

Micro-grants boost purchasing power

By Pfc. Debrah Sanders
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — In a small village northwest of Baghdad, the American troops of the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division conducted a foot patrol focused on finding the owner of a generator.

The Soldiers were here to give the man paperwork for a micro-grant that could assist him in the general upkeep of the generator and for purchasing fuel, thus powering the

generator and a good portion of the community, said Sgt. Charlie De Nune, of Tacoma, Wash.

U.S. forces regularly give micro-grants to assist Iraqis in purchasing products and also for local refurbishing projects, allowing the Iraqi people to become more independent.

The micro-grants are intentionally designed to be small amounts of money, but they yield large benefits for the communities that receive

them, said Sgt. 1st Class Joe Huffman, native of Batesburg, S.C.

After talking to the owner of the generator, the Soldiers moved throughout the village.

They were also trying to find the owner of a local pharmacy to see if he would also like an application for a micro-grant to help purchase supplies and to fund needed repairs to the building.

The fact that the village has a pharmacy benefits the

residents of the village, said Spc. Brenton Dulak, a medic from Waesau, Wis.

“[The pharmacy owner] has a lot of antibiotics, which is good for fighting infection, which I’ve seen in a lot of kids in villages,” said Dulak.

Dulak also said that it is good that they have a local pharmacy so that the locals don’t have to travel so far in order to get what they need.

The Americans made one last stop on their patrol in order to conduct assessments of a medical facility and a cement factory.

Jenan Abdullah Ghafil, an Iraqi woman who lives near the medical facility, said she is hopeful that the facility will be refurbished and reopened, as she looks forward to employment opportunities if it opens.

Jenan also said she is thankful for the presence of Soldiers, as they are generous with needed supplies.

The Soldiers are also trying to show the Iraqis how to work with the local government and build self-reliance. Huffman added that if the micro-grants are approved the projects will be monitored by U.S. forces to ensure that the money is being used in the manner for which it was sought.

The visit to the village was one of many which Soldiers plan to conduct in the future in an attempt to strengthen bonds between U.S. forces and local communities.



Photo by Pfc. Debrah Sanders

2nd Lt. Matthew Buchanan (left), an infantry platoon leader with 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, discusses options pertaining to a micro-grant application with the owner of a generator in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 29.

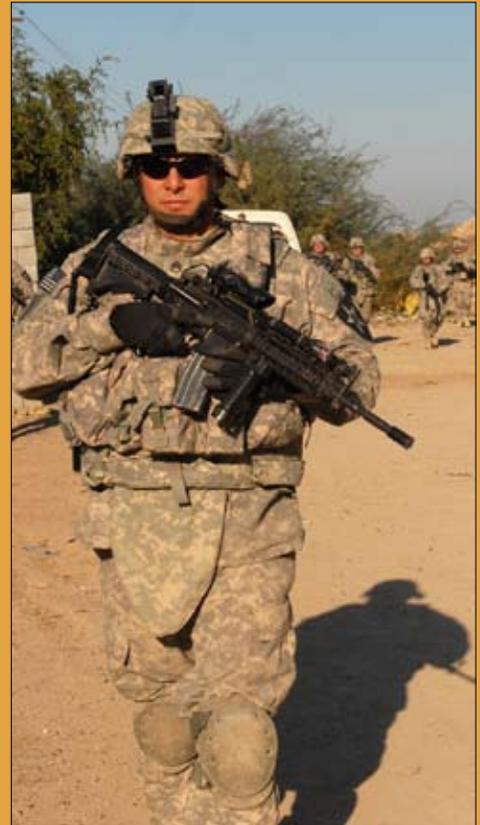
Raiders meet local Iraqi children

Photos by Sgt. Samantha Beuterbaugh
MND-B PAO



BAGHDAD — Sgt. Christopher McNear, (left) an infantryman from Rialto, Calif., with 1st Battalion, 38th Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, plays peek-a-boo with local children in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 29.

Staff Sgt. Keith Cabanas, an infantryman, assigned to 1st Battalion, 38th Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, and his Soldiers conduct a patrol in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 29.



Sgt. Charlie De Nune, a radio and telephone operator, 1st Battalion, 38th Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, hands lollipops to local children in northwestern Baghdad, Nov. 29.

More troops for Afghanistan's East, South

By John Kruzel

Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — With President Barack Obama's expected announcement, Dec. 1, to send more U.S. forces to Afghanistan, a defense official said a portion of the additional troops are likely to reinforce the country's contentious eastern and southern areas.

A chief responsibility of Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, will be to determine where to apply the added resources if the president authorizes them, a defense official said on background.

"I would think he would want to reinforce some of his forces in the east and the south where the main effort by the Taliban and associated forces have been," the official said of McChrystal.

"But it's up to him, based on the types of troops he has and where he needs them first and how he's going to use them."

The distribution of additional troops would factor in the current U.S. footprint in Afghanistan, which comprises about 68,000 troops -- a mixture of combat forces and trainers -- spread throughout, but with the east and south serving as focal points. Troops under NATO's command add a complement of 42,000 troops.

Though violence has risen across the board in recent years in Afghanistan, the bloodshed is most intense in the country's east and south, which have seen more than a two-fold increase in the use of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, Pentagon spokesman Army Lt. Col. Mark Wright said.

Two U.S. Army brigade combat teams, or BCTs, each

with about 3,500 to 4,000 soldiers, are operating in Regional Command South -- one of five regional commands in Afghanistan comprising international forces under NATO leadership.

The 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Stryker BCT of Fort Lewis, Wash., operates in eastern and northern Kandahar province and western Zabul province, and the 82nd Airborne Division's 4th BCT of Fort Bragg, N.C., performs advisory roles and training in the region.

Attacks involving IEDs -- the No. 1 killer of U.S. forces in Afghanistan -- is especially rampant in the south, Wright said.

"The Strykers have met a lot of resistance in the Kandahar province," he said of the 5th Stryker BCT, which employs eight-wheeled armored combat vehicles.

"Around [Kandahar] city and out farther into the countryside, there have been a lot of IEDs. They've suffered some really significant casualties."

The Institute for the Study of War, a think-tank headed by Kimberly Kagan, a member of McChrystal's assessment team, cites the Taliban under Mullah Mohammed Omar as the main threat to stability in southern Afghanistan.

In July, U.S. Marines and Afghan security forces launched an operation in southern Afghanistan's Helmand River valley, waging war against Taliban operatives in the area.

Currently, some 8,000 Marines of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade of Camp Lejeune, N.C., are responsible for southern and western Helmand province and in the western border province of Farah.



Courtesy Photo

President Barack Obama is expected to announce, Dec. 1, sending more U.S. forces to Afghanistan, a defense official said a portion of the additional troops are likely to reinforce the country's contentious eastern and southern areas.

The biggest security threat in eastern Afghanistan, which includes a war-ravaged border area with Pakistan that spans some 450 miles, is the Haqqani network, an insurgent group with ties to al-Qaida, according to the Institute for the Study of War.

"In the east, it's been pretty much a constant fight," said Wright, citing a large battle in the area's Nuristan province in October, where some 18 months earlier a battle raged for control of the Wanat district.

"The same province has seen some fairly significant combat in significant numbers -- hundreds of Taliban gathered and launching attacks against [U.S.] forces. So it's a pretty intense, ongoing fight there."

Of the four American BCTs engaged in eastern Afghanistan, the 10th Mountain Division's 3rd BCT of Fort Drum, NY, has operated in the Logar and Wardak provinces since

January, and the 25th Infantry Division's 4th Airborne BCT of Wahiawa, Hawaii, has been engaged in Paktia, Paktika, and Khowst provinces since March.

In addition, the 4th Infantry Division's 4th BCT of Fort Carson, Colo., deployed to Nuristan, Nangahar, Kunar and Laghman provinces in June, and the 48th BCT of the Georgia National Guard deployed as an advisory brigade to Regional Command East in May.

Even with the sustained focus on the south and east, more troops are likely to deploy there if McChrystal determines those areas to have the biggest needs, the defense official said.

"For whatever forces are authorized by the president, [McChrystal's] going to have to make his decision based on priority of need and where they'd be most useful", the official said.

On This Day In History

December 3, 1818

Illinois becomes the 21st state

Illinois achieves full statehood on this day. Though Illinois presented unique challenges to immigrants unaccustomed to the soil and vegetation of the area, it grew to become a bustling and densely populated state.

The strange but beautiful prairie lands east of the Mississippi and north of Lake Michigan presented a difficult challenge to the tide of westward-moving immigrants. Accustomed to the heavily forested lands of states like Kentucky and Tennessee, the early immigrants to Illinois did not know what to make of the vast treeless stretches of the prairie. Most pioneers believed that the fertility of soil revealed itself by the abundance of vegetation it supported, so they assumed that the lack of trees on the prairie signaled inferior farmland. Those brave souls who did try to farm the prairie found that their flimsy plows were inadequate to cut through prairie sod thickly knotted with deep roots. In an "age of wood," farmers also felt helpless without ready access to the trees they needed for their tools, homes, furniture, fences, and fuel. For all these reasons, most of the early Illinois settlers remained in the southern part of the state, where they built homes and farms near the trees that grew along the many creek and river bottoms.

The challenge of the prairies slowed emigration into the region; when Illinois was granted statehood in 1818, the population was only about 35,000, and most of the prairie was still largely unsettled. Gradually, though, a few tough Illinois farmers took on the difficult task of plowing the prairie and discovered that the soil was far richer than they had expected. The development of heavy prairie plows and improved access to wood and other supplies through new shipping routes encouraged even more farmers to head out into the vast northern prairie lands of Illinois.

By 1840, the center of population in Illinois had shifted decisively to the north, and the once insignificant hamlet of Chicago rapidly became a bustling city. The four giant prairie counties of northern Illinois, which were the last to be settled, boasted population densities of 18 people per square mile. Increasingly recognized as one of the nation's most fertile agricultural areas, the vast emptiness of the Illinois prairie

MND-B Pic of the day!



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota, 101st Eng. Bn. 16th Eng. Bde.

BAGHDAD- Using a circular saw, Sgt. James Glomski, of Alpena, Mich., with the 1434th Engineer Company, 101st Engineer Battalion, cuts pieces of wood needed to build wooden platforms for the Joint Operations Center at Joint Security Station Constitution

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris played Russian Roulette with a fully loaded gun and won.

Quote For Today

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.”

– Jimi Hendrix –

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
64° F | 41° F



Tomorrow
62° F | 50° F



Saturday
60° F | 46° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

What two continents have never been the site of a major military conflict?

Last Issue's Answer: Slimed

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today's Cav Round-Up # 211 was produced by SFC Brian Scott, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. U.S. military doctors exchange information with their Iraqi counterparts. Interview with Major Michael Perrault, Brigade Surgeon for 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

As long as the information filters down to the lowest level it makes things better. This program is strictly information.

2. Chaplain's assistant trains

with Personal Security Detachment. Interview with SPC Jacob Barbe, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Barb is pleased with the training he has recieved.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division's homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger's Teasers

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

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday's Answers

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



Multi-National Division - Baghdad

Public Affairs Office

Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger

Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Philip Smith

Public Affairs Chief:

Master Sgt. Nicholas Conner

Editor:

Spc. Laura Johnson

Staff Writers:

Staff Sgt. Nathan Hoskins

Staff Sgt. April Mota

Sgt. Samantha Beuterbaugh

Sgt. Bryce S. Dubee

Sgt. Alun Thomas

Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen

Spc. Louisto Brooks

Pfc. Debrah Sanders

The **Daily Charge** is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The **Daily Charge** are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 1st Cavalry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 1st Cavalry, or The **Daily Charge** of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The **Daily Charge** is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

Do you have a story to share?

The **Daily Charge** welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC nicholas.conner@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The **Daily Charge** reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor at grace.johnson3@mnd-b.army.mil