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March 11, 2009

New school brightens female students' futures



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

Students and a teacher at the Irshad Secondary School for Girls wave flags and display flowers as they sing and chant during the opening ceremony of the school recently. The school enrolls some of the brightest girls, among the top 20th percentile of girls aged 13-15 from Diwaniya and surrounding areas.

Sgt. Rodney Foliente
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CAMP ECHO – Some of Diwaniya's brightest young female students between 13 and 15 years-old happily participated in their new school's opening recently.

The Irshad Secondary School for Girls, which enrolls some of the brightest girls in the city, was built with the Army Corps of Engineers working with the local government, local contractors and laborers.

"With my partners, the Iraqi engineers, and with diligent effort, we were able to provide for you this beautiful school," said Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, with USACE. "It is a great joy and privilege to provide an opportunity for such gifted young ladies to learn and evolve and support the future of Iraq."

The students of the Irshad Secondary School for Girls are among the top 20 percent of young female students from within and around the city.

"We are happy for this school. It is very nice," said a young student in English. She then showed off and said it in French and Arabic. "Our old school was too small and not ours. We borrowed it, shared it with others," she said, describing the crowded situations and sometimes being unable to have a full day of school.

During the visit by a handful of U.S. Soldiers, she joked with them and taught phrases in French and Arabic.

The size of the school provides a better environment for teaching these girls, said Shuhad, an English-speaking teacher.

"I have girls of my own," she said, explaining why she wanted to teach young girls. Shuhad said she enjoys teaching and is happy for the new school.

"I can participate in helping small girls in building their personalities and to be good people and good members of society to build the future of Iraq," said Shuhad.

The students waved Iraqi flags and flowers, chanting: "Long live Iraq!" They also chanted in

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Iraqi Army Soldiers bag new medical skills

PFC. TERENCE EWINGS
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – Iraqi Soldiers trained on lifesaving and preventative medicine techniques during a health fair at Camp Whitehorse Feb. 28.

Along with new preventative medicine techniques, the Soldiers of the 10th Motorized Transportation Unit, 10th Iraqi Army Division received 20 new combat life-saver bags, referred to as High Risk Warrant Casualty Kits, which provide the IA troopers with the ability to more rapidly extract casualties and initiate immediate care.

Soldiers from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Rough Rider' Battalion donated the kits to the IA unit.

The bags can be worn as a belly bag or slung over the shoulder with quick-release attachments providing the troops with better mobility and access to help injured Soldiers during combat. The kits also have an extra storage sleeve to accommodate additional equipment.

the body's immune system from diseases, such as hypertension, typhoid fever and influenza.

"My Soldiers are very comfortable receiving this kind of information and supplies, because it benefits our military and civilian lives," said Lt. Ahmed, an Iraqi medic who taught the majority of the classes during the health fair.

The Iraqi Soldiers learned about hygiene, physical fitness and protecting

"We are very thankful for our American friends," said Ahmed. "They came and brought us a lot of information and supplies that helped us."

The Rough Rider Soldiers aided their counterparts by providing medicine and information on how to treat health issues the Iraqi troops commonly experience. The health fair was one of the many medical interactions the American's have had with the Iraqis since their partnership began last September.

Staff Sgt. Michael Rosado, a 27th BSB Medic and program manager for the health fair, said the training event was a success and the Iraqis are more knowledgeable about their personal health and fitness.

"I believe all the Iraqis will benefit from this training in the future," said Rosado, a native of Puerto Rico. "The information we passed out and the new bags that were distributed will have a positive effect on this unit."

The Rough Rider Battalion has planned several medical classes

in the coming weeks to train their Iraqi counterparts and supply them with the latest combat life-saver bags.



Photo by Pfc. Terence Ewings

Staff Sgt. Michael Rosado, from the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, explains how to use the new combat life saver bag during a medical class with troops from the 10th Motorized Transportation Unit, 10th Division at Camp Whitehorse near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq Feb. 28. The American troops donated 20 of the new CLS bags during a health fair for the Iraqi combat medics to use during joint patrols and operations.

THE Mountain View

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4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division
41st Fires Brigade
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente
Students read in their new classroom after the opening ceremony of the Irshad Secondary School for Girls recently.

SCHOOL

From page 1

Arabic of a brighter future, a safe country where its citizens prosper and flourish.

"I have three kids, so for me it's pretty inspiring and pleasant to see (students) with so much energy and enthusiasm. I was so impressed," said Mike Klecheski, Provincial Reconstruction Team leader for Diwaniya Province.

"This country is making a lot of progress and to the extent that we can be partners in this progress is wonderful," said Klecheski. He stressed the importance of the partnership with the government of Iraq. "We work very closely with them. Construction of a school like this is really a partnership, in every sense of the word."

He said efforts such as the opening of the school help strengthen the bond between the two countries and develops

a greater working relationship to benefit the sovereignty of Iraq.

"Education is important for the future of any country. But in a country like this which was devastated by years of dictatorship, I think it is very important, not only from the point of view of learning skills but also of learning to view the world in a different way after years of Saddam's rule."

He said there are plans and ongoing projects to build additional schools within the province, as well as throughout the country. He said there are other programs in effect that also benefit the students, such as scholarships and sending students abroad

"Not only are we dealing with Iraqis, but we're dealing with the future generation of leaders and elites," said Klecheski.

"It was a great day and a lot of fun." Klecheski continued. "It's days like this that really make this a fantastic job because you really feel like you're directly contributing. This is a culmination of a lot of work and it's nice to be able to celebrate that. We are so happy that Iraq is making such great progress."



Photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

(Above) Students and a teacher at the Irshad Secondary School for Girls conduct class in their new classroom after the opening ceremony of the school. (Right) A young female student holds her new school supplies as others wait to receive theirs from Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, with USACE, and Mike Klecheski, PRT leader for Diwaniya Province, at the opening ceremony of the Irshad Secondary School for Girls Feb. 26.



Staff Section Round-up

Chaplain's Corner: Uniform Accessory Not Without Cost

Every Soldier, to some extent, is guilty of being a "gadget geek". There are knives, flashlights, glasses, and numerous uniform upgrades they just gotta have because it makes a "Better Soldier." Is it really true that everything a Soldier needs the Army issues or he can at least buy it at the PX? The answer should be a resounding NO.

There is one thing the Army can't issue but every Soldier MUST HAVE! Some have searched the Ranger Joe's and US Calvary magazines as well as internet sites; others have gone to Bradley's and still come up empty handed. One search led to some of the OLD TIMERS nearing retirement. They were asked if they could part with it since they would be retiring. Not one of them was willing to give it up.

What in the world could be so vital to making a good Soldier and yet so hard to find? A GREAT ATTITUDE. This is the difference maker for the soldier that seems to be competent, well equipped, and physically strong. Of all the Army equipment vital for a successful mission NOTHING is more important than a GREAT ATTITUDE. Noted author and motivational speaker, John Maxwell, said this of a person's attitude:

It is the vanguard of your true self.
 Its root is inward but its fruit is outward.
 It is your best friend or your worst enemy.
 It is more honest about you than the words you speak.
 It is your outward look based on your past experiences.
 It is what draws people or repels them.

It is the librarian of your past.
 It is the speaker of your present.
 It is the prophet of your future.

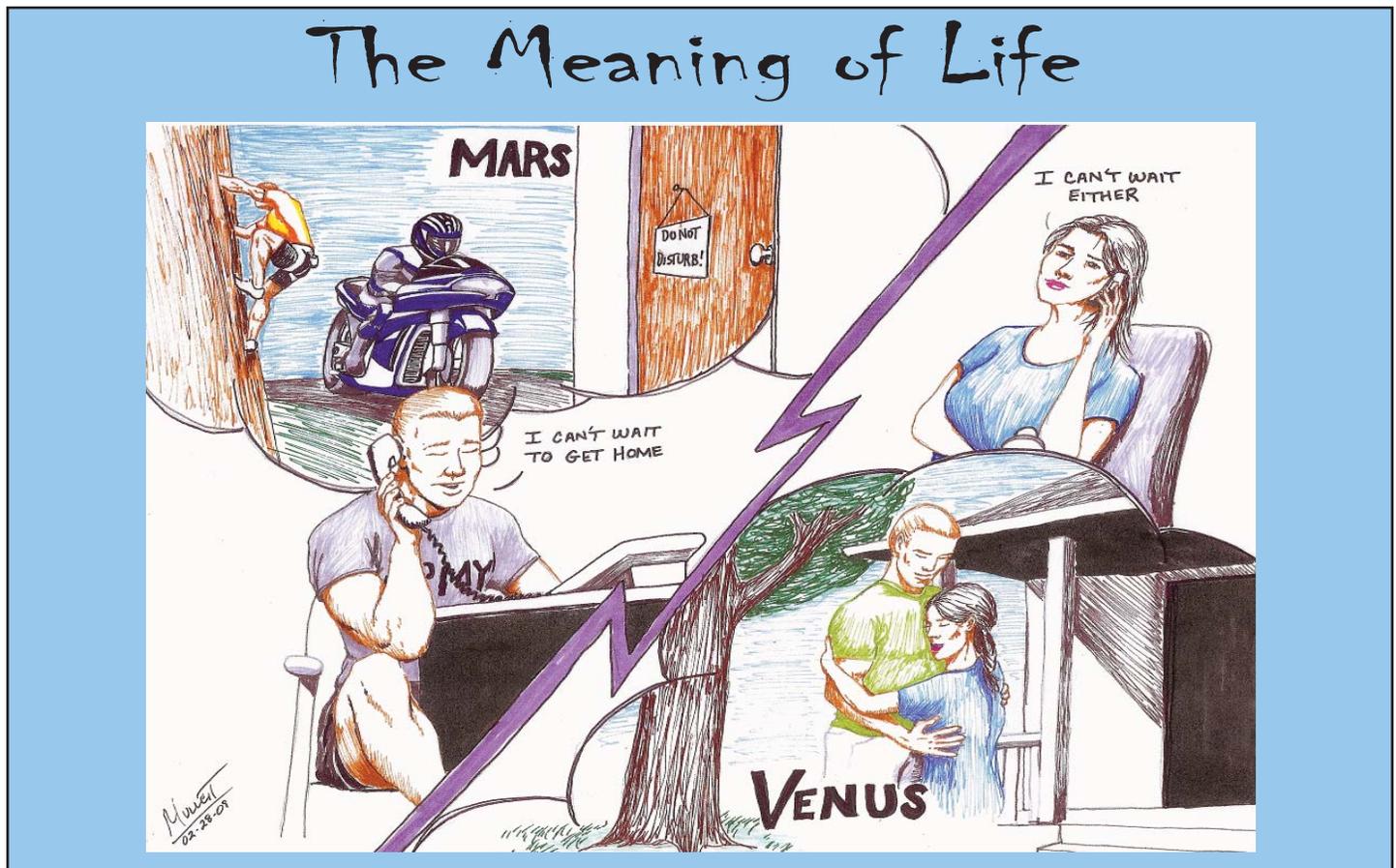
Charles Swindoll further stated, "Attitude, to me, is more important than education, money, circumstances, failures, successes, or what people say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. Attitude will make or break a company, a church, or a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we embrace for that day. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it."

How do we have a GREAT ATTITUDE?

1. Take Responsibility For Your Attitude.
2. Constantly Evaluate Your Attitude.
3. Develop The Desire For A Great Attitude.
4. Develop Good Attitude Habits.
5. Hang Around Other Great Attitudes.

The attitude is the Soldier's greatest resource. You can't buy it and it can't be given to you, but it can be developed. Take the steps necessary to have a GREAT ATTITUDE.

CH (CPT) Mike Jones



Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

GALVESTON, Texas - Experts know of about a dozen Civil War-era shipwrecks off the Texas coast. They might have just identified another. Contractors searching for debris from Hurricane Ike near Galveston Island took a sonar scan of what the Texas Historical Commission believes is a previously undiscovered ship carrying cotton that sank in 1864.

Sports News:

TAMPA, Fla. - Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez had arthroscopic surgery Monday to repair a torn labrum in his right hip and was projected to return to the team's lineup in six to nine weeks. Dr. Marc Philippon performed the 1-hour, 20-minute procedure at Vail Valley Surgery Center in Colorado. "The surgery went exactly as we planned," Philippon said during a conference call. "No surprises." Other options considered were a more aggressive surgery that would have sidelined Rodriguez up to four months and a conservative approach that would have included rest and treatment.

Entertainment:

A first-edition Harry Potter book was sold for about \$19,000, according to an auction house in Dallas, Texas. The soft-cover book was one of 200 copies printed and is a rarity compared with later editions of the popular series that were printed in the millions, the Heritage Auction Galleries said. The book, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," includes an autograph from author J.K. Rowling.

Odd News:

CANBERRA, Australia - When a dark intruder smashed through his bedroom window and repeatedly bounced on his bed, Beat Ettlin at first was relieved to discover it was a kangaroo. "My initial thought when I was half awake was, 'It's a lunatic ninja coming through the window,'" the 42-year-old told The Associated Press on Monday. "It seems about as likely as a kangaroo breaking in." But his relief was short-lived. As Ettlin covered beneath the sheets with his wife and 9-year-old daughter at 2 a.m. Sunday, the frantic kangaroo bounded into the bedroom of his 10-year-old son, Leighton Beman, who screamed, "There's a 'roo in my room!"

Quote of the Day

"Men and women are born to succeed, not fail." – Henry David Thoreau

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For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

Swing dance class @ 7 p.m.
Ping Pong @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

March 27
Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony @ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk run. Free t-shirt and continental breakfast. Race begins @ 7 a.m.

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K. Registration begins @ 7 a.m., race begins @ 8 a.m. T-shirts awarded to top finishers.

Victory

March 15

Victory Marathon/half marathon @ 7 a.m. Start at multi-purpose stage next to Oasis Dining Facility. Individual and team runners. Teams must consist of one male and one female. Runners must complete registration forms and email them to joseph.may@us.army.mil. Packets must be picked up March 14 at the multi-purpose stage.

Liberty

March 14

Jacksonville River Run 15K at Z Lake. Registration begins @ 6 a.m. Contact Jeffrey Heise for more information, jeffrey.heise@iraq.centcom.mil.

Slayer

Saturdays

Cigar club at Green Beans @ 8 p.m.

Babylon Theater

March 16

Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.

March 17

Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.

Fire Extinguisher Class @ 2 p.m.

March 20

Town Hall Meeting @ 1 p.m.