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Courtesy photo

An Iraqi man drinks fresh water from an artesian well that was installed at the al-Hamza School in Bayjia, Iraq. The well was built using Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds provided by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. See page 4 for the story.



Medical clinic opens in city

- page 5



Small grants equal big results

- page 6



Pilots find new, exciting hobby

- page 14





Photo Sgt. Zach Mott

Lt. Col. Jeff Broadwater, a Radcliff, Ky., native who serves as commander of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, speaks with men from the Adhamiya neighborhood of Baghdad as religious leaders of the Sunni dominated Adhamiya and the Shia populated Khadamiya neighborhoods gathered at a local mosque. Broadwater's squadron is currently attached to the 3rd BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Sunni, Shia leaders work for reconciliation

Sgt. Zach Mott
3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

Thanks to work by Coalition forces in northern Baghdad, reconciliation and reunification hopes are high amongst Sunni and Shias in the Adhamiya and Kadhamiya neighborhoods.

Marketplaces flood with

men, women and children from both sects. Religious heads of the Sunni-dominated Adhamiya and Shia-populated Kadhamiya neighborhoods both speak of their religious sects, and how despite the Tigris River that divides their neighborhoods, they stand united in securing Iraq.

“There is no difference between Sunni and Shia,” said Ali Farouq Abdullah, a 24-year-old Adhamiya resident, hopeful that the reconciliation would increase job opportunities.

Part of the reconciliation was

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made possible when a bridge that joined the neighborhoods was rebuilt and opened by Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The bridge had been closed since 2003 when clashes spiked in the region.

“I’m very happy they opened the bridge,” said Kaiser Ghazi Ahmed, as he played a card game in an Adhamiya coffee house.

Other residents gather in the coffee house and spoke of the need for a unified Iraq to be able to prosper as one and achieve success

“We need equality across Iraq. As long as we have equality, everything will be good.”

- Najal Mahdi Ibrahim
retired member, MoE

in the future.

“It’s progress. We will provide security for Khadamiyans in Adhamiya, and we expect the same thing in Khadamiya for Adhamiyans,” said Najal Mahdi Ibrahim, a 65-year-old retired member of the Ministry of Education.

Najal also talked about a unified front across Iraq – not just prosperity in the two neighborhoods. “We need equality across Iraq,” he said. “As long as we have equality, everything will be good.”

As the meetings were ongoing, Lt. Col. Jeff Broadwater and members of the 3-7 Cav. Regt., that he commands, walked through the local marketplace talking to



Photo Sgt. Zach Mott

Iraqi children walk through a marketplace in Adhamiya as Capt. Jimmy Ross, the assistant operations officer for 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment provides security. Ross, an Atlanta native, and other members of the 3rd Sqdn., 7th Cav. Regt., which is currently attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, toured the marketplace as religious leaders of the Sunni dominated Adhamiya and Shia populated Khadamiya neighborhoods of Baghdad gathered at a local mosque.

residents.

“It’s all about trying to connect all the people,” said Broadwater, a Radcliff, Ky., native. “If you can make a difference to get them all working together for the common good of everybody, then you’ll be successful because you can energize all their efforts to focus on one point.”

The squadron, which is part of the 3rd Infantry Division, and is currently attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, has seen much change in this neighborhood in the past year.

“You look around; you see all of the people out on the streets and the people at the Mosque, this

was not what it normally was in August of 2007 and September of 2007. Security was and remains our number one focus down here,” said Broadwater.

With events such as those today, where Sunni and Shia leaders are working together, Broadwater said he sees a chance for years of positive relationships in this neighborhood.

“I think it’s got a very, very bright future. As you look around, you can see some of the construction starting to go; people are getting back to their normal way of life, and the economy is starting to come back. When you generate all those variables into their future, I think that it’s very, very bright,” Broadwater said.

Artesian well pumps clean water

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
1-30th Infantry Regiment

Before an artesian well opened for use April 10, residents of Zambraniya and Bayjia were forced to drink directly from the Tigris River or travel up to 10 kilometers for clean drinking water.

The new well, located at the al-Hamza School in Bayjia, is capable of producing 6000 gallons of fresh water per day and will service both communities.

The well has a water-purification process with the capability to purify 1000 liters of water each hour. The fresh water will improve the standard of living and public health.

“It will help decrease disease and improve the overall health of the people in Zambraniya and Bayjia,” said Capt. John Whitehead, from Holland, Ohio, assistant operations officer for 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

Commander’s Emergency Relief Program funds paid for construction of the well, which draws water from the Tigris River. The project also enabled a local contractor to employ 10 area citizens for the 30 days it was being built.

First Lt. Ismail Khan,



Courtesy photos

Fresh water flows from the newly-installed well at the al-Hamza school in Bayjia, Iraq. Residents of Bayjia and Zambraniya will now have access to 6000 gallons of fresh water a day.

fire support officer for Company A, 1-30th Inf. Regt., said the well is a step towards normalcy in the area.

“Having this well at the al-Hamza School is great for the health and morale of the local people,” the Houston native said. “They are seeing improvements being made and they are really gaining a sense of pride and togetherness within their community.”



An Iraqi man turns on an artesian well at its grand opening in Bayjia, Iraq, April 10.

Medical operation treats more than 100

Unit Public Affairs Representative
1-187 Infantry Regiment

Coalition forces treated more than 100 Iraqis at a coordinated medical engagement near the village of al Sur in southern Arab Jabour April 5.

The 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) doctor, physician's assistant and medics treated the patients at the engagement. In addition to medical aid, children received teddy bears and school supplies.

Battalion leaders said the CME was a success and will help build trust between the military and citizens.

"We are here to help and this CME lets the locals know that," said Capt. William Brown, from Owensboro, Ky., commander of Company A, 1-187 Inf. Regt. Brown's Soldiers hosted the CME.

One platoon leader said he was happy to see the success of the CME and how it helps the local population learn to trust Coalition



Courtesy photo

Children from the village of al Sur stand with teddy bears April 5 during a coordinated medical engagement. In addition to providing medical care, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) handed out teddy bears and school supplies.

forces.

"This is my first CME and I am ready to do more; the local people really seemed to enjoy the help and I'm glad to give it," said 2nd Lt. Steven Kripple, 2nd platoon leader, Company A, 1-187 Inf. Regt.

"The local people really seemed to enjoy the help and I'm glad to give it."

- 2nd Lt. Steven Kripple
Company A, 1-187 Inf. Regt.

Hawr Rajab health clinic opens for business

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
6-8 Cavalry Regiment

The newly-renovated Hawr Rajab health clinic opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 5.

The clinic has been stocked with medical supplies from the Ministry of Health and will be supported by the MoH with both supplies

and medical personnel.

Soldiers from Troop A, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and 3rd Company, 6th Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division were present along with Sheikh Mahir, the Hawr Rajab city council security liaison, and

numerous Sons of Iraq to celebrate the opening of the clinic.

The clinic will provide Hawr Rajab citizens with basic medical care. Surgeries and major traumas will still need to be treated at area hospitals.

In the last year Hawr Rajab has gone from an al-Qaeda in Iraq safe

haven to a community coming back to life with business, schools and clinics.

The introduction of more Coalition forces to the area and the start of an SoI program are credited with the improved safety and security in the area.

More projects are planned to help the area.

Associations work to gain recognition

Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd BCT PAO

Business is beginning to boom in Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab. To increase on their success, the business association members from both communities completed a five-day training course program for business organization development in Hilla. The training was complete April 10.

The Babylon Center for Economy Development is the nongovernmental organization that hosted the training.

The Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team, which is embedded with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, contacted the NGO and then convinced the Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab business association members to attend the training.

“The association members are elected officials,” said Capt. Shawn Carbone, Baghdad-7 ePRT economics chief, from Niagara Fall, N.Y. “This course is good knowledge for them to bring back to their communities and pass it on to their members.”

Associations in Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour have been functioning for about three months. The associations allow business owners to share costs and then pass shared savings on to consumers. In those three months numerous businesses have joined the association and the economy has improved. The course gave the business owners ideas on how to expand and concentrate on their recent success.

Each day of the training was a different lesson; the students were given classes on business planning,



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

An Al Buyatha fruit stand is open for business thanks to the efforts of Coalition forces in the area. With businesses open, the Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team is holding training classes to help make business owners better business men and women.

marketing, business cash flow, how to use a computer in business and how to register a business association as an NGO.

After the first day of training the business leaders were receptive to the classes.

“They called me the first day of the training and told me they were brought out of the dark,” said Basil Razzak, Baghdad-7 ePRT, bi-cultural, bi-lingual economics advisor. “They’ve never had these kinds of opportunities.”

There are opportunities that will

teach the business associations how to plan for short term goals, public relations and how to work with neighboring communities.

On a map Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour share a border, however the two communities have had very little to do with each other in the way of business.

After getting to know one another and attending the NGO training together the business associations from Hawr Rajab and

See BUSINESS page 7

Arab Jabour want to work together to improve business and economy in each of their communities.

“We urge them to cooperate,” Razzak said. “They said they will try and work together, they told me that they are all one big family now.”

Coalition force provided micro-

“They called me the first day of the training and told me they were brought out of the dark. They’ve never had these kinds of opportunities.”

- Basil Razzak
ePRT cultural advisor

grants have started to boost the economy in both communities Carbone said. As a testament to the improved economy all types of businesses, including those that have not received micro-grants or any other type of Coalition force help, are also starting to flourish. “The businesses have re-cooped the benefits of the association and the direct effect is an improved economy,” said Carbone.



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Business owners from Arab Jabour and Al Buaytha gather at the Arab Jabour Governance Center Jan. 24. The Arab Jabour business association is one of many being created to help make business owners better business men and women.

With the burst in economic gains in both communities the businesses associations have, with the help of the training in Hilla, begun the process of being recognized by the Government of Iraq as an NGO.

“They’ve prepared all the paper work necessary to form an NGO,” Razzak said. “When the paper work goes through each organization should be their own NGO.”

“When they become legally recognized by the Government of Iraq they’ll get more funding to help with their businesses,” said Carbone.

Hawr Rajab and Arab Jabour hold business association meetings each week. During their next meetings the association members will pass knowledge from the training along to their association members.

Safety Alert - Driving with Limited Visibility

- During periods of limited visibility or brown outs lower speed and increase intervals between vehicles to allow adequate reaction time.
- Keep the windshield, lights, & turn signals clean at all times. Lights should be on depending on the tactical situation. Keep vents closed.
- Driver and crew must communicate with each other

- and keep a continuous scan. Ensure the gunners wear protective goggles.
- Reduce speed or stop moving whenever the view of the road, vehicles, and pedestrians are lost due to blowing dust and sand. Slower speeds also reduce the amount of dust in the air.
- At entrances to FOBs and patrol bases, gravel is a good way to prevent excess dust.



Soldiers deliver fertilizer to farmers

Unit Public Affairs Representative
1-30th Infantry Regiment

Zambraniyah farmers got much-needed assistance for their crops with a delivery from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, April 10.

“Today we conducted a fertilizer distro for the farmers of Zambraniyah and I think this is something that definitely will continue helping to establish the foundation for economic growth in our sector,” said Capt. Cesar Santiago, a native of Coamo, Puerto Rico, the executive officer for Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

The company donated 180 bags - approximately 20 tons - of fertilizer to the Zambraniyah community center. From there, the Zambraniyah farmers council distributed it to area farmers.

“I felt the fertilizer drop was a good idea in order to help the locals in producing better crops,” said Pfc. Roderick Day. Day is a designated marksman with 3rd platoon, Company B, and a native of Crosett, Ark.

The Soldiers have been working with the farmers council committee for some time, helping restore their headquarters building along with help from the local Sons of Iraq group. The cooperation was designed to build relationships and boost the economy.

“Today’s mission brings the civilians a step closer to a normal routine,” said Spc. Kyle Rowin, from Austin Texas. “It also ensures the advancement of long-term stability and in turn advances the security of the community.”



Courtesy photos

Above: Locals offload fertilizer bags April 10 at the Zambraniyah Community Center. Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment delivered 180 bags, about 20 tons of fertilizer to the center.

Below: Capt. Cesar H. Santiago, executive officer, Company B, overlooks the April 10 distribution of fertilizer with leaders of the Zambraniyah Farmers Union Council.





Photo by Mike Stevens

Chicken farming was once a major source of industry in Hawr Rajab, Adwaniyah and Arab Jabour. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team along with help from the United States Department of State and Baghdad 7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team are trying to revitalize the industry which was all but wiped out due to the insurgency in these areas.

Chicken farming creates economic nest egg

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

Before the war, numerous areas in Iraq thrived off the chicken industry. Hawr Rajab, Arab Jabour and Adwaniyah all had prosperous chicken markets.

“Historically, this

was the largest chicken-producing area in Iraq,” said Capt. Michael Lenart, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion.

Insurgent violence ravaged the industry. Chicken coops and pens

were used by insurgents as safe houses and weapons cache dumps. Electrical equipment such as cables, generators and water pumps were stolen or neglected after al-Qaeda threatened employees to quit coming to work.

With security gains

removing al-Qaeda from the area, the effort is to boost chicken farming back to pre-war levels.

“Right now it is in its first phase,” said Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team

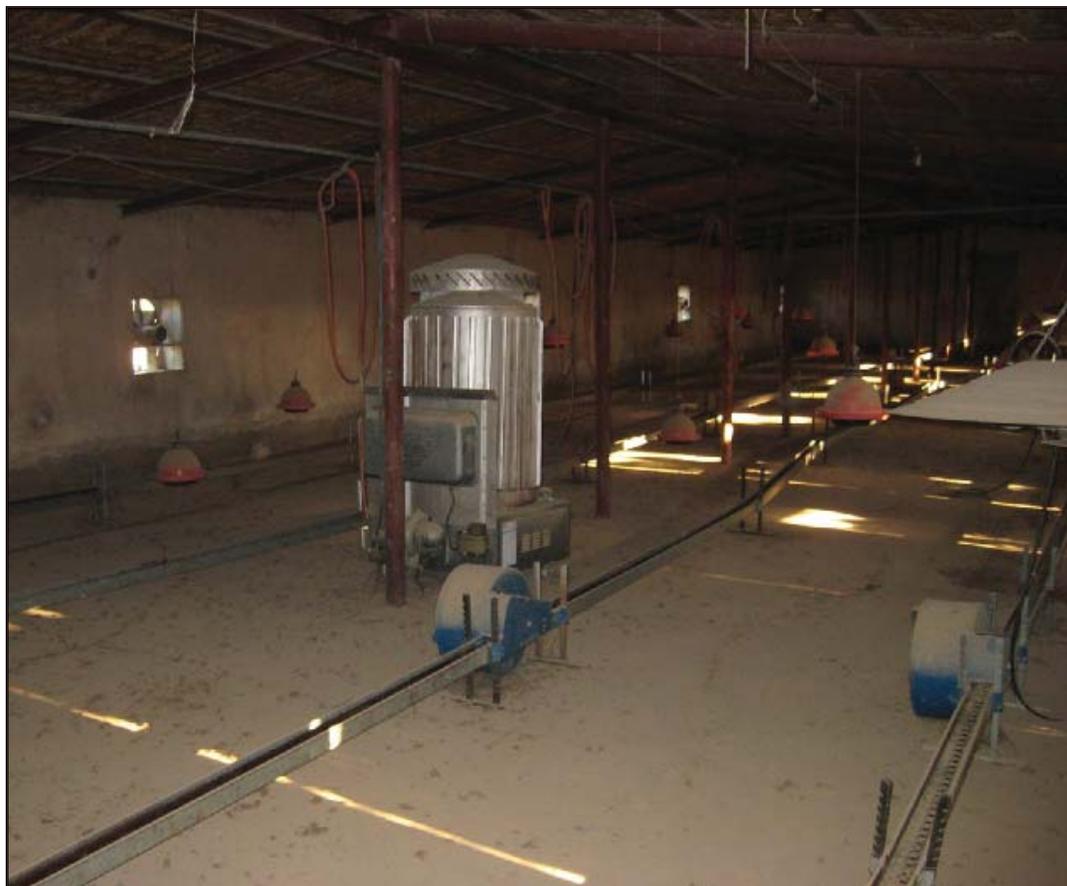
See **CHICKEN** page 10

economics team chief, Capt. Shawn Carbone, of the restoration plans. He added the ePRT has established relationships, helped develop business plans and submitted applications for funding.

Funding will come from Commander's Emergency Relief Program and U.S. Department of State funds, Carbone said, as well as contributions from former owners.

The Adwaniyah Farmers Union Chairman, Falih Sha'lan Jassim, used funds from the union to purchase 10,000 chicks to jumpstart the Adwaniyah chicken factories. In Arab Jabour, the owner of the Al Mazra'a Kupa and Chicken processing facility, Ghassan Mohammed Ali, has pledged more than \$300,000 towards restoring his factory.

Ali's factory can employ up to 95 people at full capacity. Larger factories like the Al Raad Poultry slaughterhouse in Hawr Rajab, which includes six chicken coops, a feed-producing factory, and a processing plant that slaughters, cleans, packages and stores chickens, can employ up to 500 people, Carbone said.



Photos by Mike Stevens

A chicken coop at an abandoned chicken factory lies dormant. With improvements in security, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is trying to revitalize the industry with help from Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team. The industry will create thousands of jobs, providing a steady source of income to the area.

Production will create new markets and opportunities. Transportation companies will be needed to move products to market and mechanics will be needed to maintain the machinery used for processing, said Carbone, a native of Niagara Falls, N.Y. The main market for chickens is currently Baghdad.

Baghdad chicken breeders will also benefit, said Lenart. Currently chickens and supplies



Empty chicken feeders in a chicken coop will hopefully soon be filled, in turn filling Iraqis demand for chicken.

See CHICKEN page 11



Photo by Mike Stevens

A processing line for chickens at a processing plant lies unused due to insurgent violence. With improvements in security, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is trying to revitalize the chicken farming industry in the Hawr Rajab, Adwaniyah and Arab Jabour areas with help from Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team.

needed to renovate buildings are purchased in Baghdad.

Structurally the buildings are stable; all that's needed to start production is repairing machinery and cleaning out the buildings, said Lenart, a native of Richmond Hills, Ga.

Getting production started will help bring the Government of Iraq into the equation as well. Because the industries are privately owned, the GoI has not been largely involved. Government support has been largely limited to the Ministry

of Agriculture providing vaccines to local veterinarians, Lenart said.

Once the businesses are up and running though, their involvement in newly-created business associations will give them government-related business incentives, loans and grants, Carbone said. Like the area farmers unions, which are recognized by the MoA, the chicken factories are forming their own subcommittees and will receive government aid.

Business owners are also taking classes from an Iraqi-run business

“Self-sustainment keeps out the influence of insurgents. Only when there is no alternative do people turn to violence.”

- Capt. Shawn Carbone
Baghdad-7 ePRT economics team chief

development center in Hilla to help their companies prosper once they begin production.

The success of the industry is vital to not only the local communities, but to all of Iraq. A stable economy ties in with and supports security gains.

“Self-sustainment keeps out the influence

of insurgents,” Carbone said. “Only when there is no alternative do people turn to violence.”

The projects will continue, with 5,000 more chickens set to be delivered in Adwaniyah April 22. In the future, chickens will come from within the area from a hatchery under construction.

SPORTS & GAMES

Lifting club sets heavy goals for fit

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

Being physical fit is a goal for all Soldiers, a goal most measure by their Army physical fitness test

score. But for a few select Soldiers, they are testing their strength and fitness in a different way.

On Forward Operating Base Kalsu, the gym Morale Welfare and

Recreation staff have created a challenge known as the 1,000 pound club.

The club has been in existence since 2006, said Fato "Tony" Dubova, a MWR coordinator at the base. Like all other MWR functions designed, the Gjilan, Kosovo native said the goal was to enhance morale and give Soldiers another competitive outlet.

Much drive is needed to enter the club, which requires male participants to lift a grand total of 1,000 pounds. Females have to reach a total of 500 pounds.

Soldiers have to reach that sum by combining their individual weight lifted in the bench press, dead lift and squat, said Dale Robinson, MWR gym coordinator.

Each competitor has three chances at each lift, and must use proper form for the lift to count, Robinson said. For example, competitors must not bounce the weight of their chest when bench pressing and must break the parallel when squatting.

Because of the rigorous requirements,

Robinson, of Trinidad, said most of the people who initially aim for the club don't meet the requirements.

"Most don't make it but they still give it their best," he said.

However, those who do make it can have something to be proud of.

For Sgt. Jennifer Alvery, Top Flite security detail, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, making the 500 club was a major accomplishment.

"It felt good to make the 500 club," the Navarre, Fla. native said. "I always felt kind of like an average person. This means a lot to me."

Alvery reach the milestone March 30, only the fifth female ever in the competition's history to do so. In doing so, not only did she join an elite club, but she also set several new records. Her bench press of 155 pounds was the top performed by any female, and her squat of 205 pounds tied her for the top spot with fellow 2nd BCT Soldier, 1st Lt. Charmain Lett,



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sgt. Jennifer Alvery, Company B, Top Flite personnel security detail, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, prepares to squat 205 pounds March 30 at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu gym. Alvery managed to make the 500 club that day, only the fifth woman ever to make the club. She also set the record for most weight lifted by a female with 605 pounds. The club is reserved for contestants who lift a total of 500 pounds combined in the benchpress, deadlift and squat. Men can also compete, although they must lift 1,000 pounds total.

See CLUB page 13

assistant supply and logistics, property book officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT.

Alvery's combined lift of 605 pounds was also a record for the female category. Like most competitors, Alvery made the greatest gains in the dead lift event, where she dead lifted 245 pounds.

Although the bench press is the most popular exercise, Robinson said it is generally the lift most competitors get the least poundage on.

Still when training for the event, it should not be ignored in favor of the other two, he said.

To maximize effectiveness, Robinson said Soldiers thinking of competing should set goals for each lift and work toward those goals in a healthy manner.

"Be very conscious of



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

First Lt. Charmain Lett, assistant S4, property book officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, performs a squat on the road to joining the Forward Operating Base Kalsu 500-pound club. She joined the club March 30 with a grand total of 570 pounds lifted.

yourself when lifting. We don't want anyone to hurt themselves," he said.

Practicing proper form during training will help reduce the risk of injury, as well as allow Soldiers to get the proper form

needed to ensure their lifts are counted in the events, Robinson added.

Soldiers interested in the event can set up a schedule at the front desk to test their might at the gym. The gym is open

24-hours a day, except Tuesdays, when it is closed for cleaning from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Even if not interested in the event, Robinson encouraged Soldiers to come out and work out at the gym, which features machine weights, free weights, cardio equipment like treadmills, row machines, stationary bikes, elliptical machines and steppers, as well as a martial arts training floor with a boxing heavy bag.

"It is important to workout and be healthy," he said.

Editor's note: Next week read about Alvery and Lett, the latest 500 club members on Kalsu.



Lett performs a bench press, one of three exercises performed in order to join the 1,000 or 500 pound club.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Capt. Joseph Seibert (left) and Chief Warrant Officer Jake Baird prepare a model remote-controlled helicopter for a flight April 10. The two are UH-60 Blackhawk pilots that work in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team brigade aviation element and track flights for the brigade. Seibert and Baird have begun to take back to the skies, only this time using a model.

Pilots take new hobby to the sky

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

2nd BCT PAO

It had been nearly six months since Chief Warrant Officer Jake Baird last flew a helicopter when he decided to test his skills again April 10. After running through a quick inspection and starting up the blades, Baird took off - and promptly crashed about 10 seconds later.

It was just one of many crashes suffered by Baird and his fellow

pilot Capt. Joseph Seibert that day, but like the other crashes, this one cost no loss of life or damage to government property.

The two helicopter pilots, who both flew UH-60 Blackhawks before being transferred to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's brigade aviation element to monitor flights, have decided to return to flying, although this time using a radio-controlled helicopter about the size of a football.

"We're trying to make it our new hobby," said Baird, a native of Hodgenville, Ky.

The hobby began after the two inherited the model from a Soldier who redeployed to Fort Stewart, Ga. The Soldier, Baird said, had crashed the helicopter and broken a few parts. He left it in the hands of the two pilots, who set to work repairing the damage.

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Seibert, from Monroe, Iowa, said the helicopter needed new rotors, but was in good shape otherwise. Seibert ordered the replacements and the two set to work restoring the craft.

The skills gathered from the reconstruction will go a long way toward keeping the craft in the air, based on the early test runs.

“We’ve probably crashed it about 20 times,” Seibert said.

“We’ll probably keep crashing it until it doesn’t work,” Baird added.

One reason for the difficulty in keeping the model in the air is the design, the two said.

The model, European in design, has rotors that rotate clockwise. American helicopters, like the ones Seibert and Baird flew, have rotors that spin counterclockwise. Thus, Baird said maneuvers that are second nature to him are reversed due to this difference.

“Everything’s backwards,” he said. “All the maneuvers I’m used to are backwards.”

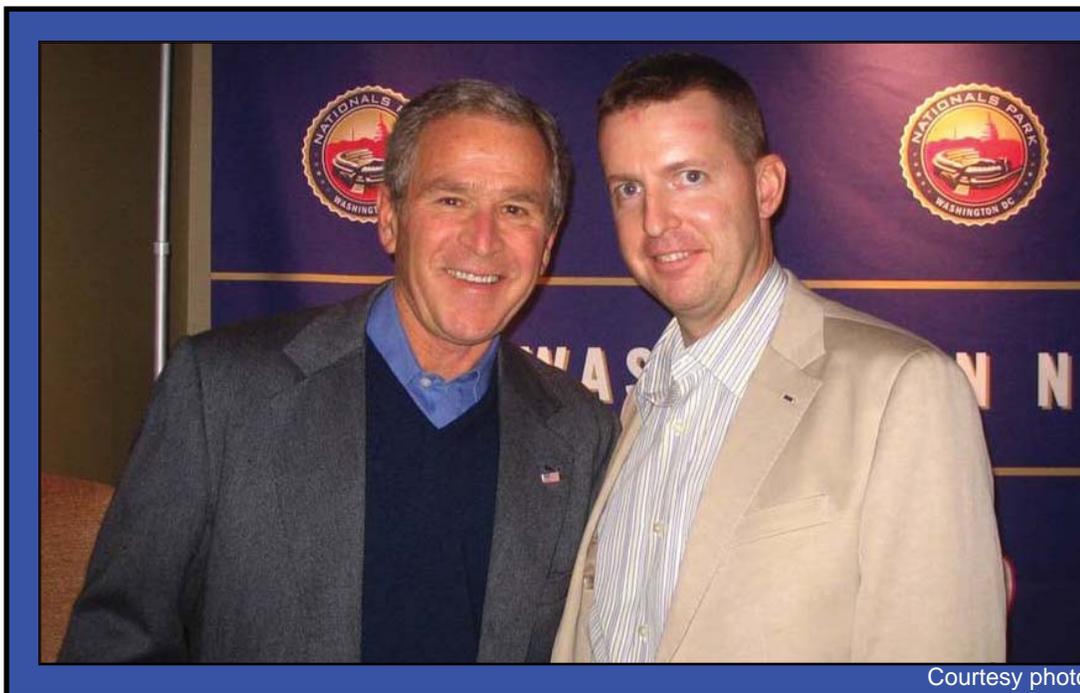


Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Chief Warrant Officer Jake Baird (right) maneuvers a model remote controlled helicopter around a tree during an April 10 flight as Capt. Joseph Seibert watches. They are UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilots that now work in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team brigade aviation section. Both Seibert and Baird have not piloted a helicopter in some time but have begun to take back to the skies, only this time using a model.

Still the two will continue flying until the little helicopter quits on them. They take it back inside for repairs and let the day’s lessons

sink in. For Seibert, it is one that reinforces a feeling he’s had for a while. “I don’t really miss it (flying).”



Meet the president

Maj. David Underwood meets President George W. Bush at the Washington Nationals’ opening game March 30. Underwood is currently in the Washington D.C. area recovering from injuries suffered in an improvised explosive device attack that occurred in January 2008. He was commander of Battery B 1-9 FA, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. prior to being wounded. Underwood was one of four Iraqi veterans to be invited to the game to meet the president and first lady.

Courtesy photo

Green Beans brings color to Kalsu



Photos by Sgt. Jason Stadel

Lt. Col. David Kennedy, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion (left) and Forward Operating Base Kalsu Green Beans manager Ramesh Luitel cut the ribbon to announce the grand opening of the store April 9. The new coffee shop is just one of the many projects being completed on Kalsu to help improve the quality of life for Soldiers stationed there.



Kennedy introduces general manager Luitel to the crowd (left) before the opening ceremony for the new Kalsu Green Beans. After the ceremony, Soldiers wasted no time going in and trying out the new drinks (right).

Word on the street

“What do they think about Green Beans coming to FOB Kalsu?”



“It’s good for Kalsu, I like the variety they have. It makes you feel a little more at home.”

Spc. Javier Rios
HHC, 26 BSB



“Giddy up... It’s good for the morale of the Soldiers.”

Sgt. Richard Rielly
2nd BDE legal office



“It’s awesome for the Soliders to have a Green Beans...all units on FOB Kalsu have worked hard to make FOB Kalsu the FOB of choice.”

Maj. Henry Young
26 BSB executive officer



April FOB Kalsu MWR Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Unless otherwise stated, all events begin at 1930. Times and events are subject to change. Special events are in <i>red italics</i> .				3 Pool Chess	4 Basketball Spades Movie night	5 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
6 <i>Talent show @ MWR, 9 p.m.</i> Halo 2: 2 vs 2	7 Ping Pong Dominoes	8 Foosball Darts Spades	9 Basketball Strongman comp.	10 Pool Chess	11 Basketball Spades Movie night	12 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
13 Halo 2: 2 vs 2	14 Ping Pong Dominoes	15 Monopoly Darts Spades	16 Basketball Bench press comp.	17 Pool Chess	18 Basketball Spades Movie night	19 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
20 <i>Talent show @ MWR, 9 p.m.</i> Halo 2: 2 vs 2	21 Ping Pong Dominoes	22 Foosball Darts Spades	23 Basketball Max Bench press comp.	24 Pool Chess	25 Basketball Spades Movie night	26 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
27 Halo 2: 2 vs 2	28 Ping Pong Dominoes	29 Risk Darts Spades	30 Basketball Deadlift comp.			