

IRAQI DESTINY

Volume 1, Issue 27

July 1, 2003

2 soldiers injured in attack

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A 431st Civil Affairs Battalion (Little Rock, Ark.) non-tactical vehicle was attacked with small arms fire Sunday night just outside the Civil Military Operations Center in Mosul.

Maj. Wallion Bobo and Spc. Virginia Caballero were injured in the attack.

Bobo, the driver of the vehicle, was shot two times. He was struck once above his left hip and once in his left hand, according to 1st Lt. Darrell Pearman, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion operations officer.

He was airlifted to the 21st Combat Support Hospital at a 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) compound in Mosul and underwent surgery late Sunday night.

Caballero was grazed by a round and not seriously injured.

She was treated and released back to her unit from the 21st Combat Support Hospital early Saturday morning.

Bobo had been active in local rebuilding efforts and expressed hope that the successes continue before leaving for Germany Tuesday.

Bobo had actively worked

to facilitate salary and pension payments to civil workers with the Coalition Provisional Authority.

He is currently listed in routine condition and will be flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for further evaluations.

The attack came just hours after a visit to the CMOC from L. Paul Bremer, civilian administrator of the coalition efforts in Iraq.

Bremer praises 101st, local efforts in second trip to Mosul

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

L. Paul Bremer, civilian administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority, met with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commanding general and the interim mayor of Mosul Saturday as attacks against coalition troops continued and intensified throughout the country.

Bremer denounced the attacks as "political sabotage against the infrastructure here but really against the Iraqi people."

"The mayor and his colleagues told me that they, like we, condemn these attacks," he said.

The meeting with Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, 101st commander, and Ghanim al-Basso, the interim mayor of Mosul democratically elected



Pfc. Thomas Day

Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and L. Paul Bremer, head of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, look over the Tigris River with Lt. Col. William Bishop, commander, 431st Civil Affairs Battalion.

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Iraqi police graduate U.S. training program

Military police assigned to 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) recently graduated their first two classes of local police officers in the southern portion of the 101st area of responsibility.

The 1st Platoon, 101st Military Police Company, graduated 53 officers Monday in the Al Qayyarah district and another 33 Wednesday in the Ashura district. This is another step toward turning local civil authority back to the Iraqis.

"I am very optimistic about the future," said Col. Frederick B. Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, while sharing a few words with Monday's graduates. "It's great to look out on these bright faces. I know your mayor and your sheikh are very proud of what you have done. Over the last two weeks I have heard every day about how much progress you're making and how proud they are of you today."

The cadets were immersed in a rigorous two-week training program. They began each day with physical training exercises and later were bombarded with large amounts of information regarding critical police officer tasks, said 1st Lt. Jessica Donckers, platoon leader.

"We trained them on those critical introductory skill level tasks that police everywhere need to know," Donckers said.

The tasks include weapons marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat, building clearing, search and seizure, arrests, processing detainees, evidence collection, traffic control and appropriate levels of force.

The military police based the Iraqi policemen's training on U.S. military police training doctrine.

"We modified the situations and the places," Donckers said. "We focused on using the appropriate measures for appropriate situations."

On the first day of training, the police cadets were indoctrinated with their own code of conduct.

"It was pretty basic. Show up on time to work, be in uniform, do not abuse your position, do not accept bribes... don't seize property for personal gain," Donckers said.

"We want to get the message across that we have privileged positions, and you can only lose your integrity once," Donckers added.

Some of the soldiers used to be guards at local Ba'ath party offices, others were former police and others came from different facets of pre-war life.

"We've got a mix," Donckers said.

At Monday's graduation, the mayor of Qayyarah pointed out that many of the new officers, while working as Ba'ath Party guards were assigned such tasks as serving tea.

"Now they are dignified men and we're proud to call them police officers," the mayor said.

At each graduation, the cadets stood three rows deep in the hot sunlight, in pressed forest-green uniforms with sharp creases, as they waited for their names to be called off one by one.

As each cadet's name was called he stepped forward, received his diploma, and was congratulated by his mayor, his police



Pfc. James Matise

1st Lt. Jessica Donckers, platoon leader for 1st Platoon, 101st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division, left, and Col. Frederick B. Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, center, congratulate a newly graduated local police officer June 23.

chief, Hodges and Donckers.

In a gesture of respect for completing training to U.S. Army standards, each graduate was given the Army's Military Police insignia, twin crossed pistols, to wear on his uniform.

"The graduates will become the cornerstone of our future success in Iraq," Hodges said.

"For this town to prosper, for Iraq to prosper, you must respect the people you protect," Hodges told them.

"Do not take money or favors, protect all people equally. The better you treat the people... the more help they will give you," he said.

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2nd Brigade soldiers shoot hoops with local policemen

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A team of soldiers from the 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) defeated a team of Mosul police officers, 73-57 in a game of basketball at a downtown Mosul gymnasium, Thursday night.

"I think they (the soldiers) love it, I know I do," said Capt. Andrew McCleery of Tucson, Ariz., who coached the team. "I always love the competition between Iraqi teams and American teams... it's a lot of fun."

The Iraqi team, comprised of policemen who looked 20 years older than most of their opponents, managed to stay with the soldiers, much to the surprise of McCleery and the players. "They're much better, fundamentally than we are," McCleery said after the game.

"I was surprised," said American guard Justin Wiggins of Paducah, Ky. "They were better than I thought they would be."

While no statistics were kept for the game, Wiggins and center Demetrius Morgan of Chattanooga, Tenn. paced the effort with a number of key baskets. Wiggins, who plays on a separate post league team at Fort Campbell, called the experience of picking up a basketball a "very big morale boost."

The 2nd Brigade players were a part of a cultural exchange of sorts, teaching their opponents how to talk trash and slam dunk the basketball.

The local fans, numbering at about 500, seemed to catch on

quickly, booing the American players at several opportunities.

The fans, as difficult as they may have seemed, appreciated the work the soldiers did to

make the event possible. The youth center and gymnasium are currently undergoing renovations. The bathrooms and the basketball court itself were not functional when the

soldiers found the facility. In the coming weeks, the soldiers will be working to install a new air conditioning system and even new glass backboards for the court.



Pfc. Thomas Day

A 2nd Brigade player slams home two points for the 502nd Infantry Regiment team against a team of Mosul policemen.

Acting Secretary of Army meets with troops in Mosul

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Interim Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee toured the Iraqi city of Mosul Thursday and met with the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, commander, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt).

"I really came here to see the troops," Brownlee quipped shortly before flying out of the city.

Brownlee formerly served as Under Secretary of the Army and also served 22 years in the Army as an infantry officer before retiring as a colonel in 1984.

"It's always great to be among heroes, and you are, believe me," Brownlee told the soldiers after brief presentation by the 101st commander, outlining accomplishments in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "What you're doing is difficult, it's hard. It's a lot harder than you make it look."

Brownlee, along with Lt. Gen. James Peake, Surgeon General of the Army, got a bird's eye view of the city in a UH-60 Blackhawk with Petraeus before speaking to the "Screaming Eagles." The visit was a bit of a homecoming of sorts for the acting secretary, who served his first of two tours in Vietnam as a junior officer with the 101st.

The civilian administrator of the Army could not offer a return date for the division, but recognized that many soldiers with the 101st deployed to the Middle East shortly after coming home from deployments in Afghanistan.

"This war is like a lot of wars," Brownlee said. "The

politicians talk about the meat of it. The old men talk about the glory of it, and the soldiers just want to go home.

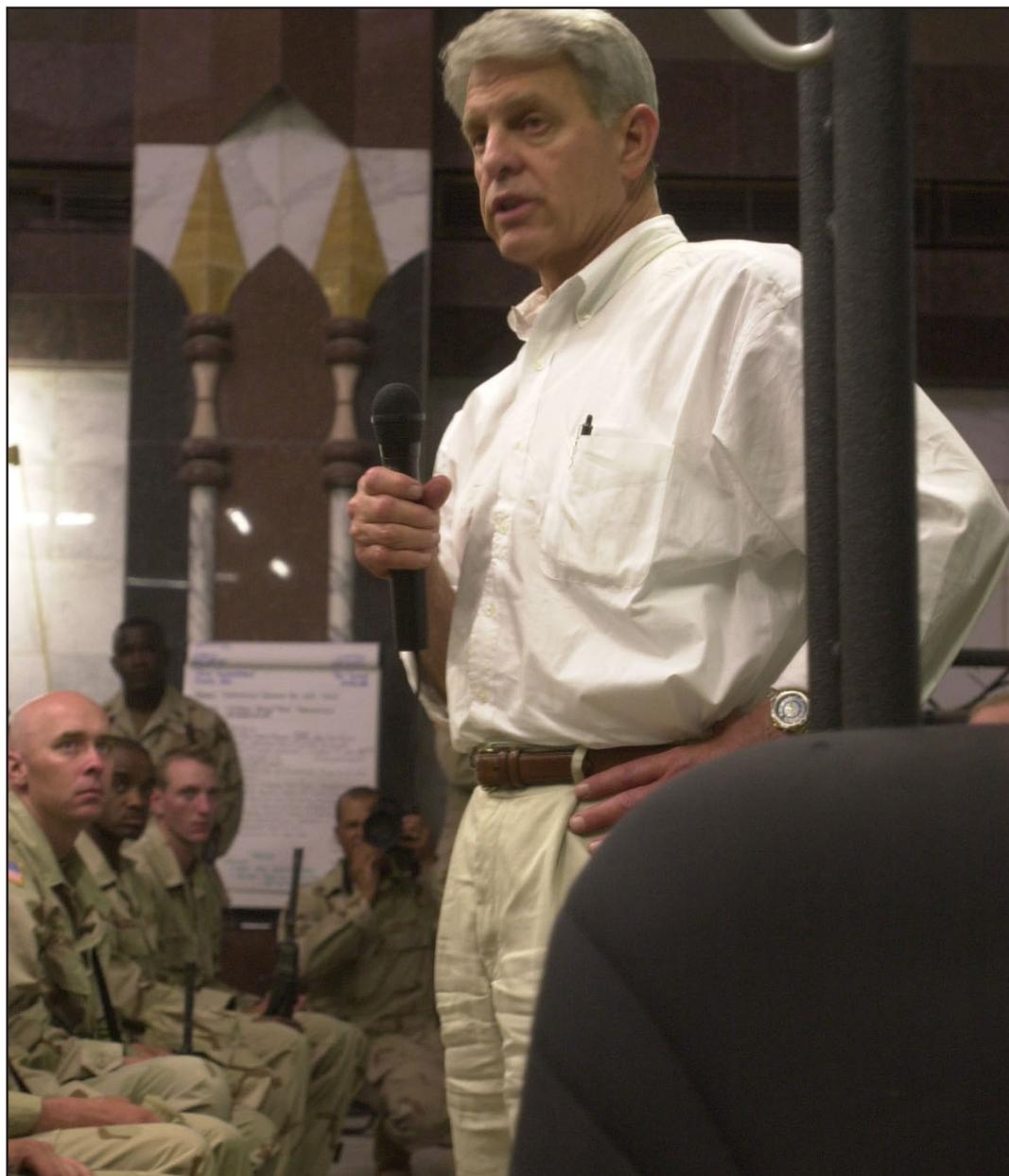
"So much of this is condition driven," Brownlee added. "There's a lot of work to be

done, and you're going to have to do some of it."

Brownlee was recently posted as the civilian administrator of the Army when Secretary Thomas White was forced to retire after several

disputes with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Current Secretary of the Air Force James Roche is currently expected to take over after he completes his duties with the Air Force later this summer.



Pfc. Thomas Day

Acting Secretary of the Army, Les Brownlee, speaks with 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers Thursday at the 101st Division/Main element.

University guards get lessons in ethics, police philosophy

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A team of 42 guards patrolling Mosul University are receiving extensive training from 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers and military policeman attached to the division.

This weekend, the guards received classes on code of conduct, police philosophy, weapon safety and learned to fire AK-47s at a local firing range.

Classroom instructions were given at the Civil Military Operations Center in Mosul in what was once a dance club inside the Ninevah Hotel before looters left the hotel in ruins.

"Hopefully we'll get enough security guards trained to take the place of American and coalition forces so we can move south and out of country," said Master Sgt. Ernest Jett of Hartsville, S.C., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 101st Abn. Div. (AAst.).

Jett added that the security guards will not be under the chain of command of the Mosul police chief.

"They don't report to anyone but the (university) chancellor," Jett said.

American soldiers will be training

university guards until the end of July in once-a-week classes covering all basic policing skills.

"I'm hoping they will be motivated, enthusiastic about their jobs and they will take what they learn and use it on the job to be a professional," said Capt. Gregory Artz of Memphis, Tenn., 431st Civil Affairs Battalion (Little Rock, Ark.). Artz taught a class on interpersonal communications June 28.

In these classes, the importance of

pride and good conduct was stressed over and over again.

"Which do you think is the better worker?" asked Cpl. Charles Savilla of Nitro, W.V., a policeman with the 156th Military Police Detachment, a West Virginia National Guard MP unit, "someone who takes pride in their work or someone who just does it (for the paycheck)?"

"We take pride in our jobs," Savilla added. "Some people do their jobs just to get paid."



Pfc. Thomas Day

Cpl. Charles Savilla of Nitro, W.V., 156th Military Police Detachment (West Virginia National Guard), teaches local security guards how to eat an MRE during a lunch break Saturday. The guards training administered to local law enforcement by American soldiers at the Civilian Military Operations Center.

Bremer from page 1

just weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein, provided Bremer an opportunity to see a success story in the post-Saddam era in Iraq.

Mosul elected an interim government headed by al-Basso May 5, in just less than a month after the fall of Saddam Hussein and a few weeks after the 101st Airborne began operating out of Iraq's second largest city.

"Once again, I'm impressed by the progress on the political side in getting a city council and the progress that's been made in security and economics," he said.

Bremer visited Iraq's second largest city in May, just days after arriving in

the country after replacing retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner as the civilian administrator of the post-war reconstruction effort.

Bremer, former U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, has received criticism for a perceived lack of planning in the reconstruction effort, but received praise from al-Basso after three hours of dialogue with the mayor and Petraeus.

"They have truly opened their hearts and listened to our problems," said al-Basso.

He assured the people of Mosul, according to al-Basso, that "members of the (Iraqi) Army would receive payments by the 15th of July."

Bremer, and his British deputy Ambassador John Sawyer, praised the efforts by

the 101st Airborne in Mosul, but continue to refuse the 101st method of establishing quick local elections in other cities to elect interim governments and leaders like al-Basso.

"The groups that were best organized like the Ba'ath Party and the extremist groups would be able to take advantage of the electoral process," Sawyer said. "They have more capacity to mobilize their supporters than the moderate politicians have."

Sawyer was not discouraged by the recent violence against coalition forces in Iraq.

"We just have to redouble our efforts," Sawyer said. "Progress has been made."

Man on the Street

How do you think the security in Mosul will be enhanced by formal training from U.S. soldiers?



“First, you have to take a good man and make him a policeman”

- Ahmed Abdul Ghani,
CMOC Barber



“The new uniforms will help people forget about the past and form a better opinion of the police.”

- Safa Salim, CMOC Staff

“It’s stopping corruption.”

- Spc. Jose Lopez of Laredo,
Texas, 101st Military Police
Company



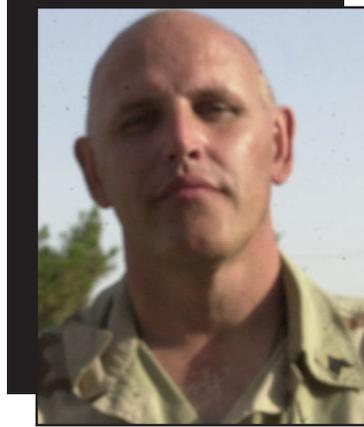
“The people might be less scared of the police.”

- Pfc. Chantel Franquois of
Brooklyn, NY, 63rd
Chemical Company



“I’m sure they’re teaching them what they need to know.”

- Spc. Angela Mallette of
Wala Wala, Wa., 311th
Military Intelligence
Battalion



“With the proper training, the average policeman will be as professional as the police officers.”

- Sgt. Rader Lafferty of
Shady Spring, WV, 156th
Military Police Detachment
(WV National Guard)