also toured a school in session and a school and medical clinic in their final days of reconstruction. Though the school and clinic are being renovated with Coalition funds, plans are in the works to have the Ministries of Education and Health staff the facilities.

Though these rural communities have tribal and community leaders who cooperate with Coalition

forces to take care of security and emergency relief projects, many of the rural communities lack official representation from the GoI.

Hussein Shaho, bilingual, bicultural adviser with the Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, said larger councils such as the Rashid District council, which is responsible for many of the communities in the 2nd BCT area of operations, are making strides establishing ties with sheikhs and tribal leaders.

Prior to the arrival of the 2nd BCT, Shaho said the Rashid District council was unable to reach residents in the area south of Baghdad because of al-Qaeda's overwhelming presence in the area.

In a display of solidarity with the people of the farming communities, Mashhadani's message was that the fledgling community governance councils do matter and they would have a voice.



Sobhy Al-Mashhadani, Baghdad province's rural services committee chairman, addresses a crowd of Sayafiyah community leaders during his visit.



Courtesy photo

Women from Adwaniyah and Hawr Rajab distribute clothing March 11 to children of Sons of Iraq killed during the fight against insurgents to secure the town of Adwaniyah.

Towns take care of Iraq children, widows

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
6-8 Cavalry Regiment

On March 11, U.S. Soldiers, local leaders and women's representatives showed support through gifts of clothing for widows and children of Sons of Iraq who sacrificed for their country.

The drive was led by Soldiers from 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, currently attached to the

2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. They were joined by Adwaniyah town council leaders, the Adwaniyah town council women's representative and the Hawr Rajab town council women's committee.

Like the U.S. and Iraqi Army troops who helped secure Adwaniyah from insurgents in late 2007, the SoI sacrificed greatly to bring peace to their community. Many of the volunteers paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Though the sacrifices were for a brighter future, many families were left without their primary source of income. Widows were left to provide for themselves or rely on assistance from extended family to survive.

The widows gathered at the Adwaniyah southern elementary school to receive the gifts of clothing. Following the distribution, the women of Adwaniyah and Hawr Rajab attended

a luncheon to get to know each other and discuss issues affecting children and widows in both towns.

The Adwaniyah women picked up tips on how to form their own women's council modeled after Hawr Rajab's recently-formed women's committee.

"The women in this area are very determined to build their communities back into

See WIDOWS page 5

areas where they can feel safe, find employment and send their children to school,” said 1st Lt. Cynthia Peters, 6-8th Cav. Regt. women’s affairs representative.

The organization will give women a more powerful voice in their community and build on their sacrifices and hard work, said Hazim Shaker Ahmed, Adwaniyah town council leader.

Ahmed praised the women, saying that by staying in Adwaniyah

during the fight to secure their town, they provided support, strength and motivation for their husbands combating insurgents.

Peters, a native of Huntington, Ind., said the women’s efforts are essential.

“They take much initiative on their own and are willing to put in the hard work that it will take to bring back the displaced families and enhance their lives,” she said.

“The women in this area are very determined to build their communities back into areas where they can feel safe, find employment and send their children to school.”

- 1st Lt. Cynthia Peters
6-8 Cav. Reg. Women’s Affairs Representative



Courtesy photos
Above: A young girl looks at a dress provided by the women of Adwaniyah and Hawr Rajab, community leaders and Coalition forces March 11 at the Adwaniyah southern elementary school. The groups got together to provide assistance to widows of Sons of Iraq killed while securing the area.



Left: Ladies from the towns of Adwaniyah and Hawr Rajab gather March 11 at the Adwaniyah southern elementary school to discuss forming a women’s committee in Adwaniyah.

Farmers union comes through for Arab Jabour

Unit Public Affairs Representative
1-30th Infantry Regiment

Farms in Arab Jabour will soon receive an economic boost from fertilizer distributed by the Arab Jabour farmers union.

With money provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development and Coalition forces, the farmers purchased 40 tons of fertilizer and delivered the goods to needy farmers.

The union recognized that many farmers in the area were unable to get basic supplies needed to plant and grow crops.

In the past, lack of irrigation water and difficulty getting seeds and fertilizer made it tough to grow crops worthy of selling at market.

“Our mission is to help these people recover from what al-Qaeda has done to them. This is their livelihood we have begun helping them rebuild,” said 1st Lt. Timothy J. Williams, from Palm Bay, Fla., executive officer for Company C, 1-30th Inf. Regt.

Though Coalition forces will continue to make contributions to



Courtesy photo

Members of the Arab Jabour farmers union unload bags of fertilizer from a truck to deliver to residents of Arab Jabour March 6.

jump-start the region’s agricultural economy, they are only filling a void while the Government of Iraq mobilizes its ministries and pushes assistance to areas hardest hit by al-Qaeda in Iraq.

During a recent visit, Sobhy Mashhadani, Baghdad province rural services committee chairman, told Arab Jabour leaders that the GoI would visit rural areas in the coming weeks to conduct

assessments and jump-start projects.

In the meantime, Arab Jabour leaders will make the effort necessary to raise high-quality crops to sell at market.

“This is hard work, but it is for the future of my family, for the community,” said Hussein Abaidi Mohammed, farmers union representative for the village of al Amenia.

Safety Alert - Hydration

Signs & Symptoms:

- Dry, sticky mouth.
- Thirst.
- Muscle weakness or cramps.
- Headache.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness.
- Irritability and confusion.
- Lack of sweating.
- Little to no urination (dark yellow color).

Preventative Actions:

- Do not wait until you are thirsty to drink,

it may be too late.

- Drink enough water, less than 1 quart hourly and no more than 12 quarts a day. Overhydration can be just as fatal.
- Examine your urine (Should be clear to light yellow).
- Eat meals to replace salt that have evaporated through sweating. Sport drinks can also replace electrolytes.
- Don’t drink too much coffee, soda, or fruit juices. (They can be high in sugar and can slow fluid absorption.)
- Do drink even more fluids when working out and taking dietary

supplements.

- Remind your buddy to hydrate.



Temperatures are starting to rise. Be sure to increase the amount of fluids you take in to avoid heat injuries

Soldiers link NGO, child needing surgery

Unit Public Affairs Representative
1-30th Infantry Regiment

A young girl and her family are anxiously awaiting a decision from an organization in Los Angeles to determine the fate of her eyesight.

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, escorted 5-year-old Noor to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad March 14 to have her eyes evaluated by an optometrist.

The medical evaluation done in Iraq will give doctors almost 8,000 miles away the information they need to determine whether they'll perform the surgery.

Initial diagnosis by Lt. Col. Hee-Choon Lee, battalion surgeon for the 1-30th Inf. Reg., found that Noor was blind due to a birth defect which resulted in poorly-developed corneas in both her eyes. Her 32-year-old uncle Mustafa also suffers from the same defect.

The information from Noor's medical appointment will be evaluated by doctors from the Eye Defects Research Foundation, a non-governmental organization in Los Angeles. The foundation will make a decision on whether



Courtesy photos

Capt. Angie M. Pruitt, doctor of optometry with the 24th Medical Detachment, currently assigned to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, examines the eyes of Noor Taha Najee March 14. Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, escorted 5-year-old Noor to the 86th CSH for the exam and are assisting with the process of getting her surgery to correct her blindness.

or not she is a viable candidate for surgery and where the surgery would take place.

Lee said if representatives from the foundation can find other patients to operate on in Iraq then a trip could be organized. If not, then Coalition forces would work to have the young child and her

family taken to Los Angeles to have the surgery done.

While her uncle is also being evaluated as a candidate for surgery, his case requires more caution. Lee said because he is an adult, his eyes might not heal as easily as those of his young niece.

"I think Noor's left eye has a lot of hope. Her right eye may not be a good candidate because it is too small," said Lee, a native of Lorton, Va., "All the (ultrasound) pictures were sent up and we're waiting."

In a study of corneal transplants success in pediatric patients done by Emory University, the success rate in the best of circumstances was only 50 percent.

"We are all working towards getting this young girl the gift of sight," Lee said.



Blind since birth, Najee stands with her father, Taha, and two siblings in their home in Al Buaytha, south of Baghdad, Feb. 10.

Soldiers help boy get prosthetic leg

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
1-30th Infantry Regiment

A 10-year-old boy from Arab Jabour was doing chores near his home along the Tigris River when he stepped on an improvised explosive device Nov. 18.

Abdul Razak Ra'ad Mutter Al Jabouri lost his right arm and leg and was nearly killed in the blast. Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, rushed to his aid and had Abdul taken to the Ibn Sina hospital in the International Zone, run by the 86th Combat Support Hospital.

Now, three and a half months later, Abdul is walking again with the help of a prosthetic leg.

Abdul was released from the hospital two weeks after the IED exploded. Arab Jabour had very few options for medical care, leaving little hope for Abdul and his road to recovery.

To get Abdul the help he needed, the same Company A Soldiers helped transport him and his family to numerous appointments in Baghdad to get him fitted for a prosthetic leg.

"It is a great thing for us to be able to help Abdul recuperate and



Courtesy photos

Sgt. David Tenorio, Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, pushes Abdul Razak al Jabouri for the last time. Abdul received a prosthetic leg March 15 at the Ibn Sina hospital in the International Zone (below).

return to a somewhat normal life," said 1st Lt. Charley Staab, from Novi, Mich., a platoon leader in Company A and the first on the scene when Abdul was injured.

The Soldiers took Abdul and his family to Baghdad March 15 for the prosthetic leg.

"It's rewarding to see some good come from such a tragedy," said Cpl. Todd Smith, from Lubbock, Texas, Company A.

Sgt. David Ipock said protecting civilians inspires him to work hard so Iraqis can have a life



without terrorism.

"It's what motivates you to stay vigilant the most, to prevent more loss of life and limb," the Greenville, N.C., native said.

For Abdul, getting the prosthetic leg is only half of his recovery process. He will make another trip to Baghdad in the coming weeks for his prosthetic arm.



Courtesy photo

A teacher arrives back to work at the Al Alemlia school in Arab Jabour on March 16. The school was closed for eight months due to insurgent activities, but thanks to combined operations between Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, and the Sons of Iraq in the area, the school was cleared. Currently 53 children and six teachers are using the school.

Al Alemlia school reopens in Arab Jabour

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
1-30th Infantry Regiment

On March 16, Sons of Iraq and school administrators re-opened Al Alemlia School in Arab Jabour.

The school, which was closed for the past eight months, was once used by insurgents as a base of operations before a joint effort between Soldiers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, and the Sons of Iraq in the area, cleared the school of insurgents.

The SoI took the lead in the operation, with Coalition forces providing support, said 3rd platoon, platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class David Snyder.

Snyder, of Midwest City, Okla.,

said the SoI played a major role in clearing the school on March 7. Besides removing debris, the SoI also removed one 105 mm round filled with homemade explosives.

In the coming weeks, a local contractor will be hired to conduct repairs on the school, to include painting, restoring electricity and building a playground.

Currently, nine of the 14 classrooms in the school are being used by the six teachers, who teach 53 students.

The reestablishing of schools and the education system will help meet the 1-30th's desire to see Arab Jabour return to a thriving community before redeploying, said Capt. William Lyles, 1-

30th Inf. Reg. battle captain, of Hampton, Va.

It is a goal, that with the recent gains in reestablishing essential services, such as the opening of the Yusifiyah pump station and electrical grid repair, compiled with the growth of small businesses due to micro grants provided to local business owners by the Baghdad 7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, attached to the 2nd BCT, that is starting to come into view.

“Basically if the Iraqis take charge it will be successful,” Snyder said. “If everyone in the country was like these guys (the people working with his unit) we’d all be home.”



Photo by Spc. Rafael Karan

A member of the Iraqi Army watches over Sons of Iraq during weapons maintenance at Coalition Outpost 308 in al-Adhamiyah. The Sols are helping augment security in their respective neighborhoods and are being trained by Coalition forces, working alongside them and the IA.

Gary Owen Soldiers see improvement

Spc. Clay White
3-7 Cavalry Regiment

Al-Adhamiyah was once thought of as one of the most dangerous places in Baghdad. Now it is cited as a glowing vindication of the surge strategy.

“To ensure that the situation does not ‘revert’ to its former infamy once the 3-7 Cav. leaves, the main goal is to put more Iraqi faces in charge of security,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Broadwater, 3rd

Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, commander.

An answer to increasing Iraqi security on the ground has been found by implementing a trend widely adopted in many other sectors of Iraq, said 2nd Lt. Brian Smith.

“We call them the Sons of Iraq,” he said, “They are security volunteers drawn from the local citizenry who are tired of the rampant depravity and violence

that the insurgency has brought to their streets.”

Smith said the Sol program is currently under Coalition supervision, with U.S. military personnel overseeing the recruitment, organization and logistical support of the “neighborhood watch,” in partnership with Iraqi Army, who conducts the training.

See IMPROVEMENT page 11

“The Iraqi Army gives them a four-day course that is much like an abbreviated basic training,” said 1st Lt. Matt Jensen, a platoon leader with Troop A. “This is where they are taught basic rifle marksmanship and how to safely operate and handle an automatic rifle.”

He adds most “pick it up fairly quickly seeing that many of them are prior Iraqi Army.” They are also trained how to search vehicles, people and what to look for when involved in a search.

SoI members also receive two-day refresher courses in the areas they were initially drilled on.

“Just like American Soldiers, those skills need to be kept sharp,” Jensen said. “Everything we do must eventually be transferred into the hands of Iraqi forces.”

It is the goal of the program to eventually incorporate the SoI into already-established Iraqi government law enforcement groups, Karan said.

A project is now under way to incorporate many of the current SOI members into Iraqi Police, with hundreds of applications already submitted to the local Iraqi Police command for review. The hope is that most will eventually be accepted into the force, leaving Adhamiyah with a police force that will be a part of the national government and also remains a part of the communities they are policing.

For now though, each SoI group is organized by their respective neighborhood and are tasked with defending it against violence.

“We’ll stick them on fixed sites



Photo by Spc. Rafael Karan

A member of the Iraqi Army watches over Sons of Iraq conduct weapons maintenance at Coalition Outpost 308 in al-Adhamiyah.

like check points throughout the city,” said Spc. Rafael Karan, a cavalry scout in Troop A. “The key is for them to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior and people in their neighborhoods.”

“They know what’s going on,” said Jensen. “With them we have eyes on the ground 24-hours a day. This is their neighborhood; they know who is supposed to be here and who isn’t. It is much easier for them to identify terrorists than us.”

Jensen also said they are great at identifying suspicious persons, gaining information on improvised explosive devices, weapons caches, and intelligence on suspects actively being pursued by Coalition forces.

“The people police themselves; that’s the concept at the heart of it,” said Sgt. Chris Hughes, Troop A. “The people are comfortable with them. Many times they know them, are friends or even relatives.”

The trust can be seen in the community, Hughes said. In the previous seven months, he

estimates at least 40 percent of the homes were abandoned by people who had fled the country or were afraid to even go out even to nearby markets.

“Everything was abandoned. There was a large sniper and deep-buried improvised explosive device threat. Windows were boarded up and entire blocks were almost vacant,” Hughes said.

Now he said the place has taken on a renewed vigor. The markets are full every day, businesses have opened back up and there has been a large influx of residents returning to their homes.

The deep-buried IED and sniper threat has plummeted and the security situation which once looked so desperate has dramatically improved.

“Things have been pretty calm for awhile and the quality of these people’s lives has improved,” Hughes said. “That’s how we want it to stay. The insurgents have been denied a strategic point of operation.”

SPORTS & GAMES

Soldier race St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Shuffle

Spartan Staff
2nd BCT PAO

Soldiers lined up to show their St. Patrick Day Spirit on Forward Operating Kalsu March 17 by doing the Shamrock Shuffle.

Despite having a 10 km run ahead of them, many Soldiers opted to run in St. Patrick Day apparel, ranging from green top hats, shamrock antennae and even one wore a cape.

Soldiers who were

quick in their respective age groups and gender also got medals to add to their green attire, although everyone walked away a winner with a free T-shirt designed by Sgt. Richard Reilly, 2nd Brigade Combat Team legal office.

Two lucky Soldiers also got to walk away with an Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card for finding a green shamrock card on the course.



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Three Soldiers stretch out before the race, all decked out in holiday apparel. The St. Patrick 10-km Shamrock Shuffle was a Morale, Welfare and Recreation event designed to provide Soldiers a way to go out and have a good time and compete against their fellow comrades.





Staff Sgt. Darcy Snyder and Sgt. Lara Brown (left to right), both got into the festive spirit at the beginning of the race, wearing beads and antennae. Even three miles into the race couldn't dampen the duo's spirits (right).
 Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky



Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team pose for a group photo shot after the St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Shuffle 10-km run. All participants received a free T-shirt, designed by fellow 2nd BCT Soldier Sgt. Richard Reilly, legal office, and three of the 2nd BCT runners won medals for their efforts: Maj. James Wilburn, Lt. Col Mark Weinerth and Capt. Quinalin Green.



Capt. Sarah Davidson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, crosses the finish line. She was the first female to finish, with a time of 42:12.

Age Group	Gender	Medal	Name	Unit	Time
17-27	Male	Gold	1st Lt. Ryan Fisher	760th EOD	37:53
17-27	Male	Silver	Spc. Lewis Maldonado	A, 703rd BSB	41:03
17-27	Male	Bronze	Spc. Travis Parillo	B, 5-7 CAV	41:57
28-38	Male	Gold	Capt. Jose Moreno	B, 4-3 BSTB	37:53
28-38	Male	Silver	Maj. James Wilburn	HHC, 2BCT	39:12
28-38	Male	Bronze	1st Lt. Randy Heath	F, 2-502nd	41:58
39+	Male	Gold	Sgt. 1st Class Lorencio Chinnery	1-76 FA	41:32
39+	Male	Silver	1st Sgt. John Bosley	UAV	42:48
39+	Male	Bronze	Lt. Col. Mark Weinerth	HHC, 26 BSB	44:44
17-27	Female	Gold	Capt. Sarah Davidson	HHC, 703rd BSB	42:12
17-27	Female	Silver	1st Lt. Sarah Roberts	A Det, 8th FIN	44:58
17-27	Female	Bronze	Capt. Quinalin Green	HHC, 26 BSB	46:55
28-38	Female	Gold	Senior Airman Honey Brookover	732nd CSC	48:06
28-38	Female	Silver	Capt. Kathy Wynkoop	C, 703rd BSB	48:48
28-38	Female	Bronze	Staff Sgt. Erica Gordon	HHC, 703rd BSB	53:54
39+	Female	Gold	Lt. Col. Karen Peterson	732nd CSC	56:57
39+	Female	Silver	Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Stone	C, 2-3 AVN	1:05:40
39+	Female	Bronze	Maj. Elvira Brown	B, 415th CA	1:35:01



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Soldiers shop at the new location of the Forward Operating Base Kalsu local Bazaar March 22. The bazaar was relocated closer to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. The move will make the bazaar more accessible to Soldiers and help increase business for the vendors, seen below at right under the bazaar's new sign.

Kalsu local bazaar relocated, reopened

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

It was a bazaar day March 22 at Forward Operating Kalsu, although events that took place then weren't out of the ordinary.

After two months of work, the Iraqi bazaar was relocated to a new location closer to the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center and dining facility.

The decision to move the bazaar was made based on security concerns, said Lt. Col. John Chadbourne, commander, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Chadbourne, whose Soldiers are in charge of base defense, said the large concentration of people in its former location could cause potential security issues. The commotion caused by the gathering could also distract guards at the gate or hinder their ability to do their job.

The new move will also benefit Soldiers by placing the market in a higher traffic area. "It is closer to where the Soldiers are, more accessible," said Chadbourne of Fort Stewart, Ga.

The closeness will also help the



See BAZAAR page 15

local vendors, who are expected to see a surge of business from their new location.

The area is less congested, with each vendor having their own self contained stand. “There’s a lot more space. It’s cleaner too,” said Sgt. Orlando Debrick, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd BSB, repairs and utilities sergeant.

Debrick, of Greenville, Md., was one of the ten-Soldier detail that helped build the new location, and was recognized by the brigade commander, Col. Thomas James for his efforts.

Also honored was Sgt. 1st Class Andy Anderson, platoon sergeant, Security Platoon, HHC, 703rd BSB, who created the entrance sign for the bazaar based on images he had seen during his tour.

“It was the cherry on top of the cake,” said the Springfield, Ill. native and self-described jack-of-all trades.

The talents of the two may be put to use again in several



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Soldiers browse through the Forward Operating Base Kalsu local Bazaar March 22. The bazaar was reopened March 22 in a new location closer to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. The move will make the bazaar more accessible to Soldiers and help increase business for the vendors.

additional upcoming projects.

Chadbourne said plans are currently underway to construct a distance learning center where Soldiers can get more time to work on computers for online college classes. The center will host computers and work stations to facilitate students. Students using

the computers for college will have a two-hour time limit instead of 30 minutes like the MWR-run computer centers.

A Greenbeans coffee shop is currently being constructed as well. “I think this is going to be a great thing for all the Soldiers,” Chadbourne said of the Kalsu



Col. John Chadbourne, commander, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, receives a gift from some of the Iraqi vendors for having his Soldiers build the new bazaar for them at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu. The bazaar was opened March 22 after a ribbon cutting ceremony. Refreshments were provided inside (right) for all the guests. The new bazaar is one of many improvements being made on the base to improve Soldier quality of life.

Kalsu Idol rocks Soldiers, rolls on

Spartan Staff
2nd BCT PAO

The remaining five contestants in the Forward Operating Base Kalsu Idol competition took a stab at the rock and roll genre March 16 in the fifth week of the competition.

Next competition, the contestants will see who makes the grade and go on to sing country music. Contestants who make the cut will continue to the second to last show, where they will have their choice of genre.

Keep reading the Spartan Chronicle to see who takes the prize.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
Staff Sgt. Donnell Raby, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, entertains as well as sings during the March 16 rock and roll show.

Congratulations DA-level winners

The MG Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards Competition Ceremony recognizes military and civilian-employee print and broadcast practitioners for journalistic excellence in furthering the objectives of the Department of the Army internal-information program. The Secretary of the Army sponsors this competition annually.

The Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts judging

with a goal of ensuring the best internal information efforts receive recognition for professional excellence and outstanding achievement.

Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware was born in Denver on Nov. 23, 1915. His military career began on July 9, 1941, and he served in the 3rd Infantry Division from 1942 to 1945.

He served as Deputy Chief and Chief of Information for the

Department of the Army from September 1964 through November 1967.

On June 18, 1945 he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was killed in Vietnam when his helicopter was shot down Sept. 13, 1968. Ware was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His Medal of Honor is currently on display at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning.

Photojournalism

Honorable Mention - Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
Patching relations: 1-30th hosts MEDOP, Iraqi doctors take lead; 302nd MPAD

Field Newspapers

1st Place, Spartan Chronicle

The Spartan Chronicle, as top Army Field Newspaper, will now go on to compete against at the Thomas Jefferson Level against the top Marine, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard field newspaper. Results should be announced sometime in April. Keep reading the Spartan Chronicle for more information and results. Congratulations to all.

Word on the street

“What does your family normally do for Easter?”



“In the daytime we go to the amusement park.”

Sgt. Ramiro Baranda
2nd BCT ADAM cell



“Go to church and then have an Easter brunch at a nice hotel.”

Sgt. Tiffany Doyle
2-3 BTB intelligence section



“We go to church and then setup a big Easter egg hunt for the children.”

Sgt. Jonathan Bowman
2-3 BTB computer help desk



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 <i>Talent Show @ MWR, 9 p.m.</i>	3 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i>	4 Foosball Spades	5 Halo 2: 2 vs 2 Darts	6 Pool Chess	7 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i> Spades	8 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
9 <i>Island Night @ MWR, 9 p.m.</i> Strongman	10 Ping Pong Dominoes	11 Foosball Spades	12 Halo 2: 2 vs 2 Darts	13 Pool Chess	14 Spades	15 T Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music
16 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i> Benchpress	17 <i>Shamrock Shuffle 10K @ 8 a.m.</i>	18 Foosball Spades	19 Halo 2: 2 vs 2 Darts	20 Pool Chess	21 Spades	22 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
23 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i>	24 Ping Pong Dominoes	25 Foosball Spades	26 Halo 2: 2 vs 2 Darts	27 Pool Chess	28 Spades	29 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
30 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i> Max benchpress	31 Ping Pong Dominoes	Unless otherwise stated, all events begin at 1930. Times and events are subject to change. Special events are in <i>red italics</i>.				