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March 14, 2009

Joint officials work to restore history



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

Abdul Amir Hamdani, Director of the Inspectorate of Dhi Qar, shares his visions for the restoration of the ancient cities in Iraq with Brigadier General Jefforey Smith, MND-C Deputy Commanding General of Support, and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Qahtan Jubouri.

PFC. JASMINE N. WALTHALL
TF 449



Central and 10th Mountain Division Deputy Commanding General for Support, along with other senior leaders, escorted Mr. Qahtan Jubouri, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities through the ancient cities of Ur and Nuffarr.

“The purpose of this visit was to have the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities meet with public state officials to

CAMP STRIKER - U.S. Forces met with Iraqi officials March 10 to discuss the restoration of historic monuments in Iraq.

Brigadier Gen. Jefforey Smith, Multi-National Division-

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HISTORY

From page 1

(Left) The city of Ur marks the birthplace of Abraham and is also mentioned several times in the Bible as "Ur of Chaldees." It was one of the historic structures toured March 10 with U.S. officials and the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in order to make plans for restoring the historic monuments and integrating them into Iraq's tourism economy.



Photos by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

(Right) The city of Ur is home to the best-preserved ziggurat in Iraq. It is said to have once been the temple of the Sumerian moon god. This site was one of many on the historical tour through the cities of Ur and Naffur, taken by Brigadier General Jefforey Smith, MND-C Deputy Commanding General of Support, and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Qahtan Jubouri to make plans for the restoration of the monuments.



(Left) Ruins from a temple in Naffur, Iraq are said to be the site for the meeting of Sumerian gods as well as the place that man was created. Naffur and Ur were ancient cities toured March 10 by U.S. Forces and Iraqi officials.

THE Mountain View

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343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449



HISTORY: *Joint officials work to restore history*

From Page 2

talk about future projects that are under consideration to reconstruct and excavate some of these sites," said Smith.

Ur is one of the most well-known ancient sites in Iraq. It was once the capital of the ancient civilization of Sumeria. The city is mentioned several times in the Bible as 'Ur of the Chaldees' and is the birthplace of Abraham. It once stood on the banks of the Euphrates prior to the shift in the river, and is home to the best-preserved ziggurat in Iraq.

Nippur, which is now modern-day Nuffar, is an ancient city in southeast Iraq. Found there are ruins from a temple that once housed administrative, economic and religious functions. The temple, called E-kur, is said to be the home of the god Enlil, and where man is said to have been created. More than 40,000 tablets have been recovered in the ruins; some are said to have been written as far back as 3rd millennium Before Common Era.

Jobouri also had a chance to meet with archaeologists from museums in the area.



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

Brigadier General Jefforey Smith, MND-C Deputy Commanding General of Support speaks with a prominent sheik in the local community about the restoration of the historical monuments in Iraq during a tour of the sites with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Qahtan Jubouri.

"It is humanity's duty to preserve this site," said Abdul Amir Hamdani, Director of the Inspectorate of Dhi Qar. "We must take advantage of this duty."

Hamdani also pointed out that it was "necessary and urgent that more

attention and care be paid to the structures in order to maintain the existing buildings."

Jubouri, along with U.S. forces and local officials, are currently in the planning stages of restoring the historic monuments.

"We have a complete plan to bring an agricultural city with help from multi-national forces," said Jubouri. "Along with amenities for tourism, we will make it a haven for tourism and bring all the visitors and tourists from all over the world."

U.S. Forces and Iraqi officials agree the restoration process is necessary and starts with making initial contacts between state and local officials. By taking the first step, joint forces can work towards a preserved history of Iraq, as well as a budding tourism economy.

"It is important that we revitalize this land," said Jubouri. "The Iraqi people will remember what the American people have done for them."



Photo by Pfc. Jasmine N. Walthall

Abdul Amir Hamdani, Director of the Inspectorate of Dhi Qar, shares his visions for the restoration of the ancient cities in Iraq with Brigadier General Jefforey Smith, MND-C Deputy Commanding General of Support, and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Mr. Qahtan Jubouri.

Iraq-Chinese oil deal kicks off in Wasit

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
41st FB



FOB DELTA, – Iraq's Oil Minister and Chinese National Petroleum Company delegates cut the ribbon at the Ahdeb oil field southwest of FOB Delta March 11.

"This project will provide a number of jobs and opportunities for investment which will provide the province with electricity and power to operate the power station in Zurbadiyah and to help to contribute to the development and prosperity of this province," said Hussein Al-Shahristani, Iraqi Oil Minister.

The CNPC originally signed an agreement with Iraq's government in 1996, but it was postponed due to U.N. sanctions and then Operation Iraqi Freedom. A new deal was brokered in November 2008 between the CNPC and Baghdad.

"We look at this opportunity as the start of rebuilding the prosperity of Wasit," said Abd al-Latif Hamad Tarfah, Wasit Governor. "This is the first investment project in Wasit and we hope it will last a long time."

Al-Waha Petroleum Company is contracted by the CNPC and uses the same air and logistics company that Kellogg, Brown and Root uses in supporting Coalition Forces at FOB Delta. Al-Waha Petroleum Company coordinated with U.S. Forces to use the airfield on FOB Delta in support of their operations.

According to Colonel Richard Francey, 41st Fires Brigade and FOB Delta commander, the security situation in Wasit province is ready for other companies to bring in their business as well.

"Being a partner with the local Iraqi Security Forces, we will help them if they have any challenges and be an enabling force in the superb Iraqi Security Force efforts in providing continued security to the province," said Francey.

"The security is set for many others to come here. The Chinese just happen to be the first," he added. "This is a good thing in the long run for the province and the Iraqi people."

According to Zhi Yulin, board chairman, Al-Waha Petroleum Company, digging at the Ahdeb oil field is set to start in about a month, with production of oil estimated to reach 110,000 barrels per day.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

From left: Chinese Ambassador to Iraq Chang Yi, Iraq Minister of Oil Hussein Al-Shahristani, Wasit Governor Abd al-Latif Hamad Tarfah and Al-Waha board chairman Zhi Yulin cut the ribbon to the Ahdeb oil field project March 11.

Headline Round-up

World News:

BRISBANE, Australia - Wildlife workers rescued turtle eggs and captured a few oil-coated pelicans off Australia's east coast March 12 while state officials assessed the extent of an oil spill from a cargo ship that was damaged in stormy seas. The Pacific Adventurer's fuel stores were punctured when 31 containers of ammonium nitrate fertilizer slipped off the ship early March 11 as it rocked in Australia's rough eastern waters, where a cyclone had stormed for the past week. The spill of up to 34 U.S. tons of oil created a slick spanning six miles, and some of the oil had begun to wash up on beaches in Queensland state, leaving a black, sticky mess as the tide receded. At Marcoola Beach, lifeguard official David McLean said oil globules stretched for about 1,000 yards along the beach, which was closed due to the spill. "As you walk along it sticks to the bottom of your shoe like glue," he said.

Odd News:

TOKYO - He was covered in mud when pulled from the river, and had lost both legs and hands. But Colonel Sanders still had his trademark smile. A statue of the KFC mascot has been found in a river in Osaka, a city official said March 11, 24 years after being tossed in by crazed baseball fans who felt the image of restaurant founder Harland Sanders resembled a key team member. The statue was taken from a nearby KFC restaurant and tossed in the river as part of a celebration by baseball fans in 1985, the year Osaka's baseball team, the Hanshin Tigers, won the national championship. Local fans thought the Colonel resembled a bearded power hitter and first baseman from the U.S. Many fans feel the team has been plagued by the "curse of Colonel Sanders" since his effigy was submerged. It has failed to win a national championship since, although it did win its division in 2003.

Quote of the Day

"There is an old Vulcan proverb: only Nixon could go to China." - Capt. Spock (Leonard Nimoy), Star Trek VI, The Undiscovered Country

The CG wants to set up another blog in addition to The Mountain Sound-Off, with the topics and discussion on the new blog driven by YOU - the Soldiers, Family members and community partners.

We'd like your thoughts on how you want this new blog to work: How do we choose topics for discussion? How often should we update the topic? Do we limit participation? Do we limit topics to just military matters? What do we call it? Etc.

To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at www.taskforcemountain.com



5	3	6	8	9	
9	6	7	2	8	
8					
	4	9	1	5	
				8	
3		9	4		1
				5	3
1		6	5		
7	8	3	2	9	

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

March 14
Salsa Class @ 8 p.m.
Salsa Party @ 9 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 @ w8 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.

Babylon Theater

March 16
Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.
March 17
Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.
Fire Extinguisher Class @ 2 p.m.

Freedom Chapel

Mondays
A History of Christianity @ 7 p.m.

Solution Saturday



Monday, March 9

7	4	9	8	5	1	3	6	2
5	2	1	6	7	3	4	8	9
6	8	3	9	2	4	1	7	5
2	1	5	7	8	9	6	4	3
3	6	7	1	4	2	5	9	8
8	9	4	3	6	5	7	2	1
4	3	6	2	1	8	9	5	7
9	5	2	4	3	7	8	1	6
1	7	8	5	9	6	2	3	4

from LiveWire Puzzles

Tuesday, March 10

5	7	2	6	8	3	9	1	4
6	8	9	4	1	5	2	3	7
3	4	1	2	9	7	8	5	6
9	2	7	8	5	6	1	4	3
8	3	6	9	4	1	5	7	2
4	1	5	3	7	2	6	8	9
7	9	4	5	2	8	3	6	1
1	5	3	7	6	9	4	2	8
2	6	8	1	3	4	7	9	5

from LiveWire Puzzles

Wednesday, March 11

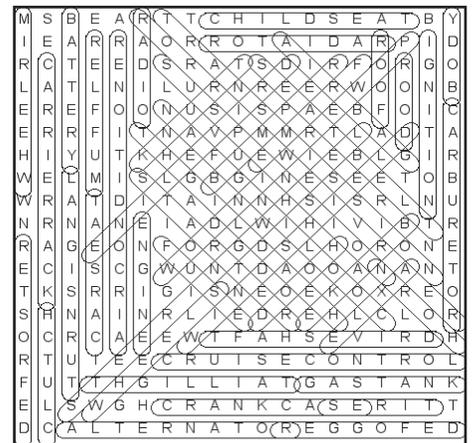
1	2	7	3	6	8	5	4	9
6	8	4	9	1	5	7	2	3
5	3	9	7	4	2	6	8	1
4	6	1	5	2	9	3	7	8
7	9	8	6	3	1	4	5	2
2	5	3	8	7	4	9	1	6
8	4	5	1	9	3	2	6	7
3	1	6	2	5	7	8	9	4
9	7	2	4	8	6	1	3	5

from LiveWire Puzzles

Thursday, March 12

7	3	2	6	4	9	8	5	1
8	6	4	1	5	3	2	9	7
9	1	5	7	8	2	3	4	6
4	2	7	9	3	1	5	6	8
5	9	3	8	6	7	4	1	2
6	8	1	4	2	5	7	3	9
1	5	9	2	7	4	6	8	3
2	4	6	3	1	8	9	7	5
3	7	8	5	9	6	1	2	4

from LiveWire Puzzles



from LiveWire Puzzles

Friday, March 13

5	7	3	4	6	8	1	9	2
9	6	1	7	3	2	4	8	5
8	2	4	9	5	1	7	3	6
2	4	9	8	1	6	3	5	7
6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
3	8	7	5	9	4	2	6	1
4	9	6	1	8	7	5	2	3
1	3	2	6	4	5	9	7	8
7	5	8	3	2	9	6	1	4

from LiveWire Puzzles

To find out the answer to each day's puzzle right away, go to:



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