



The Mountain View

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May 13, 2009

ISF, U.S. partner for community clean-up



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
Children joined Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army and U.S. Soldiers to pick up trash during Numaniyah Pride Day May 9. Approximately 300 people participated in the community clean-up.

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOE THOMPSON
41ST FB



FOB DELTA – Iraqi Police and Soldiers walked the main street in Numaniyah with U.S. Soldiers, picking up trash together to show the cooperation between the forces and improve community relations recently.

“We wanted to achieve something

for our city and we can do that by helping to clean our city,” said 1st Lt. Muhenned Sattar Jasim, 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade. “It shows the people that we are here not only to pull security, but by working together with the IPs and U.S. Forces in cleaning the streets, the people can see that we are really here to help them out.”

Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battal-

ion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment have an ongoing partnership with IA Soldiers and IP in Numaniyah. This was the fourth Pride Day coordinated with Iraqi Army and police throughout the Wasit province.

“I think this was a lot more successful than I could have dreamed of,” said Capt. Rich Turvey, Btry. A commander.

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63rd EOD passes reins to 84th

STAFF SGT. DEREK M. SMITH
MND-S



COB BASRA –The 84th Ordnance Battalion, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, assumed command of Combined Joint Task Force Troy in Multi-National Division – South during a transfer of authority ceremony here May 9.

Lt. Col. Marty Muchow, commander of the 63rd Ordnance Battalion EOD relinquished command of CJTF Troy in MND-S to Lt. Col. Marty Weber, 84th

EOD commander.

Muchow said the EOD mission in Iraq is one of transformation. In addition to identification and disposal of improvised explosive devices, and counteracting insurgent IED production, service members of TF Troy train Iraqi security forces to take the lead in protecting Iraqi citizens from explosive threats.

“When we got here about a year ago we had one official partnership (with ISF),” explained Muchow, a Hartford, S.D. native. “At last count, we’re up

to 21 partnerships with various Iraqi Army, police, civil defense force and defense border enforcement agencies.”

To put the 63rd EOD’s accomplishments into perspective, Col. Patrick J. Kelly, CJTF Troy commander, decided numbers could speak volumes.

“They operated over 64,000 square miles of battle space,” said Kelly. “They complete over 4,000 missions to conduct post-blast assessments. They supported 10 brigade combat teams, two non-standing brigades and 21 battalions on over 400 preplanned missions.”

“The 63rd distinguished themselves by executing dangerous missions to defeat the device and defeat the (insurgent IED) network,” Kelly continued. “The torch of responsibility has now been passed to Lt. Col. Marty Weber and the brave men and women of the 84th.”

Muchow welcomed Weber and the 84th EOD, based out of Fort Riley, Kan., and encouraged them to embrace their mission during this “critical time in Iraq”.

“The 63rd has done a great job of getting (ISF partnerships) established,” answered Weber, a native of Salina, Kan. “We just want to take it to the next level.”

The 84th EOD is now responsible for all EOD operations in MND-S, explained Weber, who is on his sixth deployment. The responsibility to ensure the safety and education of service members against IEDs is not one he or his Soldiers take lightly.

“I just want to take care of my Sol-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derek M. Smith

Lt. Col. Marty Weber and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley R. Simmons, 84th Ordnance Battalion (EOD) commander and command sergeant major, unveil their unit’s colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Basra May 9. “We’re going to continue to make progress on what has already been established with our ISF partnership,” said Simmons. “That is ultimately our goal; to have a well-trained, well-equipped, well-manned Iraqi force.”

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THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449

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CLEAN-UP

From page 1

"I really think the citizens took hold of it and came out en masse. I was expecting about 50 people and I think we hit closer to maybe 300."

Joining the group of Soldiers in the clean-up were dozens of kids who raced enthusiastically ahead of the group, filling up their trash bags. Muhenned said he hopes that their example will resonate through the community.

"For sure we are going to motivate the citizens here in the city to start to help themselves by cleaning up the city," said Muhenned.

"We wanted to just plant the seed of the fact that they can take ownership of their city and make it a place that everybody wants to come to and make it safer and cleaner for their children to play and grow up in," echoed Turvey, a Kalamazoo, Mich. resident.

Improving the streets of Numaniyah as well as improving the reputation of the Iraqi Security Forces was the goal of the event, said Turvey.

"I appreciate all the support from the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi police," said Turvey. "They were hesitant at first but I think we've proven to them this is something that can be of value and puts a better face on it for them and for the people here."

"The people are happy for all the security forces out here, and we are proud in helping, and participating in cleaning and picking up trash in the city because it is our city," said Muhenned. "We are proud to be a part of it."

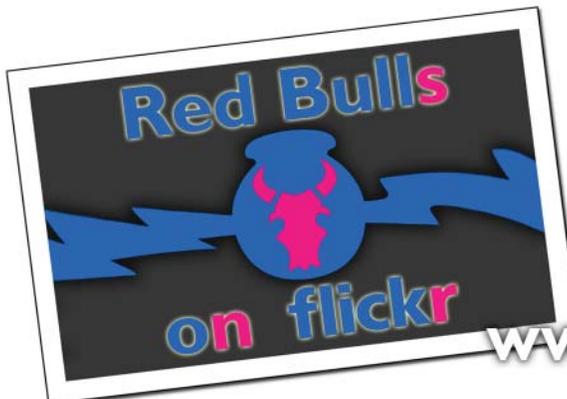


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson

Iraqi children put on rubber gloves and receive trash bags before joining the Iraqi Police, IA and U.S. Soldiers who partnered together for a community clean-up during Numaniyah Pride Day May 9.



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EOD

From page 2

diers, my Sailors and my Airmen,” continued Weber. “The Iraqis are making very good progress. I don’t think that gets out enough.”

“If there is one word that describes Iraq today, it is ‘Hope’,” said Muchow in parting. “You are all playing a vital role in giving Iraq the opportunity to succeed as a nation.”



Photos by Staff Sgt. Derek M. Smith

(Above) (From left) Lt. Col. Marty Muchow, 63rd EOD commander, Col. Patrick J. Kelly, CJTF Troy commander and Lt. Col. Marty Weber, 84th EOD commander salute for the playing of the National Anthem. (Right) Command Sgt. Maj. Larry D. Cushing bows his head for the benediction.



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Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

CLEVELAND - Deported by the U.S., retired autoworker John Demjanjuk was carried in a wheelchair onto a jet that departed May 11 for Germany, which wants to try him as an accessory to the murders of Jews and others at a Nazi death camp in World War II. Demjanjuk, 89, arrived in an ambulance at Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport after spending several hours with U.S. immigration officials at a downtown federal building. The deportation came four days after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider Demjanjuk's request to block deportation and about 3 1/2 years after he was last ordered deported. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk is wanted on a Munich arrest warrant that accuses him of 29,000 counts of accessory to murder as a guard at the Sobibor death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. The legal case spans three decades. Demjanjuk denies Germany's accusations, saying he was held by the Germans as a Soviet prisoner of war and was never a camp guard. Demjanjuk's family fought deportation, arguing he is in poor health and might not survive the trans-Atlantic journey.

Odd News:

CLEARWATER, Fla. - Authorities said a woman wasn't wearing any clothes when she knocked on stranger's door in the middle of the night to ask for cigarettes. The Pinellas County sheriff's office reported that the woman, 52, went to the stranger's home early Friday morning. Deputies found her a short time later walking through a mobile home park wearing only boxer shorts. The woman was charged with disorderly conduct and was taken to jail but later released on her own recognizance.

Word Search

Old TV Shows 1

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| ALICE | MIAMI VICE | RIFLEMAN |
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| CHIPS | MURPHY BROWN | ST. ELSEWHERE |
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AROUND THE COMMUNITY

COB Basra

May 13-14

Graduation greeting.

Schedule a time with Staff Sgt. Kristen King at kristen.king@iraq.centom.mil or call 858-4096.

DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday

Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 9:30 a.m.

General Protestant @ 11 a.m. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.

General Protestant @ 6:30 p.m.

DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday

Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

DFAC 4 Worship

Monday - Saturday

Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.

Sunday

Protestant Contemporary Worship @ 10 a.m.

Holy communion, Protestant (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 8:30 p.m.

MWR Stage

May 16

Basra Idol @ 6 p.m. To audition contact CW2

Meeks at 858-4526 or email robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.mil