

COALITION Volume 3, Issue 9 September 2008
CHRONICLE

***COALITION EFFORT:
CORDON AND SEARCH***

*Iraqi police learn ways
of the water*

Operation
‘Bring on the
Docs’

FEMALES
TRAINING
TO BE IRAQI
POLICE



A Soldier from 25th Infantry Division pulls security while Estonian and Iraqi forces search for weapons caches in Sabiat, Iraq, Aug. 9. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Herrera.)

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Task Force Mountain division operations center keeps the information flowing across the battlefield.



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Multi-National Corps – Iraq force protection team travels through al-Anbar Province providing pointers to installation force protection personnel.



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Iraqi police learn boating techniques from U.S. Navy personnel.

COALITION CHRONICLE

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MNC-I Commander
Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III

MNC-I Public Affairs Officer
Col. Billy J. Buckner

MNC-I Public Affairs Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Sharon Opeka

Layout and Design
Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp

Editor
Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp

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Kirkuk Police Academy

Training females in northern Iraq

Story, photos by Army Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson
1st Brigade Combat Team,
10th Mountain Division PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Sumalee Bustamante, a former drill instructor and a military police officer with 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, corrects the hand position of a female Iraqi police recruit at 'parade rest' during the first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy, Aug. 16.

FEATURE UP FRONT

Thirty-seven females attended the first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy outside of Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 16. It's been a year since the academy has seen any Iraqi females in blue.



Female Iraqi police recruits show up to their first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy in Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 16. Thirty-seven females will go to-and-from training in civilian clothes for self-protection during the four-week program.



“We need these females badly,” said Lt. Col. Muid, a cadre at the academy. “It is our religious custom not to touch our women—so we cannot search females. Our female IPs will be extremely important to use at checkpoints and government buildings throughout the province.”

The cadre pointed out that female IPs would also be bringing a different perspective to policing.

“Women think differently than men,” Muid said. “They will bring fresh ideas to how we conduct business.”

The 37 females are split into squad-like elements. Each squad will have a 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division female military police Soldier assisting—one a former drill sergeant; Sgt. 1st Class Sumalee Bustamante with 16 years of Army service, and Spc. Jennifer Swierk with two years.

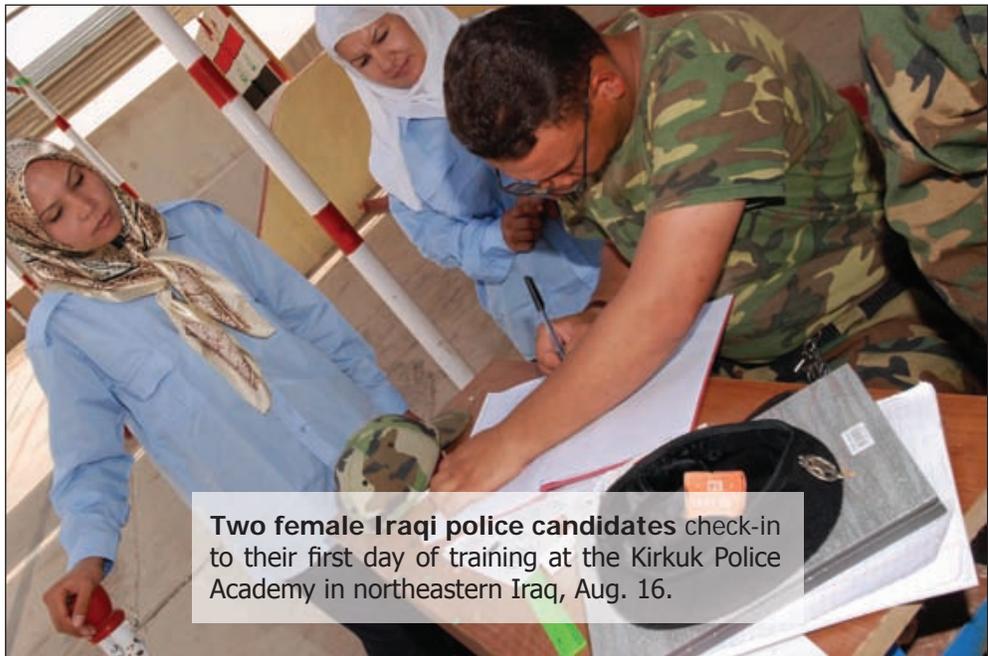
“This is going to be a big challenge,” Swierk said, referring to the cultural differences, “but I’m proud to be a part of this page in Kirkuk’s, if not Iraq’s history.”

For new recruit, Nowal, 30, who lives with her brother and has never held a job, the experience so far has her realizing she has a lot of work ahead of her.

“I am very tired,” Nowal said of the

first day of training, but added that she is determined to “serve my country.” Nowal’s brother is a member of the Kirkuk police force.

In lieu of the recent increase in female suicide bombers, these women are undaunted by the dangers of the field they have chosen. When asked what they would do if they were to spot [a female suicide bomber] at a checkpoint, as a group they did not hesitate to answer—“Man or women—if you come through our check point; we will stop you.”



Two female Iraqi police candidates check-in to their first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy in northeastern Iraq, Aug. 16.

“Terrorists are not welcome in the province of Kirkuk,” Intesar, 29, said. She elaborated further regarding female suicide bombers. “They are not Iraqis – they are not Muslim,” she said. “It is not our way – they are mad.”

The police force is also providing some with much needed jobs. There’s Jinan, 42, from Altun Capri whose husband was killed by insurgents a year ago.

“I have a 5-year-old son I have to feed,” she said.

Jinan believes she is accomplishing two goals. “I will be able to take care of my son and also help ensure he has a safe future here.”

An IP recruit earns approximately 185,000 Iraqi-dinar monthly (around \$81 U.S.) with an additional 25,000 dinar per diem (approximately \$20 U.S.). After graduating from the academy, an IP will make 500,000 dinar (around \$360 U.S.) which includes hazardous duty compensation, with the amount varying depending on the area of responsibility, according to academy staff.

The women have to fulfill the same standards as the males to graduate. The Ministry of Interior’s standards is 240 hours of training. The course will stretch out to approximately four weeks. Following two hours of calisthenics each morning which consists of marching, running, and various drills which are all geared toward teambuilding, the rest of the day is spent rotating from indoor to outdoor classroom instruction on law enforcement procedures ranging from democratic policing, human rights, hostage survival, basic first aid to responding to an ambush. The only adjustments the cadres have had to make is utilizing a stick so that they don’t physically make contact with their female recruits.

“We are so use to, ‘hands-on training’, when showing our recruits how to do something,” Cadre Muid said. “In

our custom we cannot touch our females—that is the only difficult change for me that I see so far. It is good that we have female coalition soldiers to help us,” he said.

“This is going to be an amazing experience for all of us,” Bustamante said. “I’m looking forward to helping my fellow female police officers and being a part of the positive historic changes occurring here.”



A female Iraqi police recruit takes a lap as punishment for addressing the cadre as 'sir', not 'sergeant', or 'cadre', that was put out by her instructors during the first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy, Aug. 16, in northeastern Iraq.



Three of the 37 female Iraqi police recruits take a breather as temperatures rose into the 100s during their first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy in northeastern Iraq, Aug. 16.

DIVISION OPERATIONS

Central hub keeps information flowing through battlefield

Story, photo by Army Staff Sgt. Amber Emery
Multi-National Division – Center PAO

The Task Force Mountain Division Operations Center is a hectic environment, with phones ringing and FM radios chiming with voices of Soldiers throughout the battlefield — it is the central hub for all information and current missions within Multi-National Division – Center’s area of operations in Iraq.

“We help facilitate resources throughout the battlefield for whoever needs it,” said Capt. Benjamin Walker, DOC battle captain. “If there wasn’t a central controlling unit, you wouldn’t be able to move things from one brigade to another brigade at the spur of the moment. So it is easier to have one central point to go to for information and resources; plus, we are a way between brigade and corps.”

The DOC operates as an information retainer and disseminator. It is a place where problems are solved, and issues are addressed. Brigade leaders use

DOC personnel for guidance and occasionally, assistance.

“Division won’t provide assets unless requested,” said Staff Sgt. Noel Guerrero, DOC battle non-commissioned officer.

“Usually brigades handle their own situations, but when it comes to a situation where they can’t provide [assets], that is where we step in.

We make sure they have the support they need to protect themselves.”

The DOC also keeps the command group aware of situations on the ground and throughout MND-C, said Maj. Keith Pruitt, DOC battle major.

“The importance of having all of these assets right here is to have them available to you for the brigades in case any situation arises—if they need the higher help, we are there to provide that,” said Guerrero, a New York

City native.

Another critical aspect of DOC operations is communications. The DOC has the personnel and equipment necessary for effective communication with brigades’ tactical operations centers.

“We have a liaison officer [physically here in the DOC] from



all of the [brigades] which are out on the ground,” said Pruitt, a Canton, Texas, native.

The liaisons use several types of internet communication systems including the Command Post of the Future computer system, along with radio communications and telephones.

ATIONS CENTER



Capt. Benjamin Walker, Multi-National Division – Center battle captain, informs Maj. Keith Pruitt, MND-C battle major, of a recent event occurring within Task Force Mountain's battle space July 20 at the TF Mountain Division Operations Center.

“The [CPOF] is a good way to track events on the battlefield,” said Walker, a Winchester, Va., native. “Each unit has their own CPOF, and then, all of their events get populated into our CPOF, so we can all look at the same thing at the same time. So that way, there is no confusion about what is going on

and where it is going on—everyone has the same information at the same time.”

Having this technology available helps Soldiers get important information fast, which can be life saving. From communication to surveillance systems, personnel within the DOC are there for

the successful completion of the mission.

“We provide the support that is needed from brigades when necessary to save lives and to watch and track the battlefield,” Guerrero said. “We all have our piece of the puzzle, and joined together, we make the operational tempo flow.”

Soldiers interrogate streets of Baghdad:

Route clearance team motivated by dangerous job

Story, photos by Army Staff Sgt.
Brock Jones

MND-B PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Every job that Soldiers do in Iraq is essentially one gear in the mammoth machine that is the U.S. Army. Those jobs, often unheralded, sometimes strenuous and possibly perilous, work in unison toward reaching the common goal of establishing and maintaining peace and security across Iraq.

One of those many ‘gears,’ a job that literally keeps the Army rolling safely in the streets, is keeping travel routes and avenues of movement free of improvised explosive devices and explosively-formed projectiles. Engineers from 1st Platoon ‘Mudcats,’ Company A, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, make up one of the units assigned to that very duty, the dangerous but rewarding job of route clearance.

“There’s nothing more rewarding than going out and finding the deadliest weapon that the terrorists are trying to use and saving Soldier’s lives within our brigade, [our] company and our [area of operation],” said Staff Sgt. Erik Hoyle, vehicle commander, 1st Plt., reflecting the attitude of his entire unit about the job they have been given to do.

Both the leaders and Soldiers of 1st Platoon maintain no doubts about the importance of their job.

“One less bomb out there is one less Soldier or local national who’s going to get hurt,” said 2nd Lt. Ben Galemo, a native of Hamilton, Ill., who serves as the platoon leader for 1st Plt. “That’s always important.”

While operating in their area of responsibility, attempting to rid the streets of deadly explosive devices, route clearance teams travel much slower than normal convoys, stopping often to conduct what they call ‘interrogations,’ closer looks at anything suspicious. With every pair of eyes looking through the thick glass of heavily armored vehicles, they search for anything that might tip them off as to the whereabouts of potential dangers.

“You’re looking for anything from just a wire, just one wire, to a block or anything that looks out of place,” said Staff Sgt. Jared Gay, a native of Sacramento, Calif., who serves as a squad leader with 1st Plt. “Once you’ve been on the routes long enough, you can see what’s been there, what

hasn’t been there. You’re just kind of looking for things that are out of place.”

Looking for something “out of place” in areas where trash and rubble and broken vehicles are often the norm essentially

“

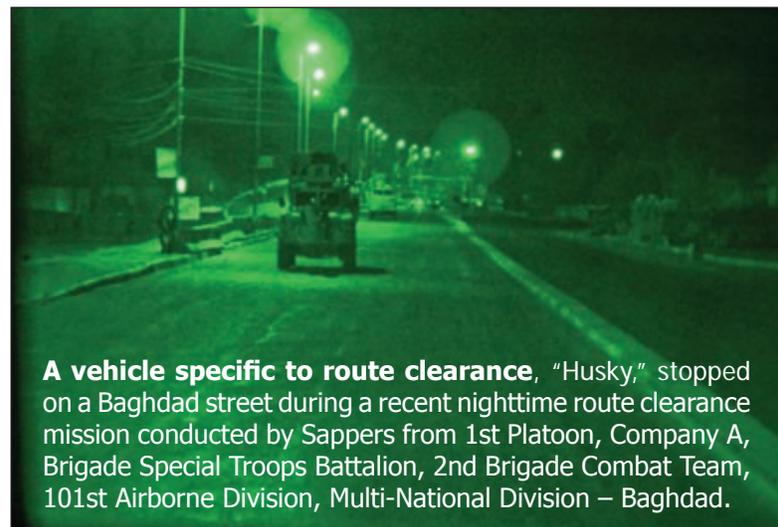
I’d rather go out there and clear the route so they won’t have to worry about getting hit.

”

Spc. Adam Curtis
Driver
2nd Brigade Combat Team
101st Airborne Division

amounts to a never-ending search for explosive ‘needles in a haystack.’ In such a dangerously monotonous job, one would expect a lack of motivation and low morale to be a constant problem. But not so with the “Mudcat” Soldiers, where motivation and positive attitude seem to be the rule, not the exception.

“As always, ‘A’ game outside the wire; there is no ‘B’ game. Nobody’s



A vehicle specific to route clearance, “Husky,” stopped on a Baghdad street during a recent nighttime route clearance mission conducted by Sappers from 1st Platoon, Company A, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

handing out towels,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Foreman, a native of Allegany, N.Y., who serves as the platoon sergeant for 1st platoon, while briefing his Soldiers before their most recent mission, his first since returning from Environmental Morale Leave.

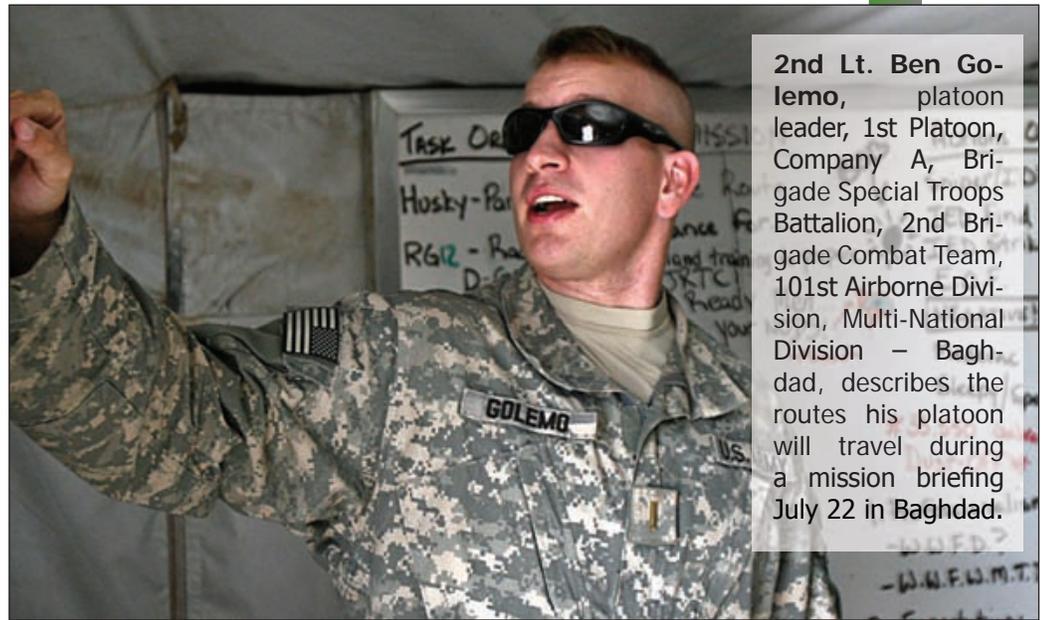
“I am thoroughly stoked to be back and going on mission. I could not sleep this morning. It’s kind of like when you’re a kid waiting for Christmas morning,” he said.

True motivation in any job seems to begin with the feeling that one is doing something worthwhile, with knowing that one performs a potentially life-saving service. This type of motivation comes easily to a platoon that understands the life-and-death ramifications of what they do.

“What keeps me motivated doing my job is my infantry buddies out there,” said Spc. Adam Curtis, a native of Los Angeles, who serves as driver and gunner with 1st Plt. “I would rather get hit in one of these vehicles than they get hit in an M1114 [up-armored Humvee]. I’d rather go out there and clear the route so they won’t have to worry about getting hit.”

The members of 1st Platoon are all motivated by the other Soldiers around them, feeding off each other’s energy and fighting as individual warriors for the collective safety of the whole platoon and ultimately 2nd Brigade.

“You’re only as good as the people you serve beside,” said Spc. Travis Wilds, who, like all 1st Platoon



Sappers from 1st Platoon, Company A, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, stop to “interrogate” a possible improvised explosive device during a recent route clearance mission in 2nd BCT’s area of responsibility in western Baghdad. Route clearance teams use the term “interrogate” when they employ additional means at their disposal to investigate possible IEDs.

Soldiers, serves in various capacities on route clearance missions. “The people here, when I found out all the stuff they did last deployment and this deployment, I realized I was serving with a company of heroes, and I find myself very lucky to have served with people such as these.”

For 10 months, the tight-knit unit has been traveling the streets of Baghdad at crawl speed, day

and night, searching for the indiscriminate explosives that kill and maim both Soldiers and civilians.

They continue their dangerous missions as highly motivated Air Assault Soldiers, inspired by each other to give their all in the hopes of saving lives one convoy, one mission, one ‘interrogation’ at a time.



1st Lt. Fernando Alfaro, of El Salvador's Cuscatlan Battalion, examines an Iraqi boy's crippled hands during a medical activity by American and El Salvadoran doctors at the al-Jameer clinic in the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut, Iraq, July 31.

Operation 'Bring On the Docs'

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Doctors from the 41st Fires Brigade and El Salvador's Battalion Cuscatlan brought medical care to citizens of the Zuwarijat District of al-Kut, July 31.

The event kicked off Operation 'Bring on the Docs', which is a multi-phase operation with the Wasit Province Ministry of Health which is designed to identify and improve current health care capabilities, said Col. Italo Bastianelli, 41st Fires Bde. surgeon.

"The overall objective is to develop an Iraqi led, enduring, quality health care system within

Wasit province," he said.

The Zuwarijat operation was held at the MOH's al-Jamaheer clinic and focused on education for local health care professionals and citizens of the district.

Medical assistance visits are planned and executed in cooperation with Iraqi health care professionals, said Bastianelli. Coalition health care providers use the visits to understand limitations local doctors face and to improve their ability to care for their patients, he said.

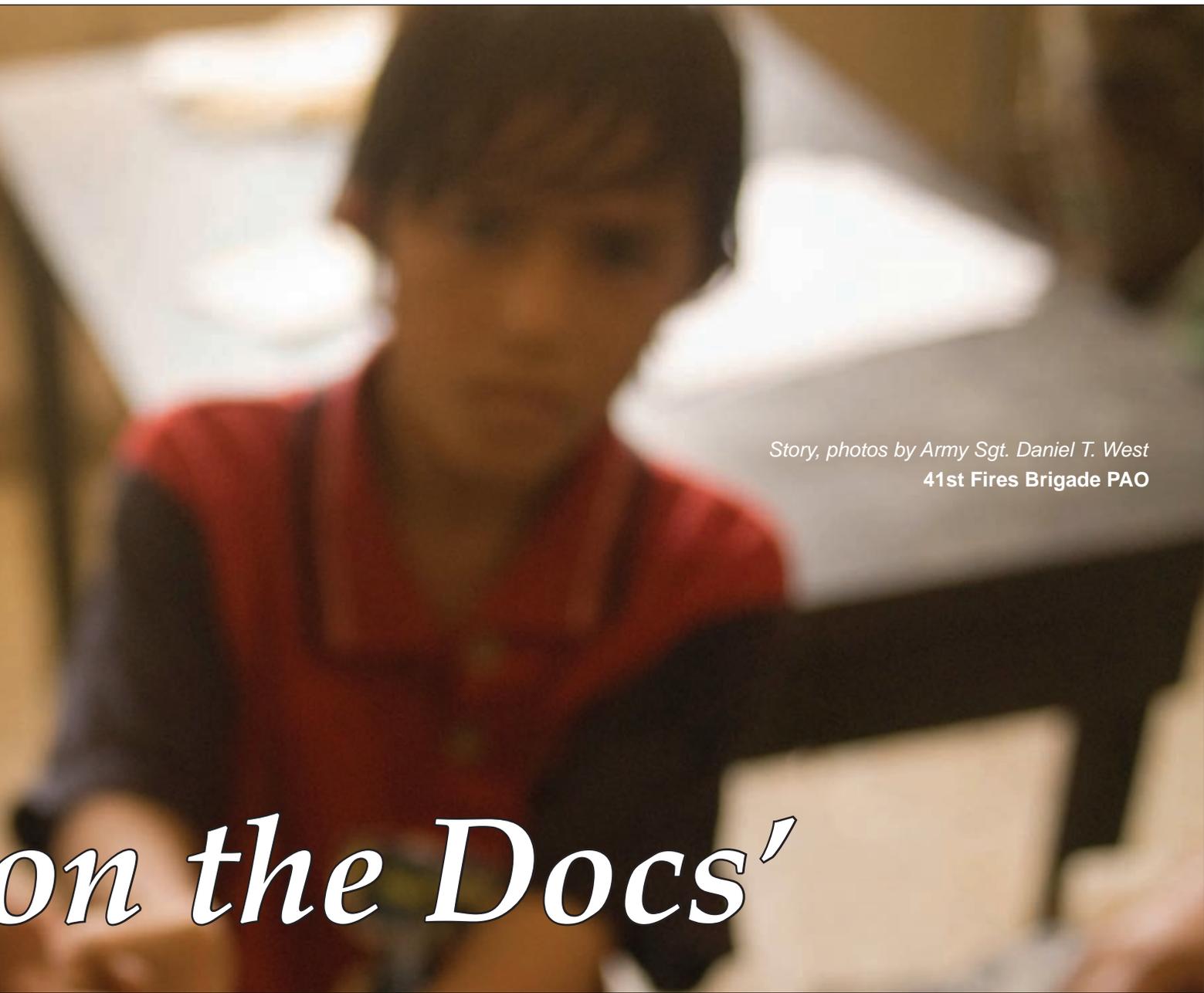
"With improved training, facilities, medical equipment and supplies, Iraqi health professionals

will be able to take the lead in caring for the Iraqi people," said Bastianelli. "This will allow coalition forces medical assets to take advisory and support roles."

Approximately 200 patients received treatment at the event, one that focused on preventive medicine.

"It's a good experience for young medics and doctors to get out and see the people of Iraq and work with them to help rebuild the country," said Pfc. Jessica Rush, medic at the scene with Company C, 589th Brigade Support Battalion.

"All together, it was fun," added Pfc. Dana Larsen, also of Company



Story, photos by Army Sgt. Daniel T. West
41st Fires Brigade PAO

on the Docs'

C. "We never got a rest or lunch break, and didn't even notice. We did a lot, but there are so many more things we wish we could have done, but couldn't."

They will have their chance as the operation's work in the al-Kut area should take about two months to complete, Bastianelli said.

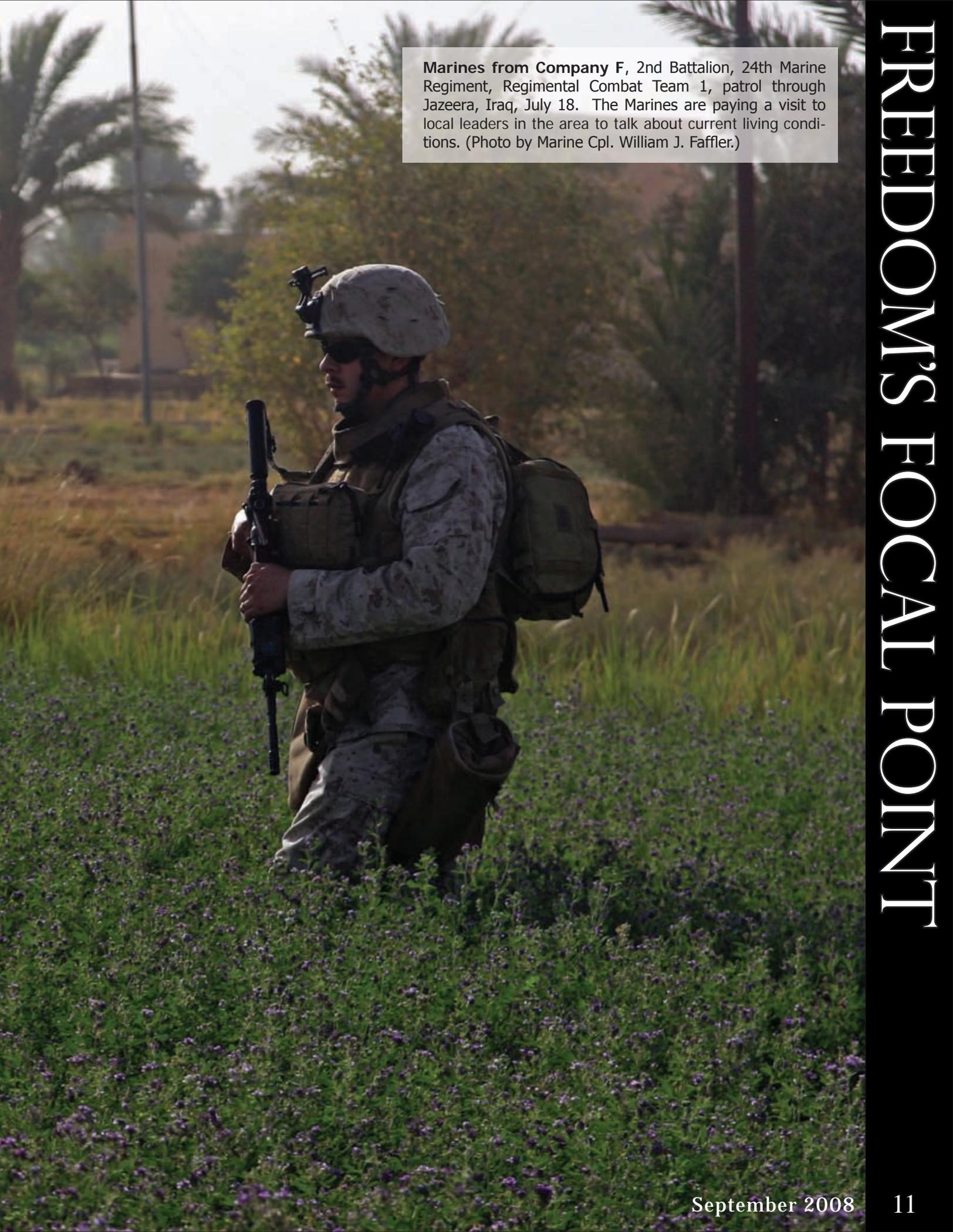
Brigadier General Jeffrey Buchanan, Multi-National Division - Center Deputy Commanding General for Operations, also visited the event, with Col. Walter Mauricio Arèvalo, commander of Cuscatlan Battalion, who was there to visit the Salvadoran troops assisting with the operation.



Cpt. Federico Antonio Gomez, of El Salvador's Cuscatlan Battalion, prepares for a dental exam July 31 during a medical activity held by American and El Salvadoran doctors at the al-Jameer clinic in the Zuwarijat district of al-Kut, Iraq.



Cpl. Marissa L. Stuart, intelligence clerk, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Iraqi Women's Engagement, searches an Iraqi woman July 24 in Kabani, Iraq. A cooperative medical engagement was performed to provide medical attention to local Iraqis. (Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Gabriela Garcia.)



Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, patrol through Jazeera, Iraq, July 18. The Marines are paying a visit to local leaders in the area to talk about current living conditions. (Photo by Marine Cpl. William J. Faffler.)

FREEDOM'S FOCAL POINT

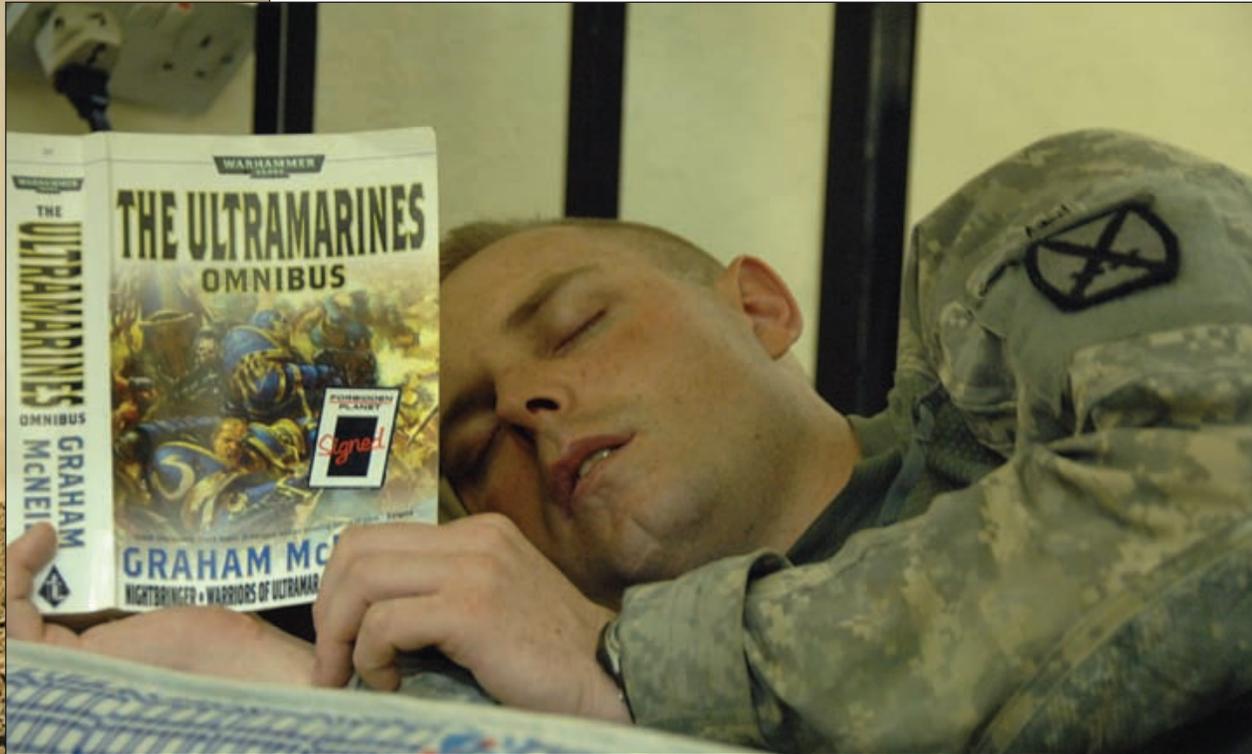


An Iraqi army soldier stands watch at a checkpoint July 31 near Hayy Ash Shu'lah in Basrah, Iraq. (Photo by British Army Cpl. Rob Knight.)

Staff Sgt. Conrad Vasquez, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, directs traffic on a freeway leading into Baghdad in order to maneuver his Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle out of rush hour, July 31. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Herrera.)

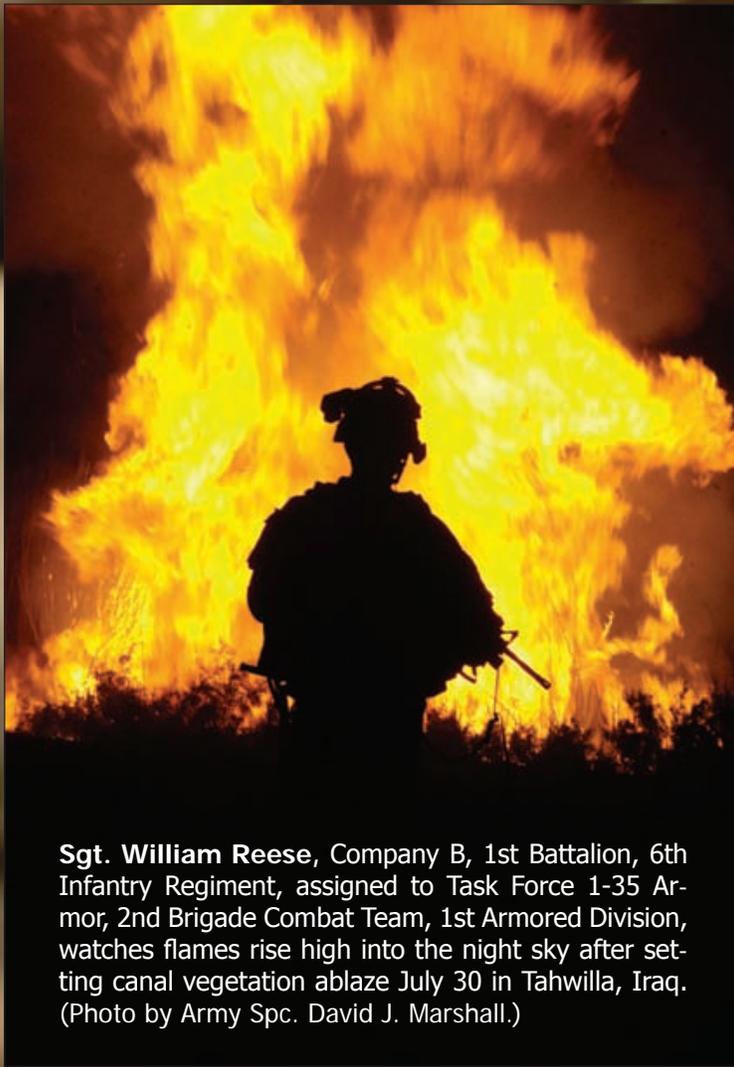


Sgt. Roger Gertz, Alpha Troop, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, posted at al-Rasheed Joint Security Station in Eastern Baghdad, falls asleep reading a book while taking a break between patrols, July 28. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Brian D. Lehnhardt.)



A small child exchanges glances with a U.S. Soldier July 24, while the child's father speaks with members of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, in Balad, Iraq. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Micky M. Bazaldua.)

FREEDOM'S FOCAL POINT



Sgt. William Reese, Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, assigned to Task Force 1-35 Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, watches flames rise high into the night sky after setting canal vegetation ablaze July 30 in Tahwilla, Iraq. (Photo by Army Spc. David J. Marshall.)



Iraqi police and U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, relax and have a few laughs after training exercises are complete at the Hammiyat police station in Taji, Iraq, Aug. 4. (Photo by Army Spc. Daniel Herrera.)

One of two new Tigers sent to the Baghdad Zoo from the Conservators' Center in North Carolina plays in the water at his new home. Riley and Hope, a pair of two-year-old Bengal Tigers, were debuted to the public Aug. 8 and will entertain more than 10,000 visitors to the zoo every weekend and 2,000 to 3,000 on weekdays. The Bengal tiger is an endangered species, with less than 3,000 worldwide. (Photo by Army Spc. Charles W. Gill)



FREEDOM'S FOCAL POINT

Assessment team assists with force protection

'Jersey barriers', such as these in Ramadi, Iraq, seen July 26, by themselves or used in conjunction with speed bumps, control the speed at which vehicles can approach an entry control point - protecting the personnel that man the station and lessening the ability of a forced entry.

Story, photos by Marine Cpl. Frances Goch
MNC-I PAO

Sustaining force protection is a constant battle, mainly because things that are seen every day can be overlooked.

That's why the force protection assessment team from Multi-National Corps – Iraq visits forward operating bases: to assess force protection by helping commanders see where improvements are needed.

"It is always good to have someone else take a look at what you are doing," said Air Force Col. Robert Burton, operations chief, Task Force Ramadi. "Often you are blinded by familiarity."

"We always make sure to tell the commanders that this is an assessment, not an inspection," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Pfab, operations antiterrorism chief, antiterrorism and force protection team, MNC-I. "We are just there to make suggestions and give them options on how to mitigate vulnerabilities."

The team checks perimeters, entry control points, fuelling areas, ammunition storage areas, living areas, high occupancy facilities, and they do it with great attention to detail. They look at every angle trying to insure they haven't missed anything.

"We check these places because if there is going to be a breach in security, then these are the places that it is most likely to occur," said Army Staff Sgt. Jeffrey West, technical defense advisor, MNC-I AT/FP. "

The team checks for protection from indirect fire attacks from rockets, artillery, and mortars or improvised explosive device blasts.

And while they are out doing assessment, the team talks to whoever is working the area - whether it is US servicemembers, coalition forces or contracted civilians

"This way we can get the best picture of how that facility is operated and where potential vulnerabilities could lie," West said.

They document everything by taking pictures and notes so that nothing is forgotten.

After their assessment is done, the team then uses those pictures and notes to make a brief for base personnel responsible for force protection. In the brief they go over the positives – things that are good force protection, the negatives – vulnerabilities, and the neutrals – things that aren't necessarily vulnerabilities but might not be the most effective way to accomplish what the base was trying to accomplish.

"With every negative or vulnerability we tell them the best practices that we have seen work on other bases so they can apply it to their [forward operating bases]," said Marine Maj. Mark Szarmach, deputy chief, AT/FP MNC-I.

According to Szarmach, the assessment team's whole purpose is to help.

"I'm glad they bring a fresh set of eyes," said Burton. "Our number one mission is force protection. It is the 'no-fail mission,' and it is the most important thing we do."



Maj. Mark Szarmach, deputy chief, anti-terrorism and force protection team, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, points out areas his assessment team will look over for force protection vulnerabilities in Ramadi, Iraq, July 26.

Airman's ingenuity, \$1

improves Predator mission

Story by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp
Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Christopher Griffin
407th Air Expeditionary Group PAO

ALI BASE, Iraq – Pilots of MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial systems here can now talk over a secure internet phone line using their headsets, thanks to one Airman's ingenuity and one dollar.

Staff Sgt. Ray Stetler, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, base information and infrastructure, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, received a 2 a.m. phone call that led him to make the modification, one that grants pilots access to secure voice-over internet protocol.

Stetler said the 407th ECS helpdesk thought he could fill the request because of his reputation for fixing things. After they called, he went out to the Predator site and contacted the person who called in the work request.

"All he told me was that (higher headquarters) wanted to be connected to the pilot for a mission the next day, and he called the communications squadron because he couldn't think of anyone else to call," said Stetler, noting that he'd never worked with secure radios or S-VOIP phones before that night.

After contemplating for a few minutes how he was going to make the modification, he went to work. Within five hours, a soldering iron and two meters of cable – total cost, \$1 – Stetler completed his impromptu invention.

"I terminated a network connection cable inside the headset coming from the wire harness and connected it to the conference call terminations on the circuit board inside a [S-VOIP] phone," said the 31-year-old Stetler, who hails from Phoenix.

Predator operators can plug the modified headset into the radio system and make a call to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center or anyone else using S-VOIP, Stetler said.

Previously, pilots used an instant messaging system to talk with higher headquarters. Using S-VOIP to conduct a mission increased productivity by 50 percent, said Capt. Trey Teasley, a Predator pilot with Detachment 1, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron. Teasley conducted one of the first missions with the modified headset.

"Now we don't need to get on our keyboard to type our request or take our eyes off the screen," he said. "We

can just talk (to the CAOC) to receive clearance authority to engage a target or get other updates instead."

Looking back, Stetler said he just did what he could to close a trouble ticket, but now realizes his invention improved the way Predator pilots do business.

"I never would have thought that a three-star general would know what I did, much less think so highly of it."

Staff Sgt. Ray Stetler
noncommissioned officer-in-charge
base information and infrastructure
407th Expeditionary Communications
Squadron

of it," Stetler said.

North, who visited Ali Base in July, urged the 11-year Air Force veteran to share his creation with others.

Upon North's recommendation, Stetler immediately submitted his design to the Air Force's Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program. If the Air Force adopts his idea, he could receive an award of up to \$10,000 – not a bad return for a \$1 investment.

It was his simple fix that caught the attention of Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central and 9th Air Force commander.

"I never would have thought that a three-star general would know what I did, much less think so highly

COALITION EFFORT : CORDON, SEARCH

Photos by Army Spc. Daniel Herrera
55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Estonian soldiers, along with troops from the 25th Infantry Division and Iraqi army are seen searching the countryside for weapons caches Aug. 9, in Sabiat, Iraq.

Estonia has been a member of the multi-national coalition in Iraq since 2004. Two Estonian soldiers have paid the ultimate sacrifice in helping establish peace and security in Iraq.



An Estonian soldier talks with Staff Sgt. Steven Anderson, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, about the method to be used in the search for weapons caches in the rural region of Sabiat, Iraq, Aug. 9.



Estonian troops plan how they will conduct a weapons cache search in Sabiat, Iraq, Aug. 9. Iraqi, Estonian and U.S. forces participated in the search for hidden weapons in the rural region of Iraq.



U.S. soldiers from 25th Infantry Division pull security while coalition and Iraqi forces search for weapons caches in Sabiat, Iraq, Aug. 9.

Iraqi police shake, rattle and row



U.S. Navy shows the ropes

Story, photos by Marine Lance Cpl. Paul M. Torres
Regimental Combat Team 5

HADITHA, Iraq – The six man boat jetted around the small dock near the dam in Haditha, Iraq. The Navy Riverines with Riverine Squadron 3, Detachment 2, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 and the Iraqi police were using the small boat as they reviewed basic boating techniques.

The Riverines held a 21-day course to give a group of Iraqi policemen some experience in patrolling the river and lake near the dam.

“Since in the near future we will be turning over security of the dam and Lake Qadisiyah (to the IP), it makes sense to train them so they will be successful,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason A. Nolte, 28, from Lisbon, Ohio, who is an instructor with Riverine Squadron 3.

The course covered skills such as docking, basic maneuvering, capsizing and recovery among other things.

“We showed them how to run both the outboard and jet-propelled boats, and we showed them how to execute an approach when performing an interdiction,” said Petty Officer 3rd

Class Joshua J. Sundsmo, 24, from St. Paul, Minn., who is an instructor with Riverine Squadron 3. “When they finish this course, they should be confident in their driving skills and their abilities to handle most situations they will encounter when patrolling the river.”

The training starts off in the classroom where an instructor goes over the information with the aid of an interpreter.

After the class, the instructors give an example of what they want to happen and then let the Iraqi policemen try it.

“On the first day, they were a little skeptical and timid to drive the boats, but by the end of the first few days, they couldn’t wait to get out on the water,” said Sundsmo.

This is the first group the Riverines have taught, but it is sure to not be their last.

“We will continue to hold classes and train the IPs as long as we are here,” said Lt. j.g. Charles P. Leary, 26, from Dallas, an instructor supervisor with Riverine Squadron 3.

The next group to go through the

training is scheduled to pick up soon after the present class graduates, but with a few adjustments and improvements.

“We are translating some of the presentations into both English and Arabic and we are hoping to have a few of the graduates stay back and help us with the training,” said Nolte.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason A. Nolte, instructor, Regimental Combat Team 5, shows Iraqi policemen how to maneuver a six-man boat July 13 on Lake Qadisiyah, Iraq.

IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF COALITION SERVICEMEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN JULY 16
AND AUGUST 14, 2008 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13

July 17

Tech. Sgt. Jackie L. Larsen, 37.

July 30

Sgt. James A. McHale, 31.

July 31

Spc. Andre D. Mitchell, 25.

Aug. 2

Spc. Kevin R. Dickson, 21.

Pfc. Jennifer L. Cole, 34.

Staff Sgt. Brian K. Miller, 37.

Aug. 3

Spc. Ronald A. Schmidt, 18.

Aug. 4

Pvt. Timothy J. Hutton, 21.

Sgt. Gary M. Henry, 34.

Spc. Jonathan D. Menke, 22.

Aug. 7

Master Sgt. Danny E. Maybin, 47.

Cpl. Adam T. McKiski, 21.

Cpl. Stewart S. Trejo, 25.

Aug. 9

Sgt. Jose E. Ulloa, 23.

Aug. 10

Sgt. Michael H. Ferschke Jr., 22.

Sgt. Kenneth B. Gibson, 25.

Aug. 13

Cpl. James M. Hale, 23.

Aug. 14

Pfc. Daniel A. C. McGuire, 19.

Patrol base turnover

Photos by Army Spc. Richard Del Vecchio
55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

An Iraqi soldier stands guard (right) while Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers salute their respective nation's flags Aug. 13, while their national anthems play during a ceremony giving the Iraqi army a new patrol base, one that was once in control of the 101st Airborne Division in Ludifiyah, Iraq.

