

Warrior News



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Soldier works to better IA soldiers



On the Cover.

Spc. Michael Adams, a native of Detroit, pulls security in a neighborhood of Sab al Bour, northwest of Baghdad, May 12. Adams is a medic from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment "Strykehorse," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

U.S. Army photo by Capt. Ron Geronimo, 2nd Sqdn., 14th Cav. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., MND-BMND-B



U.S. Army photo courtesy of B Co., 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, MND-B

First Tony Sgroi, native to Wheeling, W.V. and platoon leader of 3rd Platoon “Knights,” Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlets,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, talks to the administrators of a small orphanage in Ibrahim Bin Ali, northwest of Baghdad, May 22.

Knights in armor help orphaned children

Story by Spc. Dustin Weidman

21st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, MND-B

No conflict is without tragedies and this one is no different. In the midst of war, children sometimes get overlooked.

Iraq has many orphanages filled with children, but for one in Ibrahim Bin Ali, their “knights” in armor arrived.

The “Knights” of 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlets,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warriors,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-Nation Division – Baghdad have taken a special interest in the orphanage and its children since their arrival in the

area in January.

First Lt. Tony Sgroi, native of Wheeling, W.V., and “Knights” platoon leader said his Soldiers adopted the orphanage as “one of the regular stops during a patrol.”

Soldiers have become friends with the children and always evoke eager cheers and smiles when they hand out candy and pens during their visits. Some of the platoon’s Soldiers have gotten their families involved

as well, “My wife sends my care packages loaded with candy for the kids.” said Sgt. Bryan Doe, native of Boston, “You see many of them have lost parents and loved ones to the insurgent presence here, and your heart goes out to them.”

The children are not the only ones who enjoy seeing their “Knights,” the adult workers welcome the platoon with open arms at each visit and are almost as excited as the children when they see the Strykers roll up.

There is always a hint of sadness when the Soldiers leave, but they all know the their “Knights” in armor will return.

Former IA officers test to join IP force

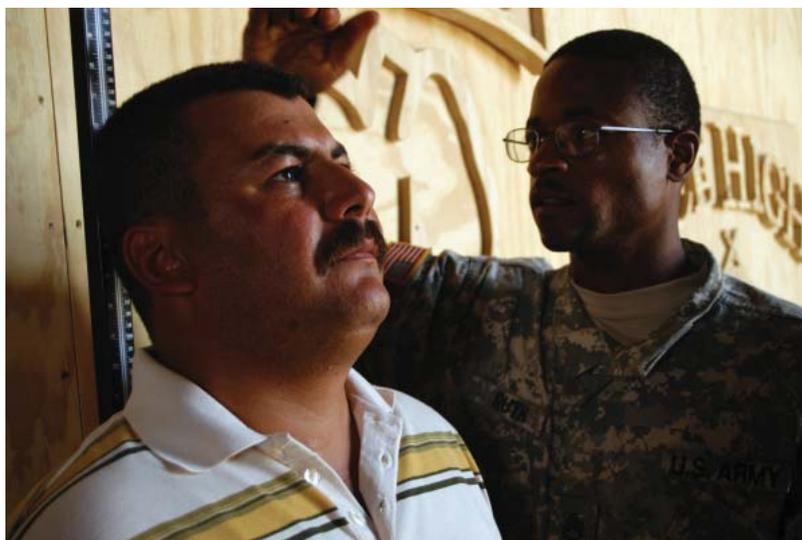
Photos by Spc. Daniel Turner
2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B



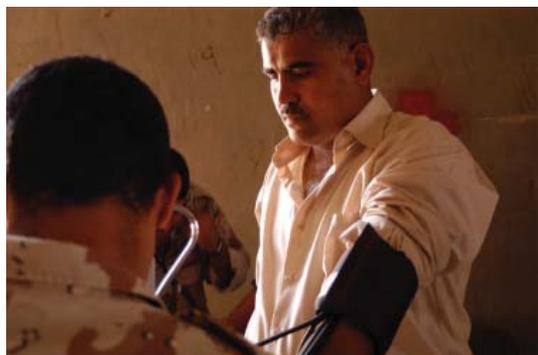
Former Iraq Army officers sprint 100 meters as part of their eligibility test to join the Iraqi Police force in Falahat, northwest of Baghdad, June 4. The men went through physical and medical screenings as well as a background check and interviews. If selected they will become IP officers.



CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A Soldier from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, “Strykehorse,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad grades former Iraqi Army officers while they do pushups as part of their eligibility test to join the Iraqi Police force in Falahat, northwest of Baghdad, June 4. The men, who went through physical and medical screenings as well as a background check and interviews to determine eligibility, are all former Iraq Army officers.



Staff Sgt. Byron Ruth, a native of Detroit, and medic assigned to the Military Transition Team which works with 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, checks the height of an Iraqi Police hopeful in Falahat, northwest of Baghdad, June 4. The men, who went through physical and medical screenings as well as a background check and interviews to determine eligibility, are all former Iraq Army officers. If selected they will become IP officers.



(Left) An Iraqi Army medic checks the blood pressure of an Iraqi Police hopeful, in Falahat, northwest of Baghdad, June 4, as part of the screening process. The men, who went through physical and medical screenings as well as a background check and interviews to determine eligibility, are all former Iraq Army officers. If selected they will become IP officers.



Residents of Hatim Multiq line up outside the village school waiting to see a healthcare professional during a medical operation in the village, northwest of Baghdad, May 22.

Medical providers combine to aid local residents

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti
2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

Local residents lined up outside the gates of the school in Hatim Mutliq, northwest of Baghdad, May 22.

They waited in anticipation for the opportunity to see a doctor – many of them with an endless list of health issues.

Such was the scene for the village doctor and two Iraqi Army medics, along with six healthcare providers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, who rendered what aid they could to approximately 150 potential patients.

Many of the residents faced a plethora of issues that could not be addressed at a medical operation such as this one. The mission of the medical team was to provide acute and self-help care.

“While the Iraq’s Ministry of Health is getting better, it is still not equipped to provide adequate care to the people of Iraq,” said Sgt. Mark Davenport, a native of Houston, and senior medic for 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, “Wolfhounds,” 2nd SBCT.

The MoH standard is to have one clinic for every 40,000 people. The closest clinic to the village of Hatim Multiq is

the Taji Market clinic, which is located approximately 15 miles away.

Further complicating the challenge of traveling to the clinic is the fact it is undergoing phased construction, which has reduced its capacity to approximately 300 people per day and has limited its medical capabilities as well.

“I can’t go to there (Taji clinic),” said a patient. Her child had a cleft palate and is in need of surgery for survival. “I have no money. Can you help me?” She pleaded with the Lt. Col. Grant Forrester, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Forrester, the Wolfhound’s battalion surgeon, could do nothing but show sympathy and urge her to apply for assistance from the National Iraqi Assistance Center.

“It’s sad, but we are not set up to handle such complex cases here,” Forrester said. “We want them to start relying on the Iraqi (Ministry of Health) to help them.”

The NIAC system provides an avenue for the Iraqi people to apply for governmental assistance to coordinate for

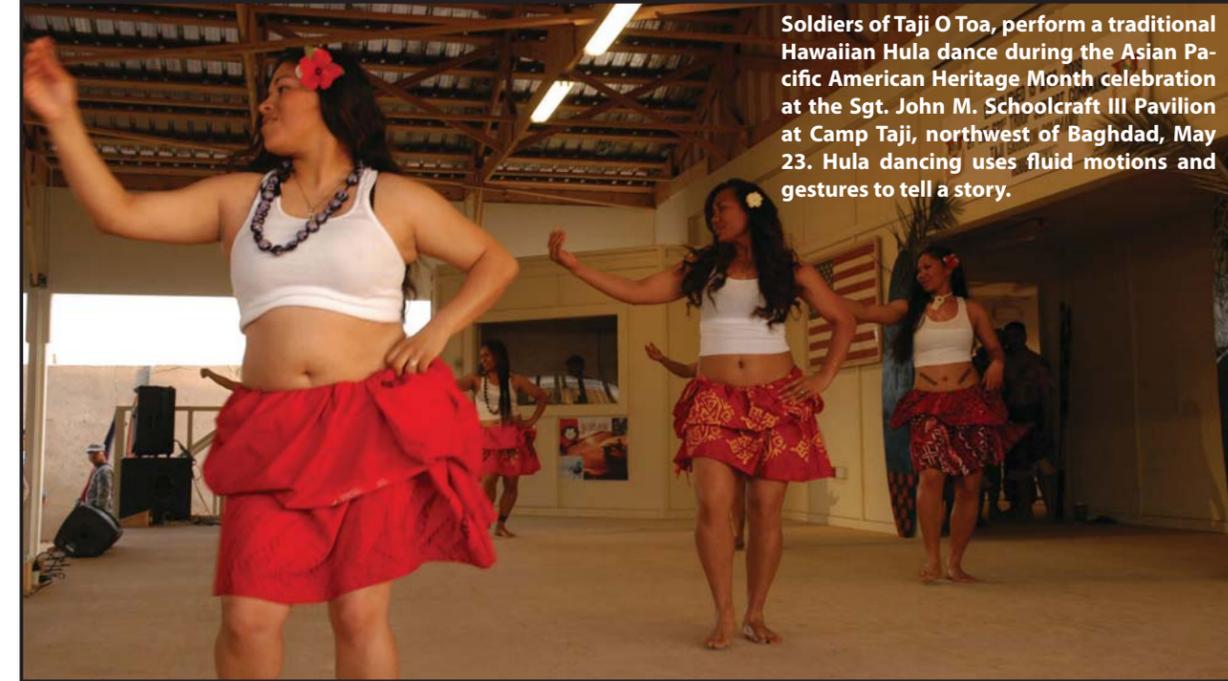


Sgt. Mark Davenport, a native of Houston, and senior medic assigned to 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, organizes medications before the start of a medical operation in Hatim Multiq.

(Continued on page 8



Soldiers of Taji O Toa, translated from Samoan to Warriors of Taji, perform a traditional Pacific Island dance during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft III Pavilion at Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad, May 23. The group consists of Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, and 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.



Soldiers of Taji O Toa, perform a traditional Hawaiian Hula dance during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft III Pavilion at Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad, May 23. Hula dancing uses fluid motions and gestures to tell a story.



(Left) A group of Filipino nationals and Filipino American Soldiers from the 2nd SBCT, perform the National Anthem of the Philippines, “Lupang Hinirang,” during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration, May 23.

(Right) Soldiers of Taji O Toa, translated from Samoan to Warriors of Taji, perform a traditional the stick dance Polynesian Islands, during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration. The stick dance teaches flexibility, rapid reflexes, and quick coordination to prepare for life’s constant surprises.

Warriors celebrate Asian Pacific heritage

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti
2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

The performers of Toa O Taji showcased their Asian Pacific heritage during a celebration of poetry through dance and the written word in a tribute to their culture at the Sgt. John M. Schoolcraft III Pavilion on Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad, May 23.

The performance marked the end of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which is celebrated yearly in May. The month celebrates the traditions and cultures of Asia and the Pacific Islands.

“Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a time for us to take pride in the diversity of our nation, celebrate the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to this nation, and reaffirm our commit to the promise of America’s future for all Americans,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rey Ado, a native of Sacramento, Calif., and equal opportunity advisor for 2nd SBCT

The event highlighted Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th infantry Division, and the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. Together the group named themselves Toa O Taji, which translates from Samoan into the Warriors of Taji.

Their performance highlighted the many colorful dances of the Pacific Islands as well as a poem translated in to Hindi and the Soldier’s Creed translated into Chinese.

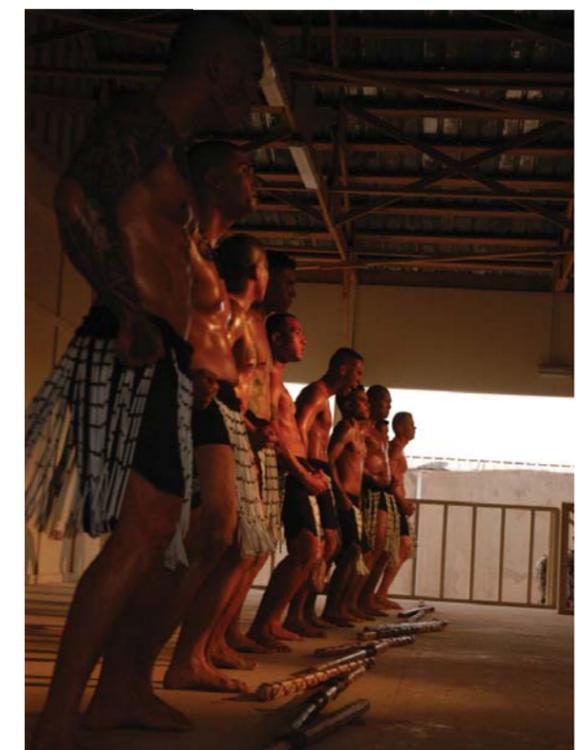
Intended to raise awareness of the more than 15 million Americans who identify themselves as Asian American or Pacific

Islander, Ado said he intended the performance to reflect the 16 major ethnic groups of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community.

“We celebrate not only the individuals that have forged milestones throughout history, but we also celebrate the growing community. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are a critical part of our nation’s growth and success,” he said. This community is one of the fastest growing in the United States. Their diversity reflects the richness and strength of our country.”

Maj. Roy “Kimo” Sabalboro, a native of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, served as the guest speaker for the evening’s events. He reflected on the accomplishments to Asian Americans and Pacific Islander to the history of the United States.

“We should all take solace,” he said, “in the fact that many Asian Pacific Americans have paved the road and have made an impact not only in our culture but the world as a well.”



(Continued from page 5)

medical care for complex medical issues that cannot be handled locally.

The NIAC works with various non-governmental organizations, in addition to other large sponsors, to facilitate various humanitarian assistance efforts in Iraq. It also assists with the coordination of travel for treatments that are to be performed abroad.

Even with the help of NIAC, care is limited. The system can only arrange medical services that are provided by the supporting organizations they work with.

Dr. Ahmed Adanan Ahmed, the local village doctor, said he feels the MoH needs to do more.

“They have trouble supporting us out here,” he said, explaining that even in the cases in which he refers patients to the Taji Clinic or Baghdad; the patients are limited by lack of money or security concerns.

“These people are still afraid to go to Baghdad,” he said. “They are scared that it is still not safe and they will be killed.”

Medical operations, such as this, are good for getting care to those who might possibly never see a doctor, said Ahmed. However, he said they can also create false hope among the residents.

“The people think the American doctors can fix everything out here, and that is not realistic,” he said.

The medical providers of 2nd SBCT expressed similar sentiments.

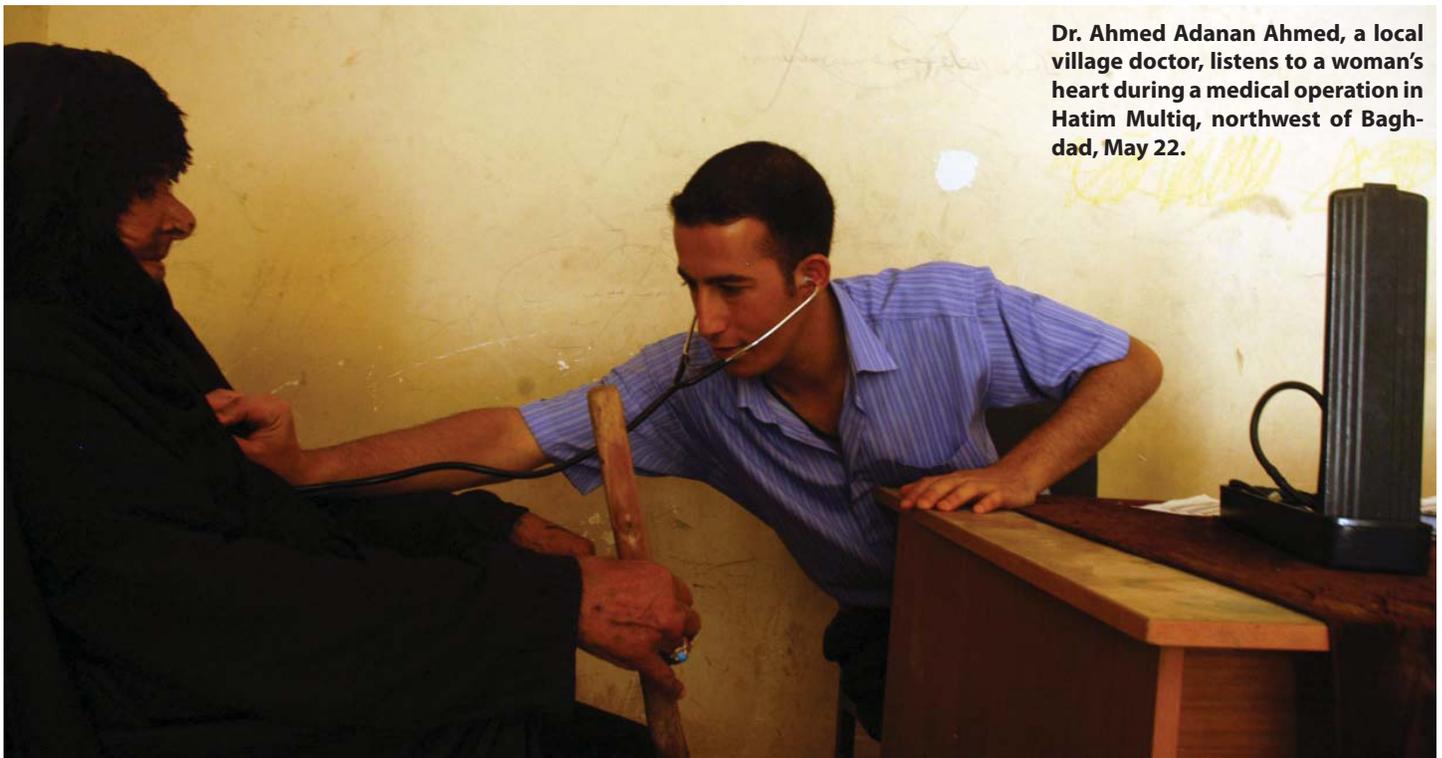
“There are so many people that come in with problems that we just cannot fix,” Forrester said. “All we can do is urge them to trust the Government of Iraq.”

By the end of the day, the providers helped as many patients as they could and gave out almost all the medications donated by various NGOs. The remaining medications were given to Ahmed so he could continue to care for the people in the village.



A child stands in line waiting with his mother in hopes of seeing a medical professional during a medical operation in Hatim Multiq, northwest of Baghdad, May 22.

The Ministry of Health standard is to have **ONE CLINIC** for every 40,000 people.



Dr. Ahmed Adanan Ahmed, a local village doctor, listens to a woman's heart during a medical operation in Hatim Multiq, northwest of Baghdad, May 22.

Failure to plan can cause trouble

One of the major cogs in the wheel of a strong and healthy family is not, contrary to popular belief, a house in the “Jones’s” neighborhood, nor is it a beautifully manicured lawn, nor is it just the right amount of kids in the right school or the right kind of car in a garage that has room for at least one more vehicle...

What makes a family strong and healthy is faith, commitment, compassion and communication.

For just a moment, let’s focus on communication within your family; specifically, between you and your spouse.

The 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team has now been in Iraq for a little over five months and there have been countless things that have gone on in your family and with your spouse during these five months.

We are now at a time in our deployment, a wonderful time in our deployment, when you and your spouse can look to the near future when they will be returning home for a short time on Environmental Morale Leave.

Eighteen days to be together and to

begin to catch up on some things that will strengthen your marriage and carry both of you through the remainder of this deployment, if you, as a couple, choose to strengthen your marriage.

Here are a few suggestions for you and

your spouse to communicate with one another about the up coming EML.

It has been said many times, “When you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

When it comes to EML, nothing could be more true.

Planning for EML

* Don’t plan for too many activities just for the sake of something to do. But plan you time together wisely. This takes you and your spouse talking with one another prior to EML. What are some things you would like to do? Whom do you want involved in the activity? Just you two? The kids? Friends?

* Plan to have quality time alone with your spouse. This time together will do more to strengthen your marriage that just about anything. This time is valuable beyond measure but the only way this time will see it’s full benefit is if you talk with one another about where, when and what you plan to do.

* Eighteen Days is not enough time to fix major issues in your relationship. These 18 days of EML should be used to enjoy being together. If you run into real trouble in your marriage, seek help.

* Take it slow. Take what slow? Take it all slow! This begins with communication before your spouse goes on EML. Things have changed, challenges have been over come, road blocks may have cropped up. Take it slow. Get acquainted with one another again.

* Plan to have a great EML. It will be great if you plan and talk with your spouse.



U.S. Army photo by courtesy MITT, 1st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

Ready, aim, fire!

Soldiers from the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlet,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, train soldiers from the 24th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, at a weapons qualification range located at Forward Operating Base Constitution, west of Baghdad, May 16.



Soldiers from the 4th Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlets,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad walk through the streets of the Ayasha village, northwest of Baghdad, during a dismounted patrol, May 29. Since their arrival in the area, the Soldiers have come to befriend the residents.

Gimlet Bloodhounds ‘sniff out’ weapons cache

Story by Spc. Dustin Weidman

21st Bn., 21st Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th ID, MND-B

“**N**o one will ever find it here,” may have crossed the minds of criminals

who buried a cache of weapons next to a farm wall outside a home in rural Abu Ghraib northwest of Baghdad.

But they did not count on the “Bloodhounds.”

The “Bloodhounds” are the Soldiers of 4th Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, “Gimlets,”

2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, and they are known for their uncanny ability to “sniff out” weapons caches and other hidden contraband.

The Soldiers of the platoon lived up to their reputation, finding a large cache of weapons

in the village of Ayasha, northwest of Baghdad, May 29. With only their instincts and a metal detector, they successfully found the cache during a dismounted patrol through the village.

“I just had a feeling about this area. I knew something was here and we had to find it,” said “Bloodhound” team leader Cpl. Paul Roderick, resident of Wahiawa, Hawaii.

The yells of a fellow team member alerted Roderick that something was found.

It only a few seconds of digging when the shovel stopped fast with the sound of metal on metal. The team quickly uncovered the first of nineteen cans of .50 caliber Dishka rounds.

“A few weeks ago, we found the weapon that these rounds belong to about 50 meters from here and ran out of time before we could search more of the

area,” Roderick said. “But today – we made the time.”

By the time the Bloodhounds had finished scouring the area, they uncovered more than 1,000 .50 caliber Dishka rounds; five 60 mm mortars; 100 7.62 mm rounds; two rocket-propelled grenades and three Katusha rockets.

The suspected owner of the cache was taken into custody as well and is being held for further questioning.

Pfc. Ronald Lucier, native of Limerick, Maine and “Bloodhound” grenadier, said he is just doing his part to help rid the area of weapons.

His team echoed his thoughts.

The “Bloodhounds” said they love to search and find weapons caches and are proud to have taken this cache and many others out of the hands of criminals and will continue to search for dangerous weapons, even if they don’t find any everyday.

“Sometimes we are lucky and sometimes not,” Roderick said. “Today, we got lucky.”



Staff Sgt. Charlie Fragozo, native of Arleta, Calif., and acting platoon leader for 4th Plt., Co. C, photographs a weapons cache found in the Ayasha village, northwest of Baghdad, May 29.

Wolfhound makes difference training IA Soldiers

Story and photos by Spc. John Ahn
1st Bn. 27th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

Working together with the Iraqi Army is an important step in the success of this war and an important step in Iraqis taking charge of their nation.



Sgt. Michael Rios, a native of Sebastian Texas, is the team leader for a joint team of Iraqi Army soldiers and U.S. Soldiers

A fire team showing a unified coalition front line force at a Joint Security Station near Camp Taji, northwest of Baghdad, is a model for a successful transition from a dependent Iraq to a sovereign nation that can secure the people.

The fire team, consisting of both U.S. Soldiers and IA soldiers from the 36th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, is led by Sgt. Michael Rios, a native of Sebastian, Texas, and team leader assigned to 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warriors,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division–Baghdad.

The group came together out of necessity when Rios’ Soldiers were reassigned to other duties or left for Environmental Morale Leave.

Rios said there are language barriers between Rios and his counterparts, but it is eased by the use of interpreters and the use of hand signals.

“The most amazing aspect of the fire team is that we speak so little to each other,” Rios said. “We work mostly by hand signals and knowing glances.”

Rio said they make eye contact, point and give hand signals. Acknowledgement is made by a simple nod.

“They work like any other fire team in a modern army. They know their jobs, take directions from their leader, and execute. They are well rehearsed and work flawlessly together,” he said.

Rios said he believes in their ability to work as members of a team and they train any chance they have.

During available free time, the team works together close quarter combat drills, search techniques for vehicles and buildings, and they constantly refine battle drill skills. All team members know what they are expected to do when hostile contact is made, he added.

“He is a good leader,” stated Hamed, an IA Soldier from the 36th Bde. Hamed has been on Rios’ team since the beginning. “patient and decisive, and very funny too.”

Even with a language barrier, Rios is passing on his knowledge and preparing the IA soldiers to be future leaders.

The team leader said his vision is to be a force multiplier by being an example so that these soldiers can one day show their future soldiers how to be proficient warriors.

Rios demands excellence from his team, and doesn’t allow them to give less than everything.

“I want 100 percent from them, their undivided attention. If they work hard now and train properly, when it comes to firefights and real life matters they won’t have to think about it,” he said. I want them to identify what they must to do and execute.”

Rios and his team have become brothers in arms and an example to visitors and new U.S. Soldiers and IA soldiers to the area.

The discipline of his team is infectious and is immediately visible to visitors.



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. J.B. Jaso III, 1st Bn., 27th Inf. Reg., 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

Sgt. Michael Rios, a native of Sebastian, Texas, leads his team through a house, in the Taji Qadaa, northwest of Baghdad, where they conducted searches to locate enemy weapons and activity on May 6. Rios is an infantry team leader assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment “Wolfhounds,” 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warriors,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. His team is composed of U.S. Soldiers and Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 36th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division.

Golden Dragons host medical mission in Mushada

Photos by Spc. Daniel Turner
2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B



A family waits to check in at a Combined Medical Effort in Mushada, northwest of Baghdad, June 5. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, "Warrior," 25th infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad ensured the security of the event.



A doctor checks the heartbeat of a boy at a Combined Medical Effort in Mushada, northwest of Baghdad, June 5. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, "Warrior," 25th infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad ensured the security of the event.



The brigade surgeon from the 37th Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) talks with a woman about her health problems at a Combined Medical Effort in Mushada, northwest of Baghdad, June 5. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, "Warrior," 25th infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad ensured the security of the event.

Water treatment plant on its way to recovery

Story and photos by Sgt. Waldemar Rivera

2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B

The Karkh Water Treatment Plant in Taji, northwest of Baghdad, has been under construction and undergoing upgrades since its near destruction in 2005.

Lt. Col. Paul Williams, an Iuka, Miss., native, who is the officer in charge of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Taji Area, visited the Karkh Water Treatment Plant to check progress on the work taking place May 14.

He was joined by Lt. Col. David Davidson, a Lewisburg, Tenn., native, who serves as the deputy commander for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. The two leaders are in charge of overseeing the progress of the work being done at the water treatment plant.

"The mission was to check the progress of the contractors working out there," said Capt. Mark Gillman, a Las Vegas native, 2nd SBCT engineer planner.

The USACE contractors are heavily involved in civil work, added Gillman.

"The building for the Karkh Water Treatment Plant was completely destroyed by a (vehicle-borne improvised-explosive device) parked outside the building in July 2005," Gillman said.

The VBIED destroyed the building's circuitry, switch gears, circuit breakers, generators and auxiliaries in addition to the air-conditioning power systems.

"They just demolished the building," said Gillman.

The near destruction of the plant caused water problems for many residents in Baghdad. The facility supplies one-half of the potable water used in Baghdad – approximately 1.3 million liters (roughly 345,000 gallons) of potable water per day, which is piped through a two meter line that runs from the plant all the way to Baghdad.

If power goes down in the area, said Gillman, the facility shuts off and water supply will stop for approximately 4 million residents. The facility only has a three-day reserve.

"The United States Army Corp of Engineers came here to rebuild the facility, to fix the back-up generators and the circuitry that goes to the back of the generators," explained Gillman, adding that the Government of Iraq is working with USACE to ensure the facility will run properly.

Workers have recently completed installing new switches and are getting ready to "plug in," said Gillman

For the past three years, Karkh Water Treatment Plant was unsafe and barely able to provide water to Baghdad residents, said Gillman, but that will soon change.

"We are getting to the end of the project," said Gillman. "There are still a few things to do, but we are almost complete in the civil works side.

A lot of positive work has

been done, added Davidson, but there are still challenges facing the refurbishment of the facility.

"The side of the facility where the generator number one and generator number two are placed do not show much improvement yet other than the contractors have cleaned up the area from debris and it looks clean and a lot better than before," said Davidson.

Williams and Davidson said they are pleased with the progress on the facility and that they are looking forward to getting the generators started and the job finished.

When the Karkh Water Treatment Plant project is completed and running at its full potential, it will be another successful joint endeavor project



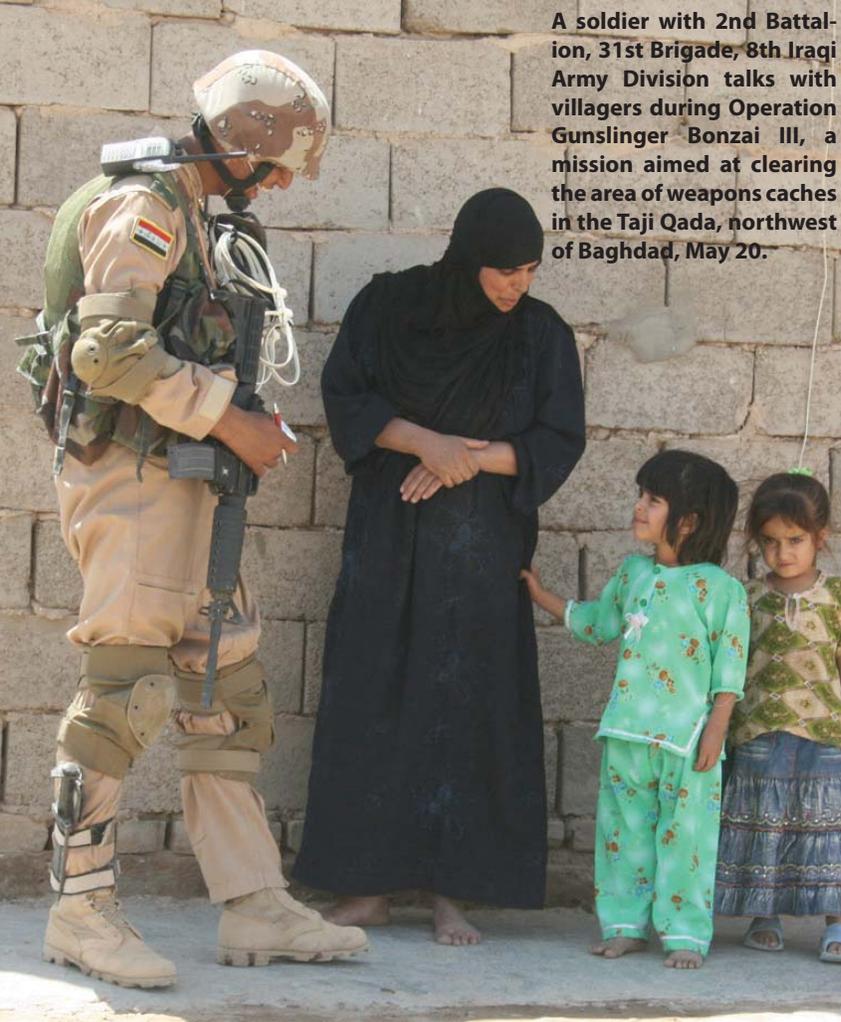
Maj. Anthony Barbina a Belmont, Ohio, native, and brigade engineer with 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, inspects the drive shafts and pumps at the underground section of the Karkh Water Treatment Plant, northwest of Baghdad, May 14.

accomplished by the Corps of Engineers and the GoI, said Gillman.



An engineer team from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, check cable laying and the trench going from the Karkh Water Treatment Plant to its electrical sub-station to ensure it complies with safety standards at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant, northwest of Baghdad, May 14.

A soldier with 2nd Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division talks with villagers during Operation Gunslinger Bonzai III, a mission aimed at clearing the area of weapons caches in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad, May 20.



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division discuss the best plan of action to sweep an area during Operation Gunslinger Bonzai III in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad, May 20.



Soldiers walk through a field in search of weapons caches during Operation Gunslinger Bonzai May 20. Simpliciano serves as a mortar squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds," 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warrior," 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Wolfhounds, IA work to rid Taji of enemy weapons

Photos by Sgt. Brad Willeford

1st Bn. 27th Inf. Regt., 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div., MND-B



A soldier with 2nd Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division talks with local children, and works to develop a strong working relationship with residents during Operation Gunslinger Bonzai III in the Taji Qada, northwest of Baghdad, May 20.